



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

APRIL 2023

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





Upon the recent death of Buffalo firefighter Jason Arno, Father Paul Seil (the chaplain of the Buffalo Fire Department) was asked what he could possibly say to the family in their time of grief. In summary, he said that the best contribution he could make was just “being there.” He referred to it as the “Ministry of presence.”

Father Seil probably borrowed the phrase from pastor and theologian Henri Nouwen, who has written extensively on the subject. Most of the time, in life you really don't have to say anything: what matters is “being there.”

This is certainly true of Jesus. If you notice, Jesus is “everywhere” in the Gospels. He was in the streets. He was in peoples' homes. He was in the synagogue and temple. He went to dinners. He even worked his first miracle at a wedding. *John 2:1-11*

In terms of pastoral theology, pastors are also called to be “everywhere.” Pastors visit the sick in hospitals. They visit in nursing homes. They are called to the bedside at the moment of death. They are called into trauma units. They attend parties of all kinds, including for baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, and the like. And, of course, they visit in the homes of parishioners (and others who will welcome them).

One of the shifts I've noticed in recent years (and I've talked with other pastors about this) is the reluctance of some church members to have the pastor be involved in the important and crucial moments of their lives. For example, sometimes the pastor finds out “after the fact” that someone's been in the hospital. Most pastors don't know unless that person (or a family member) contacts them.

When I lived in the South, pastors and priests were often called “Preachers.” A pastor is more than a “preacher.” A pastor not only prepares and delivers a sermon, but he also is to “know the sheep” and to “call them by name.” *John 10:1-30* That means he is involved in the lives of his parishioners: their joys, struggles, disappointments, and so on.

As we enter another Easter Season, we rejoice that Jesus poured out his life for sinners and rose again from the dead...for us...in victory over sin, death, and the devil on our behalf. We thank him for his continued presence in the lives of his saints through the Office of the Holy Ministry as his Undershepherds proclaim God's Word and administer the Sacraments in his Name.



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our meeting this month is Monday, April 10 at 12:30 pm via zoom. After our business meeting we will continue our discussion on the book “FORWARD”.

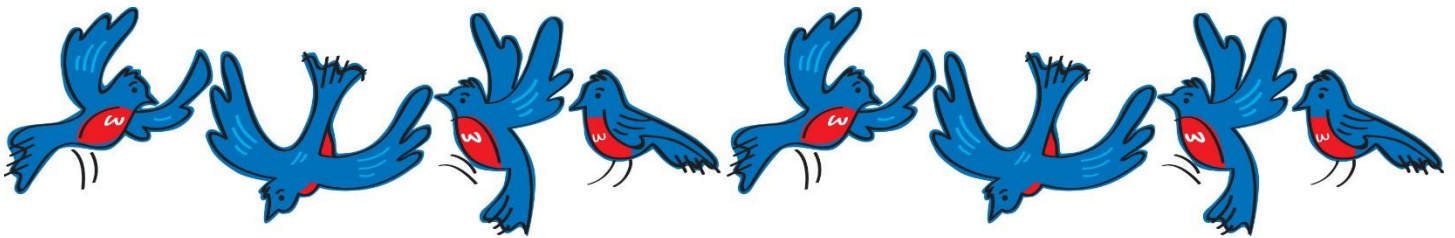
The Esther Circle is planning a Women’s Luncheon celebrating “The First Lady” at Pilgrim, our Pastor’s wife, Linda Eder. See the Save The Date flyer in this newsletter.

Thank you to all who assisted in hosting the Lenten soup and sandwiches on March 22nd. The fellowship hour is going week to week. Remember to sign up to host. Thank you.

REMINDER: Dash’s receipts to Sue Holway, mites to Karen Smith, cancelled stamps to Sharon Mc Guan and old printer ink cartridges to Pat Watkins. All these collections help support various mission projects. Thank you!

Blessed EASTER to ALL. The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! The reassurance of our Salvation! THANK YOU, JESUS!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



The Server Schedule was unavailable at the time of this writing. We hope to resume that page in the near future. Thank you for your patience.



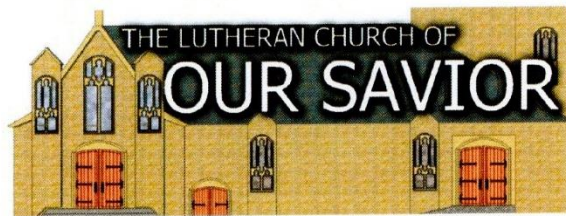
2023 SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE

Monthly Rotation

	APRIL
LEAD COUNTER	Dianne Wuerch
COUNTER	Mike Wuerch
COUNTER	

We still need a few more congregational members to help count offerings after Sunday Service, on a Monthly rotating schedule.

**If you feel the calling to do so, please contact
Carolyn Alessi, Dianne or Mike Wuerch.**



Our Savior Lutheran | 26 Brunswick Blvd Buffalo 14208

We are collecting donations to send monthly. The offering plate is on the bulletin table behind the back pew. All donation amounts are welcome.

Saturday & Sunday Services or Online

<https://secure.usaepay.com/pay/9nkt6jj6js3wnvhgb/2ZOkggt3>



Eric Alessi

Apr. 15

Melody Keef

Apr. 20

Kevin Rodgers

Apr. 25

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



Easter errors

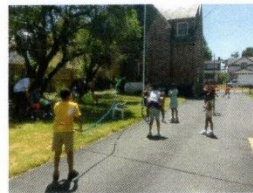
The Resurrection occurred without a hitch, but church services aren't always as fortunate. Pastors shared Easter goofs with Outreach magazine — and you can share them for Holy Humor Sunday on April 16.

- During a prayer, one pastor said, "Jesus, we love you to death." Though it was fitting, the slip-up led to chuckles.
- Actors in Passion Plays apparently tend to fall off crosses. After one did so and muttered a swear word, the pastor said, "At least he's the unbelieving thief." And when a man playing Jesus had to be reattached to his cross, a pastor said the real Jesus "would have climbed back on out of love."
- Shocked by the early rehearsal time, a guitarist asked, "Whose idea was it for Easter to be in the morning?"
- Before leading a sunrise service, a pastor was informed of a member's death. So he was briefly "thrown ... when she walked up in the early morning shadows." Turns out there'd been a name mixup. "I believe in resurrection power," says the pastor. "But I was more than a little surprised at what I was seeing!"

Esther Circle Outreach - Camp JOY 2023

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior

26 Brunswick Blvd, Buffalo, New York 14208

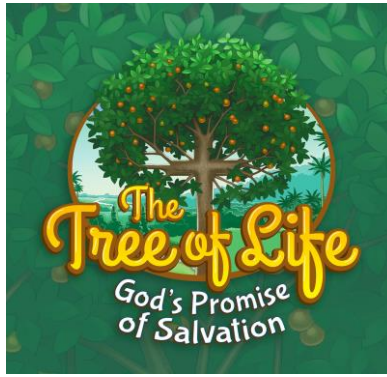


ALL FELLOWSHIP AND POT FAITH DONATIONS WILL GO TO CAMP J.O.Y.

The Camp J.O.Y, summer program encompasses a variety of structured activities that address the spiritual, educational, artistic, and physical aspects that reach and teach children and brings them JOY. Camp J.O.Y, connects children with a faith community to build meaningful relationships, to know of Jesus and be gathered into His church as we plant seeds and nourish them along the way.

The Camp J.O.Y, environment is the village away from home that is safe, enriching, and loving. Camp J.O.Y. activities are designed to give children a chance to unplug from technology to discover their creative powers and enhance their skills and abilities. Children ages 5 to 12 are engaged in a daily schedule of activities which includes nutritious breakfast and lunch Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm for six weeks: July 11-August 19.

Camp J.O.Y. experiences - big, small, amazing, and ordinary add up to six weeks of growth, learning, love, JOY, and a huge amount of "Fun in the Son".



April Tree of Life Celebration

We are coming to the end of our Tree of Life Sundays. April's study will be a celebration of Jesus's resurrection from the dead. Can there be anything better to celebrate? As St. Paul said, "if Christ be not raised our faith is in vain." But scripture proclaims that Christ rose from the dead and because He rose, we too shall rise on the last day.

Our April VBS will be celebrated on April 23 (instead of April 9th, Easter Sunday). Sunday school will begin at 9:00 am. There will be a special craft and snack for the children. Worship will follow with a VBS video and song. Please don't forget to join us after service for fellowship.

The final Tree of Life Sunday will be on the regularly scheduled second Sunday of the month, May 14th. We will be looking at Revelation's verses about heaven, where the Tree of Life is waiting for us "flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." Rev 2:1-2. The VBS committee is praying the Tree of Life series has been a blessing to you. Please plan to join us at the Tree of Life.



Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus' death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts, and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus' responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: "Touch my body" — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.



On March 19th, a Voters Meeting was held after the service. An elder has been appointed by the Council, so the elders are as follows: Head Elder – George Alessi. Elders – Tyrone Bryant and Tim McGuan.

Our new organ will be installed on March 25th. THANK YOU to our anonymous donor who covered the cost! The cost of repairing our old one would have been over \$100,000. Heritage Pipe Organ bought the old one for \$3,000 and removed it. The new wiring, lighting and construction of a speaker chamber for the new one is completed.

A new commercial sanitizing dishwasher has been purchased and will be installed after March 23rd. Our roof had some missing tiles after the wind storms we had, so we had Copper & Slate come to do repairs and maintenance in February. Our sound system has been fixed. The outdoor lights on the church need fixing/replacing as does the lock on the front door. Thanks to House & Grounds for their ongoing efforts in the upkeep of our church property!

On June 13th, 1993, Pastor Ben and Linda officially became part of Pilgrim. We will do a bigger event when he retires in September, so we will be celebrating this particular anniversary on June 11th with a cake after the service.

A Call Committee has been selected and approved. Pastor Dwayne Hendricks (Circuit Visitor) will be the adviser during the call process. See article in this issue for more information.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 25th and the meeting was adjourned.



I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are wise and very beautiful; but I have never read in either of them: Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden.

—St. Augustine

“If we are not planted in Christ, we’ll be uprooted in crisis.”

—Unknown

An Important Message from Pilgrim's Pastoral Calling Committee

Greetings Fellow Pilgrims,

The Calling Committee has been selected and was approved at the last voters meeting on March 19, 2023.

Your Calling Committee is Tyrone Bryant, George Alessi, Tim McGuan, Sharon McGuan, Carolyn Alessi, Rhonda Mohr and I will be chairing the committee. Pastor Dwayne Hendricks will be our adviser through the calling process.

The Pilgrim congregation has been asked by the English District to fill out a few documents to help them create a list of suitable pastors for us to call.

These lists include a Church Self Study, a Check List, and a Pastor Nomination Form.

It is important that as many of Pilgrim's members fill out these forms as possible.

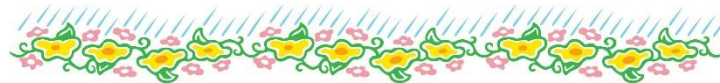
When the calling committee receives these documents, we will forward them to you via email. We also will have some printed out if you prefer to fill them out on paper.

I will keep you updated as the calling process moves along.

Your servant in Christ,

Mike Wuerch

Calling Committee Chair



Eye to eye

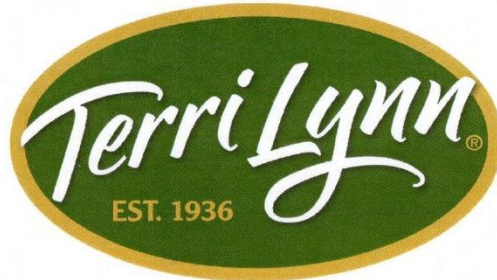
Early in his career, Dr. Robert J. McCracken, former pastor of the Riverside Church, New York City, was minister of a church in Canada. For some reason an elderly woman took a vehement dislike to him and conveyed her feelings to others. Eventually the word reached him.

He dreaded the day when his parish calls would take him to her door. Finally that day came and after knocking a few times he heard a faint sound inside. He knelt down and looked through the keyhole to see if anyone was there. To his surprise he saw an eye staring through. With a chuckle the woman remarked, "Pastor, this is the first time we have seen eye to eye."

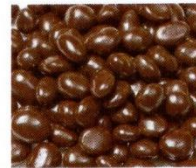
"Yes," he said, "and we had to get down on our knees to do it."

—John A. Johnston
in Sunshine Magazine

Order Now for Mother's Day !



Terrilyn's premium nuts, decadent confections, savory snacks and tempting mixes are unlike anything you will find at your local grocery store. There is a range of 38 products to pick from.



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.

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

<https://pilgrimesthercircle.terrilynn.com>

Women of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

SAVE THE DATE



In Honor of Linda Eder

When: Saturday, May 20th

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Where: Pilgrims' Fellowship Hall – Catered Event

More information and Invitations to come soon!!

Ministry Vehicle Fund, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone

Lutheran Bible Translators

About This Mission Grant

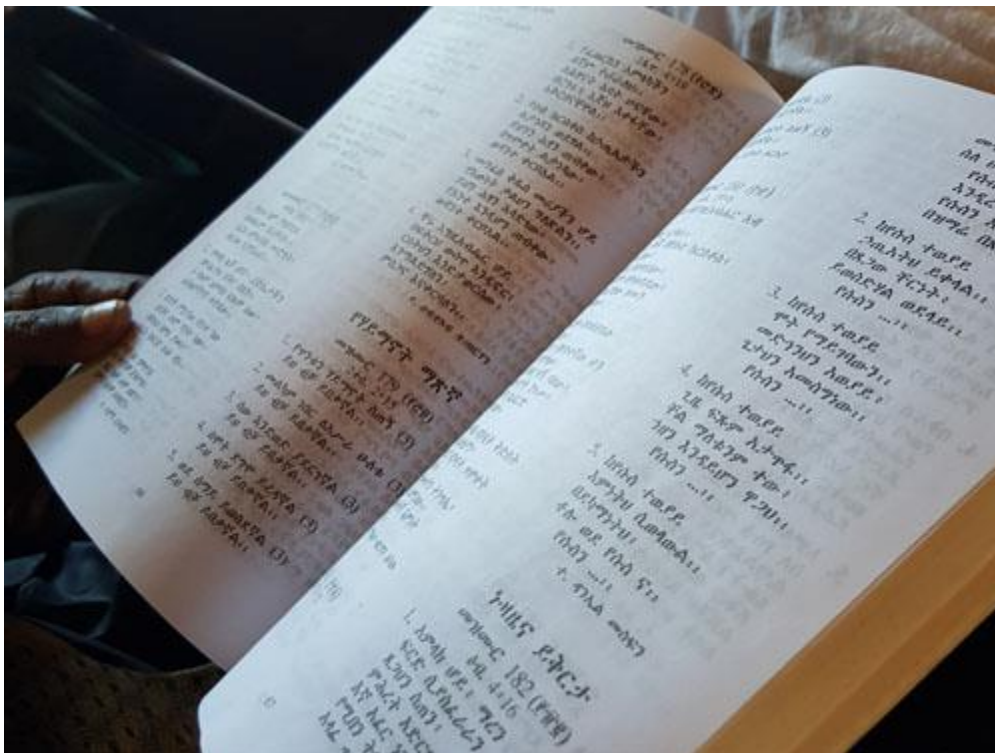
Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) uses literacy programs within the local language communities to give people the skills to read the newly translated Bible which results in a personal relationship with God. When they can read God's Word in their local or heart language, they know that God speaks their language and hears their prayers. Local personnel in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, identified as partners with LBT, help teach their people. The long distances between the language communities have treacherous and hazardous terrain. The money from this grant will help purchase robust, reliable vehicles. Trainers will be able to travel to God's people who are waiting for the opportunity to learn to read the saving words of the Gospel in their heart language. This will impact multiple language groups in both countries.



Literacy programs funded by Lutheran Bible Translators generally have 400–900 students. As Scripture is translated into the local languages, both the young and old need to be taught how to read it.



A durable vehicle is needed as road erosion and potholes are a common sight in Africa and increases the wear and tear of a vehicle.



This is a songbook in Amharic, a language in Ethiopia. Can you imagine trying to read this?
That is how the local communities feel when they can't read God's Word. Literacy and Scripture Use programs are necessary. Vehicles are necessary to reach the people living in the remote areas. Put God's Word in their hands.



LHM FACEBOOK POSTS ENCOURAGE MAN

Karmin is 32 years old and struggles with depression. He reached a point where he became aware of how his life wasn't what he hoped it would be. Karmin comes from a non-Christian religion, but one of his friends shared a Bible with him. He flipped through the pages a few times and was interested in learning more about Christianity. He found a Facebook page run by LHM staff in the Middle East and North Africa and started following it. After a year and a half, he sent a message on Facebook asking to learn more about the Gospel message. Karmin was familiar with the Gospel now since he read parts of his Bible but continued to learn more about the Christian faith through conversations with LHM staff. He connected to the LHM ministry through WhatsApp and now receives a devotion every day. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Karmin became a Christian. He is happy with his relationship with God and is working on growing in his faith.

MAN BECOMES A CHRISTIAN IN PRISON

Philippe spent 10 years in a local prison. During one of the visits that **LHM-Cameroon** volunteers made to the prison, Philippe heard the Gospel message for the first time. Through the power of God's Word, Philippe became a Christian. He shared that his life changed, and he feels free knowing Jesus died for people like him. He enrolled in the ministry center's **Bible Correspondence Courses** to learn more about Jesus. Philippe is thankful for the LHM-Cameroon staff who shared the Gospel message with him and continue encouraging him in his faith.

CHILDREN HEAR THE GOSPEL AT LHM EVENTS

Silvia and Elena were invited to participate in a celebration for children several months ago. During the celebration, an **LHM-Argentina** volunteer shared Bible stories and booklets with them. At the event, Silvia and Elena's mom became friends with the volunteer. Recently, the LHM-Argentina volunteer invited Silvia and Elena to attend a Bible school held at her church. They heard the Gospel message and liked the program so much that they did not want to miss a class. Then they participated in a children's meeting that their mother joined as well. The girls and their mom are happy to have been introduced to a place where they can learn more about Jesus.

RADIO PROGRAMS SHARE HOPE ACROSS ASIA

Many of LHM's ministry centers provide locally produced radio programming on topics of interest. These programs attract a wide variety of audiences and invite listeners to contact local ministry staff to receive resources that address the topic from a Christian perspective. They are also invited to take a **Bible Correspondence Course** and connect with a local Christian community.

God continues to bless LHM's radio broadcasts across Asia so more people can hear the Good News about Jesus. **LHM—Thailand** started a live radio program called "Women to Women" that airs every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon on an FM station in Bangkok. The program is designed to reach a variety of listeners but focuses primarily on women and parents in the Bangkok metropolitan area and central Thailand. Each broadcast offers practical suggestions regarding life issues that are of special interest to listeners and incorporates an encouraging Bible-based, Gospel message. Listeners can call in with questions or comments so that LHM—Thailand staff can build ongoing relationships with them.

LHM—Cambodia launched a new live talk show called "The Light of Life" on an FM station in the Siem Reap Province. The program airs three days per week (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The station's signal covers five provinces in Cambodia to reach a potential audience of around one million people and share the hopeful message of the Gospel with them.

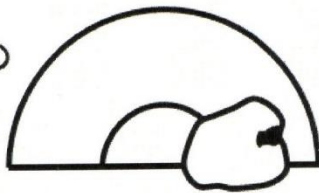
In addition to these new broadcasts, existing programming continues to share God's Word with people in other countries. "Time of Hope," a 15-minute program that airs each weekend in the Tamil language, has filled the hearts of thousands of listeners who are often facing hopeless situations in Sri Lanka with hope, peace, and joy. Kumar is a tailor who has continuously listened to **LHM—Sri Lanka's** radio programs for several years. He says he never misses a program since the messages and songs are such a blessing to him. One day he called LHM staff to request prayers, saying he had been facing several problems in his life and he needed relief. A staff member asked if they could refer Kumar to a local pastor who could visit him and pray with him. Kumar agreed and connected with the pastor. We pray that Kumar will continue to rely on his faith and that the radio program continues to give him peace.



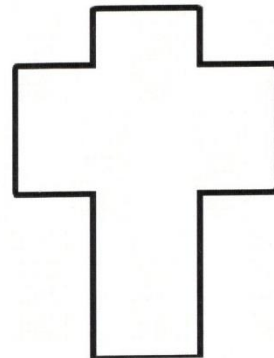
Easter Word Search

T H O R N S W Y S M L A P N G
K R I S E N Y C E N O T S E C
R E T S O O R D R K H O T V R
B E L I E V E S E O N H B I U
Y T P M E Z D X S Y S O C G C
E C I F I R C A S E A S D R I
E V I L A L N B M O T R B O F
S I N U I N N A I L S C T F Y
W V G F A E N P I L A T E E S
B R E A D E Y A R P D I E D B

ALIVE
BELIEVE
BETRAYED
BREAD
CROSS
CRUCIFY
DIED
DONKEY
EMPTY
FORGIVEN



GETHSEMANE
GUARDS
HOSANNA
LIFE
NAILS
PALMS
PILATE
PRAYED
RISEN
ROOSTER



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SIN
SON
STONE
THORNS
TOMB