



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

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

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

**AUGUST 2026**

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

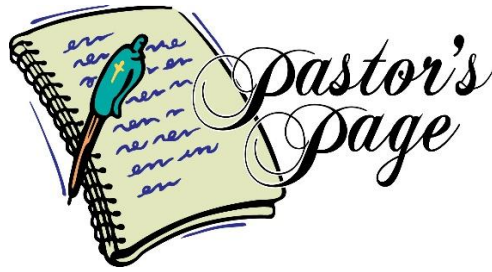
EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM





This month we will start looking at another one of our daily offices, a service that can be done at home as part of a personal devotion or at church as a non-communion service. Like Compline this service can be done spoken or chanted, with chanting be a part of the services design. This service is the service of Matins, found on pages 219-228 of the Lutheran Service Book. Matins comes from a Latin word meaning “of the morning.” Traditionally, this service was prayed sometime between midnight and dawn and is the longest of the daily offices.

The service begins with some opening responsories from Psalm 51:15 “O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.” As well, Psalm 70:1 “Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me!”, followed by a Gloria Patri and seasonal refrain, one for Advent that focuses on Christ’s Kingship, and one for Lent that focuses on Christ as the sacrificial lamb for our salvation.

The service continues with the service of the Word, which like the Divine service, starts with a psalm or psalm song which is a psalmody. In this service the psalmody is the Venite (Ve-ni-te) which is a Latin word mean “to come,” again the Latin titles are the first word in Latin for that part of the Liturgy. The Venite comes from Psalm 95:1-7, a Psalm of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. The Venite is sandwiched between the Antiphons. The Antiphon is a short sentence or Psalm verse that is spoken or sung responsively. Antiphon means opposite voice. There is a common one in the hymnal or a seasonal one which can be found in the Altar book or supplemental resources.

The service continues with the option for another Psalm to be spoken or chanted and an office hymn. In this service already, you see how much the Word is at the forefront of the worship. Remember worship is singing back to God what He has done and spoken first to us.

Christ blessings

Rev. David J. Walsh





## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

### AUGUST 2026

**(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

| WEEKEND                | Aug. 1, 2             | Aug. 8, 9                   | Aug. 15, 16                  | Aug. 22, 23                 | Aug. 29, 30                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| READER<br>(Sun)        | Carolyn Alessi        | Pastor                      | Sue Holway                   | Ruth Whitmer                | Pastor                        |
| USHERS                 | TBD/<br>Matthew Nolan | Mike Wuerch/<br>Melody Keef | Mike Wuerch/<br>Steve Gempko | Ed Walsh/<br>Christy Gempko | Mike Wuerch/<br>Dianne Wuerch |
| COMMUNION<br>ASSISTANT | Ed Walsh              | Steve Gempko                | Ed Walsh                     | Mike Wuerch                 | Ed Walsh                      |

**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.)**

| Aug. 2        | Aug. 9      | Aug. 16      | Aug. 23        | Aug 30        |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Dianne Wuerch | Mike Wuerch | Sue Holway   | Carolyn Alessi | Dianne Wuerch |
| Dolores Zeeb  | TBD         | Kathy Farkas | Janice Vogel   | Nancy Loster  |



|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Frankie Alessi  | Aug. 2  |
| Gary Smith      | Aug. 11 |
| Margaret Walsh  | Aug. 19 |
| Carol Obot      | Aug. 22 |
| Adaline Trimmer | Aug. 23 |
| Eric Fellner    | Aug. 26 |

Aug. 26      Tim & Sharon McGuan



A little girl in a Baptist church asked her mother, “Why do they rope off the aisle at a wedding? So the bridegroom can’t get away?”

At a wedding, a pastor asked the groom: “Do you take this woman to be your wedded wife, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health...”  
“Please, pastor,” the bride interrupted, “You’re going to talk him right out of it.”

Seating guests at a wedding, an usher asked a middle-aged woman who had entered the church: “Are you a friend of the bride, ma’am?” “Lord have mercy, no,” she said. “I’m the mother of the groom.”

From the Wellington Weekly News in England: “The bridegroom’s mother wore a two-piece purple and jade suit with purple accessories. The bride’s mother wore a hat.”



## ESTHER CIRCLE

Our August meeting is on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. at the church. All women of Pilgrim are welcome. We have future events to discuss and decide on, so please plan to attend.

The Bake Sale last month was a success! We sold out all the items. Thank you to the bakers who donated, the volunteers who helped and those who purchased items and helped publicize the event. Appreciate all of you!

**REMINDER:** Continue to give your mites to Karen Smith or place in the large mite box at the back of the sanctuary. Dash's tapes go to Sue Holway and canceled stamps to Sharon McGuan. All these collections go towards various mission outreaches. Thank you for your support!

August is officially the last full month of Summer. We sure have had a "scorching" one! We pray you are all safe and well. Enjoy the warmth of the sun, the beautiful flowers, the refreshing rain when it comes and all the outdoor activities. God Bless you ALL 🙏

Carol Obot



## **In Every Season, Turn to God**



Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

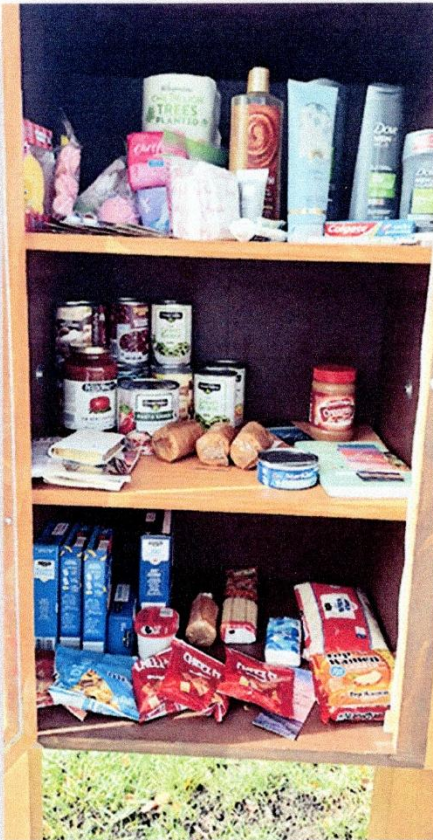
Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*

# ESTHER CIRCLE BAKE SALE AND PALS HOT DOG SALE – JULY 11



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



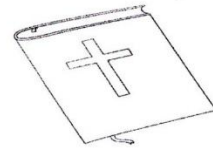
The Blessing Box continues to be a success and ***relies on ongoing support.*** Donations of non-perishable food, hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.), disinfectant wipes, and paper products are appreciated.

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.**



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.



August 2026

Did you know? August 2<sup>nd</sup> is the festival of the myrrh bearers. We are reminded of the women who came to the tomb with spices to anoint Jesus' body and were some of the first told that Jesus is alive!

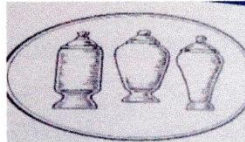
Bible verse of the month: "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!" - Psalm 67:5 ESV

Catechism: The Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer and the first part of its explanation

Thy kingdom come. What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

Liturgical seasons and colors (look on the altar and pastor) for August: Weeks after Pentecost-green

Christian symbol of the month: The symbol of the month is myrrh jars. As stated above, August 3<sup>rd</sup> is the festival of the myrrh bearers. Mary a mother of one of the apostles, Salome, and Joanna went to Jesus' tomb on Easter morning bringing myrrh to anoint Jesus' body as was the custom of the day. Of course, we know that they found an empty tomb and angels telling them that Jesus is alive!



Hymn of the month: (definitely check out the other verses in the hymnal, for the sake of space we have v. 1 only here) At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing LSB #633

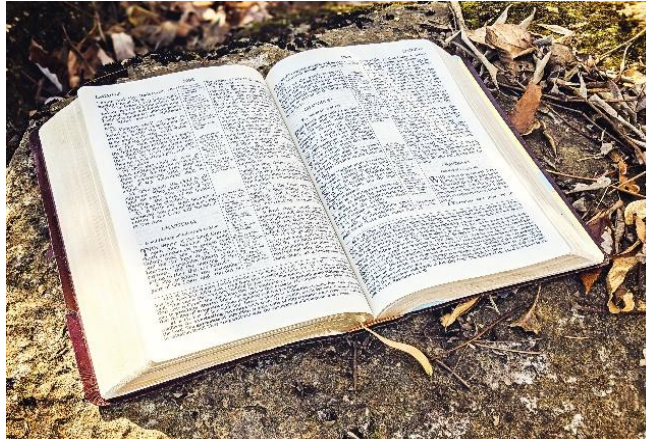
V.1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing

Praise to our victorious King,

Who has washed us in the tide

Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!





We continue our journey through the New Testament.

|                         |                         |                        |                        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Aug. 1 – Prov. 31:1-9   | Aug. 9 – Eccl. 1:12-18  | Aug. 17 – 2 Thess. 1   | Aug. 25 – 1 Timothy 4  |
| Aug. 2 – Prov. 31:10-31 | Aug. 10 – 1 Thess. 1    | Aug. 18 – 2 Thess. 2   | Aug. 26 – 1 Timothy 5  |
| Aug. 3 – Philippians 4  | Aug. 11 – 1 Thess. 2    | Aug. 19 – 2 Thess. 3   | Aug. 27 – 1 Timothy 6  |
| Aug. 4 – Colossians 1   | Aug. 12 – 1 Thess. 3    | Aug. 20 – 1 Timothy 1  | Aug. 28 – 2 Timothy 1  |
| Aug. 5 – Colossians 2   | Aug. 13 – 1 Thess. 4    | Aug. 21 – 1 Timothy 2  | Aug. 29 – Eccl. 4:1-8  |
| Aug. 6 – Colossians 3   | Aug. 14 – 1 Thess. 5    | Aug. 22 – Eccl. 3:1-8  | Aug. 30 – Eccl. 4:9-16 |
| Aug. 7 – Colossians 4   | Aug. 15 – Eccl. 2:1-17  | Aug. 23 – Eccl. 3:9-22 | Aug. 31 – 2 Timothy 2  |
| Aug. 8 – Eccl. 1:1-11   | Aug. 16 – Eccl. 2:18-26 | Aug. 24 – 1 Timothy 3  |                        |

## Christian Symbol



**SUNFLOWER** — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.

# August



# 2026

| Sunday                                 | Monday                                            | Tuesday | Wednesday                                     | Thursday                                 | Friday                                                    | Saturday                                      |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                        |                                                   |         |                                               |                                          |                                                           | 1                                             |
| 2                                      | 3<br>Joanna, Mary,<br>& Salome<br>(myrrh bearers) | 4       | 5                                             | 6                                        | 7                                                         | 8                                             |
| 9                                      | 10<br>Lawrence<br>(Deacon &<br>Martyr)            | 11      | 12                                            | 13                                       | 14                                                        | 15<br>St. Mary,<br>Mother of our<br>Lord      |
| 16<br>Isaac<br>(ancestor of<br>Christ) | 17<br>Johann<br>Gerhard<br>(theologian)           | 18      | 19<br>Bernard of<br>Clairvaux<br>(hymnwriter) | 20<br>Samuel<br>(prophet)                | 21                                                        | 22                                            |
| 23                                     | 24<br>St.<br>Bartholomew<br>(apostle)             | 25      | 26                                            | 27<br>Monica<br>(mother of<br>Augustine) | 28<br>Augustine of<br>Hippo (Pastor<br>and<br>theologian) | 29<br>Martyrdom of<br>St. John the<br>Baptist |
| 30                                     | 31                                                |         |                                               |                                          |                                                           |                                               |



Faith is essentially reasonable. It trusts in the character and promises of God.

—E. Chris Curvin

Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart.

—Joseph Fort Newton



A Voters Meeting was held on June 28<sup>th</sup> after the service. The Blessing Box is well-used and appreciated by our neighbors but requires regular donations (items or cash) to keep up with the demand. Thanks to Dianne Wuerch who applied for and received a \$250 grant from Thrivent to help supply the Blessing Box. \*\* Please be circumspect before placing books/literature in the box. Only material that reflects what we believe, teach and confess should be included. The Lutheran Hour Ministries pamphlets (on the rack near the stairs) are helpful and address many situations and questions anyone may have.

The church website has been actively engaging with people, according to the metrics reviewed by Ed Walsh. Many thanks to Dianne and Mike Wuerch and Ed Walsh, who faithfully update and maintain the site. Any questions/suggestions about it should be directed to one of them.

AED/CPR training is scheduled for Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am. Pilgrim will cover the cost of this training for 6 people at \$45.00 per person. We'll post a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Thanks to Nancy Loster for facilitating this training.

We had to get a new boiler since the old one finally gave out. Thanks to Mike Myers for installing it. The driveway will be sealed soon.

The shed was broken into, but nothing was taken. A police report was made. Wes Wiers repaired the hasp and secured the shed. At its next meeting, the Council will discuss whether or not we should install another security camera in that area of our property.

The Lions Club is looking for new members. If you think you may be interested in finding out more about the group, they invite you to attend a meeting. They are held at the church on the second Tuesday of each month.

The church picnic will be held at Sheridan Park, shelter # 4. The church will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, rolls, condiments and tableware. Please bring a dish to pass, keeping in mind we are unable to provide refrigeration, so plan to use a cooler if your dish needs to be kept cold until serving. (See flyer in this issue.)

Just a reminder to everyone to be careful when opening emails from unknown people. Never click on any links in those emails. They are often contaminated with viruses and/or phishing software.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>. We adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

# Church PICNIC

FOOD • FELLOWSHIP • FAITH • FUN



**SUNDAY,**  
**AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**AFTER CHURCH**

*We'll be gathering at*



**SHERIDAN PARK**  
**SHELTER #4**

SHELTER  
#4



**GRILLS AND  
ELECTRICITY**  
available



**RESTROOMS**  
available



**PLAYGROUND**  
nearby



**PLEASE USE  
THE DRIVEWAY  
BY THE TRAFFIC LIGHT**

to enter Sheridan Park,  
as Shelter #4 is located  
right next to that  
parking lot.



*Please bring*  
**A DISH TO PASS.**



**HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, CHICKEN  
WILL BE PROVIDED.**



**BLESSING  
BOX**

*We are asking if everyone would bring  
**EITHER A NON-PERISHABLE ITEM,  
HYGIENE OR PAPER PRODUCT**  
for the Blessing Box to help with  
the upcoming Fall Months.*



**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE THIS TIME TOGETHER!**



## **Finland: Court finds LHF author & editor guilty of hate speech, rules booklet must be censored (May 25, 2026)**

For the past 7 years, LHF Finnish author Dr. Päivi Räsänen and editor Bishop Juhana Pohjola have been squaring off in Finland's courts against charges of "incitement against an ethnic group" for the booklet's Biblical teachings on marriage and sexuality.

In a shocking turn, after twice being found not guilty by lower courts, Finland's Supreme Court has now declared the duo guilty, by a decision of 3-2. (Unlike American law where only the defendant can appeal, Finnish law allows the prosecution to appeal as well.)

Päivi and Bishop Pohjola have each been fined, and the courts have required that certain words, phrases and sentences must be removed from the Finnish edition of "Male and Female He Created Them." (In the United States, LHF's printed and digital editions of this booklet will remain uncensored. [Click here to read the digital version.](#))

Now, Bishop Pohjola and Päivi have chosen to appeal to the European Court of Justice – their final hope not only for their own freedom of speech, but also for the right to freely proclaim the whole Gospel throughout the European Union.

"This modest booklet, published with the help of the LHF in year 2004, was forgotten for over 15 years, just like Joseph in the dungeon in Egypt," reflected Bishop Pohjola. "But suddenly by God's allowance, it was raised to the high places so that even prime ministers read and talk about it! I see our Lord's hidden plan for all of it. I do not regret [the role I played in editing the booklet]. I have been placed to teach the whole counsel of the Lord, and if I have to pay a small price for it, it is only God's grace. I know so many pay a much higher price than I for being Christ's disciple.

"Moving forward, my prayer is that through this process, many could be interested to learn more about the Word of God and the forgiveness and life we have in Christ Jesus," Bishop Pohjola concluded. "We all need Christ's renewing love in our broken humanity and sexuality. I pray that we, in a small way, could encourage all Christians to boldly confess their beliefs in love and truth, and to pray for those who would, like us, be silenced."

We stand with Bishop Pohjola and Päivi!

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation is committed to helping cover the costs of these fines for the book LHF funded over 20 years ago, and which we continue to make available not only in Finnish, but also in English, Spanish, and a variety of other languages that are underway.

Can you help?

Bishop Pohjola and Päivi have each been fined one month's wages, and the Luther Foundation – Finland has been fined 5,000 euros (a total of about \$10,000 USD). Let us come together as the family of Christ to help cover these fines and remove the burden from our brother and sister's shoulders! You can mail your gift or [give online here](#).

Any amount received over and above the amount of Päivi and Bishop Pohjola's fines will go toward the future translating and printing of our good Lutheran books for the Finnish people.



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## Reaching Communities in Mexico Through Holistic Outreach

From their office in one of the world's most populated cities (Mexico City), staff and volunteers from **LHM–Mexico** engage local communities with Christ's message of hope in numerous ways. Two of its most successful programs are holistic outreach activities that attend to people's physical and emotional needs as well as their spiritual needs.

In the city of Matamoros, on the United States border, the BREAD program has strengthened the mission and engagement of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church under Pastor Omar Garza, the new president of the Mexican Synod. With the support of 18 volunteers, an average of 150 people are served a weekly meal that is part of a two-hour program including Bible study, fellowship, prayer, and the sharing of LHM materials. Individuals also receive a printed Bible message that they can take home to share the Good News with their friends and family. LHM's support of this program contributes to the growth of the congregation and its positive impact on the Matamoros community.

Brigada Médica is a holistic health outreach program that serves different communities by offering basic services such as free dental cleanings, haircuts, student medical certificates, and more. Since students throughout the country are required to present a health certificate at the beginning of each school year, this program creates valuable opportunities for outreach and follow-up connections with students and their families. Many volunteers participate, including doctors, nurses, dentists, and stylists. Through their dedication, LHM–Mexico is grateful to serve people's needs while also sharing the love of God in Christ through printed materials and personal interactions.

During visits to churches throughout the country, the LHM team spends a week in each location, implementing the Brigada Médica program alongside special outreach activities supported by local volunteers. These efforts include evangelism training workshops that train congregation members in effective faith-sharing practices, as well as "summer-style" programs for children who attend school for only half a day. Children and parents from the community are invited to a special closing service at the church on Sunday, helping connect them with church members and the pastor. Many participants of Brigada Médica become LHM volunteers and ambassadors within their congregations. A recent seminar under the theme "Christian Attitudes" at San Pedro Congregation in Mexico City focused on hospitality, reception, and warmly welcoming both visitors and current members.

# **2025–2027 Mission Grant #12**

## **Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field**

### **Lutheran Hour Ministries, U.S.**

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

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) sees the urgency to share the Gospel and grow the Kingdom of God by engaging people in the digital space. They have developed numerous digital resources that allow staff and volunteers to enter into conversations with individuals and provide biblically based answers for their lives.

LHM's digital outreach platform, Thred, focuses on encouraging an open and honest conversation about life, faith, and Jesus with young adults. Gospel Adventures is a program designed for grade school and middle school youth where they experience meeting kids from another part of the world and can see God's work in action. High school students are being reached with a new resource to become effective witnesses for Jesus called Spiritual Conversations: Sharing Life, Faith, and Jesus with Friends.

This grant will cover the cost of expanding mass media/proclamation activities and audience engagement, including social media, website, Bible courses, and training.



LHM Learn equipping resources help families reach out with the love and Good News of Jesus Christ in their everyday lives.



Through its app, Lutheran Hour Ministries expands its reach of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with new audiences of individuals who may have never heard about the transformative love of our Savior.



In Gospel Adventures, children meet kids just like them from another part of the world through curriculum, videos, activities, crafts, theme music, and an interactive website, all based on a biblical theme.



Elementary and middle school students participate in Lutheran Hour Ministries' Gospel Adventures program each year, learning how God's love and hope are shared in a different country.



Thred's digital outreach platform focuses on how mission-minded Christians can share their faith through digital interactions that lead to meaningful spiritual conversations.

# Make a postcard PUZZLE

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

## What you need:

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)

## What you do:

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



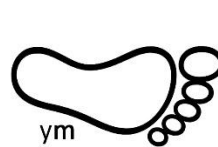
## Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



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nsi



lreu



rvoe



em.

Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE  
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER IS AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>.**