

The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

*An ELCA Congregation
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

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

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(also known as the Vestry)

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Jason Hendrikson, *Treasurer*

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Janet Erickson, *At-Large Member*

Karla Leitzman, *At-Large Member*

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Pete Newburg, *Financial Secretary*

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Joanna Deer & Karie Johnson

Wedding Coordinators

Cover Photo: Pastor Carol Tomer

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

What's in Your Pilgrim?

Pilgrim Ministry in the Month of July.....	4
Sunday Worship in July.....	4
Lessons From Nature In A Time Of Trial: Meeting Christ in Creation, Parables, and Crisis	4
Sunday Morning Virtual Gatherings in July	4
About July Worship	5
Field Trips	5
Worship Series.....	5
Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol.....	6
Our Life Together in Faith	8
Welcome Alex Theship-Rosales, Pilgrim's New Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries!.....	8
Evening Connection and Comfort: A Virtual Gathering of the Evening Community.....	9
July 2020 Music Notes	10
Vestry News	11
About the Pilgrim "Smart Team"	11
Education, Service & Fellowship	11
Book Club News	11
Pilgrim Mamas Gathering Virtually	11
Young Adults: More Than Happy Hour	12
"Hungry Minds and Souls" Summer Salons	12
How To Be a Helper or Be Helped During This Time	14
Children, Youth, & Families.....	14
Virtual Family Faith Formation	14
PreK-5 th Grade Virtual Get-Togethers	14
PreK: 10:30 am	15
Kindergarten-2 nd Grade: 11:30 am.....	15
3 rd -5 th Grade: 3:30 pm.....	15
Pathways Youth Meet Virtually	15
Pathways Youth Offering Care to Other Pilgrims	16
Summer Camps	16
Faith Formation Delivered Right to Your Door – Sower and the Seeds	16
Camp Wapo: Camp in a Box.....	16
All Ages Pilgrim Camp with Camp Wapo	16
An Invitation from a Neighboring Church, to Join in Virtual VBS	16
Registration for Immanuel's Music and Arts Camp is Still Open	17
2021 ELCA Youth Gathering.....	17
Deadline for the July Pilgrim Newsletter	20
Are You Following Pilgrim on Facebook?	20

Pilgrim Ministry in the Month of July

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 July

Lessons from Nature in a Time of Trial:
Meeting Christ in Creation, Parables, and Crisis

July 5 — Living through Love, The Parable of the Soils, Point for Pilgrims, Preaching: Pastor Jen Rome

July 12 — Living Deliberately, The Parable of the Weeds, Point for Pilgrims, Preaching: Pamela Erwin, Interim Director of Shared Ministry

July 19 — Living in Right Relationships, The Parable of the Good Samaritan, Point for Pilgrims, Preaching: Alex Theship-Rosales, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

July 26 — Living in Trust, The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Point for Pilgrims, Preaching: Pastor Carol Tomer

Sunday Morning Virtual Gatherings in July

On Sundays, July 5 & July 12

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.

On Sundays, July 19 & 26

We will gather for worship via zoom at **9:30 am**, followed by Virtual Coffee Time.

(The YouTube of worship will be available after our Zoom worship gathering.)

The Zoom link for worship will be sent in the congregational email on the Saturday before worship. It will also be available on the Pilgrim website.

About July Worship

By Pamela Erwin, Director of Shared Ministry

Pilgrim is planning a worship series for July, entitled “**Lessons from Nature in a Time of Trial: Meeting Christ in Creation, Parables and Crisis.**” These are unusual times, to say the least, and it seems that each day is filled with new challenges. And, yet as we look around us at the beauty, wonder and, yes, tragedy in nature, there is much we can learn about how to be, to thrive, to comfort and be community.

Jesus was certainly a naturalist. He observed patterns in nature, and saw the interconnectedness between plants, trees, birds, ecology and brought these observations into his teachings and parables. Often Jesus taught in small, intimate times of field-trip-like experiences, using nature to teach about God and God's kingdom. Pilgrim seeks to emulate these experiences along with our study of four parables during the month of July.

Field Trips

During the week before each sermon in July, Pilgrim will offer opportunities and a guide for exploring nature in small gatherings. Being mindful of our current guidelines for gathering together, Pilgrims may choose to participate in these fieldtrips as a closed family unit, individually or in small groups of friends. We encourage you to plan a field trip with healthy social distancing in mind. (For example, two families may choose to meet at a park and walk or hike together in safe distances. Others may take a walk in their neighborhood in groups of 2 or 3, again, keeping safe distances). One goal is to provide flexible opportunities for Pilgrims to see each other face-to-face in ways that feed our need to see each other, but allows for keeping people in good social distances. A link to each Field Trip Guide/reading recording will be available at the beginning of each week.

Worship Series

Our program staff are collaborating on this series that highlights four of Jesus' Parables: 1) The Soils, 2) The Weeds, 3) The Good Samaritan and, 4) The Mustard Seed. Each week, in sermon and song, they will offer us an opportunity to see how Jesus used nature to provide spiritual lessons for Pilgrims on the journey of faith and life.

Week of June 29-July 5

Parable of the Soils – Matthew 13:1-23

Pastor Jen Rome preaching

Nature's Instruction for Living through Love

Field Trip: Take a field trip to a park with a creek or rushing waters.

Teaching Theme: How can we be good soil in our world.

Week of July 6-12

Parable of the Weeds — Matthew 13:24-30

Pamela Erwin preaching

Nature's instructions for living deliberately

Field Trip: Choosing to play. An open field where you can run and play. Possible activities: frisbee throwing, kite flying, Velcro paddle ball, etc.

Teaching Theme: Play is deliberately being free in who we are/the freedom of making wise, deliberate choices.

Week of July 13-19

Parable of the Good Samaritan — Luke 10: 30-37

Alex Theship Rosales preaching

Nature's Instructions for living in right relationships

Field Trip: An arboretum, a garden, a neighborhood walk (maybe walk around the neighborhood around Pilgrim)

Teaching Theme: Justice is allowing what God has created to be what God has created them to be.

Week of July 20-26

Parable of the mustard seed — Mark 4:26-34

Pastor Carol Tomer preaching

Nature's Instructions for Living in Trust

Field Trip: a zoo or aquarium or natural history museum.

Teaching theme: The wonder, the strange, the beauty in creation invites us towards faith in our Creator.

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol

Dearly beloved:

I miss you! We miss each other! We miss welcoming into enfolded community hungry minds and souls who are longing for a faith community. These are just a few of the many ways our Pilgrim life faces new challenges in these days — to say nothing of personal life, work life, community life, national and global life. We are all on a journey of making adaptive changes, big and small. Few of us ever imagined living and leading during a global pandemic.

On this journey, we are experimenting, exploring, evolving. Here's one of our upcoming Pilgrim worship experiments: We have heard a longing to be synchronous in our spiritual practices, sharing together at the same time in our core Christian rituals. Our core spiritual practice, gathering for worship, has evolved during COVID time, from audio pre-recorded, to audio/video pre-recorded. And our next step is to shift to worshipping at the same time, via Zoom. We'll do it at the mid-summer point, beginning on **Sunday, July 19**, when we will gather via Zoom at **9:30 am**, the time that has been our summer Sunday worship time for years. Here are a few gifts that we expect will be made possible by this way of gathering: We will

get to see each other on the screen; we will be invited to type our prayers in the sidebar during the prayer time; and, we will be invited to stay on the screen for coffee time following worship. Let's try this out, on this next step in our worship journey during these days of virtual gatherings. (And, for those who can't show up virtually at 9:30 am, our YouTube recording of worship will be available following our 9:30 am gathering.)

We are continuing to rejoice in welcoming Alex Theship-Rosales to our Pilgrim staff. He began serving as Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries on June 8; you can learn more about him in his article in this newsletter. I am so struck by the pandemic-shaped way in which Alex has come to Pilgrim. Consider this: As I write this, Alex has still never met, in person, anyone in the Pilgrim community, nor have any of us met him. Nor has he laid his eyes on any physical aspect of the Pilgrim sanctuary or other parts of the building. He has participated in the journey of applying for this ministry role, being interviewed twice, being offered the position and accepting it, and being installed and beginning to meet various Pilgrims — all of it happening virtually! Amazing! But our joy in welcoming him is as full as we can make it, even via our virtual avenues of connection and community and communication. Welcome, Alex!

Speaking of the Pilgrim building: Saturday, May 30, was an amazing day at Pilgrim. Two Pilgrims, Timothy Bell and Stephen Kemp, were married in a small worship service at Pilgrim. And then, right afterwards, as we headed into our state's curfew that night, we were advised to have Pilgrims stay in the building through the night, to keep watch. Very special thanks to Mike Schulze, Tim Dykstal, and Henry Dykstal for their loving care of Pilgrim's building, all through that night. More about that extraordinary day in my June 28 sermon.

As we seek to deepen our faith-filled shaping of an anti-racist world, we are all receiving a variety of invitations and resources for action, service, education, relationship, and faith. We have been seeking to collect many of these gifts in a new section of our Pilgrim website. It's called "Pilgrim Anti-Racism Resources." You can find the link on the homepage, under "Quick Links." Thanks to Denika Anderson, our Communications Specialist, for curating this. A key part of maintaining this collection is our invitation for you to share resources that you are finding helpful in this time. Check out the link on-line for how to share resources.

Another of the birthings of this COVID time has been conversations of a group of lead pastors in our Macalester-Groveland neighborhood — Macalester Plymouth United Church, Fairmount Avenue Methodist Church, Immanuel Lutheran, and Pilgrim. Out of these conversations came our Community Prayer Steps (Community Prayer Trees at the other churches). Now, we are lifting up additional aspects of our ministries that we might participate in together as neighbors. For example, we are invited to the virtual Vacation Bible School of Fairmount Avenue Methodist, weeknight early evenings, during the last week of July. (Info in the CYF section of this newsletter.) Another invitation is to the racial justice book *The Pilgrim, July 2020*

discussions that Fairmount is having virtually in July (info on their website), similar to our Pilgrim Summer Salons this month. Some great opportunities to connect with our siblings in Christ! This is a time for physical distancing, but also for building ever deeper relationships, in so many ways.

Our July worship services will be a beautiful weaving of connections between nature, biblical parables, and the trials of these times. Each week, field trips are featured; we hope you might consider sharing in these outings with others, building deeper relationships with one another and with God's creation. Special thanks to Pamela Erwin, our Director of Shared Ministry, for proposing and shaping this series.

Summer this year in our Pilgrim ministry is unlike any we've experienced. And, to add to the unique contours of this time is the fact that our 2020 budget includes four weeks of furlough for me, a financial decision we made at the beginning of the year, in order to support the feasibility of this year's budget. So, whereas the summer is generally the best time for church staff to take time off, I will be taking more time than usual this summer. I'm telling you this so that you don't wonder if I'm sick with COVID. :)

Thank you for being on the journey of seeking wholeness and justice for our siblings who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color, for every child of God, and for God's whole world. *Pastor Carol Tomer*

Our Life Together in Faith

Welcome Alex Theship-Rosales, Pilgrim's New Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries!

Hi Pilgrims! My name is Alex, and I am joining the Pilgrim community with an open heart and mind. Thank you very much for accepting me into your wonderful community. A little about me: I am a recent graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College, where I was an Environmental Studies major, Religion minor. I loved my fields of study, the professors and friends I met along way, and the on-campus ministries both run by students and hosted by the college Chaplains. Ministry encourages and calls to me and has been a formative part of my story. I grew up in Chanhassen, Minnesota, and was Confirmed at Mount Calvary Lutheran in Excelsior. Mount Calvary was and is another home to me. There, the Senior High Youth Director trained me as a Peer Minister. I fell in love with theological discussions, working with and learning from fellow youth, and the various service components and opportunities our youth community had to offer. I was also a Sunday School teacher, Summer Camp Counselor, and Mission Trip participant. One summer, I served as a Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Assistant at Mount Calvary, where I collaboratively developed curriculum, planned

The Pilgrim, July 2020

events and activities, and all around had a golden time! After college, I participated in the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) service year program, where I lived and learned in Rwanda. My experiences there were life changing and beautiful; would be happy to share stories and photos from my time, anytime! Now back home, alongside my role as Director for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at Pilgrim, I will be studying ministry and theology at Luther Seminary.

Woven into ministry, I am passionate about the union of spirituality and ecology. Strengthening my own spirituality through immersive experiences and lessons from many people has helped me view the world as a resilient, incredible, and interconnected place! God's creation is miraculous, wouldn't you say? I feel called towards intersectional climate and environmental justice. Moreover, I enjoy any activity outdoors. I am an avid cross-country runner and also love to hike, camp, swim, go for long strolls, and bike. Sustainability is a meaningful and fun process for me as well; I have ongoing projects to live an increasingly plastic-free lifestyle and craft my own household products. Please let me know if you have any soap, laundry detergent, or toothpaste recipes! ☺ I also deeply value creativity and art, and I enjoy creative writing, reading, drawing, painting, practicing my musical instrument, the euphonium, as well as video editing.

I am so honored to join you and your family as a Pilgrim. Let us walk alongside one another, learning, growing, and sharing God's love with the world together!

Evening Connection and Comfort: A Virtual Gathering of the Evening Community

Sunday, July 19, 6:51-7:51 pm

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

The Connection and Comfort virtual gatherings the evening community had in May and June were grace-filled times of listening to poetry, listening to each other and listening to Spirit. We will continue these virtual community gatherings this summer that 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;
- ◆ 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.



July 2020 Music Notes



What is happening with music at Pilgrim right now? Here are three things for you to consider, if you've been wondering how you might participate, or if you're just curious what options are being explored for music at Pilgrim during this summer and beyond. If you might like to sing or play an instrument for any of these opportunities, or if you have questions, contact Paul Stever, Music Director, at **SteverPaul55@aol.com**.

On **Wednesdays from 6-7:30 pm**, Pilgrim musicians make most of the music recordings for Sunday morning worship. During the "stay at home" order in Minnesota, Paul was mostly inviting Choral Scholars to these sessions, with occasional support from other choir members when a Choral Scholar wasn't available in a particular week. Many thanks to all who have helped with this important aspect of our worship ministry!

Starting in June, we have been allowing anyone who would like to come join our Wednesday night worship recordings, but you have to let Paul know that you will be coming by 1 pm at the latest on that Wednesday, so that he can respond to confirm whether we have room. We are capping the recording sessions at a maximum of 10 singers at this time. Paul has made many measurements of the sanctuary and has made arrangements for singers to be approximately 12-16 feet apart as they stand at the perimeter of a very large circle around the sanctuary. This extra distance is to try to account for the extra distance that breath particles travel when singing instead of simply speaking with one another. This is just one example of precautions taken to limit risk for those who come to sing.

We also have been experimenting with "virtual" recordings. In these recordings, one person begins by recording their part. Others who want to be layered into the recording can listen to the first recording with headphones (to insure they play or sing at the same tempo) and then use a separate device to record themselves. Kristo Sween or another Pilgrim friend who has experience and technology available to layer these recordings together then uses software to make it sound like these musicians are playing at the same time! If you would like to contribute to a recording project in some way, Paul can send you a short list of steps for how this works.

Paul has been scheduling occasional zoom conversations where musicians can talk with each other informally and try out some "live" singing together over zoom. This is still in an experimentation phase, but could be used to help lead rehearsals over Zoom for those who would like some practice before coming to the Wednesday night recording session, or some might find it to be a fun chance to sing in real time with other people.

If you have other ideas or would like to share your experiences from viewing other church services, please be in touch! We do have a few other thoughts and ideas for meaningful worship and music experiences, but it takes time and effort to explore each of these resources, trying to understand the strengths, limitations, and technology requirements for each.

Vestry News

About the Pilgrim “Smart Team”

By Cathy Salin, Business Manager, on behalf of the Team

As our government officials move to gradually reopen public spaces, the Saint Paul Area Synod has encouraged member congregations to form a “smart team” to consider what reopening entails, and to develop safety protocols for various phases of return. In the June newsletter, Vestry President Tim Dykstal issued an invitation to be part of Pilgrim’s “smart team.” Thank you to the following individuals who will serve on this group -- Stephen Kemp, Matt O’Toole, Pastor Jen Rome, Cathy Salin, Mike Schulze, and Katie Tastad.

The team will develop safety protocols for various on-site activities, but will not determine when Pilgrim will resume any particular activity. Pilgrim’s leadership will determine that timeline, using guidelines set-up by the team. Some examples of various phases of return are: return of staff to the building, Pilgrim small group meetings, building use by outside groups, weddings and funerals, outdoor and indoor worship, forums, children and youth activities, and fellowship time. The team first met on June 17 via Zoom. We discussed available resources, established an initial process for the work, and determined an agenda for the next gathering. Initially, the team plans to meet weekly. We will keep you informed as we work toward safely gathering together again in community.

Education, Service & Fellowship

Book Club News

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

Pilgrim Mamas Gathering Virtually

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

Pilgrim Mamas will be doing a drive for supplies needed for Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Midway, a congregation that has been a hub for supporting St. Paul neighbors in the midst of the COVID crisis and the needs of those along University Ave following George Floyd’s murder. Look in upcoming weekly congregational email for items needed as specified by Bethlehem as well as ways to invite neighbors to participate. Donations will be accepted outside Pilgrim on **Saturday, July 25.**

Young Adults: More Than Happy Hour

Tuesday, July 7, 6-7:15 pm

Virtual More Than Happy Hour

Our topic for the night is **“How to be Anti-Racist, Recognizing Privilege, and Broaden our Moral Imaginations.”** We are planning on reading a book on these topics together as well this summer.

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 MORE than happy hour. Pilgrim's Young Adult Innovation grant will pay for your take-out/delivery, and then from home, we can enjoy our dinner and talk in Zoom-land. Reach out to Hannah Olson at hannahdelaine@gmail.com by **July 5** so we can coordinate for payment for your take-out/delivery.

“Hungry Minds and Souls” Summer Salons

By Pamela Erwin, Director of Shared Ministry

Summer is a great time for growth, reflection, relationships, and digging deeper into the life of faith. Summer Salons at Pilgrim have typically been gatherings focused on feeding hungry minds and souls, through conversations about books related to Christian faith and life. In this season of COVID-19, our Summer Salons will be virtual and will incorporate readings and video and audio recordings. The events surrounding the murder of George Floyd encourage us to consider how and learn to live differently. These salon gatherings will offer us a time to come together as Pilgrims to consider these questions. These gatherings are open to Pilgrims and all those with hungry minds and souls. The Zoom link for each salon gathering will be included in the weekly congregational email sent the preceding Saturday and archived on the Pilgrim website.

This summer's offerings:

Salon Facilitator: Pamela Erwin

Date: **Tuesday, July 14, 6:30-7: 45 pm**

Pamela Erwin will lead a salon that encourages us to consider how the lives of majority whites need to change if they (we) truly believe that black lives matter.

To prepare, you are invited to listen to an audio recording or read the transcript.

As a part of The Civil Conversations Project, Krista Tippet

engages in a lively, thoughtful and piercing dialogue with Patrisse Cullors and Robert Ross around the spiritual work of the black lives matter movement. As OnBeing notes in its introduction to this discussion, “Black Lives Matter co-founder and artist Patrisse Cullors presents a luminous vision of the spiritual core of Black Lives Matter and a resilient world in the making. She joins Dr. Robert Ross, a physician and philanthropist on the cutting edge of learning how trauma can be healed in bodies and communities. A cross-generational reflection on evolving social change.”

Link to the transcript: <http://tiny.cc/lkn3qz>

Link to the audio: <http://tiny.cc/9pn3qz>

Salon Facilitator: Pastor Carol Tomer

Date: **Thursday, July 23, 6:30-7:45 pm**

Pastor Carol Tomer will lead a salon on black liberation theology.

To prepare, you are invited to watch a powerful short film, and read a short article.

“The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery” —a 22-minute “cinematic sermon” by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, senior pastor of Chicago’s Trinity United Church of Christ: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6985UGoZ3k>

The film is named after a book by James Cone, the leading theologian in the field of black liberation theology for years. Here is a short summary of James Cone’s book *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, from the *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*: <http://tiny.cc/yrn3qz>

Salon Facilitator: Pastor Jen Rome

Date: **Tuesday, July 28, 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

Pastor Jen Rome will lead a salon on the Teen/YA novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas.

To prepare, you are invited to read the novel and/or watch the movie *The Hate U Give* (available right now for free on Amazon)

Author, “Angie Thomas was born, raised, and still lives in Jackson, Mississippi. A former teen rapper, she holds a BFA in creative writing from Belhaven University. Her award-winning, acclaimed debut novel, *The Hate U Give*, is a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and major motion picture from Fox 2000, starring Amandla Stenberg and directed by George Tillman, Jr.” (author’s bio)

In *The Hate U Give*, “Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil’s name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants

to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does — or does not — say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.”
(from *The Horn Book* review)

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

Virtual Family Faith Formation

Sundays July 5 and 12 at 10 am



We can’t be together at church, but we CAN still hang out virtually! Pastor Jen, with the help of her family, brings you virtual at-home faith formation from her living room to yours! We’ll have some goofiness, camp song, bible story, reflection, prayer, a game — for all ages to enjoy together — and your kids can wear their pajamas! **OUR LAST VIRTUAL FAMILY FAITH FORMATION WILL BE ON SUNDAY, JULY 12.**

Here’s what you need to do to participate:

- ◆ Go to the Pilgrim Parent Group on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pilgrimparents>
- ◆ If you are already a member, please invite people who aren’t already members with the invite button on the FB group page
- ◆ If you are not yet a member of the Pilgrim Parent Group on Facebook go to the above link and click Join Group!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jen.

PreK-5th Grade Virtual Get-Togethers

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

PreK: 10:30 am

- ◆ Lasts approximately 20 minutes
- ◆ Hosted by Kate Tosteson with Director of CYF Ministries, Alex Theship-Rosales
- ◆ PreK will explore the word kindness this month. And, we will continue to check-in and share—showing friends special things around the house and outside alongside plenty of laughter and smiles.

Kindergarten-2nd Grade: 11:30 am

- ◆ Lasts approximately 25 minutes
- ◆ Hosted by Rachel Boelke with Director of CYF Ministries, Alex Theship-Rosales
- ◆ K-2 will explore the word kindness this month. And, we will continue to check-in and share — showing friends special things around the house and outside alongside plenty of laughter and smiles.

3rd-5th Grade: 3:30 pm

- ◆ Lasts approximately 30 minutes
- ◆ Hosted by Mark Gunsten with Director of CYF Ministries, Alex Theship-Rosales
- ◆ We will begin exploring the theme of ‘tent’ in Scripture. Our theme verse for July will be Psalm 61:4: I long to dwell in your tent forever, and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

Afterwards, parents/caregivers are welcome to stick around for a little bit to have our own moment of connection and check-in. Meeting invites with link and password are sent by email. Please contact Pastor Jen for that information. Looking forward, the emails will come from Alex! ☺

Pathways Youth Meet Virtually

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

*High School: *Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm*

**High school Pathways’ meeting time has changed to accommodate busy schedules!*

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

Pathways Youth will be exploring “New Ways to Pray” for the month of July. There are hundreds of different ways to pray! We’ll try a “crossword prayer,” “dice prayer,” “color prayer” and “Zoom background prayer”! Links to meetings are sent out weekly by email. Contact Pastor Jen for the link or more info. Looking forward, the emails will come from Alex! ☺

Pathways Youth Offering Care to Other Pilgrims

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

Summer Camps

Faith Formation Delivered Right to Your Door – Sower and the Seeds

Even though we needed to cancel our regular Vacation Bible School week, we are offering an abbreviated option that kids can use at *home* around the 4th of July holiday! The at-home series of activities is called, “Let Us Play.” The first one will be about the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-9). Instructions and materials (including those for “seed bombs”—native wildflower seeds packed together in soil and tossed to plant) will be delivered right to your child’s door. There will also be prayer stations about this parable that people of all ages can enjoy on the outside of the Pilgrim building. Look for details to come! We hope to share an additional opportunity like this in August.

Camp Wapo: Camp in a Box

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

All Ages Pilgrim Camp with Camp Wapo

Camp Wapo staff has determined that for the safety at all, they will not be having regular camp sessions at Wilderness Canoe Base. We look forward to enjoying a similar opportunity next summer together.

An Invitation from a Neighboring Church, to Join in Virtual VBS

Fairmount Ave Methodist (one of our ecumenical partner churches in the neighborhood), invites Pilgrim children to share in a virtual Vacation Bible School, It’s for those entering grades PreK-6. It’s each evening at **6 pm, July 27-31**. You can learn more about it here:
<https://www.faumconline.net/childrens-ministry-covid-19.html>

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

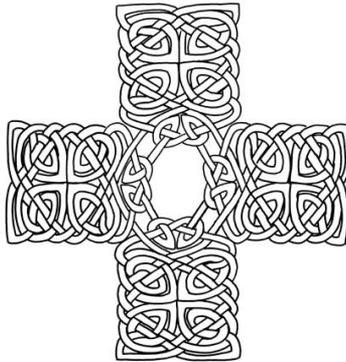
Immanuel Lutheran at this point is continuing with its Music and Arts Camp. We will communicate with you when we hear more from them. About a dozen Pilgrim children and youth attended this camp last year and loved it. All Pilgrims who have completed Kindergarten-8th grade are invited again this year!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

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 <https://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.

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; 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 hospice 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 Leshar, 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: 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; Claudia Becker and family, on the death of her mother Ginny Colby on July 29; Diana Doty Stalka and family, on the death of her son Mason; Tim Dykstal and family, on the death of his mother Virginia on June 28; Dave Toeniskoetter and family, on the death of his father Richard on June 25; Brett Kahnert and family on the death of his grandmother on June 16

Ministry Partnership: The ministry and people of our sister congregation, Luganga Lutheran Church in Tanzania and Pastor Bimbiga; Pilgrim staff members and Pilgrim lay leaders

In and beyond the congregation: For peace in our world, for healing in our country, for the invisibly ill, for the mentally ill

You are encouraged to send greetings to those you are moved to communicate with. Let us know if you are expecting or adopting a child. If you wish to add or remove a prayer request, please call the church office regarding the Prayer Corner. For prayers during worship, please contact a pastor.

Parochial Report

July Birthdays

Week One

Carl Hokanson; Margaret Olson; Miriam Spuit; Petra Vogt

Week Two

Jennifer Baese; Brianna Lloyd; Jason Hendrikson; Kim Spear;
Aaron Campbell; Stacy Dunn; Ellen Dunn; Rodney Olsen; Charles Regal

Week Three

Zachary Conklin; George Amble; Michael Holisky; David Taylor;
Claudia Becker; Gwenth Sherman; William Goldman; Beth Stassen

Week Four

Asher John Henrikson; Serena Asta; Ella Boelke; Arthur Stolp;
Kristine Swenson

Week Five

Maggie Leshar; Kate Tosteson; Mary Gute; Courtney Knutson;
Elizabeth Schoenknecht; Donna Claypool-Overson; Russell Olson

July Anniversaries

2 Scott & Teresa Greseth

2 Don & Lois Holst

4 Paul Shay &
Marcia Swinney-Shay

7 Matt & Eileen McElrath

7 Chris & Nancy Montgomery

7 Andrew & Katie Tastad

8 Courtney & Luke Knutson

10 Mark & Lynda Hirschboeck

19 Dustin & Tara Andrist

19 Meredith & Carl Samuelson

22 Katia McDonough &
Melanie Ruda

23 Kris Hogquist & Steve
Jameson

27 Drew & Jennifer Baese

27 Martin & Karie Johnson

27 Tracy & Aaron Riekenberg

29 Pete & Jen Newburg

30 Caleb & Katharine Drexler
Booth



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Deadline for the August Pilgrim Newsletter

The deadline for sending in materials for the August Pilgrim newsletter is **July 20 at 8 am**. 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.