

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,
“The future could be ...to prepare the congregation for eventual closing”

I was cleaning my desk this Summer in preparation for a week’s vacation, when I came across a report from 2004. Written by members of the Synod’s “Conflict and Healing Team.” In the early ‘oos the people of Parkside were wrestling with declining attendance, financial struggles, serious questions about style of worship, role of pastor, interpersonal conflict, and more. I had heard stories of this era but was nonetheless surprised to see the words that from the perspective of three pastors

it was not unlikely that the end of Parkside’s ministry was near.

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

Today we see signs of God’s loving plans all over our Church. A community garden that shares its abundant bounty with our neighbors through the food pantry. We see kids racing down the aisle excited for children’s messages. A staffed nursery and Sunday school rooms plus a new director for youth and family ministry.



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)

A worship that declares God's grace and loving presence through a blend of traditional and newer hymns and the sacraments of baptism and communion. A community that welcomes new folks not just to the table but to help shape and mold our very ministry. Now this fall we will welcome a seminarian, Jake James, who will be present on Sunday mornings because the Synod wanted him to learn in one of the healthiest and most vibrant congregations in WNY.

All of this is only possible because of God who is always faithful and because of this congregation's commitment to rediscovering the radical love of Jesus. Your generosity of time, talent, treasure is generating transformation. Your willingness to be open to God doing a new thing; even when the new thing is trying out the updated translation of the Lord's prayer, this openness and commitment to the love of Jesus, is the cause of Parkside's renewed vitality. Yet, here is my confession and my hope. We can and should celebrate that we are experiencing one of the healthiest times in Parkside's 112 years. However, I believe God is still calling us into more. More does not have to mean growth in attendance but an increased depth of discipleship. We can still strive to have more folks engaged in ministry, by serving on a committee, helping in worship, attending bible study, or volunteering with the pantry or burritos just to name a few examples. When folks are engaged directly, sense of belonging increases, the ministry serves more folks, and God's love is furthered. This is always our calling, and especially so when Christians that promote hate are given the highest of platforms. We offer a different witness. Given this need, how might you be called to explore discipleship further this fall through Parkside Lutheran? The Good News is that reports written by people can be wrong. That no matter if we say "thy will be done" or "your will be done," God, the source of love is always at work. Thank you for all the ways you remind me of the radical love of Jesus. Thank you for your Spirit led partnership in the Gospel.

Peace,
Pastor Jeremiah

Google Reviews for Parkside

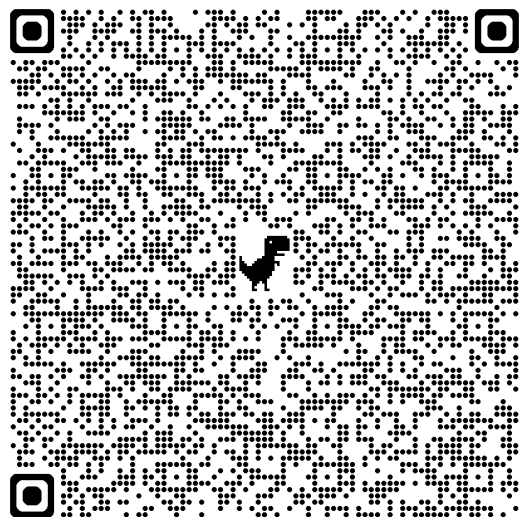
Do you love Parkside and want to spread the word to other families in the area?

Consider leaving a Google Review!

Many people look for reviews when deciding what church they want to attend.

Let's make sure that folks know about our wonderful, welcoming Parkside Community!

Use the QR Code, or visit Parkside Lutheran on Google to leave your review. Thank you!



A letter from our Council President

By Tom Smith

In my seven years as a member at Parkside Lutheran Church, I don't recall seeing so many signs of vitality in our community as I did this past Sunday.

As we entered the church, we saw construction equipment being used to repair and upgrade flashing and masonry as part of the effort to proactively manage the historic, 100-year-old community asset that is our building.

If you haven't seen it, there's a building permit on the ramp door for work that's underway on our ADA-compliant bathroom, which we expect to be completed in just a few short weeks after years of planning and fund-raising.

During the service, we celebrated two baptisms and the installation of Jenna Edwards as our Director of Youth and Family Ministry – two unmistakable signs of growth and a bright future. Jenna will be driving the initiative -- first outlined by the church council back in 2025 -- to expand ministries and programming serving our youth and young families.

Just one week earlier, a number of families participated in our second community garden event where we filled beds that will be planted and maintained by youth members. And we've already harvested over 100 pounds of produce from the garden for our food pantry. As all these exciting developments play out, we are getting ready for the Meat Raffle in October, which will kick off many fall activities that blend ministry and community outreach. You, the members of Parkside Lutheran, are bringing these exciting developments to life as we spread God's love in our community. I thank you for the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment that are making it all possible.

Tom Smith

Church Council President

Giving Statements Sent By Email

Beginning with 3rd Quarter 2026, we will be automatically emailing Quarterly Giving Statements to you from our donation software (the email will come from Parksidelutheran@gmail.com). Please be on the lookout for your first automatically emailed statement that was sent earlier this month. Let us know if you didn't receive it or there are any other concerns or questions.

Thank you for all you do to support the mission of Parkside!

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



Kenmore North Buffalo Food Pantry - Sharing God's Abundance

"... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink"

Parkside Lutheran continues to feed our neighbors in need because of your generous support. August was one of the busiest months on record with 314 individuals served.

There are many ways you can help:

- Volunteer: Staff the pantry on a Saturday, help when the FeedMore delivery truck arrives, pick up donations, or take on administrative tasks behind the scenes.
- Donate: Monetary gifts are always appreciated, but you can save us the shopping time by dropping off critically-needed items like canned fruits, canned meats, pasta and sauce, cereal, pancake and muffin mixes, and high-protein soups.
- Dash's Receipts: The Zonta Club of Kenmore turns your Dash's receipts into gift cards for our pantry clients each Christmas season. Collection bins are in the pantry and in Parkside's narthex.

To learn more about any of these opportunities, email kristenlenz@gmail.com, check us out on Facebook (www.facebook.com/northbuffalofoodpantry) or join us for the Kenmore North Buffalo Food Pantry Open House on Sunday, September 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.!

Please Welcome Vicar Jake!

Hey Parkside!

I am so looking forward to worshipping with you all over the next year! I am Jake James, and while I have lived in Buffalo for the past five years, my heart belongs to the prairies where I come from: Kansas. I grew up in Topeka and then moved to Kansas City, Kansas as an adult, where I stayed until I moved to Buffalo in 2021. Don't worry, I'm mostly a hockey fan (Go Red Wings!), and if I am watching football it's much more likely to be the Detroit Lions than the Chiefs. :) I am currently in my second year of studies as a seminary student going for my Masters of Divinity, and I am so excited to learn from both Pastor Jeremiah and you all what it means to be such a plugged in, active, and kinetic community church. The sterling reputation of Parkside precedes you, and I am so excited to get to worship and learn with you all as we journey through life together.

Grace & Peace,

Vicar Jake - Parkside Seminarian



Vacation Bible School at Parkside

What a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School we had! Our children brought so much joy, energy, and enthusiasm as we learned about the Parable of the Sower and what it means to plant seeds of faith, love, and kindness.

It was a joy to watch them listen, learn, create, sing, laugh, and grow together. They were truly wonderful participants, and we are grateful for the seeds that were planted in each of them throughout the week.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all of our volunteers and to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make VBS possible. From planning and preparing to teaching, cooking and serving dinner, leading activities, and cleaning up, so many people gave their time and talents to make this week special. We couldn't do this without all of you supporting the program.

Jenna - Director of Youth and Family Ministry
jennaedwards716@gmail.com



Events & Fellowship at Parkside



Parkside
Lutheran



Buffalo Burrito Project Volunteers Needed!

*More volunteers are needed for the
Buffalo Burrito Project!*

The upcoming date are:

September 22

October 27

November 24

December 22

*If you are able to help, please
contact Alison Smith at
alisonmsmitho7@gmail.com*

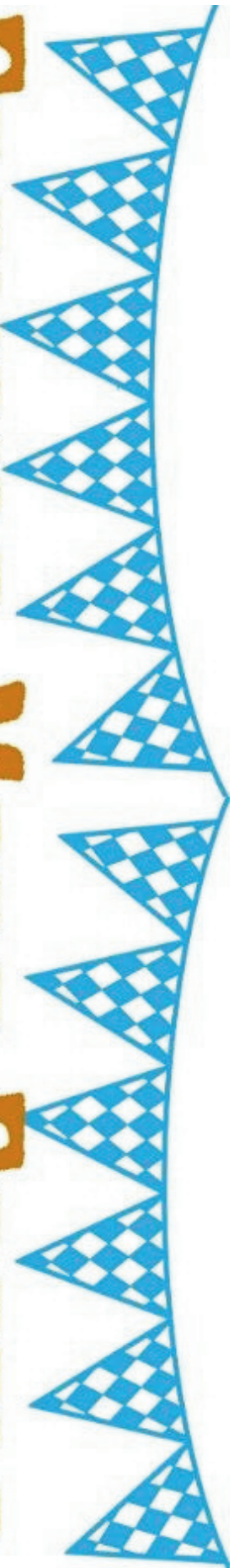


Upcoming Events & Meetings:

September 13 & 20 - God's Work, Our Hands
September 13 & 20 - First Communion Classes
September 27 - First Communion Celebration
October 4 - Bible Study Resumes
October 8 - Brewing Theology
October 16 - Parkside Meat Raffle!

October 30 - Halloween Event (tentative date)
November 18 - International Thanksgiving
December 20 - Christmas Pageant
January 2, 2027 - Holiday Hayride
January 31, 2027 - Annual Meeting

*Visit parksidelutheran.org for more information about these Events.
Parkside Lutheran Church 2 Wallace Avenue Buffalo, NY 14214 716-836-1361*



PARKSIDE MEAT RAFFLE

Proceeds to benefit the Parkside Healthy Building Fund and Youth Programming

SAVE THE DATE! October 16, 2026



Email kristenlenz@gmail.com to find out about sponsorship
opportunities, basket raffle donations, and how you can help

www.parksidelutheran.org



2026 Parkside Lutheran Church Meat Raffle

Friday, October 16, 2026 – Doors open at 6 pm, first pull at 7 pm

Parkside Lutheran – 2 Wallace Ave, Buffalo, NY 14214

Proceeds to benefit **Youth Programming** at Parkside - education, activities, and particularly support for teens attending the 2027 Lutheran Youth Gathering in Minneapolis - as well as the Parkside **Healthy Building Fund** to maintain the physical space needed for our ministries and building partners (Kenmore North Buffalo Food Pantry, Burrito Project, scouts, AA groups, Meals on Wheels, Refugee Thanksgiving, Pride Sunday, congregate meals, community garden, and so much more.)

Ways to Give:

Sponsor a Meat Raffle Round: \$250

- Cover the meat cost for an entire round so that every raffle ticket purchased benefits our ministries
- Donor name and logo displayed at event and on social media

Basket Raffle: \$75+ value

- Complete baskets, gift cards, and/or new items valued at \$75 or more
- New items of smaller value are appreciated too and will be combined to make a \$75+ value raffle prize

Gift Card Wall: \$25-\$40 value

- Gift cards/gift certificates for retail, restaurants, online shopping, local businesses, etc.

Reserve your table of 8 for \$100 or individual seats for \$15 each

<https://www.parksidelutheran.org/events/parkside-meat-raffle/2026-10-16>

Donations can be mailed to:

Parkside Lutheran Church
2 Wallace Ave
Buffalo, New York 14214

Or, call the church office at (716)836-1361 to arrange drop off

Donations must be received by Friday, October 9, 2026