

# 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,  
 “Come and See” John 1:39  
 During a recent bible study after worship a middle schooler asked, “Is it a sin to steal from a billionaire?” Before I could begin to respond they added, “What if it was to feed a starving baby?” I looked around the room and used the greatest tool in every teacher’s tool belt, “what do you all think?” What followed was a lively discussion and a validation for why we are teaching confirmation as an intergenerational endeavor. Folks of all ages learning from and exploring faith with one another. Later during lunch, the confirmands shared highs and lows.

One of them without hesitation said their high was getting to be together at church.

Parkside has named its values as Proclaiming Grace, Extending Hospitality, Loving Boldly, and Cultivating Community.

These values are lived out during mid-week dinner and worship, when burritos are offered on Tuesdays, Saturday Mornings through our food pantry, and every Sunday when all are welcomed at the Lord’s table. We see the good fruit of these values and of our collective work when a middle schooler feels safe and welcomed enough to ask big questions.



PASTOR REV. JEREMIAH SMITH

Has been a cherished shepherd, providing unwavering commitment and leadership

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## *From the Pastor (continued from page 1)*

When a visitor comes back again and again because, even though there is religious trauma in their background, they always knew church could be different. My hope for the rest of this year is that we might adopt an additional value. Invitation. That we might say to one another and to the world what Jesus said to the very first disciples, “Come and See.” I invite you to come and see our community Spaghetti Dinner, the moving Passion on Good Friday, and the Joyful Celebration of Easter Morning. I invite you to come and see the construction and planting of our New Community Garden. I invite you to come and see the fun of Vacation Bible School Later this Summer. Finally, if you want to know how I answered the question... I invite you to come and see Bible Study Sunday’s after worship. My hope for this letter is that you hear these words, You are making a difference. The ways you support our shared ministry through prayer, time, and financial gifts. You are helping to share the love of Jesus. Thank You. Thank You. Thanks be to God for you.

Peace,  
Pastor Jeremiah

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## *A letter from our Council President*

By Tom Smith

### **Parkside Community Garden: Growing Community, Sharing Our Blessings**

The church council and the Kenmore-North Buffalo Food Pantry are excited to share details on the upcoming Parkside Lutheran Community Garden launching this Spring – and we’re asking for your help. The garden is being created to provide fresh produce for those served by the food pantry. The garden serves as a resource that brings the community together to assist those in need while beautifying the Linden Avenue side of our property. We are seeking volunteers to help in building and preparing of garden beds on May 3rd following the weekly service and one more day (exact date/time to be determined) to plant seedlings. We’ll also be seeking volunteers for ongoing watering and maintenance. The garden build is taking place the same day as the Scout pancake breakfast (9 to noon), and we hope you can participate in both.

Volunteer to help with the Garden by using the QR Code or by contacting the Church Office.



In the spirit of community service and partnership that the garden represents, we are grateful to these organizations that are supporting this project:

- Grassroots Gardens of WNY
- Lutheran Charities of WNY
- Central Park Homeowners Association
- Barbara Macholz Grimaldi Legacy Fund
- Parkside Lutheran Property Committee

Thank you for sharing our blessings with neighbors in need.

Tom Smith  
Church Council President

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## The Kenmore-North Buffalo Food Pantry

The Kenmore North Buffalo Food Pantry is housed in the “Loaves and Fishes” Community Room in the basement of Parkside Lutheran Church. By the grace of God, generosity of the community, compassion of our volunteers, and our shared love of neighbor, we too are able to create abundance from scarcity.

While we may not ever feed 5,000 like Jesus did, each month, the Kenmore North Buffalo Food Pantry tackles food insecurity by serving more than 100 households or about 225 individuals. This is possible through the dedication of over 40 active volunteers - whether they staff the front desk, “shop” with clients, stock shelves, pick up food donations or help unload the FeedMore pallets.

Our volunteers and donors are the lifeblood of the organization, but they too benefit from their service to others.

“With all the frustrations I have about the state of the world today it is so rewarding to make a difference for a neighbor and ‘be the change’ I want to see happening.”

“I've found it is true that what we give is received back one hundred times. How rewarding it's been to interact with many friendly, nice clients in a few short hours of volunteer time! Honestly, if younger, I'd enjoy the "good vibes" more frequently!”

And, after being thanked for a generous donation of fresh meat and juice - two critically needed items - the volunteer/donor replied, “[I’m] so grateful to be in a position to give instead of receive.”

If you would like to learn more about the Kenmore North Buffalo Food pantry and how you can make a difference in the lives of your neighbors, visit our website, or reach out to Kristen Konkel Lenz at [kristenlenz@gmail.com](mailto:kristenlenz@gmail.com).

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## Parkside Lutheran Apparel Sale

Proclaim GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL with a Parkside Lutheran t-shirt or hoodie! Perfect to wear at the Burrito Project, God's Work-Our Hands, or any other time you wish to share the radical love of Jesus.

Contact the office, or use the QR Code to place your order.

A link to the order form is also available on our website.

Please submit orders and payment by May 10, 2026.



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We are grateful to those who help sustain our mission. To donate online, please use the QR code or click the “GIVE” link on our website at [parksidelutheran.org](http://parksidelutheran.org)



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## New Members LOVE Parkside!

*“Initially- I chose Parkside because of its reputation for inclusivity. However, as each Sunday morning passed, I ultimately chose Parkside because I felt at home, accepted and most importantly, safe.” ~ Mackenzie*

*We love the family atmosphere and the focus on community and service! ~ Casey*



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## Events & Fellowship at Parkside



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### Upcoming Events & Meetings:

March 29 - Palm Sunday Worship Service - 10am

April 2 - Maundy Thursday Spaghetti Dinner - 5:30pm

April 3 - Good Friday Tenebrae Candlelight Service - 7pm

April 5 - Easter Sunday Worship Service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt - 10am

April 15 - Brewing Theology \*NEW LOCATION\* at Chandler Street Breweries - 7pm

April 19 - Kaityln Blend from the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center will be at Worship to talk about Summer Camp!

April 26 - Meet Melanie Rushforth - Executive Director of Lutheran Charities

May 3 - Community Garden Build & Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast

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*Visit [parksidelutheran.org](http://parksidelutheran.org) for more information about these Events.*

*Parkside Lutheran Church 2 Wallace Avenue Buffalo, NY 14214 716-836-1361*