

The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



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August 2020

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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Joanna Deer & Karie Johnson

Wedding Coordinators

*Cover Photo: Carol Tomer, of stepping stone
created by Mary Jahnke, about 20 years ago!*

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 August

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

Sunday Worship in August

About Virtual Worship Gatherings *via Zoom at 9:30 am on August 2, 9, and 16*

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, and stay for “coffee” time following worship. For those unable to attend at **9:30 am**, a YouTube video will be available later.

August 2 — Guest preacher: Pastor Verlon Brown, a pastor of Central Lutheran Church in Seattle, former Holden Village pastor, and former case manager for people living with homelessness. Worship will include a Point for Pilgrims for all ages.

August 9 — Preacher: Pastor Jen Rome. Worship will include a Point for Pilgrims for all ages.

August 16 — Guest preacher: Pastor Babette Chatman, a pastor of Augsburg University, former Renewer-in-Residence at Pilgrim. Worship will include a Point for Pilgrims for all ages.

Possible Outdoor Worship With Communion on August 23 & 30 at 9:30 am

We are hoping to gather for **outdoor worship with communion** on **Sundays, August 23 & 30 at 9:30 am**. Details are still pending, so please stay tuned. If we are able to do this, we will follow public health guidelines for large outdoor gatherings. That will include wearing masks. Music will be led by worship leaders. Worshipers will be invited to hum, but not to sing. We will ask people to bring their own bread and grape juice for communion. And, we hope to post worship in some form later, for those who choose to stay home for health reasons.

SPECIAL INVITATION: We hope to make lawn signs for Pilgrims to pick up, to spread the invitation to these outdoor worship gatherings. Stay tuned for word of when the lawn signs are ready for you to pick up at church.

August 23 – Outdoor worship celebration with communion,
Preacher: Pastor Carol Tomer. Worship will include a Point for Pilgrims for all ages.

August 30 – Outdoor worship celebration with communion
Worship will include a Point for Pilgrims for all ages.

Pilgrim Welcomes These Special Guest Preachers



Pastor Verlon Brown



Pastor Babette Chatman

Pilgrim Virtual Worship Now Available to Those Without Computers!

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

- ❖ Telephone number: **312-626-6799** (this is a Chicago, IL, number, and it will NOT change)
- ❖ Meeting ID: this number will change weekly (usually 11 digits)
- ❖ Passcode: this number will also change weekly (usually 6 digits)

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 before **9:20 am**.

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

Pastoral Musings

On the Road We Live as Pilgrims, in August, in Each Day

A marking, reflective words from *The New York Times*, an experiment, a prayer for these days, guest preachers this month in worship on Sunday mornings via Zoom, a poem, and a closing prayer:

The journey, of standing on ground that is shifting under our feet, continues. On July 23rd, **I marked 32 years** of serving in pastoral ministry. I was ordained on Birgitta of Sweden's commemoration day. Little did I know that I would later serve in Sweden. And little did any of us know that in the year 2020, all of us in ministry, ordained or lay ministers of many and varied roles, would have the opportunity to re-imagine so much of ministry!

Lutheran pastor Emily Scott shared a recent reflection in *The New York Times* — **a particularly relevant reflection for Pilgrims**, as we live ever more deeply into the meanings of being “pilgrims.” Here are some excerpts from her piece:

Start Looking, and You'll See Roads All Over the Bible

The pandemic has scattered us from our communal rituals. But that isn't where our journey should end.

....Jesus gathered people (especially around tables), but he also scattered them. Early in the Gospels, Jesus sent his newly recruited disciples out to heal and cast out demons. They didn't have much in the way of supplies, and in two accounts, they're sent not in pairs, but entirely alone.

Start looking, and you'll see roads all over the Bible. These solitary travelers journeyed in situations of great uncertainty, much like our own. Their destinations may have been clear, but their futures were less so. Somewhere along the way, however, they always encountered something unexpected: the astonishing presence of the sacred.

Jacob, for instance, ended up in a wrestling match with God as he journeyed. A court official of the Ethiopian queen is baptized by the side of a thoroughfare. Two disciples trudging along a dusty byway, having heard the news of Jesus' death, find that he was walking with them all along. And Paul hears God's voice and ends up blind on the way to Damascus.

A road is an unlikely metaphor for a pandemic that has us stuck at home. But what happens when we see ourselves as purposefully scattered — sent out on an unexpected journey, traveling solo? In the bible, the road is often a place of desolation and isolation, but also of

encounter. A road has direction; it carries us from an old life to a new one.

Perhaps there's something about being jolted away from our rituals and routines for a time that helps us see their value in new ways. We never planned to walk this path, but it's given us a shock of clarity. At once, we are suddenly unemployed, attempting to both parent and work full time, hesitating about next year's college plans, or fearful of illness.

Shaken from our routines, many are asking new questions. Do we really need to spend hours commuting? Should work be such a priority when our parents won't be around forever? Why not make that change we've dreamed of now? Societally, there's sudden clarity as well. We see the perilous failures of a health care system that leaves so many to fend for themselves, an economy that leaves so little margin for disaster. We can see the vast liabilities of the old life.

Instead of clamoring to go "back," we can turn, and face into a future that is uncertain, but rife with possibilities to build a world that is more compassionate. There are others on the road ahead of us: the protesters who've flooded our streets, risking their health to call for a nation free of racist brutality. They can see a new world.

The church, too, can head out on the road. Our buildings may be locked tight, but the world beckons, aching with need for justice and restoration. What if we are not barred from the meal we long for, but simply turned toward the table's counterbalance?

On the road, I eschewed church for a time, but communion found me anyway....

During this pandemic, I can't depend on communion each Sunday as I used to. But there will still be bread. Here, on the road, between the old life and a new one, we have the opportunity to be remade. Who will we choose to become?

A new experiment: Embodied rituals and local pilgrimages, on two upcoming **Saturdays, August 15 & 29**. The stay at home order has ended, and so we have a variety of opportunities for the communion of community, where two or three are gathered in Christ's name. How shall we steward the non-home opportunities of ministry in these days? Here's one way: This past month, we gathered for worship under the canopy of beautiful, tall trees, in a big circle, and we shared in centering movements of Tai Chi Chih, blessing the gifts of God in earth and each other, and **prayers of intersectionality**, before we walked together in varied Pilgrim groupings on our local pilgrimage. Here are three prayers I led on that morning:

Gracious God, we feel you moving in these days. Keep moving, every day, among us all. We pray: Give courage for the making of justice.

Holy One, open to us an awareness of the depths of intersectionality, the ways in which race, class, gender, and other aspects of our identities “intersect” and interact, including experiences of oppression and privilege, interpersonally and systemically. Keep opening us all, every day. We pray: Give courage for the making of justice.

Holy Spirit, in the words of Otis Moss III, speed up the day when all of God’s children in our nation, whether Black or White, Muslim or Methodist, Asian or Atheist, Latino or Lutheran, Presbyterian or Pentecostal, Protestant or Catholic, Jew or Gentile, Queer or Quaker, Agnostic or Anglican, Baptist or Buddhist, Hindu or Holiness, Ghetto or Country, Sikh or Sanctified, Redneck or Reform, Urban or Suburban will be able to join hands and sing of our freedom. Keep moving among us, every day. We pray: Give courage for the making of justice.

We’re continuing to gather for 9:30 am Sunday morning worship via zoom this month, after shifting to this new approach in mid-July. It’s a great gift to see one another on the screen, to share joys and concerns during this gathering, and to stay for “coffee” conversation following worship. And, for those who don’t use computers, there is a Zoom option of calling in by phone for worship. As part of our August worship, it is a joy to welcome **two special guest preachers**. Pastor Babette Chatman was one of the Pilgrim Renewers-In-Residence during my sabbatical in summer, 2018. Her witness that summer was deeply appreciated, so it is a great gift to be able to welcome her to return to preach again. And, it is a special personal joy to welcome Pastor Verlon Brown as a guest preacher this month as well. Back in 1990, Verlon succeeded me as Holden Village Pastor and has been a friend for years. One of the surprising gifts of this Covid-time, when we are gathering virtually for most of our worship, is that we can welcome preachers and teachers from afar, without adding to fossil fuel emissions in the world. Extraordinary gifts in an extraordinary time!

Lastly, such a **relevant poem for these days** that Thomas Becknell pointed us to at the gathering of the Pilgrim evening community in July:

***Threshold* by Maggie Smith**

You want a door you can be / on both sides of at once.
You want to be / on both sides of here
and there, now and then, / together and—(what
did we call the life / we would wish back?
The old life? The before?) / alone. But any open
space may be / a threshold, an arch
of entering and leaving. / Crossing a field, wading
through nothing / but timothy grass,
imagine yourself passing from / and into. Passing through
doorway after / doorway after doorway.

Source: *Poetry* (February 2020)

And, one more prayer:

Gracious God, lead us on the road in these times too. Amen.

Pastor Carol Tomer

Pastor Jen Says a Couple Things

When COVID changed our lives in March, we thought surely things would be back to normal by the time school started again. And here we are in August, looking at a very different Fall than we might have otherwise. We have learned so much in the last months. We have grieved and cried for justice for the murder of George Floyd and so many others; faced accountability for our own racism and fostered hope; done many experiments and connected in unusual ways. Our faith and doubt keep changing and growing. And in all these things, I give thanks for God and humanity's co-creation—the internet. Thank God for the internet! Seriously! Because of the internet, children, youth, and families will be able to see each other's faces at church programing in the fall.

Sunday School and Youth Pathways will take place online once a week. You might see some similarities from Virtual Family Faith Formation or Zoom check-ins; but this will be its own thing. You might see some similarities to Sunday School and Pathways as you remember it; but this will have a life of its own. The Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Team and staff will not be attempting to replicate our old Sunday mornings online. With that brings some limits, but also some freedom we didn't have before! God is co-creating with us, drawing on the deep designer in all of us as we give this a go.

At the point of writing this for this newsletter, the details have yet to be finalized. However, here's what we do know: together we will explore Justice, Love, and Connection. Justice will come in the first three weeks, as we wonder about and create from key phrases of protest from Black Lives Matter, what God is teaching us through those phrases, and where those phrases echo in Jesus' own words and actions. Even young Pilgrims can learn to "Say Their Names" and "No Justice, No Peace." Beloved teachers and friends will accompany us as we learn.

Look for details in emails to come, including schedule (we won't start up until a week or two of school is behind us) and special registration. In the meantime, please contact Alex or me with any questions!

What will God create with us this fall to bring Jesus' love and justice? I can't wait to see!

Pastor Jen

Our Life Together in Faith

Meeting One Another on the Journey, Literally! *Embodied, Centering Ritual To Begin the Day, Followed by a Local Pilgrimage*

By Pastor Carol Tomer

You are invited — to a special time of worshipping and journeying together, outside!

Our incarnational ways of connecting are evolving. Here's the latest version of our Perambulations and Ponderings:

In these days when God's creation beckons us to come outside, let's come together to meet one another for worship and walking.

On two Saturdays in August, we'll meet at the corner of West River Parkway and 42nd Street, just across the Ford Parkway Bridge, on the Minneapolis side of the Mississippi River. (It's near the Minnehaha Academy south campus.) That lovely, tree-lined parkway, the wide, green median, and Edmund Blvd that runs parallel to the parkway, offer us wide, welcoming ways to walk six-feet apart without difficulty, in groups of 3-4 people each. Plenty of space.

We will begin with a special time of worship, an embodied, centering ritual to begin the day. Here's what that will include:

- ❖ 5-10 minutes of Tai Chi Chih, led by Mary Weddle, accredited Tai Chi Chih instructor. She will lead us through these Chinese-rooted meditative movements to circulate the energy in our bodies, to support our centering practices in our daily lives.
- ❖ Reflective meditation
- ❖ Prayers of intersectionality
- ❖ Blessing of one another and the whole earth.

For this time of ritual, we'll stand in a circle, with ample space between us, God's beautiful earth under our feet, and lots of space above us! :)

Come for the ritual time, stay for the walk.

I will be there, at the corner, at 9 am. If you can't find me that morning, call me at **612-770-9648**.

Here are our upcoming Saturday gatherings (weather permitting, of course):

Saturday, August 15, 9 am

Saturday, August 29, 9 am

Per Minnesota guidelines:

We will spread out, maintaining a six-foot distance except within households. If we exceed being a group of 25 people, we will spread out even more. We are encouraged to wear masks, although it is not required. And we ask that you wash your hands before and after our time together, that you cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and that you stay at home if you are sick.

Gratitude for Special Donations to Pilgrim

Two special donations have been made to Pilgrim recently. We give great thanks for this generosity!

A Complete Set of *Luther's Works*

There's a 55-volume set of hardcover books, known as *Luther's Works*, that is a gathering of the work of Martin Luther. It includes Luther's expositions of various biblical books, as well as his Reformation writings and occasional pieces. An anonymous Pilgrim, active in the evening worshipping community, has offered to donate this complete set for the Pilgrim library, and we have accepted this wonderful donation. When we return to using the Pilgrim building, you'll see these 55 red books in one of the upper shelves of the library!

A Piano for Pilgrim — by Paul Stever

In fall 2019, it became clear to many of us who use the lower level choir and music room that our Chickering grand piano was no longer up to the task of helping us lead music for rehearsals very well in that space. Primarily, the issue was that it was going out of tune every two months and the cost for relevant repairs was over \$8000. We made do with the out of tune instrument, practiced more in the sanctuary than in the choir room, and occasionally used the electronic piano that the Swenson family donated to Pilgrim over 5 years ago. In early July 2020, Becky, Emily and I moved to Roseville and as a part of that moving of things around, we arranged for the Chickering in Pilgrim's choir room to be donated to our piano tuner, Stan Ragnes (a member of St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church in Plymouth) and my Kimball spinet style upright piano was donated and moved into the Pilgrim choir room. This piano was donated to me about 12 years ago by Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Phoenix, Arizona and made the moves with us from Arizona to Colorado in 2008, and to Minnesota in 2012. The piano still does quite well. In the case of both donations to me and now to Pilgrim, a grand piano came to replace its use (my grandmother wanted me to have her Baldwin grand piano when she died a few years ago). The Kimball was played for Pilgrims for the first time on Wednesday night, July 15 in a live stream zoom gathering where we sang Holden Evening Prayer and evening hymns. I hope it will serve Pilgrim well for a number of years yet.

Connection and Comfort: A Virtual Gathering of the Evening Community

Sunday, August 16, 6:51-7:51 pm

The Connection and Comfort virtual gatherings the evening community had in May, June, and July were grace-filled times of listening to poetry, listening to each other and listening to Spirit. We will enjoy this virtual community gathering again in August. This gathering will bring us together with:

- ❖ checking-in with each other (you may pass if desired);
- ❖ a reading of poetry and prayers chosen and read by a different evening worshiper each time; Pilgrim Joanne Sorenson will share poetry with us;
- ❖ reflection on guiding questions;
- ❖ sharing of your responses to the poetry, prayers, or guiding questions, if desired;

We will gather on Zoom. Look for the link to join the meeting in upcoming evening community emails or contact **pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org**.

Please join in these opportunities to feed our souls and build community among evening worshipers.

Education, Service & Fellowship

Young Adults: More Than Happy Hour

Tuesday, August 11, 6:15-7:15 pm
Virtual More Than Happy Hour

We'll continue exploring how to be an antiracist by reading the memoir ***The Yellow House* by Sarah M. Broom**. Please contact Pastor Jen if you would like a copy of the book. Even if you haven't read the book you're invited to have dinner, check in, and join the conversation anyways!

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!

In COVID-19 life, we're living up to our name — and this gathering will certainly be 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** by **August 7** so we can coordinate for payment for your dinner.

A Summer Salon of Sorts: Joke Night!

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 and community unrest and the work of transformation are our longings for connection and joy. So, the Pilgrim summer salon gathering, originally scheduled for June, will now take place in August, on **Sunday night, August 23, at 6:30 pm.** I invite you into a virtual time of joke telling. Think of it as a little trip to Holden! Bring a joke or two, or share a bit of fun news that might spread joy and laughter among us. We will plan to gather on the Pilgrim side lawn (weather permitting). Bring your own lawn chairs and masks. This is a gathering for all ages; jokes from younger Pilgrims are especially invited. (And please make sure all jokes are G-rated.)

Pilgrim Garden Group

By Shirley Fasching

Have you been enjoying Pilgrim's beautiful landscaping on the corner of Prior and St. Clair and along the front of the building? Three years ago, a group of Pilgrims developed a plan to beautify our outdoor space. Here is some information about the group and our evolving plans as we support our caring for creation shared ministry.

Summer, 2017

A small group met to discuss interest in caring for the Pilgrim garden beds on the SW corner of the church. The goal was to create a beautiful space of drought tolerant plants which would provide color throughout the seasons.

Developing such an area was determined to take about 3 years of work to reach maturity. Initial members included: Roger Sween, Shirley Fasching, Lynda Hirschboeck, Lois Holst, Judith Tande and Barbara Taylor.



Spring, 2018

Soil was amended with organic matter in two of the beds. Old plastic was removed and gardens were filled with a bio-degradable mulch intended to continue to replenish and rejuvenate the existing 'dead' soil. Existing plants were replanted. A volunteer weeding and watering schedule was initiated. Work also started in the east end of the garden beds and "grasses" were selected, planted, and is currently maintained by one of the volunteers.

Summer, 2019

The Garden Group was presented with an unusual opportunity. A Boy Scout group offered to cut down, clear out, and haul away several old, some dead, and otherwise nonproductive trees and bushes around the front of the church. We sifted, hauled and disposed of a considerable amount of rock and debris in a 10x10 bed. We completed the 2nd year planting plans.

Summer, 2020

Two (2), Degroot Spire Arborvitae were planted. One on each side of the entry door to create visual symmetry. Our group will continue to weed and water as well as transplant perennials from some of our participant's gardens to add some "color" at the sidewalk edge of the square bed and possibly bring a bit of the same "color" into the existing 'grasses' area.

Thanks very much for your support for Pilgrim's garden and landscape success. We are entering the 3rd and final year of the proposed plan. Please feel free to contact Shirley Fasching at faschingshirley@gmail.com, or Lynda Hirschboeck at hirschbo@gmail.com if you would like to join the group of gardeners, or volunteer to assist with watering over the summer.

An Update from the Young Adult Innovation Team

By Claire Kaiser

The Young Adult Innovation Team is a group of young adults in their 20's and 30's, including Pilgrims and others. Every month, we come together over an evening meal to connect, build relationships, and discuss spirituality in young adult life. We are also in the early stages of creating a public art project, which will increase visibility in the neighborhood and invite our neighbors into a conversation about what faith means to them. Both projects are funded by a grant from the Riverside Innovation Hub.

As the Twin Cities begin to heal in the wake of protests sparked by George Floyd's murder, the Young Adult Innovation Team is focusing our monthly discussions on the experiences of black and brown people in the United States in order to become better allies. Beginning this month we are reading *The Yellow House* by Sarah M. Broom, a memoir which chronicles the lives of one black family, their yellow shotgun house, and their corner of New Orleans over the course of the twentieth century. We will be exploring themes of place, class, race, inequality and redlining, and will meet via Zoom as we have since April.

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.

Book Club News

We will be choosing books for the next season in August, and we hope you'll join us in whatever method seems appropriate near the end of the month. Stay tuned for details. Contact Lynda Hirschboeck at **651-698-7399** or **hirschbo@gmail.com** if you have questions.



Your Story Needs to Be Told *Collecting Pilgrim Stories of Hope and Struggle During this Trying Time*

We have stories to tell! As Pilgrims on the journey, we find ourselves in unprecedented times, with new experiences, thoughts and feelings about the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic racism, economic depression, food and housing insecurity.

We invite you to share your stories of this time of crisis — you can write down your story, take a picture, create an image, sounds, or video. Your story may be many words...or none! We invite Pilgrims of all ages to share — on your own or with others.

Your story needs to be told. It doesn't need to be polished or perfect. It simply needs to be told. So don't worry if it's good enough or important enough — just share it! Please use this Google link for sharing your story:

<https://forms.gle/it1NmHzmrds1oDZW9>

— Elizabeth Madson Ankeny, Jaimie Lucke Hendrikson,
Thomas Becknell, Pastor Jen Rome (for the Storytelling Task Force)

Classics for Pilgrims



We invite you to join us in reading and discussing Classic Books this September. We meet on the **fourth Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm.**

The 2020-2021 season opens with **Anna Karenina** by **Leo Tolstoy** on **Thursday,**

September 24. Stay tuned for the means of gathering.

Contact: Barbara Taylor at **652 699 1095** or Karen Ekdahl (**Karen.ekdahl@gmail.com**). This open group is a meaningful way to engage with others in a small group setting.

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>.

Children, Youth, & Families

Meet & Greet 2.0!

Monday, August 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Our first Meet & Greet in July was a bundle of fun! Feel free to stop by the Pilgrim church building for a quick hello with fellow Pilgrims, Alex Theship-Rosales, Director of Children, Youth & Family, along with Pastor Jen — once again! We may even try out a couple fun games, 'cause why not? See you soon!

To ensure the safety off all present, please respect physical-distancing and wear a mask to the event. Additionally, we won't have access to the building and bathrooms.

End of Zoom Summer Check-ins

The week of July 27 was the last week of Zoom Summer check-ins. Thank you for calling in to connect this summer, **we look forward to seeing you this Fall!**

Virtual Family Faith Formations Begins!

We will be hosting Family Faith Formation times prior to worship on **August 2** and **August 9!** We'd love to see you on the Pilgrim Parent Group Facebook page at **9 am** on these dates.

Possible Outdoor Pilgrim Mixer Event

Make sure to mark **Tuesday August 18 & Wednesday August 19** on your calendars! In collaboration with Pilgrim's SMART team, who are assessing the possibility and safety considerations for meetings together amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still hoping to host a "Pilgrim Mixer!" event. The Mixer would be an outdoor meeting to connect and be in community.

Let Us Play Faith Formation Delivered Right to Your Door!

Even though we needed to cancel our regular Vacation Bible School week, we are offering an abbreviated option that kids can use at home. The at-home series of activities is called, **Let Us Play**. The first two went out in July. There is one more to come in August.

The story for the August **Let Us Play** is ***The Fish with the Coin in Its Mouth*** (Matthew 17:24-27). This story is a mix of miracle and mission impossible. Peter is sent to pay the temple tax via a fish's mouth. Have fun with a coloring book for Matthew 17, a Fish Mount craft, and a game of Let's Play Croquet! Coloring Book.

Summer Camps

Camp Wapo: Camp at Home

Camp Wapo staff determined that for the safety of all, they will not be having regular camp sessions this summer. Camp Wapo staff is creating and sharing online content called **Camp at Home**. Check it out at <https://camp.lwlbc.com/>. New content is added regularly.

Immanuel's Music and Arts Camp is Cancelled

Immanuel Lutheran has cancelled its Music and Arts Camp in August. If you registered and made a deposit or payment, please contact Emily King for a refund. The theme for this summer's camp was going to be "**Love Is...**" Well, love is...Pilgrim's partnership in special faith formation experiences with Immanuel Lutheran Church!

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**.

Descriptions of Lambs, Sunday School, Pathways, and Deep Dive Confirmation are available on the Pilgrim website. If you have any questions please contact Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Alex Theship-Rosales.

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: 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; Jed, Kate, Nathaniel, and Elizabeth Wilson, brother-in-law and family of Jen Rome/son and family of Ginny and Roger Wilson, recovery from COVID; Mardell Johnson and her family as she faces increasing health difficulties; Anne Tews, recovering from being bitten by a dog; Liz Lake, daughter of Mary Beth and Leo Lake, as she recovers from surgery, in the loving care of her parents; Melanie Peterson, for healing after orthopedic surgery; Mark Gunsten, for healing from a heart procedure; for Josh Moss' mother, Darlene Moss, and their loved ones, as she begins hospice care for brain cancer; Natalie Hokanson, for healing from hip replacement on May 22; 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: 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: Drew Johnson, on the death of his grandfather, Ted Anderson, on July 17; Lois and Richard Wintersteen, at 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; 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.

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

August Birthdays

Week 1

Judith Boehm
Patrick James
Moore

Dale Overson
Barbara Rossi
Kristin Boylan
Susan Shetka
Tuesdae Collopy
Pamela Erwin

Sheila Hoffman
Donna White

Week 2

Dorothy Heinz
Erik Johnson
Theodore Miller
Stephanie Fay
Danielle Behling
Ben Prather
Allan Shuros

Week 4

Dmitry Baese
Brock Behling
Chris Campbell
Vivien Jacobsen
Pete Newburg
Matthew Spindler
Joshua Boelke

Week 5

George Newburg
Liam Paul
Samuelson
Nicole McCullough
Ella Kahnert
Kristine Lavik
Barbara Taylor
Leslie Brandt

Week 3

Jean Omodt

Week 6

Caleb Drexler
Booth

August Anniversaries

1 Adam & Trisha Reinwald
3 Gregg & Stephanie Hammerly
5 Elizabeth & Zachary Conklin
6 Carrie Burke & Tim Dykstal
6 J.R. & Amanda Klepp
8 Allan & Miriam Shuros
9 Erica Kragerud-Smith &
Eric Smith
11 William & Kate Mitchell
11 Roger & Patricia Sween
14 Brianna & Paul Heggeseeth
16 Patrick & Kirsten Donaldson

16 Sandy Johnson &
Marcia Peterson
17 Matthew &
Kirsten Anderson
22 Karl & Rebecca Batalden
22 Maggie & Tom Leshner
23 Jen Rome & Zachary Wilson
26 James & Bonnie Boehm
27 Louise & Joel Rogness
29 Dale Overson &
Donna Claypool-Overson
29 Michael & Nicole McCullough



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Deadline for the September Pilgrim Newsletter

The deadline for sending in materials for the September Pilgrim newsletter is **August 15**. 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.

Are You Following Pilgrim on Facebook?

The Pilgrim Facebook page has a collection of resources not available anywhere else, including devotions, offerings from Pilgrim staff, faith formation videos, and more! Check it out at:

<https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimStPaul>

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.

