



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

www.pilgrimkenmorecms.org

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

AUGUST 2025

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

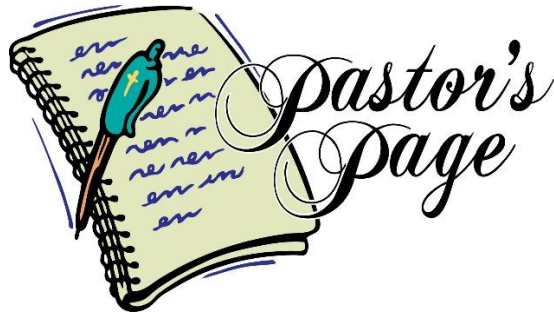
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





This will not be done in consecutive months, but over the course of the next year I will walk you through the Divine Service, in particular Divine Service setting 3 pg. 184-202, so that you may know better how and why we do what we do. Everything in church has meaning that points us to the faith, Scripture and Christ. For this first one, we will look at confession and absolution.

First we have an opening hymn or hymn of invocation, for churches that do an opening procession, which involves the Pastor and several helpers processing (walking) from the back of the sanctuary to the front, this order includes the crucifer (cross bearer), the lucifers (light bearers), the person who carries the Scriptures (lectionary book), and the Pastor or Pastors. The purpose of the hymn is to get the Pastor from the back of the sanctuary to the front of the sanctuary.

Then we have invocation, in which we recognize that we come before the Lord, the triune God, and seek His Forgiveness, His Word, and His Sacrament. We do this by reciting the trinitarian formula found in Matthew 28: 19. Every part of the liturgy comes from Scripture and if you look off to the right-hand side of the page you will see these references. You will also notice that I face the altar when doing this, this reason is very fascinating or at least I think so. This being that I the Pastor am both a worshipper and the one in the stead of Christ giving Christ's gifts to you. To simplify, if I am facing the altar I am a worshipper, and if I face you then I am giving you Christ in His stead.

After the invocation, we have the call to confession inspired by Hebrews 10:22. The verse tells us that when we walk in faith, we will receive what the Lord has promised us, the forgiveness of sins, and He will do it. This is followed by a confession that the Lord is our help taken from the words of King David in Psalm 124:8, and a declaration of confession from King David in Psalm 32.

After a short silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination, we then confess our sins. Now you will notice that are two columns for the confession and absolution, the right side is for when the liturgy is led by someone who is not ordained, you will see under the "P" for the absolution and that the word "we" is used instead of the word "I" as on the left column. We call this the general absolution which also comes from Scripture: Mark 16:16 and John 1:12. But we normally use the left side column, because I am an ordained Pastor and thus called in Christ's stead. I can give God's forgiveness in His place. In the confession we truthfully confess that we are sinners who have been brought low by sins and that we deserve punishment both in this temporal life and in eternity and that we desire forgiveness. However, we make an appeal to the Father for His Grace and His Mercy, asking Him to remember the sufferings and death of His Son Jesus Christ.

Then in the absolution we remember the words of John 20:19-23, in which Christ has sent the Apostles and future Pastors to go and pronounce the forgiveness of sins in His Name. And so, in the authority given me by Christ, just as the Apostles and many Pastors before me, I pronounce the forgiveness of your confessed sins in the Trinitarian name, making the sign of the cross out in front of me, so that you know that it is the Lord who is forgiving you.

Have comfort therefore that when you come to the Lord's House, you are in Heaven being served by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as He has promised.

Christ blessings

Rev. David J. Walsh



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE AUGUST 2025

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEKEND OF	Aug. 2-3	Aug. 9-10	Aug. 16-17	Aug. 23-24	Aug. 30-31
READER (Sat/Sun)	Pastor/ Carolyn Alessi	Rhonda Mohr/TBD	Pastor/ Mary Werth	Rhonda Mohr/ Sue Holway	Pastor/ Kathy Farkas
USHERS	Eric Fellner/ Melody Keef	Mike & Dianne Wuerch	Ed Walsh/ Eric Fellner	Mike Wuerch/ Tim McGuan	Melody Keef/ Ed Walsh
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	TBD	Ed Walsh	Jim Hartz	Ed Walsh	Eric Fellner

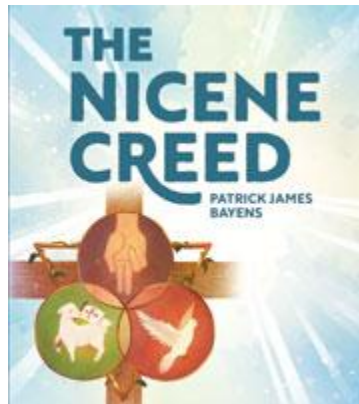
(If you cannot serve on the day scheduled, please notify Tim McGuan (716) 418-5484, Ed Walsh (585) 747-1503 or Dan Griebel (716) 259-9704. ALSO, PLEASE CALL AMBER SO SHE CAN CORRECTLY PUT THE CHANGE IN THE BULLETIN. Thank you.)



COUNTERS

(IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COUNT THE DATE YOU ARE ASSIGNED, PLEASE LET JIM HARTZ KNOW.)

Aug. 3	Aug. 10	Aug. 17	Aug. 24	Aug. 31
TBD	Mike Wuerch	Sue Holway	Carolyn Alessi	Dianne Wuerch
Dolores Zeeb	Jim Hartz	Kathy Farkas	Janice Vogel	Nancy Loster



Sunday school will be celebrated August 10th at 9:00 a.m. in the lower level of the church. Margaret Walsh will be teaching the children about the Nicene Creed. Mrs. Walsh will be sharing *The Nicene Creed*, by Patrick James Bayens, published by CPH. This book, written for children, helps young people understand the creed and the beautiful words we all profess and proclaim. We invite all young people to attend.



The gift of the Bible

Certain parts of the Bible are hard to understand — and even harder to explain to children. But the late Rachel Held Evans made a start, and then coauthor Matthew Paul Turner completed *What Is the Bible?* This picture book can help adults as well as kids receive the gift of Scripture.

The Bible is often described as a library of books. Held and Turner explain that it's also many different kinds of writing: stories, poems, wise sayings, songs, letters. Scripture tells of Creation, good and evil rulers, miraculous events, animals that spoke or brought food to hungry people, even monsters!

The best part, the authors write, is that "in the Bible we meet Jesus, who teaches us new things about God, faith, and ourselves" — above all, that God loves us. "And if a story in [Scripture] is confusing or scary or sad, we can imagine how Jesus, who loves us, might tell us that story."

Bible scholars call this "the canon within the canon." As Christians, we read all other parts of Scripture through the lens of the Gospels, where we meet God *in person*, as Jesus. Similarly, 500 years ago Martin Luther called the Bible "the cradle that holds the Christ." That's a word-picture even children can grasp!



Gary Smith	Aug. 11
Margaret Walsh	Aug. 19
Carol Obot	Aug. 22
Adaline Trimmer	Aug. 23
Eric Fellner	Aug. 26



Aug. 26 Tim & Sharon McGuan

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS: A THANK YOU AND A REQUEST

We thank all the people who bake, purchase supplies, set up, clean up and host our Fellowship Hour. Your ministry is important to our congregation! In Fellowship Time we share our faith, lives, prayers and concern for one another.

I have inventoried the items in the kitchen and placed the list of items, with the number of each item, on the wall near the coffee pots. A couple of us from Esther Circle usually purchase items for the kitchen. Recently we were low on a couple of items. They have been restocked.

PLEASE HELP US BY WRITING ANY ITEMS YOU THINK WE NEED ON THE BLANK SHEET NEAR THE INVENTORY. PLEASE LIST THE ITEM AND THE DATE OF YOUR REQUEST SO WE CAN PURCHASE WHAT IS NEEDED.

Again, thank you for your service and for helping us keep the kitchen supplied.

Sharon McGuan

Spring 2025 (April-June)

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Volume 22 Issue 1

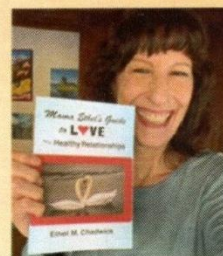


LWML 2025 Eastern District Fall Retreat



Join us Friday to Sunday, September 19-21, 2025, at Lutherlyn Camp, 500 Lutherlyn Lane, Butler PA 16001, www.lutherlyn.com, for the Eastern District Retreat, hosted by the Genesee Zone. The Theme is **What a Friend We Have in Jesus** based on **John 15:14-15** *"You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends"*.

The Retreat Committee has planned a weekend that you will want to attend! The Speaker is Ethel Chadwick who has hosted a radio ministry called "Bagels and Blessings" in Rochester, NY for 26 years. Some of you may remember that in 2014 Ethel was our Retreat Guest Speaker. Ethel has also written a book entitled "Mama Ethel's Guide to Love and Happy Relationships".



We will have breakout sessions, a Worship Service on Sunday, time for fellowship, being in God's Word, relaxing, and renewal. Come and enjoy being in God's outdoor creation!

Our Gifts from the Heart donations are for their children's programming at Lutherlyn Camp: embroidery floss, new washable markers, new colored pencils, paint brushes, construction paper, colored tissue paper, glue sticks, and gift cards from Amazon, Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart.

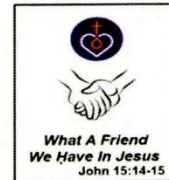
PLEASE NOTE: There is a new directive from National LWML that everyone must sign the Transportation Release. It will be on the Registration Form.

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1, NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BEFORE THEN


LWML Eastern District Retreat 2025 September 19-21, 2025
What a Friend We Have in Jesus John 15:14-15

Hosted By: Genesee Zone

Lutherlyn Camp 500 Lutherlyn Lane Butler, PA 16001

www.lutherlyn.com


Name: _____			
Address: _____			
City: _____		Church & Zip: _____	
State: _____	Zip: _____	Phone: () _____	Email: _____
If this is your FIRST TIME attending Eastern District Retreat, please check here: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I'm very excited!			
FULL TIME			
>Registration Per Person Includes: Registration Fee, 2 Nights Lodging, 5 Meals		\$200.00	\$ _____
> Late fee if postmarked after Aug. 18, 2025		\$ 45.00	\$ _____
NOTE: A \$45.00 minimum deposit required with Full Time Registration		Payment Enclosed	\$ _____
		Balance Due	\$ _____
PART-TIME			
NO LODGING > Saturday Only-- Saturday lunch & dinner & all Saturday programming (Includes \$45.00 Registration Fee)		\$ 90.00	\$ _____
WITH LODGING			
Friday-Saturday > Friday lodging, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner and all programming w/ Reg Fee		\$140.00	\$ _____
Saturday-Sunday > Sat. lodging, Sat. lunch & dinner, Sunday breakfast and programming w/Reg Fee		\$140.00	\$ _____
> Late fee if postmarked after Aug. 18, 2025		\$ 45.00	\$ _____
Note: A \$45.00 minimum deposit required with Part-Time Registration		Payment Enclosed	\$ _____
		Balance Due	\$ _____
Commuter: >5 meals and programming (Includes: \$45.00-Registration Fee)		\$120.00	\$ _____
> Late fee if postmarked after Aug. 18, 2025		\$ 45.00	\$ _____
		Payment Enclosed	\$ _____
CABINS: Cabins have 8 lower bunks, 4 upper bunks, 2 bathrooms with showers. Cabins can be separated into 2 rooms. NO LINENS WILL BE PROVIDED NO PETS ALLOWED SMOKING ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS IF YOU WANT TO BE HOUSED TOGETHER, PLEASE LIST GROUP			
Roommates:		Church/Group	
Lower Bunk:	Upper Bunk:	Other:	Hearing Impaired
Dietary Needs:	Special Needs:	CHOIR PARTICIPATION ALTO or SOPRANO	Will Need Golf Cart for Transportation:
EVERYONE MUST SIGN TRANSPORTATION RELEASE: I agree (for myself, heirs, and personal representatives) not to sue, and I release, indemnify and hold harmless, LWML, LWML Eastern District, volunteers, and designees from all liability, claims, demands and causes of action of any kind due to my use of the golf cart for transportation services and/or travel to/from Retreat even if the liability, claim, demand or cause of action result from negligence of any of the above or from any other cause.			
SIGNATURE _____		DATE _____	
Registration Deadline: August 18, 2025 (postmarked by August 18th) Registration not accepted before May 1st. **No registration forms will be accepted after August 18th **Balance due must be paid (postmarked) by August 18th or a late fee will be applied (\$45) Cancellations: \$45.00 deposits are non-refundable. Cancellations for MEDICAL REASONS will be reviewed based upon letter of notification to Eastern District President. Non-Sufficient Fund Fee: Charge of \$35 will be assessed on checks returned by bank. **Make Checks Payable to LWML Eastern District** Mail completed form, payment, and self-addressed stamped envelope (for return confirmation) to: Judy Morrison 7 Albano Drive Hilton, NY 14468 585-484-8138 juclmemo@gmail.com *Registrations without stamped envelopes will receive email confirmation*			
Retreat Use Only	Balance Paid: _____	Balance Due: _____	Date: _____ Check#: _____



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our meeting this month is on Monday, August 11th, at 12:30 p.m. at the church. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend. After the business meeting, we will be discussing chapters 9-12 from the book “The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe”.

We will be having a BAKE SALE on Saturday, August 16, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please refer to the flyer in this issue. Sign-up sheets are posted on the announcement board at church for Helpers and Baked Goods. Your support is needed and appreciated. Thank you.

REMINDERS: Dash’s receipts go to Sue Holway; mites (loose change) go to Karen Smith (or you can leave them in the big Mite box on the table at the rear of the sanctuary) and cancelled stamps go to Sharon McGuan. All these collections go to mission outreach projects.

August is the last month of Summer. It sure has been a warm one 🤖. Enjoy!

God Bless!

🙏 Carol Obot



An Episcopal diocesan bishop went to an unfamiliar church to celebrate the Eucharist. There was a microphone on the altar, and being uncertain whether it was switched on, he tapped it gently with no result. So, leaning very close to it, he said in a loud whisper which echoed around the church: “There is something very wrong with this microphone.” The well-trained and responsive congregation, very familiar with the latest in liturgical language, replied at once, “And also with you.”

Sign spotted in a Washington, DC, church parking lot: “No Parking. Violators will be baptized.”

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.

August 2025

Did you know? This month we celebrate both Augustine of Hippo and his mother Monica. Augustine wrote some really important theological works including his Confessions and City of God. He wasn't a believer in his youth. His mother Monica constantly prayed for his conversion and God answered that prayer!

Bible verse of the month: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" -Matthew 28:19

Catechism: The Eighth commandment and it's explanation:

What is the Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?: We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Liturgical seasons and colors (look on the altar and pastor) for July: Weeks after Pentecost-green

Christian symbol of the month: The symbol to the right is called a Chi-Ro. It was implemented by Constantine I as a royal standard. It's from the 1st two Greek letters of the word Christos (Christ). The way the two letters are put together you can kind of see a cross.

Hymn of the month: (definitely check out the other verses in the hymnal, for the sake of space we have v. 1 only here) Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word -LSB#655

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;

Curb those who by deceit or sword

Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son

And bring to naught all He has done

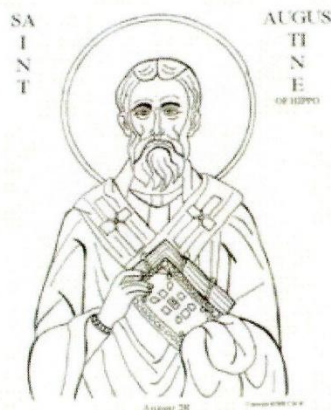
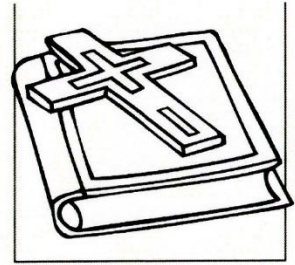
Church festivals, observances, Saint Days in August:

3rd-Joanna, Mary, & Salome (Myrrhbearers) 10th-Lawrence (Deacon & Martyr) 15th-St. Mary, Mother of our Lord

16th-Isaac (ancestor of Christ) 17th-Johann Gerhard (Theologian) 19th-Bernard of Clairvaux (Hymnwriter)

20th-Samuel (prophet) 24th-St. Bartholomew (apostle) 27th-Monica (mother of Augustine)

28th-Augustine of Hippo (Pastor and theologian) 29th-Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist





This month we continue our journey through the Psalms.

Aug. 1 – Ps. 109:1-20	Aug. 9 – Psalm 116	Aug. 17 – Ps. 119:33-40	Aug. 25 – Ps. 119:97-104
Aug. 2 – Ps. 109:21-31	Aug. 10 – Psalm 117	Aug. 18 – Ps. 119:41-48	Aug. 26 – Ps. 119:105-112
Aug. 3 – Psalm 110	Aug. 11 – Ps. 118:1-16	Aug. 19 – Ps. 119:49-56	Aug. 27 – Ps. 119:113-120
Aug. 4 – Psalm 111	Aug. 12 – Ps. 118:17-29	Aug. 20 – Ps. 119:57-64	Aug. 28 – Ps. 119:121-128
Aug. 5 – Psalm 112	Aug. 13 – Ps. 119:1-8	Aug. 21 – Ps. 119:65-72	Aug. 29 – Ps. 119:129-136
Aug. 6 – Psalm 113	Aug. 14 – Ps. 119:9-16	Aug. 22 – Ps. 119:73-80	Aug. 30 – Ps. 119:137-144
Aug. 7 – Psalm 114	Aug. 15 – Ps. 119:17-24	Aug. 23 – Ps. 119:81-88	Aug. 31 – Ps. 119:145-152
Aug. 8 – Psalm 115	Aug. 16 – Ps. 119:25-32	Aug. 24 – Ps. 119:89-96	



The challenge of Scripture

GQ magazine recently included the Bible on a list of 21 books not worth reading, calling the text “repetitive” and “foolish” (among other things). Pushback came from both secular and religious folks. Writing in *USA Today*, Tim Swarens argued that even if you don’t believe in God, the Bible helps you understand Western culture, history, current events and your neighbors.

For Christians, the Bible — God’s inspired Word — reveals God’s love and will. It isn’t always easy to read or process, but no other book contains such good news.

As Danielle Shroyer writes in *Original Blessing*, “Scripture is a sacred book meant to provoke us in ways that will move us toward God. And often, that is the very last thing we are looking for. We would rather have an answer, a simple plan, even a nicely tidy moral story. But Scripture gives us none of these things, because the holy is anything but domestic. We go looking to find a plan and instead are sent on a treasure hunt.”



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lhfmisions.org

At a residence in one of mainland China's huge cities, a package arrives. The resident happily receives his long-awaited package, a box containing Luther's *Small Catechism* and other Lutheran books in his Chinese language. Finally, he can learn more about Jesus Christ!

Four weeks later...

A knock comes at that same door. When the homeowner answers, he is surprised to see the police. "Where are the books you received?" the officers demand. "What have you done with them?"

The police take the books and force the man to tell them his social media passwords, then give him a stern warning about receiving any more books from overseas.

This true event illustrates the challenge of being a Christian in communist China. Rev. Wang (LHF's layout artist for simplified Chinese translations) is well aware of the dangers.

"From the Chinese government's perspective, Christian publications from the West are very dangerous," Rev. Wang explained. "People can be charged with spreading information illegally. I know a pastor who was convicted of illegal publication and distribution. He was sentenced to prison for 7 years, and he is still in prison."

Restrictions of the state church

The Chinese government does allow some Christian churches to openly practice the faith, including the Catholic Church and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), the official government-supervised organization for Protestantism. All Protestant denominations are lumped together in the TSPM because "the government sees different denominations as a threat to political unity," Rev. Wang said. "If you have denominations, you're going to fight."

The Chinese Communist Party rules the TSPM and has the power to register churches and censor them. Any indications of outreach or attempts to convert new believers — including one's own children — are quickly squashed.

"There is no infant baptism," Rev. Wang explained. "The government doesn't allow baptism under the age of 18; it's against the law. Also, if you're under 18, you're not allowed to go into a church building. This is enforced very strictly in China today."

Development of house churches

"So if parents want their children to go to church, they go to a house church," Rev. Wang said. (Rev. Wang was raised in a house church himself. To read more about his life and ministry, [click here](#).)

Although house churches and their activities are illegal in China, believers persist in gathering for Bible study and worship. Due to the secretive nature, it's impossible to know how many house churches exist in the country, but believers are numbered in the millions. Rev. Wang's own congregation has about 50 baptized members whose worship life revolves around LHF's simplified Chinese translation of Luther's *Small Catechism*.

The treasure of the catechism

In their weekly worship, Rev. Wang leads his congregation through the *Small Catechism*: recognizing their sin through the 10 Commandments, confessing their faith in the Savior through the Apostles' Creed, learning to pray through the Lord's Prayer and more.

"I think that Luther's *Small Catechism* is like a small Bible," Rev. Wang related. "As a Lutheran Christian, I can't leave this book! I have benefited not only from reading it, but also from implementing it in our daily lives — for example, when we repent, when we are sad, when we doubt the Lord."

For Chinese Christians, LHF's translations are a lifeline to other Christians throughout the world, reminding them that though they may be isolated, they are not alone.

Outcasts in an atheist world

As China's economy has grown and the values of financial success and hard work have taken root, many Chinese Christians experience additional scorn from their atheist and Buddhist family and neighbors.

"For sure, there is isolation as a Christian in China, and some hostility," Rev. Wang shared. "There's no tolerance for Christians. People think you're crazy, you're lazy, you're weak, you don't work hard. [Because we focus on eternal life], they think we just want to escape into another world. 'Who cares about eternal life? We're trying to make money.'"

"For Lutherans, it's worse because even among Christians in general, Lutheranism is such a tiny, strange circle. Why would you want to be a Lutheran? They think we are bizarre."

To provide more faith-building resources and help Chinese Christians minimize the risks of printed books, Rev. Wang works part-time for LHF, doing graphic design and layout of new books, such as the upcoming *God's Word For You*. Because LHF owns the copyright to this book, it's going to be freely distributed digitally in China. People will be able to download the brightly illustrated Bible storybook and forward to others.

Interestingly, the Chinese government doesn't seem to be able to track digital exchanges efficiently. "We just pass around PDFs," Rev. Wang said. "It's very hard for the government to track. There are so many people doing it that they can't catch everyone. So digital publications are very useful in the life of the church."

"The government is in charge, and even though the situation is not very pleasant in China, the Lord is gracious!" Rev. Wang concluded. "Christians are tested through trials, and their faith is purified. We trust in the Lord for His Church."





2023–2025 Mission Grants

1. Orphan Grain Train Servant Center — Orphan Grain Train, U.S. \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
2. A Healing Space for At-Risk Children — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
3. Serving God's Children with Special Needs — Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
4. Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment — Lutheran Braille Workers \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
5. Disaster Response Team — Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX \$50,000 — PAID IN FULL
6. Mobile Kitchen — Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S. \$85,000 — PAID IN FULL
7. Upheld by God's Hand, Mental Health Outreach — LCMS Life Ministry \$96,500 — PAID IN FULL
8. Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
9. Equipping Young Leaders — LCMS Youth Ministry \$50,000 — PAID IN FULL
10. Set Apart To Serve — LCMS Office of Pastoral Education \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
11. Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job — Ministry in Mission, Haiti \$85,000 — PAID IN FULL
12. Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth — Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, LA \$35,000 — PAID IN FULL
13. Water and the Word — Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya \$80,000 — PAID IN FULL
14. Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach — Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, U.S. \$47,000 — PAID IN FULL
15. Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals — Trinity HOPE \$58,082 — PAID IN FULL
16. Care for Street Children of Western Kenya — Capstone Ministries \$50,000 — PAID IN FULL
17. Nurturing Faith for the Aging — Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew) \$100,000 — Partial payment of \$50,000
18. Zoe's Home Support — Zoe's Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO \$75,000 — PAID IN FULL

19. Tanzania Children's Homes — Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa \$74,500 — PAID IN FULL
20. Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan — Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
21. Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church — Lutheran Family Services, U.S. \$106,000 — PAID IN FULL
22. Expanding Gospel Outreach to Hispanics in U.S. — Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
23. A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children — Lutheran Special Education Ministries, U.S. \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
24. God's Word for Central and South American Missions — Lutheran Heritage Foundation \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
25. Bringing God's Word to India — India Bible Translation Project \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
26. Life Connection Events and Kits — Lutherans for Life \$70,000 — PAID IN FULL
27. Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry — Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, NE \$50,000 — PAID IN FULL
28. Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students — Our Place After School Care, Inc., NE \$20,000 — PAID IN FULL
29. Repairs for St. Paul's Lutheran School — St. Paul Lutheran School, Cullman, AL \$50,000 — PAID IN FULL
30. Showering Love on the Least of These — Mercy Holistic Ministry, CA \$100,000 — PAID IN FULL
31. Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit — Camp Restore Detroit, MI \$58,988.62 — PAID IN FULL





2025–2027 Mission Grants

1. Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailers — LCMS Office of National Mission, Disaster Response Ministry, U.S. — \$81,500
2. Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons — Orphan Grain Train, Europe — \$100,000
3. Portable Laundry Trailer — Forged by Fire Services, U.S. — \$100,700
4. The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers — LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S. — \$100,000
5. Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print — Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S. — \$100,000
6. Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients — Phil's Friends, U.S. — \$100,000
7. Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers — A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc., Wisconsin — \$75,000
8. Building a Place of Care — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota — \$60,000
9. Introducing Muslims to the Savior — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Global — \$100,000
10. Healing Your Heart — Faith-based Child Counseling — Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin, U.S. — \$100,000
11. NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis — Lutheran Family Service, Iowa — \$92,500
12. Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field — Lutheran Hour Ministries, U.S. — \$100,000
13. Reaching God's Children in Haiti — Trinity HOPE, Haiti — \$61,782
14. Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel — The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Asia — \$100,000

15. Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA — Concordia Publishing House — Concordia Gospel Outreach, U.S. — \$125,000
16. The Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa — Sierra Leone and Liberia — Project: Pastoral Education West Africa — \$86,000
17. Mobilizing After School Care for Teens — Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Nebraska — \$69,500
18. Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses — Tanzania — Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Africa — \$100,000
19. Support Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber — LCMS Missionaries to the Dominican Republic, North America — \$10,000
20. Mercy Triumphs: LCMS Prison Ministry — LCMS Office of National Mission, U.S. — \$84,500
21. Shining a Bright Gospel Light — Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Mobile, Alabama — \$78,675
22. Redeeming Life New Moms and Babies Transition Home — Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Illinois — \$100,000
23. Sharing Faith and Food with Single Mothers — Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas — \$38,800
24. Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat — Arizona, U.S. — \$100,000
25. Pastoral Wellness: Pastor Family Week — Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina — \$15,000
26. Developing Capable Christian High School Leaders — Sioux Falls Lutheran School, South Dakota — \$100,000
27. Teaching Christ to the Physically Handicapped — Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, Louisiana — \$12,000
28. Mission Opportunities for a New Generation — MOST Ministries, Global — \$50,000
29. Sharing God's Love and Changing Lives of Families — Camp Restore Detroit, Michigan — \$81,313
30. Increasing Access to Lutheran Counseling Services — Concordia Counseling: A Lutheran Outreach Ministry, Inc., Indiana — \$100,000
31. Speaking Truth Around the Table — Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, U.S. — \$75,000
32. Proclaiming Christ in Honduras — Mision Evangelica Luterana Confesional en Honduras, Central America — \$25,000
33. Reaching Out with God's Love in a Safe Place — Forward, a Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska — \$100,000

Esther Circle Bake Sale



**Saturday, August 16th
9 am – 3 pm**

If You Love to Bake...

We Are Looking For
Pies, Mini Breads, Cookies,
Brownies, Cakes, Dog Treats, etc.

Please Label if any items Contain Nuts!

All Items Delivered at the Church
Friday August 15th
2pm-5pm



660 MASON RIDGE CENTER DRIVE

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141-8557

1-800-876-9880

Sharing Christ's Love Through Holistic Ministry

Martin Luther believed that deeds of love expressed toward one's fellow human beings through works of charity were the vocation to which every Christian is called. This is also the teaching of Jesus Himself, who said the "greatest commandment" is to love God and love your neighbor "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (see Matthew 22:36-39).

What Lutheran Hour Ministries calls "holistic ministry" today is aimed at loving our neighbor, and therefore loving Christ Himself, through word and deed. LHM's ministry centers often incorporate holistic approaches to sharing the Gospel that address people's physical and emotional needs as well as spiritual ones.

LHM's on-the-ground presence in many locations around the world often allows staff and volunteers to respond quickly following natural disasters. This was the case in Myanmar following a 7.7 magnitude earthquake in March that devastated not only that country but reached into neighboring Thailand. Thankfully, LHM staff in both locations are confirmed safe. However, the earthquake resulted in more than 3,500 deaths and left thousands of others injured or missing.

LHM-Myanmar staff recently visited the earthquake zone to provide much needed assistance to the survivors. In addition to providing daily necessities, staff supported victims with Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Spiritual Support (PSS) programs. These programs encourage affected individuals to better cope with their situation, connect them with others who can provide support and understanding, and allow them to focus on a future filled with recovery and healing. Please continue to pray for those affected by this devastating tragedy as well as our staff and volunteers as they build ongoing relationships with survivors in the coming months.

LHM-Sri Lanka recently organized four successful events to assist more than 300 families who had been impacted by severe flooding. Each event provided essential dry cooking items like rice, flour, milk powder, spices, tea, and biscuits as well as hygiene items such as soap.

LHM staff also had an opportunity to share the Gospel message through songs, a short message, and a teledrama. The response from affected families was overwhelming, and many expressed their sincere gratitude to LHM–Sri Lanka for assisting them in this way.

“Often the recipients of holistic efforts like this desire to learn more about the God who motivates these Christians to reach out in love,” says LHM CEO Kurt Buchholz.

In communities where people struggle with poverty, LHM ministry centers often assist individuals through vocational training, educational materials, nutritional supplements, hygiene supplies, or medical clinics. These efforts open doors for LHM to share Christ-centered resources and invite people to participate in **Bible Correspondence Courses** and other ministry programs.

In early March, **LHM–Cameroon** celebrated the 11th graduating class from its Divine Sewing School. The celebration was featured on the national news in Cameroon that evening where millions of people watched and heard about this transformative program that rescues women who have been victims of violence by teaching them a trade.

The young women learn how to dye cloth, create and cut clothing patterns, sew, and custom tailor their creations so they can financially support themselves upon graduating from the program. The relationships established during this long-term course help LHM staff and volunteers share their faith as trusted friends to these young women. But above all, the program helps these women find hope through Jesus, so they can face life with confidence.

A similar program in **Liberia**, the Dorcas Sewing Class, continues to experience great success in attracting both Christians and non-Christians and empowering them through skills development and fellowship. This initiative not only helps women gain practical skills for developing financial independence but also fosters a sense of community among the participants—many who hear the Gospel for the first time during the ongoing classes.

During the program’s most recent graduation ceremony, 38-year-old Lovetta was recognized not only for her exceptional skill but also for her inspiring resilience. Having recently lost her husband, Lovetta faced the daunting challenge of providing for her family on her own. Despite her grief, she committed herself wholeheartedly to the sewing program, determined to build a new life for herself and her five children. As the ceremony progressed, the atmosphere was filled with anticipation as LHM–Liberia prepared to honor her dedication in a special way.

To Lovetta’s surprise and delight, ministry staff presented her with a brand-new sewing machine, a gesture that brought tears to her eyes. The machine was more than just a tool - it was a lifeline, a symbol of hope, and a means to rebuild her life after the devastating loss of her husband. The room erupted in applause as Lovetta, overwhelmed with gratitude, expressed her thanks to LHM–Liberia for empowering her to turn her skills into a sustainable livelihood.



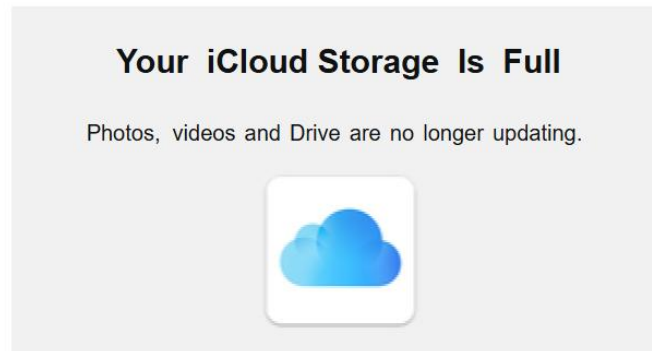
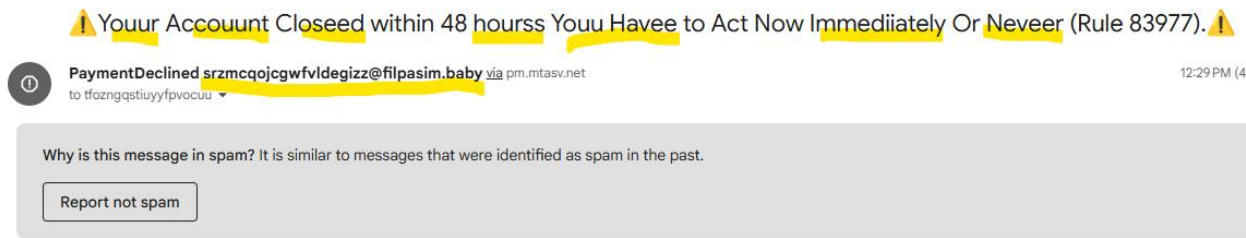
Cyber Corner for August

This month I want to focus some more on Phishing. As I said they have whole books on this, and companies focus heavily on this because this is the biggest way they get your data, deploy malware, and deliver ransomware attacks. So, here I will give an example that I personally got and what to look for.

First, I just want to touch on the Dark Web. To take a quote from Star Wars “you will never find a more wretched hive of scum and villainy”. While there are legit business and good people there, there are a lot of black-market drugs and other illegal items are sold there. And it is where hackers and scammers live. I will not show you how to get there, because there is no need to do so, and it is extremely dangerous to do so; especially if you do not know what to do to protect yourself. People and businesses that do go there know how to protect themselves and they will tell you it is never enough to protect yourself from hackers that will see you there, among others. So, while it may seem cool to go to the Dark Web, I strongly recommend that you never go there. However, I am bringing this up because there is one thing I want to point out. While I think it is rare, but if in say an email, you see anything with “.onion” in it, in a link or in the email address; this is a red flag, because this has to do with the Dark Web. Another red flag would be if they tell you to get “Tor” to access a web site.

So, in phishing attacks, you may get an email that will, on the surface look legit, like from your bank saying that your account may have been compromised and you need to click on a link to change your password, or to call them. Some will claim you owe a bill for an order you did not make. Like right now I keep getting that my PayPal account is paying for an order for one thing or another. Well as I said before you should never respond in the email, you should instead contact the company in question directly (like your bank). But there are some things to look for, if you are not sure. I have included here an email I got below; that we can use as an example of what to look for. First, look at the address where it comes from or where it is going, does that look like the company email. Chances are it is not going to have a Gmail account, and it should have the company name in there somewhere. You can check the URLS in there too. You should not click on it, but you can hover over it and usually at the bottom of the browser it will show the URL. Does this look like it is going to the company mentioned in the email or redirecting you somewhere else? Notice too if the wording is fretting in nature or expressing urgency to act? Also, notice all the misspellings and bad

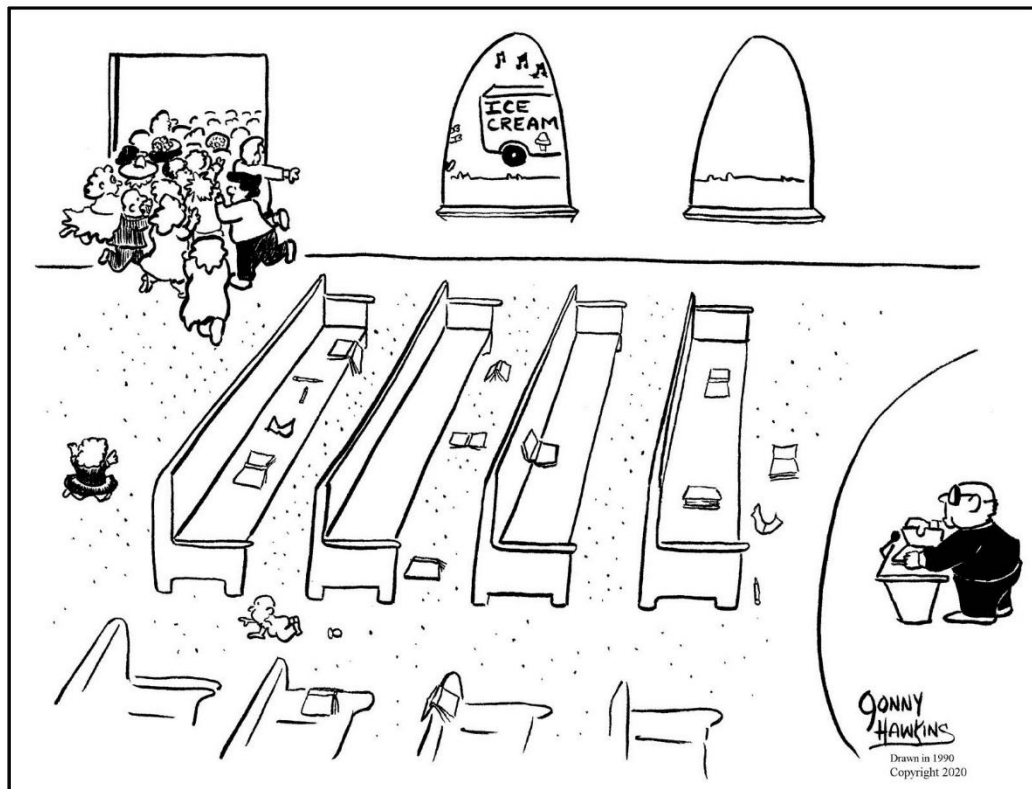
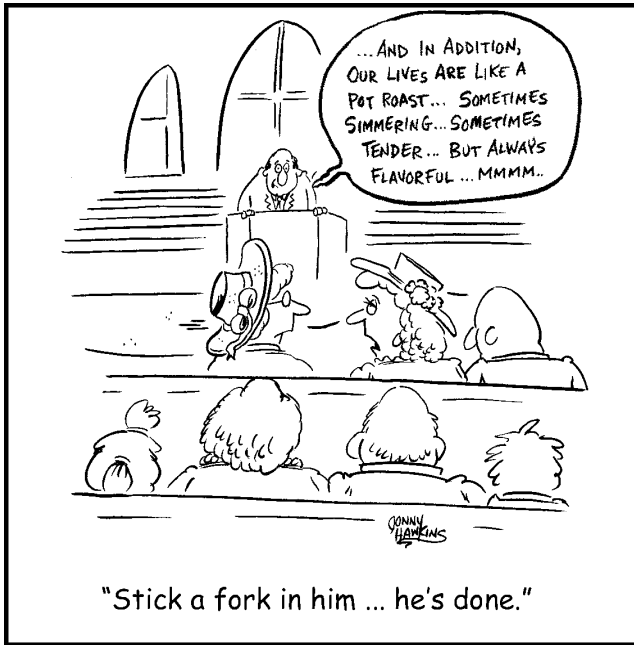
grammar here. I do not know why, but quite often the spelling and grammar are off in these kinds of emails. Of course, now with AI, this may be something they corrected.



In a phishing attack they will ask you to click on things in various ways. They may send you something that looks like a newsletter and offer the option unsubscribe from it if you do not want it, and this could be the link that they use to deploy malware.

In general, you need to be very careful about what you click on. I recently I read of an email that is going around where they send you a fake message that looks legit, like it came from say Gmail, stating that "someone logged in to your account" and to click on this to let them know and to fix this. I also read that they are putting out fake checks for "if I am not a robot" check boxes. When they are fake another screen is coming up having you hit commands like this (Windows key + R, Ctrl + V, and Enter); Do not do these, the real check for not a robot will not have you do things like this; this will inject malware into your system. The rule of thumb that I use is that I do not click on any popups or email links or anything that I can possibly avoid. Even when I get an email from somewhere that I feel is 100% safe I will not click on anything they got; in case it has been hijacked by a hacker.

Finally, I just want to mention that it has been reported that text messages have been known to now have the same risk. They can even be made to look like a company you know or from one of your family members or friends. If they have a link in them do not click on it. I also want to point out that while Apple devices have great security in them, they are still susceptible to attacks as well regarding emails or text messages.



SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!

What you need:

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)



What you do:

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!

The Lord is my light
and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

— Psalm 27:1, NIV



WHO AM I?

Did you know that some Old Testament books are named after prophets? Use the clues to figure out each prophet's name and write it on the lines. Then unscramble, use the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

1. I was called to preach to Nineveh, but I ran from God instead. My book is number 32 in the Bible.

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. My book is number 37.

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. My book is number 28.

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises of comfort. It is book 23.

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

5. I had dreams and visions. My book is number 27.

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

6. I was often in danger because of my prophecies. I angered officials. My book is number 24.

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. My book is number 30.

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

8. My book contains descriptions of strange visions. My book is number 26.

I am _ _ _ _ _ .

Prophets are _ _ _ _ _ .

Answers: Jonah; Haggai; Hosea; Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Amos; Ezekiel. Messengers.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 25TH.**