

The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

*An ELCA Congregation
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

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

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(also known as the Vestry)

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Jason Hendrikson, *Treasurer*

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Heather Ninow, *At-Large Member*

Janet Erickson, *At-Large Member*

Karla Leitzman, *At-Large Member*

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Pete Newburg, *Financial Secretary*

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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: At the Pilgrim public witness for
peace, Sunday, January 12, 2020.*

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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February Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 & 11 am

February 2 — A Global Service of Holy Communion, with a special focus on Tanzania/Africa, preacher: Leif McClellan, Pilgrim Leadership and Creativity Johnson Fellow

‡ **8 am — First Sunday Meditation**, Upstairs Community Room

February 9 — Nordic Morning Prayer, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Jen Rome preaching

February 16 — A New Liturgy of Holy Communion, “From Ancient Grounding into the Unknown,” Families in Faith Rite, Age 2-3: My Church (11 am); Pastor Carol Tomer preaching on “Frozen 2”

February 23 — Transfiguration Sunday, “burying” of the Alleluias as we transition into the season of Lent, Children’s musical: “The Tale of Three Trees”

Wednesday, February 26 — 6:30 pm — Ash Wednesday Service of Holy Communion, Imposition of Ashes, preacher: Pilgrim member Josh Moss
‡ Soup supper precedes worship, **5:15-6:15 pm**

“Frozen 2” Will be Featured in Worship This Month

On Sunday morning, **February 16, at 8:30 & 11 am** worship, “Frozen 2” will be the focus of the sermon by Pastor Carol, as well as the inspiration for a new, home-grown, communion liturgy that draws upon a bit of the movie music. This liturgy (currently being worked on) has this working title: “From Ancient Grounding into the Unknown.” So, if you need any encouragement to see the movie, consider this your encouragement!

Sunday Morning Forums at 9:45 am

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

February 2 — This Land: A Faith-Filled Awareness and Response
— As churches, organizations, and institutions become increasingly aware of the land that they occupy, land acknowledgements have become one way to remember and recognize Indigenous Peoples. In this forum, we will explore how a land acknowledgement can be done respectfully and responsibly, and explore what a next step might be for Pilgrim. This forum will be led by Pastor Jim-Bear Jacobs, a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, an American Indian tribe located in central Wisconsin. He is Director of Racial Justice for the

Minnesota Council of Churches, and one of the pastors of Church of All Nations, a Presbyterian congregation in Columbia Heights.

February 9 — New Life through Shared Ministry: From Maintenance to Mission — Shared ministry is a way of being church together that creates a distinctive congregational culture. It encompasses the many ways members of a congregation serve their faith community and the wider community. In this forum, Josh Moss, Pilgrim’s Interim Director of Faith Formation and Shared Ministry, will share his passion for Pilgrim’s commitment to shared ministry, as well as some of his study of this in his seminary work.

February 16 — Pilgrim Ministry and Mission and the Year 2020 — Come and learn more about the vision for the year ahead, as it informs the proposed budget being presented at the congregational meeting on February 23. And learn about how 2019 went for Pilgrim, in terms of matching resources to ministry.

February 23 — Congregational Meeting — Please join us for fellowship and reflection on our shared ministry and mission. This is our annual financial meeting, as we commit ourselves to some of the ways in which we will respond to the Holy Spirit’s movement among us in this next year.

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol

Some of you are aware that for some years, I developed an annual *Faith Goes to the Movies* sermon series during the season of Epiphany, that sought to connect current movies, and some older classics, with the scripture texts for that season. I had to lay this effort down for these past few years. But I’ve now decided to pick this idea back up for the season of Lent. The series will begin on **March 1**, so here are the details of the movies that will be featured in this sermon series, focused around the theme of “Hearing Voices — In Lent, In Our Time”:

Faith Goes to the Movies: A Lenten Sermon Series *Hearing Voices — In Lent, In Our Time*

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

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

We may be arranging a time or two for viewing some of these movies together at Pilgrim, or for a Pilgrim group outing to a theater, depending on whether interested Pilgrim organizers for these options step forward.

Before we get to Lent, there's the cold month of February. It seems like a great time to bring the rich liturgical connections of the movie *Frozen 2* into our worship life. As we did in 2014 with the movie *Frozen* in worship, Vacation Bible School, and more, we will draw upon *Frozen 2* as inspiration for worship, in this case, for a new communion liturgy (in a similar way that we did with the musical *Hamilton*, not so long ago). I have been fascinated to learn about the ancient liturgical grounding of one of the musical themes in this movie. So, I'm calling this new communion setting: "From Ancient Grounding into the Unknown." The movie song "Into the Unknown" is one of the places where this ancient connection is particularly evident.

Here's some background. There are four musical notes in *Frozen 2*, that are referred to as a "secret siren" and are a musical motif throughout the movie. These notes are sung by a Norwegian singer, in the style of *kulning* (the Swedish word) or *kulokk* (the Norwegian word), a kind of cow calling in Scandinavia. You may be acquainted with this from Nordic Contemplative Evening Prayer at Pilgrim. In fact, Peggy Larson, the cantor for those evening services (and for Celtic evening worship) is an expert on this kind of Nordic singing and has published a book, titled *Sing 'Til the Cows Come Home*. In *Frozen 2*, the siren's call is drawn from an ancient Latin hymn, a Gregorian chant setting of the words of the "*Dies Irae*," best known for its use in the Requiem (funeral mass) over many centuries. The meaning of the words *dies irae* is "day of wrath," and the ancient chant version of the hymn, as an allusion to death, has been incorporated in all sorts of music, from classic symphonies to movies of many kinds. Because this ancient musical "quote" is cast in the movie as a high-pitched, mysterious shepherd's call, appropriate to a story located in a cold northern land, I was drawn to its connection to Pilgrim worship styles, both liturgically ancient and uniquely Nordic. And, in tying it particularly to a song about the unknown, as the movie does, I think it is evocative of a variety of spiritual themes.

So, on **February 16**, at morning worship, we'll give this *Frozen 2*-inflected liturgical weaving a try. As I write this, it's still in development, so who knows how it will turn out!

Thanks be to God, who gives us the gift of gathering for worship, in praise and thanksgiving for the One in whom we live and move and have our being.

Pastor Carol Tomer

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Jen

Did you know that Pilgrim has a Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Leadership Team? This team imagines, discerns, maps, and evaluates the faith forming experiences of children, youth, and families of Pilgrim Lutheran Church. The scope of their direction includes: Sunday School, Pathways, Confirmation, Families in Faith, M@P, special events, retreats, and camps, parenting/caregiver groups, the experiences of the young in worship, and Cross+Generational Worship.

Our team consists of Kirsten Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Rachel Boelke, Joanna Deer, Mark Gunsten, Maggie Lescher, Tracy Rieckenberg, Pastor Jen Rome, Kate Kennedy Spindler, Pat Sween, and Kate Tosteson.

We will be meeting in the upcoming months to look over the program year thus far and start planning for next year. If you have any thoughts, feelings, or ideas you would like to share about faith formation, please contact me this month. I appreciate hearing what you have to say! This is important ministry for people of all ages as we grow together in faith!

Pastor Jen Rome

Our Life Together in Faith

Pilgrim Welcomes Faith Formation Interim Team

As Josh Moss transitions off of staff at Pilgrim, a team has been formed to support Pilgrim's ministries in the interim. Meet Pilgrim's Faith Formation Interim Team!



Matthew Anderson, M@P Lead, Sunday School Coordinator and Day Camp with God (VBS) Invitation Team

Matthew Anderson (he/him/his) works on clean energy and climate solutions and enjoys curling, hiking, gardening, and time with his wife Kirsten and daughters Solvei, Freya, and Silje. From the Pacific Northwest originally, Matthew has lived in Minnesota for 14 years and is an adult convert to Christianity.

As part of the interim team, Matthew will focus on Midweek at Pilgrim (M@P) and supporting the committed volunteers who enrich Pilgrim's children through Sunday Faith Formation. He'll also look to help bolster attendance and volunteers support of Day Camp with God (VBS) this summer.



Kate Tosteson, Head of Nursery

Kate Tosteson (she/her/hers) has been a proud member of Pilgrim since 2014. She lives in White Bear Lake with her husband, Sam, and their two boys, Miles and Asher. This year Kate took a step away from teaching high school English and has been spending her time running around with her boys, reading things she doesn't have to teach (hooray!), substitute teaching, being a Shipt shopper, and now, gladly serving as part of the Interim

Faith Formation Team. Kate's role on the team will include supervising the nursery and helping out where needed in other areas.



Rachel Boelke, Let Us Play/Nursery Support and Day Camp with God (VBS) Planning

Rachel (she/her/hers) is a wife to Nathan and mother to three amazing kids, Josh, Ella and Lilja. Rachel and her family have been members of Pilgrim since 2012 and she has been a prek Sunday School teacher since 2011. For the past 8 years she has been caring for her family and close friends' children during the day!!

Rachel is excited to be a part of the interim team! Her duties include playing with kiddos during M@P learning hour, assisting Kate with any nursery needs and coordination of VBS this summer with Pastor Jen!

Leif McLellan, Sacristan and Johnson Leadership and Creativity Fellow



Hello siblings in Christ! My name is Leif McLellan (they/them/their) and I am grateful to have multiple opportunities to work with Pilgrim these next few months. Born and raised in Shoreview, MN, I stayed in state as I studied classics at St. Olaf College. Almost 4 years ago, I found myself whisked away to New Jersey where I completed my M.Div. degree at Drew University. I have now returned home to complete my training at Luther Seminary as I seek to become a pastor in the

ELCA. Throughout my life and studies, I have grown passionate for contemplative spirituality and intentional community, and the ways in which they intersect with the Church's mission of justice. When I am not over my head in theological studies, I like to play board games, play computer games with friends, and go biking.

When I met Pr. Carol at Holden Village last summer, I grew excited at the possibilities of seeing these passions of mine lived out with Pilgrim. Starting this winter, I have taken on the sacristan duties for the evening worship services, which includes setting up and cleaning up for worship. I am also delighted to join the Pilgrim community as the Johnson

Leadership and Creativity Fellow. During this fellowship, I hope to help foster connections particularly among evening worshippers around communal concerns as Pilgrim seeks to live out its values of justice and shared ministry.

Lenten Midweek Evening Worship

Holden Evening Prayer — Wednesdays

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

Worship will be preceded by a soup and bread supper coordinated each week from **5:15-6:15 pm**, led by the Congregational Life and Care Committee. There will be a free-will offering with all proceeds from the meals 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. Please contact **Ann Dyellig** at ann.dyellig@gmail.com or **612-720-4403** to volunteer, telling her which date(s) you are available and what you can do to support the suppers. An email will be coming to everyone mid-February with a signup sheet. Thank you!

What We Heard from You in Our “Conversation” about Worship Life at Pilgrim

By Peter Spuit

In Advent, the Worship, Music & Evangelism Committee invited worshipers into a conversation about worship life at Pilgrim through an online and paper survey. Ninety worshipers completed the survey and provided rich and thoughtful perspectives on worship life at Pilgrim. In the coming weeks and months, our committee, the church staff, and other Pilgrim leaders will draw upon your contributions and ideas to enhance peoples' experience and engagement with worship at Pilgrim. Our hope is to share and discuss the ideas arising out of the survey in an upcoming Sunday morning adult forum, but for now, we want to share four messages we heard from you/us.

- ◆ **“Showing up” really matters.** We care about other people who gather for worship; and others care about us. And our presence and the presence of others enriches our worship experiences and makes us feel a part of a community. Worship and community are possible—and strengthened—when we show up.
- ◆ **We pass by many churches en route to worship at Pilgrim.** While many people come to Pilgrim from surrounding neighborhoods, a significant proportion of worshipers come from greater distances.

People have found that worship life and community life at Pilgrim is worth the trip!

- ◆ **Serving in a role on a Sunday strengthens our connections to worship.** When we, or a family member, is serving in a role, we know—in a special way—that our presence really matters. And through the roles that we play, however small or large, we enrich our worship and community life.
- ◆ **Worship is alive with meaningful words, values, music-making, and connections.** Worship offers an experience of things we may not easily find elsewhere, including: live music, inter-generational community, creative liturgy, impassioned speaking, and the expression of important (sometimes counter-cultural) values.

If you have questions about this body of work or further contributions you would like to make, please feel free to connect with me in-person, or by email or phone at peterspuit@gmail.com or **612-839-7855**.

Why We Are Experimenting with the Use of the Back Pews in the Sanctuary

By Peter Spuit

In recent weeks, some people have noticed and wondered about the various items that have been displayed in the last few pews in the sanctuary. At one time, we displayed beautiful fabrics from our sister church, Luganga Lutheran in Tanzania. At another time, we displayed children's art work related to some of the themes being explored in worship. Whatever meaning people might find in these displays, some have expressed concern, for various reasons, about "blocking off" pews.

The Worship, Music & Evangelism Committee developed and supported these experiments because of personal stories we were hearing from various worshipers who happened to attend a worship service where the number of worshipers was lower than usual. Some new visitors to Pilgrim asked questions about the vitality of the congregation at these smaller services. At the same time, more seasoned Pilgrim worshipers expressed that worship lacked energy, and that singing together felt worse with people so spread-out.

Through our experiments we are trying to help worshipers cluster closer together, especially at services where fewer people are present. But we are also trying to explore uses for the last few pews that are meaningful, creative, and enriching. These experiments may yet evolve—they may even end—but we wanted to say more about what they are about. If you would like to connect with our committee about this topic, please feel free to connect with me in-person, or by email or phone at peterspuit@gmail.com or **612-839-7855**.

M@P... Midweek @ Pilgrim

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

M@P February 5-19 Schedule

5:05-5:45 Children's Musical Rehearsal (Grades K-8)

5:15-6:15 Meal

6:00-7:10 Let Us Play (Age 5 and up)

5:45-8:45 Nursery Care (Age 0-4)

6:15-7:10 Adult Learning

6:15-7:10 Children's Musical Rehearsal (Grades K-8)

7:15-8:45 Chancel Choir

On **February 26**, there are no Children's Choirs, Let Us Play, or Adult Learning because of Ash Wednesday.

M@P Meals

Leave the cooking to us on Wednesday evenings! We will explore a variety of options for meals this year. We will offer all who joins us a healthy, nutritious meal that will make your mouth water and fill your tummy! All are welcome to join us, regardless of your ability to donate money toward the cost. Suggested donations are \$7 for ages 13 and up, \$3 for 12 and under.

Nursery Care

The Nursery will be regularly staffed during M@P from **5:45-8:45 pm** to support part of the mealtime, adult learning, and Chancel Choir rehearsal.

Let Us Play

We will be having supervised free-play time for children too old for the nursery from **6-7:10 pm** in the west Sunday School rooms off the Fellowship Hall. Children will enjoy games, self-directed art, and relationship building. This will help bridge the gaps for parents and caregivers who wish to attend adult education whose children are in choirs for only part of the time. We invite Pilgrims to come and share a special activity with the children—like drumming, acting, favorite games, art project, yoga, etc. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jen.

Adult Learning

Along with a chance to eat and socialize, adults and youth are invited to Adult Learning from **6:15-7:10 pm**. Offerings will vary throughout the program year.

Faith and Life Explorations

During the seven Wednesdays of the season of Epiphany, **January 8-February 19, 6:15-7:10 pm**, while the children of Pilgrim are having rehearsals for the winter musical, you are invited into two series, as we together explore some of the gifts and questions of faith.

J-Walkers: We Make the Road by Walking

The J-Walkers will continue to meet on Wednesdays during Epiphany using the book *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian D. McLaren. Scripture and real-life ponderings are interwoven, and space allows each person to respond to the text in the moment. This group is led by those who attend and requires no prior knowledge or preparation. Drop in as you can and come back as often as you like.

This is Hard!: Conversations on Difficult Topics with Children and Youth continues through February 19

Parents, Caregivers, and Grandparents will explore and support each other in what we need to have good, hard conversations with our youth and children. We will draw on expertise, shared wisdom, and our faith to help us. We will practice finding the words we need and using conversation techniques with each other so that we are more comfortable and more confident when we have these conversations with the young ones we care about!

- ◆ **February 5** — Talking with our kids about white privilege, racism, and white supremacy
- ◆ **February 12** — Talking with our kids about white privilege, racism, and white supremacy continued
- ◆ **February 19** — Talking with our kids about respecting other people's bodies and space

Music Notes February 2020

By Paul Stever, Music Director

2/2	8:30 am 11 am	*Y'All Come Percussion Ensemble Chancel Choir
2/9	8:30 am 11 am	Instrumental Ensemble Chancel Choir
2/16	8:30 am 11 am	Children's Choirs Chancel Choir
2/23	8:30 am 11 am	Children's Musical Children's Musical
2/26	6:30pm	Ash Wednesday-Chancel Choir

*On **February 2**, just show up at 8 am to learn some drumming techniques to accompany a few hymns and do some group improvisation during the offering.

“The Tale of Three Trees” — Pilgrim’s 2020 K-8 Musical —

Presented in Worship Sunday, February 23 at 8:30 & 11 am

Our musical this winter is “The Tale of the Three Trees” by Allen Pote. This musical is based on an American folk tale, and tells the story of Jesus' life in a creative and timeless way!

2020 Choral Contemplative Prayer Schedule

At Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Unless Otherwise Noted

O Radiant Light: Evening Prayer

Sunday, February 16 at 5 pm

A service of hymns, anthems, and readings in celebration of light. Led by musicians and worship leaders from Gloria Dei and Pilgrim Lutheran churches and held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (700 Snelling Ave S. in St. Paul).

Choral Contemplative Prayer: Taizé

Sunday, March 1 at 6:51 pm, Prelude at 6:45 pm

A service of short songs primarily from the Taizé community in France, with word weavings by Paul Stever. Led by the Pilgrim Contemplative Prayer Choir.

Choral Contemplative Prayer: St. John Passion by Schütz/Bach

Sunday, March 29 at 6:51 pm, 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 (Epiphany): Glory to God, Glory in the Highest ELW #164

This Peruvian melody is a great piece to sing in a call and response style. We've been doing more of this style of singing at Pilgrim, which is a way of helping kids and everyone of varying music abilities to feel more welcome and also is a way of moving beyond our more usual comfort zone of the European sacred music tradition.

Saint Clair Sunday Evenings

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

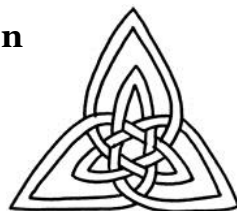
2019-2020 Theme:

Moved in Infinite Love By All Things

Celtic Contemplative Communion

February 9 – You came looking for me

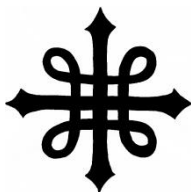
Featuring musicians Dick Hensold, Michelle Kinney, Marc Anderson on Northumbrian smallpipes, medieval greatpipes, recorder, cello, percussion, and Peggy Larson as cantor



Choral Contemplative Prayer

February 16 – Evening Prayer

A Shared Service of Pilgrim & Gloria Dei
5 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,
700 Snelling Avenue S, St Paul



Nordic Contemplative Evening Prayer

February 23 – There's a Thread You Follow

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

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 **February 9 & 23, 5:51-6:30 pm** in the Upstairs Community Room (you are invited to bring your own brown bag supper if you wish).

February 9 Theme: “You came looking for me”

Guiding questions:

- ◆ Do you have a sense that the Divine is looking for you? Or is it more that you are looking for the Divine? Or neither?
- ◆ Under what circumstances do you want to be seen/found? When would you rather hide or be invisible?

February 23 Theme: “There’s a Thread You Follow”

Guiding questions:

- ◆ What do you hold on to for help and guidance through life’s changes or challenges?
- ◆ Are there things that you hold on to or follow that may hinder you?

Vestry News

President’s Message

I’m writing this on Sunday, January 12, still buzzing about Joe Davis’s 9:45 forum, “How to Be a Multiculturalist.” Joe reviewed the collective results of Pilgrim’s Intercultural Development Inventory, or IDI, which showed most of us to be cultural “Minimizers,” and then offered some strategies to increase our cultural awareness (which included: taking in events on the topic of cultural difference, mixing with folks from other cultural backgrounds, and seeking out coaching or classes). Understanding the cognitive and emotional baggage that we carry into cultural exchanges, and seeking to be fully performing intercultural “Adapters,” is an ongoing process, Joe emphasized. The good news — as usual in our faith lives—is that we’re all in this together, pilgrims on the journey of faith and life.

Joe’s forum was enriching and entertaining. It was also exceptionally well attended — the room was packed! In fact, it may have been the most attended forum of the program year.

Do you know what tends to be one of the *least* attended Sunday forums? It’s the one on the budget that the Vestry hosts in February, just before Pilgrim’s annual Financial Meeting. **This year, that forum will be on Sunday, February 16 and the meeting on February 23.**

If that seems an abrupt transition, let me draw an analogy between dealing with difference and dealing with finances, by way of encouraging you to come to these discussions. Dealing with cultural difference, Joe Davis said, can be awkward — we’re liable to make mistakes on our journey to greater understanding. So it is with church finances: one may be reluctant to ask questions about where our money comes from and where it’s going, for fear of rocking the boat or looking less than informed. Sometimes, we may avoid tackling financial matters because we feel that they are out of our hands anyway, or because we hope that someone else is handling them. In the end, though (and lest I strain this analogy beyond all recognition), if we

want to be responsible stewards of the church's finances, we come to realize that we're all in this together. The church — and its finances — are us.

There is news about this year's budget that all Pilgrims should be aware of, news that will be presented at the annual Financial Meeting and previewed at the forum, with an opportunity for your questions. The Vestry welcomes your attention to these matters and your attendance at these meetings. Those dates again? **February 16 and 23.**

Tim Dykstal

Leadership Development Opportunity

If you are a Pilgrim leader, involved in the vestry, committees, ministry teams, or task forces, or if you would like to become involved in Pilgrim leadership, being equipped and supported and deepened in those roles is part of what you can do and what we can do for your development in the knowledge and capacity to be a leader in the ministry of the church. One of the great ways to invest in being a church leader is to attend our Saint Paul Area Synod's Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders on **Saturday morning, February 22, 11 am-2:30 pm**, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, near Pilgrim. (There's also worship at **9 am**, and conference assemblies at **10 am**.)

The details and the list of workshops are available on the website of the Saint Paul Area Synod. (FYI: Pilgrim member Joan Haan will be co-leading a workshop titled "A Taste of Respectful Conversations.") The event is free, but registration is recommended, as workshops do fill up. Lunch is available for \$10, with advanced sign-up.)

The Tool Kit event is an excellent way to learn best practices and receive some training in the "field" of church leadership. Shared ministry takes investment, just as you invest in growth in your career or classroom or parenting or relationship care or any of our roles in life. Thank you for those of you who have and will yet take up the ministry of leadership.

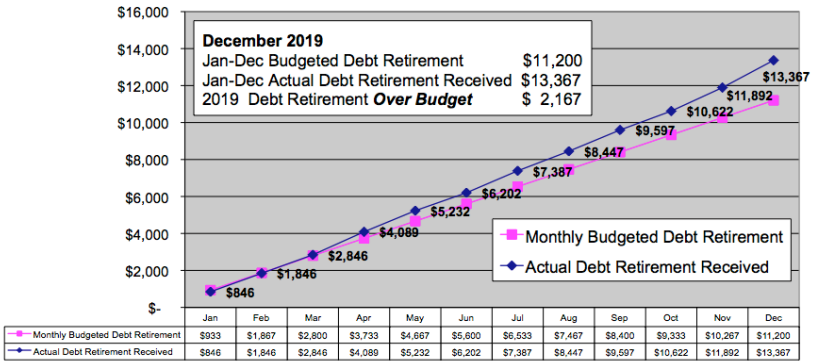
How You Can Support Pilgrim Very Easily!

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.

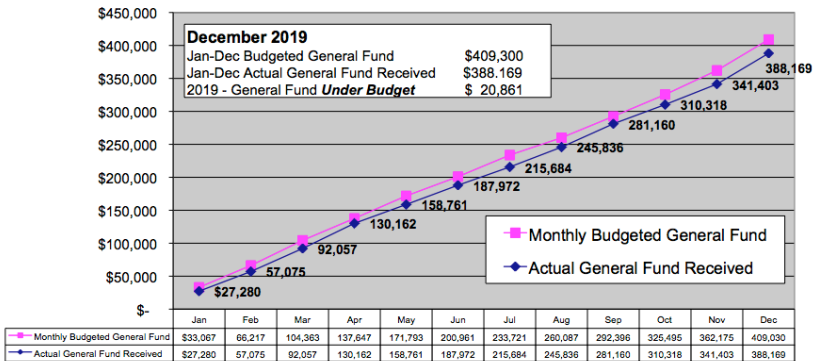
There are two easy options for directing Choice Dollars, either online at **www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/making_a_difference/livinggenerously/thrivent-choice** or by phone at **800-847-4836** and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. Questions? Please contact a representative from the Member Connection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

Giving Graphs

2019 Debt Retirement Compared to Budget



2019 General Fund Received Compared to Budget



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.”

Education, Service & Fellowship

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, February 3**. For more information, contact **Dave Toeniskoetter (651-470-8632)**.



Classics for Pilgrims

Join in a discussion of *Straits in the Gate* by Andre Gide on **February 27**. We are an open group which meets the fourth Thursday of each month from **7-8:30 pm** at member's homes. For information contact **Barbara Taylor (651 699 1095; bstaylor50@gmail.com)**.

Book Club News

Date: **Thursday, February 20, 2020** at **7 pm** at Karen Ekdahl's
Book: *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman

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

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 meeting attendees, 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: February 12, March 11**.



Posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board | PCC Section: PCC Tidbit (A snippet from the Bulletin Board)

2020 is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. In 1970, 20 million Americans — 10% of the U.S. population at the time — took to the streets, college campuses and hundreds of cities to demand a new way forward for our planet. Earth Day was a unified response to an environment in crisis — oil spills, smog, rivers so polluted they literally caught fire.

The first Earth Day launched the modern environmental movement and is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event. The Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts were created in response to the first

Earth Day, as well as the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Many countries soon adopted similar laws.

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. Please, let us know if there are activities or skills or information you'd like to highlight during the week of **April 19 to 26** at Pilgrim. (**Kris 651-647-4419** or **ktbd4@comcast.net.**) All ideas welcomed!

PCC Book Review of the Month

Please submit your reviews of any Saint Paul | Read Brave book suggestions – we can put them on the bulletin board.

Earth Day 2020 FAQ

When is Earth Day 2020?

Earth Day is **April 22** of every year. April 22, 2020 will mark 50 years of Earth Day.

What is the theme for Earth Day 2020?

The theme is climate action. The enormous challenge – but also the vast opportunities – of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary.

Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.

What is the history of Earth Day?

Earth Day was a unified response to an environment in crisis – oil spills, smog, rivers so polluted they literally caught fire.

On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans – 10% of the U.S. population at the time – took to the streets, college campuses and hundreds of cities to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet.

The first Earth Day is credited with launching the modern environmental movement. It is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event.

What was the result of the first Earth Day?

The first Earth Day in 1970 launched a wave of action, including the passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States. The Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts were created in response to the first Earth Day in 1970, as well as the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Many countries soon adopted similar laws.

Earth Day continues to hold major international significance: In 2016, the United Nations chose Earth Day as the day when the historic Paris Agreement on climate change was signed.

What can I do for Earth Day 2020?

The world needs you – and your actions – for Earth Day 2020.

There's so much you can do to help protect and restore our planet, from joining a cleanup or climate strike, to taking part in the world's largest citizen science initiative, to hosting an event in your own community!

Brew Testament 2019

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 2019 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 December 2nd, Anne Tews will be leading us on the topic of Light and Darkness in the Wintertide. 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**
(**February 3, 2020**)
- Where?** Rotating between member homes and local breweries
- How to connect?** Email Tim Moore at **tim.moore927@gmail.com**

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. Participants can choose a one or two night stay in the cozy retreat house. 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 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**.

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**.

Young Adult Innovation Team Update

By Hannah Olson

The Young Adult Innovation Team is excited to see growth and creativity emerging in MTHH (More Than Happy Hour). We have welcomed new young adults from outside of the Pilgrim member-community as well as engaging young adults who are returning to the community. Conversation has really deepened as theological reflection and exploration is fostered in the social setting. The Riverside Innovation Hub grant dollars have helped create a more welcoming atmosphere by providing dinner at no cost.

The Young Adult Innovation Team has also begun to explore creating public art with our surrounding community. A special Public Art Team is in the process of being formed. Public Art Saint Paul led a Sunday morning forum and has been in continued conversation with the team about a possible plan.

Young Adults in Global Mission Applications

Young Adults, are you interested in a year of faith-based service somewhere in the world? Consider becoming a YAGM! The ELCA (our national church) is accepting applications for its Young Adults in Global Mission program for 2020-2021. Eligible applicants are ages 21-29 and desire to walk alongside global companions in the spirit of accompaniment. Areas of service include health and development, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, congregational ministry and others.

Candidates for YAGM apply to the program at large rather than a specific country, although they may express a country of preference. Programs are available in Argentina/Uruguay, Australia, Central Europe, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal and the United Kingdom. Learn more at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission/Young-Adults-in-Global-Mission>.

Application deadline is **February 15**.

Young Adults: More Than Happy Hour

February: Khyber Pass (1571 Grand Ave, St Paul, MN 55105),
Tuesday, February 4, 6-7:30 pm

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**.

Children & Youth

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.

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: **February 16, 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. 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.

Interfaith Youth Day of Service, Monday, February 17



Pilgrim 6th-12th graders will join together at Augsburg University in the Foss Center with hundreds of youth of many different religious and cultural backgrounds from across the Twin Cities for this event hosted by Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul. A keynote speaker and music will begin the day. This event is an opportunity for youth from all religious and cultural backgrounds to deepen their own faith and learn about other faith traditions through morning workshop.

Youth are dropped off at **8:30 am** and picked up at **4:30** at Augsburg University Foss Center. The event is free! Lunch is provided. Friends are welcome! Please RSVP to pastor Jen by **February 9**. Two Parents/Caring Adults are needed to attend; please let Pastor Jen know if you are able.

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 February 9, we will head to Vertical Endeavors for rock climbing to explore trusting God. 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.

February 16: Age 2 My Church

As children play in the nursery, parents will learn about ways they can help their toddlers worship. Children receive a worship play set.

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.

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 22, 9:45 am
at Pilgrim with Camp Wapo Staff*

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! If you have any questions, contact Pilgrim **Elizabeth Schoenkencht** at **eschoenk@comcast.net**.

Save the Dates for Day Camp with God (VBS) This Summer!

June 15-June 19, 2020

This year we will partner again with Immanuel Lutheran Church for Day Camp with God (VBS). Together, we can offer an afternoon service-learning option in addition to morning playful learning! Registration information will be emailed to families out in February.

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

July 14-16, 2020

We will 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: 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 in 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

February Birthdays

1 Don Hogquist	18 Sophie Johnson
1 Bonnie Nash	19 Amarantine Remy Ninow
1 Sandra Maurer	21 Kirsten Anderson
2 Alexander Lyons	21 Johanna Shreve
5 Aaron Riekenberg	22 Lynda Hirschboeck
5 Grayson Andrist	22 Nikki Wunderlich
7 Carl Bussian	22 Ella Otto
7 Nate Casey	23 Karen Ekdahl
8 Karen Hedenstrom	23 John Lavik
10 Pamela Itzin	24 Naomi Weeks
10 Solfrid Ladstein	25 Nancy Smith
10 Freya Anderson	26 Frida Brynhild
11 Drew Baese	27 Marie Johnson
11 Britt Moore	27 Maya Adelman
11 Andrew Jens Shuros	27 Zander Tastad
12 Jan Jacoby	28 Jaymin Kim
12 Meredith Samuelson	
13 Matt O'Toole	
14 Donna Dingle	
15 Zachary Wilson	
15 Jay Oakman	
15 Walter Heinecke	
16 Annette Tews	
16 Samuel Oakman	
17 Nancy Montgomery	
17 Didrik Peterson	
17 Amanda Klepp	
17 Claire Kaiser	

February Anniversaries

5 Bryan & Sandra Maurer
16 Stacy & Todd Dunn
28 Arthur & Beverly Stolp



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Looking Ahead at Pilgrim

Sunday, February 23, 9:45 am

Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday Worship (preceded by soup supper, 5-6:15 pm)

Wednesday night, March 4

Lenten midweek soup suppers and Holden Evening Prayer worship services begin

April 5-11

Holy Week

April 12, 7:30 am, 9 am, & 11 am

Easter Sunday Worship

About the Next Pilgrim Newsletter

The next newsletter deadline will be **Saturday, February 15** for the March 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.