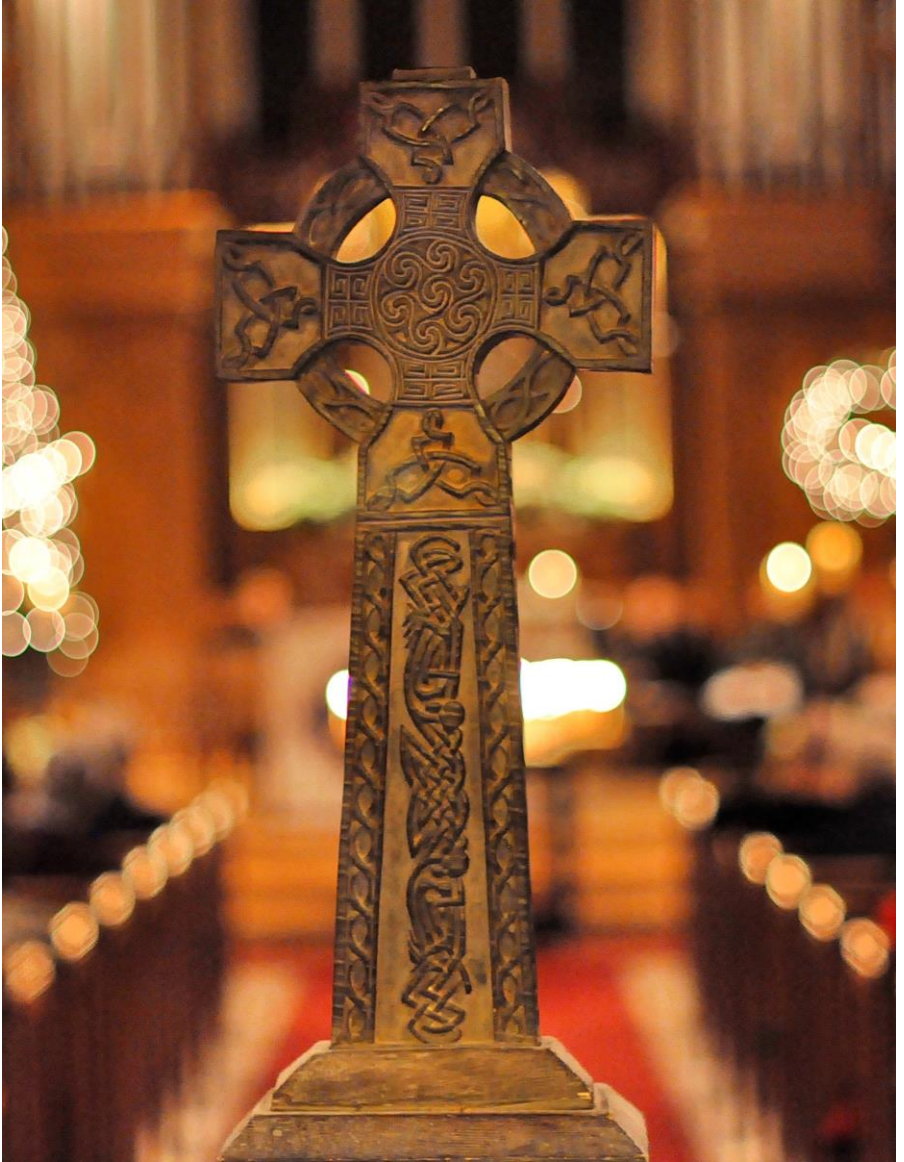


The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



VOLUME 121, ISSUE 2

March 2020

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

*An ELCA Congregation
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

*A Home for Hungry Minds and Souls
A Caring for Creation Congregation*

Church Office: 1935 St. Clair Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105-1646

Office Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 – noon & 12:30 – 3:30 pm
Office is closed Friday

Staff

Pastor Carol Tomer

Lead Pastor (full time)
pastorcaroltomer@gmail.com

Pastor Jen Rome

Pastor of Next Generation Ministries (full time)
pastorjenrome@gmail.com

Rev. Lynn Peterson

*Pastor in Residence
(Pastoral care ministry, 5-10 hrs. per month)*

Hannah Olson

Pastoral Intern (1/8 time)
hannahdelaine@gmail.com

Paul Stever

*Music Director, Organist and
Chancel Choir Director (3/4 time)*
steverpaul55@aol.com

Maggie Priola

Director of Children's Choirs (1/8 time)
maggiepriola19@gmail.com

Dick Hensold

Composer in Residence
dickhensold@gmail.com

Josh Moss

*Interim Director of Faith Formation
& Shared Ministry (5 hrs/wk)*
josh.moss.ffsm@gmail.com

Cathy Salin

Business Manager (3/5 time)
cathysalin@pilgrimstpaul.org

Mary Brodd

Office Coordinator (7/10 time)
pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org

Chuck Regal

Custodian (1/2 time)
coregal@comcast.net

Mike Schulze

Custodian/M@P Support

Denika Anderson

Communications Specialist (35% time)
pilgrimlccomm@gmail.com

Serena Asta

Newsletter Designer—serenapilgrim@gmail.com

Phone: 651-699-6886

Fax: 651-699-7425

Email: pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org

Website: www.pilgrimstpaul.org

Members of the Congregational Council

(also known as the Vestry)

Tim Dykstal, *President*

Caleb Drexler-Booth, *Executive Team*

Matt Koukol, *Executive Team, Recording Secretary*

Jason Hendrikson, *Treasurer*

Pastor Carol Tomer

Andrew Barry, *At-Large Member*

Heather Ninow, *At-Large Member*

Janet Erickson, *At-Large Member*

Karla Leitzman, *At-Large Member*

Other Chairpersons/Roles

Pete Newburg, *Financial Secretary*

Barbara McCauley, *Chair of Congregational
Life and Care*

Mary Beth Lake, *Missions & Social Justice*

Beth Nelson and Jay Oakman, *Properties*

Peter Spuit, *Worship, Music & Evangelism*

Kate Tosteson, Rachel Boelke, and

Matthew Anderson

*Interim Faith Formation Staff Team
(15 hours/week total)*

MeeAe Kim, Aly Xiong, Bethany Mollman

Jimmy Gerding, Ella Boelke

Nursery Attendants

Joanna Deer & Karie Johnson

Wedding Coordinators

Cover photo by Chuck Regal.

NOTE: Please note the change in the Pilgrim office hours. The office is open **Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 10:00 am-noon; 12:30-3:30 pm.** Other hours by appointment.

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March Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 & 11 am

March 1 — First Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion: “From Ancient Grounding into the Unknown” liturgy (based on *Frozen 2* and the *dies irae* Gregorian chant); First Grade Families in Faith Blessing: Prayer, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching (Featured movie in the sermon series: *The Two Popes*)
‡ **8 am — First Sunday Meditation**, Upstairs Community Room

March 8 — Second Sunday in Lent, A Service of Gospels and Spirituals, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching (Featured movie in the sermon series: *Harriet*)
‡ **Daylight Saving Time begins** — Set your clocks ahead!
‡ **Pajama Day** — All children are invited to wear pajamas to worship, if you’d like

March 15 — Third Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion: “From Ancient Grounding into the Unknown” liturgy (based on *Frozen 2* and the *dies irae* Gregorian chant); Peter Spuit preaching (Featured movie in the sermon series: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*)

March 22 — Fourth Sunday in Lent, Nordic Morning Prayer, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Jen Rome preaching (Featured movie in the sermon series: *Onward*)

March 29 — Fifth Sunday in Lent, A Service of Mercy and Justice, Point for Pilgrims, Kindergarten Families in Faith Blessing: FAITH5, Guest preacher: Michele Braley, Program Director, Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice (Featured movie in the sermon series: *Just Mercy*). **About our guest preacher on March 29:** Michele Braley is the Program Director for Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice, a position she has held for more than 11 years. In addition to being a restorative conference facilitator, Michele is trained in peacemaking circles and as a facilitator for victim-offender dialogue in crimes of severe violence. She has a Master’s degree in Social Work and is on the adjunct faculty at the University of St. Thomas.

Faith Goes to the Movies: A Lenten Sermon Series *Hearing Voices — In Lent, In Our Time* Sunday mornings, March 1-29

The 20th century theologian, Karl Barth, said that the preacher should have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. It’s about text and context, gospel and world, God’s story and our stories. During Lent, we will return to films as one way of engaging with our stories and our

context, as we have done in some past years during the season of Epiphany. And, after the debut this past month of a new communion liturgy based on *Frozen 2*, we've decided to return to it on the two Sunday morning communion Sundays (March 1 & 15) during this Lenten sermon series. I look forward to this sermon series, which will begin with a special Sunday morning forum on films and faith led by Pilgrim member Thomas Becknell and will conclude with a forum by Minnesota leader Gwen Walz on criminal justice reform, aligned well with that Sunday's focus on the movie *Just Mercy*. On our Lenten journeys this year, we will hear the voices of diverse witnesses to faith and life — through scripture, movies, preaching and worship, and forums. — Pastor Carol Tomer

Sermon dates, the featured movies, and how you can see the movies:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 1 | <i>The Two Popes</i> — available on Netflix |
| March 8 | <i>Harriet</i> — may still be in theaters currently; available for purchase in February |
| March 15 | <i>A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood</i> — may still be in theaters currently; available for purchase in February |
| March 22 | <i>Onward</i> — in theaters March 6 |
| March 29 | <i>Just Mercy</i> — in theaters now |

Sunday Morning Forums at 9:45 am

*Our Sunday morning forums meet in the
Upstairs Community Room (UCR), unless noted otherwise.*

March 1 — How Talking about Movies Can Nourish Our Faith —

When we've watched a movie, we naturally want to talk about it, to give voice to what we've experienced, to compare our reactions with those of our friends. Movies are magic. They project another world for our contemplation. They entertain us and instruct us. And when we talk about the experience, our faith can be nourished. Thomas Becknell, who will lead this forum, received his PhD from the University of Iowa and for many years has taught college courses in literature, writing and film. He and his wife, Pamela Erwin, recently joined Pilgrim Lutheran, and make their home in South Saint Paul.

March 8 — Does Praying Out Loud Freak You Out? —

Praying out loud with a loved one, at a family gathering, or at a faith community meeting, class, or gathering can feel intimidating because most of us were never taught to do it. Come join with Pastor Jen Rome to learn and practice simple ways to pray out loud — like fill in the blank prayers, words of scripture, feeling prayers, question prayers, and silent prayers. We'll air out our worries, learn some skills, and build our confidence in putting words and voice to our prayers.

March 15 — The Rite Thing in a New Decade — A congregational conversation about some excerpts from *Liberating Rites: Understanding the Transformative Power of Ritual* by Tom Driver (readings available at church). Led by Pastor Carol Tomer

March 22 — There Is No Peace: Processing Experiences of Spiritual Abuse — Spiritual abuse involves coercion and exploitation under the guise of religion, often administered on the part of a dominant, charismatic leader. While it can be difficult to identify, spiritual abuse often results in complex psychological trauma. This forum will clarify the characteristics of spiritual abuse, process common spiritual abuse symptoms and experiences, and center on how faith communities can worship and express their beliefs and values while doing no harm. Time will additionally be spent learning the neuroscience of emotional trauma and its unique manifestations within survivors of spiritual abuse, as well as evidence-based ways of healing from spiritual abuse. This forum will be led by Adam Arnold, MA, LMFT, LADC, a member of Pilgrim and a licensed psychotherapist. He works with individuals and families through a trauma lens.

March 29 — Reflections on Criminal Justice Reform — led by Minnesota leader Gwen Walz. She writes: My mother, a teacher and church organist, frequently told me that I must do the work in front of me. When I was growing up, I thought that meant the dinner dishes. It was not! Mom's words have challenged me to look and listen — to ponder and propose — to seek and pray — to build community around the most challenging issues in front of me. As an educator, that began with the Bard Prison Initiative, a college in prison program, and has grown into the work in Minnesota that I believe will bring public and private entities together for criminal justice reform. In the midst of this journey, I will share the work in front of me and reflect on the Lutheran call for reform.

April 5 — A Church Undone: Christians & Nazis in Hitler's Germany — led Dr. Mary Solberg, Associate Professor of Religion Emerita, Gustavus Adolphus College. The German Christians, who were passionate Lutherans, were also passionate supporters of Hitler and National Socialism, and considered themselves the truest patriots in the land. They were either indifferent or actively hostile to the rights, well-being, and physical integrity of the Jews in Germany. It's a pretty chilling story and important to reflect on in our own day. The story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer is, of course, woven through this whole era.

Help Spread the Word about Pilgrim: Wear and Carry Pilgrim's Mission out into the World

by Peter Spuit

People connected with Pilgrim can now literally wear and carry our mission out into the world on a wide array of products available online through **www.cafepress.com**. Products available through Pilgrim's "Seller Shop" on the website feature Pilgrim's logo and/or key statements about our community of faith. We will also share the weblink to Pilgrim's "Seller Shop" through upcoming Pilgrim community emails to make navigating to the "Shop" easier.

This new option was developed by the Worship, Music & Evangelism Committee, in partnership with Pilgrim staff, in response to the Pilgrim Vestry's Wide Initiative, a congregation-wide effort to engage in deeper and broader outreach beyond the Pilgrim community.

We decided on the project idea, because committee members relayed story after story about how clothing or products with curious images, place names, or other messaging had started conversations with friends, neighbors, co-workers and strangers (e.g. "What's Camp Wapo?" or "What's Holden Village?"). Our vision is that wearing and carrying Pilgrim's logo, name, and mission tagline out into the world will prompt us all to share our stories about Pilgrim. Please note: we did question the idea of inviting Pilgrim community members to "buy more things." But we decided that this project is fundamentally about storytelling and outreach, even as it involves a purchase. And of course, each person can make their own decision about whether to buy a product and which product.

If you have questions or comments about this project, please feel free to connect with me in-person, or by email or phone at **peterspuit@gmail.com** or **612-839-7855**.

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol

Across the church in North America, there is a growing awareness that gathering as local expressions of the Christian community (also known as congregations) is a countercultural thing to do. And so, one of the accompanying growing ministry practices that I hear ministry gurus and church leaders talking about is telling stories — that is to say, practicing noticing what's unfolding among us and telling stories about it, as well as practicing bearing witness to the gospel in a world that is hungry for authentic God talk, as theologian Tom Long has written about in his book *Testimony*. It's about a posture of not taking our congregational lives, and the gospel of Jesus Christ that gathers us, for granted.

In that spirit, here's a story:

Shared ministry makes a great difference — in ways we know and in ways we sometimes don't name. Recently, at a gathering of one of the Pilgrim ministry teams I support, I got to hear a Pilgrim lay leader offer the devotions at the beginning of the gathering. They shared that they had never led a devotion before. They then shared some of their personal reflections on how their faith is supported by being a part of Pilgrim, and then they shared a few thoughts that they had found on the internet. It was a heartfelt time of sharing. Afterwards, I told them that they clearly had more sharing of devotions in their future! And they said that in their internet perusing, they found and signed up for reflections that will be a source of ongoing enrichment for their spiritual journey. I was so grateful, and strengthened, to have heard their reflections and to know how their participation in this Pilgrim spiritual practice, of beginning ministry team gatherings with devotions and inviting team members to share in leading those devotions, has enriched their spiritual life. It is indeed as we often proclaim in our prayer at the communion table, "it is our duty and our joy." It's about joy, about serving in ministry together, about dedicating ourselves to making a difference for others, and about opening ourselves to the many and various ways our lives of faith and spiritual journeying are deepened in and through the community of Christ that we call church.

As we begin our Lenten journeys, I'm reflecting on moving beyond the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. On January 12, in worship, I shared a poem by Bonnie Thurston, who is a New Testament scholar, pastor, and poet, whom I heard speak several years ago at Vancouver School of Theology in Canada. I invite you to consider this poem as an invitation into Lent, an invitation to move beyond the world's false twinkling, the tinsel and the neon, to the shining darkness of world without end:

*You are the awakening / you await by the roadside
but do not know, / cannot see,
the eyes of your heart / being darkened,
blinded / by tinsel and neon / to the star / which has risen
in the east / and points the way / toward dawn.*

*Visible / across the vast / expanse of eternity,
you can glimpse it / even here.
But you must close / your inner eye
to this world's / false twinkling,
and step outside / your little self
into the shining darkness / of world without end.*

I've been thinking about all the junk that we in our privilege accumulate so much of. We know we are able to fill landfills endlessly. Cheap junk, often made on the backs of people in other countries. "Tinsel" might remind us of all the stuff of our disposable, earth-crushing lifestyles. And it seems that the cheaper we go with our stuff, the cheaper we go with our values. One of our Pilgrim core values is: "Living Sustainably and Doing

Justice.” How might that commitment shape the ways we as a congregation might live a post-tinsel life, beyond the false twinkling? And in this Lenten season, how might we be a faith community devoted to following the justice-making, earth-loving, self-giving, neighbor-serving way of Christ, a way of life that is ever testifying to the shining darkness of world without end?

As I shared in a recent sermon, David Brooks in *The New York Times* wrote a turn-of-the-year piece titled: “A Ridiculously Optimistic History of the Next Decade: A fantasy of what could come true.” He wrote it from the perspective of the year 2030. Here’s a short excerpt of what he says: “The second cultural trend of the decade was the rise of the urban church. Suburban megachurch attendance fell. Highly educated people found homes for their spiritual longings.” I see Pilgrim being a part of the trend that Brooks believes will be unfolding. I see it even now. God’s new things, springing forth. Thank you for helping pilgrims with hungry minds and souls across the Twin Cities to find this home for their spiritual longings. People are listening for our stories: about what happens in this faith community and the difference it makes, as well as our stories of why we are a part of a church, this church, and this ancient and boldly countercultural faith tradition — of meaning making and spiritual practice, of worshipping and praising God — a faith tradition called Christian, centered in the creating God, the life-giving Spirit, and the Word made flesh named Jesus, whom we are always meeting again, as if for the first time. In the February 26, 2020 *Christian Century* magazine, church leader Debi Thomas writes: “No single story will ever capture the whole. I need your testimonies as much as you need mine. Only in our collective and courageous telling will the story we love endure.”

Pastor Carol Tomer

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Jen

Have you noticed that young children receive Communion at Pilgrim? For many years, Pilgrim has had open communion for people of all ages. As expressed in the ELCA document, *The Use of the Means of Grace*, “There is no command from our Lord regarding the age at which people should be . . . first communed. Our practice is defined by Christ’s command (“Do this”), Christ’s twin promises of his presence for us and our need, and the importance of good order in the Church.”

I will be leading a one-night education event for children and parents/caregivers to learn together about Communion on **Maundy Thursday, April 9, 5:30-7 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your children, whatever their ages! We will serve a child-friendly dinner and have activities that work for multiple ages, including sharing stories about receiving communion and the bible story of Jesus celebrating the Passover meal with the disciples, exploring the sacristy where communion supplies are kept, practicing and trying the bread, wine, and juice, and

creating cups, plates, and napkins to be used on the altar for communion during Maundy Thursday worship. Families will stay for Maundy Thursday worship in the sanctuary at **7 pm** during which they will have a special opportunity to receive communion as a family.

This event is for those who would like to begin receiving communion as well as those already communing. Parents/Caregivers, you are the ones to whom your children will turn most often with questions about what Communion is and how to receive it — so you are encouraged to join in the fun of this learning event!

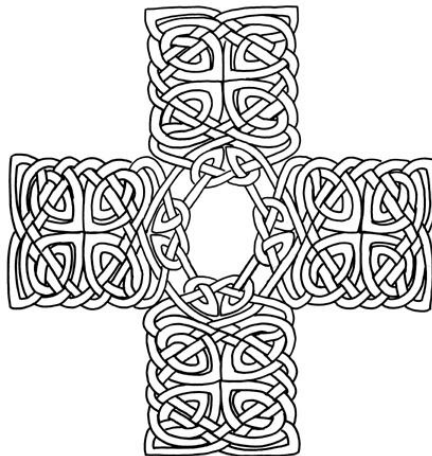
If you plan to attend, please contact me at pastorjenrome@gmail.com. Please tell me the age/s of your child/ren and how many from your family are coming.

Pastor Jen Rome

Update about the Arts in Worship Area and the East Transept Family Area

by Meredith Samuelson

Over the next few weeks, you will begin to see changes to our transept areas. The infant/toddler area will move to the west transept and the arts area will move to the east transept. You will notice the arts space looks much different. Instead of tables and chairs, lap desks and wiggle cushions will be available. These allow for kids to face the sanctuary so they can continue to see what's going on — something they requested. It also allows for kids to sit together or separately. From a practical standpoint, all of these things can be stacked and placed on a shelf making picking up and cleaning easier. The Sunday School children will be assisting with the creation of expectations for using the space. Our children have amazing ideas. Thank you for supporting them in making adjustments to a meaningful piece of their church experience.



Saint Clair Sunday Evenings

Worship, Music, and Arts ~ 6:51 pm Sundays

2019-2020 Theme:

Moved in Infinite Love By All Things

Celtic Contemplative Communion

March 8 – Launch Us Heavenwards

Featuring musicians Dick Hensold, Michelle Kinney, Marc Anderson on Northumbrian smallpipes, medieval greatpipes, recorder, cello, percussion, and Peggy Larson as cantor.



Choral Contemplative Prayer

Prelude begins at 6:45 pm

March 1 – Taizé Service: Led by the Pilgrim Contemplative Prayer Choir, directed by Paul Stever.

March 29 – St. John Passion: Led by the Contemplative Prayer Choir and the Chancel Choir.



Nordic Contemplative Evening Prayer

March 22 – In Those Dark Halls of Honey

Featuring Peggy Larson's uniquely Nordic singing styles, including kulning (Swedish) and joiking (Sami), and Rachel Jensen on Hardanger fiddle and violin.

6:30 pm extended prelude – ASI Cloudberrries Womens' Choir

Seven Times Well:

Contemplative Conversation and Connection

A New Opportunity for the

Pilgrim Evening Worship Community

GATHER in small groups at **5:51 pm** before the seven Celtic and Nordic services, January through April.

SHARE reflections related to the theme for that evening's service. Guiding questions for the seven conversations will be provided.

WEAVE the fruits of our individual contemplation together to create community. Evening worshipers will serve as group facilitators.

All are welcome to attend our February gatherings on **March 8 and 22, 2020, 5:51-6:30 pm** in the Upstairs Community Room (you are invited to bring your own brown bag supper if you wish).

NOTE: The theme and reflection questions for each night are found on the Pilgrim website home page.

M@P... Midweek @ Pilgrim

Food, fellowship, learning, serving & singing for all ages

M@P Schedule March 4-April 1

5:05-5:45 Junior Choir
5:15-6:15 Meal
5:45-8:45 Care (Age 0-4)
6:00-6:25 Jubilee Choir
6:30-7:10 Holden Evening Prayer Worship
7:15-8:45 Chancel Choir

Lenten Midweek Evening Worship

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, March 4 through April 1, 6:30-7:15 pm

Worship will be preceded by soup and bread supper, coordinated by the Congregational Life and Care Committee, each week from **5:15-6:15 pm** for a free will offering. All are welcome and encouraged to come for supper. All proceeds from the meals will be donated to Keystone Community Services.

This year's Lenten Midweek Evening worship theme is *Stories of Faith*. Pilgrims, both youth and adults, will share stories about times when they sensed God in their lives.

March 4 Kate Kennedy Spindler

March 25 Eliana Bly

March 11 Pria Stauning

April 1 Kristo Sween

March 18 Rachel Weeks

Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesdays, March 4 through April 1, 5:15-6:15 pm

Lenten soup and bread suppers are coordinated each week by Pilgrim's Congregational Life and Care Committee. The free-will offering from the meals will be donated to Keystone Community Services. All are welcome and encouraged to come for supper.

Many hands are needed to make the suppers yummy and successful. You are invited to donate a crockpot of soup or mac'n'cheese, carton of milk or juice, dessert, or help with setup or cleanup. Ways to volunteer: Contact **Ann Dyellig** at ann.dyellig@gmail.com or **612-720-4403**. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or on the Google Doc in future congregational weekly emails. Thank you!



Music Notes March 2020



By Paul Stever, Music Director

3/1	8:30 am 11 am 6:51 pm	TBD Chancel Choir *Taize with the Contemplative Prayer Choir
3/8	8:30 am 11 am	Instrumental Ensemble Chancel Choir
3/15	8:30 am 11 am	Jubilee Choir Maggie Priola, soprano & Kim Spear, flute
3/22	8:30 am 11 am	Junior Choir Chancel Choir; Sarah Adair & Hannah Schendel, violin duet
3/29	8:30 am 11 am 6:51 pm	Ben Winkler, tenor Ben Winkler, tenor +St. John Passion with Pilgrim adult choirs and soloists

2020 Choral Contemplative Prayer Schedule

At Pilgrim Lutheran Church

***Choral Contemplative Prayer: Taizé**

Jonathan Haidt in his books *The Happiness Hypothesis* and *The Righteous Mind* makes the case that our intuitions and gut instincts are like an elephant and our moral reasoning, which comes after these intuitions, is like a rider on the elephant. Particularly in our relationships with other people, this rider also becomes a kind of lawyer or press secretary, convincing family members of why it was actually someone else's fault we forgot to take out the trash, helping us work as an activist toward peace and justice, or solving a problem at work or play. We live so much of our modern lives stuck in our heads, trying to move and direct the elephant of our passions and gut instincts. Music can help us take a break from this way of being and few kinds of music are better for this than the short songs and responses like those found from the community of Taizé, France. Repetition of words and short musical phrases invites the worshipper into a kind of embodiment of the music that takes us to a different part of the body and mind than the cerebral world we so often inhabit. Come join us for this time of rest from our usual way of being.

March 1 at 6:51 pm, choral prelude at 6:45 pm

A service of short songs primarily from the Taizé community in France, with word weavings by Paul Stever and four newly composed musical compositions by members of the choir. Led by the Pilgrim Contemplative Prayer Choir.

**+Choral Contemplative Prayer: St. John Passion by Schütz/Bach
Sunday, March 29 at 6:51 pm, violin prelude at 6:45 pm**

A service combining the St. John Passion by Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672) with movements from the St. John Passion by J.S. Bach (1685-1750) and liturgy from compline. Led by the Pilgrim Contemplative Prayer Choir and Chancel Choir, featuring our Choral Scholar musicians and other soloists. Free will offering (\$15 suggested donation) to support the Choral Scholar program and other Pilgrim music ministries.

**Choral Contemplative Prayer: Earth Vespers with Bret Hesla
Sunday, April 19 at 6:51 pm, prelude at 6:45 pm**

A service of music and liturgy by local songwriter and song-leader Bret Hesla, in celebration of all of God's creation. Led by Bret Hesla, guitarist, with the Pilgrim Contemplative Prayer Choir and Paul Stever, conductor.

Hymn of the Season (Lent):

Bless Now, O God, the Journey ELW #326

Canadian Sylvia Dunstan (1955-1993) originally called this hymn "Covenant Song" and said, "The covenant in question is a primary relationship, as two individuals, in the context of their community, pledge to journey together." It has been used more broadly in the context of our hymnal and worship life as a metaphor for a Lenten journey. The Welsh tune LLANGLOFFAN is possibly as old as the eighteenth century and has been used with quite a number of hymn texts.

NB: The "Hymn of the Month" paragraphs are created with the aid of Paul Westermeyer's *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Holden Evening Prayer

On five Wednesdays during Lent, Holden Evening Prayer will be offered, accompanied by Joanna Deer on piano. Other musicians leading the services will be:

March 4 Carl Samuelson, cantor; Kim Spear, flute

March 11 Meredith Samuelson, cantor; Kim Spear, flute

March 18 Maggie Priola and Carol Tomer, cantors;
Meredith Samuelson, flute

March 25 John Lavik and Melanie Ruda, cantors, Kim Spear, flute

April 1: Junior Choir/Pilgrim youth

Vestry News

General Fund Giving Update for January, 2020

January general fund giving was \$26,939 vs budgeted giving of \$30,709. This is a deficit of (\$3,770) for the month.

How You Can Support Pilgrim Very Easily!

Thrivent Financial – 2019 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2020 – If you have insurance or investments through Thrivent Financial, you may have Choice Dollars that you can direct to Pilgrim Lutheran Church. This provides important support for our ministry (and costs you nothing!) If you designated these funds in the past, please know that you must do it every year.

There are two easy options for directing Choice Dollars, either online at **www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/** or by phone at **800-847-4836** and say “Thrivent Choice” at the prompt. Questions? Please contact a representative from the Member Connection Center. For faster service, have your member ID or contract number available.

Education, Service & Fellowship

Racial Justice Team

Are you interested in diving deeper into helping our congregation engage in racial justice work? The Pilgrim Racial Justice Team is looking for additional members to join our group! If you are interested or would like to learn more about the work of the Racial Justice Team, please contact **Penny Bartz** at **pennybartz@gmail.com**

Pilgrim Men’s Breakfast

The Pilgrim Men’s Breakfast group meets at **7 am**, usually on the first Monday of the month at the Highland Café and Bakery, 2012 Ford Parkway. The group will meet on **Monday, March 2**. For more information, contact **Dave Toeniskoetter (651-470-8632)**.



Pilgrim Women’s Retreat

Save the date! Congregational Life and Care invites all Pilgrim women to our sixth annual **Women’s Retreat** the weekend of **April 17-19** on the beautiful campus of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. Participants can choose a one or two night stay in the cozy retreat house. We are planning some study and discussion sessions, but we’ll also have unstructured time for campus walks, shopping, fellowship, reading or quiet time. We’ll return to St. Paul early Sunday afternoon following worship and lunch.

The goal of the retreat is to build community among a diverse group of Pilgrim women through fellowship in a unique setting away from our

The Pilgrim, March 2020

everyday lives. The cost will depend on length of stay and meals but will likely be in the \$60-80 range. Please join us. If you want more information or want to reserve a spot, please contact **Judy Tande** by phone at **651-246-4714** or email at **judithtande@yahoo.com**.

Classics for Pilgrims

Pilgrims will gather to discuss *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings at the home of Susan Jones on **Thursday, March 26**, at **7 pm**. Susan may be reached at **651-207-5669**. The April selection is *The Street*, by Ann Petry. For information contact **Barbara Taylor (651-699-1095; bstaylor50@gmail.com)**.

Book Club News

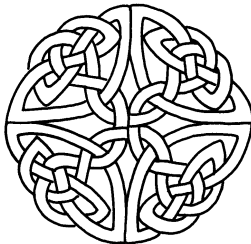
Date: **Thursday, March 19, 2020**
Book: *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean and/or
An American Marriage by Tayari Jones

We hope you'll join us. Contact **Lynda Hirschboeck** at **651-698-7399** or **hirschbo@gmail.com** if you have questions.

Brew Testament

Have you been curious about Pilgrim's monthly bible study + beer gathering? Have you attended previously but not been back for a while? Now is a great time to check us out. For 2020 our core members have evolved the Brew Testament experience into a forum for connecting contemporary issues to the guidance, challenges, parables, and reassurances available in scripture and related works. On **March 2**, Andrew Barry will host (**1651 Juno Avenue**) and he and Tim Moore will lead a discussion on Technology and the Church, based on readings from the current edition of *Living Lutheran*. Home brew and other delicious offerings each month. Come learn, grow, and teach with us fellow Pilgrims on the journey.

When? First Monday of the month, **8-10 pm**
(**March 2, 2020**)
Where? Rotating between member homes and local breweries
How to connect? Email Tim Moore at **tim.moore927@gmail.com**



Welcome New Members!

Kirsten, Patrick, Etta, and Aoife Donaldson



Kirsten, Patrick, Etta, and Aoife have moved to St. Paul after spending the last 10 years in Washington, D.C. Patrick and Kirsten are both from the Twin Cities area originally, and they are glad to be back near friends and family. Kirsten is an attorney who spends most of her time on intellectual property work, such as trademarks, copyrights, and advertising. Patrick is an attorney who works in the area of investigations,

privacy, and technology. Etta, who is 4 years old, and Aoife, who is 2, attend a Spanish immersion preschool and love books, swimming, and singing. We are excited to be a part of the Pilgrim community and look forward to meeting you all.

Elaine Boyer-Haymond



The first time Elaine came to an evening contemplative service at Pilgrim, she heard quoted Anne Lamott and Mary Oliver and was both surprised and pleased to find someplace where others were reading what she was reading. Elaine likes the idea that spirituality involves an inner journey, and having a community where she can explore spiritual growth appeals to her.

Elaine is fortunate to have her family nearby. Her 95-year-old mother lives next door; her 16-year-old daughter, Angie, lives in the same house as Elaine; and an older daughter, Amanda, lives in

Minneapolis. Elaine and her sister share caregiving responsibilities for their mom. Angie is a junior at Paladin Career Technical High School, and they share their home with two dogs and two chinchillas. (Pilgrim Factoids: chinchillas are native to the Andes mountains in South America, where they live in colonies called “herds.” They have the densest fur of all animals that live on land, no doubt making them a great pet during long, cold Minnesota winters.) Amanda works for General Mills as a registered dietician and will be married next June.

Elaine is a retired clinical social worker. Her last two jobs had her working ten years each in Las Vegas and at Allina Mental Health in the field of Early Childhood Mental Health. After retiring, Elaine has taken several creative writing classes at the U of M and the Loft and is part of a writing group. She also enjoys learning to tap dance, walking dogs, kayaking, and spending time at the family cabin near Mora.

Timothy Bell & Stephen Kemp



Timothy is a native of the Twin Cities, and for the past ten years has been working in health care. Specifically, he is an Accounting Manager/Health Care Administrator and works with adults with chemical dependency, mental illness, and chronic homelessness.

When not at the office, Timothy enjoys spending time with his family, which includes his parents, Jeffrey and Amy; two brothers, Elliot (Timothy's twin)

and Alex; his sister, Elaine; as well as his siblings' spouses. Timothy also likes to undertake home improvement projects, discover new recipes to try out, and then share his creations with guests.

Timothy places a high value on family, stewardship, the environment, and critical thinking. As a new member to Pilgrim, he is looking forward to hearing sermons that are intellectually and spiritually challenging and engaging. Looking ahead to how he may participate at Pilgrim, Timothy said that he may be interested in singing in the Chancel Choir or participating in special musical performances.

Stephen is an avid singer and has sung in many choirs over the years, including the Concordia College Choir when he was a student there. (Pilgrim Factoids: Since 1920, the 72-voice Concordia Choir has performed in nearly every major hall in America and is considered one of the nation's finest *a cappella* choirs.) So, it probably comes as no surprise that he may be interested in becoming a member of the Pilgrim Chancel Choir. He also thinks that assisting with worship services may be of interest. When asked what he's looking for at Pilgrim, Stephen responded "to grow in my faith by serving, or community."

Stephen is a Twin Cities native and also an avid traveler who is always planning and saving for the next adventure. In between trips, Stephen works as a math educator at the secondary and post-secondary levels. He is eager, he says, to reform math education. Stephen highly values family, and his family consists of his parents, Greg and Shari, and his brother and sister-in-law, Danny and Beth.

Thomas Becknell/Pamela Erwin



Thomas Becknell and Pamela Erwin, still consider themselves newlyweds and will soon celebrate five years together. Together, they have five grandchildren, ranging in ages from 5 to 22; two of them live in the Twin Cities, and three of them live in Florida. Thomas has a deep affection for the urban life of the Twin Cities, and has developed a particular passion for the Mississippi River. He is

currently studying to become certified as a master water steward. Recently retired from many years of teaching literature and writing to college students, he is re-directing those energies into writing a book about the Mississippi River, and occasionally teaching online. Pamela has taught youth and family ministries, biblical and theological studies, as well as serving as a college administrator and church staff member, and now is on a journey of phased retirement. She has enjoyed bringing groups of students to some of the contemplative evening worship services at Pilgrim. She is drawn to the salt marshes of the deep south and loves to spend time exploring the marshes through the lens of a camera or painting and sketching the wildlife there. Together they enjoy biking the many trails of the Twin Cities and summer picnics; taking in live theater at one of the many Twin Cities venues; or listening to music at the SPCO, the Dakota, or one of the local clubs. Looking forward to experiencing the “sanctuary” called Pilgrim Lutheran—to experience the presence of God, to contribute to and be nourished by this community of hungry minds and souls, and to learn better how to live as a pilgrim on this earth.

Joanne Sorenson



After serving as a Lutheran pastor for over 20 years, Joanne started writing a new chapter in her life when she created the non-profit organization, IN OUR HANDS. As it states on the organization’s website, “*The Future is IN OUR HANDS* to create a better world for all humanity. We are people of many life philosophies, serving the world together, and learning from one another.” Joanne enjoys leading service trips and volunteer experiences to bring people together and introduce them to the joy of serving.

Joanne’s other interests include taking long walks with her dog, Teddy, checking out new coffee shops, sampling food at grocery stores, attending cultural festivals, visiting friends, and enjoying a good piece of fiction. Joanne’s two twenty-something children, Katherine and Chris, live in Eau Claire.

Joanne is excited to find at Pilgrim a place of welcome, spiritual challenges, meaningful worship, and new friends.

Marian Heinrichs



Marian Heinrichs and her husband Doug Skelton are originally from Manitoba, Canada. They lived outside of Winnipeg, and Doug built up a business selling his hand thrown pottery. Marian came to Minnesota in 1987 to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1995 with a Ph.D. in child psychology. She is a program evaluator and recently retired from her position with Saint Paul Public Schools. Doug joined her ten years ago after his retirement. They have two daughters and four grandsons who live close by. They enjoy gardening and canoeing in summer, and traveling throughout the year.

The Next Pilgrim New Member Series

We are looking ahead to the next new member series. Here are the details:

On **Saturday, March 28, 9:30 am-12:30 pm**, we'll have a gathering for those interested in joining Pilgrim. We'll get acquainted, do some intro and review of Lutheran Christian basics, and share in an orientation to Pilgrim. (Some articles, as resources about the Lutheran Christian lens and life, will be available to read before the gathering; copies of Martin Marty's *Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers* are also available for purchase in the Fireside Room.)

On **Sunday, April 5, 7 pm**, new members are invited for dessert, along with some Pilgrim leaders, in a member's home.

On **Sunday morning, April 19**, at either morning service, new members are received during worship.

If you are interested in becoming a new member, please call or email the church office by **March 23**. Child care is provided for the Saturday, March 28 gathering, if requested by **March 23**.

Pilgrim Mamas

All those who identify themselves as mamas from Pilgrim are invited to the Pilgrim Mama's get together on **March 16**, starting at **8:30 pm**. We will focus on Brene Brown's *Wholehearted Parenting Manifesto*. Please contact **Kirsten Anderson** at **kirsten.m.anderson@me.com** for location information.

Pilgrims Caring for Creation (PCC)



Of course, all Pilgrims care for creation! The PCC group seeks to maintain a supportive creation-care community. The best way to foster priority for creation among ourselves and others is to help each other find opportunities to practice it. Besides a core group of Pilgrims who meet, we maintain a listserv of over 50 Pilgrims. Please inform the church office if you'd like to be added to our listserv and feel free to attend meetings, which are generally on

the **2nd Wednesday** of each month at **7:15 pm: March 11, April 8.**

Posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board | PCC Section

PCC Book Review of the Month

From What is to What if: Unleashing the Power of Imagination to Create the Future We Want by Rob Hopkins

From the cover page of the book: Hopkins asks, "What if we lived in a time when the human imagination flourished, and anything felt possible?" and argues that we've forgotten how to use our most critical tool: the human imagination. The ability to simply ask, *What If?* In this passionate call to action, Hopkins explores what we must do to revive and replenish our collective imagination. Once achieved, there is no end to what we might accomplish.

PCC Tip

Advice from Rob Hopkins: Take a moment to sit down, close your eyes, and imagine the future you want.

A Pilgrim Art Exhibit in March

In the Upstairs Community Room

Featuring the work of Pilgrim member Sam Tosteson

About this exhibit, Sam writes:

I want to infuse the mundane with the fantastic.

Like elves living in a freeway underpass.

I use whatever I can to do this including charcoal, paint, ink, and whatever else the work needs.

Once I used a pizza box.

Can you find it?

Art in a Box

“Art in a Box,” a collaborative venture by eight local artists featuring eight projects inspired by songs will be exhibited on **March 27** and **28** in the Fireside Room at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. The show will run from **6-8:30 pm Friday** and from **10 am-1 pm on Saturday**. Light refreshments will be served.

Young Adults: More Than Happy Hour

March: IndoChin (1702 Grand Ave, St Paul, MN 55105)

Tuesday, March 10, 6-7:30 pm

More Than Happy Hour is a once-a-month space for young adults to gather and talk about life, church, and the world. We focus on a discussion theme – in the past we’ve talked about death and grief, and family dynamics and the holidays. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join, or bring a conversation topic. While we gather in community, Pilgrims buys us dinner! If you have questions or are interested in bring a topic, reach out to **Hannah Olson** at **hannahdelaine@gmail.com**.

Have You Remembered Pilgrim in Your Will?

Some people are able to continue to give to Pilgrim in death, as well as in life. Giving through your will helps to continue the 90-year tradition of ministry and mission at Pilgrim, continuing the legacy of your witness. With the advice of your attorney or tax adviser, the following language may be added to your will, trust, or codicil:

“I bequeath X% of my estate to Pilgrim Lutheran Church,
1935 St. Clair Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105.”

Children & Youth

Lambs (Age 0-3 and Parents/Caregivers)

Lambs class is an opportunity for parents/caregivers of young children to grow with their children and connect with other parents/caregivers. Lambs meets in the nursery and includes story, song, and play with your child as well as a welcoming and supportive space for parents to connect, share and grow as people of faith and as parents. Lambs is held in the Nursery downstairs at **9:45 am** on select Sundays: **March 15**, and **April 19**.

Sunday School (PreK-5th Grade)

Pilgrim offers Sunday School during the school year for kids in Preschool to 5th Grade. Classes take place on Sunday mornings from **9:45 am-10:45 am**. We use the Spark! curriculum to teach children the stories

from the Bible in dynamic ways, connecting the stories to their lives. The children learn about the same Bible story they hear read in worship.

3rd-5th Graders Mini-Retreat

All 3rd-5th graders Join us for a fun mid-winter retreat for 3rd-5th graders at Camp Wapo, **Saturday, March 14, 9 am – Sunday, March 15, 2 pm**. Bring a friend, if you'd like, and we'll spend time learning, laughing, and playing. Cost is \$50/person; we never want finances to get in the way of any child participating, so if you are interested in a scholarship, contact Pastor Jen. Please RSVP to Pastor Jen by **March 1**.

Youth Pathways (6th-12th Grade)

On Sunday mornings from **9:45-10:45 am**, Middle and High School Pathways youth meet downstairs in the Youth Room to grow together in faith and connection through learning about the Old Testament, Faith and Life, and Faith Practices.

Deep Dive Confirmation

Deep Dive Confirmation is a new opportunity this year, offering 7th-9th graders a special and engaging experience as they journey toward confirmation. It is one Sunday a month from **1-3 pm**. Deep Dive is a collaboration of ELCA Lutheran congregations with the hope of connecting youth across congregations and engaging youth in field-trip immersion learning about the promises made to us by God in baptism. On **March 8**, we will visit Lutheran Social Services' Center for Changing Lives in Minneapolis to explore proclaiming God in word and deed by helping others in need. For more info, contact Pastor Jen.

Families in Faith Classes

Families in Faith Classes are shared experiences for children and their parents/caregivers to learn faith practices together. There is one class for each year of a child's life from Birth-6th grade led by staff. The classes happen during faith formation hour from 9:45-10:45 am, and during 11:00 am worship that day, children and families will receive a gift and a blessing and help lead a part of worship.

March 1: Grade 1 Prayer

Children and parents will explore ways to pray together as part of regular life at home. Children will receive a prayer pillow and help lead the prayers in worship.

March 29: Kindergarten: FAITH 5

Children and parents will learn a simple devotional practice to use together at home. Children will help lead the blessing during worship.

Full Year Calendars for Lambs, Sunday School, Pathways, and Deep Dive Confirmation are available on the Pilgrim website. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Jen.

Pilgrim Parents/Caregivers: Pilgrim Parent Group on Facebook Connect and support each other! To join the Facebook Group, follow this link: www.facebook.com/groups/pilgrimparents and click on “Join Group.”

Summer Camp Opportunities at Camp Wapo!

We have the dates for our congregation at Camp Wapo weeks this summer!

Seeds Camp (for completed 1st-3rd graders) **July 31-August 2**
Wapo Youth Camp (for completed grades 4-8) **August 2-7**
Senior High Camp (for completed grades 9-12) **August 2-7**

Registration is through **March 15** for one of our reserved spots—for our special registration link, please contact Pastor Jen. The registration link was emailed to all families in early January. If when you register it says our spots are full, please still register and get on the waiting list. Those on the waiting list almost always get in after **March 15**. For more information: <http://campwapo.org/camp/wapo>.

There is also Sr. High Servant Leadership Program (Completed Grades 9-12). Along with standard Senior High camp, Camp Wapo is also offering interested senior high youth an opportunity to grow in faith and leadership skills by working with younger campers in a program called “Servant Leadership Program” (SLP). Those participating in the SLP will be housed in Wapo youth cabins, trained to assist Wapo counselors in leading a variety of activities while also being coached and challenged by an SLP counselor. This experience is ideal for those demonstrating maturity, commitment and joy in working with younger kids. This program is limited to seven 11th-12th graders each week. Those interested need to submit an application with references by **April 15**. Interested? Talk with **Pastor Jen** or go to <http://campwapo.org/camp/wapo>

Information Meeting for All Ages Pilgrim Camp *March 15, 12:15-1 pm at Pilgrim*

This summer, Pilgrims of all ages are invited to head north together to Wilderness Canoe Base camp with Camp Wapo **July 23-26**. We'll have time together to play and rest and grow in faith together! At our meeting we will be joined by Nate Berkas, Director of Wilderness Canoe Base to answer questions and share about camp. If you have any other questions, contact Pilgrim **Elizabeth Schoenkencht** at eschoenk@comcast.net.

Register Now for God-Centered Day Camp (VBS)!

June 15-June 19, 2020

Who Is My Neighbor?

There are Always More Neighbors to Meet!

Immanuel and Pilgrim Lutheran Churches are joining together again for a week of fun and faith! Registration is \$40/child for morning day camp (VBS) (**M-F, 9 am-noon**), and \$40 more for afternoon care, which includes offsite service projects (**M-Th, until 4 pm**). You can register on the Immanuel Lutheran Church website: <http://ilcsp.org/> Registration for morning day camp is open to all children who have completed PreK through fifth grade. Afternoon care is available to children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. For more information contact pastorjenrome@gmail.com.

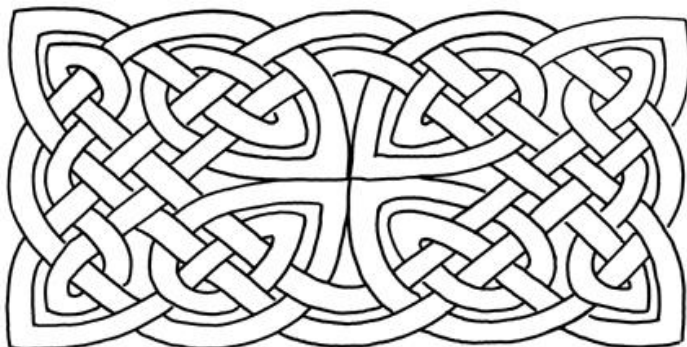
Save the Dates for the Youth Pathways Cabin Getaway this Summer!

July 14-16, 2020

We'll head up north to live the lake life together this summer at the cabin of Pilgrims Mark and Lee Gunsten. Water, rest, and fun are all on the schedule!

2021 ELCA Youth Gathering

The 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering will be in Minneapolis, **June 29-July 3, 2021**. Pilgrim youth—let's start looking forward to this! The theme is "boundless: God beyond measure." The theme is based on Ephesians 3:19, "I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is." Participants will explore how they can find themselves within the boundlessness of Christ's love. Visit ELCA.org/Gathering to learn more. We will have an information meeting at Pilgrim on **August 19, 6:30 pm**.





Prayer Corner

We pray for God's loving presence for these Pilgrims who need healing, hope, comfort, and care:

Concerns: For our governor and all Minnesota public servants, as they lead and serve our whole state; Mardell Johnson, recovering from pneumonia, and her daughter, Susan, recovering from a fall; Nancy Aarsvold, recovering from a cardiac arrest; Monica Jones (friend of Kirsten and Matthew Anderson) and family and friends on the accidental death of her son Da'Quan; Jan Harper, former Pilgrim member and partner of Pastor Jean Hay, diagnosed with lung cancer; Fred Drexler, father of Kate Drexler Booth, recovering.

Ongoing Health Concerns: Serena Asta, chronic neurological Lyme disease; Lisa Berg; Bev and Art Stolp; Lillian Knutson; Mike Regal, Chuck's son, ongoing care following a serious motorcycle accident; Kai McElrath, 1 year old niece of Matt and Eileen McElrath for the continued healing of her neuroblastoma cancer; Cathy Comeford, sister of Jeanne Comeford, undergoing treatment for cancer; Daniel Leshner, for physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

Births: Inho Robert McAdory-Kim, born January 31; Hanna Ruby Heggeseth born to Brianna and Paul Heggeseth on January 1, 2020; Maeve McElrath, born to Eileen and Matt McElrath on Sunday, March 24; Margaret (Maggie) Linnea Moore, born to Britt and Tim Moore on March 22; Naomi Anne Weeks, born to Kyle & Rachel Weeks on February 24.

Christian Sympathy:: Pastoral Intern Hannah Olson, on the death of her grandmother on November 16; Karen Walker and family on the death of her mother, Pilgrim member Joan Doth, on October 27; Eileen McElrath and family, on the death of her grandmother, Dorothy Ann Tompkins, on October 13; Sharyn Joyce, on the death of husband Bill on October 4; Jean Omodt and Hannah and Nathan, on the death of father/grandfather Ray Omodt on September 12; Catherine Koukol and family on the death of her mother on September 3; Sheila Hoffman, Theo Hicks, and family at the death of husband and parent Art Carlson on August 25; Louise Rogness, at the death of her mother Catherine Hewitt on August 24; Roger and Pat Sween and Kristo Sween and Donna Dingle at the death of Katharine Sween on August 17, daughter of Roger and Pat, sister of Kristo; family and friends on the death of Barbara Grudt on August 7; Claudia Becker and family, on the death of her mother Ginny Colby on July 29; Diana Doty Stalka and family, on the death of her son Mason; Tim Dykstal and family, on the death of his mother Virginia on June 28; Dave Toeniskoetter and family, on the death of his father Richard on June 25; Brett Kahnert and family on the death of his grandmother on June 16; Petra Vogt and family on the death of her step-grandmother, Erika Peitsch, on May 20; Catherine Mueller, on the death of her mother, June D. Mueller, on April 16; Pastor Lynn Peterson and family, on the death of her mother, Jeannette Peterson, on April 27; Jay Oakman, Laura Sattler, and family on the death of his uncle, Steve Sattler; Melissa Johnson, on the death of her mother on March 16; Hannah Schendel on the death of her grandfather; Karen Bjorkman, on the death of her father.

Ministry Partnership: The ministry and people of our sister congregation, Luganga Lutheran Church in Tanzania and Pastor Bimbiga; Pilgrim staff members and Pilgrim lay leaders

In and beyond the congregation: For peace in our world, for healing in our country, for the invisibly ill, for the mentally ill

You are encouraged to send greetings to those you are moved to communicate with. We also invite prayer requests for loved ones, either in this Prayer Corner or through our Prayer Chain. Let us know if you are expecting or adopting a child. If you wish to add or remove a prayer request, please call the church office regarding the Prayer Corner and Judy Boehm, 651-690-3568, regarding the Prayer Chain. For prayers during worship, please contact a pastor.

Parochial Report

March Birthdays

1 Nolan McCullough
 1 Laura Nelson
 2 Brodan Behling
 2 Miriam Shuros
 3 Joanne Sorenson
 4 Henry Reiley
 4 Michele Whetstone
 4 Kate Wilmot
 5 Derek Boylan
 5 Merle Strom
 10 Finley Andrist
 10 Aidan Klepp
 10 Catherine Koukol
 10 Lori Otto
 10 Elin Pederson
 11 Aaron Bowser
 12 Diane Doty Stalka
 14 Hans Barry
 14 Franklin Bjorn Batalden
 14 Emma Conklin
 15 Murray Johnson
 15 Solveig Johnson
 16 Ann Machmeier
 18 Leah Henrikson
 18 Vivian Sena Henrikson
 18 Gary Horejsi
 19 Benjamin Drexler Booth
 19 Meg Milligan-Wells

21 Dan Prather
 22 Matthew Christenson
 22 Margaret Moore
 23 Marcia Peterson
 24 Maeve McElrath
 24 Melanie Ruda
 25 Mason Ryan Lewis
 26 Lois Bartz
 26 Karl Batalden
 26 Vivian Reiley
 27 Don Holst
 27 Kelly Robertson
 28 Matthias Baese
 28 Hana Ninow
 29 Michelle Christenson
 29 Mary Lundberg
 30 Lillian Knutson
 31 Reed Radtke

March Anniversaries

21 Mary Gute & Tom Johnson
 26 Bruce Benson & Patricia Schulz



**A. Johnson
& Sons** Florist
Flowers & Gifts
 A Saint Paul Tradition Since 1936
 1738 Grand Avenue
 St. Paul MN 55105
651-698-6000
 Shop Online at www.jflorist.com

Looking Ahead at Pilgrim

Holy Week Overview:

Sunday, April 5, 8:30 & 11 am — Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Thursday, April 9, 7 pm — An Ancient, Liturgical Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

Friday, April 10, 7 pm — Good Friday — A Contemplative Service of Music and Meditation, based on Christ's Seven Last Words

April 12, Easter Sunday

7:30 am — A Contemplative Early Morning Easter Service, with Dick Hensold on Northumbrian bagpipes and recorder

9 & 11 am — A Festival Service of Holy Communion with brass

Sunday, April 19 — Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

8:30 & 11 am — Morning Worship, Pilgrim member Matthew Anderson preaching

6:51 pm — Choral Contemplative Prayer: Earth Vespers, with Bret Hesla, guitarist, and the Pilgrim Contemplative Prayer Choir

Sunday, April 26, 8:30 & 11 am worship & **9:45 am** forum — Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Lutheran Women's Ordination

Sunday, May 3, 9:30 am — Shift to one Sunday morning service schedule

Sunday, May 3, 9:30 am — Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 31, 9:30 am — The Festival of Pentecost

10:45 am — Spring Congregational Meeting

About the Next Pilgrim Newsletter

The next newsletter deadline will be **Saturday, March 15** for the April issue. Submit articles to serenapilgrim@gmail.com.

Please remember, in submitting items, that we cannot make the newsletter any thicker because of U.S. Postal Service requirements. So, thanks for your help in keeping submitted items brief.

Shared Ministry Statement

Pilgrim practices "shared ministry," affirming that each member of this community is a minister both within and beyond the walls of the church, which we affirm in baptism. We partner with one another and with the wider ELCA to walk together in this journey of faith. We agree to share the decision-making responsibilities of being a church, as well as the joy of serving in mission, side-by-side. We welcome all to become involved through the use of their abilities, time, and resources. Every program, group, or emphasis within our congregation is sustained by the involvement of the ministers of the Pilgrim community.