



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

NOVEMBER 2024

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



Hungry for Jesus

Many residents of first-world countries avoid true physical hunger, grazing at the slightest stomach rumble. Spiritually, the opposite is common. Many people run on empty, unaware of or rejecting Jesus' free gifts of grace, love and abundant life.

In her Magnificat, Mary proclaims, "He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:53, NIV). To be filled with Jesus, first we must empty ourselves and hunger for him. But what does that look like?

At Bible.org, pastor Steven J. Cole writes, "Starving people aren't interested in new smart phones or computers, unless they can somehow sell them to buy food. Hungry people have one focus — where to find food. It consumes their whole existence. ... That's how we should hunger for God!"

Spiritual hunger leads to a feast of God's blessings. He generously gives us gifts that overflow into the lives of others. So let's share Jesus with people who are starving for him!

What your heart clamors to do

We often speak of pastors as having a divine "calling." God gives them a strong sense of purpose for a specific holy role, like how Old Testament prophets were called to bring messages to God's people. But what about the rest of us? Is teaching, practicing medicine, being a plumber, writing or another non-church job also a "call"?

Martin Luther and others have said we should seek work that benefits others and for which God has given us talent. We should also treat any good work we do as a calling — be it cleaning a house or school, mending a broken leg or torn garment, or (as Luther mentioned a *father* doing — in the 1500s!) changing a baby's diaper.

Dorothy Sayers wrote that "work is not primarily a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do," and that "we should clamor to be engaged in work that [is] worth doing, and in which we [can] take pride." What work does your heart clamor to do? In other words, what is *your* divine call?

In awe of everyday joys

Maybe you've heard of making micro-resolutions for the new year. Similarly, health experts recommend becoming aware of — and thankful for — micro-joys we experience and encounter.

In *The Power of Awe*, Jake Eagle and Michael Amster describe the benefits of taking several brief A.W.E. breaks throughout the day:

- **A** is for Attention, as you focus on something that amazes you or seems valuable.
- **W** is for Waiting, as you pause to take a deep breath.
- **E** is for Exhaling, as you breathe out and feel joy and gratitude.

This simple practice reveals how profound the "ordinary" can be, thanks to the generosity of our extraordinary God.



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2024

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

| WEEKEND OF | Nov. 2/3 | Nov. 9/10 | Nov. 16/17 | Nov. 23/24 | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| READER (Sat/Sun) | Doreen Griebel/Sharon McGuan | Ruth Whitmer/Carolyn Alessi | Rhonda Mohr/Richard Loster | Ruth Whitmer/Sue Holway | |
| USHERS | Tim McGuan/Ed Walsh | Dooley O'Rourke/Eric Fellner | Mike Wuerch/Tim McGuan | Dianne Wuerch/Melody Keef | |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Jim Hartz | Mike Wuerch | Ed Walsh | Eric Fellner | |

(If you cannot serve on the day scheduled, please notify Tim McGuan (716) 418-5484, Ed Walsh (585) 747-1503 or Dan Griebel (716) 259-9704. ALSO, PLEASE CALL AMBER SO SHE CAN CORRECTLY PUT THE CHANGE IN THE BULLETIN. Thank you.)



*** We will once again be having our Poinsettia sale. Order forms will be available at the back of the church. We are going to shoot for picking up the last week of November. This will allow you to order any wreaths you may want to take home and be able to display in December. In addition, the poinsettias will decorate the church and can be picked up following the Christmas services. If you have any questions, please reach out to Amber 716-604-6633. Thank you! ****



November BIRTHDAYS

Loretta Himmele

Nov. 1

Ed Walsh

Nov. 26

(If you would like your birthday and/or wedding anniversary in the newsletter, please contact Mary Werth by phone at 716-534-6922 or email: madragon99@yahoo.com. You can also leave a note in my mailbox. Thank you.)



REAL NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Two Sisters Reunited After 18 Years in Checkout Counter

Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Space

Mortuary Adds Drive-Through

Teacher Dies; Board Accepts His Resignation

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Experts Say

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last a While

Include Your Children When Baking Cookies

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks



November VBS Sunday

We welcome all children and adults to celebrate VBS on November 10th at 9:00 a.m. for Sunday school and at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The theme this month will be ***An Angel Announces*** from Luke 1:26-56. Come and marvel at the goodness of the Father as He sends Gabriel to announce the coming of the Messiah and Mary's trusting response to the Father's love. Adults meet with Pastor Walsh in the Fellowship Hall and children meet with Mrs. Walsh in the Sunday school room. Come, be blessed, and let your "soul magnify the Lord!"



Come to Advent Workshop: Prepare Your Heart and Home for Advent

The Education Committee welcomes you to attend an **Advent Workshop** at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, November 30th, from 9:00 am to noon. We have a very special day planned for children and members of their family. Adults without children are also most heartily welcome to attend. We will celebrate the beauty of Advent with a short devotion, songs, and sharing ways our own families prepare our hearts and homes for Jesus' coming. Each child will create a "stained glass" window made of crayon shavings and wax paper to put up at home. We also make Advent wreaths. Children and adults will go home with their wreath and devotional material to continue their Advent preparations at home. We will complete our time decorating the Fellowship Hall for Christmas and enjoying a delicious snack together.

So that we have purchase enough materials for everyone, please RSVP to Sharon McGuan at salmcg23@gmail.com or 716-803-3767 by November 22nd. We ask a parent, or grandparent, to attend with any children under 7 to assist with making the Advent wreath. We look forward to seeing you at the Advent Workshop!



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our next meeting is Monday, November 11th, at 12:30 p.m. at church. ALL women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend. Thank you to all who are attending the LWML Buffalo Zone Fall Event on Saturday, November 2nd, and to those who donated items for the in gathering.

Our church plans to continue a food collection for the month of November to donate to a local food pantry nearby. Look for the tote at the rear of the sanctuary. Your support is appreciated!

The Ladies' breakfast will be at the Olympic restaurant on Saturday, November 9th, at 9:30 am. Those interested in attending, please sign up on the board by November 2nd. Looking forward to fellowshiping with everyone!

The Terri Lynn nut sale items are posted on the board at the entrance of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. The sale begins the weekend of October 26/27. You can purchase items in the fellowship hall after the services. Checks can be made out to the Esther Circle. This fundraiser helps us support mission outreach projects. Thank you!

REMINDER: Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway; mites to Karen Smith (note large mite box at the rear of the sanctuary); cancelled stamps go to Sharon McGuan. Thank you for your support!

November is the month of Thanksgiving. Be **THANKFUL FOR ALL YOUR BLESSINGS** and **ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST** for HIS ETERNAL LOVE, GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION. Enjoy your time with family and friends. **THANKS BE TO GOD** 🙏

Carol Obot



Three Thanksgiving prayers

Dear Lord, we beg but one boon more: peace in the hearts of all men living, peace in the whole world this Thanksgiving.

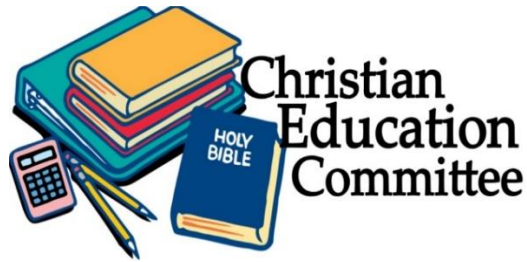
—Joseph Auslander

For what I have received may the Lord make me truly thankful. And more truly for what I have not received.

—Storm Jameson

O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.

—William Shakespeare



Hello everyone!

We in the education committee are getting ready for Advent and Christmas next month! Our preparations include a new education page in the newsletter! This page is something that we hope will be beneficial for everyone. Whether you have kids in your home or not, we hope you will take this page, put it on your fridge and learn with us. There will be Bible memorization, catechism memorization, hymn memorization, facts about the Bible/church history/liturgical calendar, a list of the church observances and saint days for the month, and a Christian symbol and its meaning every month. Starting in January we will also have a Bible reading plan that we hope you will make use of as a way to stay in the Word frequently. So, look out for this new page in December!

God's blessings!

The education committee



Veterans Day salute

After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn't done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who "came back to faith" during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers' deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. "That's what we did, preaching and reaching out to people," he told a reporter. "I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it."

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.

Come Serve on the Church Council

NEW OFFICERS NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT – 2 YEAR TERM

RECORDING FINANCIAL SECRETARY – 2 YEAR TERM

RECORDING SECRETARY – 2 YEAR TERM

If you are interested in any of these positions,
please see Pastor Walsh, Michael Wuerch,
Dianne Wuerch or Ruth Whitmer.

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

As Written in Pilgrims Constitution

The President of the Congregation Shall

1. Act as the chief officer of the congregation and spokesperson for the congregation in secular matters that pertain to the congregation
2. Prepare an agenda for and preside at all Voters' Meetings
3. Enforce the Constitution and Bylaws of this congregation and carry out the expressed will of the congregation, coordinating functions, plans, and activities in the furtherance of the work of Christ's Kingdom.
4. Appoint ad hoc committee chairpersons and attend meetings of boards, committees, and groups in the congregation as desired
5. Vote at all Church Council meetings, and vote at the Voters' Meetings in case of a tie
6. Act in the absence of the Treasurer

B. The Vice-President shall

1. Carry out the functions of the President when the President is absent
2. Prepare an agenda for and preside at all meetings of the Church Council
3. Be the Parliamentarian at the Voters' Meetings
4. Be in charge of the periodic review of the Constitution and its Bylaws and prepare any amendments for Voters' Meetings
5. Vote at all Voters' Meetings, and vote at the Church Council meetings in case of a tie

The Secretary Shall

1. Record the minutes of all Voters' and Church Council meetings in a legible form, keep the attendance roster for the meetings, and keep these with the permanent records of the congregation.
2. Notify the members of the congregation of meetings
3. Prepare and issue all official correspondence from the congregation, including acknowledgements of memorials received
4. Keep a permanent record of the official acts of the church

The Financial Secretary Shall

1. Receive all monies contributed to the congregation, supervise its counting, deposit such monies and give a receipt of the monies to the Treasurer
2. Present a current financial report at all congregational and church council meetings
3. Distribute offering envelopes and financial reports
4. Work with the Pastor in the area of stewardship
5. Prepare and deliver weekly contribution reports to the Pastor
6. Keep weekly attendance and contribution records
7. Prepare and deliver quarterly tax receipts to the church's contributors

If you interested in being Nominated for any of one of these Elected Positions, please contact Paster Walsh or one of the following Church Council Members

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| President- Mike Wuerch | Secretary – Ruth Whitmer | Financial Secretary – Dianne Wuerch |
| Vice President – Sue Holway | Treasurer – Rhonda Mohr | Head Elder – Tyrone Bryant |

2023–2025 Mission Grant #13

Water and the Word

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya

About This Mission Grant

Students in schools and orphanages sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) lack clean water and regular access to pastoral care. Water and the Word, based in Thermopolis, Wyoming, works with the ELCK to improve water systems for the schools. After evaluating a school's needs, Water and the Word installs water harvesting equipment (rain gutters and tanks), locally sourced filters, hand wash stations, and clean water storage systems. Students and staff are taught about personal hygiene, handwashing, and the importance of drinking only clean water.

After installation, an ELCK pastor (trained in water equipment) visits the schools every 3–4 months to ensure that the water system is working, visits with the children, and provides needed pastoral care.

This grant will provide clean water and cover travel expenses for pastoral care to students in 12 additional schools and orphanages in Kenya.



Before water system installation by Water and the Word, these girls are hauling water on their backs to their school.



One of the water filters Water and the Word provides to schools. Each school gets 2–4 filters, depending on their student population.



A water tank being put into place by hand.



Happy students saying "Thank you, LWML" for the clean water and pastoral care!



[New Spiritual Conversations Program for High School Students Available Now](#)



Think of the friends in your lives. Some are really good at the skill of friendship, and others could use some help, right? While this applies to people of all ages, it is particularly true for teens who are meeting new people and fostering relationships with those around them. To help support this group of high school teens, LHM has developed a new course, *Spiritual Conversations: How to Talk to Your Friends About Life, Faith, and Jesus*.

One of the things that makes a great friend that we want to help students develop in this course is the skill and discipline of listening well so that they can really hear their friends. By really hearing, we recognize where our friends are on their spiritual journeys, and then we can learn to respond wisely and graciously in a way that helps them respond to the Gospel.

"Above everything else, this course is about learning the skills to listen (to God and to our friends) and respond with wisdom and grace so that we can meet our friends where they are and help them along their journeys of faith," says Chris Macky, instructional designer at LHM.

It turns out that there are Christians who regularly, naturally, and effectively have spiritual conversations with non-Christians in ways that are gracious and effective. Students will learn that any kind of person can do this. Our curriculum shows this by introducing some data supported by research into the kinds of people who do this well. Students will interact with the Bible together in small groups, watch other high schoolers interacting with these ideas, and maybe do some role-playing as well.

This seven-lesson curriculum for high schoolers to learn to share their faith with their friends and family is available now at lhm.org/schs.



PUZZLE

BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--|
| Psalm 145:8 | SGAICURO | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Job 36:5 | HGIYMT | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Psalm 90:2 | LTAVREENISG | _ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2 Peter 3:9 | INETTPA | _ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:24 | FUFHIATL | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Isaiah 40:25 | OYHL | _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ |

Help me, Lord my __od;
save __e __ccording __o
your un__ailing l__ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV

Answers: gracious, mighty, everlasting, patient, faithful, holy; Help me, Lord my God; save me according to your unfailing love; Psalm 109:26, NIV

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 23RD.**