



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*

**NOVEMBER 2023**

PASTOR: Rev. Chris Wicher (Interim)

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

BIBLE STUDY: 9:00 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



**GIVE  
THANKS FOR  
OUR VETERANS**



For months Mrs. Z would wake every morning to find her husband already gone from the house. She wasn't concerned at first. She had no reason to be, but the denial faded as time wore on. Day after day it was the same thing, almost like clockwork. Shortly after she had finished breakfast Mr. Z would come into the house with a slight smile on his face while chuckling under his breath. Down went the bucket at the same place it had been for weeks and on he would continue with his day. Nothing more said. Mrs. Z feared something awful was going on. Maybe there was another woman. Heaven forbid!

Mrs. Z's curiosity broke her restraint. "That's it!" she protested to herself. "Tomorrow I'm going to wake up when the ol' man gets up and follow him and spy out what he's been up to. I'm going to put an end to this once and for all."

So, the next morning came and, sure enough, at the crack of dawn Mr. Z slipped out of bed, put on his street clothes, slithered down the stairs, picked up the bucket at the door and tiptoed out of the house. Only this time Mrs. Z. followed just as slyly. She saw him as he made his way down one street and another, then along an alley where he scooped up water from a trough with his pail. Making his way around the corner he stopped and stood up straight and happily blurted out "Ah, my darling, there you are!" Mrs. Z. could not see who the object of his spoken affection was and so she quickly made her way to the same corner around which Mr. Z. speedily vanished.

Upon hearing his voice nearby, she stopped at the corner. She could hardly catch her breath and, for fear of what she would find, thought for a moment before she slowly peeked around the building to gaze where her husband could be heard. She did and what she saw could hardly be believed. There wasn't a woman at all, or an animal or anything that you or I would expect. There he was, her husband of many years, watering a tree and speaking fondly to it. He even gave it a hug.

Mrs. Z could not hold herself back. She crashed around the hiding corner and lashed out at her husband with words we don't want to hear. "You scoundrel. What are you doing? All these days you have been leaving me alone at home early in the day to what? Come here? And for what purpose? For this tree? Have you gone mad? Are you not thinking? What will the neighbors think? What am I to think? You have made me sick, thinking that you have been up to something I don't even want to repeat. Explain yourself?"

Well, a startled Mr. Z. could hardly find himself. He never expected his wife to follow him, and now, here she was. So, as soon as he could find the words he explained. "My dear. You need not worry. It's only that this tree has done a great thing for me. You see, a few months ago Jesus of Nazareth came down this street. I knew he would not care to see me because of my way of making a living, but I so wanted to see him. He's famous you know and some even believed that he is the Lord's

Messiah. So, here I was, wanting so much to see him, but I couldn't on account of my stature. I jumped and pushed and even tried to stand on my toes, but I am just too short to see over the crowds.

Then I spotted this tree - this beautiful, lovely tree. It looked sturdy and strong. Enough for a scoundrel like me to be lifted up. So up I went, pulling myself up one branch at a time until I could see over the crowds. The tree helped me don't you see? And sure enough Jesus came along and I could see him. Oh the thrill of it. I can still see him. What then, well, Jesus saw me. He looked at me and commanded 'Zacchaeus, come down from that tree. I want to come to your house this night!' Well, now my life is different. I am a changed man, because of Jesus; because of this tree."

Zacchaeus continued: "So I promised myself to take care of this tree. Everyday I come here to water it and speak to it. I cannot show appreciation enough for what it did. It lifted me to see Jesus!"

Both had a good cry and a good laugh. They returned home where life continued in the love of Jesus.

I never thought of people or of churches as trees before, but a story like this has us ask: what or who lifted you to see the Lord? I doubt it was a tree, but God's Spirit, working through people as He does, has sent many to you to tell you the good news of Jesus. Maybe it was your congregation or Christian School, a Sunday School teacher or family member, a friend or media show. The tools God uses are about as wide and varied as anything.



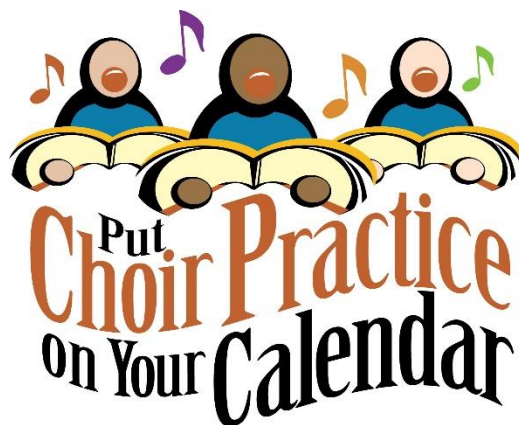


## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

### NOVEMBER 2023

WEEKEND OF	Nov. 4/5	Nov. 11/12	Nov. 18/19	Nov. 25/26
READER	Rhonda Mohr/Dianne Wuerch	Rhonda Mohr/Tyrone Bryant	Ruth Whitmer/Mary Werth	Rhonda Mohr/Kathy Farkas
USHER	Melody Keef	Tegwanda Alford	Eric Fellner	Jim Hartz
COMMUNION ASSISTANT (Sat/Sun)	Rod Mohr/Eric Fellner	Dan Griebel/George Alessi	Dave Porter/Dooley O'Rourke	Rod Mohr/Mike Wuerch



We are looking for people interested in joining the choir. The plan is to meet each Wednesday for an hour in the church sanctuary by the piano, from 6:30-7:30 pm. Please contact Ruth Whitmer for any questions: 716-803-2677.

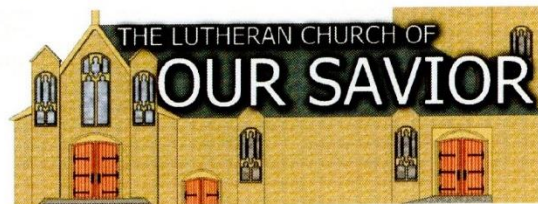


## 2023 SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE

### Monthly Rotation

	November
LEAD COUNTER	Mike Wuerch
COUNTER	Jim Hartz
COUNTER	Dolores Zeeb

**We still need a few more congregational members to help count offerings after Sunday Service on rotating schedule.  
If you feel the calling to do so, please contact  
Carolyn Alessi, Dianne or Mike Wuerch.**



Our Savior Lutheran | 26 Brunswick Blvd Buffalo 14208

We are collecting donations to send monthly.  
All donation amounts are welcome.  
Please designate amount on your offering envelope.





**Loretta Himmele**

**Nov. 1**

(If you would like your birthday and wedding anniversary in the newsletter, please contact Mary Werth by phone or text at 716-534-6922 or email: [madragon99@yahoo.com](mailto:madragon99@yahoo.com). Thank you.)



If you or someone you know would like to receive a hard copy of Pilgrim's monthly newsletter, please contact Mary Werth by phone or text at 716-534-6922 or by email: [madragon99@yahoo.com](mailto:madragon99@yahoo.com). Thank you.



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

Our next meeting is on Monday, November 13, 12:30 pm at the church. All women of Pilgrim and Nazareth are welcome to attend. On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Esther Circle is hosting a Women's Fellowship Breakfast at 9:30 am at the Olympic Restaurant. As of 10/27, we had approx. 20 attending.

REMINDER – Dash's tapes go to Sue Holway; cancelled stamps with 1/2 inch border go to Sharon McGuan; mites (loose change) to Karen Smith or placed in the large box on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for all these contributions to help support mission projects.

November is the month of Thanksgiving – a time to be grateful for all the Blessings Our Lord has given us 🙏 Take time to reflect on these Blessings. Give thanks!  
God Bless 🌸

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



## **Esther Circle Sponsors Mission Book Study**

The Esther Circle will read and discuss *Joining Jesus On His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary* written by Pastor Greg Finke and published by Concordia Publishing House. We will be discussing Pastor Finke's insights showing us how we can be on Jesus's mission and "recognize where Jesus is already at work in our neighborhoods, workplaces and schools". If you would like to join the discussion, please contact Sharon McGuan, Carol Obot or Sue Holway before November 15th so that we can order your book. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to participate. You do not have to be a member, or attend Esther Circle meetings, to order a book. Books will cost around \$10.00.

## ESTHER CIRCLE IS HOSTING A



**ALL WOMEN FROM PILGRIM LUTHERAN ARE INVITED!!**

**WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**TIME: 9:30 AM**

**WHERE: OLYMPIC RESTAURANT - SHERIDAN & MILITARY ROAD**

Paid by Esther Circle but Any Donation is Welcome!

**Please Sign Up at Church**

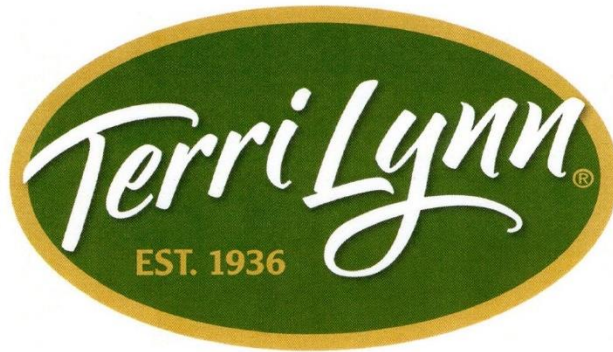
**OR Contact Carol Obot - Cell 218-349-3397**

**RSVP BEFORE OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**

For where two or three are gathered in My name meeting together as My followers , I am there among them.

-Matthew 18:20





**Terri Lynn's Signature Nuts, Snack Mixes, and Chocolates will be for Sale November & December during Sunday Fellowship.**



**PECAN ROCK COOKIES**  
USING  
FANCY PECAN PIECES

Terri Lynn's Signature nuts, snack mixes, and chocolates are delicious on their own; but they also make great ingredients for your homemade, tasty creations. Check out their recipes online and share them.

All profits are used to support local charities such as Ken -Ton Meals on Wheels, Local Church Food Pantries, Lutheran Bible Translators, Lutheran Hour Ministries plus many others. Please help us support them. Thank you!

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Terri Lynn's Webstore is contactless, safe, and easy!!

<https://pilgrimsthercircle.terri Lynn.com>



## God's Living Water November 2023

We welcome you to study the VBS theme: **God's Living Water - Naaman Is Healed.** On **Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**, we will rejoice that just as God healed Naaman, the leper and commander of the Syrian army, so God sustains and restores each of us. As God chose to use the water of the Jordan River to heal Naaman, God uses the water of baptism to save us from sin and eternal death through His Son, Jesus, our Lord. The education hour for children and adults will begin at 9:00 a.m. and Pastor Wicher will further expand the theme in the 10:30 worship service. The children will share a song and video with the congregation. Fellowship will follow the service. Thank you for supporting our educational theme, **God's Living Water.**



### Women of Pilgrim, Would You Like A Partner in Prayer?

It has been one year since women of Pilgrim formed Prayer Partners. So much has occurred in each of our lives this past year and we have grown together in fellowship and prayer. I am very thankful for the "listening ear" and prayers of my Prayer Partner during the past year.

During the month of November, women of the congregation are invited to share their name and email, or cell phone number, to be "assigned" a Prayer Partner for 2024. The "assignments" are completely random. Your name, with email, or cell phone number is placed in a box and two names are drawn out at a time to determine your Prayer Partner for 2024. As soon as two names are drawn, you and your partner will be sent an email to share your name and email, or cell phone number. If you would like to have a Prayer Partner for 2024, please contact Sharon McGuan at [salmcg23@gmail.com](mailto:salmcg23@gmail.com), or in person, before December 1<sup>st</sup>. You will be notified of your Prayer Partner by December 15th. Thank you.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On September 17th, Pilgrim voted to put out a call to Pastor David Walsh. On October 9th to the 10th, Pastor Walsh and his wife Margret visited the church and the Kenmore area. It was a quick and engaging visit, well received by all who were involved. On Wednesday October 11th, Pastor Walsh decided to take the call to Pilgrim Lutheran Church Kenmore. We have a Pastor! God is Good! All the time! We are planning to have Pastor Walsh installed by Advent. Many thanks to the Call Committee! Putting in the work and trusting in the Lord do the rest!

Also, a local congregation, La Santa Cruz (LCMS) lead by Pastor Flores, will be using Pilgrim as their meeting place on Sundays at 1:00 pm. La Santa Cruz is a Spanish speaking congregation, established in 1986 and was meeting at Nazareth Lutheran before it closed.

This arrangement was made through Pilgrim church council and passed at the voters meeting this past Sunday.

In addition, currently about 15 members of the former Nazareth Lutheran Church are in the process of becoming members of Pilgrim.

The mission at Pilgrim Lutheran is active and growing, the Lord is blessing us with many gifts and opportunities!

Christ's Blessings to you all,  
Mike Wuerch  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
Council President



Pilgrim Lutheran Voters' Meeting Minutes  
October 15, 2023

Mike Wuerch, Council President opens the meeting at 11:25am with prayer.

Mike announces and gives thanks that Rev. David Walsh accepts the call to become Pilgrim's pastor.

There is a need to replace Sharon McGuan for the VBS services in January and February since they will be away. Carol Obot accepts the leadership for these 2 Sunday services and Carolyn Alessi will help with technical matters.

The concern is discussed regarding incorporating Nazareth church members into Pilgrim's rolls. Some matters still need to be accomplished before this takes place.

Mike Wuerch makes the members aware that La Santa Cruz Church, a spanish-speaking LCMS church led by Pastor Florez is seeking a place to worship. They used to worship at Nazareth Lutheran Church prior to its closing. Dooley O'Rourke moves that we as a church allow La Santa Cruz Church the use of our facilities weekly so they are able to meet to worship. Carol Obot seconds the motion. Vote is taken, and the motion is passed. (They will pay a monthly rent of \$150.00.)

There is a need for Pastor Dave Walsh and his wife to find suitable housing. The expectation is that they will arrive in Western NY around December 1st.

Announcement regarding Women's breakfast, November 4th at 9:30am at Olympic Restaurant.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45am; Mike led in The Lord' Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ruth Whitmer,  
Recording Secretary



**2023–2025 LWML Mission Grant #2**

# **A Healing Space for At-Risk Children**

**Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND**

## **About This Mission Grant**

The Christ-centered, healing ministry of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch creates an eternal, lifegiving impact in the lives of children, age 10 to 18, who have faced unimaginable trauma. Due to childhood traumas of violence, abuse, neglect, and more, Ranch children experience debilitating emptiness and loneliness at the deepest of levels; levels that only Christ can heal.

A gap in spiritual care on the Ranch's Bismarck campus has been a chapel facility specifically designed to be a healing space for traumatized boys and girls. A construction date of Spring 2024 has been set to build a chapel to serve as a healing space to help them know and experience the mercy of Christ and His healing power. This grant will help meet the construction costs of the Chapel on the Bismarck campus and provide healing for at-risk children.



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



*At the Ranch, real ministry happens when 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.*



*Incorporating both trauma-informed design, and the Ranch's "best-in-class" Spiritual Life Programming, this specially designed chapel will be a place where a broken child's heart can find a genuine "home" in God's unfailing promises.*



## RESPONDING TO A GROWING NEED FOR HISPANIC MINISTRY

In the United States, Hispanics are the second-largest ethnic population. About half of those who identify as Hispanic in the United States today speak Spanish primarily. By 2060, it is expected that Hispanics will constitute more than 27 percent of the American population.

Established to recognize the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States, Hispanic Heritage Month takes place from September 15 to October 15 each year. September 15 marks the anniversary of the independence of Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

As a mass media Gospel outreach organization, LHM is committed to reaching this rapidly growing audience with the Good News of the Gospel. We're doing more than just translating materials written for English-speaking audiences. We're crafting programming and media content *for* Hispanics *by* Hispanics. Below is a glance at LHM's Spanish resources and the impact they have had on individuals in the United States.

### **Para el Camino ([paraelcamino.com](http://paraelcamino.com))**

#### ***A Hub for All LHM Spanish Resources***

On the **Para el Camino** (For the Journey) website, users will find practical, Christ-centered resources to help them successfully manage their daily lives in the United States. Bible-based teaching, sermons, videos, devotionals, and more benefit Christians and non-Christians alike, encouraging them to grow in their knowledge of God and to follow in His footsteps.

The Para el Camino website also offers Daily and Seasonal Devotions, Bible studies, topical **Project Connect** booklets, children's booklets, a radio drama (Ayer, Hoy y Siempre), and links to the Sentido Latino and Vivenciar websites. In addition to the website, Para el Camino has a social media presence that connects people to our resources and provides encouragement.

### **Impact of Para el Camino**

Doris is a faithful reader of our **Daily Devotions**. She called our dedicated 1-800 Spanish line asking for advice since her marriage was falling into pieces. She wanted to do the right thing, but she didn't know how or where to start, and she didn't feel

comfortable talking with her pastor. After a 40-minute conversation and prayer, she had a clearer vision of her situation and a plan to start moving forward.

A listener to the sermons shared, "Thank you for this morning's message. It was very encouraging. It is excellent to see how LHM has invested in Spanish-speaking ministries."

A pastor shared, "This is an exemplary message of the Good News of Jesus Christ for us in this Holy Week. Listen to it, and you will be richly blessed and strengthened in your faith in Christ!"

### **Sentido Latino ([sentidolatino.com](http://sentidolatino.com))**

#### ***Weekly Podcast***

The 15-20-minute weekly podcast's vision and mission are born out in its title. "Sentido Latino" means *Latin sense*, and its tagline, "Donde tu vida tiene sentido," means *where your life makes sense*. The program objective is to raise and discuss issues and values that directly impact U.S. Hispanics' family, spiritual, and community life.

Drawing from a rich and time-honored Christian-Hispanic perspective, program hosts tackle issues with insight and humor, engaging listeners with a lively exchange of good advice and godly wisdom for their journey. In addition to the weekly episodes, Sentido Latino offers a weekly one-minute reflection, downloadable resources, and a growing social media presence that provides encouragement to many.

### **Impact of Sentido Latino**

Berta, a woman from New York, had been listening to our Sentido Latino podcast on healthy boundaries and wanted advice on her relationship. She said she was going through a challenging moment because she found out that her husband was unfaithful to her. She felt like her life had collapsed, and she was at the end of her rope. After talking for a few minutes, we asked if she would like us to pray for her. She said: "Yes, I ask that God would unite my family again... my home is divided. My 14-year marriage is falling to the ground. I don't know how to accept this reality". LHM staff assured her that they would be praying for her and offered to have a local pastor contact her, which she graciously accepted.

### **Vivenciar ([Vivenciar.net](http://Vivenciar.net))**

#### ***A Digital Platform Offering Spiritual Guidance to Life's Issues***

Pioneered and developed by LHM ministry center staff in the Latin America region, **Vivenciar.net** is a bi-lingual platform that reaches Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking individuals. Since it began in 2017, the purpose of Vivenciar.net has been to start conversations with non-Christians who are looking for help and guidance about relevant topical issues on the internet. Young adults are gravitating to the internet



seeking help, including millions who are curious-or have doubts-about Christianity.

The Vivenciar.net website serves as a hub for digital outreach throughout Latin America and now North America. Through Vivenciar.net, staff and volunteers enter into digital conversations with individuals and provide biblically-based answers for their lives. Since its expansion into the U.S. in 2021, Vivenciar.net has offered help, support, and direction to Spanish-speaking individuals. The live chat, blogs, courses, and e-books give additional support to those seeking answers to their questions.

### **Impact of Vivenciar.net**

Rosa, suffering from terminal cancer, wanted to talk to someone because she was scared and could not find peace. She accepted the invitation to be referred to a pastor, who called her right away. Rosa told him she had heard about Jesus, but she wasn't sure about her salvation or what happens after we die. The pastor patiently and lovingly talked with her about the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus and what that means for each of us, including her. He also talked about repentance and the forgiveness of sins Jesus provides. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, at the end of the call and after praying, Rosa confessed Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She was assured of her salvation and at peace with herself and with God.

### **CPTLN Mobile App**

The CPTLN (Christ for All Nations) app is a mobile hub for Para el Camino sermons, sermon notes, Daily Devotions, Project Connect booklets, Bible studies, reflections, Vivenciar, a Bible app, and a chat function. This is our first smartphone app entirely in Spanish, with access to all the resources from Para el Camino, Sentido Latino, and Vivenciar. With this app, we offer a convenient way to connect Hispanics to Jesus and to equip them to share the Good News of the Gospel with others.

Hispanics use their phones all the time. When they are working outside the home or otherwise away from a computer, they nevertheless always have access to their phones and can conveniently use our resources on the go. Having the resources on a mobile app gives them access to everything they need without sitting down at a computer.

You can help [support](#) LHM's growing Hispanic Ministry. Click [here](#) to learn more about Hispanic Heritage Month and get involved today.



## BULLETIN BLOOPERS

The church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. Green who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

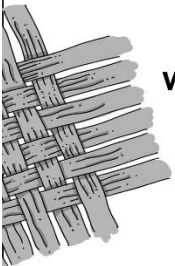
For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Today's Sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? With hymns from a full choir.

# Woven WITH Gratitude

Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



### What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

### What you do:


1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!


# PUZZLE


## THANKS-FILLED GIVING


The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?


Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

This becomes a plant \_\_\_\_\_ 

 Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_

The result of planting seeds \_\_\_\_\_ 

 The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_

Food made from wheat \_\_\_\_\_ 

Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also

supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_

of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

\_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result

in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE  
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>.**