



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

**JANUARY 2021**

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

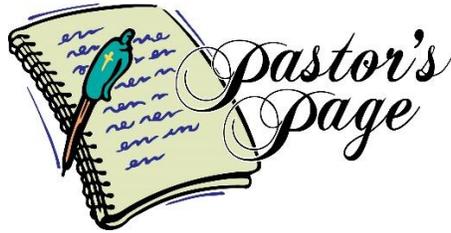
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





## “Retirement in the Bible”

As we enter January and the promise of a New Year it also marks the beginning of a new start for me, as my birthday is January 5<sup>th</sup>, the day before Epiphany. Because I am getting older, invariably I am asked “When are you going to retire?” This question is usually asked by my friends and acquaintances outside the congregation; I am rarely asked it by anyone inside the congregation.

As you can see, the heading of this article is “Retirement in the Bible.” If I were to stick strictly to this theme, I wouldn’t have much to write about as the Bible has little to say about the topic. There is only one reference to retirement that I can find in the Scriptures, and that is the retirement of the Levites (the priests came from this tribe during the time of Moses):

*<sup>23</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>24</sup> “This applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they<sup>[a]</sup> shall come to do duty in the service of the tent of meeting. <sup>25</sup> And from the age of fifty years they shall withdraw from the duty of the service and serve no more. <sup>26</sup> They minister<sup>[b]</sup> to their brothers in the tent of meeting by keeping guard, but they shall do no service. Thus shall you do to the Levites in assigning their duties.” - Numbers 8*

Of course, 50 was considered “old” during that time, and we are no longer under the Levitical system. While the Bible has little to say about retirement, it has a lot to say regarding the value of work. Even when we retire, we work in other directions: going to Wegman’s is “work.” Taking care of grandchildren is “work.” Engaging in volunteer activities is “work.” You get my point.

Simply put, the Christian never retires from service to the Lord. Even when I retire from fulltime church work, whenever that day comes, the Lord will find other venues of service for me both inside and outside the church. As the saying goes, “The Christian retires feet first.”

My prayer for myself is that God will keep me in good health and vitality until the day he calls me home. This brings to mind the death of Moses:

*<sup>5</sup> And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. <sup>6</sup> He buried him<sup>[a]</sup> in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. <sup>7</sup> Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. <sup>8</sup> The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. – Deuteronomy 34*

What are ways that you can serve the Lord in 2021?

+ Pastor Ben Eder



Rev. Ben Eder

Jan. 5

Amber Trimmer

Jan. 9

Patricia Watkins

Jan. 31



## A word for the year

Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year.

But I tried it for 2020 and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for 2021 and beyond.

—Janna Firestone

## 2020 Annual Report from the Pilgrim Lutheran Church Council

On behalf of the Pilgrim Church Council, I pray the Lord's peace fills your hearts and minds this Christmas. We, on the church council, miss seeing you and have missed meeting you at Voters' Meetings this past year. But I can assure you, the council has been busy and continuing to meet this year via Zoom.

Since the virus shutdown, the council met on the following dates:

March 15th

April 14<sup>th</sup>

May 6<sup>th</sup>

June 4<sup>th</sup>

August 25<sup>th</sup>

September 9th

October 21<sup>st</sup>

November 18<sup>th</sup> and

December 16<sup>th</sup>

Our March and April meetings were essential to discuss the Covid -19 guidelines for worship which Pastor and the elders later worked out in detail. Our thanks to Pastor, the elders (Dooley O'Rourke, Jim Hartz and Scot LaFalce), the altar guild, Wes Wiers, Gary Smith and Tegwanda Alford for all they have done to keep the church clean, well maintained and open for worship. A special thank you to Pastor for all he is doing each week to make worship and bible class meaningful and available through Streaming, Zoom and on site opportunities.

In March and April, the church council discussed and applied for the Paycheck Protection Program, which Pilgrim qualified to receive. We thank Carolyn Alessi, congregational Treasurer, for all her endeavors in completing forms and working through the details of this program. The funds received have been a great blessing to the congregation. At this time I would also like to thank Mike Wuerch, Financial Secretary for all he has done to keep track of donations coming in through the plate, mail and online.

As the year progressed we have discussed the budget and the impact Covid -19 has made on our ministry at Pilgrim. We listened to the VBS and Sunday school committees as they presented ways to provide Vacation Bible School and Sunday school materials to church families during the summer and fall of this year, and approved those plans. The council would also like to extend a special thank you to the Esther Circle for their outreach efforts. They have been and are a blessing to our congregation and the community at large. Also, thank you to Mary Werth, editor of the *Pilgrim's Progress*, for helping us all stay informed and connected.

During our October, November and December meetings the council continued to discuss ways we can move forward during the pandemic. I will mention three of them here.

- **The Budget:** After reviewing the 2020 Church Budget and the plate offerings, the council proposes that we maintain the 2020 budget as the 2021 budget, with one increase to maintain Pastor's medical insurance.
- **The Church Council Officers:**

We thank the following individuals for serving on the church council in 2020. They are:

- Jim O'Brien – President
- Tim McGuan – Vice President
- Tegwanda Alford - Secretary
- Mike Wuerch – Financial Secretary
- Carolyn Alessi – Treasurer
- Dooley O'Rourke - Head Elder
- Gary Smith - Trustee

For 2021, the church council has adopted the slate from the Nominating Committee (Pastor, President and Head Elder) and we propose the following slate of new candidates for office.

- Mike Wuerch – President
- Dianne Wuerch - Financial Secretary
- George Alessi – Elder

The following officers will continue their terms:

- Tim McGuan – Vice President
- Tegwanda Alford – Secretary
- Carolyn Alessi - Treasurer
- Dooley O'Rourke – Head Elder

The congregation will need to ratify, by ballot, the new slate of officers and the 2021 budget at our next Voters' Meeting which will likely occur mid- 2021. Until that time, we are thankful to Mike, Dianne and George for agreeing to take on the duties of their offices, so the business of the congregation might continue.

- **Enhancing Communication:** Our next Church Council meeting will be held on Zoom January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. If any congregational member has any matters they would like

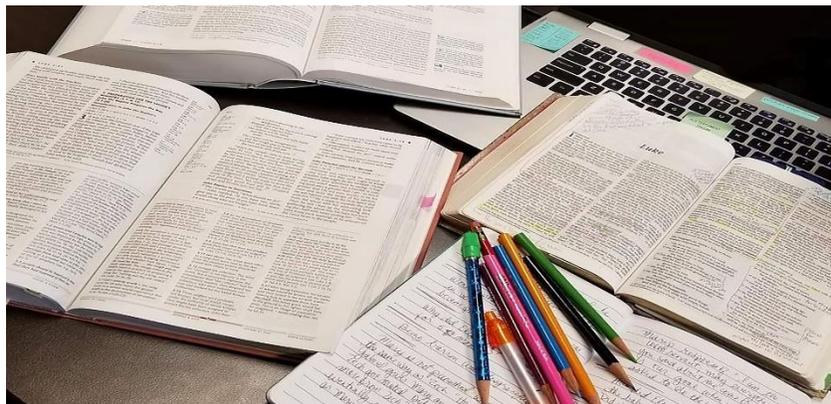
to bring before the council and add to the Agenda, please email me, Tim McGuan at [stmcguan@gmail.com](mailto:stmcguan@gmail.com) and I will get in touch with you.

The church council intends to submit news to the *Pilgrim's Progress* at least once each quarter.

Again, all of us on the church council pray that the joy, love and peace the Christ Child brings, fills your hearts and minds this Christmas. God bless each one of you.

Tim McGuan

Vice President, Pilgrim Lutheran Church Council



**You are invited to an Esther Circle Zoom Bible Study**

**Gold, Frankincense and Me!**

**On January 11, 2021 at 12:30 pm**

All members and friends of Pilgrim are invited to join the Esther Circle as we celebrate Epiphany using the Bible study, **Gold, Frankincense and Me!** This study encourages us to receive the wondrous gift God reveals in His Son and respond to that great gift as we journey in our hearts to worship the newborn king.

The Zoom Bible study will be held Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm. Please email Sharon McGuan at [stmcguan@gmail.com](mailto:stmcguan@gmail.com) if you would like to attend. In addition to sending you your Zoom Invite, Sharon will send you a copy of the lesson with the Bible verses included several days before the 11<sup>th</sup> so everyone can fully participate.

**The Esther Circle looks forward to celebrating Epiphany with you!**



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

Our first 2021 meeting is Monday, January 11th. at 12:30 pm via Zoom. We will have a brief business meeting and decide on which mission project we will be donating to in 2021. Sharon McGuan will lead a Bible Study on the Epiphany. All members and friends of Pilgrim are welcome to attend.

On February 11th, 2021 there will be a Buffalo Zone LWML Mission Speaker Event on Zoom. Anyone interested in attending should contact Sharon McGuan. Refer to the flyer for more information.

**REMINDER!** Keep the Dash's tapes coming! If you are having Dash's deliver your food, please keep those tapes as well. All these receipts go to Sue Holway. The mites (loose change) go to Karen Smith for LWML grants. The cancelled stamps cut with a 1/2 inch border frame go to Sharon McGuan. Old printer ink cartridges go to Pat Watkins. Thank you!

Blessings in 2021!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



### **Valentine's Day is Coming!!**

**ONLINE ORDERING IS AVAILABLE!**

**Gourmet Nuts, Dried Fruit & Fruit Mixes  
Chocolates & Sweets, Snacks & Mixes  
Gift Boxes & Tins**

***All orders are paid online and shipped directly to you!***

Pilgrim Lutheran Esther Circle Store link.  
<https://pilgrimesthercircle.terri Lynn.com/>

All proceeds will be mailed monthly by check to Pilgrim Esther Circle to be used towards our yearly charities!

*Give*  
THANKS  
TO THE *Lord*  
FOR HE IS GOOD;  
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.  
1 CHRONICLES 16:34

Deuteronomy 15:10  
Proverbs 11:24-25  
Malachi 3:10  
Luke 6:38  
Romans 12:8  
2 Corinthians 9:6-8  
Philippians 4:15-17

## **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Every man  
according as he  
purposeth in  
his heart, so let  
him give; not  
grudgingly,  
or of necessity:  
for God loveth  
a cheerful giver.

(KJV)



**Save The Date!**

***Join us for a***  
**Buffalo Zone LWML**  
**Zoom Mission Speaker**  
**Event!**

**Sat, Feb 6, 2021 9 -10 am**

**Be inspired by a presentation of  
stories and pictures  
by Buffalo Zone Pastoral Counselor,  
Pastor at First Trinity and Missionary,  
Dr. Chuck Whited**

***“Reaching Nepal and China  
with the Gospel through  
Sowers Ministry”***

**(Sowers Ministry received an LWML Eastern  
District grant last biennium.)**

**RSVP Sharon McGuan: [stmcguan@gmail.com](mailto:stmcguan@gmail.com) by 2/1**



The women of the Buffalo Zone LWML, hosts for the 2021 Retreat, look forward to seeing you at Lutherlyn Camp! You can "visit" Lutherlyn Camp on line at [www.lutherlyn.com](http://www.lutherlyn.com). District Editor, Bev Wicher will soon send an informational brochure. More information will also be included in the Winter LINK.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**For the LWML Eastern District Retreat!**

**September 24-26, 2021**

Lutherlyn Camp  
500 Lutherlyn Lane  
Butler, PA 16001



# Epiphany Word Search



FIRST MIRACLE	REVELATION	MELCHIOR
FRANKINCENSE	BALTHAZAR	BAPTISM
WISE MEN	BETHLEHEM	HOLIDAY
THREE KINGS	CHRISTIAN	JANUARY
TWELFTH DAY	EPIPHANY	CASPAR

