

Dear Pilgrim Vestry, families and choir singers!

March 26, 2017

It is with true sadness that I am writing to tell you that I will be resigning from my position at Pilgrim as of June 4<sup>th</sup>, the last Sunday when the choirs will be singing. I have truly enjoyed the almost 5 years I have been working with the kids and families at Pilgrim. I have enjoyed being a part of the Pilgrim Community and part "Lutheran!"

As I have shared, I was born and raised Congregational/ United Church of Christ. My Dad was a minister and even during my 4 years at St Olaf I attended the UCC church in Northfield! It has been a blessing, but difficult, being part of two churches since I started at Pilgrim. I feel like Pilgrim would benefit from a choir director who could be a more full time, participating member. It has been difficult for me to really get to know people, other than kids and their families, so I have always felt to be a bit on the fringe. This of course is not Pilgrim's fault, but a product of trying to be involved in two churches.

I am also a middle school teacher at heart and have tried really hard to keep those kids who were in choir with me 4 ½ years ago involved so that I could spend some quality musical time with them but their schedules didn't allow for their continued participation. Fortunately there have been an abundance of younger kids coming in to the Children's Choir and I do enjoy working with them too!

I have been very proud and impressed with the way that Pilgrim has embraced my choices of music, my suggestions for Christmas Pageants and the Musicals. I have felt very free to try different and new things with the kids and their music and for this I am very grateful. My life has also been totally enriched by meeting and working with the kids and their parents and getting to know many of you very well in our work together. I will miss you all. I have appreciated the way you have jumped in and helped and been involved. I also regret the lost connection with some of the kids as they have gotten older.

Pilgrim is an amazing place and as you begin your LIFT work it will be a good time to bring in a new (and probably younger) Children's Choir director. I would be happy to serve in any way that it is helpful to on-board and assist in the orientation of a new director. I am not moving away, and will be continuing my work as a theatre director for Rosetown and for church musicals.

Please know that as I felt called to come and work at Pilgrim, I have found it welcoming and very open to my crazy ideas and different ways of doing things. I will miss so many things and so many people, but I also feel called to move on.

Sincerely and with great respect and love for Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Margot Olsen

