

The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



*22 years of standing on the promises of God —
and sometimes on the altar railing, seemingly!*

VOLUME 122, ISSUE 1

January 2021

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

*An ELCA Congregation
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

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

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

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

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(also known as the Vestry)

Tim Dykstal, *Executive Team*

Tim Moore, *Executive Team*

Karla Leitzman, *Executive Team*

Jason Hendrikson, *Treasurer/Executive Team*

Pastor Carol Tomer, *Executive Team*

Janet Erickson, *At-Large Member*

Timothy Bell-Kemp, *At-Large Member*

Lois Wintersteen, *At-Large Member*

Matt Spindler, *At-Large Member*

Other Chairpersons/Roles

Pete Newburg, *Financial Secretary*

Barbara McCauley, *Chair of Congregational
Life and Care*

Beth Nelson and Jay Oakman, *Properties*

MeeAe Kim, Aly Xiong, Bethany Mollman

Jimmy Gerding, Ella Boelke

Nursery Attendants

Joanna Deer & Karie Johnson

Wedding Coordinators

*Cover photo from about a decade ago, by
Chuck Regal.*

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January Worship Overview

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

Sunday Worship in January

About Virtual Gatherings via Zoom

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

Morning Worship/Forum Overview for January

Schedule

9:00-9:20 am — PreK & Kindergarten-2nd grade

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

9:30 am — Worship via Zoom

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

10:30 am — High School Pathways (starting January 17)

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

(Grade 3-5 & Middle School Pathways will meet at **6:15 pm** on **Wednesday** evenings, **starting January 13**)

Worship/Forum Details

January 3 — Epiphany of Our Lord, Point for Pilgrims by Pastor Carol Tomer, Pastor Bonnie Nash preaching

Forum at 10:40 am — Ruminations and Reflections on 22 Years of Pilgrim Ministry — led by Pastor Carol Tomer — A short hour of reflecting on a long journey — with thanksgiving!

January 10 — Sent Forth by God’s Blessing, Special rite: “Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call,” Point for Pilgrims by Pastor Carol Tomer, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching

Forum at 10:40 am — Goodbye Program/Party — On this Sunday, Pastor Carol’s last day celebrating with the Pilgrim community, we will use the forum time to celebrate her, and to reminisce about her 22 years with us. Bring stories to share.

January 17 — 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, Point for Pilgrims,
Bishop Patricia Lull preaching

Forum at 10:40 am — Vestry Forum about Transition — On this Sunday, our first without Pastor Carol, we will look ahead to the interim period. Following up on Bishop Patricia Lull's sermon, Rev. Justin Grimm of the Saint Paul Area Synod will outline the transition process for us, and members of the Vestry will be on hand to answer your questions.

January 24 — 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, Point for Pilgrims,
Pastor Jen Rome preaching

Forum at 10:40 am — Sources of Hope — In this forum, we welcome back Rev. Julie Neraas, who led us in a wonderful conversation about hope early in the Advent season. In this forum, we will continue the conversation, with particular focus on where hope might be found, or created, in turbulent times. Julie Neraas is a spiritual director, ordained (Presbyterian) minister, who taught at Hamline for nearly thirty years. She is the author of: *Apprenticed to Hope: A Sourcebook for Difficult Times*, *Seeing the Sacred: A Year in Snapshots*, and *Hope and Poetry: How They Sustain Us*.

January 31 — 4th Sunday after Epiphany, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Jen Rome preaching

Forum at 10:40 am — Pilgrims A.R.E., Advocates for Racial Equity, in action! What have Pilgrims been up to regarding racial equity? Join us for updates and conversation regarding our Land Acknowledgement Statement, Reparations Proposal, ISALAH organizing initiatives and JCART. Come join us on our pilgrimage as witnesses and participants! Questions? Contact **Penny Bartz 651-491-2806**.

Pilgrim Virtual Worship Is Available to Those Without Computers!

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

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

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

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

Contemplative Evening Worship, Winter 2021

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

The schedule for winter will be:

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

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

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

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

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

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Carol

What does a pastor write about in their last newsletter article? After sharing about 250 pastoral musings in Pilgrim newsletters over the past 22 years, I will do here what I've done for years: reflect on some details of our shared ministry and about the ministry of the gospel in our context.

As part of my own reflecting and thanksgiving for these years, I've been reviewing the long list of the baptisms, funerals/memorial services, weddings, and rites of confirmation that I have led or participated in over the years at Pilgrim. Such a wide circle of saints! But of course, those special marks of the journey of congregational life together are only part of the ministries of a pastor. But it is a reminder of so many Pilgrims who I've been blessed to know — of those who walked this way before me in many and various ways, and of those whom I have been blessed to accompany in their earliest years and along the journey of faith and life in Christ.

Some of you have asked me about our relationship in the future. It is a standard understanding in church life that when a pastor leaves a congregation, their *pastoral* relationship with their former parishioners ends, which means that they can no longer officiate for funerals/memorial services, weddings, or baptisms for their former parishioners. Nor is it appropriate for a former pastor to participate in pastoral care or daily life

in their former congregation. These are all standard understandings of our synod and of healthy boundaries. As much as possible, it is my goal to observe all of the appropriate protocols that help make space for you to be open to the pastoral leadership of a new lead pastor and all that they will bring to a new chapter of Pilgrim ministry. However, as an Alban church leadership book advises (*Saying Goodbye*, Edward White, ed.), “it is not necessary, and perhaps not even healthy, for the former pastor to sever all *personal* ties in the congregation.” And, of course, I will continue to carry you in my heart.

One of the tasks I am attending to in these last weeks is clearing out my church office. That is a rather daunting task after 22 years (regardless of what you may or may not know about the tidiness of my office. ☺) But it’s also one aspect of laying down my Pilgrim work. Some of the “findings” in my office are occasions to remember, to give thanks, to marvel, to feel sadness, to offer up to God my accomplishments, mistakes, regrets, joys, and memories of more than my brain can hold. In that “excavating” work, I found some things that are best offered up to you as “giveaways.” So, when we have a chance for our brief, masked, distanced, in-person times of goodbye on Saturday, January 2 & 9, I will have some tables with giveaways laid out for you. (Yes, this will be easier to offer on our indoor day; I’m not sure what the weather will allow on our outdoor day.)

Together, we have walked a journey of ministry that has been about change and growth, the vitality of ministry and mission, and outreach to hungry minds and souls in our community. I think Pilgrim’s seven core values describe so well what commitments have shaped this journey that we have shared: Worshipping and Singing Together, Growing in Faith, Living Sustainably and Doing Justice, Robust Care and Celebration, Outreach and Welcome, Shared Ministry, Creativity. And, we’ve attended to the capital improvements and acquisitions needed to support this growing ministry: a renovated and restructured sanctuary, musical instruments (including a new organ and a new grand piano), a metal sanctuary roof, a renovated lower level fellowship hall, internal mechanicals (including a new furnace), and even a children’s door as a signature symbol of outreach and welcome of all ages. We have indeed shared this journey of ministry. I have been shaped by you, and I’ve heard that I have shaped some of you, and together, we have sought to be faithful stewards of the ministry of Pilgrim on our watch, and we’ve sought to reach wide in inviting pilgrims of God into the Christian faith and life lived in community, and in making a difference far beyond the doors of Pilgrim.

Here are a few thoughts about my time among you coming to a close, that I shared in my December 13 and Christmas Eve sermons (which you can find on the Pilgrim YouTube channel — <https://tinyurl.com/y8a8hjj7>):

As I think about our Pilgrim journey, I give thanks for the ways we have been changing and evolving as a congregation during the last 22 years of Pilgrim’s almost 100 years that I’ve been blessed to be a part of. I have

learned much and you have taught me much on this journey, equipping me well to seek to continue the meaningful ministry of redevelopment in another congregation. You and I have had the privilege of sharing our lives and this ministry in many and varied ways, whether you have been a part of this Pilgrim community long before I joined the journey, or you have more recently become a part of this community of faith....

On this Christmas eve, amidst joyful song and the ineffable news of God present among us amidst our longing and the spaces between us, there is another kind of absence that does not feel so sacramental to me — the absence that comes with endings. I am sad at the thought of leaving the pastoral relationships we have had. Yet even so, my sadness will remind me of all the gifts of having been on this Pilgrim journey together with you. And also of the meals of grace that we have gathered around, the sacrament of holy communion, our centering gatherings, in which we have tasted the gospel. I feel this new empty space coming, and I am praying that it will be a sacrament of space, pointing me to the ever inviting Christ with us and to the gratitude I have for the ways you and I have been companions on this part of our pilgrimage on earth.....

On this night, as we conclude the season of Advent, on this eve of the Christmas season,... a prayer shared by our synod bishop Patricia Lull, a prayer that her brother, theologian Timothy Lull, wrote some years ago:

Gracious and merciful God; on this day, when Advent is ending and little more can be done by human preparation, I commit to you all my incomplete tasks, my unfulfilled hopes, and my unprepared heart. Lift them from me and give me in exchange peace and serenity to accept the gift of your Word and to hear anew tonight the gospel of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen....

...this prayer, one that will be familiar to some of you, even in its slightly modified form. Some call it the Good Courage prayer and others call it the Holden prayer:

O God, you have called your servants to some ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by some paths as yet untrodden, through some perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, sometimes not knowing where we go, sometimes knowing where we are going next, but always knowing that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Pastor Carol

Farewell Events for Pastor Carol

We have created several avenues for Pilgrims and Pastor Carol to share our goodbyes, as she concludes 22 years of Pilgrim pastoral ministry on January 11. These events have been created with COVID safety in mind.

A website where you can share words and photos. Here's the link:

<https://www.newlywords.com/farewell-pastor-carol>

There may also be an avenue for sharing videos; check the Farewell Events section of the Pilgrim website.

The Pilgrim, January 2021

Two “sit-by” times for having brief, face-to-face, masked and distanced times to visit, one household at a time with Pastor Carol. The times are:

Saturday, January 2, 1:30-3:30 pm — in the Pilgrim sanctuary

Saturday, January 9, 2:30-4:30 pm — outside on the lawn beside Pilgrim, with some patio heaters (and a canopy, if weather requires)

You are asked to sign-up ahead of time for these 5-minute time slots:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybbyus34>

And, on both sit-by occasions, Pastor Carol will have a table(s) of giveaways, full of fun and varied gifts for you from her!

Sunday, January 3, 10:40 am — Pastor Carol will lead the **forum**, via Zoom, sharing reflections on her 22 years of Pilgrim ministry.

Sunday, January 10, 9:30 am — Pastor Carol will **preach**.

10:40 am — There will be a **program/party** via Zoom, as we together celebrate her, and reminisce about her 22 years with us. Bring stories **to share**.

1:00 pm — A **drive-by parade** at Pilgrim.

6:51 pm — Evening contemplative worship, with **farewell coffee time** following

Pastoral Musings by Pastor Jen

When pastors leave congregations for new calls, there are lots of feelings: sadness for loss and happiness for the pastor’s next adventure; worry of what is to come and hope for the future. We get to have all of these feelings and more as we say goodbye to Pastor Carol. At this particular moment while I am writing, I am feeling thankful and trusting. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to serve for over two years alongside Pastor Carol in shared ministry with all you people of Pilgrim. And I am thankful that I will be able to remain with you during the interim time when Pilgrim will be reflection on and grounding itself in its identity as a faith community. I am also grateful to have been through such a transition time as an associate pastor in my previous call; and from that experience, I know of the possibility and new life that can emerge from the reality of missing a longtime pastor. I deeply trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the powerful call from Jesus to live his justice and love in our neighborhood. And I deeply trust Pilgrim’s leadership, the wisdom and creativity of the whole congregation, and the help of the Saint Paul Area Synod in supporting us. God has been with us. God is with us. God will be with us as we turn the page in this new chapter in the life of Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Thank you for letting me be a pastor with you in this chapter. Serving alongside you is an honor and a joy.

Pastor Jen

Alex's Musings

Children, Youth, and Family Updates!

Vocation: Continuum, Accompaniment, Rhythm

For three weeks in December, High school Pathways met to delve into the topic of Vocation! We met during the regular Sunday morning Faith Formation time on Zoom. Vocation has been a very formative word in my own life — I think it can be affirming and meaningful to reflect on how our gifts, inclinations, and contemporary surroundings *are* the platform for life and ministry. Our 'vocation' isn't an elusive goal, but a multifaceted, lived experience. The first week focused on the 'what' of vocation — vocation as a continual process throughout life. We set definitions of purpose as the "point on the horizon" we constantly pursue, callings that nudge along the way that shape us and direct our steps, and vocation as the whole journey. Second, we talked about Accompaniment and how our vocations are woven with a mission of justice and love in the world — it is in community that we 'become who we are' and vocation is not an individualistic endeavor. And finally, we touched on a theme of Rhythm — music's resonance with who we are, and daily rituals that invite us into spiritual reflection on purpose. Each vocation conversation concluded with a spiritual practice. Pilgrim youth reflected on who they are and engaged in some deep ideas over these three weeks and I'd like to thank everyone that could make it! If you would like to engage with the materials we used (youth or anyone!) please reach out to me (alextheshiprosales@pilgrimstpaul.org), a website with all of the materials is posted and accessible for use anytime, by anyone!

What's Next?

Beginning this January Children, Youth, and Family Faith Formation will begin a new season! We are calling these new meetings *LIGHT (Living Into God at Home Together) Time*, a slight change from last fall's *LIGHT Nights* program. The name change acknowledges the different meeting times Pilgrims will virtually gather: High School Pathways (grades 9-12) will meet **Sunday mornings at 10:30 am**, PreK and Kindergarten-2nd grade at **9 am on Sunday mornings**, and 3rd-5th grade & Middle School Pathways at **6:15 pm on Wednesday evenings**. Our first meetings will be **Wednesday, January 13** and **Sunday January 17**. These *LIGHT Times* will focus on story and connection. We want to play, check-in with one another, live into examples and lessons of Jesus and explore themes of Amazement, Lenten reflection, and Reparations. I want to work hard, listen, and try new ways to make virtual gatherings approachable and applicable to you — please reach out anytime if you have a topic idea, feedback, or any suggestions as we move into the new year — myself and the whole CYF ministry team are here for you! We also want to let you know that however you are feeling,

wherever you're at — whether or not you've been making it to our virtual gatherings — you are already more than enough. We will be here and please follow your heart and do what's best for you and your family this Epiphany and Spring.

Summer

Get these dates on your calendar – registration details coming soon for WAPO ☺

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

Thanks everyone - God bless you now and always!

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

Our Life Together in Faith

Goodbye from Johnson Creativity Fellow, Leif McLellan

Hello Pilgrims,

It has been my privilege to serve as your Johnson Creativity Fellow for these last 4 months. I had the wonderful opportunity to share my Masters Thesis work at Luther Seminary with many of you. In these numerous, holy conversations, we discussed what it might look like for Pilgrim to grow as guests out in its wider community. From these conversations I have found ways to support you in educating each other around issues of racial reparations, and I have seen so much energy around being a congregation that follows God's calling to do justice, as guests and as Pilgrims. Thank you for letting me partner with you in your ministry.

Sincerely,
Leif McLellan

Staff Anniversaries

On behalf of the Staff Care Team, and all Pilgrims: Congratulations to Chuck Regal for 15 years of service to Pilgrim Lutheran as custodian, and Mike Schulze for 2 years of service to Pilgrim in both custodial and MAP roles. Thank you, Chuck and Mike, for all you do!

Epiphany Small Groups: Getting Through January and February!

During the season of Epiphany, Pilgrim will be offering three varieties of small groups for your participation. January brings the least daylight of our year, and as we all find our way through times of transition and wait out the pandemic, being/staying/becoming connected to one another can buoy our spirits, and keep us nourished emotionally, spiritually, and even physically. We encourage you to take part in as many of these offerings as you wish. Our presence with one another is powerful and deepens the reality of God's care for us.

Parent to Parent

Mondays January 11, 25, February 8

8:15-9 pm

Parents just need a place to be and check in and support each other while caring for their children during COVID. This group will be led by other parents with an opening question about something on their hearts and minds as they parent right now, with plenty of time for checking in, sharing, and caring for one another in prayer and presence. Knowing laughter and understood tears are all welcome!

Contact: Pastor Jen

Getting Through January and February: Tending to Heart and Hope Small Group

3 Sunday afternoons: January 17 and 31, February 7

3-3:50 pm

This group will be modeled after Sunday Coffee Time, with time for initial sharing in the large group and then small (4 members or so) breakout groups. Each week we will have a theme around which to gather ourselves, but the groups will be open for discussing whatever is meaningful to you that day. We will close with prayer.

Contact: Nonny Smith

Always a Guest Book Study Group

6 consecutive Thursdays Jan 7-Feb 11

11-11:50 am

Each week, a facilitator will choose one of the chapters of the book *Always a Guest*, by Barbara Brown Taylor, as a focus. You need not purchase the book; readings will be available to you online.

Contact: Nonny Smith

Transition times like these are challenging. Our welcome and presence with each other is fortifying. Don't be shy!! Please come!

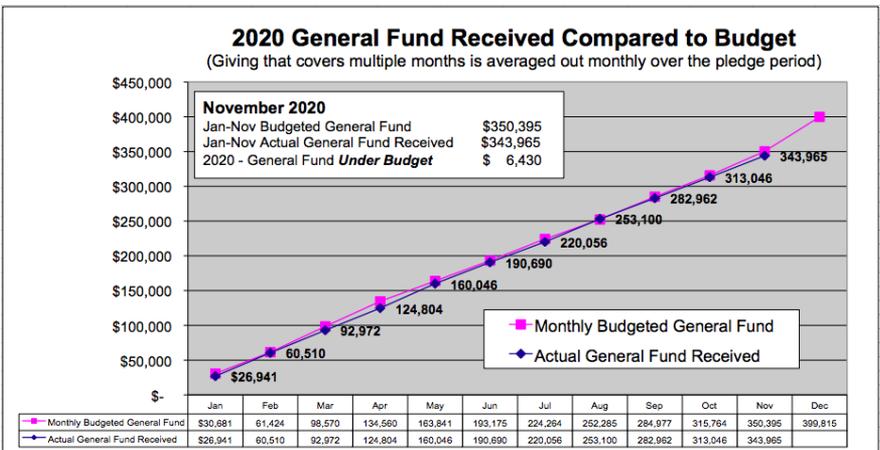
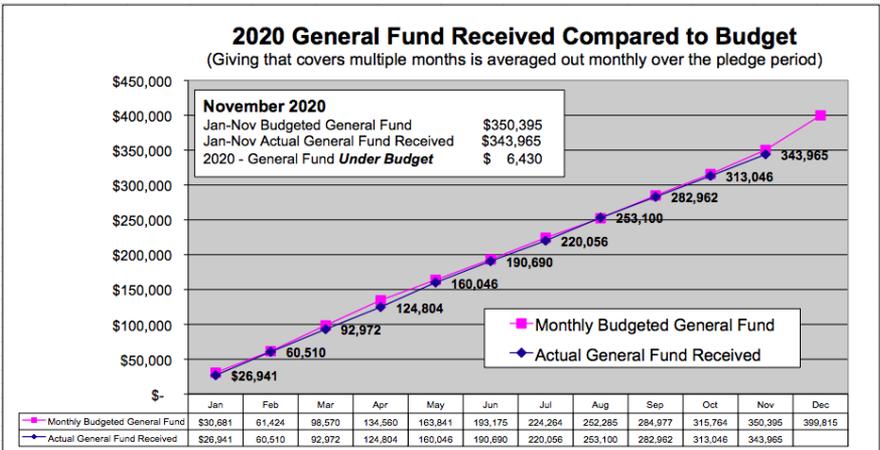
Vestry News

Financial Update Through November 2020

By Jason Hendrikson, Pilgrim Treasurer

As 2020 winds down, here is a quick update on Pilgrim’s finances through November. November giving was lower than budgeted and Pilgrim giving through November is short of budget by \$6,430. Although this is a trend we hope does not continue, in these challenging times, this continues to be positive news and 2020 giving is slightly ahead of giving in 2019. We are thankful for that!

Through November, budgeted expenses have been underspent by \$53,538 and overall Pilgrim is operating \$49,635 under budget when looking at all revenues and expenses. This does not happen without a lot of hard work from Pilgrim Staff, Ministry Teams and Members – Thank you! Our next update will provide a full picture of giving and expenses in 2020.



Education, Service & Fellowship

Introduction to the Doctrine of Discovery: A JCART Gathering

January 12, 2021 7 to 8 pm

The historical church played a crucial role in the conquest and oppression of native peoples. This role was justified by what is known as the doctrine of discovery. Come learn more about the doctrine, one of the scriptural texts used to support it, and recent denominational repudiations of the doctrine. How do we respond to this history? How are we called to magnify the call to repudiate the Doctrine? Event will be led by the Joint Church Anti-Racism Team and include opportunities for small group discussion and action steps. The meeting is Zoom:

<https://macalester.zoom.us/j/96076255324>

Pilgrims ARE, Advocates for Racial Equity, in Action!

ISALAH's Biennial State-Wide Event Invites You!

January 24, 2-5 pm

Every two years, a few thousand people of faith from across the state and across race, religion and background gather as ISALAH. These gatherings are always inspiring, powerful and a commitment to a multi-racial democracy and a caring economy fully embodied in MN! Many Pilgrims gathered in 2019 at the Minneapolis Convention Center which ultimately resulted in our congregation joining ISALAH in 2020. 2021's state-wide virtual launch is **Sunday, January 24, 2-5 pm**.

ISALAH's "We Make Minnesota" statewide public meeting will have 3000 people from across our organization (Barbershop and Black Congregation Cooperative, Latinx Coalition, Muslim Coalition, Young Adult Organizing, Greater MN, Metro, Kids Count on Us Childcare Organizing, One Body Catholics) come together to celebrate the work we've done in the last 4 years and lay out our strategic orientation for the next two years as a multi-racial, multi-faith political community.

It's an opportunity to build power with our elected leaders and talk about a game plan of action to make sure we have a government #WhoCaresForUs. We've invited our top elected leadership to join us like Governor Walz, Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman and others!

We are excited about what we can make possible on issues like climate justice, healthcare and paid family leave and this January 24th event is going to position us to work on these issues powerfully!

Please join us in grabbing a seat at this big statewide, powerful table! After the year we've had, we, as an ISALAH Congregation, deserve to be a part of *The Pilgrim, January 2021*

something like this! Please register at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6meou9f>

Please encourage other Pilgrims and friends to join you! Questions? Please reach out to **Drew Johnson** at drew.johnson10@gmail.com or **Joan Haan** at jmbhaan@comcast.net, ISALIAH Pilgrim co-leads.

Book Club News

Date: **Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7 pm**

Book: *Truth Worth Telling* by Scott Pelley

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

Classics for Pilgrim

The Classics for Pilgrim book discussion will take place virtually on Zoom on **Thursday, January 28, 7-8:30 pm**. Expect a lively discussion of *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Contact Barbara Taylor (**651 699 1095; bstaylor50@gmail.com**) for the Zoom link. This is an open discussion for those who enjoy reading classics as well as an opportunity to get to know Pilgrim friends.

Public Art Update at Pilgrim

The public art committee has partnered with Public Art St. Paul, a nonprofit organization, to guide us through the process of creating public art at Pilgrim. We have worked on various parts of the process, including defining the content of the work, public engagement from the surrounding community, developing a "Request for Qualifications" for the artist response, and at the writing of this summary, are now in the midst of reviewing 19 different artist submissions. The work that is to come will include narrowing down the artists to a final group for full development of an idea, interviews, selection of the artist, and finally, commissioning of the artist to create the art for Pilgrim. Stay tuned for further updates regarding this exciting project at Pilgrim. If you have any questions, please contact **Kent Miller** or **Claire Kaiser**.

Virtual More Than Happy Hour

Tuesday, January 12, 6:30-7:30 pm

More Than Happy Hour is a once-a-month space for young adults to gather and talk about life, church, and the world. We focus on a discussion theme. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join, or bring a conversation topic. Pilgrims buys us dinner!

This month, we will be joined by Elliot Altbaum of the Young Adult coalition of Isaiah to share about upcoming ways to express our faith through political activism at the local and state levels.

In COVID-19 life, we're living up to our name—and this gathering will certainly MORE than happy hour. Pilgrim's Young Adult Innovation grant will pay for your dinner via Door Dash, and then from home, we can enjoy our dinner and talk in Zoom-land. Reach out to **Hannah Olson** at **hannahdelaine@gmail.com** by **January 7** so we can coordinate for payment for your dinner and make sure you get the Zoom link.

Pilgrim Mamas Gathering Virtually

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

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

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

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

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

Around the world, host families, churches, workplaces and communities are ready to welcome YAGM volunteers. Pilgrim Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Alex Theship-Rosales, participated in YAGM before coming to Pilgrim. Learn more and apply on the ELCA Website — **<https://tinyurl.com/y8nok5go>**. Application deadline: **January 15, 2021**.

Children, Youth, & Families

Families in Faith Classes

Families in Faith Classes are shared experiences for children and their parents/caregivers to learn faith practices together. There is one class for each year of a child's life from Birth-6th graders led by Pastor Jen. Virtual classes will take place **Wednesday Evenings from 6:15-7:00 pm** for PreK-6th grade and on **Sunday mornings at 8:30 am** for babies and toddlers. There will then be a blessing shared during **9:30 am** virtual worship the following Sunday. Children and families will receive a gift and materials at home in advance of Families in Faith classes. Siblings, grandparents, godparents, etc. are welcome to join in!

Wednesday, January 13: 3rd Grade Words for Life: Parents/caregivers and children learn how to read and study the Bible together. Receive a *Growing in God's Love* Bible. Blessing during 9:30 am worship on **Sunday, January 17.**

Wednesday, January 27: 2nd Grade Share, Save, Spend: Parents/caregivers and children learn and experience how we follow Jesus by sharing our money and using it wisely. Receive Share, Save, Spend banks. Blessing during 9:30 am worship on **Sunday, January 31.**

Confirmation With Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Deep Dive Confirmation for 7th-9th Graders

Grade 7-9 Pilgrim youth are invited to participate in Deep Dive Confirmation, a collaborative effort of progressive St. Paul ELCA Congregations, which during COVID will invite participants to watch a movie in advance that highlights the connection of faith and activism. Pilgrim youth attend a Zoom Deep Dive gathering dedicated to a small group conversation just for Pilgrims. The focus for January will be Martin Luther King, Jr. Look for an email from Pastor Jen with details to come.

10th Grade Confirmation Capstone

Grade 10 youth begin a process to walk together from January-May as they prepare for Confirmation Sunday on May 2, 2021. Because of COVID and just because, Pastor Jen and Alex invite 10th grade youth to meet with them to share what would be a meaningful experience for them. Soon after that, we will meet with 10th grade youth and parents/caregivers to finalize plans. These meetings will take place on Zoom. Look for an email from Pastor Jen with a Doodle poll to express times you are able to meet.



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, including those suffering with COVID-19, those who are unemployed, those struggling with depression and other mental health issues.

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

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

Christian Sympathy: Family and friends of Mardell Johnson, who died on November 9; family and friends of Dick Johnson, who died on October 2; Sara McAdory-Kim and family, on the death of her aunt Marcia McAdory Rachel on September 26; Hannah Schendel, on the death of her great-uncle, Edwin Monroe Cronk; family and friends of Jan Harper, former Pilgrim member and spouse of Jean Hay, who died on August 31; family and friends of former Pilgrim member Wilbur Decker, who died on August 11; Jason Henrikson, on the death of his father, John, on August 3; Karie Johnson, on the death of her uncle, Donald Ostergaard, on July 25; Drew Johnson, on the death of his grandfather, Ted Anderson, on July 17; Lois and Richard Wintersteen, on the death of their granddaughter, Bethany Kennedy, from pancreatic cancer, on July 15; Peter Spuit and family, on the death of Peter's uncle, Mark, who died by suicide the week of May 17; the Heggeseth family, on the death of Paul's uncle and Brianna's great-aunt; family and friends of Jean Hay, former member of Pilgrim, who died on April 21; Caleb Drexler Booth and family, on the death of his uncle, Craig Breimhorst, on April 16, from COVID-19; Craig Goldman, on the death of his sister Carol; Lois and Richard Wintersteen, on the death of Lois' sister Norma on March 31; family and friends of Mary Lou Jacobson, a former member, who died on March 22; Ross Radtke, on the death of his grandmother on February 9.

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

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

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

Parochial Report

January Birthdays

Week 1

Hanna Heggeseth
Cameron Swenson
Elsie Newburg
Coralie Pederson
Jack Schuessler

Week 2

Logan Henry Pederson
Jaina Elizabeth Conklin
Ivory Ruud
Todd Dunn
Alicen Grams
Larry Kohlenstein
Lauren Bowser
Trudith Gustafson
Tim Dykstal
Donna Holman
Katherine Heinecke

Week 3

Jay Ankeny
Micah Whetstone
Silje Mae Anderson
Lee Gunsten
Alexander Ellis
Dan Hoseck
Melissa Johnson
Duane Kelling
Isabel Drexler Booth

Week 4

Derek Heinecke
Russell Loomis Jr.
Bryan Maurer
Devin Stauning
Karen Bjorkman
Nancy Rightly/Holst
Erica Kragerud-Smith
Chris Nagel
Hannah Omodt
Nathan Omodt
Louise Rogness
Kristen Sherman
Louise Stenberg
Jenny Heinecke
Eileen McElrath
Inho McAdory-Kim

January Anniversaries

- 3 John and Kristine Lavik
- 10 Aaron Bowser and Brenda Kowske
- 16 Karen Bjorkman and Duane Kelling
- 16 Jaymin Kim and Sara McAdory-Kim

Deadline for the February Pilgrim Newsletter

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

Shared Ministry Statement

Pilgrim practices “shared ministry,” affirming that each member of this community is a minister both within and beyond the walls of the church, which we affirm in baptism. We partner with one another and with the wider ELCA to walk together in this journey of faith. We agree to share the decision-making responsibilities of being a church, as well as the joy of serving in mission, side-by-side. We welcome all to become involved through the use of their abilities, time, and resources. Every program, group, or emphasis within our congregation is sustained by the involvement of the ministers of the Pilgrim community.

Have You “Liked “ Pilgrim Yet?

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

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

Have You Remembered Pilgrim in Your Will?

Some people are able to continue to give to Pilgrim in death, as well as in life. Giving through your will helps to continue the 90-year tradition of ministry and mission at Pilgrim, continuing the legacy of your witness. With the advice of your attorney or tax adviser, the following language may be added to your will, trust, or codicil:

“I bequeath X% of my estate to Pilgrim Lutheran Church,
1935 St. Clair Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105. “