



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

FEBRUARY 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





When Damar Hamlin of the Buffalo Bills collapsed on the field in Cincinnati, what did the people do? What did the coaches and players do? What did the commentators on TV tell us to do?

They told us to pray for Damar.

There was a time, not so long ago, when Tim Tebow was ridiculed for doing the very same thing. But most people understand that when the chips are down, our only recourse is to pray. Pray to whom?

I'm sure that there were people of mixed beliefs in that stadium: most were probably Christian. Some may have been adherents of other religions. And some hold to no faith in a divine being at all.

While it is encouraging when people say "Pray to God," a statement like that reduces God to a generic being. It is far more accurate and fruitful to say, "Pray to Jesus."

We direct our prayers to Jesus because he is the only intercessor between God and human beings – 1 Timothy 2:5-6. He alone is our advocate with the Father – 1 John 2:1-2. Jesus also tells us that he will do what we ask in his name – John 14:13-17.

Of course, whatever we ask for in Jesus' name is tempered by God's will. Even Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before he was to be crucified, "Father, not my will but yours be done." – Luke 22:42

From our perspective, our prayers were answered when Damar recovered. Nevertheless, it appears his road to full recovery may be a long one. We will continue to pray for his full health and general well being.

But what if Damar had died? Assuming that he is a Christian, he would be in heaven with the Lord. That is the blessing and assurance for every believer in Jesus.

When we pray - and especially when we encourage others to pray – let us point them to Jesus. We don't always have to pray in the name of Jesus, for when we pray to any Person of the Holy Trinity we pray to all three Persons. Nevertheless, it is good practice to do so for the reasons stated above.

Also, we are to pray not only when we're at the end of our rope but for all reasons and on all occasions. Your Heavenly Father is interested in every aspect of your life and wants to hear from you! Direct your prayers to him and if you ask for anything, ask for it in the name of his Son Jesus!

Pray for Damar. Pray for yourself. Pray for me. Pray for others. Your Father is waiting to hear from you!



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 2023

DATE	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 26	
READER	Jim Hartz	Tim McGuan	Dooley O'Rourke	Carolyn Alessi	
USHER	Eric Fellner	Jim Hartz	Mike Wuerch	Jim Miller	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Dooley O'Rourke	Mike Wuerch	Jim Hartz	Tyrone Bryant	

Don't lose the key

In *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L'Engle writes: "We have to be braver than we think we can be, because God is constantly calling us to be more than we are, to see through plastic sham to living, breathing reality, and to break down our defenses of self-protection in order to be free to receive and give love." That sounds inspiring, but the moment I stumble, exhausted or overwhelmed, these words no longer encourage. Instead, they read like the work is mine *alone*, and I'm not up for that.

Knowing some of L'Engle's writings on faith, I researched that quote. Turns out it had been chopped off at the knees. Her next words are the key: "With God, even a rich man can enter the narrow gate to heaven." *With God*.

I can't respond to God's call to be more than I am, grow in faith, serve my neighbor or "enter the narrow gate to heaven" on my own. But "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26), and whatever Jesus calls me to do, *he* will equip me to do, walking with me all the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Kathy Kornacki	Feb. 8
Grace Termini	Feb. 8
Kathy Farkas	Feb. 10
Jack Hambridge	Feb. 18
Colvina Colvin	Feb. 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.)



We are still looking for more voices to join us. Choir practice is held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This month the choir will be singing "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness". To learn the very interesting story behind this hymn, please click on the following link:

<https://thelutherancolumn.com/2020/06/30/rose-hymns-praise-the-one-who-breaks-the-darkness/>



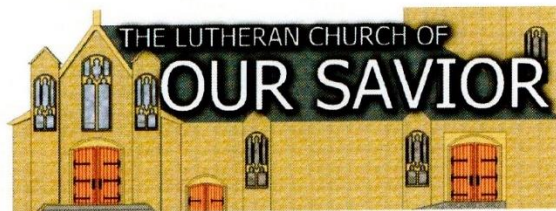
2023 SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE

Monthly Rotation

	FEBRUARY
LEAD COUNTER	Mike Wuerch
COUNTER	Jim Hartz
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>



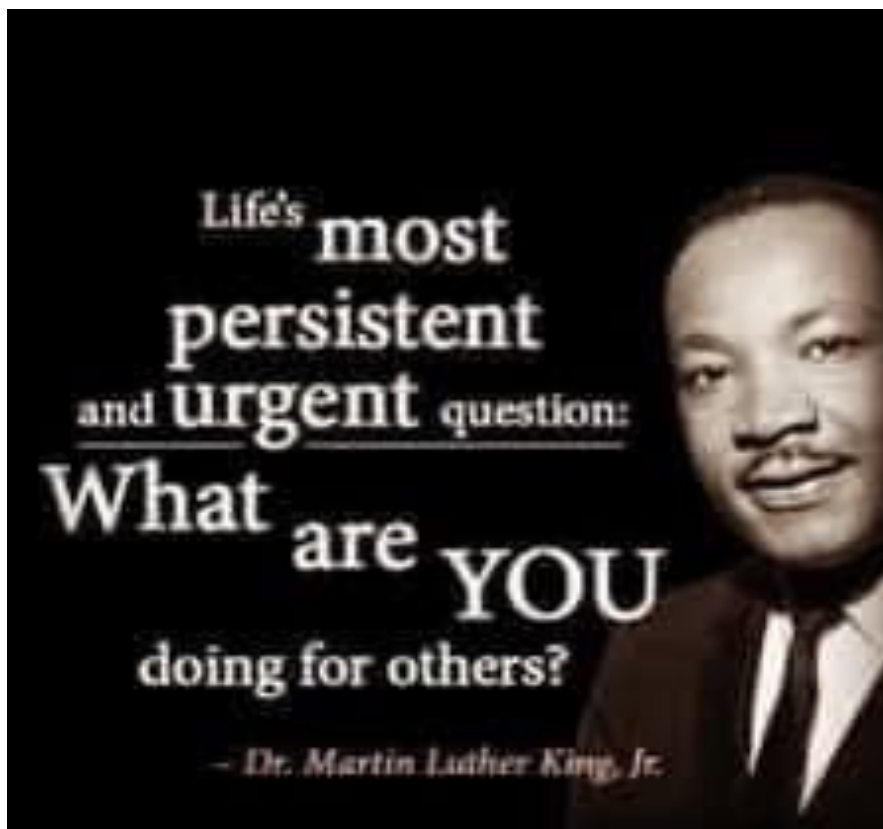
ESTHER CIRCLE

Our meeting is Monday, February 13 at 12:30 pm via Zoom. After a brief business meeting we will discuss Chapter 8 from the book "FORWARD". This year's fellowship donations will be going to CAMP J.O.Y. a 6-week summer youth program ages 5-12 held at our Savior Lutheran Church on the East side of Buffalo. It is a safe place for youth to learn more about Jesus. J-JOY O-OTHERS Y-YOU. Volunteers are always needed. Thank you for your donations to support this ministry.

REMINDER - Mites will go to Karen Smith. (A note of celebration! The LWML reached the goal for 2021-2023 on the grants. There will be new grants voted on at the National Convention in June for 2023-2025.) Please continue to donate your mites. Thank you!

February is "Black History Month". Below is one of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s quotes. Search within yourselves and seek out how YOU can serve others. God Bless!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



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"**.

Order Now for Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day!



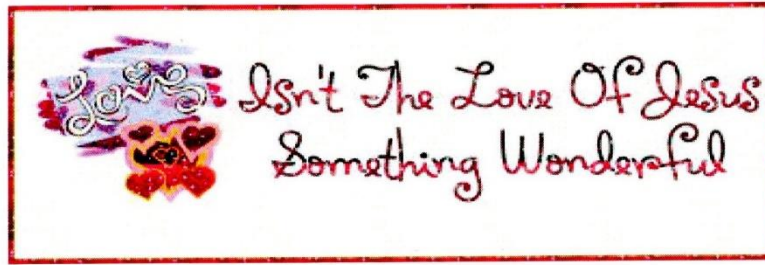
Terrilyn's premium nuts, decadent confections, savory snacks and tempting mixes are unlike anything you will find at your local grocery store. There is a range of 38 products to pick from.



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>



LWML Winter Event

Saturday, February 4, 2023

Faith Elma
1230 Bowen Road
Elma, NY 14059
9:00am to 12:00 noon

“Hands on Service Project”

We will be making wheelchair bags for an East Aurora facility.

Registration fee: \$5.00

PLEASE RSVP by January 31, 2023

Lisa Hoover: lisadq@rocketmail.com or 716-689-3313

Goodies and beverages provided by host church.



Items you may be able to donate or bring with you to help make this a successful project! 1" wide by 4" long Velcro strips, scissors, pins, thread. Material used is sturdy cotton or utility denim and cotton fabric. If you have a portable sewing machine, that will also help make the job a little quicker. Tables and irons will be provided for your use. Don't sew??? We still will need your help in several ways!!!

All ages make the job lighter!

What a wonderful opportunity to meet and socialize with other LWML women!!

What a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord with your heart and hands!!!

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 29, 2023 SALEM LUTHERAN 91 W. MAIN ST. SPRINGVILLE, NY
LWML SPRING EVENT: STEPHEN'S MINISTRY

“Ends of Earth” Scholarships

Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries

About This Mission Grant

MOST Ministries is receiving more requests from LCMS missionaries and national church leaders to provide teams to go to the "ends of the earth" places such as Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, Thailand, Peru, and Sri Lanka to work side-by-side with missionaries, sharing the Gospel. The travel cost (up to \$5,050) of the short-term mission trips to these distant places has become prohibitive and has made it challenging for willing people to join a team. Currently, team members are personally responsible for their total per person cost. Not only do they use personal funds, but they are encouraged to reach out to members of the body of Christ to participate in the mission with encouragements, prayers, and financial support. This grant would offer financial support to cover up to one-half the cost of each participant, not to exceed \$2,000.



"It is in the eyes of the children that we see the future"

— Unknown Author.

After receiving sunglasses to protect their eyes, Muzi Khumalo shares the gospel message through finger puppets with some of the children the MOST Ministries team met while in South Africa serving on an Eyeglass team. Muzi proclaims "It is our duty to take care of the future, to ensure that those that come behind us, live as generously happy as we did. It is through the caring for our children that we will succeed in this."



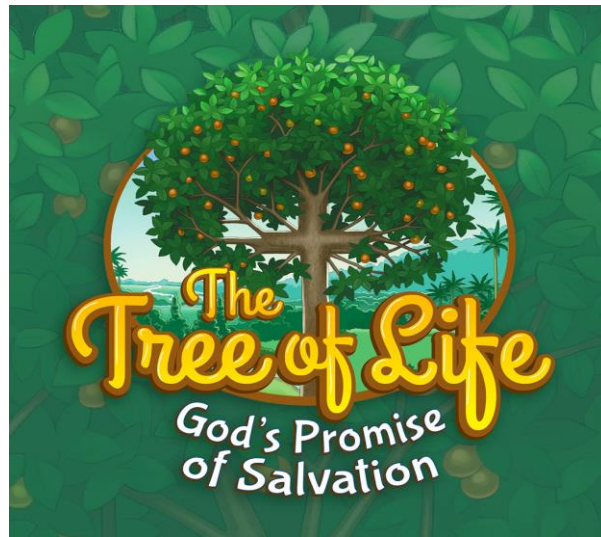
Prayer walking through a village in Thailand, the MOST Ministries team stopped to pray with a widower in need of renewed health and strength.



"We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand/We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand/And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land/and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love/yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."

By Mark Scholtes

This blind gentleman was led to the MOST Ministries Eyeglass Clinic in Tanzania by his teenage son. As he arrived, our team member took him by the hand and led him into the clinic where he would be examined. After some time, it was determined that he would benefit from a white cane. Time was spent teaching him how to maneuver using the cane. We pray that he now feels secure not only in his ability to get around but also in the fact that Jesus loves him.



February Tree of Life Celebration

On February 12th, Pilgrim will celebrate the seventh lesson in our Vacation Bible School Tree of Life series. We invite everyone to come and learn more about what Jesus means when He invites us to life in the Kingdom of God.

Sunday school for children and adults will begin at 9:00 am. Pastor will lead the adult class and Mrs. Obot will lead the children as they explore with a lesson, Bible verse, song and craft. The educational hour will be followed by worship with a special message from the Pastor and perhaps a song from our young people. Fellowship will follow. We hope to see you at the Tree of Life!

Lenten signals



Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church 100th Anniversary of Incorporation

**Special Sermon with Pot Faith Fellowship
Sunday, February 19th**

**Looking for Volunteers from Esther Circle & Congregation
Members for the following.**

Main Dishes (Ex. Chili, Meatballs, Casseroles, etc.)

Sides (Ex. Pasta, Potato, Salad, etc.)

Baked Goods (Ex. Cookies, Brownies, Breads, Pastries, etc.)

Fruit (Mixed)

Supplied: Coffee, Tea (Cream & Sugar) Milk, Water

**Sign Up sheet is on Church Bulletin Board
or Contact Dianne Wuerch**

Thank-You for Your Help!!



SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH CHILDREN

Since the beginning of this year, Sri Lanka has been battling rising inflation. This struggle has impacted almost all industries, including the ministry work of **LHM-Sri Lanka**. Even with the challenges, LHM-Sri Lanka continues to share the Good News through their radio programs, booklets, and **Bible Correspondence Courses**.

Two years ago, LHM-Sri Lanka's audience relations staff member visited a pastor in a village about 80 miles from their ministry center. The pastor reached out requesting help with reaching individuals in his area. He serves a poor community and visits people by walking many miles. He couldn't afford materials to share the Gospel but was eager to work with LHM-Sri Lanka for ideas to develop his ministry, especially children's ministry. However, once the pandemic hit, he was no longer able to follow through on the plans he made.

Recently, he decided he was going to visit the LHM-Sri Lanka office to pick up booklets, but without a lot of money, he was worried he wouldn't be able to make the trip. He prayed to God, asking for help. Someone graciously gave him money that he was able to use for his travel expenses. He reconnected with LHM-Sri Lanka staff and made the trip to the office to request children's Bible lessons. He wanted to share them with his Sunday school classes, where he has a total of 100 children. Since then, 80 of those children enrolled in LHM-Sri Lanka's children's Bible lessons. We are thankful for the relationship with this pastor and the opportunity to share the Gospel with children.

ENGAGING YOUTH ACROSS CANADA

From its office in Kitchener, Ontario, **LHM-Canada** is a self-supporting auxiliary organization of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) that develops and distributes materials to congregations, church groups, and individuals as part of LHM's global outreach efforts.

In partnership with Pastor Cody Cooper, LHM-Canada now offers weekly children's activity pages following the three-year lectionary. The Kids' Lectionary Learning was originally developed as a tool to support teaching for children during

at-home worship but has now grown into a regular part of LHM-Canada's library of resources. In addition, Pastor Cooper has augmented the learning with pages marking notable events during the church year. This unique liturgical content is so welcomed throughout Canada that it now includes a parent/teacher guide outlining the text, providing explanations for the images, and preparing adult hearts so they may lead children through the content.

Youth also draw closer to God through the sharing of The Illuminated Catechism. Since they started offering this resource as a gift to all catechumens, LHM-Canada has sent more than 150 copies to churches across Canada, and they continue to receive requests for the book in both English and French. LHM-Canada is the only place in the world where someone can obtain a French version of this resource.

"It is a joy to offer this gift to welcome newly confirmed children, and some adults, into the Lutheran Church-Canada family," says Lisa Jackson, director of LHM-Canada.

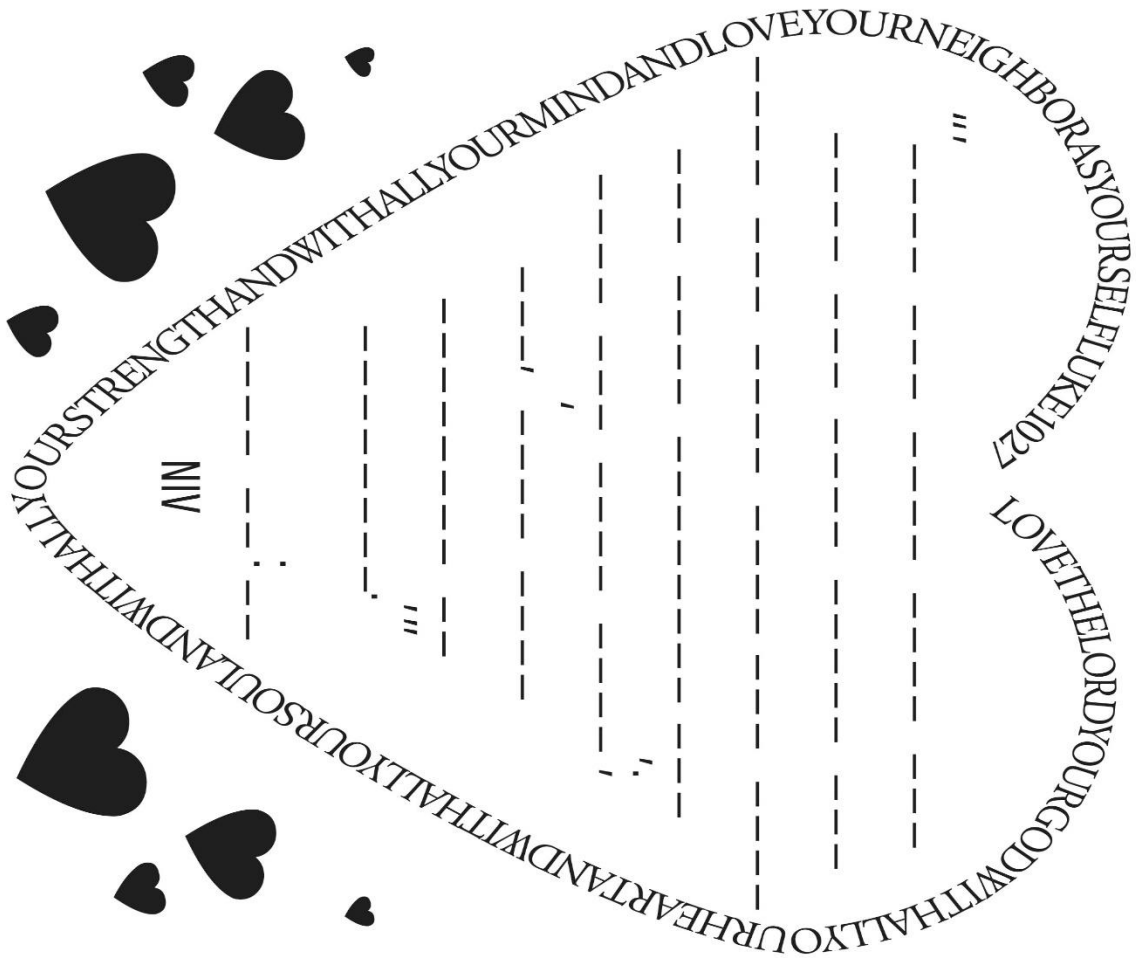
In addition to providing relevant children's resources, LHM-Canada has been engaging younger Lutherans to serve the Church. This past summer marked the second year they have collaborated with LCC on a communications internship program. The interns provided fresh ideas and energy to the ministry's work while also facilitating an introduction to younger generations. Activity pages were also created in French (and Portuguese) for Reformation and Advent, and plans are underway for expanding this library of children's resources.

LHM-Canada has also partnered with Amelia, a visual artist who designs their tribute and memorial cards as well as covers for seasonal devotions, and Philippe, a French ministry assistant who witnesses to unchurched individuals who are seeking. LHM-Canada's digital reach to French speakers through Facebook is now in the tens of thousands. Philippe has also recently been collaborating with a Facebook group called frère de la Concorde that has gained many followers interested in discussing the Lutheran faith.



Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 21ST.