

# The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



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May 2020

# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

*An ELCA Congregation  
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

*A Home for Hungry Minds and Souls  
A Caring for Creation Congregation*

**Church Office:** 1935 St. Clair Ave.  
Saint Paul, MN 55105-1646

**Office Open:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8:30 — noon & 12:30 — 3:30 pm  
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(also known as the Vestry)

Tim Dykstal, *President*

Caleb Drexler-Booth, *Executive Team*

Matt Koukol, *Executive Team, Recording Secretary*

Jason Hendrikson, *Treasurer*

Pastor Carol Tomer

Andrew Barry, *At-Large Member*

Heather Ninow, *At-Large Member*

Janet Erickson, *At-Large Member*

Karla Leitzman, *At-Large Member*

## Other Chairpersons/Roles

Pete Newburg, *Financial Secretary*

Barbara McCauley, *Chair of Congregational  
Life and Care*

Mary Beth Lake, *Missions & Social Justice*

Beth Nelson and Jay Oakman, *Properties*

Peter Spuit, *Worship, Music & Evangelism*

**Kate Tosteson, Rachel Boelke, and**

**Matthew Anderson**

*Interim Faith Formation Staff Team*

*(15 hours/week total)*

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

**Jimmy Gerding, Ella Boelke**

*Nursery Attendants*

**Joanna Deer & Karie Johnson**

*Wedding Coordinators*

*Photo credit: Mary Brodd*

**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.

# What's in Your Pilgrim?

Pilgrim Ministry in the Month of May .....	4
Staying Home, Healing Widely: An Easter Season Sermon Series .....	4
Sunday Worship in May .....	4
Sunday Morning Virtual Gatherings in May .....	4
Easter Artwork Request .....	5
Debating Our Pilgrim Community Prayer Steps .....	6
Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol .....	6
Pastoral Musings by Pastor Jen .....	8
Virtual Prayer Team .....	9
COVID Blues Forum .....	9
A New Rhythm for Congregational Emails .....	10
Spiritual Practices .....	10
Evening Community .....	11
Announcing Exciting New Giving Tools for Supporting Pilgrim's Ministry .....	11
Text-to-Give .....	11
GIVE+ Mobile App .....	12
Education, Service & Fellowship .....	12
A Letter from Our Sister Congregation in Tanzania, Luganga Lutheran Church .....	12
An Invitation to Connect on Facebook .....	13
Book Club News .....	13
Classics for Pilgrims .....	13
Pilgrim Mamas Gathering Virtually .....	13
Young Adults: More Than Happy Hour .....	14
How You Can Be a Helper or Be Helped During This Time .....	14
Faith Still Goes to the Movies and Reflects Together! .....	15
Spiritual Enrichment Book Discussion .....	16
Pilgrim Receives Honors from Minnesota Women's Press .....	16
Children, Youth, & Families .....	17
Virtual Pilgrim Family Faith .....	17
Pathways Youth Meet Virtually .....	17
God-Centered Day Camp (aka VBS) .....	17
Update on Summer Camp at Camp Wapo .....	18
All Ages Pilgrim Camp with Camp Wapo .....	18
Registration for Immanuel's Music and Arts Camp is open! .....	18
Save the Dates for the Youth Pathways Cabin Getaway this Summer! .....	19
2021 ELCA Youth Gathering .....	19
Graduation Recognition .....	19
Beyond Pilgrim .....	20
Feedback on ELCA Social Message — A Message from the ELCA .....	20
Take Survey .....	20
Ways You Can Lend a Hand .....	20
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota .....	20
Assisted Living Facilities .....	21
Art 21	
Loaves & Fishes .....	21
Keystone Community Services .....	21
Second Harvest Heartland .....	21
Adjusted Deadline for the June Pilgrim Newsletter .....	24

# Pilgrim Ministry in the Month of May

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We have suspended all of our gatherings in the Pilgrim building through the whole month of May. The building is closed, but the church is open! Lots of ministry. Read on through this newsletter for the details!

## Staying Home, Healing Widely: An Easter Season Sermon Series

May 3: **Longing**

May 10: **Wayfinding**

May 17: **Connecting**

May 24: **Changing**

## Sunday Worship in May

**May 3 — Fourth Sunday of Easter**, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Jen Rome preaching on “Longing” (in the “Staying Home, Healing Widely” Easter Season Sermon Series)

**May 10 — Fifth Sunday of Easter**, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Jen Rome preaching on “Wayfinding” (in the “Staying Home, Healing Widely” Easter Season Sermon Series)

**May 17 — Sixth Sunday of Easter**, Point for Pilgrims, Pamela Erwin, Interim Director of Shared Ministry, preaching on “Connecting” (in the “Staying Home, Healing Widely” Easter Season Sermon Series)

**May 24 — Ascension Sunday**, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching on “Changing” (in the “Staying Home, Healing Widely” Easter Season Sermon Series)

**May 31 — The Day of Pentecost**, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching

\*\* All are invited to wear red, the color for Pentecost!

## 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.

# Easter Artwork Request

*By Pamela Erin*

We are **Easter People!** The 50-day period between Easter and Pentecost is a time for Easter People to celebrate and ponder the resurrection of Jesus, the birth of the Church, the gifts of the Spirit and how we live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

During this season, Pilgrim will offer a four-part sermon series entitled Staying Home, Healing Widely: An Easter Season Sermon Series. As a part of this series, Pilgrim is inviting *Pilgrims* to submit art work reflecting the stories and scriptures for each Sunday. Our focus is on children and youth, but any Pilgrim can submit a piece of art work. The art work will be displayed in our online bulletins. Here is how to submit your work:

- ❖ Read the scriptures selected, particularly the focal passage for each Sunday and talk at home about the story and images of the texts. Think of how you ‘see’ the story in your mind.
- ❖ Then get to work, painting, drawing, sketching. Any medium works that can be photographed and scanned electronically.
- ❖ Submit by Tuesday before each particular sermon to **[pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org](mailto:pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org)**. You can submit once or every Sunday if you like.

## **May 3: Longing**

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-10

FOCAL PASSAGE: John 10:3-4: Jesus said, “The sheep know the shepherd’s voice; the shepherd calls them by name and leads them out...The shepherd walks in front of them and they follow because they know the shepherd’s voice.”

## **May 10: Wayfinding**

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:2-5; John 14:1-14

FOCAL PASSAGE: John 14:5-6: Thomas replied to Jesus, “But we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?” Jesus told him, “I myself am the Way — I am Truth, and I am Life.”

## **May 17: Connecting**

SCRIPTURE: John 14:15-21; Psalm 66: 8-20

FOCAL PASSAGE: If you love me, and obey the command I give you, I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Paraclete, another Helper to be with you always — the Spirit of Truth, whom the world neither sees . . . nor recognizes . . . John 14:15-17

## **May 24: Changing**

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:1-11

FOCAL PASSAGE: Ephesians 1:18...so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you....

Acts 1:11 — Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?

# Debuting Our Pilgrim Community Prayer Steps

*By Pastor Carol Tomer*

Next time you are out for a walk, come and check out the “Community Prayer Steps.” It’s an invitation for all people in our community to bring a ribbon, symbolizing their prayer, and tie it to the railings on the steps



leading up the Pilgrim sanctuary front door. A new lawn sign in front of Pilgrim announces this invitation, calling it a “faith-filled interactive art installation.” This new prayer witness emerged from conversations with neighboring congregations: Macalester Plymouth United, Fairmount Avenue Methodist, and Immanuel Lutheran. They each are

debuting “Community Prayer Trees,” inviting people to tie a ribbon to a branch of a tree, but Pilgrim doesn’t have a tree with branches that we can reach! Hence, the prayer steps. As we move along in this partnership of prayer, we may develop a walking prayer path among our faith communities. And here’s a new hashtag: **#MacGrovePrays**

## Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol

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We are in the midst of our 50 day Easter journey. It’s an annual journey, but how different it feels and looks this year! Since we pivoted our Pilgrim ministry on March 15, so much has changed. As I write this, it’s been six weeks of emergency management in our congregation as well as our state and world, as well as crisis and re-created ministry of varied sorts in the Pilgrim community and beyond, with Holy Week arriving in week 4. What a journey it has been. I’ve been awed by leaders in so many sectors in our state and far beyond, who have stepped up to do whatever is needed, in order to lead, to respond, to sprint, to pivot, to support, empathize, and assure, to keep sprinting even though the race now seems to be a distance run. So many people — you among them — are pouring themselves into the communities, people, organizations, responsibilities, and loved ones that they and you have been called to serve. Your sacrifices, for the sake of the common good and the needs of the neighbor — in workplace, church, various communities of service, and home — are making a huge difference.

And now, we are shifting, to the next chapter. I think of it as the second chapter. We can see that this road is going to keep stretching us, and we can see that it stretches out ahead for some distance. Here's how Bishop Patricia Lull put it in a very recent message to all of the rostered leaders (pastors and deacons) of our Saint Paul Area Synod:

*As we move through these rich weeks of the Easter season, we recognize that the disruption of our old patterns for gathering as a community of faith will continue for a while. How long will that be in Minnesota? I sure wish I knew and I bet you do, too. What we do know is that there will continue to be a time of living through this coronavirus pandemic, and there will be a time beyond this pandemic season. Alleluia! Even as we wait for the next phases to become clear in Minnesota, I want to invite you, as rostered ministers, to join me in a thought project. As in so many aspects of life, the real time for planning and wondering is in the time period before one can act in a new way.*

As we shift into the second chapter of ministry in this time of pandemic, we are being beckoned to plan and wonder about how best to do ministry in this next stretch of time. Now, as always, together we are called to be the church. And, in this Easter season, I am leaning into God's resurrection promises, that in us and through us, God will raise us up in sustaining ways, so that we can both receive new life and be bearers of new life and new possibilities for others, even in the midst of so many challenges and sorrows.

Pilgrim member Elizabeth Ankeny shared with me recently a beautiful piece from *The Christian Century* magazine, that had only appeared online and hadn't yet arrived as a magazine in my mailbox. It's by Pastor Ruth Everhart. She writes: "Since my own small losses and griefs matter to me, I attempt to name them, to give them voice. But when similar losses and griefs are repeated infinitely around the globe, they are no longer small, no longer nameable." I read this article a few hours after learning more about the griefs of Pilgrims. On the day that Pilgrim dear one Jean Hay died in the early morning and I visited the family in the mid-morning, on that very afternoon, her partner Jan Harper had what looked like a stroke. But it was actually caused by her lung cancer having metastasized to her brain, which they discovered at the hospital that day. (In my Easter sermon, I shared more of their story.) Words fail to hold the incomprehensibility of their journey of suffering. I keep hearing these words from the hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*: "sorrow and love flow mingled down" — in Christ and in us, still, again. As Everhart writes: "This pandemic has been teaching me the limits of words — and the limitlessness of faith."

I know that our own losses and the needs of so many in our communities are of many kinds in these days. Together we are finding ways to talk and pray together about these things. I know also that it can be a challenge to claim the limitlessness of faith right now. We will seek to explore the good

news of the risen Christ and our present faith journeys of sorrow and love in the Easter sermon series upcoming, with this frame: “Staying Home, Healing Widely.” Together, we will reflect on longing, wayfinding, connecting, and changing, in the context of some of the scripture texts of this Easter season. I agree with Pastor Everhart: “Our work is ever before us, the work of tending the body of Christ... We will be surprised when that work turns out to be something different than what we prepared for, on a scope we have not yet conceived.”

So, lastly, I quote again from Bishop Lull’s recent message and offer her words as part of my gratitude for you, dear Pilgrims:

*I am learning so much these days, as I bet you are, too. Thanks for facing each day with a fresh dose of hope and confidence that God is at work in our midst. Thank you for caring about the communities in which you live and serve. Many of our neighbors are unemployed, worn down, hungry or discouraged. The gospel message of the church – love for God and love for neighbors – is beautiful, surprising and life-giving when it is conveyed in action and in words. Thank you for looking out for one another and lifting others up when emotional and spiritual reserves are low. I am grateful to serve with you.*

*Pastor Carol Tomer*

## Pastoral Musings by Pastor Jen

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After it became clear that we would not be having in person gatherings for worship or faith formation, a colleague of mine reached out to me and a few others who have a passion for supporting the young and the young-at-heart in their lives of faith. She wanted to start a YouTube channel with near daily short 3-5 minute video posts for families to use at home with their children to continue to engage their faith. At first, I sighed and worried about the burden of another thing on my new strange to do list. But after reflection and a little persuasion, I said okay. Yes, it is one more thing to do each week, but these little videos have given me hope and helped me stay connected to all the children and their families that I can’t see and minister with in this time.

We call our YouTube channel “Faith Finders Fun.” Young Faith Finders are directly addressed and invited into faith forming activities with Backyard Mondays, Treasure Box Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Magic Thursdays, Science Fridays, and Random Saturdays. Guess which one is my day! Yep, Random Saturdays. So far I have guided children through making signs to say thank you to essential workers in connection with the apostle Paul’s letter of Philippians, hanging up Christmas lights to share that each person is the light of the world as Jesus says in the gospel of Matthew, gone on a prayer walk connected to the apostle Paul’s letter of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians (which included praying for a storm sewer drain), making a fort to play Psalm 46, and practicing a mindful blessing as we

*The Pilgrim, May 2020*



enter and exit our homes with Psalm 121. Each practice is linked to a scripture passage. So no matter what your age, if you need a little comfort and joy in these time, join the Faith Finders in some fun.

You can visit our YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXIPsIx\\_Ov1u8Z-QOOCQDrw/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXIPsIx_Ov1u8Z-QOOCQDrw/featured) or our Facebook page:

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

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*

## Virtual Prayer Team

*By Pamela Erwin*

Our Pilgrim prayer list is now going out to Pilgrim members via email on **Monday** of each week. The email will NOT be posted on the Pilgrim website and we ask that you NOT forward this e-mail to others. Prayer concerns listed in the e-mail are only those Pilgrim has received permission to share in these e-mails.

Beginning **Wednesday, April 22, 2:30 — 3:30 pm**, Pilgrim's virtual prayer team will lift up the prayers of the Monday e-mail. A team member will facilitate the prayer time, similar to our Sunday morning Prayers of the People. Coralie Hunter, Michelé Crowder, Karen Ekdahl, and Pamela Erwin will serve as the prayer team. We also welcome any Pilgrims that want to join with us as we pray on any Wednesday. *You won't be put on the spot, you won't be asked to pray out loud, but you will be able to pray together with us for our concerns, joys and thanksgivings.* If you would like to join us, click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89776938187>, beginning at 2:30 pm on Wednesdays.

## COVID Blues Forum

*By Pamela Erwin*

Are you experiencing the COVID Blues? So much has changed in our world and in our routines. With these changes come stresses, anxieties and a wealth of feelings that may be new to us — new and yet, normal. Pilgrims have an opportunity to learn from Pilgrim members, Beth McNally, licensed professional clinical counselor and Adam Arnold, licensed psychotherapist as they share the impact of the coronavirus on our physical and mental health. Beth and Adam, co-directors of Enliven Psychotherapy bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise to this conversation as they help us understand a) how our whole being responds to the stress of the pandemic and the subsequent changes to our lives, and b) the neuroscience of grief and loss and provide insight into the impact of our grieving. They will also discuss healthy ways to respond and take care of ourselves. We'll put the link on the Pilgrim website on May 4. We will offer a debrief discussion at some point following the podcast. Watch for further details.

*The Pilgrim, May 2020*

# A New Rhythm for Congregational Emails

During this Coronavirus time, we are shifting the weekly rhythm of our congregational emails, from Wednesday to Saturday. For these coming weeks, you will receive a weekly email from Pilgrim on Saturday, and it will include the link to the online worship support for Sunday worship. We will continue to send the Monday emails with the updated Pilgrim prayer list (the prayer list will not be posted on the Pilgrim website, as other emails are). Prayer updates can be sent to Mary Brodd at [pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org](mailto:pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org).

## Spiritual Practices

*By Paul Stever*

In today's world, it's important to remember that we are not alone. This winter I finished reading the series of "Little House on the Prairie" books by Laura Ingalls-Wilder. Her stories about the harsh winters and difficulties of life in the late 1800s have seemed striking in their similarity to today's times. Her family too had seasons when they were forced to stay home for months on end. They too experienced fear that family and neighbors might starve.

Reading Jonathan Haidt's books *The Happiness Hypothesis* and *The Righteous Mind* has given me greater appreciation for the ways that all kinds of people of political and religious persuasions might be bringing their best selves to a situation, yet when these good people of different perspectives come together, it's hard to see past our own view, and easy to demonize or assume the worst about another person.

Lately when I've been in the car, I've been listening and re-listening to Richard Rohr's lectures on "The Art of Letting Go." He encourages us to re-evaluate our reliance on dualistic thinking. We limit our experience and close ourselves off from others when we see everything as only one opposing side of two extremes. How might each have access to an important truth, in their perspective?

An important spiritual practice in these times is finding a safe environment in which to learn about, learn from, and imagine other perspectives. This expands our mind's ability to adapt to new situations and have greater compassion for one another and ourselves.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Pilgrim open Facebook page has occasional posts from Pilgrim staff about spiritual practices, such as this post from Paul Stever. "Follow" Pilgrim on Facebook to make sure you receive these posts and much more.*

# Evening Community

## *Connection and Comfort: Virtual Gatherings of the Pilgrim Evening Worshiping Community*

*Sunday, May 3, 6:51-7:51 pm*

*Sunday, May 31, 6:51-8:15 pm*

Although our evening community is not currently able to gather and worship in person, our desire for connection, comfort and community is perhaps greater than ever during these fragile times. Therefore, two virtual gatherings are planned that will bring us together with:

- ❖ a reading of original poetry by one of the Word Weavers who shape the evening worship: Suzanne Swanson on May 3, Marsha Foss on May 31;
- ❖ reflection together on the poetry and with the poet;
- ❖ checking-in with and supporting each other;
- ❖ visioning for the year ahead during the May 31 gathering only. (What do you hope for in building community among worshipers in 2020-21?).

We will gather via WebEx

(<https://meetingsamer8.webex.com/meet/pastorjenrome>; meeting code **621-963-352**). We recommend that you join the meeting a little early, beginning at **6:40 pm** each evening. The host will admit you from the “waiting room.”

If you consider yourself part of the Pilgrim Evening Worshiping Community, this gathering is for you! Please join us!

## Announcing Exciting New Giving Tools for Supporting Pilgrim’s Ministry

As we’re all adapting to new digital tools and ways of worshipping remotely, we are excited to offer new options to conveniently support Pilgrim’s ministry through text-to-give or a mobile app. Both options are hosted through our partner, SimplyGiving, and provide a ‘virtual offering plate’ for those that prefer this form of giving:

### Text-to-Give

Send a text to the number assigned to Pilgrim: **844-905-2734**, and enter the amount you wish to give.

You’ll receive a reply that includes a registration link - tap the link and then enter your payment information.

You will receive a text verification and an email receipt.

For future giving, simply text the same number with the amount you wish to give, and the donation will process automatically (you can also text “repeat” to make it a recurring donation).

*The Pilgrim, May 2020*

Click [https://9e494fc9-c414-4f1b-ab56-717792a01210.usrfiles.com/ugd/9e494f\\_edbc6bef07d64d90b24bo66281ffd7d2.pdf](https://9e494fc9-c414-4f1b-ab56-717792a01210.usrfiles.com/ugd/9e494f_edbc6bef07d64d90b24bo66281ffd7d2.pdf) for step-by-step instructions. (Or, find them on the Pilgrim website.)

## GIVE+ Mobile App

Download the GIVE+ mobile app from the App Store or Google Play to use your phone to easily give without going through the website.

Once in the app, enter “Pilgrim Lutheran St. Paul” — there are multiple Pilgrim Lutheran churches, so double-check that you select the right one.

Enter your donation amount and payment information to submit a one-time or recurring donation.

Once your donation is complete you will receive an email confirmation.

Click [https://9e494fc9-c414-4f1b-ab56-717792a01210.usrfiles.com/ugd/9e494f\\_67cae2cae71d489bb85074ce3164d37d.pdf](https://9e494fc9-c414-4f1b-ab56-717792a01210.usrfiles.com/ugd/9e494f_67cae2cae71d489bb85074ce3164d37d.pdf) for step-by-step instructions. (Or, find them on the Pilgrim website.)

Both methods have been thoroughly tested. Pilgrim receives donor information so offerings sent by these methods will appear on your giving statements.

If you have questions, please contact Pilgrim’s Business Manager, **Cathy Salin**, at [cathysalin@pilgrimstpaul.org](mailto:cathysalin@pilgrimstpaul.org), or call the office at **651-699-6886** and leave a message for her at **extension 16**. (Note that based on our remote operations, an email will receive a faster response.)

Pilgrim welcomes your donations through any method you choose. We hope you will try these new ways to give to support Pilgrim’s ministry.

## Education, Service & Fellowship

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### A Letter from Our Sister Congregation in Tanzania, Luganga Lutheran Church *Sent to Karen Ekdahl*

Habari Karen (How are you Karen).

Many greetings from your brothers and sisters in Christ from Luganga.

For more than twenty years of being a pastor during the Easter, I did not lead the Thursday evening service without Holy Communion, but it happens this year because of corona virus. But our God is so good all the time even though we are facing this difficult time we still surviving.

Karen, we differ very much in life style. I believe many of you they can stay home even for ten days, but not to us. Many Africans they can’t stay

home for one or two days. It is very difficult because many of us they have to work every day for their daily bread (Food) (Day worker. You work and be paid per day.) Because of this we can't stay home we will die of hunger.

Yesterday during the good Friday service the Sunday school quire sang a song of courage to all of us. Their song is from Exodus 14:15b "The Lord said to Moses Tell the people to move forward"

Tell our friends in Pilgrim to move forward by faith in Jesus Christ even though we are facing this problem. Do not give up, but pluck up a courage.

Tomorrow during our Easter Sunday we will continue with our prayers for you and all of us to ask the protection of our God during this time of corona virus.

God bless our relationship.

God bless you and protect you all.

*Pastor Huruma Bimbiga*

## 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.

## Book Club News

**Date:** Our scheduled date is **Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm**, but *stay tuned for updates!*

**Book:** *Educated* by Tara Westover

Contact **Lynda Hirschboeck** at **651-698-7399** or **[hirschbo@gmail.com](mailto:hirschbo@gmail.com)** if you have any questions.

## Classics for Pilgrims

Pilgrims will discussing *The Street* by Ann Petry on **Thursday, May 28** from **7-8:30 pm**. Depending upon the need to distance, the meeting will be held virtually or at a member's home. Contact: Barbara Taylor, **651-699-1095** or **[bstaylor50@gmail.com](mailto:bstaylor50@gmail.com)** for meeting information. What better time for reading Classics?

Contact Barbara Taylor at **[bstaylor50@gmail.com](mailto:bstaylor50@gmail.com)** or **651-699-1095**.

## 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](mailto:kirsten.m.anderson@me.com)** for information.

*The Pilgrim, May 2020*

# Young Adults: More Than Happy Hour

*Tuesday, May 12, 6:30-8 pm*

*Virtual More Than Happy Hour*

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/WebEx-ville. Reach out to Hannah Olson at [hannahdelaine@gmail.com](mailto:hannahdelaine@gmail.com) by **May 5** so we can coordinate for payment for your take-out/delivery. Our topic for the night is “implicit ethnic bias in spirituality.”

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 — in the past we've talked about death and grief, and family dynamics and the holidays. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join, or bring a conversation topic. While we gather in community, Pilgrims buys us dinner! If you have questions or are interested in bring a topic, reach out to Hannah Olson at [hannahdelaine@gmail.com](mailto:hannahdelaine@gmail.com).

## 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).

## Faith Still Goes to the Movies and Reflects Together!

The coronavirus pandemic and “social distancing” have many of us thinking about “communal life” in some new and different ways. It feels as if we have embarked on a new journey — a pilgrimage if you will. Pastor Carol has walked us through a Faith Goes to the Movie sermon series during the season of Lent. The Coronavirus and Minnesota’s Stay-At-Home order interrupted this series. As we continue on this pilgrimage during COVID-19, Thomas Becknell and Pamela Erwin would like to invite you to watch the movie, *The Way*, and then join other pilgrims to discuss the ideas of community and pilgrimage that this movie highlights.

For an overview of the *The Way*, click <https://tinyurl.com/the-way>

**DATE: Thursday, April 30, 6:00 — 7:30 (meeting link)**

*The Way* can be rented on any of the following sites:

Amazon Prime: \$1.99

Youtube.com: \$2.99

Google Play: \$1.99

Vudu.com. \$2.99

iTunes.com: \$3.99

# Spiritual Enrichment Book Discussion

## *New Seeds of Contemplation* — Thomas Merton

We are in a time when many of us have plenty of time to reflect and meditate, even as our lives are filled with so many more unknowns and stresses. For Thomas Merton,

*“Every moment and every event of every (person’s) life on earth plants something in (their) soul. For just as the wind carries thousands of winged seeds, so each moment brings with it germs of spiritual vitality that come to rest imperceptibly in the minds and wills of (people). Most of these unnumbered seeds perish and are lost, because (people) are not prepared to receive them: for such seeds as these cannot spring up anywhere except in the soil of freedom, spontaneity and love.”*

Pilgrims have an opportunity to read excerpts from Thomas Merton’s book, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, and ponder how we might prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the spiritual enrichment and growth possible in these days. Join Leif McLellan, **Thursday, May 14 and Thursday, May 28 7:30-8:45 pm** for a thoughtful discussion. Leif McLellan is a Luther Seminary Student and a Johnson Creativity and Leadership Fellow with Pilgrim. Leif serves on the Evening Community Guiding Team, participates in young adult gatherings, and serves as Sacristan for Evening Worship. Watch weekly emails for more information.

— Pamela Erwin

## Pilgrim Receives Honors from Minnesota Women’s Press

Pilgrim Lutheran Church was voted an Honorable Mention as a Favorite Spiritual Community by the readers of the *Minnesota Women’s Press* in their annual “Readers Recommend” (formerly “What Women Want”) poll. We appreciate all who nominated Pilgrim, and we are grateful for and humbled by the recognition!

In the past, Pilgrim has received similar honors from the Minnesota Women’s Press:

- 2015 Mention Favorite Women-friendly Spiritual Community
- 2013 Mention Favorite Women-friendly Spiritual Community
- 2012 Mention Favorite Women-friendly Spiritual Community
- 2008 Mention Women-friendly Spiritual Community
- 2007 Women-friendly Spiritual Community
- 2006 Fem Find Spiritual Community You’d Recommend To Friends

Thanks for your ongoing support and recognition of Pilgrim!



# Children, Youth, & Families

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## Virtual Pilgrim Family Faith

*Sundays, 10:00-10:30 am*

We can't be together at church for Lambs, Sunday School, or Pathways, but we CAN still hang out virtually! So we're lead a little virtual at-home faith formation from home that you can join in! 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!

Beginning **May 3**, we will be using WebEx to gather — that way we'll be able to see each other's faces and hear each other's voices! Here's what you need to do to participate:

- ◆ Click the WebEx link sent by Pastor Jen in an email or posted on the Pilgrim Parent Facebook Group
- ◆ You may need to download a web-based or desktop version of WebEx—it is free
- ◆ When you arrive at the meeting, you might be asked to wait in a waiting room until the host grants you access — this is for the safety of all participating
- ◆ You can always email Pastor Jen for the WebEx link

Thanks for being flexible with us — we are learning as we go! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jen.

## 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 in WebEx. We play a game, check in, hear a tiny bit of bible, pray for each other, bless each other, and all the goofiness that inevitably comes.

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

## God-Centered Day Camp (aka VBS)

We have decided to cancel our regular Vacation Bible School week in June due to uncertainty about our ability to gather at the beginning of June. We hope to offer an abbreviated alternative gathering in August. Please watch for updates about that. If you've already registered and would like a refund, please contact Emily King at Immanuel Lutheran Church at [eking@ilcsp.org](mailto:eking@ilcsp.org).

## Update on Summer Camp at Camp Wapo

On May 1, Camp Wapo staff will determine if we are able to run the full 11 weeks of camp sessions at our 3 sites. On June 1, Camp Wapo staff will determine if they can run a shortened camp schedule of 6 weeks in July and August or if they will launch an alternate summer camp program (details are in the works). We will communicate with you when we hear more from them. Here are the dates for our congregation at Camp WAPO weeks this summer:

Seeds Camp (for completed 1st-3rd graders)	July 31-August 2
Wapo Youth Camp (for completed grades 4-8)	August 2-7
Senior High Camp (for completed grades 9-12)	August 2-7

## All Ages Pilgrim Camp with Camp Wapo

This summer, 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! At our meeting we will be joined by Nate Berkas, Director of Wilderness Canoe Base to answer questions and share about camp. If you have any other questions, contact Pilgrim **Elizabeth Schoenkencht** at **eschoenk@comcast.net**.

On **May 1**, Camp Wapo staff will determine if we are able to run the full 11 weeks of camp sessions at their 3 sites. On **June 1**, Camp Wapo staff will determine if they can run a shortened camp schedule of 6 weeks in July and August or if they will launch an alternate summer camp program (details are in the works). We will communicate with you about an information meeting when we hear more from them.

## Registration for Immanuel's Music and Arts Camp is 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). Please register using this link: <http://ilcsp.org/imac/>

# Save the Dates for the Youth Pathways Cabin Getaway this Summer!

At this point we are planning on continuing with our Pathways Cabin Getaway. We will communicate with you when we know more.

**July 14-16, 2020**

We will head up north to live the lake life together this summer at the cabin of Pilgrims Mark and Lee Gunsten. Water, rest, and fun are all on the schedule!

## 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: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/pilgrimparents> and click on "Join Group."*

## Graduation Recognition

Graduations will not be the same this year. Pilgrim still wants to make sure that graduates know we care about them and this important milestone in life. On **Sunday, May 31**, our congregation will honor our graduates from high school, college, and graduate school during audio worship in the prayers. If you know of graduates, please email their name, school they are graduating from, and degree received to Pastor Jen by **May 17**.

# Beyond Pilgrim

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## Feedback on ELCA Social Message — A Message from the ELCA

*“For baptized Christians, civic engagement  
is a vital means of discipleship.”*

The idea of government was already very much in focus because this was an election year, and the pandemic has focused it more so. But what does the ELCA teach about the nature and function of government in relation to God’s purposes? What is a faithful Lutheran response regarding citizenship and civic engagement?

To help guide our church on these questions, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly asked for the preparation of a social message. At this time, the message is in draft form. Through **May 27**, you are invited to provide feedback on how to strengthen the message. To read “A Draft Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy,” go to this link:

**[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/SocMsgOnGov\\_Draft4PublicComment.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/SocMsgOnGov_Draft4PublicComment.pdf)**

To offer feedback, please fill out the survey using the button below. You may also choose to email comments to [draftsocialmessage@elca.org](mailto:draftsocialmessage@elca.org). The comment period ends May 27. To learn more about what social messages are, click [www.elca.org/socialmessages](http://www.elca.org/socialmessages).

### Take Survey

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SocialMessageReviewForm>**

In light of the feedback, the message will be revised and presented to the ELCA Church Council for a vote in June. Upon its adoption, the message and a study guide will be released over the summer, along with a Spanish translation. To learn more about this social message and the process of its creation, please visit **<https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government>**.

## Ways You Can Lend a Hand

In this season, there are many, many opportunities to provide support in our local community. We’ve collected a handful of needs from some of our ministry partners. Please consider offering your time and skills!

### Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

LSS is looking for donations of handmade fabric masks, as well as some tech support in setting up laptops, among other needs. Read more at **[lssmn.org/HelpNeighbors](http://lssmn.org/HelpNeighbors)**

## Assisted Living Facilities

Our assisted living centers/nursing homes are asking for colored pictures taped to the outside of residents windows (laminated or in sleeves — they won't last forever, but a little longer this way) and for people to fill the residents' bird feeders.

## Art

We have several Pilgrims who would love to receive some artwork from our youth!

## Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes is in need of additional volunteers at several area sites. Check their facebook page for current opportunities:

**<https://www.facebook.com/loavesandfishesmnm>**

## Keystone Community Services

Keystone Community Services has requested support in the following ways:

- ◆ **Sew face masks:** All of our volunteers and staff who are working directly with participants are wearing face coverings to help limit the spread of the virus. If you sew, we'd love to have some of your homemade masks. There are a lot of tutorials available online but if you need some guidance let me know.
- ◆ **Contribute in-kind items for our new homeless food packs:** We are tailoring our food packages as much as we can at the food shelf for each household. One of the things we noticed is that we need food packs specifically for people experiencing homelessness. These items are challenging to source from the food bank system. The following items will be used to create food packs for homeless individuals:
  - Cheese or peanut butter crackers
  - Beef jerky
  - Fruit cups or applesauce pouches
  - Protein bars/Power bars/Clif bars
  - Ramen noodles/Cup of noodles
  - Trail mix and nuts
  - Peanut butter
  - Dried fruit
  - Hormel Compleats
  - Dinty Moore single serve packages
  - Small packs of cleansing wipes
  - Disposable forks/spoons/knives
  - Hand sanitizer — small containers

## Second Harvest Heartland

Second Harvest Heartland is in need of volunteers to pack and distribute food, as well as in other ways. Please check their website for current needs: **<https://www.2harvest.org/get-involved/volunteer/>**



# 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; Judy Boehm, health concerns; Paul Heggeseth's aunt Susan, recuperating from the coronavirus; Marissa and Devin Hanson, awaiting the birth of their child, due on April 11; John Fabie, cancer treatment; Jerry Barte, brother of Karen Bjorkman, diagnosed with multiple myeloma; Jan Harper, former Pilgrim member and partner of Pastor Jean Hay, in palliative care at home, for metastasized lung cancer.

**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 Lesher, for physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

**Births:** Rory Anderson, born April 22 to Ned and Denika Anderson; Inho Robert McAdory-Kim, born January 31 to Jaymin Kim and Sara McAdory-Kim; 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 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; Petra Vogt and family on the death of her step-grandmother, Erika Peitsch, on May 20.

**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.*

*The Pilgrim, May 2020*

# Parochial Report

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## May Birthdays

### *First week:*

Addie Rosenwinkel, Roger Sween

### *Second week:*

William Johnson, Nicholas Greseth, Mary Ellen Erlandson,  
Franklin Miller, Joanna Deer, Mark Gunsten,  
Lydian Adelmann, Tilda Rose Johnson

### *Third week:*

Marianne Milligan, Hadley Ninow, Caeli Casey,  
Samuel Jameson, Anna Stalka, Asher Samuel Tosteson,  
Leslie Tunstall, Pria Stauning, Charles Ninow

### *Fourth week:*

Shirley Fasching, Ginger Menting, Stephanie Hammerly,  
William Mitchell, Michael Ludvigsen, Carl Samuelson,  
Kaydee Kirk, Aidan Boylan, Brianna Heggeseth,  
Soren George Peterson, Paul Spuit

### *Fifth week:*

Andrea Sullivan

## May Anniversaries

- 17 Brett & Emily Kahnert
- 18 Lee & Mark Gunsten
- 20 Virgil & Bev Amsden
- 20 Barbara & David Taylor
- 27 Scott & Kristine Swenson
- 29 Kathryn Reiley & William Reiley III



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## Adjusted Deadline for the June Pilgrim Newsletter

The deadline for sending in materials for the June Pilgrim newsletter is **May 18**, rather than the 15th of the month. 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.