



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

FEBRUARY 2025

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

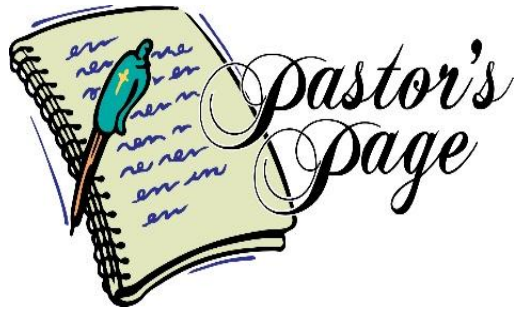
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





St. Valentine's Day

Yes, yes, I am writing an article on Valentine's Day. Because believe it or not the day is actually a Christian holiday. We often celebrate the day as a day to love one's boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, or wife; although let's be honest the day has turned into spending a lot of money on the girlfriend/wife, and not a day of love for one's significant other.

We as Christians though, are to remember not only love, which I will get into, but we are to remember St. Valentine the martyr. Who was St. Valentine? Well, from what little we know, he was a doctor and a priest in the third century, and he died around 270 AD. He was known for embodying both Christ's care of body and soul, and he cared for his patients and cared for the souls that he was sent to care for. We learn from him to love our neighbors, and he points to Christ who cares for the soul, and God the Father who cares for the body while we are here this side of eternity.

The most we know about St. Valentine comes from his final days and from which we gain some of the Valentine's Day traditions. St. Valentine knew the daughter of a jailer and the two had built a relationship, we don't know the full nature of the relationship, but we know that she had a high regard for him and had mourned the thought of his death. So, St. Valentine wrote her a note of encouragement. Legend has it that the note was written in a weird shape to resemble the heart from which we get the tradition of "heart" shaped Valentine's Day cards. The purpose of the note was to comfort the lady with the blessed truth that Christ had defeated death and that he and she will rise from the dead on the last day. This is the same truth we proclaim at funerals, that for us who have been baptized and made saints by Christ, will rise from the dead because Christ has defeated death for us.

So, on St. Valentine's Day, let us not only show love to our significant others by way of cards and treats, but by our genuine complete care for them. Let us also remember St. Valentine's confession of the resurrection won for us by Christ's death and resurrection.

Christ blessings

Rev. David J. Walsh



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2025

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEKEND OF	Feb. 1 - 2	Feb. 8-9	Feb. 15-16	Feb. 22-23
READER (Sat/Sun)	Doreen Griebel/Mary Werth	Ruth Whitmer/Kathy Farkas	Rhonda Mohr/Carolyn Alessi	Doreen Griebel/Sharon McGuan
USHERS	Melody Keef/Jim Hartz	Mike Wuerch/Dianne Wuerch	Ed Walsh/Eric Fellner	Melody Keef/Tim McGuan
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ed Walsh	Eric Fellner	Mike Wuerch	Ed Walsh

(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

Feb. 1 - 2	Feb. 8-9	Feb. 15-16	Feb. 22-23
Mike Wuerch	Carolyn Alessi	Dianne Wuerch	Jim Hartz
Kathy Farkas	Ruth Whitmer	Kathy Kornacki	Delores Zeeb



Kathy Kornacki	Feb. 8
Grace Termini	Feb. 8
Kathy Farkas	Feb. 10
Diane Reynolds	Feb. 17
Jack Hambridge	Feb. 18
Colvina Colvin	Feb. 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. You can also leave a note in my mailbox. Thank you.)



Why did the bicycle collapse?
It was two tired.

Why did the Clydesdale give the pony a glass of water?
Because he was a little horse.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work?
A stick.

There's a bathtub filled with water in front of you. You have a spoon, a cup and a bucket.
Which is the fastest way to empty it?

Pull the plug.



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our meeting this month will be Monday, February 10th, at 12:30 pm. at the church weather permitting. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend.

On Saturday, February 8th, from 9 am to noon we are hosting the LWML Buffalo Zone Winter Event. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for details. This event is open to all women of Pilgrim. The flyer is also posted on the announcement board.

We have been discussing another book read and selecting new prayer partners for 2025. Further information on this is in this newsletter.

We need volunteers to host the Sunday fellowship. Please sign up on the list posted on the board near the Sanctuary entrance. Thank you!

REMINDER: To support our mission projects, Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway; cancelled stamps to Sharon McGuan and mites (loose change) to Karen Smith. There is a mite collection box at the rear of the Sanctuary.

February is the month of Valentine's Day, the day for expressing LOVE to one another. **JESUS IS LOVE! AMEN!**

Carol Obot



Hello everyone!

Starting soon, the Esther Circle will be starting a new book. We haven't voted yet, but the books we are considering are: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis and The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. Both authors have been referenced in some of Pastor's sermons and both books have wonderful biblical, virtuous, and moral allusions to dive into, not to mention they are beautiful stories even if you don't dive in deep.

We'd love to open up the opportunity for anyone in the congregation to join, even if we needed a second time for those who can't attend Esther Circle to get together.

If you are interested, please let us know, and if you have a vote on which book to consider, please let us know.

God's blessings!



Pilgrim Sunday school will be held February 9th at 9:00 am. Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Walsh and children in the former nursery area. The children's lesson will be taught by Mrs. Walsh and is entitled "The Temple Testimonies"; the lessons sharing Jesus' presentation at the temple and Simeon and Anna's prophecies and praises. There is much we can learn from these Bible verses in Luke 2: 1-7 and 22-40. We hope you will attend February 9th and share our study of these beautiful testimonies of faith.



Would you like a Prayer Partner for 2025?

The Esther Circle is again sponsoring our Women's Prayer Partner ministry. You do not need to be a member of Esther Circle to have a prayer partner.

What is a prayer partner? Simply a person who commits to praying for you throughout the year.

Last year we had about 10 prayer partners. On a personal note, I give thanks to God for my 2024 prayer partner. It was a great blessing to be able to share prayer concerns with her and know I had a partner in prayer.

If you would like a Prayer Partner for 2025, just call Sharon McGuan at 716 803 3767, or email her at salmcg23@gmail.com from now till February 20th. All names will be put on small cards, placed in a basket and then pairs will be randomly, but prayerfully, selected.

Then a joint email will be sent to each pair sharing only your name, email and phone number. From then on you can call, email or see each other at church to share specific prayer requests. If you have any trouble contacting or receiving notice of your prayer partner, please contact Sharon McGuan.

Please consider being a prayer partner. Thank you.



SWEET AND SALTY TRAIL MIX

A classic blend of roasted salted peanuts, raisins, rich milk chocolate gems, roasted salted almonds and cashews.

These Sweet and Salty Trail Mix are unlike anything you'll find at a typical grocery or convenience store. And because we control the entire process from the grove to your door, you can rest assured that the quality of our fundraising product is second to none.



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://pilgrimsthercircle.terri Lynn.com>

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.



February 2025

Did you know? February 2 isn't just Groundhogs Day. It's a church holiday called Candlemas (the church service that went with it had a lot of candles). It's the celebration of when Jesus was presented at 40 days old in the temple and Mary went through purification rites. On that day a man named Simeon saw Jesus and sang the song that we sing/speak after communion in church, which we call the Nunc Dimittis (which means "now let us").

Bible verse of the month: "O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!" -Psalm 84:12

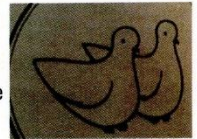
Catechism: The second commandment and its explanation

What is the second commandment: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Liturgical seasons and colors (look on the altar and pastor) for February: Epiphany- green

Christian symbol of the month: Two Turtle Doves-This symbol goes with The Purification of Mary and Presentation of our Lord or Candlemas. When Mary went through purification rites, she brought two turtle doves. This was the minimum sacrifice. It reminds us of Jesus humility.



Hymn of the month: (definitely check out the other verses in the hymnal, for the sake of space we have v. 1 only here) In His Temple Now Behold Him LSB #519

v. 1 In His temple now behold Him, See the long expected Lord;

Ancient prophets had foretold Him, God has now fulfilled His word.

Now to praise Him, His redeemed Shall break forth with one accord

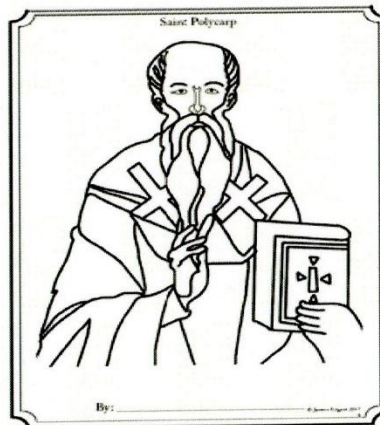
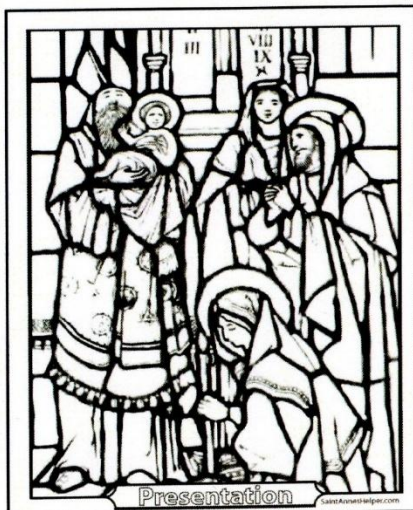
Church festivals, observances, Saint Days in February

2nd- Purification of Mary and Presentation of our Lord (Candlemas) 5th-Jacob (Israel)

10th-Silas (fellow worker of Peter and Paul) 13th-Aquila, Pricilla, and Apollos 14th-St. Valentine (Martyr)

15th-Philemon and Onesimus 16th-Philipp Melanchthon (Confessor) 18th-Martin Luther

23rd-St. Polycarp of Smyrna (Pastor and Martyr) 24th-St. Matthias (Apostle)





Please join us in reading the Word of God this year! This doesn't go through the whole Bible, but it puts us in the Word every day! During the month of February, we will continue going through the book of John. The fact that Jesus is God is an important topic in the book of John.

Feb. 1 – John 9:13-23	Feb. 8 – John 11:45-57	Feb. 15 – John 13:31-38	Feb. 22 – John 16:25-33
Feb. 2 – John 9:24-41	Feb. 9 – John 12:1-11	Feb. 16 – John 14:1-14	Feb. 23 – John 17:1-19
Feb. 3 – John 10:1-21	Feb. 10 – John 12:12-26	Feb. 17 – John 14:15-31	Feb. 24 – John 17:20-26
Feb. 4 – John 10:22-42	Feb. 11 – John 12:27-36	Feb. 18 – John 15:1-17	Feb. 25 – John 18:1-14
Feb. 5 – John 11:1-16	Feb. 12 – John 12:37-50	Feb. 19 – John 15:18-27	Feb. 26 – John 18:15-27
Feb. 6 – John 11:17-27	Feb. 13 – John 13:1-20	Feb. 20 – John 16:1-15	Feb. 27 – John 18:28-30
Feb. 7 – John 11:28-44	Feb. 14 – John 13:21-30	Feb. 21 – John 16:16-24	Feb. 28 – John 19:1-16



Love makes us worthy

Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, “Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody’s business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.”

As for how to develop and maintain that type of love? Merton shares, “It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my [neighbors].”



Your impact changes lives when you huddle up to participate in Hearts' annual Souper Bowl Drive and help lead us to victory. Now, more than ever, our community needs our help. In 2023, homelessness was up by 35 percent in Erie County — the largest single increase in over a decade.

Hearts' Souper Bowl Drive is a way for us to work together to fight hunger in our community leading up to the Super Bowl football game on Sunday, February 9, 2025.

OUR CONGREGATION WILL BE COLLECTING CANS OF SOUP (unexpired, of course) **NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 9th, which is the day of the Super Bowl.**

There will be a collection basket/tote in the back of the church.

Please bring your donations quickly as time is short!



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Meeting with Hands on Project
Saturday, February 8, 2025

Pilgram Lutheran Church
44 Chapel Road
Kenmore, NY 14217
9:00am – 12:00pm

Light breakfast items and beverages prior to meeting provided by the (LWML) Lutheran Women in Mission Board.

REGISTRATION FEE \$5.00

(Mites monies will also be collected)

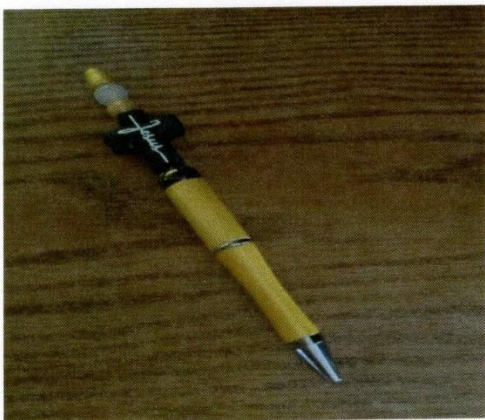
Perhaps a perfect time to bring stamps or other items your organization has been collecting to be turned into persons collecting.

RSVP PLEASE: Sharon McGuan salmcg23@gmail.com 716-803-3767 BY: 2/1/25

SPEAKERS: Carol Obot will speak regarding Camp Joy. Susan Knowles will speak about possibilities of VBS at Pioneer on the Lake.

HANDS ON PROJECT: We will be making pens with Jesus bead and other beads on top. The pens will be a great witness project which can be left where ever we go.

INGATHERING: Suggested gift cards for Pioneer on the Lake and Camp Joy. Amazon, Michaels, Hobby Lobby, JoAnn's, Tops, Wegmans, Aldi, Walmart, Target, etc. will all be very usable and appreciated.



Sample of the Jesus pens we will be making.
Who wouldn't want one?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

**OUR SPRING EVENT WILL BE HELD IN
SILVER CREEK ON SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025**





Compassion International

Our Sponsor Child **Aril**

Sponsored since September 17, 2014

Aril will be 19 on February 4, 2025

Child Information

Personal Name: Aril

Gender: Male

Birthdate: 2/4/2006

Last Correspondence Date: 1/22/2025

Christian Activities

- Sunday School/Church

Family Duties

- Child Care
- Cleaning

Hobbies and Sport

- Learning New Vocational Skills
- Hide and Seek
- Volleyball or Handball

Schooling

School Performance: Average

Formal Education Level: Primary

Grade Level: College



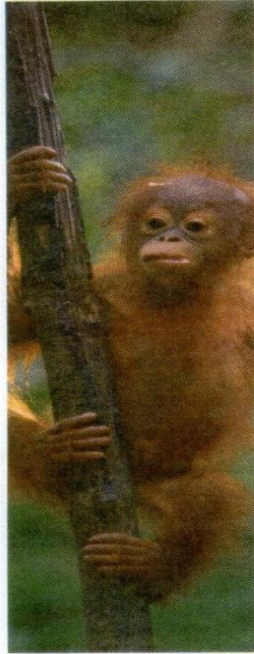
05321501-02438675-C0283865767-6

05321501-02438675



Letter to my sponsor

Tanggal (Date) 21 -08-2024



Yang terkasih friends bagaimana kabarnya? Kalau saya dan keluarga dalam keadaan sehat. Saya sekarang sudah masuk perguruan tinggi dan semoga bisa yang saya cita-citakan bisa tercapai dan tidak ada kendala... atau hambatan mohon dukung dalam doa ya. Saya mengambil jurusan pemerintahan. Saya senang bisa berkontak dengan friends walau pun hanya melalui surat ini namun saya sudah sangat bahagia. Saya akan selalu berdoa semoga Tuhan memberkati friends dalam segala pekerjaan, pelayanan dan keluarganya. Saya juga senang karena pada tanggal 17 Agustus kami merayakan hari kemerdekaan Republik Indonesia yang ke

Translation

August 21st, 2024. Dearly beloved Friends, how are you doing? my family and I are healthy here. Now I am a college student, and I hope I could achieve my dreams and goals in the future. Please pray for me! I major in governmental management. I am so happy I can see you again Friends even it's only by this letter. I will always pray for you Friends, may God bless your daily activities, jobs, ministries and families. I was so happy because on August 17th we celebrated Indonesia's



TID: ID-E-5S12-1

Page 1 of 2



79 tahun dan ada ibadah stukuran atau mengenang satu tahun mubibah yang terjadi di kampung kami. Sekian surat dari Aril Tuhan Yesus memberkati

Translation

79th independence day and there was also a 1 year memorial service for the tragedy in our village. That is all from me right now, looking forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you and God bless. Much love, Aril.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for writing a letter to your sponsored child. Your words have the power to change a young person's day, week, year — even life. If you have questions about letter writing, [see our FAQ page](#). You'll also find inspiration and ideas for what to share in your messages.

Thanks for making a difference in a young person's life!

Compassion International

The following is the letter you sent to Aril on 1/22/2025.

Happy 2025! A New Year, New Hopes and Dreams!!

The Christmas Season was a joyous time at Pilgrim Lutheran.

We pray you are doing well in college. What an exciting time in your life! Enjoy these times!!

Our continued prayers for your family and village.

The USA has a new President, and we are praying for his Leadership of our country.

We are now in the winter months, and it is very cold and snowy. I am looking forward to Spring and warmer weather.

Our church, Pilgrim Lutheran, has been helping with local food shelters that are in greater need during the winter months, by

collecting nonperishables/canned goods. We have many in the community that rely on these places for food.

We look forward to hearing about your progress in College and continue prayers to do well in your studies. God's Blessings

Dianne Wuerch
Pilgrim Lutheran Church

If you would like to send Aril a letter, please see Carolyn Alessi or Dianne Wuerch.



Kindness kickbacks

Random Acts of Kindness Day, observed each year on February 17, is a reminder of the power of altruism. Followers of Jesus express kindness selflessly, out of love for God and our neighbors. Yet in return, we reap emotional — and even physical — benefits.

Researchers have identified a “helper’s high” that can ease anxiety and depression. Spontaneous or planned acts of “pro-social spending” have been shown to reduce blood pressure, improve heart health, reduce pain and even extend longevity.

For maximum impact, experts recommend getting creative with random acts of kindness and mixing them up. But no matter how you spread kindness, you’re bound to experience blessings in return!



660 MASON RIDGE CENTER DRIVE

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141-8557

1-800-876-9880

[Making God's Love Visible Among Families and Youth](#)



LHM—Kazakhstan partners with churches throughout the country to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ with children. Through children's and youth programs, LHM makes God's love visible among families and youth.

Over the summer, numerous children's camps were held at Lutheran churches. The camps hosted between 100 and 300 attendees and included children from the churches as well as others from the neighborhood, providing an opportunity for all to hear about God's love for them.

LHM—Kazakhstan staff took an active part in organizing and planning the activities for each of these camps. At one camp, for children of low-income families, the children had the opportunity to try their hands at carpentry, learn soap making, and take part in other creative activities while also hearing about God's love for them as their Heavenly Father. At the end of the camp, each child was sent home with a package that included toys, sweets, and Christian literature. Parents of the camp attendees received Christian booklets related to raising children.

Preparing a child for school is an important annual activity for families. Unfortunately, for families with many children or those with limited incomes, this time of year is costly. LHM—Kazakhstan staff launched a September project where 550 kits with school supplies were prepared for children in need. In addition to sharing Christ-centered ministry materials, the kits included items like backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, and more that no child can do without to start the school year fully prepared.

2023–2025 Mission Grant #16

Care for Street Children of Western Kenya

Capstone Ministries

About This Mission Grant

Capstone Ministries helps enrich the lives of former street boys and girls who have been reconciled with their families. Capstone Ministries works in Western Kenya, an area where over 800 boys live on the street and survive by begging or stealing. They work to reconcile the boys with God and family.

This grant will provide educational scholarships for day and boarding school as well as vocational training for 52 children. It will also provide 100 Bibles and catechisms, translated into Swahili, for 17 Bible study groups.

Plus, it will support Capstone Camp which focuses on spiritual development, provides group counseling, scouting activities, and mentorship of primary school boys by secondary school boys. They invite 25 to 35 boys to participate in the one-week camp held at a rural university during the school break.



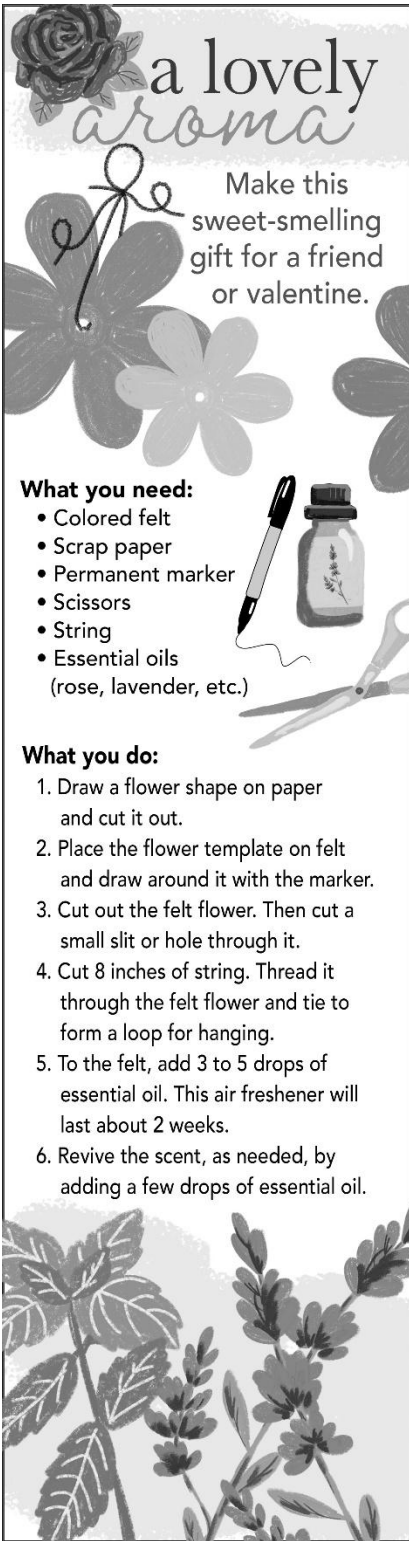
Benard Wadegu (#281) was rescued on 18/02/2014. He had run away from home due to peer influence and was found in the local market. He was invited twice to Capstone youth center at Lutheran Church in Kisumu. He had really worked hard in secondary school and finished with a "B" average and qualified for a government scholarship to university. This is quite remarkable for a former street boy. He is at Masinde Muliro University studying for a BA in information technology.



Jennipher Akinyi (#453) was met on the streets of Kisumu on 3/5/18. She shared that she left home because she feared going to school due to bullying she was undergoing in school. She was counseled and accepted to be taken back home. The stepmother was called and came for her from the office. The girl sat for KCPE in 2018 where she scored 315 marks and qualified for Boarding school sponsorship. She got admitted at Rae girls Sec School where she is currently a senior in H.S.



These are the five full-time staff counselors of Capstone Ministries. These five along with Project Manager Pastor Isaiah Apiyo do all the work on the ground, led by missionaries Pastor Dan and Patty Schmelzer. They are from L to R: Jeremiah Ouko, Queenter Oyori, Daniel Siombi, Jael Ochola, and Milkah Achieng.



a lovely
aroma

Make this
sweet-smelling
gift for a friend
or valentine.

What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils
(rose, lavender, etc.)



What you do:

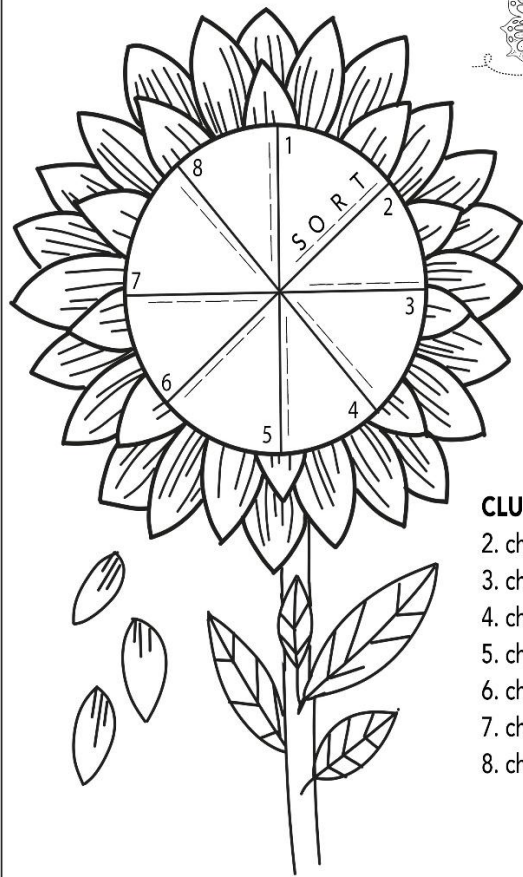
1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first
_____d us.
1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this
(see 1 John 4:16).

Answers: fort, fold, gold, gown, down, dove, love, We love because [God] first loved us. 1 John 4:19, NIV

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