



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

FEBRUARY 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





As we enter February the highlight of this month on the liturgical calendar is the observance of Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Ash Wednesday ushers in the Season of Lent, the 40 day period (excluding weekends) based upon the 40 day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.

On Ash Wednesday we hear the words God spoke to Adam and Eve after they fell into sin, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” *Genesis 3:19* The Apostle Paul echoes these words when he writes, “the wages of sin is death...” *Romans 6:23a*

The Season of Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. Sometimes, the circumstances of our lives lead us to repentance. In a sense, this period of Covid-19 and everything associated with it has been a period of repentance for the entire world. We are reminded once again that we are mortal and will one day return to the dust from which we were made.

The believer in Jesus is led to repentance, but we are not to be stuck in repentance. To be stuck in repentance leads us to hopelessness and despair. Thankfully, the Christian also has the hope of the Gospel in which we hear that the sins of the repentant are forgiven completely in Christ Jesus. This offer is for the world, however Scripture maintains that the blessings and benefits of Christ’s forgiveness comes to those who believe (that is, who accept Christ’s offer of forgiveness for themselves).

Both the pain of repentance and the pardon of the Gospel are reflected in the prophet Jeremiah’s words as written in the Book of Lamentations, Chapter Three:

²² Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him.”

Earlier I had quoted from the Apostle Paul, “for the wages of sin is death.” But what does he add in that same sentence? “But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” *Romans 6:23*

Life is Law and Gospel: the Law, which shows us our sin and brings us to repentance and the Gospel, which declares our pardon through Jesus Christ. It is this Law and Gospel dynamic that not only gets us through Lent but life itself and brings us to the joy of Easter and Christ’s Resurrection.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Ben Eder



ESTHER CIRCLE

The Esther Circle meeting is Monday, February 8th at 12:30 pm via Zoom. We welcome all women of Pilgrim to attend.

Thank you, Sharon, for leading the Bible study on “Gold, Frankincense and Me” at our January meeting. We discussed that God does not want us to hold onto the gifts He gives us. We need to share them!

We decided to give to the Kenmore Presbyterian Church Food Pantry for 2021. There are many people that need food during this time. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for more information on how to donate. The Terri Lynn dried fruit & nuts fundraiser is ongoing. February is Valentine’s Day month and Easter is in a couple months. Refer to the enclosed flyer for more information. Your support with all these projects is appreciated!

REMINDER! It’s a new year for collecting Dash’s tapes! The receipts go to Sue Holway. The mites (loose change) go to Karen Smith for LWML mission grants. The LWML is a little over \$200 away from fulfilling all the grants that were voted on for 2020-2021. It’s amazing how all this loose change adds up. The cancelled stamps cut with a 1/2-inch border frame go to Sharon McGuan to help purchase Bibles for prisoners. Old ink cartridges go to Pat Watkins. Thank you!

February is “Heart” month. ❤️ Remember to look inside your heart, feel the Lord’s presence, and reach out to others!

God Bless!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



An interlocking community

Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.



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—Max Lucado, *Fearless*

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***



Kathy Kornacki	Feb. 8
Grace Termini	Feb. 8
Kathy Farkas	Feb. 10
Jack Hambridge	Feb. 18
Colvina Colvin	Feb. 25



KIDS ON LOVE AND MARRIAGE

Once I'm done with kindergarten, I'm going to find me a wife! (Tom, 5)

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need somebody to clean up after them! (Lynette, 9)

It gives me a headache to think about that stuff. I'm just a kid. I don't need that kind of trouble. (Kenny, 7)

If falling in love is anything like learning to spell, I don't want to do it. It takes too long. (Leo, 7)

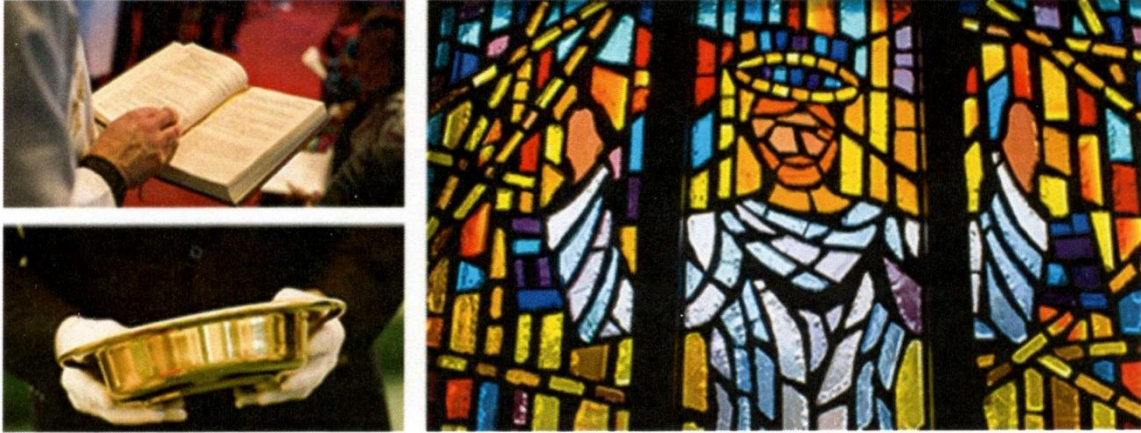
I'm not rushing into being in love. I'm finding fourth grade hard enough. (Regina, 10)

The person is thinking: Yeah, I really do love him. But I hope he showers at least once a day. (Michelle, 9)

Don't forget your wife's name...That will mess up the love. (Roger, 8)

Be a good kisser. It might make your wife forget that you never take out the trash. (Randy, 8)

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.

<https://secure.usaepay.com/pay/9nkt6jj6js3wnvhgb/2ZOkggt3>

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

Why we lament

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up *this* much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for *Time*, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish.

“Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”

Fasting from criticalness

Most fasting involves temporarily giving up something you enjoy. When you long for a cookie or a favorite show, you instead turn your attention to God, reorienting yourself to his best.

Catherine Marshall, in *A Closer Walk*, presents a different approach she calls fasting from “criticalness.” God dealt with her judgmental spirit by prompting her to spend 24 hours without criticizing “anyone about anything.” At first, Marshall felt rather empty when she didn’t engage in a heated political debate. But friends and family didn’t seem to miss her comments. Plus, God replaced the energy she had spent attempting to correct others with energy and creativity to positively influence them.

A critical spirit can make us lose perspective, joy and even relationships. It also can prevent the good work God wants to achieve through us. Consider what could happen as a result of your own “criticalness fast.” Pray for God to do the correcting while you focus on building up others.

—Janna Firestone



An Ash Wednesday prayer

Dear righteous Lord, we enter the holy season of Lent confessing our many sins that separate us from you. We’re sincerely sorry for offending you repeatedly through our thoughts, our words, and our actions — and often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us your tender mercy. Restore and strengthen us to become your faithful and faith-filled servants. During our Lenten journey, remind us to show mercy to other people, just as you’ve shown mercy to us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

The Beauty of Applications

These days, and into the foreseeable future, it's good to know we can occupy ourselves in meaningful ways without going batty. Lutheran Hour Ministries over the last few years has developed a number of web-based applications people can access from their cellphones, laptops, and any other device that links to the internet.

These mobile apps are Bible-based, Christ-centered, and fun to use, *wherever you are*. All it takes is a simple download. When you do that you have immediate access to powerful weekly messages from **The Lutheran Hour**, award-winning, original video Bible studies; topical booklets on dozens of subjects; our daily and seasonal devotions; Spanish-language resources, and plenty of other meaningful content—right at your fingertips.

To take advantage of these resources, go to LHM's website and [click here](#).

Once the app is loaded, you're ready to go! No hassle! No charge!

Visit the Glorious Land of Thailand This Spring!

Lutheran Hour Ministries has saved you a seat for a trip to Southeast Asia. This special five-day excursion to faraway places is going to Thailand in 2021. *Gospel Adventures: Thailand Trek* is a fun-filled, fact-filled learning event loaded with interesting people, captivating cultural features, and the kind of educational experience you've come to expect from LHM's *Gospel Adventure* trips.

Gospel Adventures is a FREE resource available to schools, churches, homeschools, and anyone else daring enough to get on board. Students will learn about what makes Thailand unique in the world, and see how God is at work in the lives of its citizens —95 percent of whom are Buddhist!

With *Thailand Trek*, students and teachers get five days of online adventure to explore this captivating region. Student adventures in Thailand take place through short articles, videos, maps, colorful graphs, hands-on activities, eye-catching charts, identification boxes, questions for discussion, and more. These components work together to highlight the country's people groups, manners of living, religion, economy, culture and customs, government, language, history, and other features that make Thailand so fascinating and wonderful for the visitor.

Student takeaways include a fresh awareness of the world's size and diversity as exhibited through Thai culture and its friendly people. With this knowledge, students gain a fresh appreciation of the work of the Gospel in their own lives and see better how God is at work in people's lives around the world.

This only scratches the surface of what this FREE five-day online experience holds for learners. To register, or to download a sample containing Day 1, go to the website for all the details. You can do this by [clicking here](#).

Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

PUZZLE



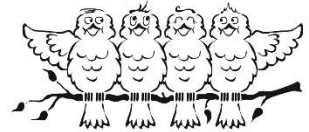
A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J E A O U A C O E E E
 J E A O E E' U N O J O U O U
 A C O N L U O E J E A O
 N L U O' A C O O N U E N O U
 J E A O E U F O
 N U E N O U U N O
 A C O O E E O
 F O E E O "



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
	N	S	P	M

RUTH 1:16, NIV

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 22ND.