

Progress

Volume 22, Issue 1

January 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

In-person

6:30 pm

Office Hours

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

Friday
Closed

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Have you made a resolution for the New Year yet? Research shows that only 9% of Americans who make a resolution for the New Year complete them. 23% of us quit the resolution in the first week, and 43% quit by the end of January.

Although New Year resolutions are good for improving our health while doing it in small increments, we can also set ourselves up for failure if we make those resolutions too big.

We live in a society that keeps everyone busy. This takes away from our down time and rest. As one of those people that keeps herself busy I would like to challenge each of us to not add any additional task to our lists and just zoom out for a little bit by reading a book, having a cup of coffee or tea, taking a nap, reading the Bible, talking with a friend, taking a walk, getting involved in a Bible study, and meditating.

In 2023, several Greater Wausau ELCA Churches are without a pastor (Good Shepherd, Mount Calvary, Immanuel, Bethlehem, and Pilgrim), are in the call process for a new pastor (St. Andrew and First English), currently have a full-time pastor (St. Stephen), and currently have a part-time pastor (St. John's Mosinee). The church council presidents have been meeting monthly since June 2023 to discuss and listen to how each congregation is being affected with this transition process. These congregations are facing the same issue as Pilgrim – no pastor (using supply pastors/lay ministers when they are available), decrease

in attendance, decrease in volunteers, no younger families going to church, etc.

On December 20, Pastor Dara Clifford Associate to the Bishop Director for Evangelical Mission met with Pilgrim's church council. She asked council to discern some tough questions and council will share these questions with the congregation for discussion at an upcoming Special Congregational meeting.

Pilgrim will be busy in 2024 working and praying together about "Where do you see Pilgrim in 3-5 years?" **The congregation is encouraged to attend a special congregational meeting on Sunday January 14, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. with the church council and Pastor Dara Clifford. Save the date and plan to attend this meeting.** It will be an important discussion on the future of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and your voice is very important as we discuss the future of Pilgrim. If you cannot attend the meeting, please feel free to contact any of the church council members with your questions or concerns and we will present them. Council members are Shirley Ecker, Jeanette Carlson, Charlie Freiberg, Jenni Zaitz, Jim Lenselink, Charlene Buttner, Sue Koerten, Janet Williams, Eugene Viegut, and Terra Ecker.

We will discuss the three options available for the congregation to determine what's best for Pilgrim: shared ministry, merger/consolidation, or Holy Closure. We will discuss each of these options at the congregational meeting on Jan. 14.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Spend time with the Holy Spirit in self-reflection to process your emotions and experiences as a member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church focusing on thankfulness of the close community we are and the kindness we share. Peace and blessings to everyone in 2024.

Peace,

Shirley Ecker
Council President



Blood Drive at Pilgrim
Thursday, Feb. 1st
3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Call 715-842-0761
to schedule an appointment
or drop in.

*We must slow down
to see the image of God
(Imago Dei) in each other.*

— Judith Roberts

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

Blessings That Give Hope

January

Ramen Noodles

Floss Picks

MEETING NOTICE

**Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Congregational Annual Meeting
January 28, 2024, 10:15 a.m.**

Mark your calendars! The congregation of Pilgrim Lutheran Church will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024. A Zoom link will be available for those who wish to attend virtually. Further information will be provided as the date approaches. Here is a tentative agenda:

1. Call to order by Council President Shirley Ecker
2. Opening Devotion
3. Approval of minutes of previous annual meeting and any special congregational meetings
4. Receive reports of the congregational leadership, with gratitude, approval required
5. Audit Report, approval required
6. Presentation of 2024 Annual Budget, Treasurer Charlie Frieberg, approval required
7. Report of Nominations Committee
8. Election of 2024 Congregational Council and Endowment Fund Board
 - a. Secretary
 - b. Church and Society
 - c. Buildings and Grounds
 - d. Life and Growth
 - e. Evangelism
 - f. Parish Education
 - g. Endowment Fund Board Members - Chairperson & Secretary
9. Election of 2025 Nominating Committee, consisting of two former Council Members and two members at large
10. Election of Delegates to Synod Assembly
11. Election of Delegates to Homme Home Annual Meeting and to WI River Valley Conference Annual Meeting
12. New Business
 - a. Update on process to hire a new spiritual leader/student and matters relating to future direction of Pilgrim.
13. Old Business
14. Benediction & Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Amen

Make a joyful noise!

“Music simultaneously locates us in time and takes us beyond time—binding us to all who ever sang hymns and all whoever will—our grandparents, neighbors, ancestors in faith and those who will come after us many years from now.”

~ Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

I believe “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” is the oldest hymn in our ELW book, dating to the 300s! It has survived over 17 centuries as a hymn of faith.

*Of the father’s love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be.
He is Alpha and Omega
He the source, the ending He.
Of the things that are and have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.*

While it would be possible to study the history of this hymn from an intellectual point of view, as I sing this song or think about this song, I wonder what some of the stories of people are who have sung it over these 17 centuries. I wonder if any of them were in distress when they sang it and if the words in the verse above offered them calm and comfort.

I don’t remember when I was first introduced to this hymn, but I do remember how it came to me as a gift from God when I was going through a very dark time in my life. One night when I was under great stress I went to sleep and during my sleep the words of this song suddenly came to me. It wasn’t a song I had recently played on the piano, it wasn’t a song I had recently sung, it wasn’t a song I had recently heard. It wasn’t a song I had recently thought about. The words were just there. They gave me a sense of hope and peace. God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of everything. He has been there through all the years that have passed, and he will be there through all the years ahead, not only for me but for everyone.

I wonder if there are other people like me who have been visited by these words when their hearts were weary and in despair. I wonder if there are people who have been in joyful times of their lives when these words appeared. The same words may offer joyous people strength and blessed assurance about the security of their futures in God’s hands. After all, God is there for all, the joyous as well as the distressed.

I wonder what other songs have touched people in very deep ways. I firmly believe music binds us to all who have ever sung hymns and to all who ever will sing them. Even if we don’t know each other’s stories or if our stories are very different, we are bound together. These songs mean something to us.

Blessed be the tie of music that binds our hearts in Christian love.

Delores Kessel

Your ELCA Good Gifts at Work in the World

A glimpse of the work made possible by your gifts in 2022

293 children with eye diseases received eyeglasses in Egypt. **142** beekeepers produced **700** pounds of honey in Mexico. **85** women received micro-loans to grow their businesses in India. **33** community members trained in urban farming in Milwaukee, WI. **272** children received care at a community health clinic in Nepal. **7** hospitals received medical equipment to provide better-quality medical care to **80,000** people in Zimbabwe. **400** vegetable and fruit-tree seedlings were distributed in Myra, KY. **500** farmers received training on making feed for their pigs in Papua, New Guinea. **8,649** children received school lunch regularly in India. **375** seminary students were supported by ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarships. **6,170,298** meals were provided to people in need in the United States. **131** long-term missionary households served around the world. **219** women received agriculture training in Liberia and India. **1,512** children received school supplies in Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

Missions

Pilgrims Supported in 2023

Pilgrims gave generously to missions of the church, locally and globally, and to other community needs, including:

- ELCA World Hunger
- East Central Synod of WI
- Women of the ELCA
- Crossways Camps
- Greater Wausau Christian Services
- LSS
- LSS Conditional Client Release Program Participants
- The Salvation Army
- Neighbors' Place
- Faith In Action
- A church family
- Adopt-A-Child Christmas program (Salv. Army)
- Blessings that Give Hope

Plus, quilts, health kits, school kits, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, and Christmas gift packages were created, collected, and shared.

Thank you!

...to Hallman Lindsay Paint for your generous donation to the food program.

Pilgrims, if you have a painting project coming up, or know someone who does, Hallman Lindsey paint is high quality.

Thank you for 16 years of kindness!

Please know how grateful we are for the wonderful gifts for our local clients! I wish we had the same generosity in all of the communities we serve as we do here with Pilgrim!

The clients enjoy looking through and opening the gifts as for many of them this is the only gift they receive during this season. They are grateful for having someone are that they are here in our community.

*Sally Fleischman, MS
LSS Forensic Programs Mgr.*

shout OUT!

- ☺ To all who donated items to the Mitten Tree, which were delivered to various schools and institutions in the area
- ☺ To all who donated items for the LSS Conditional Release Clients for their Christmas Party
- ☺ To the donor of Christmas cards and the writers for bringing a bit of Christmas cheer to our mailboxes.
- ☺ To the altar guild and all who gave extra of their time and talents during the busy days of Advent and Christmas
- ☺ To participants in Thrivent's Choice Dollars program who elected to direct charitable funds to Pilgrim's missions
- ☺ To all who participated in the fall "Jesus Revolution" book study group.
- ☺ To the Christmas elves who decked the halls (lounge and sanctuary).
- ☺ To Jim Lenselink, Delores Kessel, the combined choir, and Shirley Ecker for a moving Advent Choral Worship service
- ☺ To Delores Kessel, the worship team, and all who helped with the first Christmas Music Sing-along and reception
- ☺ To our visiting pastors and lay ministers — Pr. Natalie Bassett, Pr. Rich Block, Shirley Ecker, Eugene Viegut, and Kay Palmer.

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 12th, 2023
Unapproved

PRESENT IN PERSON: President Shirley Ecker, Vice President Jeanette Carlson, Secretary Jenni Zaitz, Treasurer Charles Freiberg, Eugene Viegut, Terra Ecker, Charlene Buttner, Jim Lenselink, and Sue Koerten.

EXCUSED: Janet Williams

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Shirley Ecker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and she had devotions.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Jenni Zaitz) Minutes were reviewed from the November 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. A motion was made by Koerten, second by Buttner to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Charles Freiberg): Reviewed the current finances. November was a good month and year to date we are ahead of last year in offerings. All Thanksgiving monies have all been paid out. We had a \$780 gain for the month. A motion was made by Viegut, second by Terra Ecker to accept the Treasurers Reports. Motion carried. Went over the proposed budget for 2024. A motion was made by Koerten, second by Buttner to approve the budget draft for 2024 to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Motion Carried.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: (Jeanette Carlson) No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Shirley Ecker) The Nominating Committee has been trying to fill the vacant Council positions for 2024. At this time the Secretary, Building and Grounds and Evangelism positions are still open. A

motion was made by Viegut, second by Freiberg to appoint Jeanette Carlson and Karen Larsen to the Audit Committee for 2023. Motion carried. Committee Reports for the annual meeting are due to Fred by 12/31/23. Two outgoing church council members are needed for the Nominating Committee in 2024. There will be a special Church Council meeting by Zoom with Pastor Dara on December 20th at 5:30 P.M. Pilgrim collected \$325.00 for Adopt a Child.

WORSHIP REPORT: (Sue Koerten) On Saturday, December 16th a Shared Christmas Carol Singalong will be held at Pilgrim at 2:00 P.M. Sue is looking for people to donate some additional refreshments. On Sunday, December 17th the Advent Carol Worship Service will be held at Pilgrim at 9:00 A.M. A Blue Christmas Service will be held at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 21st at 6:00 P.M. It will be hosted by Pilgrim, Mt. Calvary, Saint Andrew and St. John in Mosinee. The Digital Piano has been ordered and is set to arrive on January 16th. We will be trying something new when reading the prayers of the church during worship. We will continue to print the full names of those requesting prayer in the bulletin but only the first name will be read during the prayers in church. We will reevaluate at a later date.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: (Eugene Viegut) One furnace is not working and the non operating part has been ordered.

EVANGELISM: No Report

BLESSINGS THAT GIVE HOPE: No report

CHURCH AND SOCIETY: (Charlene Buttner) Clothing has been donated to the homeless folks at the Marty Bus. Items in-

cluding ink cartridges, grocery bags and hygiene items were donated to the Salvation Army. We received a lovely thank you from Sally for the LSS Conditional Release Christmas gifts. It will be included in the next Progress. Non working Christmas lights are being collected for recycling by Habitat for Humanity and Good News.

LIFE & GROWTH: (Janet Williams) The chili supper was served on Tuesday, November 21st and about 44 people attended (including nine people from St. Stephen's Church). A Good Will offering of \$198 was received. Thanks to Jean Trempe for providing hamburger for the chili. The rest of the chili ingredients were provided by Janet Williams. Thanks to the following Pilgrims who provided assistance: Jean Trempe, Kathy Kunze, Linda and Steve Konkel, Cathy Gottschalk, Delores and Jeff Kessel and Connie and Larry Brandenburg. Additional thanks to Linda Konkel for the table decorations. Thanks to all who brought other food items. The script program is ongoing. We will be making a donation to cover the cost of the piano purchase. Cards are being 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. Current balance is about \$7,000.

STEWARDSHIP: (Jim Lenselink) There will be a Stewardship meeting on Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 P.M.

CHILDREN & YOUTH: No Report

OLD BUSINESS: Mt. Calvary has opted to not explore shared ministry with Pilgrim at this time.

(Continued on page 6)

(August 8th Minutes continued from page 5)

They are taking time to explore their options.

Progress articles are due December 20, 2023.

ADJOURN: At 7:47 a motion was made by Terra Ecker, second by Lenselink to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. Terra Ecker has devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenni Zaitz, Secretary

Sign up for 2024 Altar Flowers and Altar Guild

Did you notice that the 2024 sign-up sheets are hanging on the wall across from the office? Please write your name by the dates that work for you.

*You don't
have to see the whole
staircase, just take
the first step.*
— Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr.

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 **January 11th**. Contact Eugene Viegut (715-359-9895) if you are interested in joining.



Habitat for Humanity of Wausau is excited to announce the return of the Holiday Lights Recycling Program! Habitat Wausau takes holiday lights that are new or old. Lights can twinkle or fizzle. Broken or tangled lights are gladly accepted. Every strand of lights contributes to increasing homeownership in the greater Wausau area. All lights collected support Habitat’s Home Ownership Program, Critical Home Repairs and Veterans Build in the Wausau area. **Habitat for Humanity of Wausau’s goal is to collect 5,000lbs of lights this holiday season.**

Collection boxes are conveniently located across the community and will be out now **through January 15th**. Wausau Habitat ReStore takes holiday lights all year round during regular store and donation hours of operation.

Holiday Lights Recycling drop-off locations by municipality:

<p>Wausau Associated Bank (Downtown and Stewart Ave.), Pick 'n Save, Wausau City Hall, Intercity State Bank, Marathon Bank, Prevail Bank, People's State Bank (6th and Stewart Ave.), Abby Bank</p> <p>Rib Mountain People's State Bank</p> <p>Schofield Intercity State Bank</p> <p>Rothschild Pick 'n Save, Marathon Bank</p>	<p>Weston Wausau Habitat ReStore, Associated Bank, Pick 'n Save, Intercity Bank, People's State Bank, Abby Bank</p> <p>Marathon People's State Bank</p> <p>Mosinee Piggly Wiggly, Mosinee City Hall, Marathon Bank</p>
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Habitat for Humanity of Wausau has been recycling holiday lights since 2014 and has kept over 33,000lbs of lights out of our local landfill.

Spread joy and sustainability this holiday season by participating in the Holiday Lights Recycling Program!

- ◆ Keep the environment shining bright: Recycling old holiday lights prevents them from ending up in landfills, reducing waste and protecting our planet.
- ◆ It’s easy and convenient: Drop off your old or broken lights at our designated collection points and do your part in the recycling effort.
- ◆ Make a positive impact: By recycling your lights, you’re contributing to a greener and cleaner community for everyone while supporting homeownership.

Parish Updates

DEATH
Stephen Williams
January 14, 1946 — November 16, 2023



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

Theresa Laughlin	01/01	Marion Schultz	01/15
Logan Zaitz	01/02	Darryl Landeau	01/16
Deacon Brown	01/05	Bob Windorski	01/16
Walter Petersen	01/07	Jeff Kessel	01/17
Tammy Stromme	01/07	Charlene Buttner	01/18
Steve Boehm	01/08	Natalie Werth	01/18
Angela Lenselink	01/08	Ronald Kelly	01/19
Job Kislw	01/12	Kim Pittsley	01/20
Sarah Werth	01/12	Kathleen Huebner	01/22
Eric Konkell	01/14	Kathi Kunze	01/23
Caden Werth	01/14	Jeanne Wunsch	01/27
Lillie Zaitz	01/14		

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

January

1 Bob Windorski	17 Jack Ziebell
2 Jenna Windorski	18 Paul Ziebell
3 Jill Windorski	19 Ellen Anderson
4 Ross Windorski	20 Cody Augustine
5 Keith Woodward	21 Easton Augustine
6 Dennis Wunsch	22 Kassidie Augustine
7 Jeanne Wunsch	23 Mollie Augustine
8 Barb Yeast	24 Taylen Augustine
9 Gary Yeast	25 Pamela Bannister
10 Diane Yunek	26 Timothy Bannister
11 Jimmer Yunek	27 Timothy Bannister, Jr.
12 Jenni Zaitz	28 Brad Bartell
13 Kevin Zaitz	29 Bruce Bartell
14 Lauren Zaitz	30 Nancy Bedessem
15 Lillie Zaitz	31 David Behnke, III
16 Logan Zaitz	

JANUARY

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed	2 11:45 Prayer Circle	3 6:30 Choir	4 6:30 Worship	5	6
7 7:45 Evangelism Team Meeting 9:00 Worship	8	9 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 GWCS Meeting at Pilgrim (moved from 1/16)	10 9:00 Busy Bee Quilters 6:30 Choir	11 7:30 Men's Bible Study at Eagle's Nest 6:30 Worship; Council Presidents' Meeting	12 Lay School	13
14 9:00 Worship 10:30 Congregation Meeting w/ Pr. Dara Clifford	15	16 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Council Mtg (moved from 1/9)	17 6:30 Choir	18 9-1 WRV Conference Mtg. 6:30 Worship	19 Lay School	20 Lay School
21 9:00 Worship 2:30 WRV Conf. Annual Meeting	22	23 11:45 Prayer Circle	24 6:30 Choir	25 6:30 Worship	26	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:15 Annual Mtg.	29	30 11:45 Prayer Circle	31 6:30 Choir			

FINANCIAL INFORMATION UPDATE

December 28, 2023

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
\$ 69,145 Balance: 11/30/2023	Budget vs. Actual
\$ 632 Principal Payment	\$109,304 \$111,885
\$ 242 Interest Payment	Outstanding Bills
\$ 68,513 Balance: 12/28/2023	\$8,306 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... 288

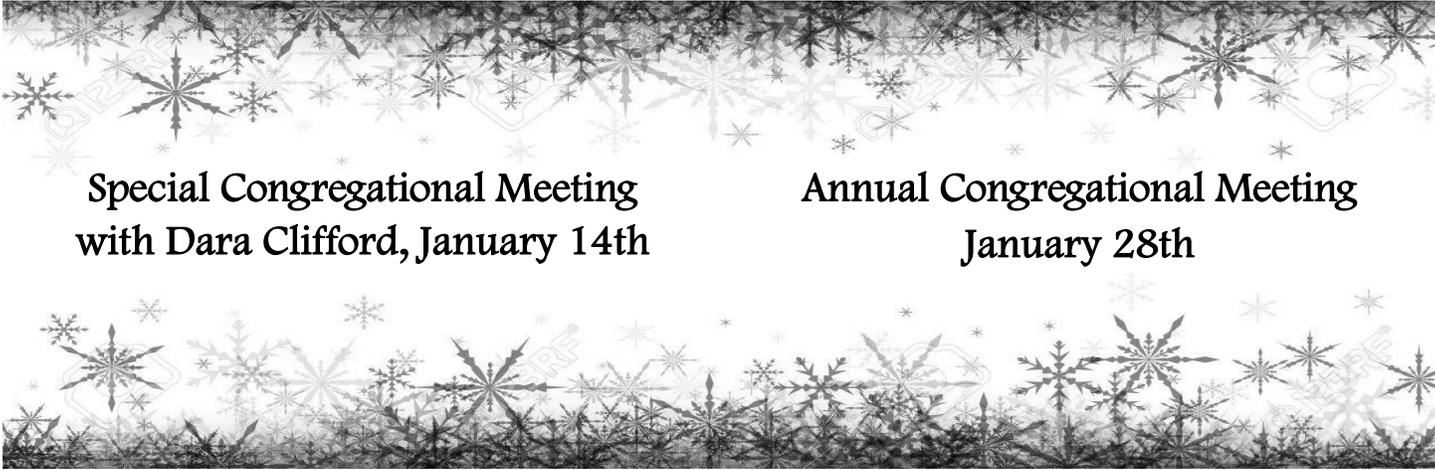
CAN'T GET TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY? COME WORSHIP THURSDAYS AT 6:30 PM!

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!



Busy Bee Quilters 2023 Christmas Party





Special Congregational Meeting
with Dara Clifford, January 14th

Annual Congregational Meeting
January 28th

Staff

Ministers
Music Coordinator
Choir Director
Pianists
Office Manager
Custodian

All Pilgrims
Delores Kessel
Jim Lenselink
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.

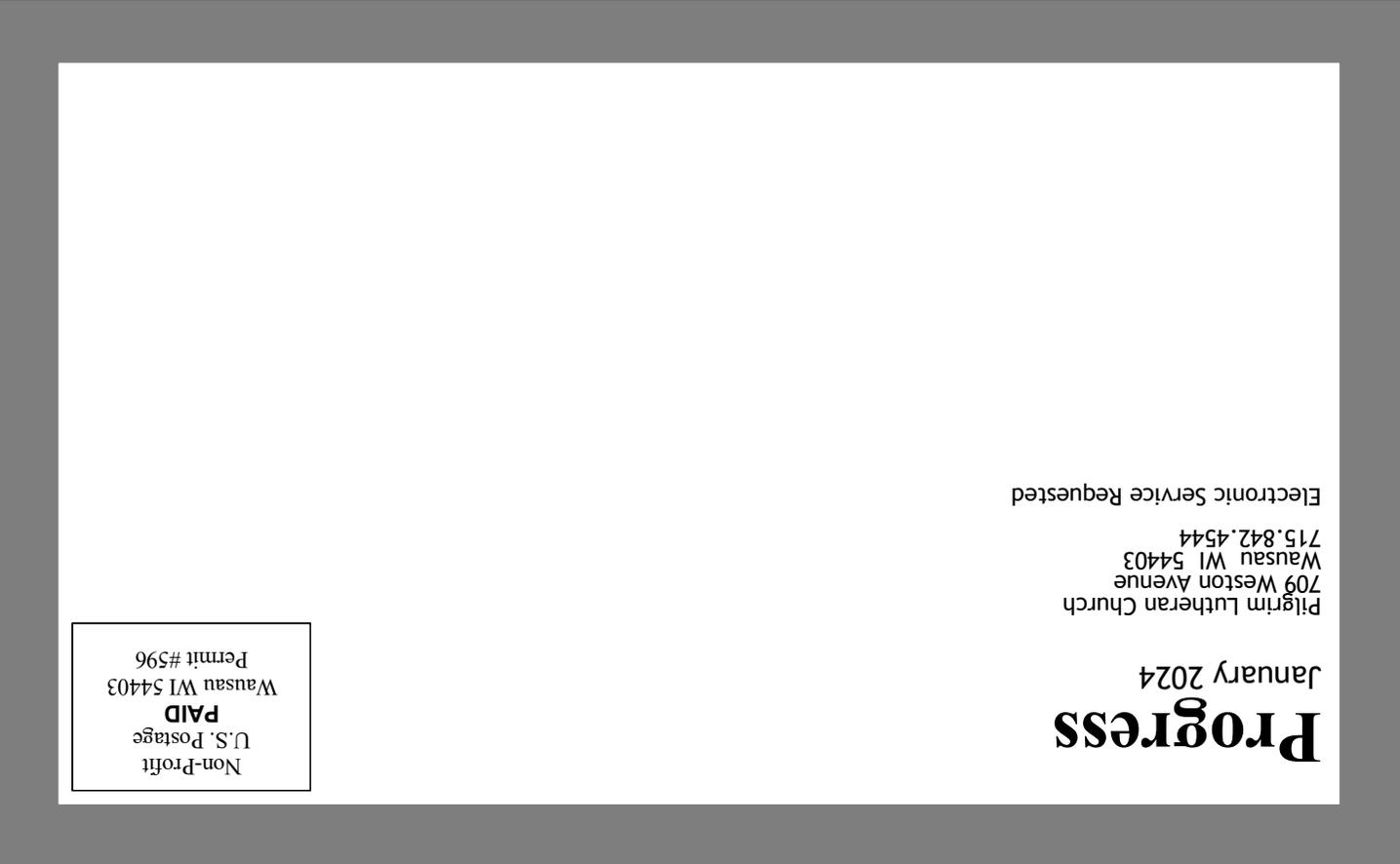


Services

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



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