

The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



VOLUME 120, ISSUE 7

December 2019 / January 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

*Director of Faith Formation
& Shared Ministry (full time)*

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*

MeeAe Kim, Aly Xiong, Bethany Mollman

Ella Boelke, Jimmy Gerding

Nursery Attendants

Joanna Deer & Karie Johnson

Wedding Coordinators

*Cover photo: Susanna Harrington and her
Sunday School teacher, "Ms. Claudia."*

Photo by Anne Hall.

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.

What's in Your Pilgrim?

December 2019 / January 2020 Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 & 11 am.....	4
Sunday Morning Forums at 9:45 am	5
Ministry Scheduler Pro	7
Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol.....	8
Pastoral Musings by Pastor Jen.....	9
Our Life Together in Faith	10
Honoring Peoples' Preferred Pronouns at Pilgrim	10
Pilgrim Worship Experience Survey	10
Pilgrim Welcomes Luther Seminary Student Katie Bencken!.....	11
Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas	11
About the Arts in Worship Area and the East Transept Family Area	11
Emily, Faith, and Church.....	12
The Communion of the Saints	12
M@P... Midweek @ Pilgrim.....	14
Music Notes December 2019 / January 2020	17
"The Tale of Three Trees"	17
January Sabbatical.....	18
2020 Choral Contemplative Prayer Schedule.....	18
Hymn of the Season (Advent):	18
Hymn of the Season (Epiphany):	19
Saint Clair Sunday Evenings.....	19
Giving Graphs.....	20
Education, Service & Fellowship	21
Annual Advent Tea—Sunday, December 8	21
Pilgrim Men's Breakfast.....	21
Classics for Pilgrims	21
Book Club News	21
Pilgrims Caring for Creation (PCC).....	22
Young Adults	23
Brew Testament 2019	23
Pilgrim Volunteers for Community Emergency Service Home Delivery	24
You are Invited to Pastor Jen's for a Pilgrim Christmas Season Open House!	24
Kids, Youth, and Adults Welcome!.....	24
Encouragement to be a Host of Coffee Time	24
Children & Youth.....	25
Lambs (Age 0-3 and Parents/Caregivers).....	25
Sunday School (PreK-5th Grade)	25
Christmas Program Worship	25
Youth Pathways (6th-12th Grade).....	25
Youth, Save the Date for Interfaith Day of Service, Monday, February 17	25
Families in Faith Classes.....	26
Nurturing Your Child's Spirituality at Home.....	26
Deep Dive Confirmation	27
Service Learning Trip to Memphis, Tennessee	27
Save the Dates for Day Camp With God (VBS) This Summer!	27
All Ages Pilgrim Camp!.....	28
ELCA Youth Gathering Theme Revealed	28
Save The Dates for the Youth Pathways Cabin Getaway this Summer!.....	28
Prayer Corner	29
Parochial Report	30
Looking Ahead at Pilgrim	32

December 2019 / January 2020

Sunday Morning Worship

at 8:30 & 11 am

December 1 — First Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion, lighting of the Advent candles, Pastoral Intern Hannah Olson preaching
‡ **8 am — First Sunday Meditation**, Upstairs Community Room

December 8 — Second Sunday of Advent, Advent Lessons and Hymns, lighting of the Advent candles, Point for Pilgrims, baptism of Magnus Spindler (11 am), reflections by Pastor Jen Rome
‡ **Advent Tea after both morning services**

December 15 — Third Sunday of Advent, lighting of the Advent candles
8:30 am — Advent Contemplative Service, with word weavings by Pastor Carol Tomer, on the theme of “An Unconventional Advent”
11 am — Children’s Christmas Program

Sunday Morning Worship shifts to 9:30 am for two weeks

December 22 — Fourth Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion, lighting of the Advent candles, Cross+Generational Worship, Pastor Jen Rome preaching

December 29 — First Sunday of Christmas, Christmas Lessons and Carols, Turning of the Year, Point for Pilgrims; preacher: Kaitlin Bencken, Luther Seminary student at Pilgrim

Return to Two Morning Services 8:30 & 11 am

January 5 — Winter Rally Sunday, “The Warmth of Our Nurturing God,” Second Sunday of Christmas, Point for Pilgrims, Families in Faith rite: 3rd Grade Bibles (11:00 am), Pastor Jen Rome preaching
‡ **8 am — First Sunday Meditation**, Upstairs Community Room

January 12 — Epiphany/Baptism of our Lord, Holy Communion, traditional hymns and Caribbean music led by the Salsa del Soul Orchestra, Procession of All Ages, Families in Faith rite, 6th Grade: My Self, My Gifts (11:00 am), Pastor Carol Tomer preaching

January 19 — Reconciling in Christ Sunday, Point for Pilgrims, Guest preacher: Ashlei Cramer. Reconciling in Christ Program Coordinator

January 26 — Holy Communion, Cross+Generational Worship, Families in Faith rite, 2nd Grade: Share, Save, Spend (11 am); Pastor Jen Rome preaching

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

2:30 pm – Christmas Art-Making with guest artist from ArtStart

3 pm – Interactive Christmas Service for Children, Holy Communion, Candlelight (choice of real or child-friendly flames), Pastor Jen Rome preaching
‡ **Festive coffee hour follows the worship service**

5 pm – Cross-Generational Candlelight Service, DIY Christmas Pageant, Holy Communion, Candlelight (choice of real or child-friendly flames), Jubilee and Junior Choirs, Pastor Jen Rome preaching

‡ **4:45 pm – Prelude of Solos and Carols**

‡ **Festive coffee hour follows the worship service**

‡ **Nursery care available during worship**

6:51 pm – A Celtic Christmas Eve Service – Our 12th annual! The service will be filled with traditional Christmas carols, led by Dick Hensold on Northumbrian smallpipes, tin whistles, recorders, and medieval greatpipes, along with the Pilgrim Celtic musical ensemble. Pastor Carol Tomer will lead the reflections in this service of Holy Communion and candlelit Celtic Christmas wonder and joy.

‡ **A reception with light refreshments will follow the service**

10 pm – Christmas Eve Festival Candlelight Service, Holy Communion, Chancel Choir, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching

‡ **9:45 pm – Prelude of Christmas Carols and Solos**

‡ **Cookie hour follows worship**

Sunday Morning Forums at 9:45 am

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

December 1 – The Journey of Grief and Loss – Grief is a complex and integrated life process. We continue our conversation surrounding grief and/or dying by exploring the complexity of grief – the ways in which we grieve, rituals we use to process, and the interesting ways our lives adapt amidst grief. Let us reflect together, and bring any resources that may have been helpful to you in times of grief. Pilgrim Intern Hannah Olson will lead this forum. We will also introduce a grief support group which meet at Pilgrim for an hour on Wednesday nights at 6:15 pm during the season of Epiphany, January 8-February 19. It will be limited to 8 individuals. Come to the forum to learn more!

December 8 – Advent Wreath-making and Advent Tea Fellowship – During the learning hour, people of all ages are invited to gather to make Advent Wreaths as centerpieces for our dinner tables, to observe the season at home. Supplies will be

provided, and people will be on hand to provide instruction. The cost is \$10 per wreath. At the same time, Pilgrim's festive, annual Advent Tea will take place with special treats to mark the Advent season.

December 15 — Together, Quietly, on the Advent Journey — Take a holy break on the Advent journey. Do you need a little quiet, time to yourself, or time for individual reflection? All are invited to enter a place of rest in the Upper Community Room — the lights will be low, the room will be quiet, and Sandra Maurer will lead some relaxing chair yoga and meditation centered on rest from 10:00-10:30 am. There will be a couple prayer/contemplation stations for you to engage as you wish, before and after the yoga (beginning at 9:45 am). It's a chance to be "alone" together with the Pilgrim community. The whole point is to replenish your spirit — the Holy Spirit present in you and your life.

Sunday Morning Fellowship at 10:30 am

December 22 — Coffee and conviviality follows the one 9:30 am worship service

December 29 — Coffee and conviviality follows the one 9:30 am worship service

Sunday Morning Forums at 10 am Resumes

January 5 — Inviting Our Friends to Church: Testimonials and Tips from Terrific People — Pilgrim member Joanna Deer will be our guide and panel curator, as we share about the joy of inviting friends to church — why, how, when, what for, why not, and: wow, what a great story! Come and join your stories to those of a panel of Pilgrims on this Winter Rally Sunday, as our Learning Hour schedule resumes.

January 12 — How To Be An Interculturalist: Developing Tools and Practices Across Cultures — Joe Davis, who on this day is concluding his season as artist-theologian in residence at Pilgrim, and who is a multi-disciplinary artist and qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory, will share tools and practices for building cross cultural relationships. Even if you weren't able to take the assessment, you can join in and learn ways to deepen intercultural work and cultivate Beloved Community.
JoeDavisPoetry.com

January 19 — Faith and Advocacy — Knowing that God calls us to love and serve ALL of God's Beloveds, it is important that we recognize the ways in which we as the church have turned away from our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Faith and Advocacy will be a time to ask the question, "How do we advocate for our queer siblings and those who are the most vulnerable in the room?" Join Ashlei Cramer (she/her),

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program Coordinator to discuss the ways in which being a RIC faith community is a call to serve our LGBTQIA+ siblings, as well as how the promise and partnership in that designation holds us in accountability to show up for those in the margins, the oppressed.

January 26 — Atonement Theology for Post-Modern Hungry Minds and Souls

Professor Amy Marga returns to Pilgrim to talk about some of the post-modern approaches to making sense of Christ's death and resurrection and God's saving love. Dr. Marga teaches at Luther Seminary and in October, led a Pilgrim forum about atonement theology through Christian history.

Ministry Scheduler Pro

Ministry Scheduler Pro is a tool that allows all of us—staff and lay members alike — to focus on doing meaningful ministry within our community and daily lives. MSP allows all of us to live more fully into our commitment to Shared Ministry by spending time doing the things that really have an impact on our lives together. Prior to MSP, scheduling for the various worship and leadership roles was tracked using a variety of methods: spreadsheets, Google docs, word documents, emails and so on. With all of that information now in one place, the staff can more efficiently access that information and respond to needs more quickly. From the perspective of members, you have more control over how and when you serve. Engaging with MSP isn't about becoming fully automated or moving into the tech world... it's about our commitment to be responsible stewards of our time, talents and resources.

December marks the fifth month of Pilgrim's Ministry Scheduler Pro experiment. Given that users at other area churches put the time to full adoption at anywhere from 12 to 18 months, Pilgrim is well on the way to integrating MSP into its communal weekly routine. There have certainly been "failures to communicate" (mostly from the administrative end!) but those Pilgrims who have invested the time to set up their profiles with service preferences and availability are reaping the benefits of easier communication and automated reminders at times of their choosing. All Pilgrims are encouraged to take a look at the web-based program and contact Mary in the church office with any questions.

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol

To wait open-endedly is an enormously radical attitude toward life. So is to trust that something will happen to us that is far beyond our imaginings. . . . The spiritual life is a life in which we wait, actively present to the moment, trusting that new things will happen to us, new things that are far beyond our own imagination, fantasy, or prediction.

— “Waiting for God,” by theologian Henri Nouwen, 1993

Advent arrives with December’s calling card in her hand this year. We move from Thanksgiving right into Advent anticipation and awaiting, this holy season of reflection leading to the Christmas season. In our Christian festival rhythms of fasting and feasting, Advent’s preparation for Christmas is similar to Lent’s relationship to the Easter season. Of course, for our culture, Advent is a shopping season that knows little reflection and certainly no rhythms of fasting and feasting. By contrast, in our Christian lives, we are invited into counter-stories, alternative visions of how to live and alternative good news, offered by the Creator of the cosmos who is so unlike a spiritual Santa. Even as our cultural official festivity may seek to cheer us, longings for deeper joy amidst these dark days (literally and spiritually) may beckon us toward one another and toward our gatherings around the honesty of our yearnings and the grace of the One in whom we live and move and have our being. So, I invite you to make the full Advent journey together with your Pilgrim siblings this year, gathering each Sunday for worship — varied, rich, and reflective — grounding us in waiting and in the grace of the One who is coming, who came, who is coming again — and is making all things new, in each day.

And, then, Christmas will arrive, all 12 days of it, a whole season of Christmas. If the culture tells you that it’s all over on **December 26**, try out the two Sundays of worship at Pilgrim in the 12 days — on **December 29 and January 5**. A radically alternative experience of Christmas as a whole season! This season of Christmas begins for us on Christmas Eve, when we will offer to our wider community four worship services, for the first time ever. The **3 pm** and **5 pm** services will be markedly child-friendly, followed by the **6:51 pm** Celtic contemplative Christmas Eve service and the **10 pm** festival service. Spread the word! There will be space for more people than ever before.

In this newsletter, you will read Katia McDonough’s reflection about Sister Rita Steinhagen, a Minnesota saint and activist, whom Katia lifted up at the forum on All Saints Sunday. Sister Rita modeled a life of showing up. Rod Olsen, who also knew Sister Rita, says that she just kept beckoning people to show up for one another, to just show up. As you journey through this holy season of Advent and Christmas and into the season of Epiphany soon thereafter, you could stay home and read about the good news of the Gospel. But I am so grateful for the ways you have shown up and will show up to gather with others for worship, because

they need to see you, sit by you, talk with you, build community with you, receive your support in following the way of Jesus, this countercultural way, that none of us can live alone. And you no doubt are blessed by those same kinds of connections with those around you as well, all of us immersed together in the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh among us.

Lastly, in the midst of the 12 days of Christmas comes the end of the calendar year, **December 31**. That means it's the end of Pilgrim's fiscal year. It's a time when we wait to see how we will finish the year. What will our Pilgrim financial health — that will shape our possibilities for the 2020 budget year — look like? Thank you for your financial support of this shared Pilgrim ministry. We have a great business model; we each contribute our fair share, so that all are always welcome. As I like to say, it's a radically inclusive business model —welcoming all, without admission fees! As I visited with some newer Pilgrims recently, they asked me about Pilgrim's financial needs, as they were reflecting on their giving. In essence, I heard them asking: Do we need them to be generous? Are their financial blessings especially needed in this community? It was a good question, one that we sometimes overlook talking about. Your financial support is important, because our collective ministry counts on the generosity of every one of us. The congregational council has considered a first draft of the Pilgrim ministry and mission plan for 2020 (also called a budget) — and how we finish out 2019 financially is going to be crucial. So, I invite you to join me in giving a special year-end gift in gratitude and encouragement of this Pilgrim ministry that we share. In the words of theologian Henri Nouwen, let us “trust that something will happen ... that is far beyond our imaginings.”

*In gratitude for our shared ministry,
Pastor Carol Tomer*

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Jen

Cross+generational worship is not only for kids, but for people of all ages to playfully engage in scripture and liturgy. Pilgrims have described it as having child-friendly element of worship similar to those we've experienced before, but all in one service! Playful worship helps people of all ages get the words of scripture and liturgy in our bones. You don't have to be able to read or see in order to sing. You can even reflect in your own ways on the scripture that the preacher reflects on during the sermon. Look for movement, art, and holy fun!

December 22, 9:30 am

Enjoy the story of Mary, Jesus' mother visiting her cousin Elizabeth as both women are expecting babies with dance! Also, we will have a little “baby shower for Jesus” bringing baby items of diapers, wipes, and formula for families experiencing need in our area in partnership with

Keystone Community Services. Bring your items to worship for a special procession.

December 24, 3 pm

The youngest among us and their families will feel especially welcome at this worship service. ArtStart, a non-profit in St. Paul that leads people in creating art out of recycled materials, will lead a project for us before worship—a project that will become a part of our worship. Worship will include a telling of the Christmas story everyone participates in and child-friendly flames for candlelight singing. The 5:00 pm worship service will also include the same special interactive telling of the Christmas story.

January 26, 8:30 and 11 am

Join in singing, hearing a story from the bible, and liturgy with movement to explore how Jesus called his disciples and calls all of us to follow him.

Come, whatever your age, and enjoy worshipping together!

Pastor Jen Rome

Our Life Together in Faith

Honoring Peoples' Preferred Pronouns at Pilgrim

Submitted by Peter Squit

Chairperson of the Worship, Music & Evangelism Committee

In the past several months, more and more worshipers at Pilgrim have been deciding to add their preferred pronouns to their sticker name tags, which are commonly available on Sunday mornings at Pilgrim. Members of the Pilgrim staff and members of the Worship, Music & Evangelism Committee reflected on this organic development and agreed that we should embrace it more formally as a community.

Moving forward, Pilgrim plans to purchase name tags that offer a specific place for people to list their preferred pronouns. (For example: they/their/them; she/her/hers). We hope that people worshipping at Pilgrim will embrace this practice as an expression of welcome and inclusion. Like remembering and learning a person's name, using a person's preferred pronouns honors each person for who they are. And it is a part of honoring each person as a unique, beautiful, and dearly loved member of God's human family.

Pilgrim Worship Experience Survey

Sunday, December 1 through Sunday, December 15, 2019

Pilgrim's Worship, Music & Evangelism Committee is conducting a survey to gather information about peoples' experiences of worship at Pilgrim. The information we gather will help the committee and others at Pilgrim

develop strategies to enhance peoples' experience and engagement with worship at Pilgrim.

The survey will take most people 5 to 10 minutes to complete. We welcome anyone who has worshiped at Pilgrim, at morning or evening services, for any length of time, to complete the survey.

The survey will be open from Sunday, December 1 through Sunday, December 15, 2019. The survey can be accessed online here: <https://tinyurl.com/vax2bck>. Paper copies of the survey will also be available in the Pilgrim Narthex (the entry space leading to the sanctuary). Completed paper surveys can be placed in an envelope on the Pilgrim office door.

If you have questions about this survey, or have technical difficulties, please contact the Chairperson of the committee, **Peter Spuit**, at **612-839-7855** or peterspuit@gmail.com.

Pilgrim Welcomes Luther Seminary Student Katie Bencken!



Katie is a second year Master of Arts student at Luther Seminary studying Leadership and Innovation for Ministry. She joins us for the Christian Public Leader component of her degree, as she connects her studies with a specific congregational context a few hours a month. She is a Nebraska native and dog mom who loves Husker football, music, and Jesus! Katie is looking forward to spending the year with Pilgrim Lutheran Church learning and growing in faith and leadership.

Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas

You are invited to help with worship space preparation for Christmas on **Saturday morning December 14.**

Watch for announcements of the exact time frame!

About the Arts in Worship Area and the East Transept Family Area

By Meredith Samuelson

Fellow Pilgrims, thank you for your thoughtful conversations regarding the children's areas in worship. You should know that our Pilgrim children (4th and 5th graders) were impressively generous with their ideas and aware of the need to be respectful to everyone's worship needs.

You will begin seeing changes to the children's spaces in January. The changes are based on actionable ideas from our conversations with you. Please keep in mind that our goal, for now, is to work primarily with materials we already have. We will live with the initial changes through Easter, while observing the spaces in action and collecting feedback from you. Thank you for your flexibility and willingness to experiment in order to improve a valued piece of our worship space. And a huge thank you for being so supportive of children at Pilgrim.

Emily, Faith, and Church

By Paul Stever

At our house, conversations about God and faith are not necessarily a regular occurrence. However, as you might imagine in the family of a church musician, there are a number of faith-based practices that occur on a regular basis. Emily (3 years old) comes to church almost every week on Wednesday and Sunday where she regularly hears some of the language we use to talk about God and faith. On one occasion early in the fall, I (Paul) was putting her to bed and all of a sudden she exclaimed, "I love God so much!" I have no idea what brought this on, but before I could say much she started next to list things she was grateful for.

Emily also likes to say grace before meals, and has expressed interest in saying grace or making up a grace on her own. Sometimes she says the first couple words of a grace she's heard and then just fills in the rest with gibberish, but before lunch one day she made up her own grace in its entirety, "Dear God, Jesus loves us. Jesus brings us the good news that we make cookies after lunch. Amen."

As she gets older, the regularity of conversations about faith have already been increasing, mostly in response to her increasing number of questions, but having her with us at church every week is an important part of helping her shape her understanding of God and faith and the world, giving her language to formulate her questions and ideas, not to mention a supportive community that she looks forward to seeing.

The Communion of the Saints

By Katia McDonough

I've always loved the stories of the saints. Such magical lives and superhuman capacity! I loved them and was terrified by them as well, pretty certain that they set a standard of pure love in action that I, and perhaps most of us, could never live up to. I knew that they did the most unusual, miraculous things, which was very intriguing. I knew their lives were full of the knowledge of God's love and their love for God, which felt pretty familiar. But I couldn't sort out what looked like a deferral of life into the unknown of heaven.

The saints provided very specific role models for how to respond to every possible life event: healing, suffering, lost causes, unexpected miracles and more. Appropriate saints could be called upon to help me communicate with God. I just could not see myself in their shoes.

And then I grew up and got to know some of the communion of saints alive in our time. Women claiming their call to ordination after millenia of exclusion, transgender folks casting off the social stigmata forced on them, a black man with AIDS gathering into his arms a white sister with an infection that could kill him, a nun with a progressive neurological disease heading into the streets to see what life had in store for her. Flawed, wonderful, real human beings fully alive in their time.

Joan Chittister (in her book *In Search of Belief*) calls the communion of saints “the Eucharist of humankind, the Christening of life...made real in our own time, in our own neighborhoods, in our own world.” Perhaps those saints I loved didn’t defer their eternal lives until heaven but stepped knowingly into the messiness of communion within the bounds of their imperfect world.

Sister Rita Steinhagen is the woman with the neurologic disease (MS). Born in 1921 in Waconia MN, Rita was a medical technologist turned Catholic nun turned community organizer. She created the Free Store that sustained the lives of “hippies” of Cedar Riverside neighborhood in the early 1970s. Some of those neighbors sheltered homeless teens. Rita worked with them to create The Bridge, still today an important service to teens in need of shelter and support. Rita then went on to help establish a CSJ “house of prayer” in Stillwater. She appreciated the quiet, yet was soon drawn back to Minneapolis where she and two other CSJs opened St. Joseph House, for women coming out of violent relationships. St. Joseph House has since evolved into a large city block of affordable housing, community gardens and interdependent life called HOPE community. Rita next heard a call to learn Spanish, which led her to work on the border in Texas and in Guatemala. When she returned to the US she joined in the effort to shut down the “School of the Americas,” training ground for multiple Central American dictators. At the age of 70, Rita spent 6 months in a Federal prison as a result of her nonviolent action at the SOA. She found yet another community with the women who shared her life in prison. In her book, *Hooked by the Spirit: Journey of a Peaceful Activist*, Rita wrote, “I believe that everyone is ‘begotten of the Spirit,’ but we are blown in many different directions. In trying to capture the reason for my many wanderings, I can only surmise that the Spirit assigned to me had an extra wandering gene, which at times caused her to push, lead, or entice me to places I never dreamed of going. She has been a faithful traveling companion and I am so grateful She was assigned to me.” Rita died in 2006 at Bethany (now Carondelet Village) at the age of 78.

Rita just kept showing up. She walked fearlessly into the world of drugs and poverty, into the chaos of personal and cultural violence, into the unknown of new language and cultures, into the pain of incarceration. She
The Pilgrim, December 2019 / January 2020

took one step at a time. She got tired and took some rest. Renewed, she continued her journey. Somewhere along the line her MS “just disappeared.” By continually showing up, Rita entered fully into the “living Eucharist” that is the inclusive, chaotic, wonderful communion of the saints, the first chapter of everlasting life.

She teaches me to take one step at a time. To keep walking toward community where all are eligible for membership. To show up to the living communion of saints that is church and neighborhood and family and work and every kind of organizing group that dreams and creates together the expansive Reign of God.

God Bless Rita J Steinhagen and all the cloud of witnesses that went before her and that will continue to stream after her.

November 7, 2019

M@P... Midweek @ Pilgrim

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

M@P December Schedule

There is no M@P meal, Let Us Play, or Adult Learning on Wednesdays in December.

Children’s and Adult Choir rehearsal continue at the same times as in the fall:

5:05-5:45	Junior Choir (Grades 4-8)
5:45-8:45	Nursery Care (Age 0-4)
6:15-6:30	Cherub Choir (PreK – K)
6:35-7:10	Jubilee Choir (Grades 1-3)
7:15-8:45	Chancel Choir

There are no choir rehearsals on December 18 and 25.

M@P January Schedule

5:05-5:45	Children’s Musical Rehearsal (Grades K-8)
5:15-6:15	Meal
5:45-8:45	Nursery Care (Age 0-4)
6:00-7:10	Let Us Play (Age 5 and up)
6:15-7:10	Adult Learning
6:15-7:10	Children’s Musical Rehearsal (Grades K-8)
7:15-8:45	Chancel Choir

There are no choir rehearsals on January 1.

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

The Pilgrim, December 2019 / January 2020

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 6:00-7:10 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.

Small Groups During Epiphany

by Josh Moss

Perhaps you've heard the phrase *faster alone, further together* a time or two recently? That's because it's become a bit of an unofficial motto for this season in our lives together. Part of going far together means that we spend some time together getting to know and support one another in deeper ways. Many Pilgrims have asked about opportunities to gather around particular topics that might be difficult to understand or approach alone. The staff heard the requests and have worked with community members to meet those needs. During the upcoming season of Epiphany (January 6-February 19), there will be a few small group offerings that allow a safe space to gather, explore, and go further together. Open Groups will allow you to drop in and out as it makes sense for your life and require no prior commitment. Other groups, called **Closed** Groups, require you to sign up and plan to be at each gathering. Check out the list below to see where you might connect with other Pilgrims along the journey of faith and life. **Check out the Pilgrim website on the right side of the home page, called "Wednesday night topics" to learn about the upcoming topics as they're chosen, usually a week or two in advance.**

Always-Open Groups on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm:

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: January 8 - 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!

Advanced Sign-Up Groups:

The Broken Heart: The Journey of Grief and Loss

The expectation to move on after a loved one has died is amplified in American culture. Just think about it: most companies and organizations assign a length of time for how long someone can miss work after a death has occurred. Many of these organizations even have tiers that are associated with how closely connected biologically someone might be: five days for an immediate family member, two or three days for an aunt or uncle. So what do you do after those days have gone by and you still feel the pain in your heart? On Wednesday nights at 6:15 pm during the season of Epiphany, Dave Taylor, a retired pastor, and Pastoral Intern Hannah Olson will lead this group that explores just that: not how to move on, but how to live with the realities of loss. To sign up for this group, email **Mary Brodd** in the church office at **pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org** by **December 17, 2019**. Spaces are limited, so please consider signing up early.

Pilgrims Caring for Elders

Are you currently caring for an aging parent or friend? Evaluating options for their assisted care? Concerned about memory care for a relative? Or planning for your own long term elder care needs? Why not rely on fellow Pilgrims for support in this journey? Pilgrims Caring for Elders is organizing to provide Pilgrims with spiritual, emotional and practical support in this important care ministry. It's a shared ministry where Pilgrims can discuss the challenges and joys of caring for an elder, share useful resources and experiences, and most of all provide strength to each other at a time that can be stressful. The operation of the group will depend in part on the participants, but we hope to have in person meetings as well as sharing of resources and assistance on things like facilities, treatments, and social services. If you are interested in joining this group please contact **Matt O'Toole** at **otoole_matt@yahoo.com** or **651-398-4161**. Please let him know by **December 15** if you are interested.

Music Notes

December 2019 / January 2020



By Paul Stever, Music Director



12/1	8:30 am 11 am	Jack Kahnert, piano Chancel Choir
12/8	8:30 am 11 am	Chancel Choir Chancel Choir
12/15	8:30 am 11 am	Chancel Choir Children's Christmas Pageant
12/22	9:30 am	Sarah Adair, Hannah Schendel, Nonny Smith, violin trio
12/29	9:30 am	TBD
1/5	8:30 am 11 am	Nancy Olson, organist Nancy Olson, organist
1/12	8:30 am 11 am	*Salsa Del Soul Latin Jazz Quartet *Salsa Del Soul Latin Jazz Quartet
1/19	8:30 am 11 am	TBD Chancel Choir
1/26	8:30 am 11 am	Children's Choirs Chancel Choir

*Salsa del Soul is a Twin Cities-based, nine-piece orchestra performing various styles of dance music from the Spanish-speaking regions of the Caribbean. The musicians of Salsa del Soul represent some of the finest talents in the Twin Cities Latin music scene. The styles of music they perform include Son, Son Montuno, Plena, Cha-cha-cha, Bachata, Timba, and, of course, Salsa! Salsa del Soul performs locally at restaurants and bars, jazz and Latin festivals, private engagements, and other locations and events and has done so for more than a decade. Their Latin Jazz quartet, including Pilgrim percussionist friend Shai Hayo, will lead our Epiphany worship, as they have for many years!

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

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

Our musical for this coming spring will be “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! All children in K-8 grade are invited to participate, regardless of their singing or acting experience. Musical rehearsals will begin on **January 8** and will run each Wednesday night from **5:05-7:10 pm** (with dinner break **5:45-6:15 pm**) until the final performance in worship on **February 23**. For involvement in the *The Pilgrim, December 2019 / January 2020*

musical, you should plan for your child to be present for all rehearsals, especially those in February, with **February 19 being a mandatory rehearsal** for participation. Please contact our children's choir director, Maggie Priola, at **maggiepriola19@gmail.com** to register for the musical or with any questions or concerns.

January Sabbatical

By Paul Stever

For three weeks in January, I will be taking a mini-sabbatical in the midst of this eighth year of serving Pilgrim Lutheran Church. I will be staying with my family in Rochester, NY during much of this time and intend to spend some time in the music library at the Eastman School of Music as well as visiting worship services in the area. I'm especially interested in a compline service that is offered every Sunday evening, in collaboration with Eastman. As you can see from the above lists of musicians, the music will be in the capable hands of a variety of great musicians while I'm gone. Thanks so much to all who will contribute so much beautiful music in these next few months.

2020 Choral Contemplative Prayer Schedule

At Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Unless Otherwise Noted

Evening Prayer

Sunday, February 15 at 5 pm

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 Snelling Ave S, St. Paul

Choral Contemplative Prayer: Taizé

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

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

Sunday, March 29 at 6:51 pm, Prelude at 6:45 pm

Choral Contemplative Prayer: Earth Vespers with Bret Hesla

Sunday, April 19 at 6:51 pm, Prelude at 6:45 pm

Hymn of the Season (Advent):

Come Now, O Prince of Peace ELW #247

Geonyoung Lee (b. 1947) wrote this hymn for the opening worship service of the world conference for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula in 1988. Marion Pope's original translation of the Korean text in 1996 was altered for use by a few other hymnals, like our ELW, to include reconciliation and other related themes. The 1996 translation repeats the same text, only changing "God of peace," "God of love," "God of hope," and "God of joy" for each verse. The tune name OSOSO is the first Korean word of Geonyoung Lee's original text. Lee is a well-known Korean composer, writing especially for choral and instrumental ensembles.

Hymn of the Season (Epiphany): Glory to God, Glory in the Highest ELW #164

This Peruvian melody is a great piece to sing *a capella*, in a call and response style. We've been doing more and 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.

NB: The December "Hymn of the Season" paragraph is created with the aid of Paul Westermeyer's Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

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

December 8 — Into Unknown Space, Hoping
January 12 — in the dark, reaching for you

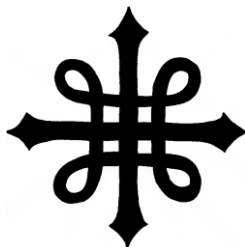
Featuring musicians Dick Hensold, Michelle Kinney, Marc Anderson on Northumbrian smallpipes, medieval greatpipes, recorder, cello, percussion, and Peggy Larson as cantor



Nordic Contemplative Evening Prayer

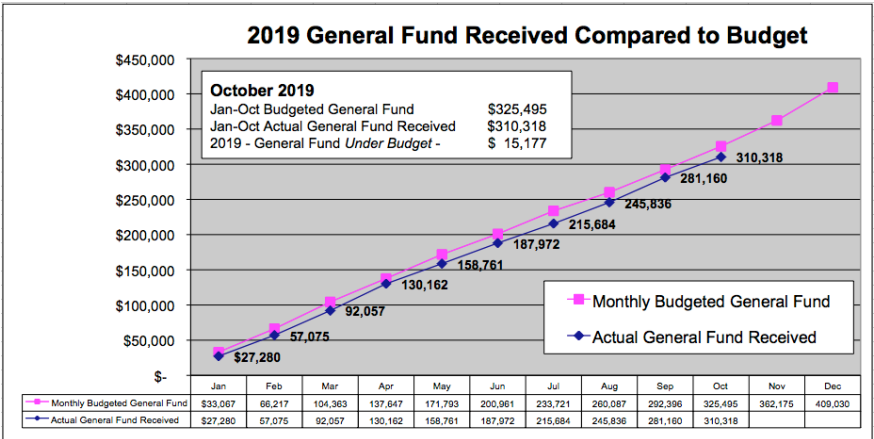
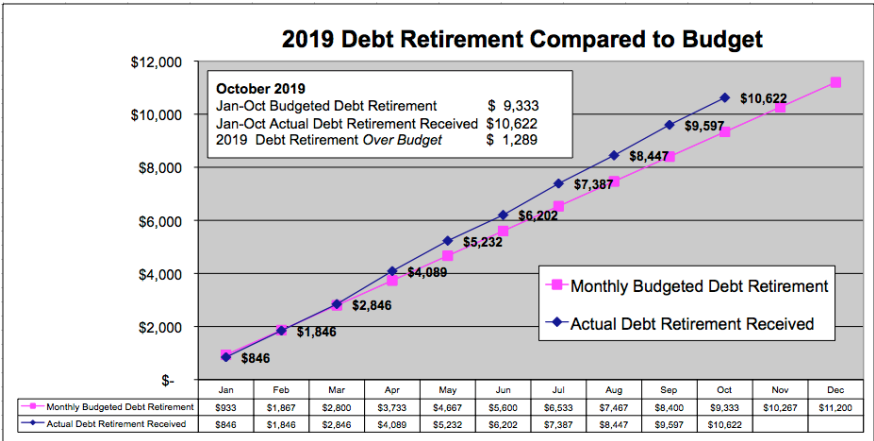
6:30 pm Extended Prelude Begins

January 26 — Stepping Fearless Through the Night



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

Giving Graphs



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

Annual Advent Tea—Sunday, December 8

The Congregational Life & Care Committee sponsors an annual Advent Tea each year, with goodies for all! This is an expanded coffee hour, served **after each morning service** on Sunday, December 8 in the lower level Fellowship Hall. Along with CLC's delicious treats, we invite the congregation to share one of their favorites for this fun event! Sweet or savory, hot or cold — anything goes! We also invite pilgrims to help with setup (**8-9:30 am**) or cleanup (**11:30-1**) — these opportunities are fun and open to anyone! Thank you! Please contact Ann Dyellig (ann.dyellig@gmail.com or **612-720-4403** — call/text) with what you may bring (or just bring it on that morning) or if you can help.

NEW THIS YEAR! We will have a **Tea Tasting** in preparation for expanding our tea selection for future Sunday coffee hours — join in the fun at the Tea Tasting Table!

Thank you for your generosity and see you at the Advent Tea!

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, December 2**, and **Monday, January 6**. For more information, contact **Dave Toeniskoetter (651-470-8632)**.



Classics for Pilgrims

DECEMBER Classics for Pilgrims will not meet.

JANUARY 23 Classics for Pilgrims will meet on **Thursday, January 23 7-8:30 pm** to discuss **HUNGER** by Knut Hamsun.

Contact Jay Ankeny (Phone: **651-295-9633**; email: jankeny@jetup.net) or Barbara Taylor (**651-699-1095**; email: bstaylor50@gmail.com) for details. You are welcome to visit/join in the discussion as you are able. This group is open to all.

Book Club News

Date: **Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 7 pm** at Lynda Hirschboeck's
Book: ***The Widows of Malabar Hill*** by Sujata Massey

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)

Pilgrims Caring for Creation (PCC)

Of course, all Pilgrims care for creation. PCC is a group that concentrates on 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: December 11, January 8.**

Posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board | PCC Section:

PCC Tip of the Month

Read Brave Saint Paul – 2020: *Our Climate Crisis*

(<https://sppl.org/read-brave/>) will be sparking brave conversations all over the city! Residents of *all ages* will read suggested books about climate issues (there are even picture books!) and can participate in discussions about them or review them for book clubs and classroom projects...check the PCC bulletin board for dates and times of sharing opportunities.

Picture Books

The Digger and the Flower
Hey, Water!
All the Water in the World
The EARTH Book
Life
Sea Bear
Water is Water
Thank You, Earth

Middle Grade

Bayou Magic
The End of the Wild
Me and Marvin Gardens
Hoot
Never Say Die
Same Sun Here
The Flooded Earth
Climate Migrants
Better Off Undead

Early Grade

If Polar Bears Disappeared
What is Climate Change?
Buried Sunlight
Mama Miti
Spring After Spring
Merhorses and Bubbles

Teen

The Marrow Thieves

Adult

Climate Justice

PCC Book Review of the Month (Preview!)

Submit your reviews of any of the **Read Brave** book suggestions – we can put them on the bulletin board and maybe put excerpts in the February Pilgrim Newsletter!

Young Adults

More Than Happy Hour

December: **Monday, December 9, 6-7:30 pm** at Shish Mediterranean (1668 Grand Ave, St. Paul)

January: **Tuesday, January 14, 6-7:30 pm** at IndoChin Vietnamese Restaurant (1702 Grand Ave, St. Paul)

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 — a past theme has been death & grief! About 10 young adults gather each time, some connected to Pilgrim, some friends. Conversation connects and introduces those who come as well as invites deeper exploration of existential questions of faith and life. 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.

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>

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**
(**December 2, 2019**, and **January 6, 2020**)

Where? Rotating between member homes and local breweries

How to connect? Email Tim Moore at tim.moore927@gmail.com

The Pilgrim, December 2019 / January 2020

Pilgrim Volunteers for Community Emergency Service Home Delivery

Pilgrims will continue to support the Community Emergency Service Home Delivery program in 2020. The work we do involves packing grocery and personal items that will be delivered by other volunteer groups. This work requires the ability to read and lift grocery bags. It is a good activity for a parent paired with a child who is about 7 years or older.

Our packing dates will be on the 1st Saturday of every even-numbered month from **9-11 am**. This will start in February and continue with even numbered months. CES is located at 1900 11th Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

Please feel free to contact Jeanne Barr **adelj1019@gmail.com** if you have questions.

You are Invited to Pastor Jen's for a Pilgrim Christmas Season Open House! Kids, Youth, and Adults Welcome!

WHEN? **Saturday, January 4**

TIME? **3:30 pm—7:30 pm**; come and go when it works for you

WHERE? The home of Pastor Jen Rome and family — 1288 Portland Ave. in St. Paul; please note that Pastor Jen lives on the second floor of a duplex at the top of a flight of stairs

BRING? Food, treats, or drinks to share as part of a snacky smorgasbord

Encouragement to be a Host of Coffee Time

By Josh Moss

Earlier this year, Congregational Life and Care (CLC) offered some revisions to our coffee time and hospitality role in response to conversations about simplifying the process. CLC hoped to make the process more inviting to newer members or other Pilgrims who found hosting coffee time to be overwhelming. One of the simplifications is that Pilgrim now provides the majority of food and some guidelines for set-up and clean-up. The response to the new guidelines has been well-received, and many members who felt excluded by the previous process have been able to participate. So if you've not signed up to host coffee time, we want to invite you into this very special role. For many in our community, coffee time is the one place where you know you'll see friends, visit with new people, and get to spend a few minutes getting acquainted or catching up. Thank you for being a part of our ministry of care and community.

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: January 19, 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.

Christmas Program Worship

Led by PreK-5th Graders on Sunday,
December 15, 11 am

Our 4th-5th graders are planning the Christmas Program this year. We will be preparing for our Christmas Program worship during Sunday School opening. We will have a special mandatory rehearsal at church on **Saturday, December 14, 9 am-12 pm.** On **Sunday, December 16,** children arrive to prepare and rehearse at 9:45 am with the Christmas Program Worship at **11 am.** Please contact Pastor Jen with any questions.

There is **no Sunday School** on **December 22 or 29.** Sunday School resumes on January 5.

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.

There is no Youth Pathways on **December 22 or 29.** Pathways resumes on **January 5.**

Youth, Save the Date for Interfaith
Day of Service, Monday, February 17

We will join together at Augsburg University in the Foss Center with hundreds of youth of many different religious and cultural backgrounds

The Pilgrim, December 2019 / January 2020

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

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.

January 5: Grade 3 The Bible — Children and Parents will learn fun, easy ways to do bible study together. Children receive a paraphrase bible and read scripture during worship.

January 12: Grade 6 My Self My Gifts — Youth and parents will explore their God-given gifts and talents and how to use them to serve others. Youth receive a framed list of their gifts and lead the Dismissal in worship.

January 26: Grade 2 Share, Save, Spend — Children and Parents will learn and experience how we follow Jesus by sharing our money and using it wisely. Children receive share, save, spend banks and collect the offering during worship.

Nurturing Your Child's Spirituality at Home

Saturday, January 25, 9:30-11 am at Pilgrim Lutheran

Does your family include different approaches to spirituality or faith traditions? Join Pastor Jen Rome and Deacon Stephanie Leudtke to explore ways you can support your children's spiritual growth while maintaining the integrity of differing beliefs and practices in your family. The morning will include a panel of parents frankly sharing about how they navigate spiritual differences in their homes and spiritual practices adaptable to your family situation. Childcare is provided. Locally roasted coffee from Roots Roasting and pastries from local P.J. Murphy's bakery will be served as a treat for families.

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/pilgrimparentsand click on "Join Group."

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 **December 8**, we will head to Creators Space to explore the bible as the living word with art. On **January 12**, we will visit Wisdom Ways to explore creative ways to pray. For more info, contact Pastor Jen.

Service Learning Trip to Memphis, Tennessee

June 20-26, 2020

Deep Dive Confirmation Youth and Pilgrim 10th-12th Graders are invited on a service learning trip to Memphis, Tennessee with the other Deep Dive congregations. We will lean and live our faith with a focus on civil rights! We will learn through immersion in a new place with respectful service and relational experiences; we'll have bible study, conversation and art projects to reflect on our experiences, a free day in Memphis and a visit to the amazing Civil Rights Museum.

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.

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 **January 15-March 15** for one of our reserved spots—for our special registration link, please contact Pastor Jen. The registration link will be emailed to all families in early January. 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>

All Ages Pilgrim Camp!

July 23-26, 2020

This summer, Pilgrims of all ages are invited to head north together to Wilderness Canoe Base camp with Camp Wapo. We'll have time together to play and rest and grow in faith together! More information to come! If you have any questions, contact Pilgrim **Elizabeth Schoenkencht** at eschoenk@comcast.net.

ELCA Youth Gathering Theme Revealed

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.

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!



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; Judy Boehm, health concerns; Pastor Bryan Lair, non-Hodgkins lymphoma diagnosis; Jan Harper, former Pilgrim member and partner of Pastor Jean Hay, diagnosed with lung cancer; Elsa, Solfrid Ladstein's 13-year-old granddaughter, who has been diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma; Fred Drexler, father of Kate Drexler Booth, recovering; Cheryl Eia, recovering from foot surgery; Anthony (brother of Katherine Murphy) and April Murphy who lost house, cars, and belongings in Oklahoma flood; Namshin Kang, grandfather of Jaymin Kim, hospitalized due to serious health issues; Deb Filer, as she cares for a family elder in a deeper way.

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, recovering from surgery, prayers for physical, emotional, and spiritual health; Tom Mayer, partner of Deb Filer, with health concerns.

Births: 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. 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. For prayers during worship, please contact a pastor.

Parochial Report

December Birthdays

2 David Toeniskoetter
 2 Jeff Holisky
 2 Drew Johnson
 2 Chris Montgomery
 3 Michael Jacobsen
 4 Mary Jahnke
 4 Patricia Sween
 5 Corby Lewis
 5 Ben Riekenberg
 5 Hannah Riekenberg
 6 Everett Smith
 6 Kari Lewis
 7 Allen Zumach
 9 Marsha Foss
 11 Brett Kahnert
 14 Daniel Ninow
 18 Ellie Greseth
 18 M. Brian Hartz
 19 John Askew, Sr
 19 Katharine Drexler Booth
 24 Maren Heggeseeth
 25 Elizabeth Haan
 25 Abram Whetstone
 26 Cormac McElrath
 26 Karla Leitzman
 27 Barbara Holisky
 27 Laura Jameson
 27 Jen Sherman
 28 Lizz Sable Stauning
 28 Sophia Klepp

29 Kurt Schultz
 29 Tom Johnson
 30 Sophia Oakman
 30 Emily Elizabeth Stever
 31 Lucas Mueller
 31 Ethan Christenson
 31 Laetitia Schulze
 31 Bruno Lincoln Bussian

December Anniversaries

2 Tuesdae Collopy & Conan Collopy
 6 Bryan Stauning & Lizz Sable Stauning
 6 Petra Vogt & Chris Nagel
 10 Didrik Peterson & Elizabeth Schoenknecht
 21 Stephanie Fay & Nancy Aarsvold
 21 Eric Nelson & Beth Nelson
 21 Jay Ankeny & Elizabeth Madson-Ankeny
 22 Philip Haan & Joan Haan
 23 Thomas Prather & Kristin Grangaard
 30 Matt Koukol & Catherine Koukol
 30 Carl Hokanson & Natalie Hokanson
 30 Marlys Aukee & Matt O'Toole
 31 Jason Hendrikson & Jaimee Hendrikson
 31 Christopher Wells & Marianne Milligan



**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

January Birthdays

3 Cameron Swenson
 6 Elsie Newburg
 7 Jack Schuessler
 7 Coralie Pederson
 10 Logan Henry Pederson
 11 Ivory Ruud
 11 Jaina Elizabeth Conklin
 12 Todd Dunn
 12 Alicen Grams
 14 Trudith Gustafson
 14 Lauren Bowser
 15 Donna Holman
 15 Tim Dykstal
 16 Katherine Heinecke
 17 Micah Whetstone
 17 Jay Ankeny
 18 Lee Gunsten
 18 Silje Mae Anderson
 20 Melissa Johnson
 20 Alexander Ellis
 20 Dan Hoseck
 22 Duane Kelling
 23 Isabel Drexler Booth

24 Derek Heinecke
 24 Russell Loomis Jr.
 24 Bryan Maurer
 26 Devin Stauning
 27 Karen Bjorkman
 28 Erica Kragerud-Smith
 29 Hannah Omodt
 29 Nathan Omodt
 29 Kristen Sherman
 29 Louise Stenberg
 29 Louise Rogness
 29 Chris Nagel
 30 Jenny Heinecke
 30 Eileen McElrath
 31 Richard Johnson

January Anniversaries

3 Kristine Lavik & John Lavik
 10 Aaron Bowser & Brenda Kowske
 16 Karen Bjorkman & Duane Kelling
 16 Jaymin Kim & Sara McAdory-Kim

WIDMER'S SUPER MARKET

"THE BEST IN MEATS"

www.widmersmarket.com

1936 ST. CLAIR AVENUE

ST. PAUL, MN. 55105

651-699-4700

STORE HOURS MON-SAT 8:00AM-7:00PM

SUNDAY 9:00AM-5:00PM

WE ALSO PROVIDE HOME DELIVERY SERVICE!

Looking Ahead at Pilgrim

Saturday morning, February 22 — Saint Paul Area Synod Toolkit and Conference Assemblies

Sunday, February 23, 9:45 am — Pilgrim Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 6:30 pm — Ash Wednesday Worship
(preceded by soup supper, **5-6:15 pm**)

About Year-End Giving at Pilgrim

- ◆ Donations can be brought to church by noon on **Tuesday, December 31**.
- ◆ Mailed donations must be postmarked by **December 30**.

Donations can be made on the church website using Simply Giving. Just go to **pilgrimstpaul.org** and click on the blue “donate” link at the top right of the home page. For checking or savings deductions, the deadline is noon on **Friday, December 27**. Credit/debit card donations may be made until noon on **Tuesday, December 31**.

About the Next Pilgrim Newsletter

The next newsletter deadline will be **Wednesday, January 15** for the **February** 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.