

Progress

Volume 22, Issues 9

September 2024

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

709 Weston Avenue
Wausau WI 54403

715.842.4544

pilgrimofwausau@gmail.com
www.pilgrimofwausau.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

In-Person and
Zoomed Online

9:00 am

THURSDAYS

6:30 pm

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday
Closed

Where Do We Go From Here?

How many times in your adult life have you asked this question? It might have been as simple as that map application on your cell phone or in your car leading you astray. Have you ever lost a job? It may have been a tragic event in your life, like the loss of a close friend or loved one. Maybe you have just become an empty nester, sending your youngest child off to college or off into the world for their first job and apartment. Or maybe a new, exciting opportunity presented itself and you decide to take the risk, or not. Life has a way of presenting this question to us often. We make choices in life. As Lutherans, we like to think that most of our decisions are guided by the Holy Spirit. We pray for God's guidance. We ask for help in determining our calling, or the right path to take.

Our last Church Council meeting was held at Crossways Waypost Camp. Prior to the meeting, we shared a meal and some ice breaker activities with the Council from St. Stephen. Two camp counselors helped us in an activity that in-

involved taking an unknown path. The grid was laid out with different colored plastic disks. We lined up and one by one each of us attempted to find the correct path. The first few people in line only made a couple of correct choices. The rest of us paid careful attention to the participants' choices. Which disks in what order were correct? As more participants attempted to find the path, the other participants shouted out the correct steps as they became known. Eventually, with the help of everyone, the correct path was discovered. During the exercise, we discovered that some of us were better at keeping track of the steps and knew which disks made up the correct steps. Some of us were better at listening to the crowd helping us. Some of us communicated with the counselors and got hints.

Was this an illustration of the path before us as we look for answers for our congregation? Right now, the steps we need to take are not clear. Maybe the goals are not entirely clear. What is God's Will for us?

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

A few things are clear. The Spirit was among us during those four shared services. You could feel it. It did not matter which church we attended. It was clear that the churches were different in terms of facilities, resources and energy. It was clear that all of the churches have talented individuals, great cooks, bakers, and faithful congregations. I am biased, but the choir was wonderful with more voices. It is clear that we can fill a church with love and fellowship.

I am convinced that working with the other churches is part of God's plan to help us find the right path. It will not be without trials and tribulations, just as life's journey provides. We will take some missteps just as we did in the camp exercise. It will take patience and good listening skills and perhaps some hints from above. But there is a path for us. I can't wait to get to the "Are we there yet?" stage.

"The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps."

—Proverbs 16:9

In Christ's Love,
Jean Trempe

BABY CARE KITS AND SCHOOL KITS

We are now collecting the following items for Lutheran World Relief baby care kits and school kits:

School Kits:

- * **Four 70-80 sheet spiral notebooks, appr. 8" x 10.5"**
- * Rulers
- * Scissors (blunt end)
- * Pencil sharpeners
- * Black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink)
- * Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons
- * 2.5" erasers
- * sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bags, approx. 14" x 17" (sturdy cotton, canvas, denim, and twill)

Baby Care Kits:

- * T-shirts
- * Gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- * Blankets—36" to 52" square (cotton or flannel, crocheted or knitted)
- * Cloth diapers
- * Jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts
- * Socks
- * Bath-size bars of soap

Items can be left in the collection boxes in the narthex. Call Charlene Buttner at 715-842-7683 for more information. Thank you!



For patients and family members of Aspirus At Home-Hospice. Volunteers provide a comforting presence, and emotional/social support to patients and their families in the Hospice Program. As valuable members of the Hospice team, you have the opportunity to help patients in their end-of-life journey live in dignity and peace, in a pain-free and comfortable environment.

Opportunities/Activities

- Visit Hospice patients...
 - Read
 - Write cards
 - Play cards or board games
 - Assist with light house-keeping
 - Go for walks/wheelchair rides
 - Share memories
- Bake and prepare meals (at the Hospice House)
- Offer support via phone calls
- Be a friend
- Fundraise/Community Events
- Assist in the office
- Plus more...

Apply directly at aspirus.org/volunteers or call 715-847-2000, ext. 52436 or toll-free at 866-331-2467.

Serving Aspirus Hospice House, (Seasons of Life) in Marathon, Portage, Wood, Lincoln, Oneida, and Langlade Counties.

Make a joyful noise!

“Sometimes when I’m lonely I take out one of my old hymn books and turn to some of my favorite hymns. Then I’m not lonely anymore.”

~ Gerry Schlamp, member of St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Gerry Schlamp is a proper southern lady who relocated from the southeastern U.S. a few years ago to be nearer her daughter who lives in Wausau. She has a long history of singing solos in churches. Along the way she has acquired a collection of about 15 hymnals. In these books she has marked her favorite hymns. I, the Lord of Sea and Sky, In the Morning When I Rise (Give Me Jesus), You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (Eagles’ Wings), and His Eye Is on the Sparrow, along with a page long list of additional hymns are among her favorites. As I listened to these words, it seemed her favorite hymns are almost like living characters in her life.

It may seem strange to say hymns are able to stave off loneliness, but I understand her thinking. She has memories connected to each of these hymns—memories of places where she first heard and sang them, memories of relationships to people who were part of her life while she was learning and singing them. By the time she reached her 90s, Gerry had been a part of many worship services, and she had been a member many different relationships. Even though many things from her life are in her past, the relationships continue as relationships of memory.

These hymns are also very special to her because they reflect the faith that Gerry has held onto for many years. Many of the hymns on her list are hymns of comfort. They speak about God’s strength and her deeply felt truth that...

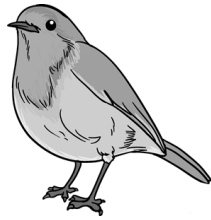
*“He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.”*

These are comforting words for people at any point in their lives.

Perhaps you have favorite hymns. If you do, I encourage you to make a list of them and get copies of them. Because of their sacred connections to you, they may become like living characters in your own life. They may give meaning to your life, just as Gerry’s favorite hymns give meaning to her.

With thanks for the many ways music touches our lives,

Delores Kessel



ROUND ROBIN WRAP~UP

Attendance and Noisy Money Collections for Crossways (\$856.13)

Good Shepherd	188	\$139.75
Pilgrim	155	\$169.16
Immanuel	151	\$295.29
St. Stephen	178	\$251.93



“If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. ... Face it, friend. He is crazy about you!” —Max Lucado, minister and author

Transition Task Force

If you have a question or comment for the Transition Task Force, drop a written note in the box on the information table in the lounge or talk to a team member.

Charles Freiberg	charlesfreiberg@icloud.com	715-574-4904
Jeff Kessel (Communications)	Kessel.jeffrey@gmail.com	715-573-4491
Frank Koerten	fmkoerten@gmail.com	715-301-3939
Karen Larson	klar5804@gmail.com	715-297-4945
Stephen Moede	klar5804@gmail.com	715-297-4945
Kay Palmer (Chairperson)	kaypalmer@42llc.com	302-983-6946
Jean Trempe	jtrempe@frontier.com	715-575-5592

shout OUT!

- ☺ To the pastors, Natalie Bassett, Tryphine Schrub, and Phil Bogen; and, to lay minister Shirley Ecker, for leading worship services in August.
- ☺ To all who worked at, and donated items to, the election-day bake sale. \$340 was raised.

Men's Monthly Bible Study Breakfast at Eagle's Nest

2nd Thursday of the Month
7:30 a.m.

The next gathering for food, faith, and fellowship is **September 12**. If you are interested in joining, contact Eugene Viegut (715-359-9895).

Weekly Prayer Circle Tuesdays 11:45 a.m.

If you would like to join the group, drop in. Or, if you would like to receive the weekly prayer list, contact the office.

Monthly Town Hall Meetings

2nd Sunday of each month following worship service

Next Meeting
September 8th.



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 13th, 2024
Unapproved

PRESENT IN PERSON: Shirley Ecker (President), Charlie Freiberg (Treasurer), Jean Trempe (Secretary), Linda Konkel (Evangelism Chair), Kay Palmer (Buildings & Grounds Chair), Charlene Buttner (Church and Society Chair), Sue Koerten (Worship Chair),

EXCUSED: Jeanette Carlson (Vice President), Janet Williams (Life and Growth Chair), Jim Lenselink (Stewardship Chair), Terra Ecker (Children and Youth Chair)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Meeting was held at Crossways Waypost Camp. After a meal and ice breaker activities with the council of St. Stephen, the two councils went to separate rooms to conduct their council meetings. Shirley Ecker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Devotions were led by Charlie Freiberg. Charlie shared an excerpt from "52 Weeks after 52 Years," a book written by former member Merv Berkland which shared his experience while deployed in Vietnam. Charlie led a prayer for Vietnam veterans.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Jean Trempe) Review of minutes from July 9, 2024 regular council meeting. A motion to accept minutes by Kay Palmer and seconded by Sue Koerten. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Charlie Freiberg) Reviewed financial reports for July 2024. Cash on hand once again exceeds the Church's debts. Cash in banks totaled \$75,586, with \$24,813 held as restricted funds. The largest portion of restricted funds is for Blessings that Give Hope of \$15,417. Our long-term loan stands at \$63,954. Contributions are on par with prior periods. Charlene Buttner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and it was seconded by Kay Palmer. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Jeanette Carlson) No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Shirley Ecker)

- President's Meeting Update: The council presidents met on July 23. There was no meeting in August. The next meeting of the council Presidents had not yet been set.
- Jim Lenselink and Shirley meet with leaders of Good Shepherd's visitation team. Resource materials were collected. Anyone interested in helping with this important ministry can contact Shirley for more information.
- Shirley has a meeting with Rev. Tim Coltvot of Luther Seminary concerning availability of interns/students on August 23. Wartburg has not yet responded and Synod staff has not identified a possible supervising pastor candidates at this point. Applications for Wartburg are due December 1 and are due January 31 for Luther.
- Shirley, Kay and Jeff Kessel met with Pastor Asher and Pastor Dara of the Synod. Relationship building continues with the other ELCA churches in the area. The summer shared services were successful in terms of attendance with 150+ attending at each of the four churches.

TRANSITION TASK FORCE UPDATE: We are moving! Jeff Kessel and Kay Palmer met with the leads and communications persons from Good Shepherd and St. Stephen. The meeting discussed basic fundamental ways of working together. The result of the meeting was that the Pilgrim Transition Task Force would meet with the Good Shepherd Transition Task Force. The Pilgrim team hosted the Good Shepherd team on August 5th. The meeting functioned as a meet and greet. We exchanged questions and philosophical positions of each of the congregations. The result of the meeting was a vote to have the three congregations meet together, determining that we did not have to

have additional individual meetings. This will allow us to start working on how we can work better together. A date for this meeting is being determined.

The Pilgrim Transition Task Force met the following evening, August 6th. Much of this meeting was recapping the previous meetings. Jean Trempe had also come up with a list of questions and tasks for the process. The team reviewed Jean's ideas, that will be reviewed and worked on at our next meeting, September 3rd. We also began reading a book "Better Together, Making Church Mergers Work" written by Rev. Jim Tomberlin and Warren Bird, church merger consultants.

WORSHIP REPORT: (Sue Koerten) The four shared worship services held the past four Sundays with Good Shepherd, Immanuel and St. Stephen were very positive. We had 150 people in attendance at Pilgrim and 85+ for the Fellowship/Coffee hour. Thank you to all who made this possible. These services were a great opportunity for us to visit other ELCA congregations in Wausau and for us to get to know our neighbors. A wrap-up meeting of the planners of these services is scheduled for August 29. It has been suggested that more shared services be planned. There was a discussion about upcoming services at Pilgrim. Pastor Natalie Bassett will lead the Christmas Eve worship service. The Christmas Day, Thursday evening and December 29 services need to be determined. Plans need to be developed for the Thanksgiving Service, which is November 26. Hymn pickers will meet on Wednesday August 21 at 9:00 a.m. to choose hymns for the next season. We were informed that Kathy Robinson, seminary student who has been part of our Sunday services will be moving soon to Iowa to continue her studies. It was mentioned that we should reach out to Christian Fellowship Church who rents Fellowship Hall about sharing our worship service during their upcoming transition. Shirley indicated that Eugene is still our liaison and that she would get in touch with Eugene about the offer.

(Continued on page 6)

(Council Meeting Minutes continued from page 5)

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

(Kay Palmer) A big thank you” to Jean and John Trempe for taking care of the removal of the dead tree near the back entrance of fellowship Hall. Also, thank you to the folks who have been mowing the grass and doing the outdoor maintenance – Randy Ecker, John Trempe, Bob Windorski, and Kevin Zaitz. Randy Ecker weeded the front flower bed and trimmed the hedges in preparation for the Round Robin service at our church. Thank you! There are two areas of concern. The first is the garden shed. The roof needs to be replaced. On further inspection, the garage door fiberglass is disintegrating. There are also areas on the sides that need repair or residing. The shed does not have to be replaced but needs some improvements. The second area of concern is the nonmetal roof above the lounge area. This is a flat roof with a membrane held in position with rocks. The life expectancy of the membrane is 20 – 25 years. Ours is reported to be 34 years old. We have had three roof leaks and repairs in the last month. All three leaks were coming into the building in the corner of the Library over the counter. The good news is that the roofer doing the last service call spent more time tracking down the leak. The previous two times breaks were identified in the membrane and a quick fix was applied. In this third time the roofer found a larger break near a vent in the roof. This leak was confirmed by inspecting the inside of the ceiling. It was possible to confirm that the leak was coming in around the flashing of the vent and then traced back to the corner of the library. The bad news is that we as a congregation should start to think about roof replacement for this flat roof section of the front of the . It appears that we have some time, but it is unsure how much longer before more leaks are occurring as the membrane continues to break down.

EVANGELISM: (Linda Konkel) Looking for someone to plan the Trunk or Treat event in October. We have a number of folks interested in participating, but need someone to

coordinate the event. Anyone interested in helping should contact Linda Konkel or Shirley Ecker.

BLESSINGS THAT GIVE HOPE:

Mollie Augustine and her mother, Jeanne Wunsch have resigned from championing the program. Thank you, Mollie and Jeanne, for your tireless efforts to help the children in the Wausau area schools. Thank you to Jeff and Delores Kessel for stepping in to take over leadership for the program. Jeff has already made contact with some of the schools involved. As a result of the changes, the Pilgrim Lutheran Church bank account for the program (ending in ...3304) at Marathon Bank needs new signatories. Jeff and Delores Kessel will be authorized signatories, removing Jeanne Wunsch and Mollie Augustine as signatories. Treasurer, Charles Freiberg will continue as the third signatory. A motion was made to change the signatories by Charlene Buttner and seconded by Sue Koerten.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY:

(Charlene Buttner) Baby care kits and School kits will be collected until September 22. The ingathering for quilts and kits is the first week in October.

Habit for Humanity's growing programming provides increased opportunities to volunteer including the new Habitat's Team Build Days. For information on individual and group opportunities visit www.habitatwausau.org and click on the Volunteer tab or call 715-343-4212 and ask for Kelsey. Faith in Action is looking for greeting cards. God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is September 8. An event will be held at White Water Park. Randy and Chris Ecker will again be grill masters for the cookout. Proceeds will be donated to Marty's Bus supporting needs for the unhoused in Wausau. We will need coolers. We will be donating prayer shawls and possibly socks. Further details to come.

LIFE AND GROWTH: (Janet Williams) The election day bake sale on August 13 raised \$340. It was suggested that the proceeds be used toward the purchase of the tables in the

lounge area. The bake sale was moved to the church this election day. Marathon County informed us late on Monday that the bake sale could not be held at their facility for this election and in the future. We discussed other fund raising ideas such as silent auctions and bake sales at other events and venues. The scrip card program is ongoing. Cards are ordered about every two weeks. Orders can be placed with Fred at the church office or Janet Williams (715) 573-3310. It has been taking about five days to receive the cards once the order has been placed. Cash balance from scrip proceeds stands at \$7,308.

STEWARDSHIP: (Jim Lenselink) No Report

CHILDREN AND YOUTH: (Terra Ecker) No Report

NEW BUSINESS: Recently chairs and tables were donated by members of the congregation. The council has requested that in the future, donations of any capital such as furniture or equipment be presented to the council prior to purchase or donation. The council should discuss the appropriateness of the donation and determine if it is best suited for the church's needs. It was further requested that any suggestions for rearrangement of furnishings be approved by the council. It was deemed that official motions were not necessary at this time. The tables and chairs are accepted with gratitude and will be placed in the lounge area to encourage more fellowship.

Progress Articles are due August 23, 2024. Next meeting is September 10, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Jim Lenselink has devotions.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. via a motion made by Charlie Freiberg and seconded by Sue Koerten. Motion Carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Trempe, Secretary



Happy Birthday from your Pilgrim family!
Please contact the church office with any updates.

Taylen Augustine	09/03	Ron Foreman	09/18
Cheryl Landeau	09/04	Ginny Kirsch	09/18
Ross Windorski	09/04	Alissa Strick	09/18
Deborah Erickson	09/05	Tim Remley	09/20
Steve Konkell	09/05	Bonnie Spangberg	09/21
Kathy Boehm	09/08	Kayle Kislow	09/22
Jamie Lemke	09/11	Julie Bukowski	09/23
Marshall Landeau	09/13	Layla Molling	09/27
Guy Daniels	09/15	Ryan Petersen	09/28
Rick Swanson	09/16	Annarose Brown	09/30

On birthdays, we honor our beginnings and remember that in God's eyes, we have a place in this world that no one else has.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

the following members of our Pilgrim family on their

September

1 Ellen Anderson	16 Finley Behnke
2 Cody Augustine	17 Megan Behnke
3 Easton Augustine	18 Oliver Behnke
4 Kassidie Augustine	19 Sonya Bergeth
5 Mollie Augustine	20 Josphine Billington
6 Taylen Augustine	21 Zackary Billington
7 Karla Auner	22 Kathy Boehm
8 Pamela Bannister	23 Steve Boehm
9 Timothy Bannister	24 Karen Boller
10 Tim Bannister, Jr.	25 Richard Boller
11 Brad Bartell	26 Connie Brandenburg
12 Bruce Bartell	27 Jenna Brandenburg
13 Nancy Bedessem	28 Larry Brandenburg
14 David Behnke, III	29 Ann Brooks
15 Charlie Behnke	30 Annarose Brown

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 9:00 Worship	2 LABOR DAY Office Closed	3 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Task Force Meeting	4	5 6:30 Worship	6	7
8 9:00 Worship 10:15 Town Hall Meeting	9	10 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Council Mtg.	11 9:00 Busy Bee Quilters	12 7:30 Men's Bible Study at Eagle's Nest 6:30 Worship	13	14
15 9:00 Worship	16	17 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 GWCS Meeting at Pilgrim	18	19 6:30 Worship	20 Progress Article Deadline Lay School	21 Lay School
22 9:00 Worship	23	24 11:45 Prayer Circle	25	26 6:30 Worship	27	28
29 QUILT/KITS SUNDAY 9:00 Worship 10:15 Reception	30	31 11:45 Prayer Circle				

FINANCIAL INFORMATION UPDATE

August 29, 2024

A budget is a statement of faith. It is our way of saying this is what we believe God wants us to do. And we trust that God will provide.

Mortgage		Year-to-Date Revenue	
		Budget	vs. Actual
\$ 63,954	Balance: 07/25/2024		
\$ 713	Principal Payment		
\$ 161	Interest Payment		
\$ 63,241	Balance: 08/29/2024		
		Outstanding Bills	
		\$68,000	\$66,161
		\$1,632 Total Bills	

PARTICIPATE IN THE SCRIP PROGRAM AND SUPPORT PILGRIM

Put your regular household shopping dollars to work by purchasing gift cards at Pilgrim. Scrip-participating retailers sell gift cards to Pilgrim at a discount and you get the full face value of the gift card. Orders are taken periodically. For information, email or call the office at 715-842-4544

THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that Pilgrim Church receives funds through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members can recommend which nonprofit organizations they feel should receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you are an eligible member, please consider us when directing Choice Dollars. Call 800-847-4836 or visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

THOSE PILGRIMS UNABLE TO ATTEND SERVICES

Please remember the following Pilgrims who are not able to attend worship due to personal limitation. If you need their addresses, please contact the church office.

In Care Facilities

Kathleen Huebner.....Mount View

In Their Homes

Kathy Boehm John Schneider
Donald Mattke

PRAYER SHAWLS

Do you know someone who needs prayer and a special word of encouragement? Consider extending the love of Jesus through a Circle of Women prayer shawl.

A cabinet in the lounge holds a variety of prayer shawls. Choose one to deliver to a person who needs a special, tangible reminder of God's love and presence. Sign the book to show that you have taken one, and use a prayer request form to add this person to the Prayer Circle list, if that is appropriate.

A wicker basket sits next to the cabinet. If you have extra yarn to donate, you may place it there to be used for other handcrafted shawls. Thank You!

Shawls given to date... 289

CAN'T GET TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY?

**COME WORSHIP
THURSDAYS AT 6:30 PM!**

We gather for worship each week in a simple service of hymns, prayers, Scripture, sermon, and the Lord's Supper. We don't "dress up," and it only lasts 30 – 40 minutes. If your spirit needs food for the journey, please consider joining us. We promise you will be fed!

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Quilt Sunday

September 29th

Last month
to collect items for School Kits and Baby Care Kits
(see list of needs on page 2)

Staff

Ministers
Music Coordinator
Choir Director
Pianists
Office Manager
Custodian

All Pilgrims
Delores Kessel
Jim Linselink
Delores Kessel, Norah Brown
Fred Patten
Dennis Wunsch

If you wish to give a gift to Pilgrim electronically,
please go to www.pilgrimofwausau.org and click
on the DONATE button on the home page.

Thank you.



Services

Sundays at 9:00 am / Thursdays at 6:30 pm

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH...

Sharing God's Never-Ending Love with All People through Faith and Service!
www.pilgrimofwausau.org

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
709 Weston Avenue
Wausau WI 54403
715.842.4544
Electronic Service Requested

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September 2024

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