

PARKSIDE LUTHERAN

SUNDAY SERVICE
10AM

With Rev. Pastor Jeremiah Smith

**REDISCOVERING THE RADICAL
LOVE OF JESUS.**

Gathering All. Serving All.
Caring for All.

BIBLE STUDY

Sundays after Worship



FROM THE PASTOR:

By Pastor Rev. Jeremiah Smith

Dear Church,

It was just a bag of apples.

Truth be told it was only $\frac{3}{4}$ the way full. My family and I went apple picking. Katie and Eleanor made delicious apple crisp which left 15 pounds or $\frac{3}{4}$ of the bag. I was running out the door to head to Buffalo Burrito Project and I grabbed the apples. I would love to tell you this was totally altruistic on my part but I didn't love having a giant bag of apples in the middle of the kitchen. The pile of shoes is already enough of a tripping hazard. Plus, I remembered last year the bag of apples hung around until it began to smell... So I took the apples and was reminded of how much I have to be grateful for as it was another steady night feeding and connecting with folks downtown. All the apples went, as did several gallons of coffee, blessing bags made by the VBS kids, 160 burritos, and love.

To me it was just a bag of apples. Yet, our neighbors were so thankful.

Inside this Newsletter you will find a pledge card. We invite folks to turn these in by emailing the office or place it in the offering plate in worship on October 26th. Some churches view this merely as a budgeting exercise, others see it as a chance to stretch or grow in generosity. However, I purpose a different challenge. When you prayerfully offer your pledge, I invite you to take a moment to acknowledge that what we offer is never just a bag of apples. The "just" implies a questioning of whether we are offering enough and if it makes a difference. No matter the amount, if it's money, if it's time, or if it's prayers, I have witnessed the way the love of Jesus is making a difference in and through this faith community.

(continued next page)



PASTOR REV. JEREMIAH SMITH

Has been a cherished shepherd, providing unwavering commitment and leadership

"Like Good Stewards of the manifold grace of God; serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4

From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

As Lutherans we share our apples, our time, talent, and treasure, not out of obligation, guilt or shame, but in response to the love of Jesus we have first and freely received. I give thanks to God for you and all the ways your generosity has been a blessing this past year. You help make a grace centered relevant worship happen. Your gifts make sure there is a staffed nursery, Sunday school and bible study after worship so that all ages might know about the love of Jesus. Your sharing feeds folks through the North Buffalo Pantry and enables Parkside to be home to a number of community groups. From Lenten Dinners, Vacation Bible School, Pride Parade, Card Committee, to the building up of new friendships, the myriad ways the love of Jesus is shared through Parkside Lutheran happens because of your support. Thank you for helping to make a difference. Thank you for being a part of a church that is striving to proclaim grace, extend hospitality, love boldly, and cultivate community.

Peace,
Pastor Jeremiah

A letter from our Council President

By Tom Smith

Hello Parkside Lutheran members,

I'd like to share an update on the work of your church council, which has been developing plans to advance the mission and values of Parkside Lutheran.

The council – including newly elected leaders Carolyn Case (vice president), Sue Stapell (secretary) and myself (president) – recently established our priorities for the coming 12 months. I'll share those three priorities below, along with near-term actions we're taking to bring them to life.

Invitation to Ministry

This priority ties closely to our values of Proclaiming Grace and Cultivating Community. One of our most important goals is to expand our roster of ministries, and participation in those ministries, with particular emphasis on engaging youth and young families; you can expect to hear regular updates on how we're moving this forward. This goal is consistent with the strategic recommendations of the larger ELCA, underscoring the importance of building a thriving community that spans age groups.

Feeding and Nurturing Community

This priority is driven by our values of Practicing Hospitality, Cultivating Community, and Loving Boldly. Our existing ministries are thriving, thanks to members' commitment to the North Buffalo Food Pantry, Buffalo Burrito Project, spaghetti dinner, and brewing theology, to name a few.

Building on these ministries, we are expanding to include community meals (the first of which took place Sept. 11 and hosted about 40 community members) and a community garden – planned to launch in May 2026 – that will provide fresh produce for food pantry clients and create new volunteer opportunities for members and the wider community.

Building Inclusivity and Sustainability

This final goal has grown out of our values of Practicing Hospitality, Loving Boldly, and Cultivating Community. It's the reason we launched our Oct. 17 Meat Raffle, which aims to raise funds for an ADA-compliant bathroom, and why we've developed the healthy building fund as a means to manage ongoing building improvements and repairs proactively, rather than making one-off requests for emergency repairs.

As a tangible way to move these priorities forward, the council voted on Sept. 25 to allocate three equal shares of the \$42,000 in recently received Covid relief funds into these priorities. Specific funding decisions will be reviewed and approved by the finance committee and the full council.

I hope you find this update helpful; now, I'd like to close with an action item and a request.

The action item is that I'll be sharing more detail on these goals and our most recent activities in a discussion after the Oct. 19 service. Everyone is welcome to attend and give feedback at that time or directly to myself or any council member. The second is to request once again your support in the form of time and effort to help us continue on the journey of making Parkside Lutheran a thriving, welcoming community. As always, your contributions are welcome and appreciated.

See you Oct. 17 at the Meat Raffle!

Tom Smith
Council president

Building Fund

Roofing work was completed at Parkside to address some leaks and much needed repairs. A generous Parkside member offered to match up to \$5,000 in donations to the Healthy Building Fund. Thanks to your generous donations we have exceeded that goal, raising more than \$14,000 for the continued maintenance and beautification of our building and grounds.



Pride at Parkside

Pride at Parkside 2025 began with a PARTY. This year started off with members of Parkside walking in the Pride Parade. Thank you to our Cub Scout troop for joining us and quite literally driving the truck that pulled the float. We challenged ourselves to build our own trailer and it was beautiful. Special thanks to DJA from the Record DJ Company for providing the beats and jams to keep the party moving from the parking lot to the finish line to celebrate our LGBTQIA+ community.

Throughout the month we had "mission minutes" where a member of the Parkside Community spoke on what Pride means to them and why we still need to celebrate Pride.



We rounded out the month with a Pride focused Bible study and our annual Pride Sunday Service. Thank you to the Pride Committee for making this happen. We are already planning Pride Month 2026.

"All are welcome in this place".

Lutheran Youth travel to Buffalo for a Mission Trip

In June, high school youth from St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Prairie du Chien joined youth from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Atwater, MN for a mission trip to Buffalo. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to host such a wonderful group of Youth and Adults, while they served the Parkside Community and beyond.



As Pastor Jeremiah and his wife welcome their third child, he will be out on Paternity leave beginning November 4th with a plan to return to Worship on December 19th and returning part time to the office during January 2026.

Meet the Preachers who will be filling in:

Rev. Kristen Arends

Rev. Kristen Arends will be joining us for Worship on November 9th and 30th. She serves as a Pastor at St Paul's in Eggertsville. She is excited to be back in the area after a few years in Wisconsin! A WNY native, she and her family now live in Tonawanda. She has worked for over 15 years in professional youth ministry and is overjoyed to be serving as a Pastoral Leave Pastor for Parkside. Kristen loves gardening, taking neighborhood walks, reading, and playing board games with her family.



Rev. Imani Olear

Rev. Imani Dodley-Olear will be joining us for Worship on November 23rd. She is an Associate with the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission. Experienced in creating partnerships and new communities, Pastor Olear is the founder of Yoga 4 A Good Hood, a first of its kind “pay what you can” yoga studio in Rochester, NY. Reverend Olear organized and engaged in interfaith, civic, educational, and recreational partnerships and collaborations. She has created and facilitated workshops and bible studies around community engagement and social justice, developing ways in which the congregation may be an instrument of healing in the community.



Rev. Jeff Wilson

Rev. Jeff Wilson will be joining us for Worship on December 7th. He is the Lead Pastor at Holy Trinity in Buffalo. Pastor Jeff was born in Wilmington, DE, and was raised in Orange, TX. He has served outside the congregation in roles such as the Dean of the Fairfax Conference for four years, the Synod Assembly Planning Team Chair for two years, and Confirmation Camp both as a pastoral-leader and as Dean for several years. Pastor Jeff enjoys cooking, tending to his bee hives, gardening, music, reading, and tinkering with technology.



Rev. Lee Miller II

Rev. Lee M. Miller will be joining us for Worship on December 14th. He is Bishop of Upstate New York Synod. He has served the whole church throughout his ministry as a member of synod councils and candidacy committees as well as serving as a voting member of the 2009 and 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assemblies. Most recently Bishop Miller has served as the Dean of the Niagara Frontier conference and sits on the boards of VOICE Buffalo, and the Niagara Lutheran Health System. Bishop Miller enjoys time away with his family, running, swimming, listening to music, and good naps. He is married to his spouse, Heather, with whom their greatest joy, is their son, Griffin.



PARKSIDE MEAT RAFFLE
 Proceeds to benefit the accessible bathroom project at Parkside Lutheran Church
 2 Wallace Avenue, Buffalo NY 14214 ~enter through ramp on Depew Ave~
October 17, 2025
Tickets: \$15 per person ~ \$100 per table of 8
 Call 716-836-1361 or scan to reserve seats!
 Federal Meats | Amazing Basket Raffle | 50/50 Raffle
 Doors Open at 6 pm | First Spin at 7 pm
 Bring your own snacks & beverages
www.parksidelutheran.org




JOIN US FOR OUR
HALLOWEEN EVENT
 FREE treats and activities in Fellowship Hall.
 Enter through the ramp on Depew Avenue.
Saturday October 25, 2025
4 - 6PM
Halloween Parade at 6pm
 Parkside Lutheran Church
 2 Wallace Ave
 Buffalo, 14214
 This event is FREE!
 Please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry, if you are able.
 Email parksidelutheran@gmail.com for more information, or to volunteer



PARKSIDE LUTHERAN & THE
 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUFFALO
 INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR:
THANKSGIVING
POTLUCK
SIGN UP TO BRING
A DISH TO SHARE
NOVEMBER 19, 2025
5:30 - 7:30PM
PARKSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2 WALLACE AVENUE -
 ENTER THROUGH THE RAMP ON DEPEW AVE




FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT PARKSIDELUTHERAN.ORG/EVENTS

PARKSIDE LUTHERAN & THE CENTRAL PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
 INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH US AT OUR:

HOLIDAY HAYRIDE

SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD 2026
4 - 7PM



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:
 HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDE
 THROUGHOUT THE HISTORIC
 CENTRAL PARK COMMUNITY,
 CRAFTS, HOT COCOA & TREATS

PARKSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2 Wallace Avenue, Buffalo 14214
 Enter via Depew Avenue Ramp

The Event is FREE!
 Bring a non-perishable item for
 the Food Pantry, if you are able
 Email parksidelutheran@gmail.com
 for more information,
 or to volunteer.

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

October 15th - Brewing Theology
October 17th - Parkside Meat Raffle!
 October 19th - First Communion Class
 October 25th - Halloween Event
 October 26th - Reformation Sunday &
 First Communion
 November 12th - Brewing Theology

November 16th - Breakfast Church
 November 19th - International Thanksgiving
 December 17th - Brewing Theology
 December 21st - Longest Night Service
 January 3rd - Holiday Hayride
 January 11th - Budget Talk Back Meeting
 January 25th - Church Council Annual Meeting

Visit parksidelutheran.org for more information about these Events.

Events, Ministries & Fellowship at Parkside:



Contact Us

716-836-1361
parksidelutheran@gmail.com
parksidelutheran.org

2 Wallace Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214



Buffalo Burrito Project
Fourth Tuesday of Every Month
alisonmsmith07@gmail.com



Kenmore/North Buffalo Food Pantry
Saturdays 9am - 1pm
kristenlenz@gmail.com