



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

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

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

**APRIL 2026**

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



FROM THE  
  
Pastor

Over the last several months we have looked at the why and theology of the Divine Service, in particular Divine service setting 3. However, there are other services, some are used for the midweek services where there is no communion, we typically use the service of evening prayer, on which I'll do a series down the road, these are called daily offices. These services, while typically are done at churches, seminaries, and colleges, are also good for personal and or private devotions. You do not have to be a Pastor to lead one of these services at home, they can be chanted or spoken, if you would like to chant them and need help, let me know and I can show you how it is to sound. But, for the next couple of months I figured we would look at my favorite daily office, the service of Compline found in the LSB on page 253.

Compline is service done in the evening, ideally close to when you go to bed, and the themes in the service fit with bedtime thoughts and prayers. If used as a church service, the people are to enter in silence, this is done so each individual can have a few moments of silent thought and prayer to the Lord or simply to show reverence to the Lord. Note also that you will see throughout the service the letters L and C. The L means liturgist who is the one leading the service, and the C is the congregation.

The service starts out with a few responsories. This is a back-and-forth confession of the Lord's presence, here in this devotion or service, in which we give the evening and our sleeping hours over to the Lord, so that we may have a restful and peaceful night. We also give thanks in these responsories to the Lord for the day we just had, as well as looking forward to the day the Lord gives us next.

We then continue with confession and absolution, note that this confession and absolution is different from the one we receive in the Divine service. First, a Pastor is not required for this daily office, unlike the Divine service where the Pastor is in the stead of Christ giving the forgiveness of sins from the Father. Here we have the liturgist who is forgiving their brothers and sisters in the faith as a baptized child of God in the order of James 5:16. Notice how the sign of the cross is not on the page here (pg. 254) as it is in the Divine Service (see pg. 185), again the liturgist doesn't have to be ordained to lead this service. Observe also the wording of the absolution it does not have the letter "I" but the word "The" to indicate even calling of liturgist and congregant. But something beautiful happens in this daily office, the liturgist first confesses and receives the forgiveness of sins from his brothers and sisters in the faith; it is a humbling moment and a reminder that the Pastor is just as much in need of the Father's forgiveness as the congregation.

The service continues with a psalm and a hymn, I recommend a psalm and a hymn that has an evening theme (hymns 877-891). My favorite is 880 Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow.

Christ blessings

Rev. David J. Walsh



## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE APRIL 2026

**(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

<b>WEEKEND OF</b>	Apr. 4, 5	Apr. 11, 12	Apr. 18, 19	Apr. 25, 26
<b>READER (Sun)</b>	Albert Ho	Albert Ho	Albert Ho	Albert Ho
<b>USHERS</b>	Christy Gempko/ Ed Walsh	Steve Gempko/ Ed Walsh	Mike & Dianne Wuerch	Tim McGuan/ Melody Keef
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Jim Hartz	Mike Wuerch	Ed Walsh	Ed Walsh

**If you cannot serve on the day scheduled, please notify Ed Walsh (585) 747-1503 or Mike Wuerch (716) 481-2624. 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.)

Apr. 5	Apr. 12	Apr. 19	Apr. 26	
Jim Hartz	Sue Holway	Jim Hartz	Carolyn Alessi	
TBD	Janice Vogel	Ruth Whitmer	Dolores Zeeb	



*Happy Birthday!*

Eric Alessi	Apr. 15
Melody Keef	Apr. 20
Kevin Rodgers	Apr. 25



Police in Wichita, Kansas, arrested a 22-year-old man at an airport hotel after he tried to pass two (counterfeit) \$16 dollar bills.

A convict broke out of jail in Washington, D.C., then a few days later accompanied his girlfriend to her trial for robbery. At lunch, he went out for a sandwich. She needed to see him and thus had him paged. Police officers recognized his name and arrested him as he returned to the courthouse in a car he had stolen over the lunch hour.

When two service station attendants in Ionia, Michigan, refused to hand over the cash to an intoxicated robber, the man threatened to call the police. They still refused, so the robber called the police and was arrested.

A Los Angeles man who later said he was “tired of walking”, stole a steamroller and led police on a 5-mph chase until an officer stepped aboard and brought the vehicle to a stop.

The Chico, California City Council enacted a ban on nuclear weapons, setting a \$500 fine for anyone detonating one within the city limits.



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

This month's meeting will be on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. at the church. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend. The Buffalo Zone Women in Missions Spring Event is on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to noon in Springville, N.Y. Please refer to the flyer for more details. These events offer great fellowship and outreach. I encourage women to attend.

We continue to need people to host the fellowship time after the Sunday service. The sign-up sheet is on the announcement board near the entrance of the sanctuary.

**REMINDER:** Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway; mites (loose) change go to Karen Smith (note: there is a large collection box for mites in the back of the sanctuary); cancelled stamps go to Sharon McGuan. All these collections go for mission outreach. Thank you.

As we reflect on Christ's journey to the cross and sacrifice for our sins, we celebrate everlasting life in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - Alleluia!

Carol Obot



### **Esther Circle Prayer Partner Ministry - All Women of Pilgrim are Invited to be a Partner in Prayer**

The women of the Esther Circle are sponsoring Women of the Church Prayer Partners again this year. If you would like to have a Prayer Partner from April 2026 to April 2027, please contact Sharon McGuan at [salmcg23@gmail.com](mailto:salmcg23@gmail.com). All you need to do is email Sharon McGuan your name and email address and say, "I would like to be a Prayer Partner". Please send your email by April 20th. Then prayer partners will be randomly selected. Sharon McGuan will email you with your new Prayer Partner's name and email. You then call, email, or otherwise connect with your partner and take it from there. We pray the Prayer Partner Program is a blessing to each Partner in Prayer, and through their prayers, the congregation is blessed. Thanks be to God who calls us to pray and hears all our prayers in the Name of His Son!



## “Praise the Lord”

Come join in the celebration as LWML hears His word,  
shares his love, and missions to His children.

Saturday, April 25, 2026  
Salem Lutheran Church  
91 W. Main St.  
Springville, NY 14141



### Schedule for our Spring Event

- 9:00 -9:55am Registration (\$5.00), refreshments & coloring cards
- 10:00-10:20am Praise Band Opener
- 10:30-11:15am Speaker: Ms. Malanie Hammon C.H.O.I.C.E.S. rep.
- 11:15-11:20am break/refreshments
- 11:45- 12:00pm Litany/blessing of the ingathering and closing prayers of thanks and concerns by Pastor Brown

Please RSVP by April 18<sup>th</sup> to Sharon McGuan at  
[Salmcg23@gmail.com](mailto:Salmcg23@gmail.com)

LWML Ingathering for

**Caring Hearts Offering Information Compassion Encouragement and Support.**

Please consider assisting this mission by bringing any items that are needed for keeping God's little ones happy and healthy. Helping moms in need!

Items: diapers, clothes up to 3T, formula (Engamil, Gentle Ease is preferred), pull ups to size 7, etc. Generic wipes from Walmart-sensitive.

**All donations become part of their BLESSING CLOSET!**



Catechesis page: We encourage you to put this on your fridge and learn God's Word

and things that help us better understand it together.

April 2026

Did you know? Something that we sometimes need to be reminded of is that Jesus didn't just rise spiritually, he rose physically. The nail marks in His hands and the wound in His side that Thomas put his hands in are proofs of that. Our resurrection on the last day will be physical too!

Bible verse of the month: "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted." -Isaiah 53:4

Catechism: The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Liturgical seasons and colors (look on the altar and pastor) for April: Maundy Thursday-white Good Friday-none/black Easter-white

Christian symbol of the month: The Division of Garments: When Jesus was on the cross some of the soldiers took the garments He was wearing before they crucified Him and gambled for them with dice. This fulfilled the prophecy in Psalm 22:18.

Hymn of the month: (definitely check out the other verses in the hymnal, for the sake of space we have v. 1 only here) I Know That My Redeemer Lives LSB #461

V.1 I know that my Redeemer lives;

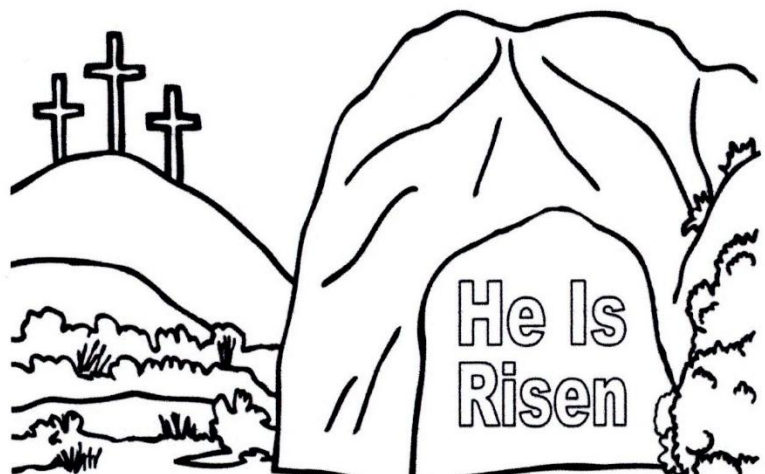
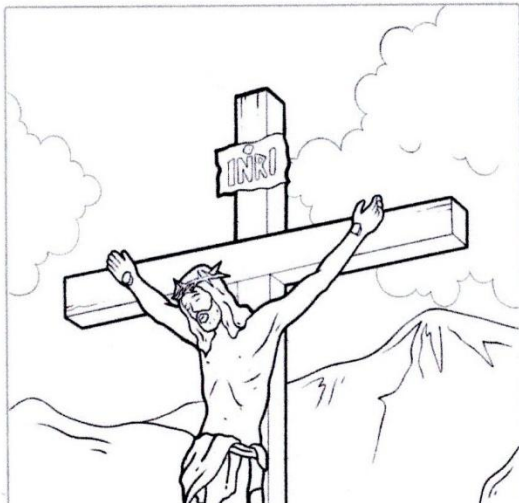
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

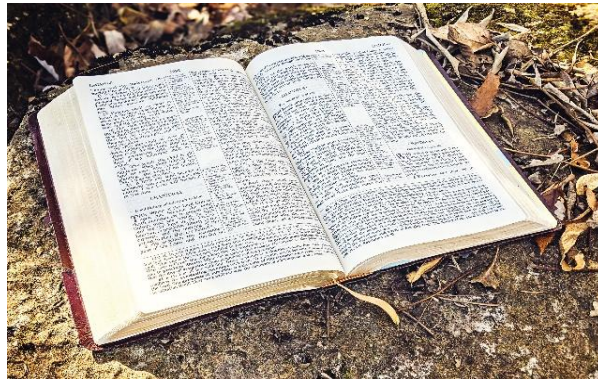
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;

He lives my ever-living head.



"It means," said Aslan, "that though the Witch knew the Deep Magic, there is a magic deeper still which she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, into the stillness and the darkness before Time dawned, she would have read there a different incantation. She would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backward." -C.S. Lewis The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe





This month we will continue with the book of Acts.

Apr. 1 – Acts 11	Apr. 9 – Acts 15:1-20	Apr. 17 – Acts 19:1-20	Apr. 25 – Prov. 17:1-15
Apr. 2 – Acts 12	Apr. 10 – Acts 15:21-41	Apr. 18 – Prov. 16:1-18	Apr. 26 – Prov. 17:16-28
Apr. 3 – Acts 13:1-12	Apr. 11 – Prov. 15:1-20	Apr. 19 – Prov. 16:19-33	Apr. 27 – Acts 23
Apr. 4 – Prov. 14:1-18	Apr. 12 – Prov. 15:21-33	Apr. 20 – Acts 19:21-41	Apr. 28 – Acts 24
Apr. 5 – Prov. 14:19-35	Apr. 13 – Acts 16:1-24	Apr. 21 – Acts 20	Apr. 29 – Acts 25
Apr. 6 – Acts 13:13-41	Apr. 14 – Acts 16:25-40	Apr. 22 – Acts 21:1-26	Apr. 30 – Acts 26
Apr. 7 – Acts 13:42-52	Apr. 15 – Acts 17	Apr. 23 – Acts 21:27-40	
Apr. 8 – Acts 14	Apr. 16 – Acts 18	Apr. 24 – Acts 22	

## There's Something Better Coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to “renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint.” There's something better coming.



A Voters Meeting was held on March 15<sup>th</sup> after the service. We have three elders again: Ed Walsh, Mike Wuerch and Steve Gempko.

Tim and Lisa Blizzard and Matt Nolan were accepted as new members. Welcome to your new church family!

Please help Amber Trimmer keep our directory up to date. If your information changes, please let her know as soon as possible.

We are on track to make the change to the new payroll service beginning with the April 2026 payroll.

Our new website was developed by Ed Walsh and Mike and Dianne Wuerch. It can be found here: [www.pilgrimlutherankenmore.org](http://www.pilgrimlutherankenmore.org). Check it out! If you have email, Ed Walsh sent a link so you can leave a review.

Please remember that ongoing donations for the Blessing Box are needed. We recently received a large donation from the Lions Club. Part of that will be used to purchase specific items to be given together along with a recipe card to make a complete meal.

The sanctuary needs to be painted and the parking lot resealed. We will be doing the mowing this summer. If you would like to help with the upkeep of our building and grounds, please contact Mike Wuerch. Many hands make light work!

Help with the Fellowship hour is always needed. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

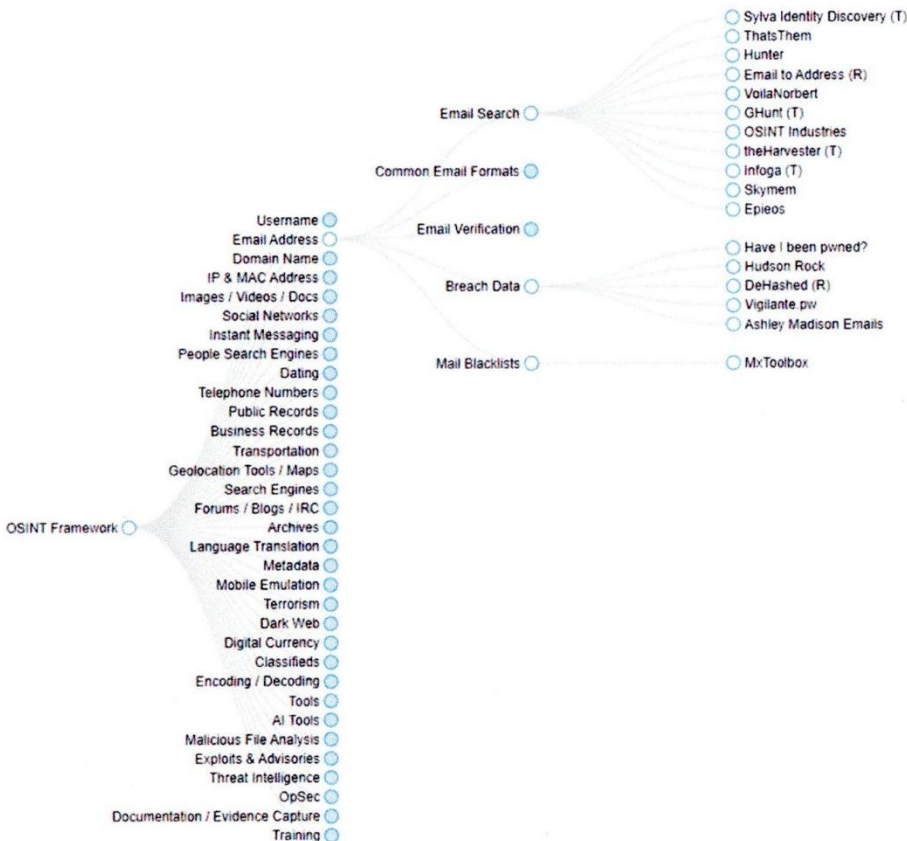
The next meeting will be on June 28<sup>th</sup>. We adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.



## Cyber Corner for April

One of the things I want to address here is identity theft. I have touched upon this in other articles, but I will go into this in more depth here. I want you to understand this a little more because this is the basis of how a lot of attacks are done, and understanding this will help you see when the attacks are happening to you. This is when someone uses the data that identifies you to do something illegal. They may use it to attack you directly, or they may use it to get to other people or businesses. So, what is the data they need to impersonate you? Well, that depends on the attack, but the basic information is the following: names, address, social security number, phone number, your age, your birthdate, bank account information, credit card numbers, and insurance account numbers, just for starters; and any of the same that they can get on your family and friends. So where do they get this information? Well, to start, they can get a lot of it for a small fee from data brokers on the dark web. There are also a lot of free sources called OSINT tools out there, like the one I have here. When you go to the final point, shown here, it will take them to a website that may give them what they want, and if it doesn't, there are many other places they can go.

## OSINT Framework



There is a lot they can get from social media like Facebook profiles, which mine hardly has anything in it; for this reason. Finally they just hack into companies and steal it. The thing is, they get a little here and a little there about you and your family and friends, so that when they call you, they sound like they must be legit because they know so much about you. Now there are services that claim to erase your data from the web and brokers for a fee of course. While I am the first to say that anything to protect yourself is good, I am not sure about this. If they do erase it today, it will be back tomorrow, and your data is in a lot of places that they cannot erase because it must be there. Like your job, insurance companies, credit card companies, just to name a few. So, I do not know if this is worth it or not. They will send requests to the different companies asking them to remove the data, and will monitor and keep asking them to remove it for you. But I do not know if they have to remove it either; I guess you would have to see what they are going to do for you. For me, I am just going to take the proactive measures I have given you in my articles. Some of the ways to know if your identity has been stolen are to watch your accounts for purchases you did not make. If they start opening accounts in your name. This is why you need to set alerts with all your companies and constantly monitor all your financial activity daily.

As we are moving into tax season, I want to remind you to be careful of scammers impersonating IRS tax agents or that they are with some Tax office, needing some information. Remember, they can sound official because they are armed with a lot of data from the many sources above. Here, they may give you things that sound legit because they could only know what they are telling you if it were them, but now they need you to verify your SSI number to make sure they are talking to you, or ask you for your tax ID. They tell you that you are entitled to more money, but they need to confirm your background information first, or they may threaten you with jail or fines. Do not work with them now. First, if you get a call from an unknown source, you should always just let it go to voicemail. If it is an email, text, or letter, look up the IRS directly and call them. Do not use any of the numbers they may say to call or any links to click on. Get the number on your own that you can verify as legit and call that. They will use this information to file fake tax returns, redirect benefits, or open accounts in your name, as well as a whole host of other things.





**660 MASON RIDGE CENTER DRIVE**

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

**1-800-876-9880**



LHM's Hispanic Ministries has been busy connecting with people in various ways in the United States and in Central and South America. In an event sure to have struck a chord with many, Rev. Germán Novelli, director of LHM's Hispanic Ministries, spoke to attending groups at Endure, 2025's triennial LCMS National Youth Gathering (NYG), in New Orleans on July 19-23. His topics were immigration and the role of the church in society. As immigration is much in the news, Novelli knew it would be a sensitive and personal subject.

"I was a little nervous about these presentations due to the charged political climate surrounding the issue. That being said, these discussions helped us explore the tension we have in our dual roles as citizens of the earth and as Christians with a biblical outlook," Novelli says. "We had a great crowd joining our conversation, which we led four times during the NYG. We discussed three main points: the phenomenon of immigration from a biblical perspective and our divine call to love and welcome immigrants; the work of LCMS churches to serve African, Hmong, Latino, and other ethnic ministries within the U.S., and beyond; and the different ways that Christians must act in their daily lives and contexts to love strangers—whoever they are."

In other developments, new Sentido Latino podcasts have been produced, and the program's YouTube channel has nearly 40,000 subscribers.

Also, podcast hosts Rev. Luciano Vega-Ayala and Deaconess Noemi Guerra will soon record their 400th episode! The website Para el Camino continues to provide daily and seasonal devotions, children's and adult booklets, and other Christ-centered resources. Recent social media posts share details of talks Novelli gave to students at Word of Life Lutheran School in St. Louis, and First Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Glencoe, Minnesota.

To celebrate U.S. Hispanic and Latino history and culture, More Amor was chosen as the theme for Hispanic Heritage Month in 2025. Supporting this annual celebration from September 15 to October 15, LHM offered FREE resources: free stickers of hope, PDF downloadable coloring pages, kids' booklets Preciosos ante Sus ojos ("Precious in His Sight"), ¡Amo mi vecindario! ("I Love My Neighborhood"), and the topical booklet, Perdonar es ... dar y recibir ("Forgiveness Is for Giving"). "For those wanting to support Hispanic Ministries, T-shirts with 'More Amor' are available for purchase," says LHM's Social Media Specialist Christina López-Robin.

In the Project Connect booklet area, the translation and adaptation of two new English booklets have been completed. One is Perdonar como he sido perdonado ("Forgiving As We Have Been Forgiven") by the Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies, LHM's vice president of Ministry Engagement. The other is Re-comenzando con la oración ("Getting Re-Started with Prayer") by Dr. Kari Vo, LHM's theological writer. In the future, both booklets will be welcome additions to the growing library of topical texts available to Spanish speakers.

On June 26–29, 2025, Novelli and López-Robin spoke on LHM's international ministries at the well-attended Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. In September, Novelli promoted LHM's resources and programs at the orientation for new Hispanic students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. And he also spoke at the Back to the Bible Summit: Empowering Your Church Through Scripture, organized by Lutheran Bible Translators.

"This was an amazing experience," Novelli says. "We discussed the role of the Bible in our personal contexts, church life, and in discipleship. The Scripture is what we have in common: we may have different worship styles, hymns, prayers, leadership, and missional approach, but we have one Word, one faith, and one Lord. It is God's Word: the treasure we all share in common and the universal language of the church."



## 2025–2027 Mission Grant 8

### Building a Place of Care

#### Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota

### About This Mission Grant

Since 1952, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has touched the lives of more than 43,000 at-risk children and their families. They bring Christ-centered hope and healing to children who have experienced severe psychiatric, emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges due to abuse, neglect, violence, and other heartbreaking traumas.

The Ranch is planning to build the Zurcher Cottage, a psychiatric residential treatment facility, replacing the current cottages. Within the Zurcher Cottage, they plan to create the Reflection Room, which will serve as a safe and calming environment to support the emotional, spiritual, and psychological well-being of the children. Not only will this room benefit the children, but it will also directly support the staff during stressful work shifts and allow them to be more effective caregivers to the children in their care.

This grant will help fund the construction and furnishing of the Reflection Room on the Ranch's Minot campus.



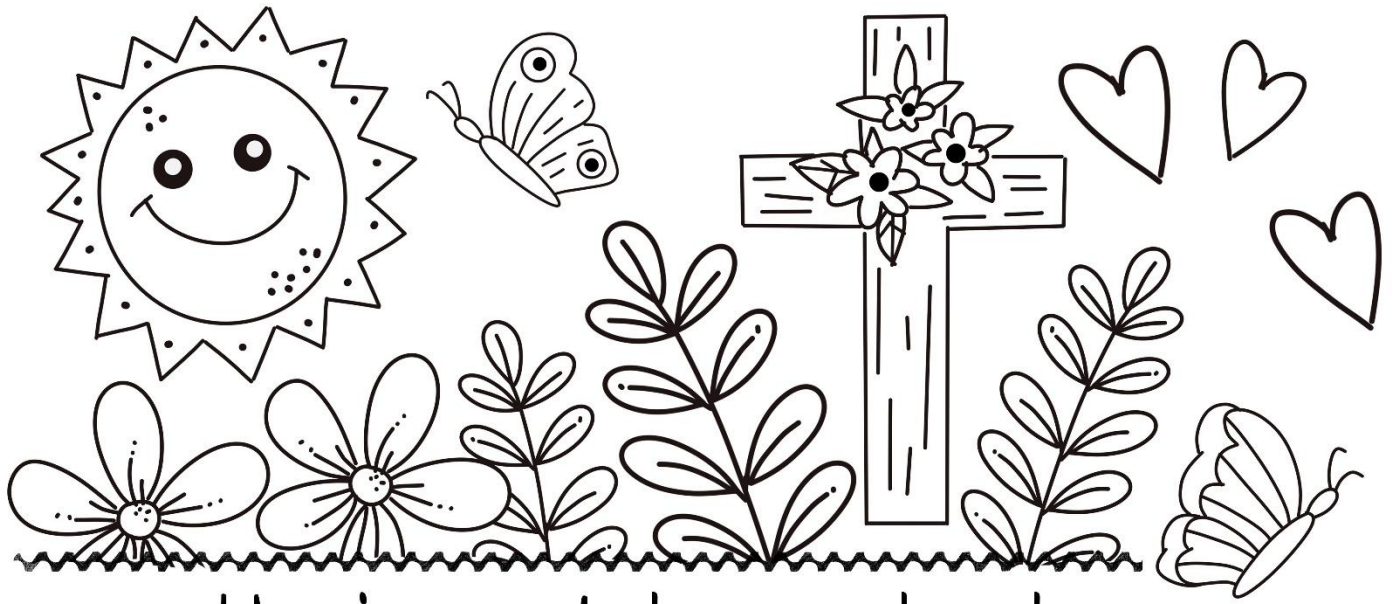
The mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.



The Ranch is called to give each child the chance to meet Jesus, learn about Him, and discover how His love, grace, and peace can help them find and become their best selves.



At the Ranch, real ministry happens where children learn to see the world differently, feel the love of God through those who care for them, and begin to look to the future with hope.



He is not here; he has



Luke 24:6, NIV





The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

**What you need:**

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



**What you do:**

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



# FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

1. Jesus 2. weary 3. endured 4. opposition 5. cross 6. endured 7. scorning 8. shame	1. Jesus 2. lose 3. pioneer 4. sinners 5. perfecter 6. him 7. faith 8. hand	1. eyes 2. us 3. joy 4. heart 5. right 6. grow 7. God 8. throne

"... fixing our \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. For the \_\_\_\_\_ set before \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ its \_\_\_\_\_, and sat down at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. Consider \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ such \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_, so that you will not \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answer: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and lost his life, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

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