

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)

Tim Dykstal, *President*

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Jason Hendrikson, *Treasurer*

Pastor Carol Tomer

Andrew Barry, *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*

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Matthew Anderson**

*Interim Faith Formation Staff Team
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Jimmy Gerding, Ella Boelke

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Joanna Deer & Karie Johnson

Wedding Coordinators

Cover Photo:

*May 3 virtual gathering of the Pilgrim evening
worshipping community, called "Connection
and Comfort"; photo by Carol Tomer*

NOTE: Pilgrim's office is closed for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. The office email is being checked on a daily basis and the Pilgrim voice mail several times/week.

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Pilgrim Ministry in the Month of June

The Pilgrim building is currently closed for gatherings, while we develop safety protocols for our phases of return. Please contact the church if you have questions. Meanwhile, our ministries continue!

Sunday Worship in June

June 7 — Holy Trinity Sunday, Point for Pilgrims, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaching (to Pilgrim and the whole ELCA, via video)

Liturgies, Readings, and Reflections of Hope: A June Worship Series

June 14 — A Favorite Hymns Service, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Jen Rome preaching on hope

June 21 — A Cross-Generational Service of Hope, Thanksgiving for Sunday School Teachers and Pathways Leaders, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Jen Rome preaching

June 28 — An Evening Service of Healing and Hope, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching

About Our June Worship Series

By Pastor Carol Tomer

In June, our worship gatherings will continue to be virtual. We've framed up a three-week worship series, that will be marked by a focus on hope, through reflections, readings, and varied liturgies. Those liturgies will include a favorite hymns service, shaped by the "hymn showdown" that Paul Stever invited us to participate in online, voting for favorite hymns of varied sorts. There will also be a cross-generational service, which will be a new virtual experience for us. And, our worship service on June 28 will be an evening service of healing and hope, offered as common ground for the Pilgrim morning and evening worshipping communities — feeling like a morning service with a sermon, feeling like an evening service with music for the end of the day. Through it all, we will focus on various dimensions of hope, in the midst of the challenges of these days. And, we hope to continue including some video elements in these upcoming online worship services, as we began to do during the second half of May.

Sunday Morning Virtual Gatherings in May

In addition to online support for worship at home:

- ◆ Virtual Pilgrim Family Faith Time, **10-10:30 am**
- ◆ Virtual Coffee Time, **11-11:45 am**

Details are available weekly in congregational emails and on the Pilgrim website.

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol

This extraordinary journey continues, each step along the way carrying us on paths we never imagined, even as our liturgical season on this side of the Day of Pentecost is called “ordinary time.” Nothing ordinary about these days. So, we’re offering a special frame at the beginning of our journey through “ordinary time,” with a worship series focused on hope in this month of June, inviting us into the extraordinary nature of these days.

We also are entering into a season when faith communities are reflecting on what the phases of return to various levels of in-person gatherings might look like. Our governor has been offering such thoughtful, bridge-building leadership in the midst of complexity. And our Saint Paul Area Synod Bishop, Patricia Lull, has been inviting leaders of our synod into ongoing reflection. Most recently, she wrote:

Lutherans often refer to one of Luther’s teachings on justification, which addresses freedom from and freedom for. (Freedom of the Christian, 1520)... While we have a greater measure of freedom from a size limit of 10 or fewer for gatherings, we are also called to consider how our actions reflect our freedom for attending to the needs of our neighbors and their safety, including those most vulnerable to infection in our own communities. I am not urging any congregation to speed up their plan for larger in-person gatherings.... Note that a safety plan needs to be developed and posted for each congregation that plans to re-open its building or host an outdoor service. Governor Walz is a realist about the dangers of spreading this coronavirus in religious gatherings.... Friends, we remain in a dangerous time for the spread of COVID-19. I have no desire to put others at risk and trust that you don’t either. Pay attention to your values as you craft your plan as a congregation. Continue to use all the creative ways you have developed for online worship, parking lot worship, outreach to your congregation and care for your most vulnerable neighbors. We have a long way still to go. Let’s get there together.

Each congregation in our synod has now been encouraged to form a “smart team” (as the Bishop calls it), to develop safety protocols for phases of return. In this newsletter, you can read the invitation for you to consider serving on our Pilgrim smart team. But, in the meantime, we are continuing to explore varied avenues for ministry, connection and care, outreach, spiritual growth,

advocacy, service, and justice-making. We are continuing to work on the evolution of our online worship support. The latest step is that we are seeking to include more video elements.

This has also been an important time to build bridges in our communities, in so many ways. I'm been so encouraged by the conversations of the lead pastors of four neighborhood congregations, as we've explored ways to work together. Our "Community Prayer Steps" evolved from those conversations, and now we are invited into prayer walks, in between our four congregations, as we pray for our neighbors, community, and world. A map and graphic of our four congregations and prayer trees/steps follows this article. We are working on additional ways we might share together in collective ministry, as well as inviting one another into aspects of each other's ministries. Stay tuned!

In June, we are mindful of entering into the beginning of a summer in which various mission trips, camps, and gatherings will not be happening. Holden Village in Washington, the Iona Community in Scotland (both of them dear to Pilgrims), and so many other communities of hospitality, learning, and joy are not able to welcome guests this summer. I had been invited to come to Holden this summer for their celebration of 50 years of Lutheran women's ordination, as they planned to welcome back those of us who had formerly served as women Village Pastors of Holden. But so many of these amazing communities are finding ways to continue to reach out. Here are two gifts from Holden that they have shared recently:

Recommended reading, from the 2020 Holden Village summer teaching faculty:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/8045ece1701/5a504coc-d739-4e52-805b-ac4c8boefd1b.pdf>

Recommended children and youth books, from Holden:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/8045ece1701/04e8e0ea-cbfc-4240-a765-8feeoeddbod4.pdf>

And I invite you to a wee Pilgrim taste of Holden that I will be leading this month; details are in this newsletter.

Lastly, I want to share with you a story that was shared with me, by Lois and Richard Wintersteen. A few years ago, two friends of theirs from Scotland visited Pilgrim. Recently, their friends shared with them they had visited the Pilgrim website and were inspired for the shaping of one of their worship services. They sent their worship bulletin, from St. Andrew's and St. George's West Church, Edinburgh, a Church of Scotland congregation, that included a picture of our Easter season signboard that they found on the cover of our May Pilgrim newsletter.

Here's what their worship bulletin said:

Today's Theme — "Love Is Not Cancelled"

Many things have been cancelled and will continue to be cancelled. Many things have been moved online, like this service. But love is not cancelled.

Our theme today comes from a sign outside our friends' church in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. There is a picture of the sign at the end of the service.

In this time of so many things being made new among us, I know that many of us feel less connected to one another in various ways, but by the grace of God, we are also discovering new connections, in our neighborhood and even around the world. In these extraordinary days, let us continue to watch for the Spirit's beckoning, to participate in Her ever-surprising gifts among us and far beyond us.

Pastor Carol Tomer

Community Prayer Tree
A faith-filled interactive art installation

Bring a ribbon to symbolize your prayer.
Tie your ribbon to the tree.

Prayer Walks

#MACGROVEPRAYS

In the spirit of unity and embracing hope, we carry one another's prayers and intentions between our "trees." Consider walking between these Community Prayer "Trees" and pray for our neighbors, community, and world.

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Jen

As we live into the summer months, we are not sure how we will live our daily lives. Will we expand our social contacts? Will we go out for more than the basics? Will we visit relatives? Will we have playdates? Such decisions may seem like a simple yes or no, something a set criteria of can determine; but that is not the case. These daily decisions deplete us. We will need guidance — from our state and the CDC — and from God. We listen for the voice of Jesus to lead us onward.

Jesus the shepherd reminds us that we like sheep remember the shepherd's voice. We remember the voice of Jesus the shepherd tending to people without basic human needs, healing the sick so they can go about their jobs, finding the security of home for those cast out, restoring relationships, facing the worst for the sake of others, and living in hope and

determination that we might have life and have it to the full. We remember that voice of love, full of justice and compassion. When our minds are tired from meeting our basic needs, we still strain our ears to listen for voices that sound like Jesus the shepherd. As we listen to the stampeding pace and volume of the laws and orders, of news and opinions, of expertise and advice, where are we hearing a voice of love, full of justice and compassion? Where are we hearing that voice that calls us by name — that calls every life as important as themselves, calls for all what to have what they wish for their own children? That voice might speak in equations or policy or in the simple question, “How are you, really?” That voice might be a silent one, but we can feel the reverberation as it offers food or welcomes into shelter. We know the voice of the Jesus WE know, not some robber of resources pretending to care for us — we know the voice of our loving shepherd, full of justice and compassion for all people. We recognize the voice of Jesus. You know the voice of Jesus. You do.

And as we are led out of quarantine, Christ goes out ahead of us, calling us by name in that voice we know — so that we like sheep can follow, led into a place where not only the basic needs are met, but that all have what they need to thrive. After all, this is what Jesus our shepherd signed up for: “I came that you might have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

Please take care, dear ones. Know that you are not alone. Please contact Pilgrim with any needs you have. God loves you and your church loves you too!

Pastor Jen

Welcoming a New Staff Member



We're happy to announce that Alex Theship-Rosales will begin serving as Director Of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries with Pilgrim on June 8! Alex graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2019 with a BA in Environmental Studies and a Religion Minor. After graduation, Alex lived in Rwanda, serving as part of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. He returned early from Rwanda because of COVID-19 and will begin his M.Div. at Luther Seminary in the fall. He has had a variety of experiences in leading and serving in children's and youth ministries

and is a deeply gifted and caring person of faith. Alex will share more about himself after his ministry with us begins. A VERY special thanks to the Interviewing Team for their dedicated discerning ministry in this process: Maryls Aukee, Matthias Baese, Caleb Drexler Booth, Pamela Erwin, Elsie Newburg, Tracy Riekenberg, Pastor Jen Rome, Pat Sween, and Pastor Carol Tomer.

A Note of Thanks from Pastoral Intern Hannah Olson

Dear Pilgrims,

My time with Pilgrim Lutheran is drawing to an end — and I continue to be grateful that I found such a wonderful community. I will complete my internship this month and graduate from Luther Seminary with an M.A. - Lutheran Studies. I will continue on in my Residency at Abbott through August and will have my Ordination Approval interview with my synod in early August! I thank you all for welcoming me into the fold and giving me so many opportunities for learning: preaching, teaching, leading forums, conversations at coffee time, More Than Happy Hour fellowship, and so much more. I am glad that I have found a place in this community and I look forward to continuing to call Pilgrim one of my faith homes.

Thank you and be well — please reach out to me at any time!

*With gratitude,
Hannah Olson*

Vestry News

A Call for a Pilgrim “Smart Team”

By Tim Dykstal

During the past months, guided by our creative Pilgrim staff and shared ministry leaders, we’ve learned that various dimensions of what is essential about being a Pilgrim congregation can be retained — or re-conceived — as we shelter in place, at home. On Sunday mornings—or really, anytime we’re so inclined—thanks to recording technology and internet access, we can listen to familiar hymns, hear the words of Scripture, and ponder the reflections of our pastors and other preachers. We carry these words, and hum this music, throughout our week. It’s not what it used to be, but it can be sustaining.

As our government officials move gradually to reopen the public spaces that make various dimensions of life more possible, however, it’s time to think about what reopening Pilgrim would mean as well. Our Saint Paul Area Synod Bishop, Patricia Lull, has called on member congregations to form a “smart team” of congregants to ponder that question. What we’re looking for in particular are Pilgrims who have expertise in areas that most concern reopening. Public health officials, project managers, event planners, advocates for equity and justice — any leaders who think about making public spaces safer and more welcoming in a time of crisis: Pilgrims like these are especially welcome. What we need is a plan.

Bishop Lull, informed by her own conversations with state officials, laid out three conditions that such a plan must consider. If and when we choose to gather again:

1. How close will people be?
2. How long will they be next to one another?
3. How predictable is the movement in and out of the space?

There is plenty of guidance out there from churches already grappling with these questions, and the Saint Paul Area Synod — while emphasizing that each congregation will respond to its specific context — has promised a template or checklist to help its members form their plans. You won't be left to consider a blank slate.

Are your talents suited to this effort? Would you like to help Pilgrim map out a plan to reopen, or to lay out what a limited reopening might look like? If you feel called to this task, please let us know as soon as possible. We hope to charge Pilgrim's smart team with its task by early June.

You can respond to me, Tim Dykstal, at tdykstal@gmail.com.

An Update on Pilgrim's Financial Situation and Pilgrim's own "Stimulus Fund"

(A letter that was sent in late April)

In a letter to her synod recently, Bishop Ann Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod reflected on the reality that has led the federal government to issue so-called "stimulus" checks during the COVID-19 crisis. About the millions that are now out of work, the millions who are threatened with eviction or the loss of housing, the Bishop notes: these people "are our neighbors, our friends, our family, people we rely on, including many we don't know but call neighbor in Jesus' name." She reminds us also that many of those who are most in need—because of immigration status or inability to access bank accounts—won't receive stimulus checks at all.

If your household is among those facing financial hardship, we hope these payments are of help. If, however, you find yourself fortunate enough not to need them, we invite you—with Bishop Svennungsen—to consider how you can use them to help others. Some ideas are to donate some funds to a local food shelf (Keystone is one that Pilgrim has given to in the past), or to do something for the essential workers at health care facilities or grocery stores.

Or perhaps you may donate some or all your stimulus checks to Pilgrim. If you choose to do so, here's how we will put them to use:

- ❖ First, whatever donations we receive will go to replacing the money that we had hoped to raise from two fundraisers that we have had to cancel this spring because of the crisis: one to fund middle school and high school Pathways, for costs related to events and trips; and the second to fund part of the Choral Scholars program.
- ❖ When those programs are funded to the extent projected by the cancelled fundraisers (a total of \$4,500), we will divide the remaining funds received evenly between Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

(which is responding to immediate needs by providing mental health counseling, financial counseling, support for older adults, housing counseling and more), and the Pilgrim General Fund, so that our ministry work and staff will be sustained in the face of so many uncertainties and challenges in these days.

Speaking of stimulus checks and other money matters: we want to use this opportunity to update you on Pilgrim's financial situation, in light of the COVID-19 crisis. At our annual meeting on February 23, we communicated to the congregation that Pilgrim was already facing some financial challenges in 2020, even before the crisis hit. Giving was down, slightly, from 2019, and we had tapped out our cash reserve. We are still living with those challenges.

There is some good news to report, though. Anticipating that these financial challenges will only deepen during the crisis, we determined to apply for a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan from the federal government. Thanks to the efforts of our financial team and our ongoing relationship with Bank Cherokee, we received that loan—in the amount of \$90,400—a mere two days after applying for it. It's important to note that this loan can only be used pay for staff costs (and some other fixed costs) during the eight-week period after the loan is granted. It can't be used, for example, to plug other holes in our budget, such as those left by the cancelled fundraisers. It can't be used for Pilgrim to help others. That is why we are coupling this news with the invitation to consider giving to the Pilgrim Stimulus Fund. (Please clearly direct your donation to the "Pilgrim Stimulus Fund." If you donate via the Pilgrim website, you will find this fund named there.)

These are strange and stressful times. As we learn to navigate them together, fairly and faithfully, we appreciate your generosity and ongoing stewardship of Pilgrim.

*With gratitude,
The Pilgrim Vestry (Congregational Council)*

Education, Service & Fellowship

Book Club News

There will be no scheduled meetings in June or July. We hope to be able to gather in August to pick books for the upcoming year. Stay tuned. Contact **Lynda Hirschboeck** at **651-698-7399** or **hirschbo@gmail.com** if you have questions.

Pilgrim Mamas Gathering Virtually

All those who identify themselves as mamas from Pilgrim are invited a Pilgrim Mama's get together approximately once a month in the later evening. Please contact Kirsten Anderson at **kirsten.m.anderson@me.com** for information.

Young Adults: More Than Happy Hour

Tuesday, June 9, 6-7:30 pm
Virtual More Than Happy Hour

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. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join, or bring a conversation topic. Pilgrims buys us dinner!

Well, in our COVID-19 life, we're living up to our name—and this gathering will certainly MORE than happy hour. Pilgrim's Young Adult Innovation grant will pay for your take-out/delivery, and then from home, we can enjoy our dinner and talk in Zoom-land. Reach out to Hannah Olson at hannahdelaine@gmail.com by **June 2** so we can coordinate for payment for your take-out/delivery. Our topic for the night is "Self-Care in Social-Distancing." What are ways have been caring for yourself in solitude or distanced from loved ones? Let's exchange ideas to care for ourselves as dearly loved people of God.

A Summer Salon of Sorts

By Pastor Carol Tomer

Many Pilgrims have journeyed to Holden Village, in Washington State, over the years — in seven Pilgrim groups and also as households. When we've gone there as a Pilgrim group, one of the wonderful memories I have is of gathering on lodge porches, and elsewhere in the village, to share in joke nights — jokes shared by Pilgrims of all ages. Joyful times of fun and being together.

In the midst of the challenges of COVID time, we are hearing about a longing for connection and joy. So, for a Pilgrim summer salon gathering in June, I invite you into a virtual time of joke telling and "some fun news." (The language is a take-off on the online broadcasts of "some good news.") Think of it as a little trip to Holden! Bring a joke or two, or a bit of fun news that might spread joy and laughter among us. We'll gather via Zoom on **Sunday night, June 14, at 6:30 pm**. Watch the congregational emails for the Zoom link. This is a gathering for all ages; jokes from younger Pilgrims are especially invited. (And please make sure all jokes are G-rated.)

Salt Shaker Dinners Are Being Re-Imagined (Virtually!)

Salt Shaker Dinners are designed to meet new people or deepen existing relationships within the Pilgrim community. You sign up, we put everyone in groups, and you pick a date! Groups will have 4-8 families, depending on number of family members. We are trying out one gathering for starters, and may consider inviting people to sign up for a second one this summer. Suggested timeframe for the first gathering is **June 15-July 15**.

This year, it is recommended that the groups meet virtually for their meal. However, meeting in person at a park or in one's yard using the current social distancing standards, would need to be agreed to by everyone in a group.

Each person/family would be responsible for their own food. Might be fun to decide on a recipe and everyone makes the same thing!

We will be asking for group lead/point persons. That person would send out an email/Doodle poll to find a date that works for everyone, and decide on the type of virtual experience to use (Zoom, Messenger, in-person, etc.).

Sign up by June 8, using this link (<https://tinyurl.com/yadyorj2>), or to sign up via phone, contact **Ann Dyellig** at **612-720-4403** or **ann.dyellig@gmail.com**. Any questions, contact Ann.

A Special Time to Witness for Justice, through a Virtual Gathering on June 20

By Pastor Carol Tomer

You've perhaps previously heard about the "Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival." On **June 20**, we are invited into a "Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington: A Digital Justice Gathering." You can find the details here:

poorpeoplescampaign.org/June2020/

Here's a bit about the gathering, from that website:

The Mass Poor People's Assembly & Moral March on Washington is going digital! On June 20th, we will hold the largest digital and social media gathering of poor and low-wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation's history. A global pandemic is exposing even more the already existing crisis of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.

Here's a bit from the ELCA's Advocacy Office about past gatherings:

The *ELCA Social Statement on Economic Life* reminds us that God calls us to seek sufficiency and sustainability for all. "For all" refers to the whole household of God—all people and creation throughout the world. Therefore, our economic analysis cannot stop with our own wellbeing, but must assess how economic activities affect "all," especially people living in poverty. Scripture gives voice to the circumstances that keep people poor, whether social status, oppression or because of the greed and injustice of the powerful. The statement urges this church to "address creatively and courageously the complex causes of poverty." The Poor People's Campaign is a vehicle to help us do that in our day.

Update about Isaiah

In May the Vestry voted to join ISALAH for the remainder of 2020. The co-leaders of this team are Drew Johnson and Joan Haan. Team members include Barbara Taylor, Peter Laudert, Lois and Richard Wintersteen, Coralie Hunter, Tim Dykstal, Chris Nagel and Petra Vogt.

ISALAH is a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota. More info is available at <https://isaiahmn.org>.

Looking for a way to be part of the action? Concerned about the growing state and national response to structural inequities? ISALAH is offering trainings in June and July to shape the public conversation about the election around our values and vision by reaching thousands of Minnesotans.

For more information about how to get involved contact Drew Johnson (drew.johnson10@gmail.com, 651-600-2317) or Joan Haan (jmbhaan@cocmast.net, 651-260-2747).

How You Can Be a Helper or Be Helped During This Time

In these challenging times, we are working hard to equip Pilgrims in shared ministry and caring for one another. As a part of this commitment, we have opened up a “Needs Submission” form for anyone who is in need of additional support in light of the pandemic. Your needs can vary from requesting help in preparing meals, to grocery delivery, to receiving a call and check in, or anything in between.

How it works: To submit a need, please fill out this form on the Pilgrim website: <https://www.pilgrimstpaul.org/needs-submission>

Your response will go to the Pilgrim office, and we will respond to you within a couple days to confirm your request and determine the best way for it to be filled. Your information will be kept private, and we will ask whether you would prefer for another Pilgrim to respond to you directly, or if you would like us to mediate their response in order to preserve your privacy. Then, your request will be posted on a sign-up that will be available to all Pilgrims. Once someone has signed up to fulfill your need, we will reach out and facilitate the connection between you and that person. If you are submitting a need on behalf of another person, please get their express consent prior to doing so, and use their information (not your own) for filling out the form.

To view and respond to needs, please visit our “Pilgrim Shared Needs” sign-up form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084BA5AC2FA5FB6-pilgrim>

You may sign up for helping with as many or as few needs as you feel capable of managing. You must include an email address with your sign

up. After you have signed up, we will communicate with the person who has made the request and will facilitate the connection between you and that person.

If you would like to respond to a need that must be filled in person (such as preparing and delivering meals), we ask that you maintain proper social distancing and hygiene protocol: Please wash your hands thoroughly before handling any food or material goods, wear gloves and a mask while preparing food or other goods, and maintain a distance of 6 feet from recipients when dropping anything off. If you have been exposed to the coronavirus or have been sick with any respiratory infection, please only respond to needs that can be fulfilled without physical contact (e.g., phone calls, grocery delivery through Instacart or Shipt, or financial gifts for the recipient to pay for meal delivery or other goods & services).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Jen or Denika Anderson, Communications Coordinator, (for tech-related questions).

Children, Youth, & Families

Virtual Family Faith Formation

Sundays 10 am

We can't be together at church, but we CAN still hang out virtually! Pastor Jen, with the help of her family, brings you virtual at-home faith formation from her living room to yours! We'll have some goofiness, camp song, bible story, reflection, prayer, a game — for all ages to enjoy together — and your kids can wear their pajamas!

Here's what you need to do to participate:

- ◆ Go to the Pilgrim Parent Group on Facebook: **Pilgrim Parent FB Group**
- ◆ If you are already a member, please invite people who aren't already members with the invite button on the FB group page
- ◆ If you are not yet a member of the Pilgrim Parent Group on Facebook go to: **Pilgrim Parent FB Group** and ask to join!

This FB group is the best platform we have right now—it allows safety for families to share prayer requests and for children to send messages to each other. Thanks for being flexible with us—we are learning as we go! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jen.

PreK-5th Grade Virtual Get-Togethers

As we continue to live our lives physically separated, the Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministry Team has added a little fun and fellowship with Pilgrim friends through some age-group virtual gatherings! Each Monday, members of the CYF team host the following Zoom get-togethers:

- ◆ PreK, starting at **10:30 am** and lasting approximately 20 minutes (hosted by Kate Tosteson with Pastor Jen)

- ✦ K-2, starting at **11:30 am** and lasting approximately 25 minutes (hosted by Rachel Boelke with Pastor Jen)
- ✦ 3-5, starting at **3:30 pm** and lasting approximately 30 minutes (hosted by Mark Gunsten with Pastor Jen)

During these gatherings, kids will get the opportunity to share, sing, pray, and just spend some time with their Pilgrim pals. Afterwards, parents/caregivers are welcome to stick around for a little bit to have our own moment of connection and check-in.

Meeting invites with link and password are sent by email. Please contact Pastor Jen for that information.

Pathways Youth Meet Virtually

Middle School: Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 pm

High School: Tuesdays 4:45-5:45 pm

Pathways Youth Leaders put together a way for youth to check in with each other and share what's been going on with you by meeting virtually. We play a game, check in, hear a tiny bit of bible, pray for each other, bless each other, with room for all our feelings and experiences.

Links to meetings are sent out weekly by email. Contact Pastor Jen for the link or more info.

Pathways Youth Offering Care to Other Pilgrims

After school is finished, Pathways youth would like to be of help to others by doing yard work or having Zoom "playdates" with younger Pilgrim Children. Youth who are interested in serving, and adults who need some help with yard work or keeping kids busy and happy, please contact Rachel Boelke at **boelke@gmail.com**

God-Centered Camp (aka VBS)

Even though we needed to cancel our regular Vacation Bible School week in June, we are hoping to offer an abbreviated cross+generational option the evenings of **August 18-19**. We are also considering a virtual collaborative option for VBS for children to engage during the day at home in the summer months. Look for more info to come!

Camp Wapo: Camp in a Box

Camp Wapo staff will determined that for the safety at all, they will not be having regular camp sessions this summer. In June, they will send out information about 'Camp-in-a-Box', a virtual programming schedule, opportunities to engage in online camp activities with summer staff, and live streaming events at our sites. It's hard to imagine doing camp while not at camp — but this is the new reality for every one of our campers, and they're going to do our best to give them camp this summer. God is still showing up in powerful ways.

All Ages Pilgrim Camp with Camp Wapo

At Wilderness Canoe Base, Camp Wapo has decided to cancel their sessions through June. On June 1 they will announce the decision for July and August at Wilderness Canoe Base. That means that the possibility of All Ages Camp remains a possibility. If possible, 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!

Registration for Immanuel's Music and Arts Camp is Still Open

Immanuel Lutheran at this point is continuing with its Music and Arts Camp. We will communicate with you when we hear more from them. About a dozen Pilgrim children and youth attended this camp last year and loved it. All Pilgrims who have completed Kindergarten-8th grade are invited again this year! It is a summer day camp where faith and creativity connect in a God-centered environment. Teachers are local artists! This year's camp is August 10-14, with the theme "Love Is..." Cost is \$175 (and \$125 for each additional child). **Risk-free registration: If we need to cancel the camp due to COVID-19, you can receive a full refund of deposits and payments.** Please register using this link:
<http://ilcsp.org/imac/>

Youth Pathways Cabin Getaway this Summer

We are sad to share that we need to postpone our Pathways Cabin Getaway that was scheduled for July 14-16 for the health and safety of all. Thank you to Mark and Lee Gunsten for their kind offer to host us at their cabin. We will look for ways to gather like this again when the government and CDC advises it will be safe.

2021 ELCA Youth Gathering

The 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering will be in Minneapolis, NEXT **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**.

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

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



Prayer Corner

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

Concerns: Art and Bev Stolp, who have both been diagnosed with COVID-19; For our governor and all Minnesota public servants, as they lead and serve our whole state; for our national and international leaders, for wisdom during this pandemic; for the vulnerable in our society; Jan Harper, partner of Jean Hay, in palliative care at home, for metastasized lung cancer; Judy Boehm, health concerns; John Fabie, cancer treatment.

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: Virgil Leif Tastad, born to Katie and Andrew Tastad on May 1; Richard Hanson born to Devin and Marissa Hanson on April 28; Sorrel (Rory) Jasper Anderson born to staff member Denika and her spouse Ned Anderson on April 22; Inho Robert McAdory-Kim, born to Jaymin Kim and Sara McAdory-Kim on January 31; Hanna Ruby Heggeseeth born to Brianna and Paul Heggeseeth 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: Family and friends of Jean Hay, former member of Pilgrim, who died on April 21; Caleb Drexler Booth and family, on the death of his uncle, Craig Breimhorst, on April 16, from COVID-19; Craig Goldman, on the death of his sister Carol; family and friends of Mary Lou Jacobson, a former member, who died on March 22; Lois and Richard Wintersteen, on the death of Lois' sister Norma on March 31; Ross Radtke, on the death of his grandmother on February 9; 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;

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

June Birthdays

Week One

Marlys Aukee; ,Marcia Swinney-Shay; Diane Brehmer; Joan Haan; Michael McCullough; Corissa Bussian; Lynn Ellingson; Jaimee Hendrikson; Gail Steward; Sam Tosteson

Week Two

Trisha Reinwald; Janet Erickson; Kai Johnson; Ingrid Peterson-Johnson; Misty Rossi; James Boehm; Cheryl Eia; Craig Goldman

Week Three

Ashley Mergens; Crosby Hendrikson; Jennifer Rome; Peter Laudert; Zig Schuessler; Ivy Spindler; Shawn Jarosch; Eleanor Wilson; Peter Spuit; Bryan Stauning

Week Four

Adelaide Wilson; Patricia Schulz; Kristin Grangaard; Susanna Kathleen Harrington; Linnea Radtke; Alder James Reinwald; Dave Rossi

Week Five

Elizabeth Madson Ankeny; Maxwell Robertson; Michael Lawson

June Anniversaries

3 Kelly and Jeff Robertson
5 Andrew Barry and Leslie Brandt
6 Michael Boe and M. Brian Hartz
12 Matthew and Kate Spindler
13 Joanna Deer and Jay Oakman
19 Matthew and Michelle Christenson

19 Leo and Mary Beth Lake
21 Kaydee Kirk and Peter Spuit
22 Sam and Kate Tosteson
26 Tai-Jen Liu and Ron Woltjer
28 David and Jane Toeniskoetter
29 Penny Bartz and Kent Miller
29 Allen and Phyllis Zumach



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Deadline for the July Pilgrim Newsletter

The deadline for sending in materials for the July Pilgrim newsletter is **June 17**. As usual, please send things to **serenapilgrim@gmail.com**.

Have You Remembered Pilgrim in Your Will?

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

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

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.

An Invitation to Connect on Facebook

Please consider connecting with Pilgrim on Facebook, either on our public page, our parent group, or both!

If you are new to Facebook, click

<https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/facebook101/> for a series of tutorials on getting started. You are also welcome to email our communications specialist, Denika Anderson, for additional help if needed.