



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*

**MAY 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

## MEMORIAL DAY





# FROM THE PASTOR

We have walked with Jesus on the road to Calvary and the cross during Lent; we have rejoiced along with the disciples that death did not hold Jesus but that he rose victorious from the grave on the Day of his Resurrection. The month of May marks two important events in the life and mission of Jesus: his Ascension (Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>) and the coming of the Holy Spirit (Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>). On Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, we also acknowledge the Triune (“Three in One”) nature of God on Holy Trinity Sunday.

After Jesus rose from the dead, perhaps many wondered “how long will he stay here?” That question was answered on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after his Resurrection when Jesus ascended into heaven and returned to his Heavenly Father. Luke describes the scene in the opening chapter of the Book of Acts:

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> *They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”* – Acts 1

Ever since he ascended into heaven we often speak of Jesus being “away,” but he is with us spiritually and his body and blood are present in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine for our forgiveness in his Holy Supper. Jesus is “away,” but he remains with us for he promises “Lo, I am with you always until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

The chief way that Jesus comes to us and remains with us is through the presence of the Holy Spirit who came in his fullness on the Day of Pentecost. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, Jesus is available to everyone who calls on him, regardless of time, space, or place.

Finally, the Sunday after Pentecost is Holy Trinity Sunday, in which the Triune nature of God is highlighted. This is the Sunday in which we confess our faith in the words of the Athanasian Creed, the third creed of the Church which goes into detail about the Three Persons and the oneness of God. Holy Trinity Sunday is observed on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, the final Sunday in May.

As it happens, this year we have three important dates on the Church calendar in one month (sometimes Holy Trinity Sunday is found in the next month, depending on the year). We have another opportunity to behold, worship, and rejoice in the depth and breadth of God and how he provides for our salvation. Let us gather together to receive the gifts he offers us in his Divine Service.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Ben Eder



# BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

**Carolyn Alessi**

**May 8**

**Tyrone Bryant**

**May 9**

**Jim Miller**

**May 16**

**Mark Eder**

**May 18**



## **Worth celebrating**

While going through the so-called “daily grind,” it’s fun to anticipate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holiday meals — especially when other people cook and clean up! Although every day is full of countless reasons to rejoice, we may not always feel like celebrating. Life’s concerns pile high, distracting us from gratitude, joy and intentional acknowledgment of our blessings.

When you need a reason to smile and celebrate, head to [www.NationalDayCalendar.com](http://www.NationalDayCalendar.com). Almost every food item and hobby now has its own day, and you’ll even find gems such as National Be Late for Something Day (September 5, if you want to plan ahead!).

These fun “occasions” can help you embrace small joys and may even inspire you to celebrate them with family or friends. As you do, consider what it is about today and each gift from God that makes this day special.



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

The Esther Circle meeting is Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

We did a new Spring project! They are inspirational painted rocks. We fellowshipped at church on April 29<sup>th</sup> to paint them. Once completed, we plan to give each family or individual member of Pilgrim a rock to place in their garden, on their porch or deck, etc.

The Kenmore Presbyterian Church Food Pantry is our 2021 mission outreach. Since we have not been able to have our Pot Faith meals and Fellowship time at church, prayerfully consider giving a donation. 🙏

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

**REMINDER!** Each month we have been noting these other fundraising efforts:

1. Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway. We receive a monetary give back based on the total amount of receipts submitted each year. Please take time to shop at Dash's.

2. Mites is loose change that is collected and given to the LWML to pay for mission grants for the year. It's AMAZING to see how this change given by many can sum up to thousands of dollars to support grants that make a difference! We at Pilgrim can be part of this! Please collect your loose change and give to Karen Smith.

3. Cancelled stamps cut with 1/2 inch border frame go to Sharon McGuan to help purchase Bibles for prisoners. Old ink printer cartridges go to Pat Watkins.

Thank you for your contributions!

May is the month of Mother's Day! We give thanks for all mothers 🙏 May the Risen Lord continue to bless them with good health, joy and strong faith.

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway." —Erma Bombeck

"The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom." —Henry Ward Beecher



# Counters Needed

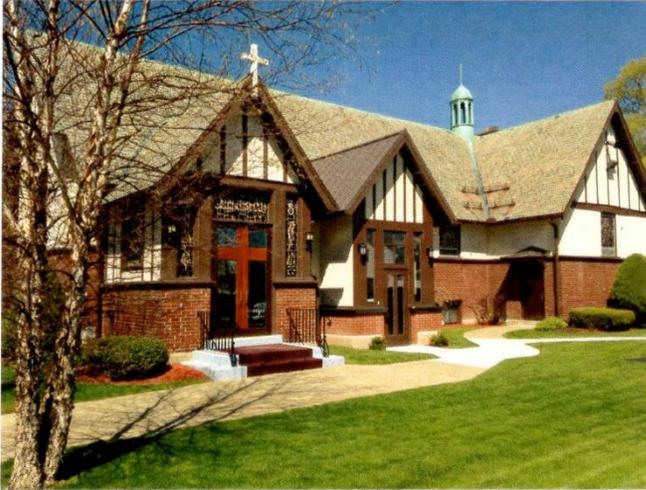
We need congregational members to help count offerings after Sunday service. This will be done on a rotating schedule.

If you feel the calling to do so, please sign-up on the bulletin board sheet at church or contact Dianne or Mike Wuerch. Thank you.



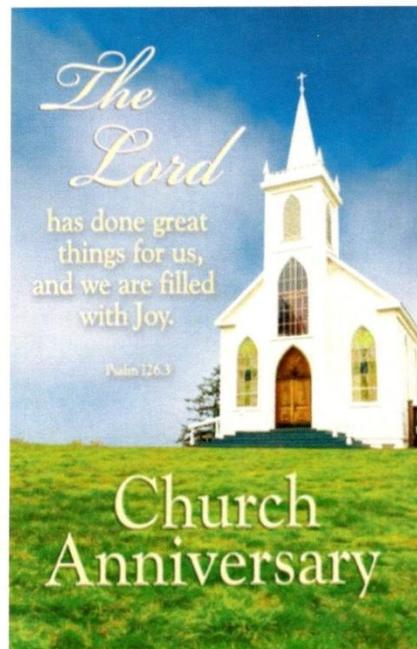
# Pilgrim's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be in 2022!

Looking for help to plan our 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration in 2022!



Dianne Wuerch has agreed to be the Committee's Chairperson.

Anyone who is interested to be on the Committee going through the boxes of Pilgrim's Memorabilia & photos, email Dianne at [diannefeyeswuerch@gmail.com](mailto:diannefeyeswuerch@gmail.com)

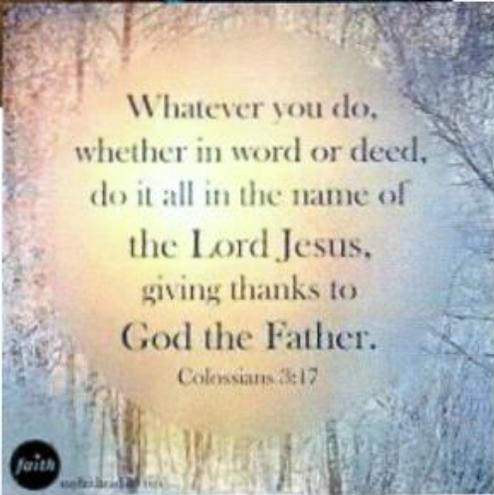




Each of you should give  
what you have decided  
in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly  
or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

DailyVerses.net



Whatever you do,  
whether in word or deed,  
do it all in the name of  
the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to  
God the Father.

Colossians 3:17

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

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

# 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***

## **The Ascension challenge**

Ever wonder what it might have been like to be a disciple when Jesus ascended into heaven? He gave them the monumental task of making disciples of all the world. Plus, they'd have to do it without relying on Jesus' physical presence, as they had until then. Were the disciples overwhelmed, uncertain, afraid?

Maybe, yet they went on to spread the gospel throughout the world nonetheless. They rose to the challenge because they fixed their gaze above as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds.

We follow that example, offering ourselves as willing servants and keeping our eyes trained on Jesus instead of our circumstances, there's no limit to what God can accomplish through us.

## **A shared experience**

What comes to mind when you hear the word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of fire and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that's just as key: Jesus' disciples "were all together in one place." Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn't miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church.

The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus' first followers hadn't been assembled on Pentecost, they would've missed the outpouring of God's power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God's blessings, promises and joy?

## **Focusing on the Trinity**

Christians are monotheists, meaning we believe in only one God. Yet we talk about the doctrine of the Trinity. In the church year, the Sunday after Pentecost is known as Trinity Sunday. It's a day for focusing on what theologians call the Triune God — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Someone said about the concept of the Trinity, "You will lose your soul if you don't believe it, and you will lose your mind if you try to explain it."

The bottom line is this: God (one Person) has been revealed to mankind in three ways. He is our Creator, who then came to Earth as our Savior (in the person of Jesus) and is eternally present with us as the Holy Spirit.

On Trinity Sunday, we praise our Triune God for meeting all our needs.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

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

## **BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES IMPACT PRISONER'S LIFE**

Alex is 33 years old and previously worked as a farmer. He was looking for ways to make money quickly, so he joined a group of people who raided homes in his neighborhood. He was caught by the authorities and sentenced to 15 years in prison. He has never been religious and grew up thinking religion was only for weak individuals. While in prison, Alex was introduced to **LHM-Kenya** through their prison ministry team and he says he enrolled in their **Bible Correspondence Courses\* (BCC)** as a way for him to pass time. As he studied the Bible and worked through the BCC lessons, he discovered he was living a sinful life and needed to change. Through the power of God's Spirit, Alex became a Christian. He is now reading his Bible regularly and growing in his faith.

## **FACEBOOK POST INTRODUCES STUDENT TO CHRIST**

Amine is 22 years old and dropped out of school due to financial problems. He is working as a valet to make money so he can return to school soon. He felt discouraged about his situation and began to question the existence of God. He started following a Facebook page run by LHM staff in the Middle East and North Africa and, after seeing several posts that inspired him, he sent a private message asking about the meaning of life. He shared that with so many religions in the world, he wonders how we are supposed to know which one to follow. He realized that he struggles with sin and needed a Savior to forgive his sins. The staff member shared the Gospel message with Amine. Like many people, it took Amine several weeks to study and examine the Gospel. Through God's saving grace, Amine became a Christian. He prayed for forgiveness and said he felt free from his guilt. He is working on growing his faith and has started participating in LHM's **Bible Correspondence Courses\* (BCC)**.

**\*Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC)** are Bible-based studies that enable people of all ages, faiths, and educational levels to explore the Bible's teachings and the Christian faith from the security and comfort of their own homes. **\*Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC)** are Bible-based studies that enable people of all ages, faiths, and educational levels to explore the Bible's teachings and the Christian faith from the security and comfort of their own homes.

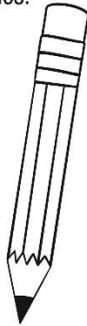
Visit [lhm.org/hopeabounds](http://lhm.org/hopeabounds) to see how #HOPEABOUNDS around the world.



Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our "circles."

**What you need:**

- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



**What you do:**

1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house, my city, my state, my country, the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.



# A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

*Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.*

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

"But you will receive \_\_\_\_\_ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answer: power

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER IS MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>.**