

Progress

Volume 22, Issue 2

February 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

WEDNESDAY

Lenten Services
In-person

6:30 pm

(Feb. 21-Mar.20)

Office Hours

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

Friday
Closed

Greetings,

The holidays are over, we have taken down the Christmas tree, decorations, and lights and put them away for another year. A few weeks ago, we experienced a January chill with some days not getting above 0 degrees and wind chills at -20 below zero. Brr! Thankfully, the cold weather moved on and we have warmer temperatures.

The shortest month, February is fast approaching. On February 14 we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with our loved ones and friends. But, Ash Wednesday is also on February 14, a day of repentance, when we confess our sins and profess our devotion to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we begin the season of Lent a period of 40 days when we as followers of Christ remember the events that led up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. A special service will be held that evening with presiding pastor Tryphine Schruba who will take ashes, make a cross on our forehead, and say these words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

With the annual meeting held prior to everyone reading this, we will see all the events that took place at Pilgrim and other congregations in the Greater Wausau ELCA churches last year with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The upcoming year will be a year of decisions as a congregation, some may be tough decisions that will take time for us to discern. The Holy Spirit is here to support and guide us through our faith as we move forward. The church council will be holding monthly town hall meetings starting on Sunday, February 11, after the church service to present options available to Pilgrim and listen to the congregation.

A special thank you to our nominating committee, Jean Trempe, Jeanne Wunsch, Katie Ecker, and Terra Ecker, and for the volunteers they have received a 'yes' from to be on the church council. This will give us a full council. When asked if you could help with a project please prayerfully consider saying 'yes.'

Peace,

Shirley Ecker
Council President

Stewardship Update

Please join us February 11 for Stewardship Sunday. The committee will host fellowship after the service.

Recently you should have received your Time and Talent sheets—please bring them or send them by this service. It’s more important than ever to get involved in the daily life of Pilgrim. Prayerfully consider your donations not only of monies, but of time.

Worry is a total waste of time. It doesn't change anything. All it does is steal your joy and keep you very busy doing nothing.



February 14th
at Pilgrim
6:30 p.m.

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH
Blessings That Give Hope
February
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Brushes and Combs

Ash Wednesday/Lent/Holy Week

This year there will be changes to a few worship services, expanded worship opportunities during Lent, and the return of Lenten soup suppers. Plus, combined choirs and special music will be shared music at select times. Here’s the schedule:

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14th, 6:30 p.m.

Pilgrim/St. Stephen/Good Shepherd Combined Service
held at Pilgrim

Soup Suppers and Midweek Lenten Services held at Pilgrim

February 21 through March 20

Soup at 5:30 p.m./Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Midweek Lunch Lenten Services at St. Stephen at 12:00 noon

Palm Sunday Services at Pilgrim

March 24, 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

March 28, 6:30 p.m.

Pilgrim/St. Stephen/Good Shepherd Combined Service
held at Good Shepherd

(there will not be a service at Pilgrim)

Good Friday Service

March 29, 6:30 p.m.

Pilgrim/St. Stephen/Good Shepherd Combined Service
held at St. Stephen

(there will not be a service at Pilgrim)

Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. Service at Pilgrim

Combined Choir Sings

10:30 a.m. Service at St. Stephen

Combined Choir Sings

Please note four primary Pilgrim worship service changes. The Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday worship services will be combined with St. Stephen and Good Shepherd.

1. Ash Wednesday will be held only at Pilgrim.
2. Maundy Thursday worship service will be held only at Good Shepherd.
3. Good Friday will be held only at St. Stephen.
4. Pilgrim’s Easter Worship Service start time will be moved up to 8:30 a.m.

Members are invited to attend worship service times during Lent and on Easter that suit your scheduling needs.

A Lenten Soup Supper sign-up sheet is located on the information table in the lounge. Thank you!

Make a joyful noise!

*“You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of us.”*

—the refrain for the song “Beautiful Things” by Michael Gungor,
American singer-songwriter, producer, music editor, author, podcast host,
and Marshfield native

This year Pilgrim is part of a three congregation round robin for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. The other two congregations involved are St. Stephen and Good Shepherd. We are going to mix things up a little bit.

Pilgrim is the host for the Ash Wednesday service. For many years we have had a tradition of singing “Jesus, Remember Me” during the imposition of ashes. It is a beautiful song that helps us contemplate our relationship with Jesus. We pray to him that he won’t forget us; when he comes into his kingdom, we want our names to be in his heart.

One of the ways we are going to mix things up is to replace “Jesus, Remember Me” while ashes are being imposed and, instead, sing the song “Beautiful Things” printed at the top of this article. What draws me to the words of this song are these: “You make beautiful things out of dust.” Each time we have ashes imposed on our heads or on our hands, we hear the words “From dust you came, to dust you will return.” This song uses that theme as a theme of hope. Yes, we are made from dust, and it is through our dusty selves that we care for the earth and hope springs from the ground. The last line in the third verse summarizes the message of the song when it says, “Out of chaos, life is being found in you.”

This song doesn’t plead with Jesus to remember us; it is a song of thanksgiving and praise which says, “You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of us.” God can take our dusty selves and make beautiful things out of us and through us.

Another way we are mixing it up during the Ash Wednesday service is this song will be accompanied by the ukulele group from Good Shepherd. It’s a great example of working together. Our congregation will host the service and we, the hosts, invite a music group from one of the other congregations to provide special music. The Pilgrim/St. Stephen choir along with the Good Shepherd choir will lead the singing for “Beautiful Things” with help from the congregation. The choirs will provide other special music as well for all three services.

It is an exciting time in the life of our congregation. It is an opportunity for us to participate in shared ministry.

Thanks be to God for the opportunity to be a part of shared ministry,

Delores Kessel

The Lord is good...
Lamentations 3:25



**BAKERS
AND
VOLUNTEERS!**

The season of Lent is quickly approaching. Once again, we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer as our order of worship. Our Lenten worship series for this year will focus on Holy Lament. Understanding that Lent is a season for reflection, this series focuses on the kinds of lament that are found in scripture. So often we have been ‘trained’ or taught to push our lament aside, to ignore what we are really feeling in our sadness.

This series turns that approach around. Each week, together, we will explore what it means to actually be present with our sadness, to not push it aside. That it is more than okay to wrestle and confront our grief, sorrow, and questions that we may have for God. “How could **YOU** do this to me?” “Why is this small child allowed to suffer?” The proverbial question of “Why do bad things happen to good people?”

This series reframes lament as one of the most faithful things we can do. In approaching God with honesty and humility, we bring to the open our feelings and thoughts. It may be that they are too big for our hearts and minds to handle without His support. Through this approach we find a God who does not disapprove but will weep with us as we work through the sadness together, not on our own. However, there is hope and joy to be found. In working through the sadness and not around it, we will find that God turns that grief, disappointment, and sadness to hope and joy. Jesus’ death on the cross is the ultimate reason why we have hope through the mourning.

Yes! We will be conducting bake sales for this year’s elections at the new election site at the North Central Health Care Center, **Door 31**. The first one this year is **February 20th**. Please sign up on the sheet on the library table (or, just contact the church office). Drop off baked goods on Monday, Feb. 19th during office hours or stop at the church Monday evening starting at 6:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS to sell baked goods on Election Day are also needed for two-hour shifts, starting at 6:00 a.m.

The next election and bake sale on Tuesday, April 2nd.

Week One (February 21 st) What is Lament? Reading: Lamentations 3:19-26	Week Three (March 6 th) Laments From the Depths Reading: Psalm 88
Week Two (February 28 th) ‘Little’ Laments Reading: Psalm 42	Week Four (March 13 th) Individual Lament Reading: Psalm 13
Week Five (March 20 th) Communal Lament Reading: Psalm 44:1-10, 13, 17-26	

LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS—FRIDAYS IN LENT

The Wisconsin River Chapter American Guild of Organists will present a series of Lenten meditations. These 30-minute recitals, presented by area organists will be held from 12:15—12:45 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 709 N. Sixth Street, Wausau. Come for a time of meditation and music during the lunch hour. A free-will offering will be received. The church is handicapped accessible.

February 23	George Felty
March 1	Irene Beethe
March 8	Susan Schaefer and Susan Bender
March 15	Patrick Burkhart and Jim Holt
March 22	Bryan Higgins-Moe



LWR PERSONAL CARE KITS—LENTEN COLLECTION

This year, during Lent, we will collect items for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable, and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. Items needed are:

Metal nail clippers
(attached file optional)



Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz.
(any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars)



Adult-size toothbrushes in their original packaging
(toothbrush multi-packs are acceptable)



Sturdy combs
(no picks or fine-toothed combs.)



Lightweight cotton or cotton blend bath-size towel
(20" x 40" to 52" x 27"), dark color recommended.



Collection Containers Located in the Narthex

Select~A~Hymn (Sundays in Lent)

You are invited to select your favorite hymns to sing for the five Sundays during the season of Lent—February 21st through March 20th.

Your favorites may be ones that are Lenten related, or they may not be. You choose. If you want to select hymns from the ELW that focus on Lent, please refer to the index on page 1184. Drop your requests in the box in the lounge **by February 11th**. Thank you!

Hymn _____ # _____

Hymn _____ # _____

Hymn _____ # _____

Hymn _____ # _____

Hymn _____ # _____

Hymn _____ # _____

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
BOOK SALE**

300 N. First Street, Wausau

Members Only Sale

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 5 - 7:30
(non-members can join
at the door for \$10)

Public Invited

Thursday, Feb. 1, 9:30 - 7:30
Friday, Feb. 2, 9:30 - 4:30

Bag Sale Day—\$6.00 a Bag

Saturday, Feb. 3, 9:30 - 3:30

Visit the library for great deals on thousands of like-new and gently used books, movies, music CDs, and more!

All proceeds are used to support library programs.

**Monthly
Town Hall Meetings**

2nd Sunday of each month
following worship service

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for **February 11th**.

**Recorded Worship Services
Available Online**

Are you unable to attend worship services in-person or on Zoom? You can watch a video recording of the weekly worship service at home through our website at www.pilgrimofwausau.org.

**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.

**AARP INCOME TAX
PREPARATION**

Tuesday's & Wednesdays
2/6/24 thru 4/3/24

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will offer free income tax preparation in Wausau. This program is especially for those 50 and older, with low to moderate income, who can't afford a tax preparation service.

We are now receiving calls on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00—3:00, at 715-298-5734 to setup REQUIRED appointments.

For other local sites in the surrounding area, search: AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Site Locator or call 1-888-227-7669.

**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.

**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 **February 8th**. Contact Eugene Viegut (715-359-9895) if you are interested in joining.

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 16th, 2023
Unapproved**

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

EXCUSED: Janet Williams and Terra Ecker

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Jenni Zaitz) Minutes were reviewed from the December 12, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. A motion was made by Carlson, second by Lenselink to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Charles Freiberg): Reviewed the current finances. Offerings have remained stable when compared to the last 2 years. We had a gain of \$9,000 for the year. A motion was made by Buttner, second by Carlson to accept the Treasurers Reports. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: (Jeanette Carlson) No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Shirley Ecker) Installation of Council members will take place on February 4th and Pastor Phil Bogen will be preaching. Discussion was held about the January 14th congregational meeting and the council started to discuss our options for the future. We will begin having monthly Town Hall meetings on the 2nd Sunday of every month to provide updates to the congregation. The meet-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

ings will follow the worship service and be about one hour in length. The February meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11th. The Stewardship breakfast will be held after the worship service on February 11th. Fred needs the stewardship article and other mailings for the newsletter by January 19th. Pilgrim will be hosting the WELCA Spring Event on April 27, 2024 from 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Volunteers are needed for the April Work Weekends at the Crossways Camps. Eugene and Jenni will serve on the 2025 Nominations Committee as prior Board Members, two members at large are still needed. On February 9th Good Shepherd will be hosting an Italian Valentines Dinner-more information will be coming on this event. The Good Steward's meeting will be held on Monday, February 12th at 5:00 P.M. at St. Stephen's. They are looking for ways to reach out into the community. The next Presidents meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8th at 6:30 P.M. at Mt. Calvary.

WORSHIP REPORT: (Sue Koerten) The next Worship Committee meeting is set for Tuesday, January 30th at 3:00 P.M. Pilgrim has the opportunity to share Lenten services with St. Stephen and Good Shepherd. Pilgrim would host The Ash Wednesday service, Good Shepherd would host the Maundy Thursday service and

St. Stephen would host the Good Friday service. There is also an opportunity to share midweek services during lent having a Wednesday noon Lenten service and lunch at St. Stephen and a Wednesday evening 5:30 soup supper followed by a 6:30 Lenten service at Pilgrim. A motion was

made by Lenselink, second by Koerten to accept the collaboration of events for the Lenten services. Motion carried.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: (Eugene Viegut) The following items have been recycled: 11 Florescent light bulbs, 7 old telephones, 2 monitors, 2 computers, 1 key board, 1 printer and an old large metal box from an old phone system. The furnace that was not working has been repaired.

EVANGELISM: The blood drives in 2024 will be held the following Thursdays: February 1, May 2, August 1 and November 7 at Pilgrim from 3:00 to 7:00 pm. Options are being looked at for a new book study to begin February, more information to follow.

BLESSINGS THAT GIVE HOPE: We received another donation from Hallman Lindsey for Christmas like we have in years past. The hats, mittens, scarves ect. from the mitten tree will be delivered to John Marshall next week. We donated money for the kids to shop at the Winter Wish Store again.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY: (Charlene Buttner) Items from the Mitten Tree were shared with Head Start families (mittens), Salvation Army (mittens) and John Marshall (hats and mittens). Adult hats, mittens, socks and scarves were donated to the LSS Conditional Release Program and to unhoused folks through the Marty Bus. Recent additions to our Little Library include books, calendars, activity materials and toys. Advent Calendars and Christmas activity books were shared with Pilgrim kids and visitors. Puzzles to share are recent additions to the Pilgrim Library. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will offer free income tax

preparation in Wausau. This program is especially for those 50 and older with low to moderate income, who can't afford a tax preparation service. Starting on 01/16/24, scheduling volunteers will be taking calls for REQUIRED appointments on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at 715-298-5734. We will be collecting Personal Care items during lent as in the past.

LIFE & GROWTH: (Janet Williams) No Report

STEWARDSHIP: (Jim Lenselink) No Report

CHILDREN & YOUTH: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: Kay Palmer attended the meeting as a guest to offer some suggestions on information presented at the January 14th congregational meeting. One suggestion was to hand out something with the definitions of "Holy Closure" "Consolidation" and "merger". It was also suggested that a vote of the congregation be taken to determine the direction at everyone would like to proceed. Another suggestion was to share survey data with the congregation in a written format.

Progress articles are due January 19, 2024.

ADJOURN: At 8:10 a motion was made by Koerten, second by Freiberg to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. A volunteer is needed for devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenni Zaitz, Secretary



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

Jenna Windorski	02/04	Alexander Fandre	02/13
Makayla Ecker	02/05	Gigs Kirsch	02/13
Ruth Schlitz	02/05	Maureen Kislow	02/14
Ann Brooks	02/06	Jack Ziebell	02/15
Alex Larsen	02/06	Easton Augustine	02/16
Richard Boller	02/09	Harry Fehlhaber	02/17
Nathan Fehlhaber	02/09	Josephine Billington	02/18
Britta Widmark	02/10	Bo Fehlhaber	02/19
Dennis Wunsch	02/10	Ava Kislow	02/18
Michelle Larsen	02/11	Wesley Schneider	02/28
Adam Fandre	02/13	Kevin Zaitz	02/28

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

February

1 Charlie Behnke	16 Rosie Brown
2 Finley Behnke	17 Deacon Brown
3 Megan Behnke	18 Jackson Brown
4 Oliver Behnke	19 Jason Brown
5 Sonya Bergeth	20 Julian Brown
6 Josephine Billington	21 Norah Brown
7 Zackary Billington	22 Oscar Brown
8 Kathy Boehm	23 Kathy Brown
9 Steve Boehm	24 Tom Brown
10 Karen Boller	25 Julie Bukowski
11 Richard Boller	26 Charlene Buttner
12 Connie Brandenburg	27 Jeanette Carlson
13 Larry Brandenburg	28 June Champagne
14 Jenna Brandenburg	29 Lois Christianson
15 Ann Brooks	

FEBRUARY

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1 3-7 Blood Drive at Pilgrim 6:30 Worship	2	3
4 9:00 Worship; Council Installation	5	6 11:45 Prayer Circle	7 6:30 Choir	8 7:30 Men's Bible Study at the Eagle's Next 6:30 Worship	9	10
11 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 Worship 10:15 Stewardship Breakfast; Townhall Meeting	12	13 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Council Mtg.	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 Busy Bee Quilters 6:30 Combined Worship Service at Pilgrim	15 9-1 WRV Conference Mtg. 6:30 Worship	16 Lay School	17 Lay School
18 9:00 Worship	19	20 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 GWCS Meeting at Pilgrim	21 LENT 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship	22 6:30 Worship	23 Progress Article Deadline	24
25 9:00 Worship	26	27 11:45 Prayer Circle	28 LENT 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship	29 6:30 Worship		

FINANCIAL INFORMATION UPDATE

January 25, 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
\$ 68,513 Balance: 12/28/2023	
\$ 664 Principal Payment	\$6,000 \$4,414
\$ 210 Interest Payment	
\$ 67,848 Balance: 01/25/2024	
	Outstanding Bills
	\$1,510 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!



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

February 14th at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Donate



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
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February 2024

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