



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

APRIL 2021

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM

Alleluia!

HE IS ALIVE!



As I write this, I have just returned from our English District's Board of Directors meeting in Detroit. That immediately followed two trips that we had taken to Fort Wayne on behalf of Linda's mother. We want to thank you again for your prayers and expressions of concern as Donna Jean was laid to rest on Wednesday, March 17th.

After "laying low" for the better part of a year, I have taken three long distance trips in two weeks. Traveling is risky under any circumstances, but is not recommended during this time of Covid-19. However, life is inherently risky and there are some things greater than ourselves.

In this month in which we celebrate our Lord Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, I am reminded of this passage from John 20: "*On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews*" ...v. 19

Fear overwhelmed the disciples during this time. They had just seen their Teacher beaten, whipped, and crucified only two days before. Some had seen him risen from the dead, but they were still trying to understand what that meant. It was a time of paralysis and confusion. But then the Risen Christ appears before them and declares, "*Peace be with you.*" When Jesus' peace came upon them, "*the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.*" v. 20

The disciples were overcome by fear...fear for their safety, fear for their lives...yet they gathered together in the one place where they could find refuge: in the Upper Room where they had celebrated the Last Supper with their Lord. It is here, in this room, that this same Jesus comes to them and gives them his peace.

We have many reasons for fear in this life, including Covid but also many other things as well. Jesus is the Antidote to our fears. He has forgiven our sins. He has promised eternal life with him for all who believe. Even when we die, we "*fall asleep*" (1 Thessalonians 4, 1 Corinthians 15, and other references) and wake in the presence of the Lord and all the saints.

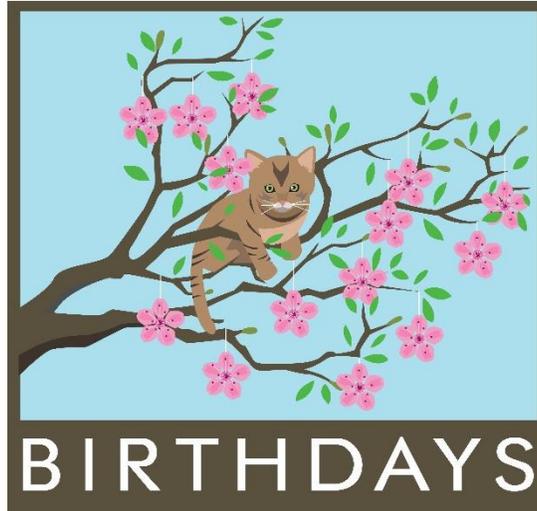
Where can we receive this peace in the face of so much fear? We too have our "*Upper Room,*" the place where Jesus comes to us and gives us his peace. In communal worship we hear his Word, sing together, pray for one another, and receive strength from his presence.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Ben Eder

APRIL



Eric Alessi	Apr. 15
Melody Keef	Apr. 20
Kevin Rodgers	Apr. 25



Holy hilarity!

More churches lately have been resurrecting (pardon the pun!) the early-church tradition of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Need some jokes for April 11? Try these:

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

Knock knock. *Who's there?* Hatch. *Hatch who?* God bless you!

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? *Eggs-ercise!*

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? *It might crack up!*

An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So *that's* why no one was in church today."



ESTHER CIRCLE

The Esther Circle meeting is Monday, April 12th, at 12:30 pm via Zoom. We welcome all women at Pilgrim. Please contact Carol Obot at 873-5303 or Sue Holway at 861-1687 if you are interested in attending.

After the business meeting we will be having a Bible Study on “Life is Like Swiss Cheese”. The study is in the Spring 2021 LWML Quarterly, page 20.

On May 1st at 9:00 am via Zoom there will be a Buffalo Zone LWML speaker event. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for further information. RSVP deadline is April 26th.

The Kenmore Presbyterian Church Food Pantry is our 2021 mission outreach. We are unable to have our Pot Faith meals and Fellowship time at church. We are reaching out for donations. The Terri Lynn dried fruits, nuts and chocolate fundraiser is ongoing. Your support for all these projects is appreciated.

REMINDER! Dash’s receipts go to Sue Holway; mites (loose change) go to Karen Smith for LWML mission grants; canceled stamps cut with 1/2-inch border frame go to Sharon McGuan to help purchase Bibles for prisoners and old printer ink cartridges go to Pat Watkins. Thank you!

Easter celebrates the Risen Lord! Spring is rebirth! We pray that the message of Easter and the refreshing signs of Spring bring you joy and peace!

God Bless!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



“The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies.”

—Kate McGahan

“Easter is very important to me. It’s a second chance.”

—Reba McEntire

“The earth laughs in flowers.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson



Buffalo Zone Spring Event
May 1, 2021

9:30am via Zoom

Magdalene Project
magdaleneproject.org

Speaker: Joanne Lorenzo

The Magdalene Project is a mission for people on the streets of Niagara Falls. They reach out to the community by providing food, clothing, toiletries, and the Good News of Jesus.

Ingathering donations: Tops, Walmart, Wegmans, and Target Gift Cards

Magdalene Project
Attn: Joanne Lorenzo
P. O. Box 626
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

R.S.V.P. to Dee Grzyb at d_e_grzyb@msn.com or 716-393-3670 by April 26, 2021.

Esther Circle Donations for 2021

Kenmore Presbyterian Church Food Pantry

The Board of Deacons of Kenmore Presbyterian Church offer a Food Pantry

1. Second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
One of our deacons serves Coffee and Goodies.
2. Last Thursday of the month from 12 noon to 2 p.m.,
We offer a Soup Luncheon.

**** During COVID they are bagging a variety of items and handing out the bags**



**Until we are able to hold Fellowship and Pot Faith Sundays,
all donations will be collected by:**
Sending Donations to Esther Circle
Use Offering Envelopes During Services
Online Offerings

A Quarterly Check will be given to the Food Pantry during 2021.

***Make checks payable to Esther Circle and please note
KPC Food Pantry in memo area or on envelopes***

***Thank You
Esther Circle***

Mother 's Day Is Coming

SPRING CONFECTIONS
AND FRUIT MIXES



Tasty, colorful sweets and mixes that are sure to bring your organization a profit for Spring holiday fundraisers — Mother's Day and more.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Terri Lynn's Webstore is contactless, safe and easy!!

<https://pilgrimsthercircle.terrilynn.com>





***Giving can be done at our Saturday
and Sunday Services or made Online.***

<https://secure.usaepay.com/pay/9nkt6jj6js3wnvhqb/2Z0kggt3>

Another look at stewardship

A wealthy layman was talking with his pastor a few days after the minister had preached a sermon on tithing. The man said, "Pastor, if I gave only a tithe, I would have to cut back considerably on my giving." He was not boasting. He was just making the point that he believed Jesus' teaching found in Luke 12:48, which says, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."

Another insightful Christian leader has said that while tithing is a marvelous goal, it is not a "shoe" that fits everyone. For example, the leader said, an elderly person with a yearly income of only \$10,000 probably should not give a full 10 percent. On the other hand, a person who has an income of \$1,000,000 annually should give considerably more than 10 percent to the church and other service institutions.

It is a good idea to examine our own quality and quantity of stewardship from time to time.

Following God's lead

Jazz musician Thomas Dorsey traveled an unlikely road to become the “father of black gospel music.” At age 11, he dropped out of school to be a vaudeville performer and blues pianist. While Dorsey recovered from a nervous breakdown at age 21, his mother urged him to serve the Lord with his talents. It took several years, but the musician committed to composing spiritual songs — rejected by many mainstream churches as “the devil’s music.”

In 1932, after Dorsey’s wife and infant son died during childbirth, he channeled his grief into the piano, writing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.” Known to be a favorite song of Martin Luther King Jr., it ends with these lyrics: “Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.”

Source of significance

Christian rapper Lecrae Moore, known simply as Lecrae, grew up without a father figure and wrestled with low self-worth. Searching for a place to fit in, he turned to drugs and gangs. When his mother encouraged him to read the Bible, Lecrae ripped out the pages because the message didn’t seem real.

At age 19, Lecrae heard at a conference that Jesus bought each of us with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20). “Somebody thinks I’m significant enough to die for me,” Lecrae realized. He told God, “Do whatever you have to do to get me out of this [lifestyle]; just don’t kill me.”

Later, while driving without a seatbelt, Lecrae flipped his car but escaped without a scratch. After that, he committed his life to Christ and began sharing the gospel through the medium he knew best: rap music.

“I’ve learned to stay close to my source of significance, to my source of worth,” Lecrae says. “It’s God.”



In 1912, as Charles Austin Miles grabbed his Bible, it opened to John 20. Reading the account of Mary Magdalene outside the garden tomb where Jesus’ body had been laid, Miles felt powerfully that he was there. Inspired, he quickly wrote the poem “In the Garden” and later composed the music.

This hymn might seem sentimental and trite, if understood to refer to just any garden. But the song takes on profound meaning when recognized as Mary’s personal encounter with the living Lord.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known!



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

NEW BETTER TOGETHER KIT COMING THIS SPRING

Coming this March (2021) is the *Better Together* kit. It's a box of Christ-centered resources to help each of us work toward the betterment of our neighborhoods. Like the *Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age* and the *Households of Faith* kits before it, this kit was created using research and data derived from Lutheran Hour Ministries' three-year partnership with Barna Group.

To encourage us all to think of our neighborhoods-and the people who live there-in ways that are hopeful and free of bias, the *Better Together* kit has three core texts that inspire and promote neighborhood involvement. These include the Barna-produced monograph, *Better Together: How Christians Can Be a Welcome Influence in Their Neighborhoods*, which offers revealing data and detailed analysis. Complementing this is LHM Content Developer Don Everts' book, *The Hopeful Neighborhood: What Happens When Christians Pursue the Common Good* (see Fall 2020 Lutheran Layman article on this book) and *The Hopeful Neighborhood Field Guide: Six Sessions of Pursuing the Common Good Right Where You Live* by Everts and Rev. Dr. Tony Cook, executive director of LHM's Hopeful Neighborhood Project (HNP).

The *Better Together* kit includes two Project Connect booklets: *Love Thy Neighborhood: Rediscovering the Power of Sharing the Gospel with Our Deeds* and *Everyone Is a Gift: Letting God Transform How You See People*, both by Everts. For the kids, there are two illustrated booklets written by Suzie Sallee, LHM's community facilitator for congregations. They are *Precious in His Sight* and *I Love My Neighborhood!* Also included is Neighborhood Bingo, a fun way to get to know your neighbors and neighborhood better.

Finally, LHM is launching a brand-new nationwide program called The Hopeful Neighborhood Project. According to its website, "The Hopeful Neighborhood Project is a collaborative network committed to improving neighborhood well-being around the world. Our resources and online network equip and encourage neighbors to work together, using their gifts and the gifts of their community, to pursue the common good of their neighborhood." At its heart, the HNP is all about discovering gifts, imagining possibilities, and pursuing the common good right where we live-at street level.

To learn more about how we can all be better together, visit the *Better Together* website at lhm.org/together. There you'll find details on the Barna monograph, Everts' book *The Hopeful Neighborhood*, and see how pursuing the common good in your neighborhood benefits everyone.



SOME TITLES FROM THE EDITOR'S (KINDLE) BOOKSHELF

AMERICA'S FIRST CIVILIZATION by Michael D. Coe

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN by Jim Wallis

ATLANTIS BENEATH THE ICE by Rand Flem-Ath

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR by Clayborne Carson

BRADBURY STORIES by Ray Bradbury

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS - edited by Martin Edwards (6 books so far)

THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE by Jemar Tisby

THE COLOR OF LAW by Richard Rothstein

THE CYCLE OF COSMIC CATASTROPHES by Richard Firestone

FINDERS KEEPERS by Craig Childs

FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS by Graham Hancock

FORGOTTEN CIVILIZATION by Robert M. Schoch

MISS MARPLE: THE COMPLETE SHORT STORIES by Agatha Christie

MY DAY by Eleanor Roosevelt

THE NEW JIM CROW by Michelle Alexander

PREHISTORY DECODED BY Martin Sweatman

STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING by Ibram X. Kendi

WHITE RAGE by Carol Anderson

WILSON by A. Scott Berg

WIZARD: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NIKOLA TESLA by Marc J. Seifer

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FROM KIDS

In the first book of the Bible, GUINNESSIS, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pears.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert.

Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.

The Fifth Commandment is to humor thy father and mother.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada.

Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was, by profession, a taximan.

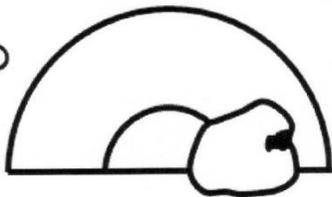
St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

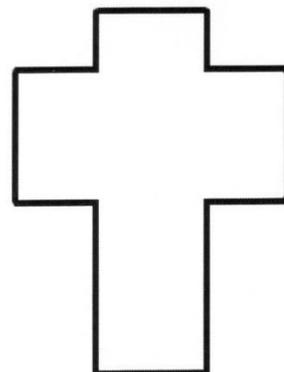
Easter Word Search

T H O R N S W Y S M L A P N G
K R I S E N Y C E N O T S E C
R E T S O O R D R K H O T V R
B E L I E V E S E O N H B I U
Y T P M E Z D X S Y S O C G C
E C I F I R C A S E A S D R I
E V I L A L N B M O T R B O F
S I N U I N N A I L S C T F Y
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B R E A D E Y A R P D I E D B

ALIVE
BELIEVE
BETRAYED
BREAD
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CRUCIFY
DIED
DONKEY
EMPTY
FORGIVEN



GETHSEMANE
GUARDS
HOSANNA
LIFE
NAILS
PALMS
PILATE
PRAYED
RISEN
ROOSTER



SACRIFICE
SIN
SON
STONE
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