



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

[www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org](http://www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org)

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# ***PILGRIM'S PROGRESS***

**DECEMBER 2021**

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

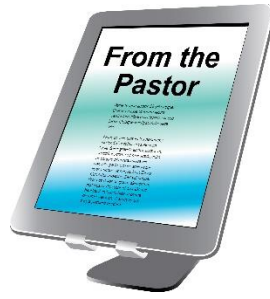
TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



*The  
Word  
became  
flesh and made  
his dwelling among us.  
John 1:14*



During the four weeks of Advent, we will be focusing on the themes of this season: hope, peace, joy, and love. These meditations will be on Wednesday nights beginning at 7 p.m. and available only on Zoom.

There is another theme of Advent that I would like to draw your attention to: the theme of light. The prophet Isaiah writes,

*“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;  
I will take hold of your hand.  
I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,  
to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison  
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.” – 42:6-7, NIV*

The light of the Gospel came to the Jews first, and then to the Gentiles. The Good News of Jesus Christ is intended for all peoples, for Jew and Gentile alike. The Gospel opens eyes that are spiritually blind to the mercy and grace of God in Christ.

Without the Gospel, the world sits in perpetual darkness. Imagine what the world would be like without the light of the Gospel in these times: Covid-19, political division, social rancor, and a climate of fear.

Without the light of the Gospel, we would cower in the darkness. Without this Good News of our deliverance, we would be imprisoned in the dungeons of our own minds.

In the Prologue to his Gospel, the Apostle John says this about the light of Christ:

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome<sup>[a]</sup> it.” – 1:1-4*

I would call your attention to the phrase *“the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* Even a match lit in a completely dark room gives light for all to see. To a world shrouded in darkness the light of the Gospel may not seem like much, but it is a beacon of hope for those who believe.

You are that “light of the world,” for the Gospel lives in you. Let the light of Christ shine within you so that others may also see His light and have hope.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Ben Eder

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Paul Holway	Dec. 2
George Alessi	Dec. 4
Nancy Partridge	Dec. 10
David Porter	Dec. 16
Ruth Whitmer	Dec. 25



*Anniversaries  
this  
Month*

Dec. 19	Jim & Judy Miller
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“All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.”

—David Jeremiah



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

Our meeting this month will be Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 pm via ZOOM. All ladies of Pilgrim are welcome to attend. We are doing a collection of items for Hearts for The Homeless until December 12th. Please refer to enclosed flyer. There are totes in the back of the sanctuary to place your items. Thank you! We are giving a Christmas gift to all of the shut ins at the church. Karen Smith is assembling the bags and they will be delivered early in December. We need volunteers for fellowship on 12/26. Please do not bring in home baked items. They have to be purchased from a store or bakery due to COVID regulations. Thank you!

**REMINDER!** Keep the Dash's receipts coming and give to Sue Holway. The mites (loose change) can be dropped in the container near the front door or given to Karen Smith; cancelled stamps to Sharen McGuan and old printer ink cartridges to Pat Watkins. All these collections are used for various mission work. We appreciate your support!

Advent is here and the Christmas season! "Let's Rejoice" in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and share this awesome news with others.

Blessed Christmas and New Year 2022!

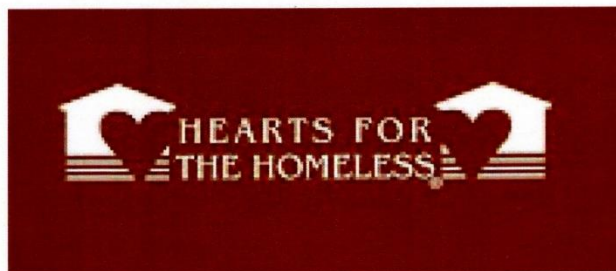
Carol Obot & Sue Holway

## *Grief Support Group*



In January, Ruth Whitmer will be starting a Grief Support Group. Anyone who has had a significant loss in their lives will be welcomed to attend. The group will likely be held on a Thursday evening at the church; but it could be changed to another day if it works better for people who want to attend. Please contact Ruth at 716-803-2677 (phone or text) if you are interested.





**Nourishing the Community through Dignified Service**

**Pilgrim's Esther Circle will be setting a tote in the back of  
the church to help with Hearts for the Homeless  
CURRENT NEEDS FOR HOMELESS OUTREACH**

**We will be collecting the following until  
Sunday, December 12th**

**Canned Tuna & Spaghetti Sauce  
Canned Chili & Beef Stew  
Warm Socks & Gloves**

You can also bring donations to Hearts for the Homeless  
890 Tonawanda Street., Riverside Ave.  
Side of building – Ring bell at kitchen door.

[www.heartsforthehomeless.org](http://www.heartsforthehomeless.org)

P.O. Box 437  
Buffalo, NY 14207  
716-877-3536



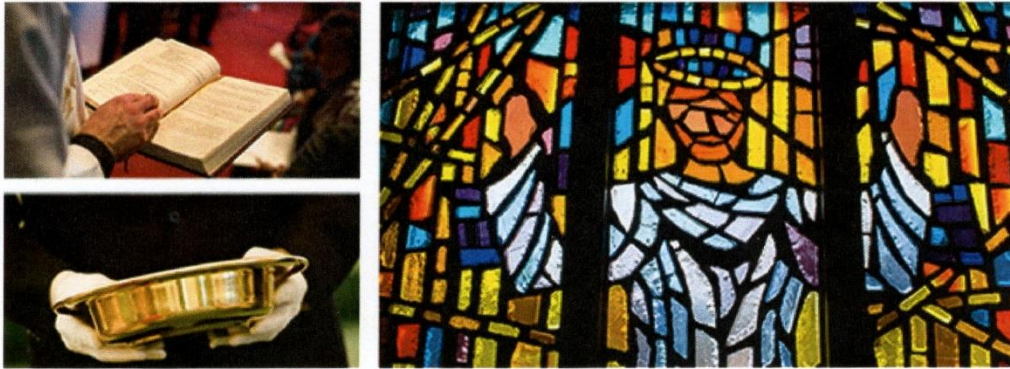
**To Receive Tax Benefits From Your 2021 Contributions Next Year,  
Your Contribution Today  
Will Ensure It Is Received Well Before Dec. 31.**



<http://pilgrimkenmorelcms.org>



# A New Year of Giving



Your Weekly/ Monthly Gifts/Offerings are very personal. There is no minimum (or maximum) gift and Pilgrim Lutheran Church does not place requirements or expectations on any of our members' giving.

What is taught throughout the Old and New Testaments encourages us to give a percentage of what we receive. Most frequently it is taught as a "tithe," which means 10%.

Begin by committing to regular giving, such as weekly or monthly. Both can be done at our Saturday and Sunday Services or made Online.



<http://pilgrimkenmorelcms.org>

Then set the goal to grow in your generosity. Perhaps start with 2 or 3% for one year. Then as your faith grows, grow your giving by 1% per year. For more information on Tithing within the Lutheran Church visit the link

<https://blogs.lcms.org/2007/commentary-tithing/>

Dianne Wuerch  
Financial Secretary

## **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Update**

1. **Save the Dates** design was approved and will be printed soon.  
We will address them then wait until the first of January to mail, also put in the December newsletter, add to the weekly Bulletin as a reminder.

2. **Banquet Invitations** still need to be designed.

### **3. March 20<sup>th</sup> After Service Brunch**

***Looking for Volunteers from Esther Circle, PALS, Congregation Members***

Help set up tables the day before – tablecloths & centerpieces, decorations

Help prepare the Brunch menu – see below for menu

Help with serving

Help with clean up

### **4. Brunch Menu**

Egg & Cheese Casserole

French Toast Casserole with Syrup & Butter on the side

Hash Brown Casserole

Sliced Ham

Brown & Serve Breakfast Sausages

Pastries & Danishes

Fruit

Coffee, Tea (Cream & Sugar)

Orange Juice, Apple Juice

Milk, Water

**A sign-up sheet will be put up January 2022.**

If you have any questions or comments, contact Dianne Wuerch.

**Thank you for your help!!**





## **NEW LHM PODCAST SPEAKS TO RACE, CULTURE, AND DIVERSITY**

Gerard Bolling and Janine Bolling, a brother-sister pair, host LHM's new podcast, **The (Im)Partial Church**. Growing up as African Americans in New York, the Bollings share how life and relationships have shaped them as they live out their Christian faith in a diverse world. Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling serves as pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis, and as an assistant professor at Concordia University in Texas. Deaconess Janine Bolling is executive director of Our Saviour Lutheran School in New York.

The Bollings give listeners powerful insights on cross-cultural friendships, prejudice, the power of language, forgiveness, being an outsider, what a good neighbor is, and how we're all members of a multi-ethnic family. Their spirited conversations are full of colorful details drawn from family life-both past and present. Assisting the Bollings behind the scenes in telling this story is LHM's Creative Producer Jonathan Christopher: "Producing this podcast has been extremely rewarding. I view each episode as an individual story arc that informs the greater idea of unity in the kingdom of God."

In episode two, "Why Diverse Friends Matter," Janine Bolling looks at the biblical story of Ruth and Naomi and how this less-than-likely friendship led to wonderful things. "So Ruth and Naomi .... One's a Moabite, one's an Israelite. One's a polytheist, one's a monotheist ... What they learn from each other is how to be emotionally open, and it strengthens them, and it allows them to continue on in this journey that eventually leads to the line of Christ. If this friendship didn't happen, what else wouldn't have happened? And so by having this diverse friendship, it brings a huge value to their lives, in that they get deeper with one another. They're open to sharing themselves, and it opens up the world to where God's plan is going."

In episode six, "Heart Your 'Hood," Gerard Bolling shares how we are transformed by Jesus' victory over death: "It's a resurrection that can never be taken away from us because we lean on the fact that Christ has done it. And then He promises to live in us. And this is work that He constantly has to do. He's constantly drowning the old Adam and bringing the new one to life, constantly reminding us of who we were not meant to be-but we are being in that moment-and who He calls us to be."

The (Im)Partial Church and other LHM podcasts can be found at [lhm.org/podcasts](http://lhm.org/podcasts).

# Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life

LCMS Life Ministry

## About This Mission Grant

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations”* (Jeremiah 1:5). The sanctity of life created by God, and the family as God designed it, has been under attack by pro-choice organizations who are expanding their movement to reach children of younger ages, to attack chastity and promote promiscuity, and to influence our children causing devaluation of life, marriage, and the family. The continued development of “Life” curricula is one of the most frequent requests by LCMS schools. With this grant, LCMS Life Ministry will build a set of developmentally appropriate resources and curriculum for early childhood, young children, and elementary-aged children and their families.



Young Lutherans confessing the faith at the national March for Life.



"The continued development of "Life" curricula is one of the most frequent requests by LCMS schools. ONM does not have the budget capacity to create them without outside help." — Rev.

Robert Zagore, Executive Director, Office of National Mission LCMS Life Ministry  
Coordinator Jamielynn Flores serves children and their families in the LCMS Latin America and Caribbean Region



Family, friends, pastors and church workers teach children the truth of God's Word and His design for life, marriage and family.



## Holy Communion

July 7, 1946 — 10:20 A. M.

*Announce Your Intention Saturday at the Church*

3 - 5 and 7 - 9 P. M.

Christian questions drawn up by Doctor Martin Luther. Catechism page 37, question 20. But what shall a person do if he be not sensible of such trouble and feel no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

Answer: To such a person no better advice be given than that, in the first place, he put his hand into his bosom, and feel whether he still have flesh and blood, and that he by all means believe what the Scriptures say of it, in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

Secondly, that he look around to see whether he is still in the world, and keep in mind that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say, in John 15 and 16; I John 2 and 5.

Thirdly, he will certainly have the devil also about him, who with his lying and murdering, day and night, will let him have no peace within or without, as the Scriptures picture him, in John 8 and 16; I Peter 5; Ephesians 6; Timothy 2.

## TAKE HEED

### LAKE CRUISE

A welcome change from former years.  
1. The Steamer Greater Detroit leaves at 12:30 instead of 11:30.

2. You can attend your own church service.

3. The entire boat chartered by Lutherans for Lutherans.

### SCHEDULE

Boat leaves foot Main Street at 12:30 and returns at 4:30 (Daylight Saving Time).

Adult tickets, \$1.24; Children, 60c (12 years and under).

Bring your basket lunch—Dining Room Service available.

Obtain your tickets from William Schmidt. Do not embarrass Mr. Schmidt but contact him after the service in Sunday School room.

### BAPTISM

Janice Lynn Staerker, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Staerker. One of God's little ones.

### MARRIED

Mary Wehling and Theodore Koren. God bless their future life.

### NOTICE

The Lutheran Hour, 12:30 P. M., Niagara Falls Station WHLD.

Camp Pioneer, Angola on the Lake. See Pastor for reservation.

Every member bring a member to Church.

Every member bring their envelopes up to date.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Kenneth Lindsay whose parents now reside in Indianapolis, Indiana and whose early religious training was gained here at Pilgrim. Kenneth graduated this June from Convordia Seminary, took unto himself a wife and now goes to his charge in the State of Washington. We are proud of Kenneth and pray that the desires of his heart may be granted. The bride is the daughter of Pastor Schwarz's classmate Pastor Riess of Detroit. God Bless you both.

### Honored

Good "Pa" Drews reached his retirement age in the service of the Village of Kenmore. At a banquet the village officials and the men of his department with special guests gathered to honor him. Among this gathering was the Pastor and Mrs. Schwarz. The Pastor said grace and later was called upon to shake a speech out of his sleeve. Every word spoken by the speakers that evening were sincere and well spoken. "Pa" Drews was deserving of the praise bestowed upon him. He has been a faithful and conscientious servant of the people. A man of few words but a man of prayer and a possessor of spiritual values. Pilgrim is proud of having such a member in the service of the community. May "Pa" enjoy many years in retirement. May health and happiness be his until his Savior calls him to heavenly joys.

# SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



## What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

## What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

# PUZZLE



F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S

H → → → U

M ↑ **What's in a name?** ↓ E

V ↑ An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. L

S ↑ Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning. W

R ↑ *Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the B*

B ↑ *arrows. Circle every other letter, and then A*

O ↑ *place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.* R

L ↑ "S\_e w\_ll \_ \_ve b ir\_ V

Y ↑ to \_ s\_n, and \_ \_u a\_e to H

Q ↑ gi\_e \_i\_ the \_ \_me J\_ \_us, P

O ↑ b\_c\_u\_ \_ he \_ill s\_ \_e his Q

X ↑ \_ \_op\_e f\_o\_ t\_ \_ir s\_n\_." ↓ F

A ↑ MATTHEW 1:21, NIV L

V ↑ START HERE S

H ↑ A

R ↑ I

T ↑ N

A ↑ G

I ↑ F

N ↑ P

G ↑ H

F ↑ S

I ↑ C

P ↑ B

H ↑ E

A ↑ J

I ↑ H

N ↑ A

G ↑

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>.**