



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

OCTOBER 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



From the Pastor

Over the past week, three of my colleagues have died from Covid-19: two were pastors and the other a lay leader who was a pastoral assistant. I do not know for certain if they were vaccinated, but I suspect they were not.

I have hesitated to get into the vaccine controversy this year. However, I would like to share my own personal perspective. I come from the “Polio Generation.” I remember the relief my parents felt when the vaccine came out and we could get vaccinated. We lined up in the school cafeteria to get our shots. Through the years, I’ve taken vaccines of all kinds, many of them required. Many vaccines are required for children to attend school.

It is not for me to discuss the efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccines. Echoing Dr. McCoy from “Star Trek,” “I’m a pastor, not an epidemiologist.” Like you, I have done my reading and I feel confident about taking any of the vaccines currently available in the United States. If you have come to a different conclusion, that is your right. However, every decision has consequences: for the unvaccinated, the greater likelihood of severe illness and even death from Covid-19 is real [99% of the current deaths from Covid are among the unvaccinated]. *Source: AP*

Furthermore, being shut out of various social functions (work, sporting events, the theatre, and so on) is not the best way to live. We were meant for life, not mere existence. “Choose life,” the Bible says. *Deuteronomy 30:19*

There seems to be a needless confrontation between science and religion in our society today. I say “needless” because science is regarded by Lutherans as one of God’s “First Article” gifts [the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed deals with God and Creation]. God is the source of all knowledge, including science. Many of world history’s great scientists, such as Sir Isaac Newton, were Christians. Dr. Francis Collins, the head of the NIH, is a professing Christian. Unfortunately, it appears that some [perhaps many] of today’s current scientists are agnostic or atheistic in their outlook. Still, there are some who believe in God and that their work reflects His working and His will.

I don’t know how anyone can look at the universe above or the universe within and conclude that this all came about by accident or chance. The psalmist said it best when he declared that “we are fearfully and wonderfully made.” *139:13-14* Also, Psalm 8 declares the majesty of God’s creation:

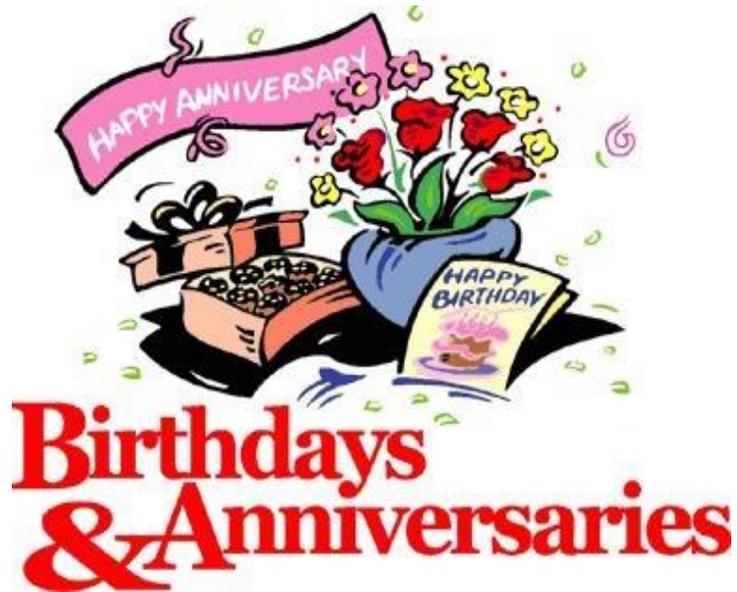
*“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?” – v. 3-4*

I leave you with two observations: if the vaccine was considered experimental or dangerous, why would they give it to world leaders such as the President of the United States and the Queen of England? And secondly, most of the medical community takes the virus seriously: my doctors are vaccinated, and one wears two masks while another wears a mask and a face shield. If they’re taking it seriously, so should we.

Frankly, vaccination is the key in ending this pandemic. If you are not vaccinated, I strongly urge you to do so. Through this and other measures, we will contribute to the answering of prayer in putting this ordeal behind us.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Ben Eder



Dianne Wuerch	Oct. 2
Frank Alessi	Oct. 10
Kathy Rodgers	Oct. 11
Tegwanda Alford	Oct. 15
Sue Holway	Oct. 18

Oct. 7	Mike & Dianne Wuerch
Oct. 10	Lee & Amber Trimmer



Mixed signals

A newcomer approached the pastor after worship and said, “I’d like you to pray for my hearing.”

Placing hands on the man’s ears, the pastor said a very passionate, earnest prayer and then asked the visitor, “How’s you’re hearing now?”

With a confused look, the man said, “Well, it’s scheduled for tomorrow.”



ESTHER CIRCLE

The October meeting will be held at the church on Monday the 11th at 12:30 pm. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend.

The gift card raffle went well. The drawing is Sunday, October 3rd. Congratulations to the winners! We will be doing the Terri Lynn nuts and candy sale this month. Please refer to the flyer in this newsletter. Your support is appreciated.

We need two helpers for each Fellowship hour every other Sunday. The sign-up sheets for October and November are posted on the board near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Carol Obot and Tegwanda Alford attended the Eastern District LWML Retreat from September 24th to 26th in Butler, Pennsylvania. The theme was “Can Do with Jesus”.

REMINDER! Please put your loose change for mites in the container near the front door or give to Karen Smith. These mites help pay for mission grants. Dash’s receipts go to Sue Holway. Cancelled stamps cut with a 1/2 - inch border go to Sharen McGuan, and old printer ink cartridges go to Pat Watkins. Thank you!

Fall is here! 🍁 The Lord’s colorful season. Enjoy the beauty and reflect on God’s awesome creation! God Bless!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



Lessons from lilies

Recently I was challenged to think about what consumes me — and what distracts me from giving God more. In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus tells us not to worry about what we eat, drink and wear. I’ve read those verses numerous times and usually respond, “Yeah, but the birds and lilies don’t have mortgages and bills! How can I *not* worry?” I’m finally realizing that if I put Christ first, then my trust in him affects my day-to-day decisions. Plus, negative thoughts start to fade.

When do you respond, “Yeah, but ...” to God? Maybe it’s when you want to sleep in on Sunday, or when the offering plate is passed, or when you’re asked to teach Sunday school. Try reciting Matthew 6:33 often: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (ESV). When we prioritize Jesus, he guides us toward him and away from worries.

—Julie Lee



Esther Circle would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who donated Gift Cards and to those who purchased Raffle Tickets.



A Really
Big
Thank
you
xxx♥



Gift Cards were Donated By:

Russell's Steaks, Chops &
More
Riviera Theatre
Ilio DiPaolos
La Hacienda
Mississippi Mudds
Olympic Restaurant
Paula's Donuts
Applebees
Andersons
Francos Pizzeria

Karen Smith
Pat Watkins
Sharon McGuan
Ruth Whitmer



Kenmore Presbyterian Church Food Pantry

The Board of Deacons of Kenmore Presbyterian Church Offers a Food Pantry

Second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Right now they are bagging a variety of items and handing out the bags outside in the parking lot.

Last Thursday of the month from 12 noon to 2 p.m.,

We offer a Soup Luncheon. **The Soup Kitchen is ON PAUSE for now**



**Fellowship and Pot Faith Sundays
All donations will be collected by
Esther Circle**

Appreciating your pastor

Many people have complex relationships with their pastors because faith, church and God involve a mix of emotions. We have particular ideas about church practices, congregational priorities, the minister's use of time, money, authority and more.

But most pastors are deeply devoted to Christ and believe that God has called them to serve in a certain place. They have the best of intentions and work hard to share the good news of the gospel. So, in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month in October, consider the following:

God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called. Your pastor may need time to learn and develop certain skills. (Everyone does!) Bless pastors with your patience.

We don't change the message; the message changes us. You probably won't like *all* your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart.

If a church wants a "better" pastor, it just needs to pray for the one it has. Pray often and caringly for your pastors, church leaders and their families. The role is challenging, so support them spiritually and ask God to reveal his love and grace to these special servants.

Time to hit delete?

If we really have too much to do, there are some items on the agenda that God did not put there. Let us submit the list to him and ask him to indicate which items we must delete. There is always time to do the will of God. If we are too busy to do that, we are too busy.

—Elisabeth Eliot

Grace — what a gift!

Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness. It strikes us when we walk through the dark valley of a meaningless and empty life. It strikes us when our disgust for our own being, our indifference, our weakness, our hostility, and our lack of direction and composure have become intolerable to us. It strikes us when, year after year, the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair destroys all joy and courage.

Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: "You are accepted."

—Paul Tillich

"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

—Martin Luther

"It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."

—Nelson Mandela

VOTERS MEETING

After church on September 19th, we had our first Voters Meeting since the pandemic began. It was great to be together again.

Some emergency changes were made in the Church Council during the pandemic.

President – Mike Wuerch

Vice President – Sue Holway

Treasurer – Carolyn Alessi

Financial Secretary – Dianne Wuerch

Recording Secretary – Ruth Whitmer

Elders – Dooley O'Rourke (head), Jim Hartz, George Alessi

A new camera was added in the church to enhance the look of our YouTube services.

The Council has contracted McHugh Painting Company to do the stucco repair in the back of the church. They will also be addressing the cause of the damage by repairing the roof valley directly above the wall damage.

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 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation 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 the project and it appears to be on hold for the moment.

A committee is working on revising the church constitution. The congregation will see the first draft soon.

Before we shut down in 2020, we had been looking at getting a new boiler. But it has been working fine, so we may just wait until we need a new one. Some of our lighting also needs updating and that is being looked into.

The Council and congregation wish to thank the Esther Circle for bringing back Fellowship Hour. However, it is only every other week. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Two people are needed each time and the food does not have to be cooked. Store items are just fine.

If anyone is willing to help with ushering, reading, counting and altar service, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board or let a council member or Pastor Ben know.

Our next meeting is on December 12th. Please plan to attend since we will formally elect council officers and vote on the 2022 budget.



ESTHER CIRCLE TERRI LYNN FUNDRAISER

Ask Family, Friends, and Co-Workers!

Sale Starts: **OCTOBER 9**
Sale Ends: **OCTOBER 31**
Brochures will be available soon!!

ALL ORDERS MUST INCLUDE PAYMENT!!!

Cash, Check OR Money Orders – *Made payable to ESTHER CIRCLE.*

FREE DELIVERY ** TAX EXEMPT

- * Delivery is approximately 15 days after they receive all orders.
- * Everything is made Fresh!!!
- * Terri Lynn will pack orders per seller - Keep the Pink Copy for your records.

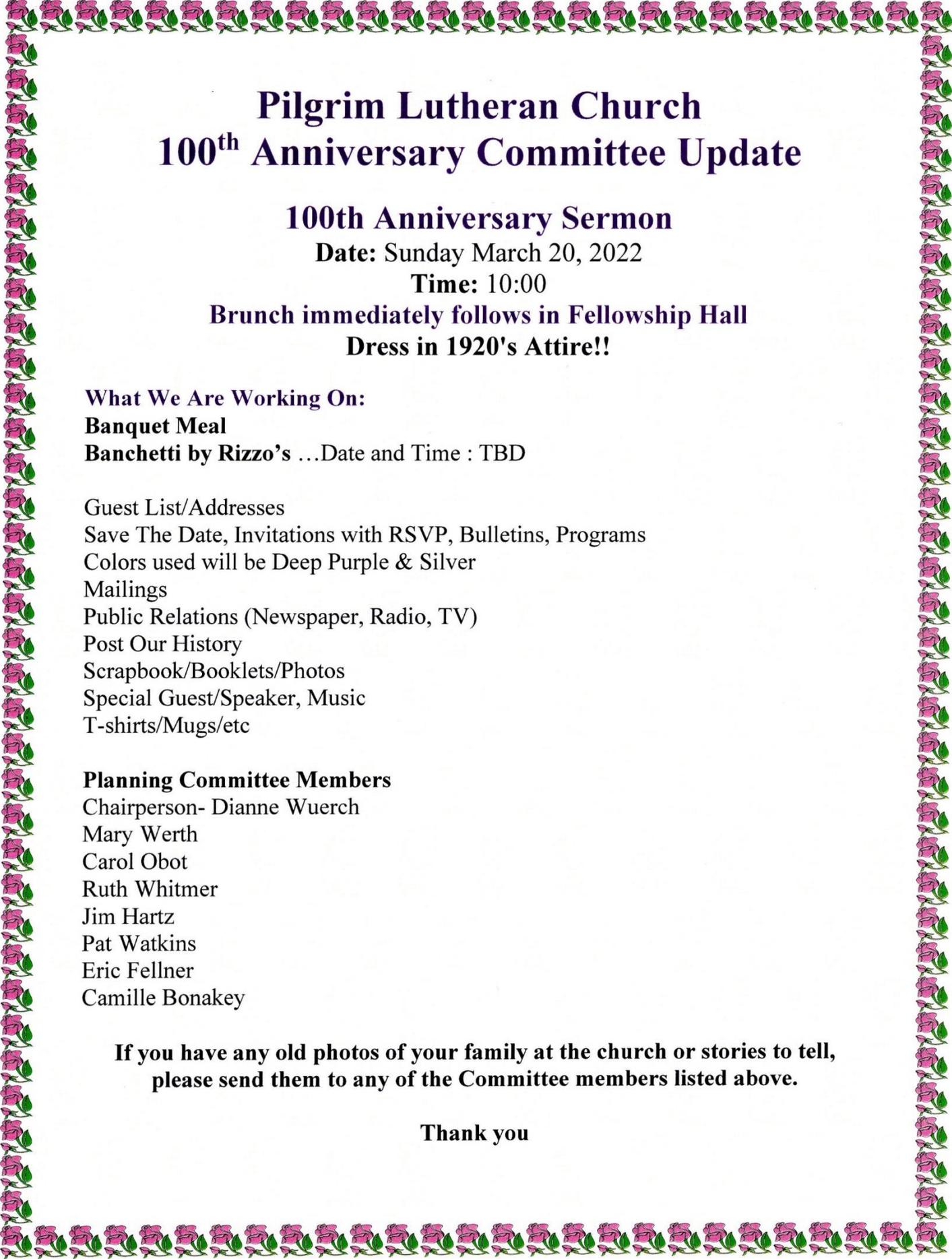
Return **TOP COPY & YELLOW COPY** with **MONEY** to
Dianne Wuerch BEFORE MONDAY NOVEMBER 1st

Ask Family, Friends, Co-Workers To
ORDER ONLINE ... ANYTIME!!!

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

With Direct Delivery...NO Tax
(There is a \$5.00 Shipping Charge)

If you are interested in receiving a brochure or have any questions, text, or call
Dianne Wuerch 716-481-2599



Pilgrim Lutheran Church 100th Anniversary Committee Update

100th Anniversary Sermon

Date: Sunday March 20, 2022

Time: 10:00

Brunch immediately follows in Fellowship Hall

Dress in 1920's Attire!!

What We Are Working On:

Banquet Meal

Banchetti by Rizzo's ...Date and Time : TBD

Guest List/Addresses

Save The Date, Invitations with RSVP, Bulletins, Programs

Colors used will be Deep Purple & Silver

Mailings

Public Relations (Newspaper, Radio, TV)

Post Our History

Scrapbook/Booklets/Photos

Special Guest/Speaker, Music

T-shirts/Mugs/etc

Planning Committee Members

Chairperson- Dianne Wuerch

Mary Werth

Carol Obot

Ruth Whitmer

Jim Hartz

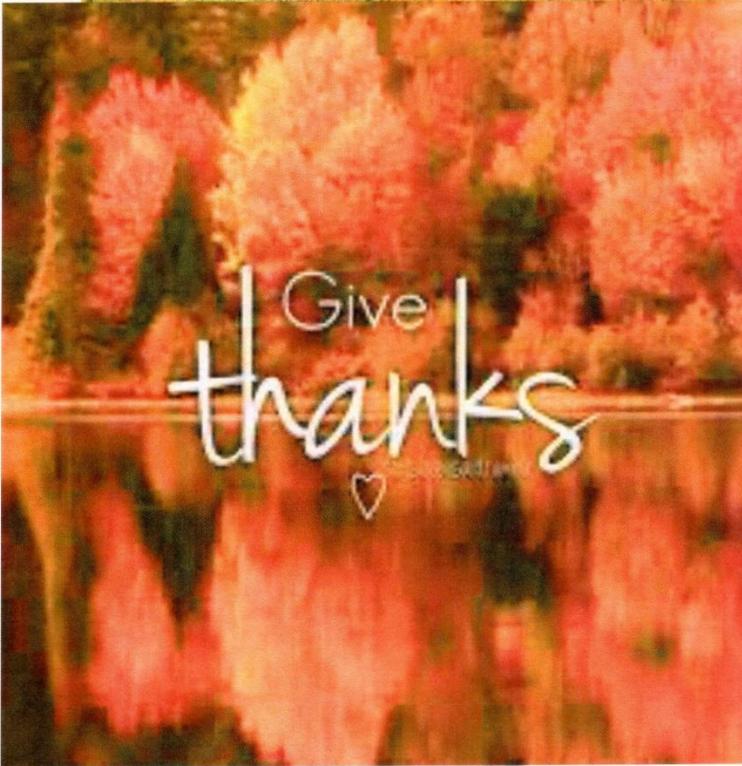
Pat Watkins

Eric Fellner

Camille Bonakey

**If you have any old photos of your family at the church or stories to tell,
please send them to any of the Committee members listed above.**

Thank you



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



SHARING COMFORT AND HOPE THROUGH 'THE LUTHERAN HOUR'

Sometimes we hear messages that are just what we need to hear at that moment—messages that touch our hearts and remind us that God is with us at all times. These comforting messages of hope and encouragement have been a hallmark of **The Lutheran Hour** broadcast since the program first aired in 1930.

Lana reached out to LHM to share the timely impact of some recent sermons she heard on The Lutheran Hour. Living in rural America, Lana has access to only a few radio stations. Many years ago, she was searching for a Bible-based, inspiring, and encouraging radio program and came across The Lutheran Hour. She was immediately drawn to Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus's soothing tone, and although she missed him after he retired, she continued to listen to the program over the years whenever she could.

In the weeks leading up to and following her husband's death this past spring, Lana leaned on Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's sermons to give her strength and comfort during such a difficult time. When she heard his sermons on Ephesians, they touched her heart and she knew she had to send a message to LHM staff. Ephesians has been one of her favorite books of the Bible since she was in high school. She has spent months studying the book and said The Lutheran Hour messages painted a beautiful picture of what her husband believed and what she knows he is experiencing now in the presence of Jesus.

She wrote, "I am thanking God for the Gospel and your clear presentation of it each week."

You can hear The Lutheran Hour each week on more than 1,800 stations throughout North America. Visit lhm.org/guide to find a local airing. The broadcast is also available online at lutheranhour.org, through a mobile app, and on new media platforms like Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, and Sirius XM satellite radio.

2021–2023 LWML Mission Grant #2

Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses

Spirit Warrior, Central Maine

Maine is among the list of “least churched” states in the nation. It has only three LCMS churches in the entire state and has only five Veteran Administration Chaplains. Deaconess Kim Slininger was called to Hope Lutheran Church to reach out to the extensive veteran and military community in the Bangor area. Deaconess Kim is herself a disabled veteran, and the Spirit Warrior program is an extension of her ministry. Spirit Warrior is a program that addresses the need to provide pastoral/diaconal care using horses, to those who have stood in the face of evil and have returned. Current traditional therapy does not address the care of the spirit. Many veterans/service members want to connect with God and theological discussions take place while caring for the horses. This grant will provide funding for 58 veterans to go through the program.



Equine Therapists and their handlers. From left to right, Emma, Judy Cross Strehlke, Program Manager, Coal, Fancy and Sue Osgood, Volunteer. Mt. Katahdin is barely visible in the background.

PASTOR MUHLHAUSER TO PREACH FAREWELL SERMON

The Rev. Fred J. Muhlhäuser, pastor of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Delaware road, Kenmore, who has accepted a call to a church in Maplewood, N. J., will preach his farewell sermon tonight. He has chosen for his text, Other Foundation Can No Man Lay Than That Is Laid, Which Is Jesus Christ.

Dr. Muhlhäuser will be installed in his new pastorate on May 6th. He leaves Kenmore tomorrow. He will be succeeded at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church by the Rev. Frank Schwarz of Grantwood, N. J. The Rev. Mr. Schwarz will be installed the latter part of May.

to attend.

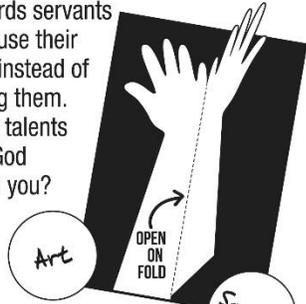
JERSEY PASTOR CALLED BY KENMORE LUTHERANS

A call to the Rev. Frank Schwarz, pastor of a Lutheran church at Brantwood, N. J., to become pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran church, Kenmore, was sent this week by the Kenmore congregation, the Rev. Fred J. Muhlhäuser announced Friday. An answer is expected early next week.

Mr. Muhlhäuser, who has been pastor of Pilgrim church since it was organized six years ago, will preach his farewell sermon April 22. He has accepted a call to organize a new church in New Jersey.

FULL OF TALENT

In Matthew 25:14-30, the master rewards servants who use their gifts instead of hiding them. What talents has God given you?



What you need:

- Construction paper (2 sheets)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Gold crayon or pen
- Black pen

What you do:

1. Fold one sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Trace your hand and lower arm so your arm touches the folded edge. Cut out the arm and hand, keeping the folded edge uncut.
2. Glue the folded hand to the other sheet of paper.
3. In gold, draw five coins in the hand. In black, write the skills and gifts God has given you.
4. Open the fold and draw 10 gold coins in the two open hands. In black, write how you can use your skills and gifts to help others and honor God.



MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.

1. 5 x 3 =	6. 6 x 6 =
2. 7 x 4 =	7. 9 x 3 =
3. 4 x 6 =	8. 3 x 8 =
4. 2 x 10 =	9. 10 x 4 =
5. 9 x 5 =	10. 11 x 8 =

KEY

A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	O = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of _____ .

Come and share your master's happiness!’”

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV

Answer: 15, 28, 24, 20, 45, 36, 27, 24, 40, 88; many things

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 24TH.