



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

JUNE 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





“Funeral Planning: the Lutheran Difference”

In over 35 years of being a parish pastor I have seen a definite shift in public attitudes regarding funerals. Years ago, nearly everyone received a Christian Burial. Now, many funerals are called “Celebrations of Life” and are theme-based depending on the preferences of the deceased.

Whenever I preside at a funeral, I can usually tell who the Christians are: they sing along with the hymns, they know the Lord’s Prayer and the Creed, and they nod approvingly at something said during the sermon. As for the rest, they are either mulling over what was said, are “tuned out” or reject it completely.

In planning a funeral, Jesus Christ and his resurrection promises should be emphasized. However, this does not mean that the life, qualities, or achievements of the deceased should be ignored. A lay person once told me about an experience she had in her church (not LCMS, although it could happen anywhere). She had recently attended a funeral there, and as it happened her father died and his funeral took place there as well. She heard the same sermon, word for word: only the name had been changed.

I once read an article with an obituary writer for the New York Times. In summary, the writer believed that an obituary should capture the essence of a person. In an even greater way, the Lutheran funeral sermon ought to capture the essence of the deceased in relation to their standing as baptized children of the Heavenly Father. As the Lutheran funeral service points to Christ, the Lutheran funeral sermon points out the presence and activity of Christ in the life of the deceased.

Because our hope is found in Christ Jesus, joy should permeate a Lutheran funeral service. By joy I mean “an awareness or assurance of living in Christ’s eternal promises.” This is not to gloss over or deny the very real grief that the bereaved are experiencing, for they have been separated from their loved one. However, the Christian does not grieve as one without hope because we will see our believing loved ones again in paradise.

This is something that the unbeliever cannot comprehend. Even in a Lutheran funeral there will be an opportunity to speak to unbelievers, skeptics, and the like. While the Christians in the assembly take comfort from the Gospel, I also find ways to preach both Law and Gospel to everyone there. The Law is present when faced with the reality and pain of death, for the “wages of sin is death.” But then the Apostle Paul adds in the same verse, “but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Without Christ, all we have is the Law with its accusations and condemnation. But for those in Christ, the Gospel offers pardon from sin and the assurance of everlasting life with Jesus and the saints.

In closing, a Christ-less funeral emphasizes the “virtues” of the deceased and is ambivalent (at best) about the hope for eternal life. In a Christian funeral, the deceased is acknowledged to be a sinner who has been redeemed by the blood of Christ and therefore lives eternally. That is the “Lutheran Difference.”

+ Pastor Ben Eder

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Rod Mohr	Jun. 3
Mike Wuerch	Jun. 9
Marie Curcie	Jun. 10
Robert Schober	Jun. 10
Jim Rodgers Sr.	Jun. 18
Diane Jakubowski	Jun. 27
Mary Werth	Jun. 28

Jun. 17	Gary & Karen Smith
Jun. 22	Paul & Sue Holway
Jun. 29	Alan & Kathy Kornacki



Family web

Genealogy research turns up some intriguing relations; for example, Barack Obama and Sarah Palin are 10th cousins, and Britney Spears and Prince Albert of Monaco are 17th half-cousins. In the Bible, Jesus is linked to Rahab and Ruth, members of nations that were enemies of Israel.

Searches for family connections quickly reveal not only roots but also a web. Only a few generations up in the branches of each family tree are so many people that trees intersect. Scientists speculate that most people living today are related through a recent common ancestor. So there's a "web-like tapestry" rather than a "tree that fans out exponentially," according to writer Carl Zimmer.

Realizing we're all connected should affect how we treat others. After all, we're related to people with diverse backgrounds and opinions. In terms of genealogy, as well as living as Jesus' disciples, we belong to one another.



ESTHER CIRCLE

The Esther Circle will be gathering **AT THE CHURCH** on June 14th at 12:30 pm. Bring a bag lunch if you wish. Beverage will be provided. 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.

The Inspirational Rocks were distributed before church services in May and delivered to others who are unable to attend church. There is an attached picture of the rocks.

Kenmore Presbyterian Church Food Pantry is our 2021 mission outreach. We give a donation every quarter. The end of June is the second quarter. Since we have not been able have Pot Faith meals and fellowship time at church, prayerfully give a donation.

The Teri Lynn dried fruit, nuts and chocolate fundraiser is ongoing. They make great treats and gifts!

REMINDER!

- 1) Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway.
- 2) Mites (loose change) go to Karen Smith. This money is given to the LWML for mission grants. Starting in June, during church services, there will be a container at the back of the church to drop your change.
- 3) Cancelled stamps cut with a 1/2-inch border frame go to Sharon McGuan to purchase Bibles for prisoners. Old ink printer cartridges go to Pat Watkins.

Thank you for your contributions!

June is the start of Summer! ☀ We have been blessed with wonderful, warm weather. Enjoy the outdoors, beautiful flowers and time with family and friends.

God Bless!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



On the rock

Nothing before, nothing behind;
The steps of faith
Fall on the seeming void, and find
The rock beneath.

—John Greenleaf Whittier



Our way out

Father's Day, Graduations, Showers & more!!



Tasty, colorful sweets and mixes—

Father's Day, Graduations, Showers,

Weddings, Birthdays, Sports Teams,

Summer Schools, and More!

Terri Lynn has something for every taste...

From chocolate covered nuts to gummy bears.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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

<https://pilgrimesthercircle.terri Lynn.com>



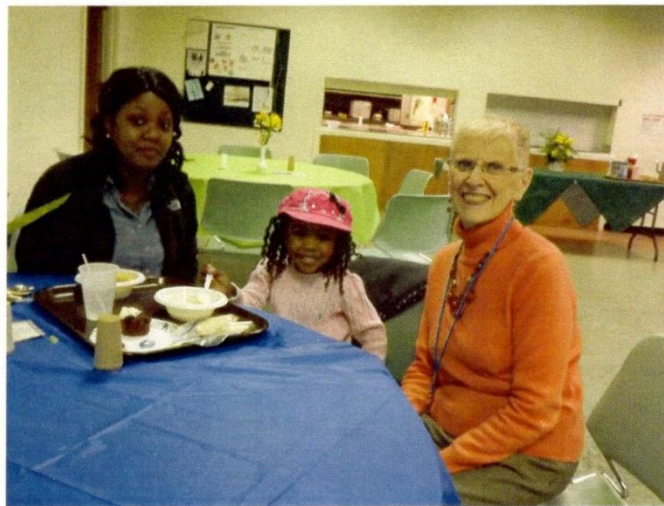
Esther Circle Donations for 2021

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***



Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

As we all have experienced, this past year has been a challenging one. The Covid pandemic has impacted us all differently, and we have coped with it in our own personal ways. As Christians we are always fortunate to have the love and council of our Lord Jesus Christ to guide us through.

The Church Council needed to make some emergency changes during the pandemic by replacing some of the Council members. A special thanks to Tim McGuan and Tegwanda Alford for previously serving on the Council.

As it stands now Mike Wuerch is Council President, Sue Holway is Vice- President, Carolyn Alessi is Treasurer, Dianne Wuerch is Financial Secretary, Dooley O'Rourke is Head Elder. We are currently looking for a Recording Secretary. If you are interested in accepting this position, please speak to Mike Wuerch or Pastor. These positions were filled in an emergency situation and we plan to have them ratified at a voter's meeting this summer.

The Church Council and Pastor Ben have been continually active during the past year. We have taken many actions to keep the parishioners of Pilgrim engaged with the church, always putting our Lord's word and teachings in the forefront.

We have implemented the use of Zoom Online for meetings and services plus added a new camera in the church to enhance the look of our YouTube services. As soon as New York State would allow, we opened the Church back up to in-person services, always following the CDC and the State's guidelines. We are working hard to bring our current situation back to normal.

To that end, we would like to ask the congregation if anyone is willing to help with ushering, reading, alter help, nursery, and counting to please approach someone on the council or Pastor Ben and let us know.

On the House & Grounds front, some of the stucco in the back of the church has fallen off and more is peeling. The Council is receiving estimates to repair it and hope to get it worked on this summer. New York State has a program in which they are actively capping old unused Natural Gas Wells. Our neighbors, The Chapel Apartments, have three of these gas wells. The NYSDEC is planning on accessing one or more of these wells from behind the church via our parking lot. They may also be using some of the parking spots to park pickups and equipment Monday-Thursday. There is no timeline for this project. More information to come.

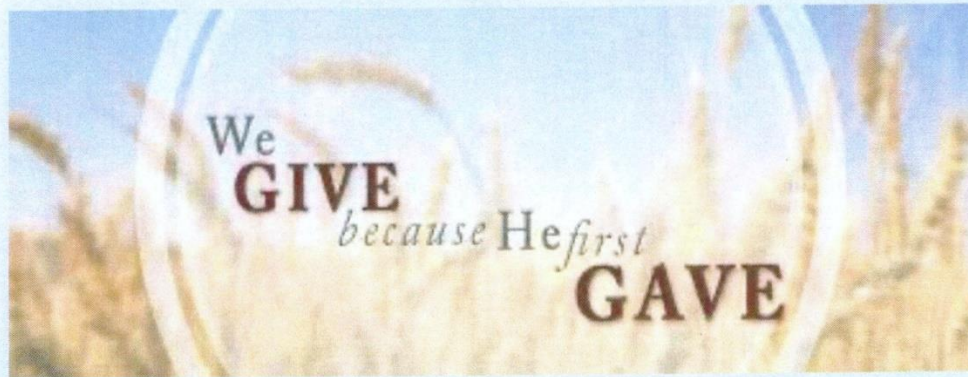
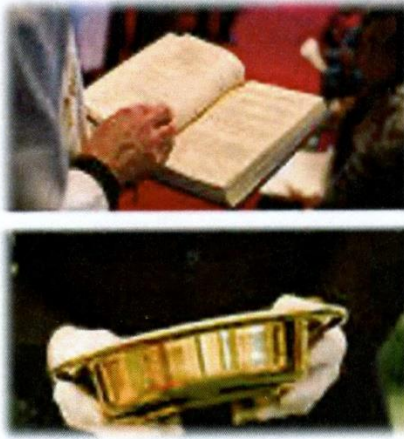
We would like to remember those members and friends of Pilgrim who have passed into the Lord's care over the past year, they will be dearly missed: Frank Alessi, Roberto Diaz, Donna Jean Reynolds, and Margaret Schmidt.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.

Your Servant in Christ,

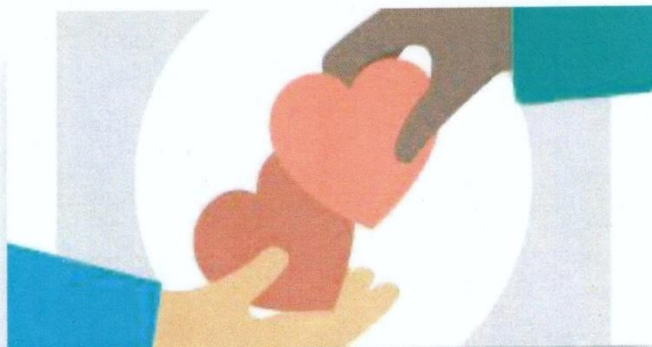
Michael Wuerch

Council President



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

<https://secure.usaepay.com/pay/9nkt6jj6js3wnvhgb/2Z0kggt3>





Pilgrim's 100th Anniversary will be in 2022!

JOIN US: 100th Anniversary Committee

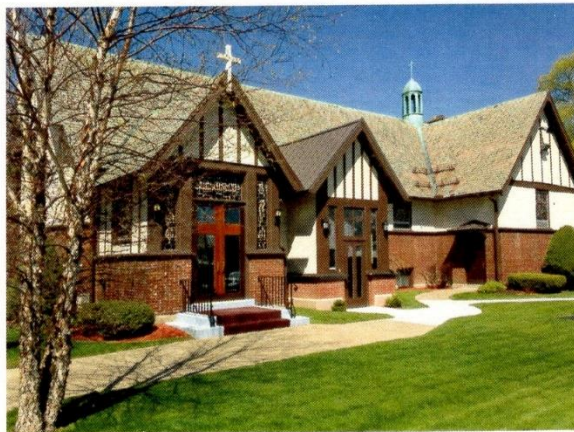
WHEN: Wednesday, June 9th beginning at 10 a.m.

WHERE: In the Fellowship Hall

WHAT: Going through boxes of memorabilia to use for our celebration.

By God's grace we have endured the Great Depression, World War II, and the Pandemic, among other things!

Those who are interested in helping may just show up or contact Chairperson Dianne Wuerch in advance.



Weigh in at THRED Where Your Voice Matters

These days, sincere, balanced conversations are crucial. With dialogue comes understanding, and with understanding cooperative growth is possible. At **THRED**, LHM's social media website, the idea is for visitors to "join an open and honest conversation with people of all backgrounds about life, faith, and Jesus." It's a place where people listen and learn from what others have to say.

At THRED you'll find a vibrant online space where you can interact and share your thoughts on everything from society and culture to Jesus, faith, and spirituality. It's where conversations take place among people who differ in perspective but who share an interest in learning more about others and their view of the world. In short, THRED offers a Christian perspective open to all kinds of different ways of looking at things.

At the THRED website, there are loads of articles dealing with relationships, community, society, God, Christianity, and other intriguing items. There's also a helpful collection of videos on how to make the most of living with COVID-19. To visit THRED and access its content, [click here](#) and dive in!

You can see what's going on at THRED on its Facebook page, too. Check out Matt Popovits' "Dangerous World" video by [clicking here](#). Watch it and see what you think. Has your view of the world changed in the last few months? Tell us about it.

We look forward to you joining the conversation at THRED where *your voice matters*.

RADIO PROGRAM ENCOURAGES MAN TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

With ministry programs being adapted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LHM-Liberia staff continues to reach a large audience through their *Words of Hope* radio broadcast. Augustine heard the program one day and reached out to LHM staff to get booklets that he could pass out to others. Augustine sells socks out of a wheelbarrow in the local marketplace. Before he starts work each day, he and his friend use LHM-Liberia materials during their own devotion time. On Saturday mornings, Augustine, other vendors, and individuals visiting the marketplace gather to listen to the *Words of Hope* program. Following the broadcast, they all go around and share which part of the program impacted them and how they intend to apply the lessons learned to their lives. Even during a pandemic, the Holy Spirit continues to work through people like Augustine to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Visit lhm.org/hopeabounds to see how #HOPEABOUNDS around the world.



Conundrums of creation

God's creation is filled with amazing and sometimes puzzling works.

Directions: Use the bank of picture clues to answer the riddles.



You can hold but not touch this. _____

Before using this, you must break it. _____

This falls without getting hurt. _____

This gets bigger the more you take away. _____

This has an eye but cannot see. _____

“In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the _ _ _.

It is like ... a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit
to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.”

P S A L M 1 9 : 4 - 6 , N I V

Answer: breath, egg, rain, hole, hurricane, sun

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JULY
NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 25TH.**