PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

www.pilgrimlutherankenmore.org

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

NOVEMBER 2026

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

EDITOR: Mary Werth

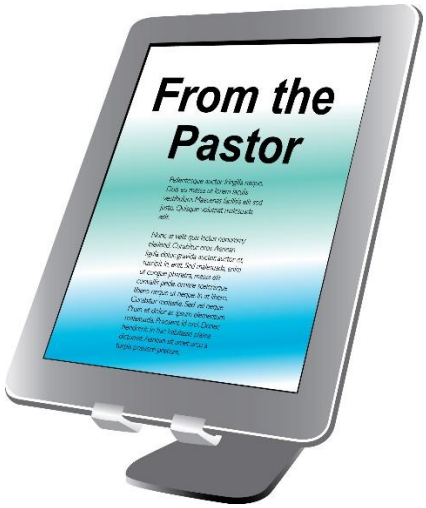
ASSOC. EDITOR:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





This month we will start looking at another daily office, that being the service of Vespers beginning on page 229 of the hymnal. Vespers is a Latin word meaning evening or evening star; hence this is a service that takes place after sundown and signals the end of the day.

The service begins with responsory that is the same as the service of Matins coming from Psalms 51 and 70. The purpose of using the same responsory reflects the tradition of beginning and ending the day in the Lord's Word, asking Him for guidance at the start and thanksgiving at the end.

This is then followed by the option of another Psalm reading and an office hymn, both of which give us the opportunity to allow the Lord to shape our worship with His Words and promises. This leads to the scripture reading for the service, usually two readings one from the Old Testament and one from the new.

The post reading responsory is where we see our second departure from Matins, the first being that there is no Venite, here the responsory's come from different passages of scripture. The first for the common time being from Psalm 86:11 and Psalm 119:105, in which we call to the Lord to teach us His Word and to unite us with Him that we may see clear to walk in faith as He has called us to do, for only God's Word can us to see a right. The second text which is for Advent is from Jeremiah 23: 5-6, in which we recite the promise of Christ coming from David who will save Israel, God's people of which we in Christ are numbered, naming Him as scripture teaches us, the Lord is our righteousness. Lastly, for Lent we have Psalms 51:14 and 141:8, in which we confess the sinful nature that we posses and a confession to the Lord that He alone can save us while asking for the Lord's presence and a perseveration from our enemies which we do not deserve.

This is followed by the sermon or a lesson from the Catechism. Next month we will finish the Vespers service overview.

Christ blessings

Rev. David J. Walsh

SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2026

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

SUNDAY	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
READER	Pastor	Ruth Whitmer	Sue Holway	Carolyn Alessi	Pastor
USHERS	Melody Keef/ Christy Gempko	Jim Hartz/ Mathew Nolan	Mike & Dianne Wuerch	Ed Walsh/ Christy Gempko	Melody Keef/ Ed Walsh
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Mathew Nolan	Ed Walsh	Ed Walsh	Steve Kempko	Mathew Nolan

If you cannot serve on the day scheduled, please notify Ed Walsh (585)747-1503, Mike Wuerch (716)481-2624 or Steve Gempko (716)602-02134. 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.)

Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
Dianne Wuerch	Mike Wuerch	Sue Holway	Carolyn Alessi	Dianne Wuerch
Dolores Zeeb	Jim Hartz	Kathy Farkas	Janice Vogel	Dolores Zeeb



November BIRTHDAYS

Ed Walsh **Nov. 26**

(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.)



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

A small boy was reciting the 23rd Psalm for his parents: "Surely good Mrs. Murphy shall follow me all the days of my life."

Right in the middle of the service, and just before the sermon, one of the congregation remembered she had forgotten to turn off the gas under the roast. Hurriedly she scribbled a note and passed it to the usher to give to her husband. Unfortunately, the usher misunderstood her intention and took it to the pulpit. Unfolding the note, the preacher read aloud, "Please go home and turn off the gas."

Porter: Did you miss that train, sir?
Man: No! I didn't like the looks of it, so I chased it out of the station.

Windjammer: A person who spreads jelly on bread during a hurricane.



ESTHER CIRCLE

This month's meeting will be on Monday, November 16th, at 12:30 p.m. at the church. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend!

We had 10 women along with Pastor Walsh attend the Buffalo Zone LWML Fall Event at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The guest speaker, Dr. Thomas Egger, President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, spoke about "Christ The Cornerstone", the Campaign for Concordia Seminary. It was very enlightening! The luncheon afterwards was delicious.

Thank you to those who ordered candy from our Platter's fundraiser last month. We will be working on gift bags for our "shut ins". They will be delivered before Christmas. Thank you, Karen Smith, for all the help in collecting items for this. Please continue to pick a pumpkin and donate items for the Blessing Box. Thank you! We are looking into donations of gift cards from various businesses to be used to raise money for the Blessing Box. More information on this will be forthcoming.

REMINDER: Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway, mites to Karen Smith or place in the large mite box at the back of the sanctuary and cancelled stamps go to Sharon McGuan. All these collections go towards various mission projects. We appreciate your support!

Thanksgiving is coming soon! A special time to reflect on what we are thankful for. Enjoy the time with family and friends. Reach out to others who may be alone during this time. "THANK THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD AND HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER! AMEN!

Carol Obot

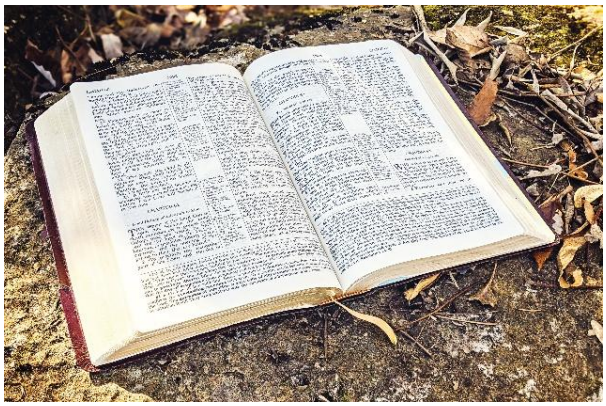


A Reason to Give Thanks

After Eddie Rickenbacker and his companions were rescued after more than three weeks adrift in life rafts in the Pacific, he was asked what lesson he had learned from the ordeal.

He answered that anyone with plenty of fresh water to drink and enough food to eat should never complain.

His words still speak clearly today. Many blessings can become so familiar that we barely notice them. This Thanksgiving, pause to give thanks for clean water, nourishing food, a safe place to rest and the people God has placed in your life. Let gratitude continue long after the holiday table is cleared.



Nov. 1 – Song of Solomon 1:8-17	Nov. 9 – Matthew 1	Nov. 17 – Matt. 6:1-24	Nov. 25 – Matt. 10:1-25
Nov. 2 – Revelation 18	Nov. 10 – Matthew 2	Nov. 18 – Matt. 6:25-34	Nov. 26 – Matt: 10:26-42
Nov. 3 – Revelation 19	Nov. 11 – Matthew 3	Nov. 19 – Matt. 7	Nov. 27 – Matt. 11
Nov. 4 – Revelation 20	Nov. 12 – Matthew 4	Nov. 20 – Matt. 8	Nov. 28 – Song of Sol. 4:16b-5:8
Nov. 5 – Revelation 21	Nov. 13 – Matt. 5:1-30	Nov. 21 – Song of Sol. 4:1-8	Nov. 29 – Song of Sol. 5:9 – 6:1
Nov. 6 – Revelation 22	Nov. 14 – Song of Sol. 3:1-5	Nov. 22 – Song of Sol. 4:9-16a	Nov. 30 – Matt. 12:1-32
Nov. 7 – Song of Sol. 2:1-7	Nov. 15 – Song of Sol. 3:6-11	Nov. 23 – Matt. 9:1-17	
Nov. 8 – Song of Sol. 2:8-17	Nov. 16 – Matt. 5:31-48	Nov. 24 – Matt. 9:18-38	

Honoring Faithful Service



Each year on Veterans Day, we pause to give thanks for the men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice and devotion. Their willingness to defend freedom reminds us that service often comes with great cost.

As Christians, we are called to honor those who serve and to pray for veterans, active-duty military members and their families. We also remember that true peace comes from God, who is our refuge and strength.

May this day lead us to gratitude, prayer and renewed commitment to serve others with humility, courage and love.



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.

November 2026 Happy New Year!

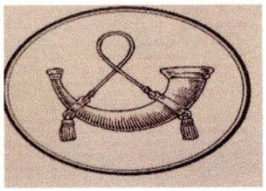
Did you know? On November 8, the church remembers Johannes Von Staupitz. He was one of Luther's professors at Wittenberg and Luther's father confessor. He never left the Roman church, but he supported Luther's views. Luther said of him, "if it had not been for Dr. Staupitz, I should have sunk in hell." He pointed Luther to the means of grace, therefore pointing him to Christ.

Bible verse of the month: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." -1 Corinthians 15:22

Catechism: The Third Petition to the Lord's Prayer and the second part of it's explanation: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. How is God's will done? God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Liturgical seasons and colors (look on the altar and pastor) for November: All Saints Day- White, Weeks after Pentecost-green, Advent-blue

Christian symbol of the month: The Von Staupitz family coat of arms which features a hunting horn. This is the symbol for Johann Von Staupitz.



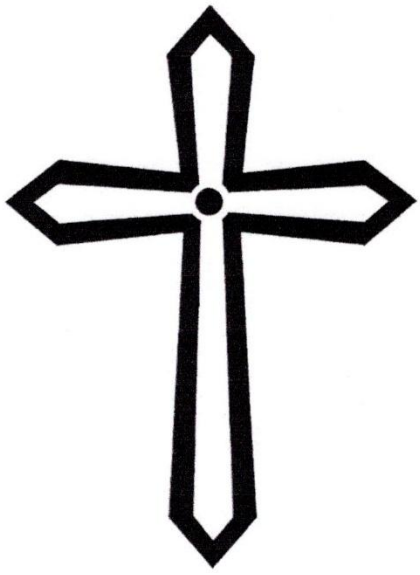
Hymn of the month: (definitely check out the other verses in the hymnal, for the sake of space we have v. 1 only here) -Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (LSB #802)

v.1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.





DR. STAUPITZ.

AFTER A CONTEMPORARY OIL PAINTING IN THE AUGUSTINIAN MONASTERY AT SALZBURG.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Johannes Von Stuapitz (Luther's father confessor)	9 Martin Chemnitz (birth) (pastor and confessor)	10 Martin Luther's birthday	11 Martin of Tours (pastor)	12	13	14 Emperor Justinian (Christian ruler and Confessor of Christ)
15	16	17	18	19 Elizabeth of Hungary	20	21
22	23 Clement of Rome (pastor)	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent Noah	30 St. Andrew (apostle)					

Faithful Witnesses

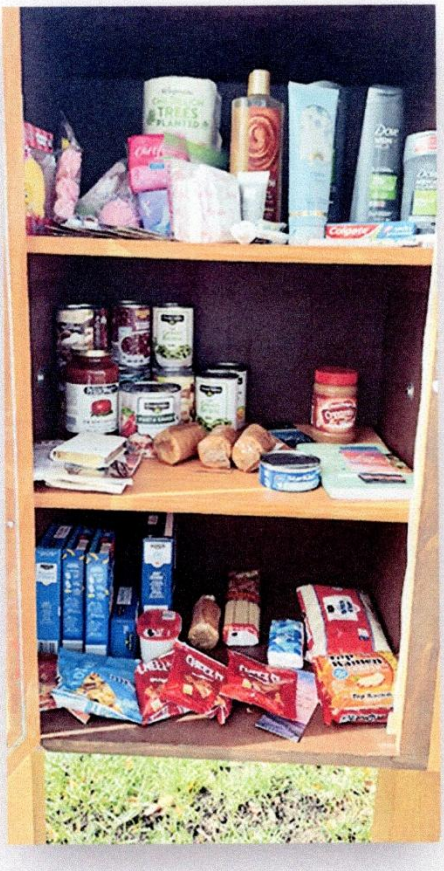


Many churches observe All Saints' Day on November 1, a time to remember believers who have died in the faith and give thanks for their faithful witness.

The story of Christianity is filled with ordinary people who held fast to Christ in both joyful and difficult seasons. Across the centuries, countless believers have followed Jesus with courage, and many have even given their lives while bearing witness to God's love and the saving grace of Christ. Even today, Christians in some parts of the world continue to face persecution for their faith.

On this day, take time to remember our Christian heritage with gratitude. Give thanks for those who remained faithful before us and ask God to help us follow Christ with the same courage, hope and steadfast faith.

Pilgrim Lutheran's Blessing Box Needs Your Support For Our Community



The Blessing Box continues to be a success and ***relies on ongoing support.*** Donations of non-perishable food, hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.), disinfectant wipes, and paper products are appreciated.

A tote is available in the back of the church for donations.

Monetary gifts may be made using a pew envelope—please note "Blessing Box." Thank you for your continued support of this mission.

Visit our website - www.pilgrimlutherankenmore.org





The Blessing Box:

Pumpkin Picking Time!

Running throughout October & November

1. **Pick a pumpkin** – Each pumpkin has a non-perishable item written on it.
2. **Purchase the item(s)** the next time you shop.
3. **Place items in the tote** at the back of the church each week.
4. Let's try to have **ALL** pumpkins picked by **November 30th!**

Monetary donations are also welcome!!

Cash or checks made payable to Esther Circle.

Please write "Blessing Box" in the Memo area.

660 MASON RIDGE CENTER DRIVE

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141-8557

1-800-876-9880



Spiritually Vibrant Home Book Becomes Foundation for Church Programs

Based on research done in partnership with Barna Group, Lutheran Hour Ministries has created convenient resources to meet people right where they are, connect with Jesus, and spread hope and faith throughout their community. Our *Households of Faith* research has encouraged congregations to implement outreach activities that align with their Gospel-proclamation mission.

Mackenzie Christmas, director of Christian education at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Valparaiso, Indiana, created a three-week program for families focused on the three habits found in LHM's *The Spiritually Vibrant Home* book.

"We called it 'Family Faith Missions,' and each week I released a new mission with a video on Facebook and a packet of materials for families to pick up after worship services to complete their mission," says Christmas. "This was all spy-themed, with 'Special Agent M' (myself dressed in a trench coat) as the mascot."

With the week one theme of “Pray Together,” families received seven prayer-prompt cards with the mission of praying out loud together each day. Week two focused on spiritual conversations, with families receiving a Vibrant Conversations Deck. Their mission was to have four spiritual conversations that week. The third week highlighted hospitality, where families received a door hanger, recipe, and a gift with the mission of inviting someone into their home to share a meal.

“This is not my first time ordering the Vibrant Conversation Decks,” says Christmas. “I also put them in our ‘Baptism Boxes,’ which are gifts for a newly baptized child and their parents. I also use them regularly in middle and high school youth group and at our high school girls’ coffee group that meets weekly at a Starbucks.”

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Oceanside, California, created a four-part sermon series this year based on *Households of Faith*. Pastor Michael Hansen came across the *Households of Faith* research through his interest in Barna Group. “I am always checking in on the latest research to make sure that our work reaches the most people in the most effective ways,” says Hansen. “I was delighted that LHM partnered with them to make a resource like *Households of Faith*.

“Our message of evangelism is a hyper-local model,” says Hansen. “We instruct and encourage our members to share the Gospel through their normal lives with the people already near them, like friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers.”

Hansen wrote the sermons from scratch, using *The Spiritually Vibrant Home* book and *Households of Faith* research findings. About 20 members bought *The Spiritually Vibrant Home* book to read along during the series.

“It was a joy to have this thorough, eye-opening, and practical knowledge to share with our members,” says Hansen. “I am looking forward to re-hashing this information on a regular basis, using this series as a foundation.”



2025–2027 Mission Grant #15

Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA

Concordia Publishing House — Concordia Gospel Outreach, U.S.

About This Mission Grant

Concordia Publishing House, through the Concordia Gospel Outreach program, wants to share the Good News of Jesus with thousands of immigrant and refugee children in the United States. The USA is home to nearly one-fifth of the world's international immigrants, many of whom face challenges in accessing materials in their native languages.

This project will equip LCMS entities serving immigrant and refugee populations with Arch Books, free of charge, in the heart language of the children and their families. It is estimated that up to 125,000 children and their families will be reached by the translated books. Five Bible stories will be translated and made available in Spanish, Chinese, Telugu, Arabic, and Farsi.

This grant will fund the creation and distribution of these Arch Books — *The Story of Creation*, *Noah's 2 x 2 Adventure*, *Baby Jesus is Born*, *The Week that Led to Easter*, and *Jesus Blesses the Children*.



"The printing press," according to Martin Luther, "is God's highest grace by which the Gospel is driven forward." We agree that books make wonderful missionaries, able to share the Gospel not just with one child, but with entire families and beyond as the books are read together. Through this project we will provide thousands of children access to the Word of God, but we know it is the living and active Word of God that does the rest.

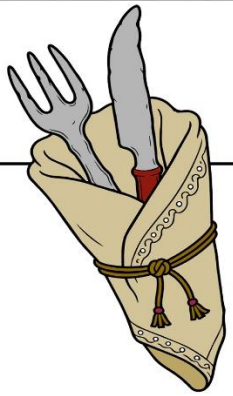


According to the Pew Research Institute, Arabic is the "seventh-most common non-English language spoken at home. Arabic speakers represent several nationalities and include both immigrants and those born in the U.S." This project will make Arch Books available to LCMS organizations serving and sharing the Good News to Arabic speaking persons in the United States.



Arch Books have been used for generations by families, educators, and pastors to teach important truths of the Bible. Each book takes a portion of Scripture and sets its story in rhyme, capturing the imagination of children and bringing the stories of God's Word to life. Through Concordia Publishing House/Concordia Gospel Outreach, Arch Books have been used to share the Good News with thousands of children across the United States and around the world.

Puzzle!



A MIRACLE DINNER

Matthew 14:15–21 & John 6:1–14
is a Bible story about a special dinner.
Below is a poem about that story.

Complete the poem by filling in the blanks with the correct pairs of words.

then / men	rest / quest
true / you	began / ran
late / ate	faces / spaces
lunch / bunch	done / ton

Jesus was tired and went to find _____,
So away from the crowd he started his _____ .
It came to an end before it _____,
The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and
they _____.
His boat pulled ashore and he looked at
their _____ —five thousand men, plus families
filled all open _____.
And so Jesus spoke and he taught until _____.
The disciples told him it was time they
all _____.
Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly _____,
and feeding this crowd is now up to _____."
Feeding five thousand! It could not be _____!
What would they do? They'd need a
whole _____!
But then a young boy came and offered
his _____ —five loaves and two fish to
feed this big _____.
Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and _____
it fed all the women, the children and _____!

Answers: rest, quest, began, ran, faces, spaces, late, ate, true, you, done, ton, lunch, bunch, then, men

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 23RD.