

# The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



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December 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 Hours:** by appointment only  
for duration of COVID-19 pandemic  
(*email and voice mail are checked regularly*)

## Staff

**Pastor Carol Tomer**

*Lead Pastor (full time)*  
pastorcaroltomer@gmail.com

**Pastor Jen Rome**

*Pastor of Next Generation Ministries (full time)*  
pastorjenrome@pilgrimstpaul.org

**Rev. Lynn Peterson**

*Pastor in Residence  
(Pastoral care ministry, 5-8 hrs. per month)*

**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

**Alex Theship-Rosales**

*Director of Children, Youth,  
and Family Ministries (1/2 time)*  
alextheshiprosales@pilgrimstpaul.org

**Pamela Erwin**

*Interim Director of Shared Ministry  
(1/2 time)*

pamelaerwin@pilgrimstpaul.org

**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)*  
communications@pilgrimstpaul.org

**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, *Executive Team*

Tim Moore, *Executive Team*

Karla Leitzman, *Executive Team*

Jason Hendrikson, *Treasurer/Executive Team*

Pastor Carol Tomer, *Executive Team*

Janet Erickson, *At-Large Member*

Timothy Bell-Kemp, *At-Large Member*

Lois Wintersteen, *At-Large Member*

Matt Spindler, *At-Large Member*

## Other Chairpersons/Roles

Pete Newburg, *Financial Secretary*

Barbara McCauley, *Chair of Congregational  
Life and Care*

Beth Nelson and Jay Oakman, *Properties*

**MeeAe Kim, Aly Xiong, Bethany Mollman**

**Jimmy Gerding, Ella Boelke**

*Nursery Attendants*

**Joanna Deer & Karie Johnson**

*Wedding Coordinators*

*Cover photo:*

*Photographer Bhargava MARRIPATI (free online)*

*Also seen in Pilgrim virtual contemplative worship*

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# December Worship Overview

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The Pilgrim COVID-19 Preparedness Plan has been posted on the Pilgrim website. The Pilgrim building is currently closed, except for small groups that have applied for use of the building, following safety guidelines. Please contact the church if you have questions. Meanwhile, our ministries continue!

## Sunday Worship in December *About Virtual Gatherings via Zoom*

We look forward to continuing to gather together, at the same time, for worship via Zoom, which will enable us to see each other on the screen, share joys and concerns by typing in the chat section (in morning worship), and stay for “coffee” time following worship. For those unable to attend at 9:30 am, a worship recording will be available later.

**9:20 am** — Zoom gathering opens, for arriving and pre-worship conversation; Prelude begins around **9:27 am**

**9:30 am** — Worship via Zoom

**10:20 am** — Coffee Conversation via Zoom, following worship

**10:40 am** — Forum via Zoom, on some Sundays

## Worship/Forum Details

**December 6 — Second Sunday of Advent**, Lighting of the Advent Candles and Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Lynn Peterson preaching

**Forum at 10:40 am — Hope: The Stupendous Gift?** — led by Pastor Julie Neraas — In this challenging time in our complicated world, hope may be our greatest need, its viability our greatest question. So many forces threaten to shuttle hope to the sidelines. Yet hope is resilient. In this conversation we consider hope’s nature; how it is different than optimism, related to faith and the imagination, and often birthed in community. Julie Neraas is a spiritual director, ordained Presbyterian clergywoman, and former professor at Hamline University. She is the author of *Apprenticed to Hope: A Sourcebook for Difficult Times* (Augsburg, 2009), which includes reflections on a chronic illness, *Seeing The Sacred: A Year in Snapshots* (Wipfandstock, 2020), and the forthcoming *Hope and Poetry: How They Sustain Us*.

**December 13 — Third Sunday of Advent**, Lighting of the Advent Candles and Point for Pilgrims, Retirement Blessing for Mike Schulze, Pastor Carol Tomer preaches

**10:20 am — Virtual Advent Coffee Time**

**8 pm — Compline: Choral Contemplative Prayer**, live streamed via Facebook

**December 20 — Fourth Sunday of Advent**, Cross+Generational, Interactive Advent Worship, Lighting of the Advent Candles and Point for Pilgrims, Homily by Alex Theship-Rosales  
**9:10 am** — Zoom gathering opens for arriving and pre-worship conversation  
**9:20 am** — Extended prelude begins  
**10:20 am** — **Virtual Advent Tea and Sharing of Christmas Memories**

**Thursday, December 24 — Christmas Eve**

**4 pm — Virtual Christmas Program and Worship for All Ages**, Homily by Pastor Jen Rome  
‡ **3:40 pm** — Zoom gathering opens for arriving and pre-worship conversation  
‡ **3:50 pm** — Extended prelude begins  
Virtual Christmas coffee time follows worship  
**7 pm — Virtual Festival Worship Service**, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching  
‡ **6:40 pm** — Zoom gathering opens for arriving and pre-worship conversation  
‡ **6:50 pm** — Extended prelude begins  
Virtual Christmas coffee time follows worship

**December 27 — First Sunday of Christmas**, Turning of the Year, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Jen Rome preaching  
**10:20 am** — **Virtual Christmas Coffee Time**

## Pilgrim Virtual Worship Is Available to Those Without Computers!

You can attend Pilgrim virtual morning worship by telephone. Those wishing to attend these worship gatherings in this way will need the following three pieces of information:

- ❖ Telephone number: 312-626-6799
- ❖ Meeting ID: 916 7782 1243
- ❖ Passcode: 994874

Once you have dialed the telephone number, you will be asked to enter the **Meeting ID** followed by the # (**pound sign**), and then the **Passcode** and **pound sign**. If the gathering has not yet been started by the host, you will be asked to try again later, so please don't call in much before **9:20 am** begins.

The Meeting ID and Passcode will be available in the Saturday congregational emails, for morning worship, and will also be a part of the Pilgrim general voicemail message, available on Thursdays.

# Contemplative Evening Worship, Winter 2021

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Sunday Night Contemplative Worship Services offer you an opportunity to keep your spirits warm and nourished during the long winter months. You are invited to attend these services from the comfort of your home via Zoom. These services will include the well-loved Word Weavings that we have used since 2002, along with contemplative liturgy and elements of Holden Evening Prayer.

The schedule for winter will be:

**January 10, 24, and February 14 at 6:51 pm.**

*Woven Together in Spirit Liturgy* with *Word Weavings*, followed by reflection and conversation.

**February 28, March 14 and 28 at 6:51 pm.**

*Holden Evening Prayer* with *Word Weavings* followed by reflection and conversation.

We hope you will consider being woven together with us in Spirit through these contemplative worship services. Information regarding connection will be available as the dates draw near.

## Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol

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I had the gift recently of “attending” a gathering of the Iona Community in Scotland. Via Zoom, we were able to come together from all over the world to listen to various poets and authors from the Iona Community share reflections. John Bell — a gifted musician, composer, writer, and leader — shared a poem that I want to share with you. I invite you to read this several times and then share with me or others about what came to mind as you read it. Did you think about our pandemic unknowns ahead? Or your past journeys of life? Or, new adventures that you are considering? Or the journey towards death? I invite you not to stumble over the title; consider the fullness of the poem and the ways we have all faced unknowns in the past and will continue to do so, as individuals, as communities, as people of faith.

Here’s the piece (and it can be found in the book *He Was in the World* by John Bell, 1995):

“I Never Wanted to be Born “

*The older I grew,  
the fonder I became of my mother’s womb  
and it’s warmth  
and it’s safety.*

*I feared the unknown:  
the next world,  
about which I knew nothing  
but I imagined the worst.*

*Yet, as I grew older,  
I sensed in my soul  
That the womb was not my home forever.*

*Though I did not know when,  
I felt sure that one day  
I would disappear through a door  
which had yet to be opened,  
and confront the unknown  
of which I was afraid.*

*And then,  
it happened.*

*In blood, tears and pain,  
it happened.*

*I was cut off from the familiar;  
I left my life behind  
and discovered not darkness but light,  
not hostility but love,  
not eternal separation  
but hands that wanted to hold me.*

*I never wanted to be born.*

*I don't want to die.*

*The older I grow,  
the fonder I become  
of this world  
and its warmth  
and its safety.*

*I fear the unknown:  
the next world,  
about which I know nothing  
but imagine the worst.*

*Yet as I grow older,  
I sense in my soul  
that this world is not my home forever.*

*Though I do not know when,  
I feel that one day  
I will disappear through a door  
which has yet to be opened.*

*Perhaps having come so safely through the first door,  
I should not fear so hopelessly the second.*

There are many doorways in our lives. The season of Advent is one of those doorways, a time of beginning again, in the rhythms of the Christian calendar. This year, this holy season is so very different, as we journey even more deeply into what Covid and separation and longing mean for us and how they are re-shaping so many dimensions of this festival season. I am grateful that we are making this journey together. I pray that we will — each and together — discover new spiritual lessons in this season. And that we will receive the good news of the gospel, as if for the first time, that the light and grace of God made manifest in God Emmanuel — God with us — is greater than any unknowns ahead.

*Pastor Carol*

## Pastoral Musings by Pastor Jen

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Christmas 2020 will be different. With the limits and dangers of COVID, we will need to re-invent our traditional Christmas celebrations. We can do this and Christmas can be meaningful. Remember of other times you had a different kind of Christmas in your life. On your own serving overseas. Your first holiday away from your parents. Your first holiday with children grown and with their own lives. The first holiday you had to work. The first holiday you spent en route. A holiday you had to stay home sick. Our brains tend to gloss over those different Christmases and instead lump all the similar ones together. But we have done this before, altering traditions or expectations to create meaning and connection at Christmastime.

- ❖ Name what will not happen this year. Go ahead and grieve it. Cry if you want to.
- ❖ What will you do differently this year to celebrate Christmas?
- ❖ How can you receive the joy and love Christ brings at Christmas this year?
- ❖ How can you share the joy and love Christ brings at Christmas this year?

Ask someone to listen to you, to come up with some realistic possibilities, to make a plan. Talk to someone about your Christmas plan so it doesn't just exist in your imagination but is ready to "come to pass", to "become flesh and dwell among us," to "tell of good news of great joy" that Christ has for us. Jesus is used to the mess of life; we can trust the Holy Spirit that Jesus will come to us in different and smaller ways this Christmas.

*Pastor Jen*

# Alex's Musings

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## Youth Leadership Summit Reflections

On November 6-7, Pilgrim high school Seniors Eliana Bly and Henry Reiley participated in the ELCA's Youth Leadership Summit! The event is a collaborative summit for youth leaders to meet one another across the ELCA and abide in important discussions – while also worshipping and having fun!

I was very inspired by the leadership of the youth in this event – there was one adult curator, but 90% of everything that occurred was led directly by youth. Worship was modern and up-beat, jokes were shared between sessions, small groups were conducted by youth leaders – and one of the most inspiring parts for me was a session on ELCA World Hunger. The youth leader of this breakout room talked about our global community, encouraged dialogue between participants, shared their own story on entering the leadership position, and reflected on how easy it is to make a difference. The Summit's theme was "Living Reflections" and she highlighted that reflecting God involves compassion – saying that reflecting God is not about what we do as much how we do it, who we are and whose we are. So inspirational! I believe in this model of "youth are either leading or leaving (the church)" very deeply and hope to continue to promote the leadership of Pilgrim children, youth, and families. Eliana's reflection encapsulates the energy and sincerity of the Summit: "It was really fun in the morning and evening services to watch them sing and dance. The small group activities were also fun, because we got to connect with people from all across the U.S., including Florida, Pennsylvania, and California. One of my main takeaways is that God is not only in small miracles, but also every act of love or kindness that we give to others."

Pilgrims, let's keep striving to do loving actions because of whose we are and remember that God is in each and every one of those acts of love and kindness.

## CYF Events Through the End of the Year

### Advent Activities

Advent is here – we await the coming of Immanuel. Wreaths will be assembled at home online. On November 25, Children watched a Facebook Live stream with fun instructions, and later in the evening middle and high school Pathways created wreaths together virtually. Check out the Pilgrim Parent Facebook page for an instructional video on creating an Advent wreath of your own and look for Advent devotions to come via email. If you would like help accessing any of these resources please reach out to me ([alextheshiprosales@pilgrimstpaul.org](mailto:alextheshiprosales@pilgrimstpaul.org)).

Looking forward, due to new COVID guidelines, our two planned Pathways events, Minnehaha hike and Accompaniment Day, had to be cancelled/adjusted.

Nonetheless, this December, Children, Youth and Family ministry will be experiencing a bit of a transitional period – reflecting on LIGHT Nights, engaging in a collaborative, COVID-adaptive Christmas Program, and planning for a new year of CYF work at Pilgrim. And! We still have two great events to look forward to, as well as a potential adaptation of Accompaniment Day:

**Friday, December 18, 7 pm, virtual – A Pathways Christmas Party** to wrap up the year, talk about plans for Christmas, share, and have fun!

**Sunday, December 6, 12 pm, virtual – Water Where We Live: Youth Water Stories through Spoken Word**

Pathways youth are invited to connect virtually, discuss water justice, and creatively share their water stories as guided by Joe Davis is a nationally-touring artist, educator, and speaker based in Minneapolis, MN, and former Artist-Theologian in Residence at Pilgrim. Joe's faithful work around justice employs poetry, music, theater, and dance to shape culture. Joe will be leading church youth in conversation and expression of water in daily life as it connects to faith, vocation, stewardship in 2020.

Contact Alex to sign up or for more information!

## Summer!

Get these dates on your calendar – registration details to come this winter for WAPO ☺

- ❖ Camp WAPO: Seeds Camp **July 23-25 2021** & Youth Camp & Sr. High Camp **July 25-30 2021**
- ❖ Vacation Bible School: **June 14-18 2021**
- ❖ Middle & High School Pathways retreat: **July 13-15 2021**

*Alex Theship-Rosales  
Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries*



# Music Notes, December 2020



*By Paul Stever, Music Director*

## Compline on December 13 at 8 pm

Pilgrim tenors and basses are again working this month to prepare a short service based on the liturgy for bedtime called “compline.” Our hope is to be able to sing an Advent compline service on Facebook Live on Sunday, **December 13 at 8 pm** and to make that recording available for listening any time after the service. A Facebook account is not required, you can either click the link on the Pilgrim website that leads to the Facebook live events or go directly to the Pilgrim Facebook page, a good link is **[www.facebook.com/pg/PilgrimStPaul/events/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/PilgrimStPaul/events/)**. If you missed the Nov 1 service, our first Facebook Live service, you can still listen at **<https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimStPaul/videos/286994779142250>**



## Vestry News

### Pilgrim Financial Update Through October 2020

*By Jason Hendrikson, Pilgrim Treasurer*

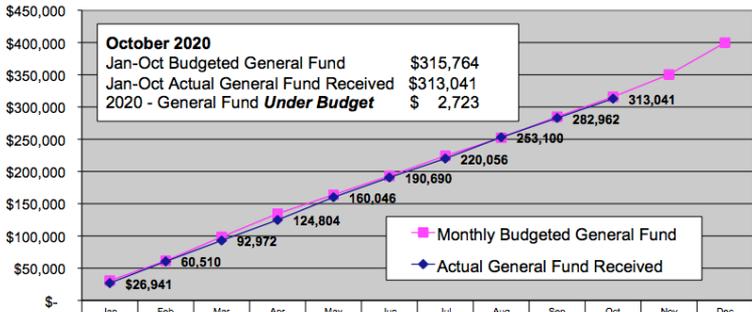
As we enter the final months of the year, we thought it a good time for a quick financial update and to thank you for your generous support. Pilgrim giving through October is slightly short of budget by \$2,719. In a challenging environment, this continues to be good news and 2020 giving continues to be slightly ahead of giving in 2019.

Through October, budgeted expenses continue to be underspent by \$49,841 and overall Pilgrim is operating close to \$46,000 under budget when looking at all revenues and expenses. This does not happen without a lot of hard work from Pilgrim Staff, Ministry Teams and Members – Thank you! We will continue to keep you updated as we enter the budgeting season for 2021.

*The Pilgrim, December 2020*

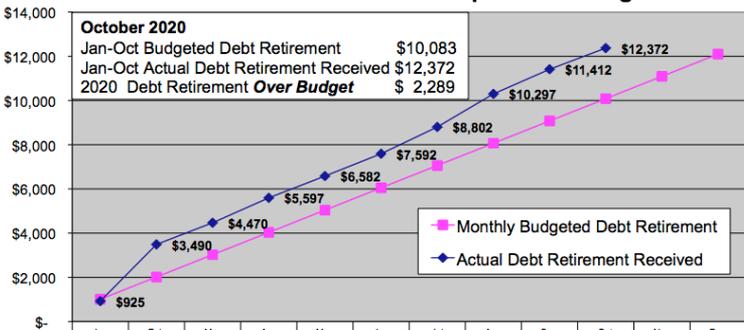
## 2020 General Fund Received Compared to Budget

(Giving that covers multiple months is averaged out monthly over the pledge period)



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Budgeted General Fund	\$30,681	61,424	98,570	134,560	183,841	193,175	224,284	252,285	284,077	315,764	360,395	399,815
Actual General Fund Received	\$26,941	60,510	92,972	124,804	160,046	190,690	220,056	253,100	282,962	313,041		

## 2020 Debt Retirement Compared to Budget



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly Budgeted Debt Retirement	\$1,008	\$2,017	\$3,025	\$4,033	\$5,042	\$6,050	\$7,058	\$8,067	\$9,075	\$10,083	\$11,092	\$12,100
Actual Debt Retirement Received	\$925	\$3,490	\$4,470	\$5,597	\$6,582	\$7,592	\$8,802	\$10,297	\$11,412	\$12,372		

# Education, Service & Fellowship

## Joint Church Anti-Racism Team (JCART) Update

*By Penny Bartz*

The first of several JCART learning activities was a great success! As you may recall, JCART is the collaboration of four local congregations (Pilgrim Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran, Fairmount Avenue United Methodist, and Macalester Plymouth United) to engage in learning opportunities and anti-racism work. The first of these opportunities occurred on November 15 when JCART hosted a virtual watch party of the TPT documentary “Dakota Exile, “ followed by small group discussion. In total, 63 people from the four congregations attended! It was an excellent turnout, and it was a great way to engage in an incredibly meaningful learning opportunity about our local history while in community with other

members of these local congregations. The following are the next JCART learning opportunities. We hope there will be a large turnout of Pilgrims who can join in these virtual learning events!

**December 1, 7 pm on Zoom:** Guided discussion of the book *Fort Snelling at Bdote, A Brief History* led by Macalester history professor, Dr. Katrina Phillips. The book teaches about the history of the Dakota people who were living in Minnesota at the time that Euro-American settlers came here. You do not need to have read the book to participate in the guided discussion!

**December 8, 7 pm Webinar:** Christine Diindiisi-Wallette McCleave, President of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, will give a lecture on the topic of Native American boarding schools and the relationship to Christian churches.

Look for the details about how to sign-up for and attend these events in the Pilgrim congregational emails.

## 2020 Silver Pilgrim Award: Joan Haan and Drew Johnson *By Tim Dykstal*

The Pilgrim congregation recognizes Joan Haan and Drew Johnson as 2020's Silver Pilgrim co-winners. We are recognizing Joan and Drew together for their recent and timely efforts advocating for economic and racial justice, but their service to Pilgrim goes way back.

Joan is a skilled facilitator and a social justice warrior. She was instrumental in our 2015 Water for Peace project, and has personally connected Pilgrims with Iraqi, Palestinian, and Native American speakers and partners in service. She has helped to bring fair trade products to Pilgrim, like coffee, cocoa, and olive oil, and she has visited and provided care for Pilgrim's homebound members. For years, she has enriched Pilgrim worship with her dancing.

Drew is a calming presence and an environmental champion. He has been a leader in Pilgrim's effort to divest from companies with fossil fuel holdings — an effort that has carried over to the Saint Paul Area Synod and the full ELCA. Closer to home, he has worked to improve the energy efficiency of our own physical plant, and — even closer to home, at an open house and home blessing event in the fall of 2019 — he invited Pilgrims to inspect how he and his family are implementing the switch from gas to electric power at their St. Paul home. For years, he has crafted prayers for Sunday worship that both speak to the moment and are full of larger meanings.

Recognizing Joan and Drew, together, in this year of reckoning with our country's and community's legacy of racial injustice, is especially appropriate. Pilgrim's latest effort toward this reckoning began with the *The Pilgrim, December 2020*

formation of a Racial Justice Team in the 2018-19 program year. That Team recognized that we — Pilgrims, but not just Pilgrims — have benefited from and been harmed by white privilege, that racism seeks to raise one group into privilege and power over another and thereby diminishes our world and church.

After a season of study, the Racial Justice Team summarized its work to the Vestry and continued as the rebranded Pilgrim Advocates for Racial Equity (ARE). The Team — again led by Joan and Drew — also recommended that the congregation formally join the interfaith alliance ISALAH, a vehicle for congregations, clergy, and people of faith to act collectively towards racial and economic justice in the state of Minnesota. After many months of discernment, and thanks in large part to Joan's and Drew's persistent advocacy, the Vestry voted to join ISALAH in April 2020. Joan and Drew continue to rally Pilgrims to support ISALAH's agenda using its community organizing model.

Given the times we are living in, the events of this summer locally, nationally, and internationally, the importance of Drew and Joan's work cannot be overstated. Their work is within Pilgrim but also faces outward and connects our community with those outside of our walls. They lead by example and with empathy and enthusiasm. They live the Gospel in thought, word, and deed.

## Caroling COVID-style

We can't sing in choirs, but 1-2 households can stand outside with masks on at 12 ft distance to sing Christmas carols for another household! We hope to bring the love and joy of Jesus born for us through short visits with a few carols and a prayer for Pilgrims at home!

If you are able to receive carolers (which means let them sing to you outside while you remain inside/at a distance—no inviting people in or offering treats), or if you know of a friend or neighbor who could really use some care and joy who is willing to receive caroler please contact Pastor Jen by **December 5**.

Caroling will take place **December 13-20**. There will be dates, times, and locations listed on a SignUp Genius where carolers can sign up to go and sing! Here's the link to sign up to go carol:

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ba5ac2fa5fb6-christmas1>**.

Pilgrim will email carolers a songbook as well as a prayer to use when caroling after you sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jen. We hope that this holiday activity can bring comfort, connection, and company during this strange holiday season.

# Book Club News

Date: **Thursday, December 17, 2020** at **7 pm**

Book: *The Art Forger* by B. A. Shapiro

This will be a Zoom meeting. The link will be sent out shortly before the meeting, so if you'd like to be added to the group list please contact Lynda Hirschboeck at [hirschbo@gmail.com](mailto:hirschbo@gmail.com).

## The Christian Journey of Aging

*A Pilgrim Series, Thursdays, 11 am,  
Every Other Week, via Zoom, for 75 Minutes*

*An Invitation from  
Pastor Carol Tomer and Pamela Erwin*

In these days, we are mindful of daily life that cannot be taken for granted, amidst the risks and unknowns that are re-shaping our lives. We are awakening to new perspectives and new ways of envisioning living in our world. The Christian faith and the Christian community grounds us in God's guidance throughout our lives, as we together explore where God is leading us in this time of life. Aging — something that we do throughout our lives — comes into view even more as our life journey “matures.” You are invited to these gatherings, regardless of age; we are not defining a minimum age for the gatherings. The gatherings are led by various Pilgrims and staff and supported by a new book titled *Aging*, by theologian William Willimon, which you need not read before or after these gatherings, but is a resource you might appreciate. Watch the congregational emails for short readings for each gathering.

**December 3** — Aging in Church — led by Larry Kohlenstein

**December 17** — Ending in God — led by Pastor Carol Tomer

Links for the zoom gathering each time will be posted on the Pilgrim website, on the Events During COVID page. Attendance via phone is also an option; contact the Pilgrim office for that information.

## Public Art Update

The Public Art Team, along with our partner Public Art Saint Paul, is in the process of finalizing a proposal that is a “Request for Qualifications” to see what artist would be interested in creating art for this project. After that the Public Art Team would have to narrow down the list of artists to three and then give them the opportunity to create a full proposal of art ideas. Look for more updates in the new year.

## Virtual More Than Happy Hour

*Wednesday, December 9, 6:30-7:30 pm*

More Than Happy Hour is a once-a-month space for young adults to gather and talk about life, church, and the world. We focus on a discussion *The Pilgrim, December 2020*

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

This month, we will continue the conversation about equity, racial disparity, and welcome within our own lives and in the life of the Pilgrim community.

In 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 dinner via Door Dash, and then from home, we can enjoy our dinner and talk in Zoom-land. Reach out to Hannah Olson at [hannahdelaine@gmail.com](mailto:hannahdelaine@gmail.com) by **November 1** so we can coordinate for payment for your dinner and make sure you get the Zoom link.

## Applications for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Program are now Being Accepted!

Applications are now being accepted for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program for the 2021-2022 program year. If you're a young adult ages 21 to 29, you can apply for an international service year that will shape your faith, career, identity and understanding of how you fit into God's work in the world.

Through YAGM, you'll learn what it means to serve in a spirit of accompaniment as you walk alongside global church companions. You'll immerse yourself in new community and form deep relationships with the people you meet. And you'll confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith. Possibilities include:

- ❖ **Health and human rights:** health care, HIV and AIDS, homelessness, immigration and refugees
- ❖ **Education:** fine arts, youth education, childhood education, working with people living with disabilities
- ❖ **Environmental justice:** agriculture and farming, development, environment
- ❖ **Professional support:** office work, communication, technology, finance
- ❖ **Congregational ministry:** children's ministry, Christian education, youth ministry, congregational ministry, camp ministry

Around the world, host families, churches, workplaces and communities are ready to welcome YAGM volunteers. Pilgrim Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Alex Theship-Rosales, participated in YAGM before coming to Pilgrim. Learn more and apply on the **ELCA website**. **Application deadline: January 15, 2021.**

# Pilgrim Mamas Gathering Virtually

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

## How To Be a Helper or Be Helped During This Time

In these challenging times, we are equipping Pilgrims in shared ministry and caring for one another. As a part of this commitment, we have a process whereby you can let us know of a need you have, and let us know how you can help to meet a stated need. You can read about it; there's a summary on the Pilgrim website home page, in the quick links section. It's titled, "**Being a Helper — Our New System.**"

Here's a direct link to the document: <http://tiny.cc/pao3qz>.

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## Children, Youth, & Families

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### 2020 Pilgrim Christmas Program

Pilgrim's 2020 Christmas Program is going to look a bit different this year! Nonetheless, we will share the Christmas story of God's love born to us in Jesus in a meaningful, fun, and unique way — all together! What we create will bring that love to all who see it.

The Christmas Program will be shared with the Pilgrim community at the Interactive Christmas Eve Worship Service for All Ages, **December 24 at 4 pm**, via Zoom.

Pilgrim families will sign up to make a video of one part of the story in your own words in your own ways.

We are breaking down the Christmas story into different parts based on the biblical stories. Creative liberties are yours! Interpret the text in a way that excites you — whether that's dressing up and acting, reading the original text while showing drawings or dance, a stop-motion film, puppets, or whatever stirs the artist within you! There are also several parts that are primarily musical. If you would like any coaching for your video contribution content, please contact Pastor Jen, who will connect you with a coach!

Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/y43plesp> to make a video segment ASAP! If for whatever reason, the options listed are not working for you, please contact Pastor Jen — we will find a creative solution together!

**Videos need to be turned in by December 7.** Please contact Pastor Jen or Alex with any follow-up questions.



# Prayer Corner

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**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; for our national and international leaders, for wisdom during this pandemic; for the vulnerable in our society, including those suffering with COVID-19, those who are unemployed, those struggling with depression and other mental health issues.

**Ongoing Health Concerns:** Eleanor Boyer, mother of Elaine Boyer-Haymond, in hospice care; for Josh Moss' mother, Darlene Moss, and their loved ones, in hospice care for brain cancer; Serena Asta, chronic neurological Lyme disease; Lisa Berg; Lillian Knutson; Mike Regal, Chuck's son, ongoing care following a serious motorcycle accident; Cathy Comeford, sister of Jeanne Comeford, undergoing treatment for cancer; Daniel Leshner, for physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

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

**Christian Sympathy:** Family and friends of Mardell Johnson, who died on November 9; family and friends of Dick Johnson, who died on October 2; Sara McAdory-Kim and family, on the death of her aunt Marcia McAdory Rachel on September 26; Hannah Schendel, on the death of her great-uncle, Edwin Monroe Cronk; family and friends of Jan Harper, former Pilgrim member and spouse of Jean Hay, who died on August 31; family and friends of former Pilgrim member Wilbur Decker, who died on August 11; Jason Henrikson, on the death of his father, John, on August 3; Karie Johnson, on the death of her uncle, Donald Ostergaard, on July 25; Drew Johnson, on the death of his grandfather, Ted Anderson, on July 17; Lois and Richard Wintersteen, on the death of their granddaughter, Bethany Kennedy, from pancreatic cancer, on July 15; Peter Spuit and family, on the death of Peter's uncle, Mark, who died by suicide the week of May 17; the Heggeseth family, on the death of Paul's uncle and Brianna's great-aunt; 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; Lois and Richard Wintersteen, on the death of Lois' sister Norma on March 31; family and friends of Mary Lou Jacobson, a former member, who died on March 22; Ross Radtke, on the death of his grandmother on February 9.

**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

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## December Birthdays

### *Week 1*

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Jeff Holisky  
Martin Johnson  
Chris Montgomery  
David Toeniskoetter  
Michael Jacobsen  
Mary Jahnke  
Patricia Sween  
Corby Lewis  
Ben Riekenberg  
Hannah Riekenberg

### *Week 2*

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Kate Kari Lewis  
Everett Smith  
Allen Zumach  
Marsha Foss  
Brett Kahnert

### *Week 3*

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Daniel Ninow  
Ellie Greseth  
M. Brian Hartz  
John Askew, Sr  
Katharine Drexler Booth

### *Week 4*

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Maren Heggeseth  
Elizabeth Haan  
Abram Whetstone  
Karla Leitzman  
Cormac McElrath

### *Week 5*

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Barbara Holisky  
Laura Jameson  
Jen Sherman  
Annabel Batalden  
Sophia Klepp  
Lizz Sable Stauning  
Tom Johnson  
Kurt Schultz  
Sophia Oakman  
Emily Elizabeth Stever  
Bruno Lincoln Bussian  
Ethan Christenson  
Lucas Mueller  
Laetitia Schulze

## December Anniversaries

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

# Deadline for the January Pilgrim Newsletter

The deadline for sending in materials for the October Pilgrim newsletter is **December 15**. As usual, please send things to **serenapilgrim@gmail.com**.

## 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.

## Have You “Liked” Pilgrim Yet?

Be sure to visit the Facebook page and Pilgrim website to keep up with Pilgrim news, events, announcements.

**<https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimStPaul>**  
**<http://www.pilgrimstpaul.org>**

## 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. “

