



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

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

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# ***PILGRIM'S PROGRESS***

**JUNE 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



# PENTECOST

## FROM THE PASTOR

We read in the text for Pentecost that many Jews had gathered in Jerusalem, each coming from different parts of the known world as outlined in Acts 2: 8-11, thus we read:

*“And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”*”

So, I thought it would be neat to go over the first few of these regions, for the sake of length, to provide a little background, and to uncover what language they spoke and how to pronounce the name of the region.

**Parthians** (Par-thee-ans): The ancient Parthians are called “Scythic”, which means that they were a race of nomadic people and probably belonged to the great Turanian family. After being subject in succession to the Persians and the Seleucidae, they revolted in 256 B.C.. and under Arsaces succeeded in establishing their independence. Parthia, in the mind of the writer of the Acts, would designate this empire, which extended from India to the Tigris and from the Chorasman desert to the shores of the Southern Ocean; hence the prominent position of the name Parthians in the list of those present at Pentecost. Parthia was a power almost rivalling Rome --the only existing power which had tried its strength against Rome and not been bested in the encounter. The Parthian dominion lasted for nearly five centuries, commencing in the third century B.C. to about the third century A.D. The Parthians spoke the Persian language.

**Medes** (Meads): The Medes were an ancient people of the Medo-Persian Empire, known for their military strength, cultural influence, and role in biblical prophecy. They played a key part in the fall of Babylon, the rise of Persia, and the fulfillment of God’s judgments. The Bible mentions the Medes in both historical and prophetic contexts, portraying them as an instrument of God’s divine plan to shift world powers. For instance, the Medes were instrumental in overthrowing the Assyrian Empire and later played a decisive role in the conquest of Babylon. The Medes eventually merged with the Persians, forming the powerful Medo-Persian Empire that dominated the ancient world. Their story is a testimony to God’s control over nations, using even pagan kingdoms to accomplish His will. They spoke a now extinct Iranian language.

**Elamites** (E-lam-ites): The Elamites are so called, from Elam the son of Shem (Genesis 10:22) and these, according to Josephus (e), were the founders of the Persians, or from whom they sprung; and so we find Elam and Media, and the kings of Elam, and the kings of the Medes, mentioned together in Scripture (Isaiah 21:2). It is also certain that Elam was at least a part of the empire of Persia, in Daniel's time; for Shushan, where the kings of Persia then kept their palace, which was in the province of Elam (Daniel 8:2) and it is evident, that hither the Jews were carried captive (Isaiah 11:11). So that there might be some remaining in those parts, that were their descendants; and from hence also were people brought by Asnapper, into the cities of Samaria, to supply the room of those who were carried captive, and are called Elamites, (Ezra 4:9) and that there were Elamite Jews. They spoke their own language.

The thing to remember as we hear these regions is that they were real places with real people and the Lord brought them together that He may proclaim Christ to all these people so that He might bring them to faith.

Christ blessings

Rev. David J. Walsh



## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

### JUNE 2025

**(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

WEEKEND OF	May 31, Jun 1	Jun. 7, 8	Jun. 14,15	Jun. 21,22	Jun. 28, 29
READER (Sat/Sun)	Doreen Griebel/ Donna Vogel	Rhonda Mohr/Rich Loster	Doreen Griebel/Mary Werth	Rhonda Mohr/Kathy Farkas	Doreen Griebel/ Carolyn Alessi
USHERS	Ed Walsh/ Eric Fellner	Mike Wuerch/Tim McGuan	Tim McGuan/Jim Hartz	Mike Wuerch/Eric Fellner	Ed Walsh/Jim Hartz
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Mike Wuerch	Ed Walsh	Mike Wuerch	Jim Hartz	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

June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Jim Hartz	Sue Holway	Dianne Wuerch	Mike Wuerch	Carolyn Alessi
TBD	Kathy Farkas	Kathy Kornacki	Dolores Zeeb	Donna Vogel



<b>Donna Vogel</b>	<b>Jun. 1</b>
<b>Rod Mohr</b>	<b>Jun. 3</b>
<b>Mike Wuerch</b>	<b>Jun. 9</b>
<b>Marie Curcie</b>	<b>Jun. 10</b>
<b>Robert Schober</b>	<b>Jun. 10</b>
<b>Lee Trimmer</b>	<b>Jun. 11</b>
<b>Janie McClain</b>	<b>Jun. 14</b>
<b>Jim Rodgers Sr.</b>	<b>Jun. 18</b>
<b>Madelyn Alessi</b>	<b>Jun. 26</b>
<b>Diane Jakubowski</b>	<b>Jun. 27</b>
<b>Carrol Rust</b>	<b>Jun. 27</b>
<b>Mary Werth</b>	<b>Jun. 28</b>

<b>Jun. 17</b>	<b>Gary &amp; Karen Smith</b>
<b>Jun. 22</b>	<b>Paul &amp; Sue Holway</b>
<b>Jun. 23</b>	<b>Ed &amp; Jeannie Walsh</b>



A small child was picking away at the keyboard of her preacher father's computer.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"Writing a sermon," she replied.

"What's it about?" he inquired. "What have you written so far?"

"I don't know," she answered. "I can't read yet."



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

Our June meeting is Monday 6/9, at 12:30 p.m. at church. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend. We will be discussing chapters 1-4 of the book “The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe” after a brief business meeting. The Women’s Brunch that we hosted on May 3<sup>rd</sup> was attended by 20 ladies. It was a great time of fellowship. Thank you to those who set up, prepared and served the food and cleaned up.

**LWML NEWS:** The Buffalo Zone Spring Event on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Trinity Church in Silver Creek was attended by 13 ladies from Pilgrim. We all had an enriching time together with the women in the Chautauqua area. The National Convention will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, on the last weekend in June. The registration form for the Eastern District Fall Retreat at Camp Lutherlyn in Butler, Pa. on the third weekend in September is now available in the LINK newsletter or contact Sharon McGuan if interested in attending.

We continue to need volunteers to host the Sunday Fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet on the announcement board near the entrance to the sanctuary.

**REMINDER:** Dash’s receipts go to Sue Holway; cancelled stamps to Sharon McGuan and mites to Karen Smith (note: there is a collection box at the rear of the sanctuary). Thank you for supporting these mission projects.

June marks the first day of Summer! May you enjoy God’s creation blooming, the warmth of the sun and the outdoor activities with family and friends.

God Bless!  
Carol Obot



When on vacation, be with us in spirit.  
The rest of the summer, be with us in person.



## **June VBS**

Sunday school will take place on June 8th at 9:00am in the Sunday school for young people and in the Fellowship Hall for adults. The young people will be celebrating the message of Pentecost, sometimes referred to as the birthday of the Christian Church. Come and find out more! The lesson will include our Bible story lesson, a craft and some songs. Please come and join us!



## **June is Convention month!**

Please keep our church conventions, the delegates who attend and the work of the Church in your prayers this month.

The Eastern District Convention will be held June 20th and 21st at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Tonawanda, NY. Pilgrim is not a member of the Eastern District, but many of the churches we associate with are, so please keep them in your prayers as they meet. Sharon and Tim McGuan will be attending the ED convention.

The National LWML Convention will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-29, 2025. The theme for the convention is "Growing in God's Grace". Our Esther Circle has sent in our preferences to our zone district representative regarding the amount of our Mission Goal, choice of mission projects and those we would seek to lead us in the coming biennium. Please keep the important mission work of the LWML in your prayers. Sharon and Tim will be attending the convention.

The English District Convention will take place June 26th to June 28th at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Pilgrim is a member of the English District LCMS. New officers for our district and other official business will be decided upon at this important meeting. Pastor Walsh will be attending. Please keep Pastor in your prayers as he travels and attends this convention.



# SAVE THE DATE



JUNE 12-14  
2026

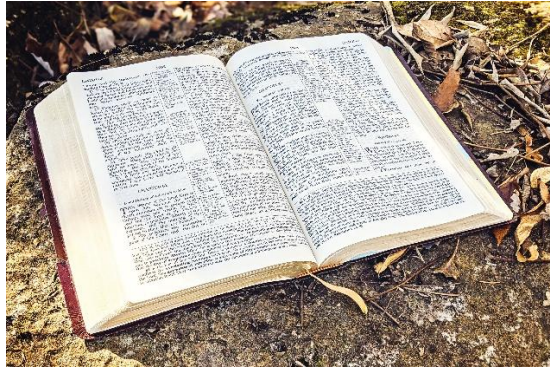
## LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE ANTHRACITE AND PHILADELPHIA ZONES



DoubleTree Resort  
by Hilton Hotel Lancaster

In beautiful Lancaster, PA



This month we continue our journey through the Psalms.

June 1 – Ps. 69:1-12	June 9 – Ps. 73:16-28	Jun 17 – Ps. 78:32-55	June 25 – Psalm 85
June 2 – Ps. 69:13-29	June 10 – Ps. 74:1-8	Jun 18 – Ps. 78:56-72	June 26 – Psalm 86
June 3 – Ps. 69:30-36	June 11 – Ps. 74:9-23	June 19 – Psalm 79	June 27 – Psalm 87
June 4 – Psalm 70	June 12 – Psalm 75	June 20 – Psalm 80	June 28 – Psalm 88
June 5 – Ps. 71:1-16	June 13 – Psalm 76	June 21 – Psalm 81	June 29 – Ps. 89:1-19
June 6 – Ps. 71:17-24	June 14 – Psalm 77	June 22 – Psalm 82	Jun 30 – Ps. 89:20-37
June 7 – Psalm 72	June 15 – Ps. 78:1-16	June 23 – Psalm 83	
June 8 – Ps. 73:1-15	Jun 16 – Ps. 78:17-31	June 24 – Psalm 84	



## **Soul care through studying**

Summer isn't often associated with studying, but it can be an ideal time to dive into God's Word. Just keep in mind: Studying the Bible involves more than merely reading the words. The process begins with a humble spirit to not only gain information but to let Scripture transform you.

I've heard about various practices for Bible study. Some people set aside a special place, with multiple concordances and commentaries at their fingertips. I thrive on a bit more variety. Comparing a couple of Bible translations and paraphrases proves helpful for my studies.

Renovaré, Richard Foster's institute that aims to help people become more like Jesus, advises: "It is vital to study not only books but also those things around us such as nature, relationships, events and cultural values." What are the most meaningful ways for you to study God's Word?

—Janna Firestone



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.

June 2025

Did you know? On the main Pentecost feast day, we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming down and making it so that everyone that could hear the apostles that day could understand them as they talked about the mighty works of God, regardless of what language(s) they knew. This is a redemption of sorts of what happened at the Tower of Babel when God came down and confused the languages so that different groups could no longer understand each other.

Bible verse of the month: "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some doubted." -Matthew 28:16-17 We will continue with verses 18-20 over the next month or two.

Catechism: The Sixth commandment and its explanation:

What is the Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we live a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Liturgical seasons and colors (look on the altar and pastor) for June: Easter-white, Pentecost main day-red, Trinity Sunday- white, Weeks after Pentecost-green

Christian symbol of the month: To the right is a symbol with 12 tongues of fire. This is used to represent the twelve apostles, the twelve tribes of Israel, and the twelve tongues of fire that the Holy Spirit manifested as over the apostles' heads on Pentecost.

Hymn of the month: (definitely check out the other verses in the hymnal, for the sake of space we have v. 1 only here) Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord-LSB #497

Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord,

With all Your graces now outpoured

On each believer's mind and heart, Your fervent love to them impart.

Lord, by the brightness of Your light In holy faith Your Church unite

From every land and every tongue

This to Your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung: Alleluia, alleluia!

Church festivals, observances, Saint Days in June:

1<sup>st</sup>- St. Justin (Martyr) 5<sup>th</sup>-St. Boniface of Mainz (Missionary to Germany)

8<sup>th</sup>-Pentecost (this changes every year don't forget to wear red to church!) 11<sup>th</sup>-St. Barnabas (apostle)

12<sup>th</sup>-Remembrance of the Council of Nicaea 14<sup>th</sup>-Elisha (prophet)

15<sup>th</sup>-Trinity Sunday (this changes every year) 24<sup>th</sup>-Nativity of John the Baptist

25<sup>th</sup>-Remembrance of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession 26<sup>th</sup>-Jeremiah(prophet)

27<sup>th</sup>-St. Cyril of Alexandria (Pastor and Confessor) 28<sup>th</sup>-St. Irenaeus of Lyons (Pastor)

29<sup>th</sup>-St. Peter and St. Paul (Apostles)





## CONCORDIA SEMINARY

EMAIL OF MAY 7, 2025

Dear friends of Concordia Seminary,

Greetings in Christ Jesus, who is risen from the dead!

In recent weeks, I have received requests to respond to the public launch of the Center for Missional and Pastoral Leadership (CMPL), a non-LCMS, online theological program directly appealing to LCMS students and donors. In their promotion of this new program, CMPL leaders and faculty have made contradictory statements, vacillating between promising that their project will help address the pastoral shortage in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) on the one hand, and stressing that they are not claiming to qualify students for ministry in the LCMS on the other. I have serious concerns about this program, and I would encourage LCMS friends not to promote or support it.

A central purpose in the formation of the LCMS, nearly two centuries ago, was to **share together in the task of preparing and recognizing LCMS pastors**, whom LCMS congregations would then be free to choose and call for service in their midst. For this purpose, the LCMS has, from its beginning, supported and operated its own seminaries: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. This shared commitment to pastoral formation and pastoral “rostering” has served Christ’s mission well. As nearly every mainline denomination in America has lost its way and departed both from Scriptural faithfulness and from true missionary zeal, the LCMS has remained true to its confessional, Scriptural roots and to its missionary character and commitment. Thanks be to God — this is the Lord’s doing and grace.

Prior to organizing this new “Center” (CMPL), there was no consultation with the leadership of the LCMS, with the St. Louis seminary, with the Fort Wayne seminary, or with the body to which our Synod’s bylaws direct such endeavors, the LCMS Pastoral Formation Committee. None. Not a single conversation about this effort that seeks to reinvent pastoral formation for the LCMS

This new self-authorized online school, CMPL, is a serious departure from our church’s mutual commitment to carry out pastoral formation **together**, a mutual commitment that we have repeatedly confirmed and emphasized through our history. Our most recent LCMS national convention resolved that “districts and members of the Synod honor, use, and promote Synod-approved programs and not create independent programs of pastoral preparation or direct men to a pastoral preparation program outside of our Synod’s seminaries” (2023 Resolution 6-02A).

Despite the involvement of respected brothers in this CMPL project, including some with former connections to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, I must say clearly to the church: Their project is ill-conceived and illegitimate and will cause division and confusion. What will members make of men serving as pastors in LCMS congregations who are not LCMS pastors? How can this not cause serious confusion and offense among our laity and

within our church? It violates not only our explicit LCMS commitments to one another, but also the Apostle's mandate that things in the church be done "decently and in order ... for God is not a God of confusion but of peace" (1 Cor. 14:33, 40 ESV). It will not result in a greater number of pastors for LCMS congregations and mission starts, but fewer, as prospective future LCMS pastors are discouraged from attending our two LCMS seminaries, and as LCMS seminary donors are courted to fund instead this non-LCMS school.

Our LCMS seminaries already offer pastoral formation programs that answer the need for distance education alternatives in situations where this is genuinely needed. In 2007, the LCMS in convention created a partially online pastoral formation program, the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program. The SMP Program is offered by both LCMS seminaries, and we have no intention of discontinuing the SMP Program, despite false rumors to the contrary.

There is no reason not to direct all future candidates for pastoral ministry in the LCMS to the seminaries of the LCMS. The intense recruitment effort of our Synod, districts and seminaries in recent years is already beginning to bear fruit. The number of pastoral students at our LCMS seminaries is up over the last five years, compared to the five years prior, and we are pursuing additional measures to identify and open doors to prospective future pastors. If we continue to work together, instead of beginning to row in different directions, this will make a real difference.

To those LCMS brothers involved in this independent project, my consistent appeal has been and continues to be: Please stop recruiting men from within the LCMS who desire to serve as LCMS pastors to attend this non-LCMS program that doesn't qualify them for pastoral ministry in the LCMS. This is not walking together, and it will cause great confusion and further division in our Synod.

Those involved rationalize this project by claiming that our LCMS seminaries are not producing a sufficient number of pastors and that our LCMS seminaries are cost prohibitive. Yet, even while they are repeating these criticisms, they have been discouraging people from attending our LCMS seminaries and actively seeking to persuade LCMS seminary donors to fund their project instead. If they are genuinely trying to advance the mission and ministry of LCMS congregations, then such undermining of the seminaries of the LCMS is counterproductive — and divisive.

In closing, my appeal to LCMS friends is this: Let us continue to ***share together*** the vital work of pastoral formation for the LCMS, for the sake of a clear confession of Christ for our children and grandchildren and for the world. Please do not support the splintering of this effort into "every district for itself, every congregation for itself and every pastor for himself." Let's work together, in an orderly and honest way. This is what I strive for every day. That is what our seminaries were founded for. God grant it, for Jesus' sake.

For additional insights on this matter, please read the [statement](#) issued by Dr. Jon Bruss, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Thomas J. Egger  
President





## **Cyber Corner for June**

In the May newsletter I introduced you to the concept of Phishing (where an attacker tries to deceive the person to get information from victim), but this is a general term that usually involves an attack that tries to hit anyone they can catch; like sending out a mass email and in there trying to get someone to click on a link. The form of Phishing I am going to look at here is called spear phishing. Here the attacker does not send out something that can go to anyone hoping to get anyone who takes the bait, but here it is directed specifically at a person. In here I am going to talk about a few voice scams and one involving AI tools.

### **Voice Cloning Scam**

This is not that old and is spreading fast from what I hear. In here the scammer uses an AI tool that, with just about 3 seconds of speech, can now mimic whoever they want. So, for example, they will call you pretending to be a telemarketing person trying to sell you something, or say this is your bank and they must talk to you about a security issue on your account, "Is this Mr. or Mrs. "(your name)"? And you say something like Yes this is, what is this about? And that is more than what they need to record your voice. By the way, the fact that they have some information on you and are targeting you specifically, is an example of the Spear Phishing I mentioned above. Anyway, now having this short recording of your voice with the AI tool, they can have a whole conversation with someone, and it will sound just like you. Also, I recently heard that if you have a voice message system for your calls, you should not use your voice here either, instead use one of the generic messages that usually come with the system and does not use your voice.

If you think all this sounds a bit out there, I can tell you it is not. Besides seeing this on the news, as well as reading about this elsewhere, this happened at a company I worked at. I cannot go into details about this here, but the hacker tried to get access by pretending to be an employee. Fortunately, the person they contacted suspected something was off and it did not work. So, in our church for example, the person may call saying that they are Pastor Walsh, and that he knows a family in need of money and would like you send them gift cards with money on them. With this tool it will sound just like him, and if this sounds familiar, that is because this kind of thing has happened for years with emails. First, for them to do this they have to know something about you. There are all kinds of free sources out there that will give them all the information they need about anyone; and that anyone can get. And if you are a hacker, they will spend whatever time they need to gather this information; in fact, they live for this. I have read about hackers going through dumpsters of garbage to see what they can find and taken various jobs in companies just to see what they can get access to; just to name a few.

The best way to protect yourself is not to answer a number you do not recognize (if it is important they should leave a message), and if you do and it sounds like a telemarketing call hangup and do not say anything. It may even come up on your phone as you bank, or something you know, do not answer, instead look up the number and call it directly; do not engage with them.

### **Can you hear me? Scam**

This is a bit older, and I am not exactly sure how they pull this off. But they, again posing as a telemarketing agent or something, will ask you “Can you hear me?” and you say “Yes”. They then they will use your verbal “Yes” to purchase things in your name. Again, the defense against this is not to answer the call, and if you do answer by mistake, do not say anything, just hang up (do not even say goodbye). However, if you do mistakenly say “Yes”. Do not fret just constantly check your bank and credit card transactions and right away report any transactions that you did not make to the financial institution. I strongly recommend that you check your accounts at least once a week anyway.

Again, I cannot emphasize enough, do not communicate with the scammers in any form. That is do not talk with them or reply in an email or text. You may want to be polite and say something harmless like “I am not interested goodbye” or reply like this in an email, but these simple things they can use against you. You never know what they get you to reveal about yourself, and any little thing is big to them. You see, for them, it is all about getting any pieces of information here and other pieces there and then putting them together. I will go more into this and how to protect yourself in the next issue.



### **Zoom out**

On a computer screen, images can be magnified to show tiny details and make text easier to read. In the process, however, the “big picture” is lost. After checking various aspects of a project closely, it’s a good idea to “zoom out” again to be sure everything still looks as it should.

Likewise, it’s easy to fixate on the tiny details of our lives (especially flaws in ourselves and others). We tend to enlarge our problems far beyond their actual size and totally miss problems taking a toll elsewhere. We may also forget the beautiful “big picture” of God’s care encompassing us. After tending to life’s details, it’s important to take a broader view to see whether our up-close perceptions hold true when we gaze on the work as a whole.

“Help us ‘zoom out,’ oh God,” prays Joshua DuBois in *The President’s Devotional* (HarperOne). “Widen our perspective and extend our horizon, so that we can more fully know your purpose this day, and every day.”



## **2023–2025 Mission Grant #20**

### **Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan**

#### **Lutheran Hour Ministries**

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

The mission of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM), based on the clear teaching of Scripture, is bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church. The established LHM ministry center in Kazakhstan carries out Gospel outreach to a non-Christian country where many people are facing hardships and have limited opportunities to hear the Gospel.

LHM has identified opportunities to reach out and share the Good News with women and their families in urban areas and remote villages. Effective outreach methods have included Christian training programs, resources, and media that allow them to share the love of Jesus. Outreach through media and Christian discipleship materials allow families to hear God's message of salvation in culturally appropriate ways.

This grant will support the powerful Christian witness of love to strengthen relationships, provide encouragement, and build faith in Jesus.



Lutheran Hour Ministries-Kazakhstan publishes and distributes Christian materials in the Kazakh and Russian languages introducing people to the Christian faith.



Women and their families attend events sponsored by churches and also hear the message of the Gospel.



Children participate in a children's camp where they learn Bible stories, interactive games, and songs through Christian teaching.



660 MASON RIDGE CENTER DRIVE

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141-8557

1-800-876-9880

## Any Season's Perfect for Being a Good Neighbor

We may think of being neighborly as mostly a warm-weather activity, but there are plenty of helpful things we can do at any time of year. Drawing inspiration from Don Everts' book, *The Hopeful Neighborhood: What Happens When Christians Pursue the Common Good*, we can connect with those who live nearby to create a more hopeful neighborhood.


While personal issues may keep us inwardly focused, we shouldn't let that dampen our enthusiasm toward those who live closest to us. Everts reminds us that "While it is true that Christians throughout history have pursued the common good ... Our current reputation would suggest that somewhere along the line we Christians have forgotten that *we are created and called to pursue the common good.*"

It's about being there for others. Case in point: "We moved to our neighborhood seven years ago, and despite a multi-year pandemic, we build more connections by just being available. We haven't done anything big or elaborate-just said yes to invitations, spent time outside, committed to remembering our neighbors' names, and looked for opportunities to build on common connections. And now I would say our neighborhood feels like *home*. Our neighbors are the people we call when we need anything. We feel hopeful in our neighborhood, and you can, too, no matter what type of neighborhood you live in," says Jennifer Prophete, director of **The Hopeful Neighborhood Project** from LHM.

Simple gestures like inviting neighbors over to watch a sporting event can build rapport quickly. You may have found some friendly competition among neighbors who cheer on their favorite sports teams. Perhaps they don't have the cable or streaming option of watching particular games. Giving them the chance to see their team in action in the Super Bowl or March Madness is a big deal to sports fans and a treat they'll remember. For those outdoor-minded folks, cold weather fun like sledding, ice skating, or hockey can be topped off with an evening of getting warm by a fire pit, enjoying some mulled cider and good conversation.


No matter what time of the year it is, The Hopeful Neighborhood Project (HNP) is ready with ideas to assist you where you live. To learn more, go to [hopefulneighborhood.org](https://hopefulneighborhood.org) and request a FREE Starter Kit. It includes an "I Love My Neighborhood" journal, access to HNP's inspiring online courses, an email subscription with hopeful tips, and free coaching/conversation from a helpful neighborhood facilitator.





# IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.





**What you need:**

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint

**What you do:**

1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same side) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.





# PUZZLE

## FATHERS OF FAITH

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God.

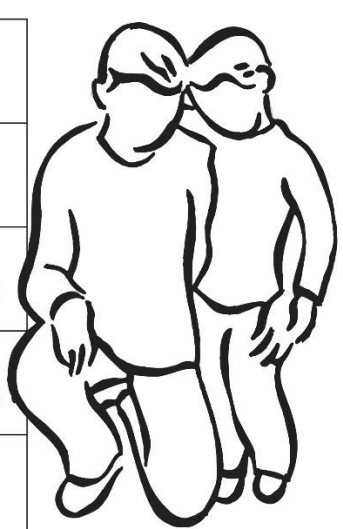
Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

---

*Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.*

---

1 The	2 as	3 tell	1 living
2 I	3 their	1 the	2 am
3 children	1 living	2 doing	3 about
1 they	2 today	3 your	1 praise
2 parents	3 faithfulness	1 you	



\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ ,

\_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

*Isaiah 38:19, NIV*

Answers: The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. Isaiah 38:19, NIV

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>.