



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

MARCH 2023

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

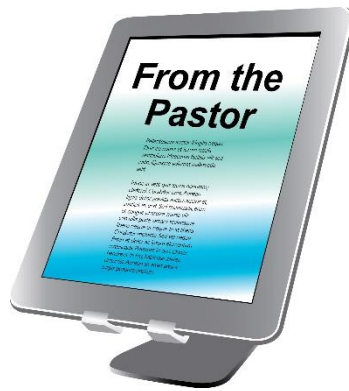
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM

LENT



There are some in the Church today (mostly the Boomer generation and some a bit younger) who grew up during the period of church growth: “build it and they will come.” Anyone who is active in the Church today knows that those days are, for the most part, over.

I understand that every situation is different so I don't mean to generalize. But, I think many would agree with me.

This trend should not surprise us. In our survey of the Holy Scriptures (particularly the Old Testament) we see that there are many times when the people of Israel turned away from God and followed false gods. The prophets called them back to God, but theirs was often a lonely voice.

The Holy Spirit moves where He is welcomed so at the present time He is accomplishing great things in what is known as the “Global South,” including South America, Africa, China, South Korea, and other parts of Asia.

For us in the West, following Christ may seem like a lonely walk. However, it is good to keep in mind these things:

The Word of God remains efficacious: it has the power to convict of sin (the Law) and to save (the Gospel). That has not changed.

The Word must continue to be preached, published, broadcast, or disseminated in some other way so that people may come into contact with it and meet their Savior Jesus Christ.

Even in his discouragement God promised Elijah that there was still a remnant who believed and that they still needed to be served (1 Kings 19).

That is still the case, and always will be the case, until Christ returns.

Mother Teresa said, “God has called us not to be successful, but to be faithful.”

God planted Pilgrim over 100 years ago, a milestone we have celebrated recently.

By his grace, we are still here. We still have a purpose.

Let us continue to bring the Good News of Jesus to this corner of the world.



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

MARCH 2022

DATE	Mar. 5	Mar. 12	Mar. 19	Mar. 26	
READER	Dianne Wuerch	Tyrone Bryant	Mary Werth	Kathy Farkas	
USHER	Melody Keef	Tegwanda Alford	Eric Fellner	Jim Hartz	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Eric Fellner	George Alessi	Dooley O'Rourke	Mike Wuerch	



Enter laughing

Upon entering a North Carolina church, a retired pastor from Arizona approached an older couple serving as greeters. Observing their beaming countenance, the minister eagerly shook hands and said playfully, "I want you to know that I came all the way from Phoenix just to shake your hands."

The cheerful husband laughed and said jovially, "Well, now you can go back."

Everyone nearby, overhearing the repartee, laughed at the merry dialogue.

The Arizonan entered the sanctuary giggling to himself. The service seemed especially uplifting that Sunday, because he entered the church with a joyful heart.

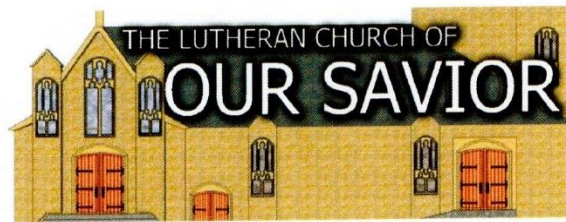


2023 SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE Monthly Rotation

	MARCH
LEAD COUNTER	Dianne Wuerch
COUNTER	Sue Holway
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>



Madison Porter	Mar. 1
Karen Smith	Mar. 5
Wes Wiers	Mar. 20
Linda Eder	Mar. 23
Rhonda Mohr	Mar. 23
Naomi George	Mar. 26
Tim McGuan	Mar. 30



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our meeting will be on Monday, March 13 at 12:30 pm via Zoom. After a brief business meeting, we will discuss chapter 9 from the book "FORWARD".

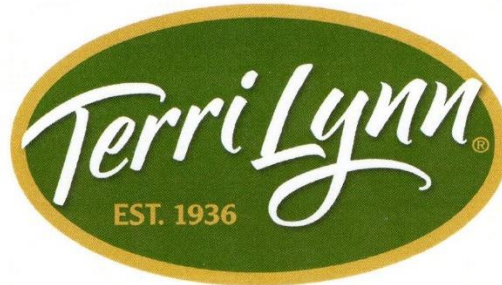
Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the Pot Faith on Sunday, February 19th, a success! It was a great time of fellowship and reflection. Please sign up on the list to host future fellowship times that are posted on the board.

REMINDER! Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway; mites to Karen Smith; cancelled stamps to Sharon McGuan and old printer ink cartridges to Pat Watkins. All these collections help various mission outreaches. Thank you!

We are in the season of Lent. A time to take reflection of our Faith. May this Lenten journey strengthen and inspire you to tell the story of Jesus Christ through all you do and say. God Bless!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway

Order Now for Easter & Mother's Day!



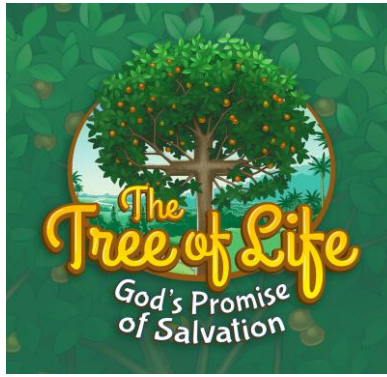
Terrilyn's premium nuts, decadent confections, savory snacks and tempting mixes are unlike anything you will find at your local grocery store. There is a range of 38 products to pick from.



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>



March Tree of Life Celebration

We welcome you to The Tree of Life, on VBS Sunday, March 12!

Our Eighth VBS Lesson: **God's Plan of Salvation Completed**, will take place on Sunday, March 12th beginning at 9:00 am for Adult and Children's Sunday School. Pastor is leading the adult class and Sharon McGuan will be the Sunday school teacher this month. The lesson, with song and a craft, is based on Luke 23: 26: ***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*** What a comfort and blessing this verse conveys! Worship, with a song presented by the Sunday school, will follow and Fellowship Time will take place after the service. Please come and take hold of The Tree of Life.



Encourage wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you've heard over and over, play "I Wonder" with children and adults alike. Similar to "I Spy," it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren't detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase "I wonder." For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?
- The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Playing "I Wonder" can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you're eager to gain new insights on the "old, old story ... of Jesus and his love."

—Janna Firestone

Surrender

What a privilege and opportunity it is to utterly come to the end of one's hope — not only to run out of answers but to run out of questions. To be beyond fighting, to come to that suspended animation where we are so confused and so weak that we can neither fight [nor] run.

When you come to the end of yourself, you find the beginning of God. And there and nowhere else, you find the answers you seek. You find fulfillment for the longings of your soul.

—Max Anders

God among our brokenness

I am not the only one who sees the underside and God at the same time. There are lots of us, and we are at home in the biblical stories of antiheroes and people who don't get it; beloved prostitutes and rough fishermen. ...

It was here in the midst of my own community of underside dwellers that I couldn't help but begin to see the Gospel, the life-changing reality that God is not far off, but here among the brokenness of our lives. And having seen it, I couldn't help but point it out.

—Nadia Bolz-Weber, *Pastrix*

A God with scars

If anyone has ever asked you why a loving God allows suffering, you've probably developed a theodicy. That's a fancy word for defending belief in divine goodness despite evil's existence. Theologians who tackle this profound mystery note that God himself wasn't spared from pain. Despite his sinlessness as true God, Jesus endured crucifixion as true man. As proof of that sacrifice, his body was scarred.

Those marks feature in a poem by English pastor Edward Shillito. Seeing wounded combatants return from World War I, he wondered how the Gospel could seem like good news to them. When Shillito realized that Christianity alone features a God who suffered, he wrote "Jesus of the Scars" to offer comfort and hope. The poem concludes:

The other gods were strong; but thou wast weak;
They rode, but thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God's wounds speak;
And not a god has wounds, but thou alone.

Mercy House Belize Lutheran Campus

Belize Mission Society

About This Mission Grant

The Belize Mission Society (BMS) has a dental clinic in a multipurpose building that is located in the village. This grant money would fund the building of a Mercy House next to the elementary school and Christ Lutheran Church. By bringing the dental clinic and other programs to the Lutheran campus, it will lead people to the Church and connect them with the missionaries. The BMS is intent on “strengthening their cord” (a reference to Ecclesiastes 4:12) with the Belize FORO (forum), the missionaries, and the local residents. By building relationships with children, they also reach their extended family with the Good News of their Savior, Jesus Christ. Mercy House — Belize Mission Campus will further the mercy work and relationship-building of the BMS while providing a tangible connection to Christ Lutheran Church.



Christ Lutheran Church in Seine Bight, Belize. Adjacent property to the left of the palm tree is the property desired for Mercy House — Belize Lutheran Campus. Picture taken from stairway at the school.



Meals provided have protein to enrich the nutrition needs for the children. Test scores have improved once the program had started and has grown.



The dental clinic is located at the Multi-Purpose Building in the village. The BMS keeps supplies for mission team needs for construction, VBS, medical, dental and food preparation at the clinic. The agreement with the village expires in 2024.



BOOKLETS ENCOURAGE FAITH IN GRANDMOTHER

Famata, a 59-year-old widow and grandmother to six, comes from a non-Christian religious family. She said she didn't have a choice growing up and was told what religion she needed to follow. Recently, one of Famata's grandchildren picked up booklets from LHM-Liberia. Famata noticed her granddaughter reading something, and she asked what it was. It was an LHM-Liberia booklet about faith during life's adversity. For the next few days, the two of them read booklets and talked about the things they had learned. Famata said that all the questions she had about life and faith came back to her. She reached out to LHM-Liberia staff and shared the impact the booklets had made in her and her granddaughter's lives. LHM-Liberia staff set up a time to meet at their house and they prayed together. LHM-Liberia staff referred Famata to a local church where she can continue to learn more about Jesus.

SHARING BIBLICALLY BASED VALUES WITH YOUTH

In many countries today, more than 70 percent of the population is under 25 years of age. Because of realities such as broken families and secularism, many of these young people receive little moral or spiritual education in their homes, their values often being shaped instead by potentially negative influences such as the media, music, or their peers.

As part of a global strategy for reaching out to youth, Lutheran Hour Ministries offers **Project JOEL** in a growing number of countries. The name JOEL stands for Jóvenes con Espíritu Libre, or "youth with a free spirit," and the program is designed to provide biblically based guidance in making healthy lifestyle choices. Project JOEL has been integrated into school curricula in some countries-particularly in Latin America-but it also supplements its educational content by incorporating opportunities for holding sporting and cultural events.

Miguel is in the fifth grade. He lives in a less-privileged area of a large Panamanian city, but he takes part in a program that allows him to attend school in a more stable area. Many children like Miguel come from dangerous places. Oftentimes, exposure to violence at such young ages leads to harassment and other behavioral issues in school. Because of their divergent home lives, children like Miguel struggle to build healthy relationships with other students.

LHM staff first met Miguel when he was in kindergarten. LHM brings its popular Project JOEL program to his school, a program whereby we promote positive values among youth that will set them up for a safe, successful future. Starting at an early age, Miguel began to participate in LHM's puppet shows, songs, games, and readings. He also participated in presentations for the students and staff every Monday.

Today, LHM and Project JOEL have made a difference in Miguel's life. His confidence has grown as he learns how to make responsible choices. One step at a time, he is learning how to escape the background into which he was born. By God's grace, we celebrate with Miguel as he prepares to enter a bright, more hopeful future.

In addition to impacting children like Miguel that the program is teaching, Project JOEL touches the lives of the volunteers and parents who are involved as well.

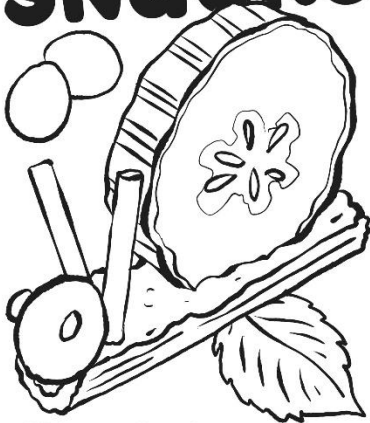
"Being a volunteer has taught me to understand more about the importance of teaching values," says Geovany. "It motivates me to try to be better and to live in the day to day by sharing my faith with others. This is my second year and every time I want to get more involved. This is a great blessing for the children of the community, as well as for my life."

Yolanda is a mother of two and an avid supporter of Project JOEL since it started at her children's school a few years ago. After completing a training session covering Project's JOEL's strategies and available resources, she began consistently volunteering at the school and became so invested in it that she hosted the graduation and end-of-year celebration events.

"I was interested in collaborating to help improve the lives of the children," she says. "At the same time, my life has been transformed by the Word of God by sharing it with the children through the various talks and teachings. I'm very thankful for being able to volunteer in this work."



SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:


1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!




A seasonal reminder


Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.


Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.


 plants grow here

 to coil and jump
(also a season of the year)

 to expand and get bigger

 seeds are planted in this

 when watered, these make plants

 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____

come up and a _____ causes

_____ to _____, so the

Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise _____ up before all nations.



ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
APRIL NEWSLETTER IS MARCH 24TH.**