



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

JANUARY 2025

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

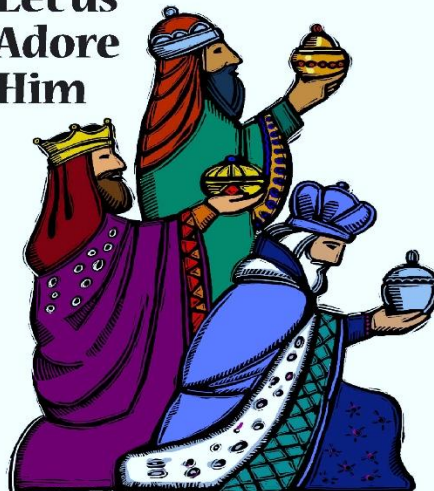
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM

**O Come
Let us
Adore
Him**





If you had looked at the piano from late November up through Christmas Day, you would have seen the Magi sitting there. Then they had been moved to the chancel, but they had not yet arrived at the manger scene. This will not happen until Monday January 6th, which is the day of Epiphany. Epiphany is a realization of something that has been revealed. In the church, the season of Epiphany deals with the revelations about Jesus Christ, who He is, what He did, and the benefits and gifts that we receive from Him.

The first thing to remember is the first Epiphany, which we read in Matthew 2: 1-12. First, most translations refer to them as “wise men,” If Matthew meant that they were wise, he would have used the Greek word “σοφούς” (so-phus, the “phus” as in kung fu(s)) which means wise. Instead, he uses the word “μάγοι” (mag-oi), which means Magi, these were Eastern priests. The reason some have translated them as wise is because in following the Star’s guiding, they became wise. In other words they had the Christ revealed to them and became wise to salvation which Christ wins for them and us, but for the sake of translation and the office that they held, they are Magi. They also were not at the Nativity. In fact Matthew 2:11 tells us that the Magi entered the “house” meaning that the young baby Jesus was no longer in the manger. Also, Matthew 2:16 tells us that Herod had order all male babies two years or younger to be killed, leading us to understand that Jesus was around two years old when the Magi showed up.

The point of Epiphany is the revelation of Jesus Christ. The Magi had the eternal King revealed and thus they gave him kingly gifts. They were practical gifts and if nothing else could be sold to help them in their escape from King Herod. Over the course of Epiphany, we will hear and learn many things about Christ. First, we will hear about the Baptism of Christ in which we see Father, Son, and Holy Spirit present at the baptism, just like the Holy Trinity was present at our own baptisms. Second, we learn about Christ’s control over creation in being able to turn water into wine at the wedding at Cana. Next, we learn the prophets spoke of Christ, as He reveals in the Words of Isaiah. The following Sunday we will hear about Jesus’s authority over the unclean spirits and His ability to heal. We then learn of Jesus being a teacher as He calls His first apostles just as He calls Pastors today. We then learn who we are made to be in Christ and the blessings and woes that come upon the Christian this side of Heaven. We learn in the 7th week of Epiphany to love our enemies just as we would love our friends, after all they are a part of God’s creation as we are. We finish Epiphany with the Transfiguration of our Lord Christ, in which the Divinity of Christ is revealed and that the Prophets and the Law point to Him.

There is much to learn during Epiphany, but it is Christ for you at the heart of the season, so let us praise our Christmas Gift as we learn about Him.

Christ blessings

Rev. David J. Walsh



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE JANUARY 2025

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEKEND OF	Jan. 4-5	Jan. 11-12	Jan. 18-19	Jan. 25-26
READER (Sat/Sun)	Rhonda Mohr/Mary Werth	Doreen Griebel/Donna Vogel	Ruth Whitmer/Rich Loster	Rhonda Mohr/Mary Werth
USHERS	Melody Keef/Mike Wuerch	Ed Walsh/Dianne Wuerch	Tim McGuan/Mike Wuerch	Melody Keef/Dianne Wuerch
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Jim Hartz	Eric Fellner	Jim Hartz	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

Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26
Carolyn Alessi	Mike Wuerch	Dianne Wuerch	Jim Hartz
Janice Vogel	Nancy Loster	Donna Vogel	Ruth Whitmer



Jennie Alessi

Jan. 1

Amber Trimmer

Jan. 9

(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.)



CHURCH MAILBOXES

Just a friendly reminder to check and empty your church mailbox often. You never know what surprises it may hold!



LOONY LAWS

In Nichols County, West Virginia, no minister shall tell a funny story from the pulpit.

All taxicabs must carry a broom and a shovel in the District of Columbia.

In Fort Madison, Iowa, a law requires the fire department to practice fifteen minutes before attending a fire.

Until recently it was illegal to fish for whales off the coast of Oklahoma.

In Tennessee, you are forbidden to shoot game other than whales from a moving car.



ESTHER CIRCLE

Blessings in the New Year 2025!

Our next meeting is on Monday, January 13th, at 12:30 pm. at church. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend. We will be discussing the hosting of the Buffalo Zone LWML Winter Event on Saturday, February 8th, from 9 am. to noon. We encourage women to attend, fellowship and learn about two outreach missions in our area during the summer: the weeklong VBS at Pioneer on The Lake and the 6 weeks Camp Joy at Our Savior Church in Buffalo. In gatherings offering items will be gift cards to these missions. More information on this will be posted.

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. Thank you!

In this New Year, 2025, let us reflect on our Lord Jesus Christ. He is with us always. He is our Almighty Father! Amen

Carol Obot



FOOD PANTRY AT GOOD SHEPHERD

2669 Sheridan Drive

Tonawanda, N.Y. 14150

717-832-5390

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Food Pantry in November. We donated about 14 bags and received a nice thank you letter from the Food Pantry co-president. Anyone can donate at any time. There are shelves inside the double red door of the church with a sign "Leave Food Pantry Items Here". Slips on needed items are on the announcement board at our church.

Anyone who wishes to use the pantry can go to the church on the third or fourth Saturday of each month. They also have a clothes closet for all ages & sizes. For more information, call 716-832-5390 – the contact person is Jessica.



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>



A Voters Meeting was held on December 15th after the service. Three Church Council positions (President, Financial Secretary and Recording Secretary) are changing. We thank Mike Wuerch, Dianne Wuerch and Ruth Whitmer for their service over the last four years. They met the challenges of the COVID pandemic, the business of our 100th Anniversary year, the Calling of a new pastor and much more during their service to Pilgrim. We were blessed to have them lead us during these times. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

The Church Council members for 2025 are:

President – Carolyn Alessi

Vice President – Sue Holway

Recording Secretary – Janice Vogel

Financial Secretary – Jim Hartz

Treasurer – Rhonda Mohr

The Elders will be listed in the next newsletter.

If you will be having any kind of medical procedure, please call Pastor Walsh to let him know so he can offer support and prayers for you.

Robert (Bob) Brill was accepted as a new member. Welcome to your church family!

Good News! Our AED will be received on December 18th. Training for this has yet to be determined. Stay tuned.

The offering envelopes for 2025 are here. Please use them. The pew envelopes are for guests. Since envelope numbers have changed, please **do not** use leftover envelopes from 2024. They will not match the 2025 list of numbers that the Financial Secretary uses, and your offering will not be credited to you on your quarterly tax statement. Try starting a habit of preparing your envelopes weekly (or even monthly) and remembering to bring them to church. It's simple and easy!

House & Grounds: The church roof needs new shingles due to the winds recently. Help with clearing snow from the parking lot is always appreciated.

If you have any changes to your information (such as new address, new telephone number, new email, etc.) please let Amber Trimmer know so she can update the church directory. If you would like to add an EMERGENCY phone number so your family can be notified during an emergency, please let her know that as well.

The budget for 2025 was discussed and passed.

The next meeting has been set for March 16th. We adjourned and close with the Lord's Prayer.



Epiphany Celebrated at Sunday School on January 16th!

If you look up the word **epiphany** in the dictionary you will find

* A Christian feast celebrating the manifestation of the divine nature of Jesus to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi, traditionally observed on January 6.

* A revelatory manifestation of a divine being

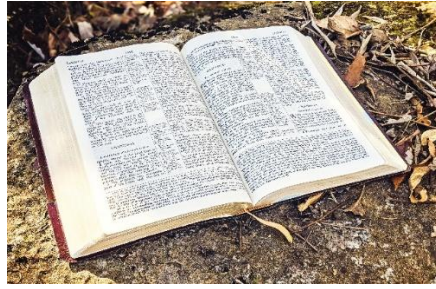
* A sudden insight or intuitive understanding (Christians would say we are enlightened as God reveals Himself to us)

Please note the date change!! This January, the children's Sunday school will take place on the **THIRD** Sunday of the month, **January 19th** at 9:00 a.m. We hope everyone will be back from Christmas vacation and ready to meet. Let's beat last month's attendance and have nine students share their faith and fellowship! Come to learn how God revealed Himself to each of us as we read His Word, sing a new song, and make something to remember how Jesus came to reveal His love for us.



LWML BUFFALO ZONE LWML - SAVE THE DATE!

The women of the Buffalo Zone are grateful to Pilgrim Lutheran Church for allowing the use of the fellowship hall on February 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon for our Winter Mission Event. The theme of this event is: **Join Jesus On His Mission Through Personal Outreach**. We will be making Gospel Pens that you can take with you and help you share Jesus as you give them to others. We will also have women from our zone share two ministries that need a personal touch and can provide an opportunity to be a local missionary for a few hours, a day, a week, or a few weeks. **Come and see.... is Jesus calling you to join Him on His missionary journey?**



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 January, we will be going through just short of half of the book of John. The fact that Jesus is God is an important topic in the book of John.

Jan. 1 – John 1:1-18	Jan. 9 – John 3:16-36	Jan. 17 – John 6:1-15	Jan. 25 – John 7:37-52
Jan. 2 – John 1:19-28	Jan. 10 – John 4:1-15	Jan. 18 – John 6:16-24	Jan. 26 – John 8:1-11
Jan. 3 – John 1:29-34	Jan. 11 – John 4:16-26	Jan. 19 – John 6:25-40	Jan. 27 – John 8:12-30
Jan. 4 – John 1:35-42	Jan. 12 – John 4:27-45	Jan. 20 – John 6:41-59	Jan. 28 – John 8:31-38
Jan. 5- John 1:43-51	Jan. 13 – John 4:46-54	Jan. 21 – John 6:60-71	Jan. 29 – John 8:39-48
Jan. 6 – John 2:1-12	Jan. 14 – John 5:1-17	Jan. 22 – John 7:1-13	Jan. 30 – John 8:49-59
Jan. 7 – John 2:13-25	Jan. 15 – John 5:18-29	Jan. 23 – John 7:14-24	Jan. 31 – John 9:1-12
Jan. 8 – John 3:1-15	Jan. 16 – John 5:30-47	Jan. 24 – John 7:25-36	

God's constant new work

From the beginning of time, God's pattern has been to continually do new things and make things new. Though we can celebrate this every day, the New Year's season is especially fitting to pause and recognize God's work of renewal. Consider the following scriptures (all NIV) and how God is making them real in your own life right now.

- [God] has granted us new life to rebuild ... and repair (Ezra 9:9)
- If [a tree] is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. (Job 14:7)
- He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. (Psalm 40:3)
- See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)
- You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)
- [God's] compassions ... are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. (Ezekiel 36:26)
- [Jesus] took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

2023–2025 Mission Grant #15

Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals

Trinity HOPE

About This Mission Grant

In Haiti, 4.4 million people suffer from acute hunger; the cycle of poverty is almost never broken. Haitian children attending school have trouble learning with empty stomachs. Trinity HOPE daily feeds and shares the Gospel with children, teachers, and cooks in Christian schools throughout the country.

This grant will be used to feed approximately 538 children, teachers, and cooks each school day for two academic years at Paul et Isabel Lutheran School in Hinche, Haiti.

Children are taught to pray before they eat and when not hungry, are better prepared to participate in classroom activities. They are fed physically and spiritually every day they are in school and become missionaries to their families, bringing them out of the darkness of voodoo, a national religion, and into the light of Jesus.



The children in this photo are the future of Haiti. These students have just a few years left in their education. The Christian education they receive will serve them well and equip them to make a difference in their country. Some may become teachers, others may become nurses, but the most important title they now have is "Redeemed Child of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit." Trinity HOPE believes the key to long-term change in Haiti is Education and the Good News of the Gospel.



Before each meal, children have access to running water to wash hands. This simple task helps to decrease the spread of illnesses and is a requirement of the feeding program. As you can see, running water in Haiti is not the same as it is here. The schools use pitchers of water, drink coolers, or any other make-shift device to ensure the water is flowing and clean.



Notice the girl with the red and white shirt and hair barrettes. She attends a school with a feeding program. Here, in her neighborhood, she stands in front of a typical Haitian home, next to her friends who do not get to go to school. Notice her overall health compared to theirs. They have rust colored hair, small bodies, distended stomachs, and dry skin. These are signs of malnutrition. The meal provided by Trinity HOPE prevents this and strengthens her to learn and share the Gospel.



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1-800-876-9880

New Anxiety PDF Adds to Thred's Many Resources

LHM's digital outreach platform, **Thred** at thred.org, continues to build meaningful connections through its menu of FREE content; included are in-depth courses, downloadable resources, topical blogs, a sermon series, and topic-specific PDFs. Thred resources are developed to foster outcomes that empower, equip, and inspire users to engage in meaningful spiritual conversations online and with their peers in real life.

"When you look at Thred content, it will all point to one of these outcomes that we hope the Thred audience will experience. And each of these will hopefully (and prayerfully!) lead Thred followers to be more *EAGER Conversationalists* (lhm.org/eager) in their everyday lives-and as they scroll through their own social media," says Rachel Tichich, LHM's digital development manager.

But sometimes things in life can dampen our desire to communicate and mess with our sense of well-being-things like our anxiety, for instance. Understanding this, Thred seeks to stay in tune with its users' needs and life experiences.

"Thred champions listening first. Thred is always trying to embrace the challenges young people face with integrating faith into their whole lives. We recently worked on a resource to combat the anxiety epidemic that is present in our world. That came from listening to the concerns of the folks who use Thred, says Jon Christopher, LHM videographer and Thred content developer.

Thred's new anxiety PDF, "5 Practices to Help You Manage the Anxious Moments," offers practical tools for managing life's daily stress and anxiety. "The Thred team used a **Project Connect** booklet about anxiety as a launchpad, then adapted it for the Thred audience. Connected to that, there will be an email series about the new resource, which offers additional tips and points readers to more content on the Thred website, says Andréa Vasilo, LHM's content writer.

"5 Practices" gives users five methods to examine their anxieties and suggests ways to understand and work through them. "As the rise in anxiety is a major talking point among the Thred demographic-often related to our constant use of cell phones-this PDF discusses what it means to be a Christian living in the midst of this current cultural moment," Tichich says.

In anxious or settled moments, Jesus offers peace against the chaos and noise of this world.

A HUGE CATCH

Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

What you need:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue



What you do:

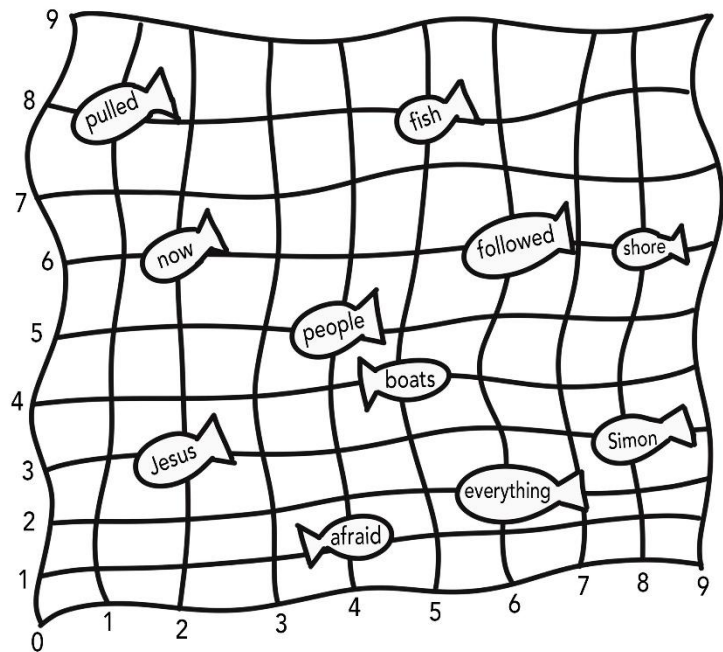
1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.

PUZZLE

FISHING DIRECTIONS

When fishermen obeyed Jesus and let down their nets, they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink! Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees. What happened next?

Directions: Use the coordinate clues to locate the correct words and complete Luke 5:10-11 (NIV) below. The first number in each clue pair goes across, and the second number goes up.



Then Jesus said to _____, "Don't be _____; from _____
(2, 3) (8, 3) (4, 1) (2, 6)
 on you will _____ for _____." So they _____ their
(5, 8) (4, 5) (1, 8)
 _____ up on _____, left _____ and _____ him.
(5, 4) (8, 6) (6, 2) (6, 6)

Luke 5:10-11, NIV

Answers: Jesus, Simon, afraid, now, fish, people, pulled, boats, shore, everything, followed

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS JANUARY 24TH.