



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

[www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org](http://www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org)

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

**APRIL 2025**

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

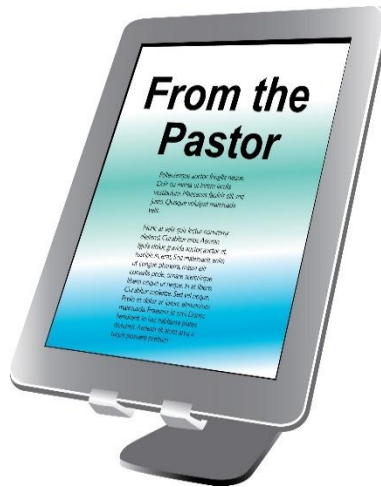
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





On Easter morning we will open service with a beautiful piece of music, hymns 460 “Christians, to the Paschal Victim” (in Latin “Victimae Paschali” “Vic-tomb-my Pas-scal-lee”) and 459 “Christ Is Arisen” sung together as one hymn. This comes from a musical practice called “sequences” they were choral chants offering commentary on the Gospel text read for that day. These were common in Catholic Masses until the Council of Trent (1545-1563), a convention of Catholic Bishops, Cardinals, Priests, and the Pope in which they discussed issues of the time and made rulings on theological and liturgical practices. Only four sequences would be left in their Latin Mass, the Victimae Paschali being one of them. In Lutheran churches, sequences would remain common until the Latin Mass fell out of use in the late 1600’s to early 1700’s.

In current times the Victimae Paschali is used in both the Lutheran and Roman Church on Easter Sunday, in which Lutheranism saw the return of it in America in 1969 in a worship supplement. What separates us from the Catholics is that we pair the Victimae with hymn 459 Christ is Arisen. This is done to pay homage to an old Medieval and Renaissance practice in Germany in which the Choir sang the Latin part (in this case the Victimae) and the congregation would sing the German Hymn (in this case Christ Is Arisen).

In the text of the Victimae, we see a dialog between the Narrator and Mary Magdalene telling the resurrection story. This hymn would be used during the Middle Ages as part of a play after Mass in which the crowd would be invited to sing as part of their thankfulness for the resurrection. The Risen Christ is identified as the Paschal Victim, Paschal coming from the Greek word “pascha” which comes from the Hebrew word “Pesach” meaning Passover. However, this word would be changed to be known as the passion within the Church. In the first verse we are called to worship the Passover lamb, who was sinless. He has battled death and though He died, He reigns forever. In verse 2 the Narrator asks Mary Magdalene to tell of what she saw and how the Christ goes before His disciples into Galilee. Lastly verse 3 reminds the Church that from her Lord she receives eternal life and salvation through Christ’s victory over death.

I look forward to singing this piece with the choir for you on Easter Sunday.

Christ blessings

Rev. David J. Walsh



## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE APRIL 2025

**(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

WEEKEND OF	Apr. 5, 6	Apr. 12, 13	Apr. 19, 20	Apr. 26, 27	
READER (Sat/Sun)	Doreen Griebel/Carolyn Alessi	Ruth Whitmer/Rich Loster	Rhonda Mohr/Mary Werth	Doreen Griebel/Kathy Farkas	
USHERS	Melody Keef Jim Hartz	Mike Wuerch Tim McGuan	Ed Walsh Eric Fellner	Mike Wuerch Dianne Wuerch	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Eric Fellner	Ed Walsh	Mike Wuerch	Jim Hartz	

**(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.)**



### COUNTERS

Apr. 6	Apr. 13	Apr. 20	Apr. 27	
Jim Hartz	Sue Holway	Easter Sunday	Carolyn Alessi	
Ruth Whitmer	Janice Vogel	No counting	Dolores Zeeb	



Eric Alessi

Apr. 15

Melody Keef

Apr. 20

Kevin Rodgers

Apr. 25

(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](mailto:madragon99@yahoo.com). You can also leave a note in my mailbox. Thank you.)



### **STRANGE BUT TRUE PRODUCT WARNINGS**

On a blanket from Taiwan: NOT TO BE USED AS PROTECTION FROM A TORNADO.

On a bag of Fritos: YOU COULD BE A WINNER! NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. DETAILS INSIDE.  
(The shoplifter special!)

On a bar of Dial soap: DIRECTIONS – USE LIKE REGULAR SOAP. (And that would be how?)

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom of box): DO NOT TURN UPSIDE DOWN. (Too late! You lose!)

On a Japanese food processor: NOT TO BE USED FOR THE OTHER USE. (Now I'm curious.)



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

Our meeting this month will be on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. at the church. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend.

There will be a Buffalo Zone LWML Spring Event at Trinity Lutheran Church in Silver Creek on Saturday, May 3rd, 9 a.m. to noon. Check out the flyer in this newsletter for more information. We plan to carpool. RSVP to Sharon McGuan by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Please consider hosting a fellowship hour after Sunday worship service. We need volunteers! Sign-up sheet is posted on the board near the entrance to the sanctuary. This year's fellowship donations will be going to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Food Pantry on Sheridan Drive in the Town of Tonawanda. We have 20 women interested in being prayer partners. The names will be drawn and those participating will be contacted by Sharon McGuan. The circle decided to do a book study on The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. More information on this will be coming.

**REMINDER:** Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway; mites (loose change) to Karen Smith or placed in the large collection box at the rear of the sanctuary and canceled stamps go to Sharon McGuan. Thank you for your support in these continuous mission outreach projects.

April is Easter, a time to celebrate the Risen Lord! April is the first complete month of Spring. A rebirth! Take all this beauty in! A Blessed Easter to everyone. God Bless!

Carol Obot

### **The blessing of fellowship**



Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer





## **"LWML BUFFALO ZONE SPRING EVENT"**

**Saturday, May 3, 2025**

**Location: Trinity Silver Creek Lutheran Church**

**Fellowship Hall (Look for purple balloons)**

**15 Porter Avenue**

**Silver Creek, NY 14136**

**Time: 9:00am to noon**

**Registration Fee: \$5.00**

**Beverages and brunch food items provided.**

**Please register to Sharon McGuan by April 28, 2025**

**salmcg23@gmail.com**



**Program:** Our speaker is Kathy Park who will discuss the CASA of Chautauqua County. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates that provide voice for abused and neglected children in foster care.

**Our Ingathering Mission for CASA are items needed:** Amazon gift cards are greatly needed for CASA to purchase photo books, page inserts, double sided tape rollers, Origami pagers size 6X6, colored cardstock papers 12X12, inspirational & motivational vinyl stickers, vinyl alphabet stickers, vinyl calendar & holiday stickers, and acrylic paint pens. Cash or check is always good too!

**Hands on Project:** Come and relax, enjoy some social conversation while we color both bookmarks and book plates to go to CASA of Chautauqua. Remember those beautiful Christian verses may just make someone know we care!



**Parking: in front of church or the side street which is Adams St.**



## Esther Circle Outreach for 2025 Good Shepherd Food Pantry



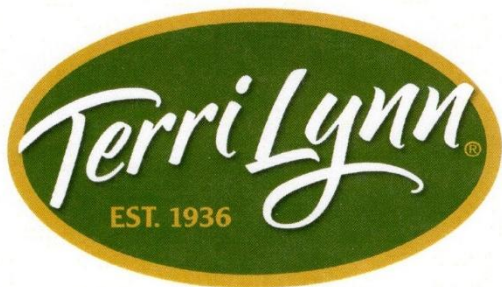
Our food pantry is filled by our parishioners and other faithful community members. It is open from 10 a.m. to noon on every third and fourth Saturday of the month. The fourth Saturday of the month a hot breakfast is also available.

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry is a distribution center located within the church which provides food directly to those in need. Donations are provided by local organizations, individuals and church members.

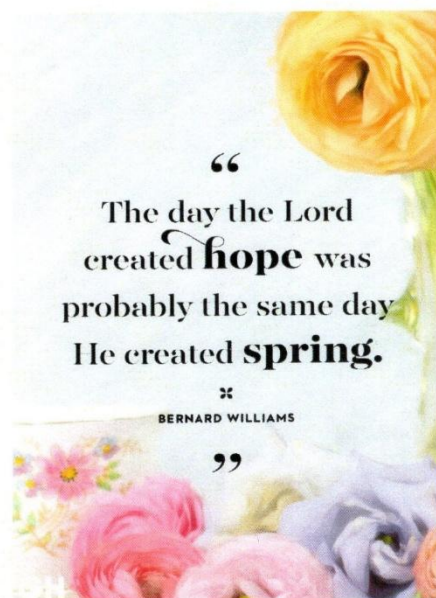
The Food Pantry provides this service for the residents living within the following zip codes:  
14120, 14150, 14217, 14221, 14223, 14226, 14228







## Spring & Easter Are Coming



DARK CHOCOLATE SEA SALT



GUMMIE BEARS



MILK CHOCOLATE PEACANS



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>





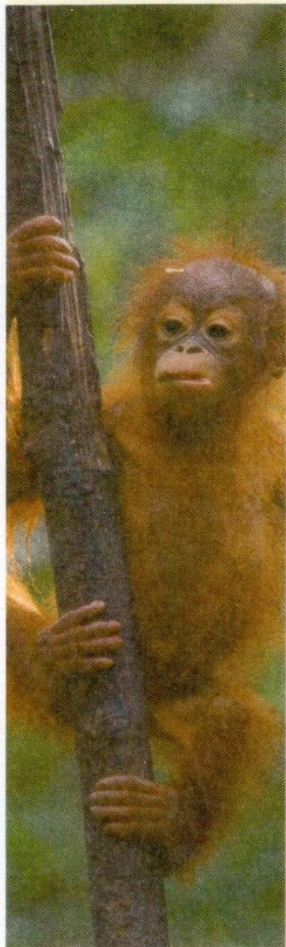
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## Letter to my sponsor

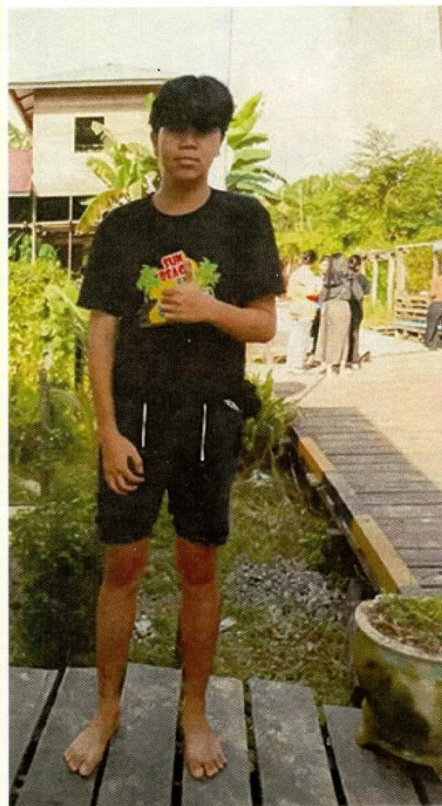
Tanggal (Date) 16-02-2025



Hallo teman bagaimana kabarnya doa saya selalu aman dan sehat selalu ya di sana senang sekali bisa menulis surat lagi untukmu. terima kasih atas doa dan dukungan buat saya selama ini. di surat ini saya mengucapkan banyak terima kasih atas gift Natal yang telah friends kirimkan untuk saya. gift tersebut saya gunakan untuk membeli baju dan celana. untuk itu saya sangat bersyukur memiliki sponsor seperti mu. saya akan berdoa agar Tuhan senantiasa berkati friends dalam segala hal. sekian surat dan Aril sampai jumpa di surat berikut. Salam Mahir Tuhan Yesus memberkati

### Translation

February 16, 2025. Hello Friends, how are you doing? I pray that you are healthy and safe in God. I'm so excited to write you another letter. Thank you for your prayers and support. I want to thank you very much for the Christmas gift. I used it to buy shirts and pants. I'm so grateful to have a sponsor like you. I will keep praying to God to bless you in everything. That's all I can tell you for now. See you again in the next letter. May Jesus continue to bless you. Much love, Aril



Aril is now 19 years old.  
He would love to hear from you!

You can download Compassion's Mobile App so you can write and read letters quickly online. Learn more at [compassion.com/MobileApp](https://compassion.com/MobileApp).



Catechesis page: We encourage you to put this on your fridge and learn God's Word and things that help us better understand it together.

April 2025

Did you know? The man who helped Jesus carry the cross, Simon of Cyrene, had two sons, Alexander and Rufus. According to tradition, they and Simon became believers. It is thought that the Rufus mentioned in Romans 16:13 is Simon's son.

Bible verse of the month: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" -Matthew 21:9b

Catechism: The fourth commandment and it's explanation

What is the fourth commandment: Honor your father and mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Liturgical seasons and colors (look on the altar and pastor) for April: Lent- purple, Palm Sunday-red, Maundy Thursday-white, Good Friday-black, Easter-white

Christian symbol of the month: Chalice and Bread. On Maundy Thursday we celebrate Christ's institution of The Lord's Supper, the bread and the wine is His Body and Blood for our forgiveness of sins.

Hymn of the month: (definitely check out the other verses in the hymnal, for the sake of space we have v. 1 only here) Christ is Arisen LSB#459

Christ is arisen

From the grave's dark prison

So let our joy rise full and free;

Christ our comfort true will be. Alleluia!

Church festivals, observances, Saint Days in April

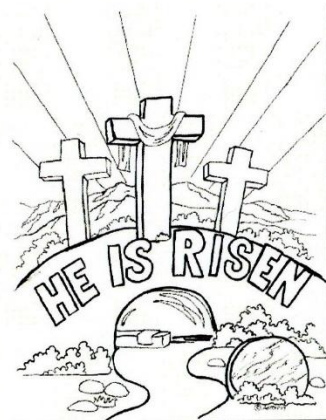
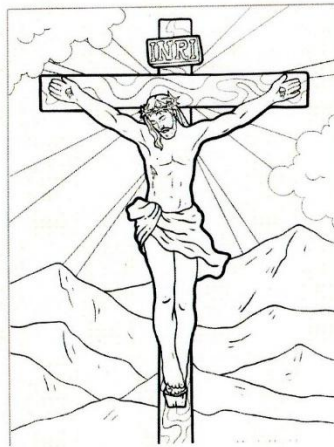
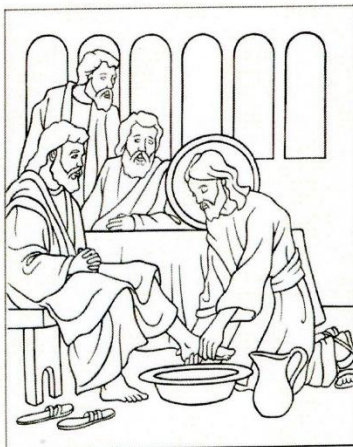
6th- Lucas Cranach & Albrecht Durer (artists) 13<sup>th</sup>-Palm Sunday (this changes every year)

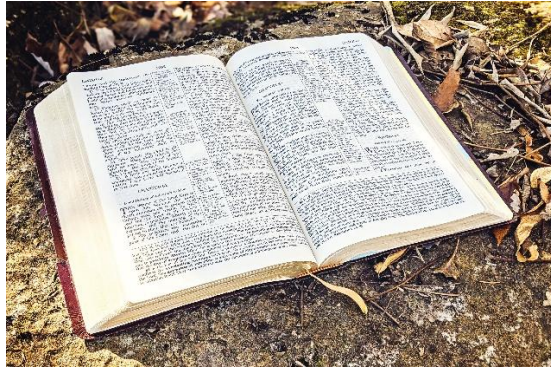
17<sup>th</sup>- Maundy Thursday (this changes every year) 18<sup>th</sup>-Good Friday (this changes every year)

19<sup>th</sup>- Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil (this changes every year) 20<sup>th</sup>-Easter (this changes every year)

20<sup>th</sup>-Johannes Bugenhagen (Pastor) 21<sup>st</sup>-Anselm of Canterbury (theologian) 24<sup>th</sup>-Johann Walter (Kantor)

25<sup>th</sup>-St. Mark (Evangelist, gospel writer)





This month we continue our journey through the Psalms.

Apr. 1 – Ps. 22:1-11	Apr. 9 – Psalm 27	Apr. 17 – Ps. 13-22	Apr. 25 – Ps. 37:21-40
Apr. 2 – Ps. 22:12-21	Apr. 10 – Psalm 28	Apr. 18 – Ps. 34:1-10	Apr. 26 – Ps. 38:1-8
Apr. 3 – Ps. 22:22-31	Apr. 11 – Psalm 29	Apr. 19 – Ps. 34:11-22	Apr. 27 – Ps. 38:9-22
Apr. 4 – Psalm 23	Apr. 12 – Psalm 30	Apr. 20 – Ps. 35:1-10	Apr. 28 – Psalm 39
Apr. 5 – Psalm 24	Apr. 13 – Ps. 31:1-10	Apr. 21 – Ps. 35:11-28	Apr. 29 – Psalm 40
Apr. 6 – Ps. 25:1-10	Apr. 14 – Ps. 31:11-24	Apr. 22 – Psalm 36	Apr. 30 – Psalm 41
Apr. 7 – Ps. 25:11-22	Apr. 15 – Psalm 32	Apr. 23 – Ps. 37:1-11	
Apr. 8 – Psalm 26	Apr. 16 – Ps. 33:1-12	Apr. 24 – Ps. 37:12-20	



On Palm Sunday, April 13th, we invite all children and adult members and friends to attend Sunday school. The children's lesson will share the Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter stories, so the children might be able to discuss the meaning and significance of this blessed Holy Week. Children will leave with devotional material they may use throughout the week with their parents and grandparents. We will also participate in an Easter craft. Sunday school begins at 9:00 in the lower level. The adult class also begins at 9:00. The adults will continue with the next lesson in their current series. We hope to see many of you there!

## **NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR SERVICES**

Pilgrim now has its own YouTube Channel. Services will not be live but will be posted following the Sunday service. Here is the link (if you search using Pilgrim and Kenmore, you will find it as well):

<https://www.youtube.com/@PilgrimLutheranChurch>





## Cybersecurity Tips

By Ed Walsh

Hi everyone. While I am not a total Cybersecurity expert, I am a software developer and am required to take several Cybersecurity courses both for development and for the job in general; it is also a subject that I have had a deep interest in and find extremely fascinating. I will try to keep each one short and hopefully I will make it interesting for you as well. So, while this segment is not teaching scripture or related to our church directly, I feel we are all called to use the skills that God gave us to help each other. So monthly I will give, in basic terms, some tips, terms, definitions and alert you to any current scams/hacks that are going around; and how to spot these.

**Phishing** is a broad term on how an attacker may try to deceive you to get information from you. There are many forms of this which we will cover as we go along. One way you can spot these is that they will tell you that you must do something now. Like they may claim to be your credit card company, and they see suspicious activity on your account and need you to call them right away; and will supply a phone number or a link to reach them. Never do this, look up the phone numbers to the company and call them directly; and definitely never click on anything. A lot of times their tone/language will be fretting. Like you have to pay this now or something bad will happen. This is a subject that whole books are written on, and we will cover more on this in other tips.

**Smishing** is a form of Phishing but when done through text messages, it is known as Smishing. One currently going around the country is a toll scam. My daughter and I both got one of these, just to show how close to home it is. This also comes in different forms. Some like mine say you owe a certain amount, usually a very low amount like only a few dollars. They do this because they feel if they make it low you will think it is not a scam, because if it were surely, they would want more money. Here they are not looking for money right here, they want your information. When you click on the link, depending on what they are using, it will either take you to a link that will extract personal data from your device, or it will put software on your device that will do the same thing. Again, if you are concerned that you may owe money for a toll, go to them directly, and not through the message you got.

Next month we will have some summer fun and talk a bit about travel safety with our devices, and more on Phishing.



A Voters Meeting was held on March 16<sup>th</sup> after the service. Pastor reported that things are going well. He reminded us to take advantage of the Bible studies on Sunday mornings or on Tuesday evenings. If anyone is going to have any kind of medical procedure, he asked that you reach out to him for prayer.

Our President reported that the Souper-Bowl soup drive for Hearts for the Homeless was successful. More than three cases were delivered to them

The Lenten meal and Service on March 12<sup>th</sup> was well attended. A huge shoutout to everyone who stepped up to help out! Thank you!

The Treasurer reported that we are up to date with our bills. However, our giving is still lagging behind. Since we approved this budget, we should prayerfully be able to meet it. Try starting a habit of preparing your envelopes weekly (or even monthly) and remembering to bring them to church. It's simple and easy!

The Chapel Apartments have been sold. As a result, we are having unauthorized cars in our lot taking up spaces needed for worship services. To get a handle on this, we will be issuing Parking Passes to those individuals who call/text/email Amber Trimmer and request one. This way we will have contact information for the owners of those vehicles. Holders of the passes must adhere to rules which will require their cars to be OUT of the lot by 8:00 AM on Sundays, 3:30 PM on Saturdays and at all other times when there is a church service or function.

We received our AED, which has to be mounted, and training will be offered as soon as possible.

The House and Grounds committee reported that we had some roof shingles replaced, lights replaced, and a few other jobs need to be done as well. Wes Weirs will be doing our landscaping this summer. But he will be moving at some point so anyone who wants to help out then please contact the H&G committee.

When signing up for the weekly flowers, please do so at least 2 WEEKS in advance. This will help Amber to keep the weekly bulletins accurate since they are prepared very early in the week.

There will be order forms for Easter flowers on the credenza at the back of the church. Please fill them out legibly and return them with payment by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The next meeting will be on June 8<sup>th</sup>. We adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.



## **Fun and laughter**

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“Here cometh April again,” said poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834). “And as far as I can see, the world hath more fools than ever.”

That second observation may or may not be true, but April does indeed begin on a lighter note. April Fools’ Day, which is filled with practical jokes, can also be a reminder to thank God for laughter, joy, funny stories, children’s antics and other things that make us smile.

Then one week after Easter, on what’s known as Holy Humor Sunday, some churches celebrate that God played the supreme joke on death. Jesus’ resurrection is cause for joy, smiles and, yes, laughter. Even the Almighty joins in: “He who sits in the heavens laughs” (Psalm 2:4).



### **BULLETIN BLOOPERS**

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

On Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the carpet, please come forward and get a piece of paper.

For those of you who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing “Break Forth Into Joy”.

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister’s daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Today’s Sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? With hymns from a full choir.

Hymn 43: “Great God, what do I see here?”

Preacher: The Rev. Horace Blodgett

Hymn 47: “Hark! An awful voice is sounding”

Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don’t forget your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.





I've got that  
**JOY, JOY, JOY, JOY**  
Down in my heart! YOU DO??!!



Then I have a way you can share it with kids!  
**CAMP JOY SUMMER PROGRAM**

Since its inception, **Camp J.O.Y.** has played a significant role in the transformation of children with unproductive and unsupervised time - into children with real life experiences and creative interactivity during and after **Camp J.O. Y.**

The acronym for **JOY** is **J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ou!

Where: Our Savior Lutheran Church  
26 Brunswick Blvd.  
Buffalo, New York

When: July 7, 2025 through August 15, 2025  
Monday through Friday  
8:30am - 4:30pm

**FORGET IT, THAT'S TOO MUCH TIME FOR ME TO VOLUNTEER!**

**WRONG.... COULD YOU GIVE JUST 1 HOUR IN THAT 6 WEEK CAMP??**

**CAMP JOY** is looking for high school students to active senior citizens that would like to help as few or as many hours as possible. Help relieve the staff doing 6 weeks and 8 hours a day. HOW? One hour of teaching any activity you enjoy now. Recreational games, music hour, arts and crafts, helping children in academic needs: reading, writing and math too. Monetary donations are always appreciated for a very small budgeted program. Always appreciate prayers for a successful Christian Program.

You pick the day, the hour and the activity!!! All that is needed is for you to care enough for our future generations of young people hearing **GOD'S WORD**, and being witnessed to by real Christians, giving and sharing the talents God gave you!

CONTACT DIRECTOR: BARBARA GLOVER - CELL 716-310-7297

EMAIL: [bdg12948@gmail.com](mailto:bdg12948@gmail.com)

God bless this **JOY SUMMER CAMP** and keep you always in his care!



# Join Us This Summer for the



## 27TH ANNUAL LUTHERAN CHARITIES GOLF CLASSIC



**DATE:** MONDAY, JUNE 30TH

**PLACE:** *Exclusive Use of the*  
**PENDELTON  
CREEK  
GOLF CLUB**

4385 Tonawanda Creek Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
(716) 694-0366

**COST:** **\$150 PER GOLFER**

Includes lunch, golf and cart fees, 1-hour  
open bar and buffet dinner.

**Non-Golfing Guests: \$50**

Includes 1-hour open bar and buffet dinner.

### SCHEDULE:

11 AM Registration  
Lunch  
Driving Range Open  
  
Noon Shotgun Start  
  
4-5 PM Open Bar  
  
5 PM Dinner & Awards



### REGISTER & PAY ONLINE!

Visit:

[www.wnylutherancharities.org](http://www.wnylutherancharities.org)



or Contact Us at:  
Lutheran Charities of WNY  
6540 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
(716) 632-2623

[info@wnylutherancharities.org](mailto:info@wnylutherancharities.org)

or  
See Your Golf Committee Representative

### CONTESTS

#### PRIZES & AWARDS

Closest to the Pin  
Longest Drive

**First Place Trophies**  
Scramble Format

#### HELP YOUR SCORE!

Buy Mulligans & Strings

#### TRY YOUR LUCK!

50/50

Basket Raffle  
with "Big Ticket" Items

### GOLF WITH A PURPOSE

100% of proceeds from our annual golf classic supports our mission  
to care for and support individuals, families and communities  
by building valuable connections to create synergy and empowerment.  
This is achieved by underwriting grant funding for various service agencies  
throughout Western New York that provide education, food, health care, social support  
and more to our at-risk and neediest neighbors.



## **2023–2025 Mission Grant #18**

### **Zoe's Home Support**

#### **Zoe's Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO**

##### **About This Mission Grant**

Zoe's Home, a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church in Clinton, Missouri, helps homeless and at-risk pregnant and parenting women in need. The home enables women at risk of abortion or losing parental custody to overcome their current life situations and obstacles.

Residents of Zoe's Home engage in spiritual care through church activities and required Bible studies. The women participate in activities and classes to grow life skills in parenting, finances, cooking, and hygiene.

After a one-year stay in Zoe's Home, the residents' goals are to complete their education, find steady employment, procure reliable transportation, attain financial independence, find independent housing, and actively engage in church and community support services.

This grant will provide funds to meet the costs to ensure housing, food, transportation, life skills education, case management, and staffing for Zoe's Home.



*The outside of Zoe's Home. This is the view from the street.*



*When you enter the home, you walk into the living and dining room areas. This is the view facing the door.*





*We have a small dining area that adjoins the living room area.*



*The kitchen area*



*This is the hallway that leads to the bedrooms and bathrooms. Due to having current residents, we opted to not show bedrooms at this time. We have three bedrooms with two bathrooms.*



**660 MASON RIDGE CENTER DRIVE**

**ST. LOUIS, MO 63141-8557**

**1-800-876-9880**

### **Connecting with the Arabic-Speaking World Through Social Media**

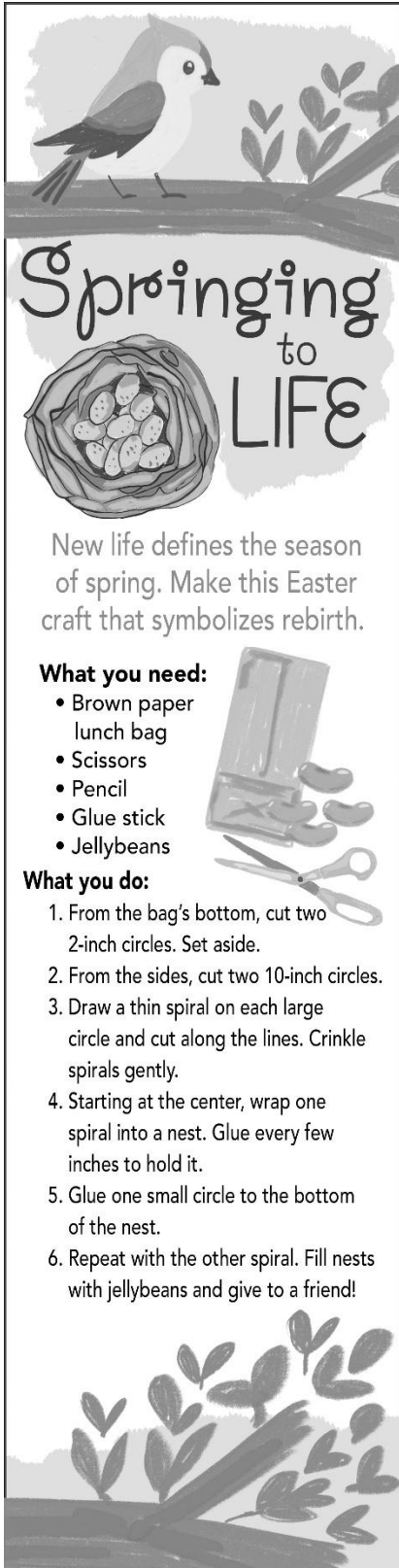
People throughout the Middle East and North Africa region face daily hardships that often lead to hopelessness. As political tensions rise in several countries, people are living in fear. LHM continues to serve as a source of hope and comfort for the entire Arabic-speaking world by offering relevant social media content that addresses the daily challenges people encounter.

LHM staff has learned from previous experience that more people seek God's comfort during times of crisis, even in a region where 96 percent of the population is non-Christian. Nearly 1.05 million people now subscribe to LHM's main regional Facebook page and receive regular messages of inspiration. In a single month, thousands of people engaged with our regional ministry team - and seven people came to faith, praying with staff online or over the phone.

Twenty-nine-year-old Djimet lives in Chad, a country facing numerous trials. One day, he came across a post about anxiety from an account run by LHM staff in the Middle East and North Africa. The post resonated with him and he liked it. Later, he saw a short video from the LHM account that he found interesting, so he sent a message to LHM staff. Djimet communicated with staff members for several days and discovered ideas that challenged his existing beliefs and sparked a desire to learn more. Through personal stories from staff and in-depth discussions, he gained a new understanding of hope and redemption. Through the Holy Spirit, Djimet grasped the core message of the Gospel and embraced faith in Jesus Christ. Djimet has a newfound purpose in life as he continues to grow in his faith.

Living in war-torn Yemen, Tamir was feeling anxious and emotionally empty when he came across an LHM Facebook post. He messaged the LHM staff and began asking questions about Christianity. The staff member shared the Gospel message with him, and Tamir spent the next few days messaging back and forth, asking questions, and reading Bible verses the staff sent. He learned Jesus' teachings of love, forgiveness, and eternal life. Tamir felt a spark of hope he had not known before. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Tamir became a Christian. He felt a new purpose, a newfound understanding that filled his emptiness. He had found hope, not just for this life, but for eternity.

"After many years, I am still in awe of how God uses our ministry to harness technology to reach people from diverse backgrounds in this part of the world," says LHM's regional director for Africa and the Middle East.



# Springing to LIFE

New life defines the season of spring. Make this Easter craft that symbolizes rebirth.

## What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans



## What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



## OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

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

1. C → ↓ ↓ \_\_\_\_\_
2. H → ↑ → \_\_\_\_\_
3. V ↑ → ↓ \_\_\_\_\_
4. I ← ← ↑ \_\_\_\_\_
5. T ↑ ← ↑ \_\_\_\_\_
6. P ↑ → → ↓ \_\_\_\_\_
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓ \_\_\_\_\_
8. T ↑ ← ↑ ← \_\_\_\_\_



Praise be to the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

\_\_\_\_\_ into a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV

Answer: new birth

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY  
NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>.**