

#### PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD - KENMORE, NY 14217

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A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

## PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

## **DECEMBER 2022**

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR: WORSHIP: 10:00 AM

"This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger."



Luke 2:12, NRSV



"For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell..." (Colossians 1:19)

Another Christmas season is upon us. What are we celebrating?

To the world, Christmas begins shortly after Halloween and ends on December 25<sup>th</sup>. For the Christian, Christmas begins on December 25<sup>th</sup> and doesn't end until the Day of Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Again, I ask, "What are we celebrating?"

For many, Christmas is a time of joy, lights, positivity, Santa Claus, Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, and family gatherings.

For the Christian, Christmas is celebrating the fact that, in Jesus Christ, God became man.

The concept that God can become a human being goes beyond human understanding and can only be grasped by faith.

Thankfully, we do not believe on our own, but through the power of the Holy Spirit who came to us at our Baptism and remains with us through the preaching of the Word and the receiving of the Sacrament of the Altar.

It is mind-boggling to think that God came into this world as a little baby. Just like any baby, he had to be fed, protected, clothed, and wiped.

Even as an adult, he was hungry, thirsty, wept, felt pain, and even died.

We speak of the two natures of Christ, human (though sinless) and divine, yet one Person.

During his time on earth, at times we saw evidence of his divinity: turning the water into wine; healing the sick, the lame, and the blind; stilling the storm; and being transfigured on the mountain.

Most of the time, though, he is just like us.

The "fullness of God" was poured into a little baby whose only purpose in being here was to grow up and be sacrificed for the sin of the world: for your sins, and mine.

This is why we celebrate. This is why we hope.



## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

## **DECEMBER 2022**

WEEKEND OF	Dec. 3 and 4	Dec. 10/11	Dec. 17/18	Dec. 24/25	
READER	Sue Holway	Tim McGuan	Mary Werth		
USHER	Eric Fellner	Jim Hartz	Melody Keef		
COMMUNION ASSISTANT (Sat/Sun)	Dooley O'Rourke/Tyrone Bryant	Rod Mohr/ Daniel Griebel	Donald LoVullo/George Alessi		



## A collaboration across time and place

For Christmas Day worship, many churches use Psalm 98. It is fitting, then, that Isaac Watts, who interpreted 132 psalms as hymn texts, based a now-beloved carol on it.

Watts (1674-1748) was a student of language, religion and philosophy. He wanted to make Scripture more relevant to lay people and thought hymns could help. Watts composed more than 600 hymn texts, many still in use. But Psalm 98:4-9, "Joy to the World," needed music to fit its words.

Enter Lowell Mason (1792-1872), an American choir director. He came across Watts' Psalm 98 hymn text and sought inspiration for a melody from the famous oratorio *Messiah* by George F. Handel (1685-1759). Mason pulled musical phrases from sections of Handel's work, resulting in the tune we now recognize as "Joy to the World."

So it is that three men who lived across three centuries and never met — along with the composer of the original psalm more than two millennia earlier — together produced a hymn to the Christ-child, which millions have sung and continue to love.



Paul Holway Dec. 2

George Alessi Dec. 4

Nancy Partridge Dec. 10

David Porter Dec. 16

Ruth Whitmer Dec. 25

(If you would like your birthday and anniversary in the newsletter, please contact Mary Werth by phone at 716-534-6922 or email: <a href="mailto:madragon99@yahoo.com">madragon99@yahoo.com</a>. Thank you.)



## **Christmas crackups**

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed? Cookie sheets.

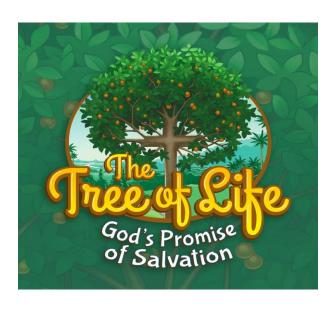
What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party? "Freeze a jolly good fellow!"

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy? Ornamints.

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backward.

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card? Because he went down in history.

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take? *Elfies.* 



#### **December Tree Of Life Celebration**

On December 11<sup>th</sup> members of Pilgrim will celebrate a special Tree of Life. Instead of Lesson 6, "Jesus is Baptized Into God's Plan", the Sunday school children will be focusing on the Birth of Jesus and pastor will preach on an Advent theme. We will still have Sunday school for adults and children at 9:00 a.m. And at the service at 10:00 a.m., the children will be leading the congregation in the hymn "Away in the Manger". Fellowship hour will follow the service.



### **ESTHER CIRCLE**

There is no meeting in December. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 9, 2023, via ZOOM at 12:30 pm.

We will be gathering at Karen Smith's house to assemble the gift bags and then deliver to those members of Pilgrim who are unable to attend church.

Remember, in order to continue fellowship on Sunday, we need volunteers! Please sign up on the board in the narthex. Also, Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway, mites (loose change) to Karen Smith, cancelled stamps to Sharon McGuan and old printer ink cartridges to Pat Watkins. Thank you!

As we enter into the season of Advent preparing for the celebration of the Birth of Christ, let us reflect on the "True" meaning of Christmas and share this message to our family, friends and neighbors!

# 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY – SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th (after the service)

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JOIN US WITH VBS SING ALONG – CHRISTMAS CAROLS

MENU
PIZZA—
CHEESE & CHEESE/PEPPERONI
WINGS —
MILD/MEDIUM/BBQ
SALAD
HOMEMADE COOKIES to SHARE
COFFEE/TEA/HOT COCOA

SIGN UP BELOW IF YOU ARE ABLE OR INTERESTED IN BAKING 1 TO 2 DOZEN COOKIES TO SHARE

Contact Dianne Wuerch for more information- 716-481-2599 – diannefeyeswuerch@gmail.com



## Christmas

## Caroling is

## back!

Carol Obot has planned for us to go sing at Brookdale Kenmore and Elderwood Wheatfield where Jack Hambridge is currently living.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd at 2:30 PM BROOKDALE KENMORE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM ELDERWOOD WHEATFIELD (JACK HAMBRIDGE)

We can meet at the church and carpool

If you are interested

Sign-up Sheet is on Church Bulletin – or Contact Carol Obot

## **FAVORITE RECIPES** TO BAKE, CREATE, AND ENJOY

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Terri Lynn's Signature nuts, snack mixes, and chocolates are delicious on their own; but they also make great ingredients for your homemade, tasty creations. Check out their recipes online and share them.

https://www.terrilynn.com/resources/recipes/easypecan-cinnamon-rolls

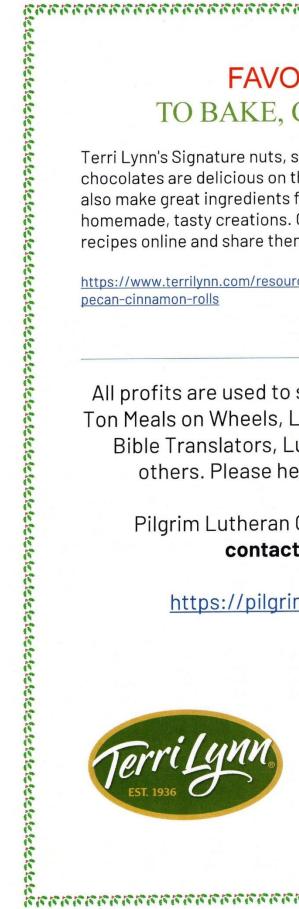


Pecan Cinnamon Rolls

All profits are used to support local charities such as Ken -Ton Meals on Wheels, Local Church Food Pantries, Lutheran Bible Translators, Lutheran Hour Ministries plus many others. Please help us support them. Thank you!

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

https://pilgrimesthercircle.terrilynn.com







During this Christmas season, if anyone is interested in purchasing my mom's book about the Lord's Prayer, entitled, "God's Rainbow of Promise", please let me know and I can get a copy for you. It's a wonderful gift to give to friends and family. The cost is \$14.00. You can call me at 716-835-9075 and leave a message if I'm not able to answer. Thank you.

I hope you enjoy my mom's poem, below.

I wish everyone a Blessed Christmas!

Marilyn R. Schneck

#### THE BABE IN BETHLEHEM



One silent night in Bethlehem A special babe was born To offer peace and power divine To those who were forlorn.

Shepherds were tending their own sheep Amazed they gazed above; Bright stars, their graceful guidance As they watched their sheep with love.

It seems a star had led them To the baby in the manger; This was a precious child but To the world he was a stranger.

In gratitude they brought a lamb A gift to this blest child; In thankfulness they bowed their heads To Jesus, sweet and mild.

As Mary held her precious child And nourished him with love, The Baby Jesus warmly smiled As bright stars shone above.

The stars in all their glory beamed To earth that silent night And showed the world the peace of God In sparkling glorious light.

12/14/11 Doris V. Neumann





#### 2021-2023 LWML Mission Grant #16

## **Bring the Inner-City Children to Camp**

## Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado

## **About This Mission Grant**

Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) shares both God's grace and the glory of His creation. Many families in metropolitan Denver are unable to fully finance camp tuition or provide transportation to LVR where their children would experience God's Word in daily devotions, singing, and worshipping around a campfire. This grant will span two summers when LVR will partner with Lutheran churches in Denver to arrange sign-up, transportation, and scholarships for 50 children from the inner city, so they could have this mountain-top camp experience. Research shows that the challenges of camp activities are transformational, giving children tools to overcome real-world challenges when they return home.



1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.

LVR strives to share God's grace and glory in His creation. In the forest, away from daily life and cell phone coverage or other technology distractions, campers get to connect with God and each other.



Isaiah 40:31 Even youth grow weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.

This camper is flying down the LVR handicap accessible zip-line. Even adult campers with disabilities get to soar through God's creation!



From Psalm 23:3-4 Who may stand in the Lord's holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

While campers do take home more than a little dust from their week at LVR, what a refreshing treat to ride down the hill on a giant slip and slide!



#### YOUTH PROGRAM LEADS YOUNG MEN TO FAITH



Nathan and his cousin Daniel are both young farmers who grow cashew trees for a living. One of their friends invited them to attend a youth gathering in the local town hosted by **LHM-Cambodia**. It was the first time they experienced a Christian program and heard the Gospel message. The boys sometimes feel lonely since they live in the country and don't speak the same language as people in town. During the youth gathering, they connected with other people. They took LHM-Cambodia booklets home with them and expressed their desire to attend church services to learn more about Jesus.

## **HOLISTIC SUPPORT ENCOURAGES YOUNG BOY**



Radmir is 12 years old and lives with his grandmother. They do not have a lot of money, so he does not have new shoes or clothes. Because of that, he is embarrassed when he goes to school. An **LHM-Kazakhstan** volunteer connected with Radmir and his grandmother and supplied them with food and other basic necessities while sharing the Gospel with them. The volunteer also encouraged them to visit a local church. They agreed to visit the church and are now attending services regularly.



Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



#### What you need:

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help



- 1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
- 2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
- 3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
- Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
- Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.



Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



#### WORD BANK

Shepherds
Child
Nazareth
Census
Baby
David
Mary
Travel
Town
Register
Born
Night

Т	В	W	Y	Α	Z	K	E	S	Н	N	G	D	J	K
Q	0	Υ	Α	Р	R	Α	L	В	F	Р	ı	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	В	Ε	Y	R	М	В	D	М	0	Е	Е
S	N	0	N	W	G	Α	ı	В	Α	C	D	0	Т	D
R	G	X	J	F	1	W	М	V	В	R	R	С	Е	C
Р	S	С	Ε	Ν	S	U	S	Н	Υ	U	Υ	F	Р	N
0	Т	P	1	G	Т	Q	С	N	Т	G	М	U	S	Т
0	Α	Ν	D	В	Ε	С	Н	1	L	D	N	Z	F	A
Α	Т	В	Α	U	R	W	Н	G	F	٧	Α	В	U	N
Т	R	Α	٧	Е	L	J	С	Н	٧	0	Z	G	N	Н
F	В	Q	1	W	D	X	Р	Т	Ε	N	Α	0	L	C
Z	С	R	D	Q	S	Н	Е	Р	Н	Е	R	D	S	٧
R	U	V	Υ	K	N	1	R	Т	K	G	Е	Υ	1	R
K	٧	Α	Z	X	L	s	Н	Y	Т	Р	Т	J	S	K
L	L	Е	S	М	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	Н	٧	W	X

"Today in the town of David a \_\_\_\_ \_ \_ has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>.