

Progress

Volume 22, Issue 4

April 2024

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

709 Weston Avenue
Wausau WI 54403

715.842.4544

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www.pilgrimofausau.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

Dancing with God

A few years ago, Pilgrim's Mission Possible Team (Seeds for Growth) studied a book written by Pastor Dwight Zscheile "*The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age.*" The book addresses issues that face Pilgrim Lutheran Church each day, the uncertainty of the future. Especially over the past few months, I am reminded that we are on God's timeline. The author of this book creates this image for me. The image is that of a ballroom dance with God, encouraging us "To move with quick easy grace, to be led by God in a dance."

We have been "dancing" for a while now. Here we are, seven or so years after our beloved Pastor retired. Little did we know that we would be the first of 7 local ELCA churches to be without a Pastor. Since then, we've helped two individuals succeed in becoming Pastors. As a congregation we have managed to survive, but perhaps not thrive. We have a few new members, a few young families, but fewer volunteers and most of us are grey haired.

Now we are faced with decisions that will cause upheaval in our tranquil church world no matter what decisions are made. Do we continue on without a permanent pastor? Is it possible to find another pastoral intern? Do we consolidate with other local churches

and possibly leave our beautiful building? Is it possible to share a pastor and stay at Pilgrim? If we consolidate, will we have a pastor? If we consolidate, do we create a K-mart and Sears scenario where consolidation did not solve their woes. Unfortunately, neither entity exists today. How do we retain existing members and attract new members while we figure this out? Are there options that have not yet presented themselves? There are no certainties except that somehow, we continue to serve God in the midst of these concerns.

Churches don't eventually die as some have suggested. Luther's church has survived for over 500 years now. I have been blessed to have visited Germany on a couple of occasions and seen some of those century old churches which still provide worship and serve their communities. One small rural church we visited held both Lutheran and Catholic services. Creative solutions are possible. Years ago in Ukraine I attended a Palm Sunday service at an Orthodox Catholic church that had been boarded up during Soviet occupation, its ornate altar hidden in a basement. Through all of the tumult, the church survived.

I was reminded by a pastor that the name of the affiliation or church (brand) has no bearing on our mission. We are not a Burger King or McDonalds. We

(Continued on page 2)

(Dancing with God continued from page 1)

are all here working together to share the love, hope and saving power of the God that we put our trust and faith in.

As Christians, most of us believe that our lives depend upon the connection to the Church, our God and our Savior. Our faith in the death and Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ makes a life and death difference to us. For this is what saves us. Jesus died for our sins.

As the Easter Season comes to its crescendo, we are reminded of the importance of sharing the gospel, the good news that Christ has died for our sins and lives, that as believers, we will live. Regardless of our path, we will continue to give those outside of the Church the joy of knowing that they are saved if only they believe. We will continue to share the joy of serving others by helping those in need. God's Will should be our driving force. He will keep us from harm, but also challenge us to move forward in different ways that are not always comfortable. Perhaps we need to learn a new dance step. Prayer is our most powerful tool in our tool kit. We are so blessed to have willing volunteers and a prayerful congregation. There is a great sense of God's presence among us.

Shall we dance?

In God's Love,
Jean Trempe, Church Secretary



Wisconsin River Valley Conference *Spring Event*

Saturday, April 27th

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Program concludes at 1:00 p.m.

Hosted by Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Questions? Contact Shirley Ecker at rsecker_5@msn.com

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another."*

—John 13:35

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

Blessings That Give Hope

APRIL

Kleenex

Hamburger Helper

*Do not let
Sunday be taken from you.
If your soul has no Sunday,
it becomes an orphan."*

-Albert Schweitzer



**Mark Your
Calendar**



THE BLOOD CENTER OF NORTHCENTRAL WISCONSIN will be conducting a blood drive at Pilgrim on Thursday, May 2nd, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Call 715-842-0761 for an appointment, **or** you can just drop in. Give blood. Give life.

Pilgrim Recycle & Bake Sale

Thursday, June 20th, thru Saturday, June 22nd



Make a joyful noise!

“Song is the result of excess energy.
When we are normal, we talk. When we are dying, we whisper.
But when there is more in us than we can contain, we sing.”

—Eugene Peterson, pastor, author, professor, poet

Thoughts for this article originated with an article Ginny Kirsch, long time Pilgrim member, shared with me about church music. The article is by Pastor Peter Marty, an ELCA pastor from Iowa.

Pastor Marty reminds us that each time our congregation gathers, a new community is formed. That’s because even though we may have seen each other very recently, life circumstances are always changing. For some of us, new joys may have occurred. Jeff and I are getting ready to go to Colorado to celebrate the college graduation of our oldest grandchild. It’s an exciting, happy time for us. Fresh sorrows may have arrived for some of us. Bad news about health, deaths of loved ones, losses of jobs, and many other losses lead to fresh sorrows. Sometimes it doesn’t have to be new events that tap into sorrow. It may be memories of things we did at certain times of the year that will be different this year.

You may wonder what this has to do with music; *music is one of the many things during our church services that binds us together.* Sometimes we may think of amazing musical experiences we have had—listening to an amazing choir or organist, hearing the birds sing again in the spring, or hearing and being moved by a song that is new to us. All of those experiences are wonderful AND so are the ways that each of us shares our faith and connections to each other when we sit in the pews and sing to the best of our ability. We are bound to each other as we share with each other. Even if we don’t have the best of voices.

All of us are church musicians and all of us are theologians as we share our faith with each other through song.

Help us, Oh God, to be church musicians and theologians whose lives will be

*Changed from glory into glory,
til in heav’n we take our place
til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

Delores Kessel

CROSSWAYS CAMPS—WAYPOST WORKDAYS, PLUS...

Friday, April 26, thru Sunday, April 28

Work will include some minor construction on the decks or stairs, carpet cleaning, ceiling work in two of the cabins, deck staining, cleaning the low ropes course, and more. Come one day or stay the whole weekend. Meals provided

In addition to coming to the workday(s), we can use some assistance in three other ways:

1. If you are a Thrivent member and have an “action team card” available, please contact me soon to request information what to include. We are trying to maximize the cards that we can use.
2. We are having the Kitchen and Show House floors finished during the week of April 29. To do the kitchen, we need to move items out of the kitchen (everything from shelving units to freezers.) This will take place on Sunday, April 28th. Volunteers are needed.
3. We are interested in having a church or parish “adopt” a camper cabin at Waypost for longer term upkeep and maintenance. A few of the cabins will need roof repairs. Except for basic cleaning, all updates will need to be approved by the Waypost Site Property Committee.

If you have questions or would like to help, contact Russ Martindale at 715-574-4034.



ELCA World Hunger



After Ram Kala’s husband died, she wasn’t sure how she would support her four children through traditional farming. “I worked hard,” she says, “but the land only produced enough for four months.”

Then, a few years ago, Ram Kala connected with the Ekikrit Bikash Manch (EBM) organization. EBM partners with the United Mission to Nepal, which is supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Through EBM’s food security program Ram Kala received training in home garden management, financial literacy, climate change adaptation, and more. Eventually she was selected to receive four goats and training on how to keep them.

Ram Kala’s goats, along with the vegetables from her home garden, have increased her income and helped her create a stable future for her children. She has been able to pay for their schooling and support her daughter’s work towards a bachelor’s degree.

**Monthly
Town Hall Meetings**
2nd Sunday of each month
following worship service

The next monthly meeting is
scheduled for **April 14th.**



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.

Book Study
“He Chose the Nails”
—Max Lucado

This study group
will meet the second Saturday of
the month at 9:00 a.m.

Next Session
April 13th

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

...a note from the Boehm family...

As you know, life in the Boehm household has been nothing short of an adventure. Sadly, we have been tested again with another “adventure” with my dad’s sudden and unexplained seizures, which led to a car accident, almost four weeks in the hospital, and a long road of recovery. During this recovery, my dad was diagnosed with Vascular Parkinsonism, which is just another layer of complexity in his long road of recovery. Coupled with my mom’s limitations given her Multiple Sclerosis, life has changed dramatically in our family.

Throughout our adventures, the Pilgrim family has always been there along side us in our journeys, ensuring that we had had plenty of extra prayers, support, meals, out pouring of kindness, and generosity. We just want to say thank you; however, it just doesn’t seem enough and doesn’t even come close to telling each and every one of you how thankful we truly are. When we became members of Pilgrim, God had a plan and that plan was to have the support and love of so many people to help us through our adventures; and for that, there are no words.

Please know that your kindness, grace, and generosity has not gone unnoticed and we as a family will be forever thankful.

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people, but is also overflowing in the many expressions of the thanks to God.”

—2 Corinthians 9:11-12

With heartfelt thanks.
Katie Boehm Lila

shout OUT!

- ☺ To Randy Ecker for replacing burnt out Exit light bulbs and for patching the fellowship hall sidewalk where it meets the parking lot
- ☺ To Kevin Zaitz for shoveling snow in the month of March
- ☺ To our worship leaders this past month—Pastors Phil Bogen, Barry Levine, and Tryphine Schrubka; and lay ministers Kay Palmer, Kathy Robinson, and Shirley Ecker
- ☺ To all who helped with this year’s Lenten soup suppers
- ☺ To the Altar Guild for beautifying the altar for Easter Sunday and to the combined choir for sharing their special voices on Easter morning
- ☺ To Good Shepherd and St. Stephen for hosting this year’s combined Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and for welcoming us into their sanctuaries
- ☺ To Bob’s Electric for replacing the light switches in the pastor’s office
- ☺ To our Valentine’s Day and Easter greeting card writers

**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.

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 12th, 2024
Unapproved

PRESENT IN PERSON:

Shirley Ecker (President), Jeanette Carlson (Vice President), Charlie Freiberg (Treasurer), Jean Trempe (Secretary), Linda Konkel (Evangelism Chair), Charlene Buttner (Church and Society Chair), Terra Ecker (Children and Youth Chair), Jim LenseLink (Stewardship Chair), Kay Palmer (Buildings & Grounds Chair)

EXCUSED: Janet Williams (Life and Growth Chair), Sue Koerten (Worship Chair)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Shirley Ecker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Devotions were lead by Jean Trempe. The devotion was written by Pastor Paulette and focused on “working together to proclaim the love and saving power of the Triune God in this particular place, at this particular time.”

SECRETARY’S REPORT: (Jean Trempe) Review of minutes from February 13, 2024 regular council meeting. A motion to accept minutes by Charlie Freiberg and seconded by Jeanette Carlson. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: (Charlie Freiberg) Reviewed financial reports for February 2024. For the month, Income was short of budget by \$124. Expenses were more than budgeted by \$80. For the year there is an excess of income over expenses of \$132. Cash in banks totals \$67,030. Of that, \$27,851 are restricted funds. Long term debt stands at \$67,219. Offerings are stable. Charlene Buttner made a

motion to accept the Treasurer’s report and it was seconded by Jim LenseLink. Motion carried.

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: (Shirley Ecker) The annual rummage sale will be held in conjunction with the Southeast Side neighborhood wide sale planned for June 20-22. An idea was brought forward to hold a bag sale, a grocery bag full of goods for \$5.00 rather than marking individual items. Larger items would still need to be priced. There will also be a bake sale. More details will follow as plans are finalized. Sign up sheets will be available soon. Volunteers will be needed to help plan and on the day(s) of the sale.

Task Force Update: A Townhall meeting was held after the church service on March 10. The task force shared the results of an informational meeting with Pastor Gjerde from Zion Lutheran. He was invited to Pilgrim to share information about the LCMC (Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ) churches and how their structure differs from the ELCA. There is a summary that was provided by Pastor Gjerde available. The LCMC is an association of churches with 900 congregations worldwide. This church sprung out of the ELCA back in 2001. Rather than a synodical structure, the churches are independent, able to write their own bylaws and hire pastors directly. Each church has their own mission with a focus on serving their local community. There are four churches in our area that have moved to the LCMC. The Townhall meeting was videotaped and is available to the congregation. More information is needed before the Task

Force would suggest the option of moving away from the ELCA. The council raised concerns about differences in doctrine, qualifications of pastors and lack of support that our Synod now provides. Synod staff have called a meeting of council members and task force members for the three churches interested in exploring consolidation. The meeting will be held on March 16 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Good Sheperd in Riverview. An agenda has not been shared as of the time of our council meeting. We hope to learn more about our options.

President’s Meeting Update: Presidents’ meeting will be held next week at Emmanuel.

WORSHIP REPORT: (Sue Koerten) Attendance for soup suppers and Lenten services was low, with 12 and 13 people for the first two weeks. The committee will discuss options for Lenten services and soup supper for next year, perhaps a service at noon, including lunch. Our next meeting will be after Easter.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: (Kay Palmer) All is well with the Building and Ground Committee. We have had a mild winter. so far, there has been little snow to be handled. There were no major maintenance or repairs in the past month. Thank you to Randy Ecker for patching the broken out asphalt leading to the sidewalk for Fellowship Hall. It was brought up that our lawn tractor is failing and needs to be replaced.

EVANGELISM: (Linda Konkel) Linda indicated that she needs committee members and some direction. Charlene offered to work with Linda and share

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(Council Meeting Minutes continued from page 6)

with her the areas where we are working with St. Stephens as well as the projects currently underway. Good Sheperd's "Good Stewards" are meeting on April 1 at 5:30 p.m.

BLESSINGS THAT GIVE

HOPE: (Mollie Augustine) A large donation was made to Horace Mann Middle School including snack crackers and various food items. Snacks were also provided to John Marshall. It was noted that information is posted on the Southeast Side Facebook page regarding collection efforts. Members of the Southeast Side community drop off items as well as our congregation. The balance in the Food Program's restricted checking account is \$18,373 as of the end of February. These funds are used periodically and consist of donations as well as the remaining grant dollars from the ELCA.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY:

(Charlene Buttner) Collection of items for personal care kits continue through Lent and is going well. We are collecting bath size bars of soap (8-9 oz), metal nail clippers, sturdy combs, light weight bath-sized towels (20" x 40" to 52" x 27") and adult-sized toothbrushes in original packaging. Thanks to all who have donated.

LIFE AND GROWTH: (Janet Williams) Lenten soup suppers started on Wednesday, February 14 and will continue every Wednesday until March 20. Attendance has been low, averaging about 12 people. Thanks to Jeff & Delores Kessel for making the soup for the first three Wednesday's. Thanks to all who helped set up, clean up and provided food. There are two Wednesdays left. Thanks to Karen Larson for

agreeing to make soup this Wednesday, March 13; thanks to Shirley & Katie Ecker for agreeing to make soup on March 20. Additional thanks to Jean Trempe for taking over for me while I am gone.

The Election Day bake sale was held at the Health Care Center on February 20. We received a lot of thank you's and appreciation from the voters! Total earned was \$520.10. Thanks to Jean Trempe, Linda Konkel and Kathi Kunze for helping mark the baked good. Additional thanks to Jean Trempe for helping me set-up at the Health Care Center. Thanks to our sellers who helped me during the day: Kathi Kunze, Jean Trempe, Ramona Schmitz, June Champagne, Debbie Glascock and Cathy Gottschalk. Thanks to all the Pilgrim bakers who provided treats to sell.

The April Election Day bake sale will be held on Tuesday, April 2. Cathy Gottschalk will be in charge of this event as I will be out of town. Signup sheet is on the library table.

A motion was made by Charlene to use \$100 of bake sale money for the Care Kits. Charlie seconded the motion. Motion carried. Charlie made a motion to set up a restricted lawn tractor fund. Linda seconded the motion. Motion carried. A motion was made by Jeanette and seconded by Terra to move the remaining bake sale proceeds of \$420.10 into the new lawn tractor fund. Motion passed.

A total of \$141 was collected from the first two soup suppers. A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Terra to move these funds of \$141 into the new lawn tractor fund. Motion carried. The lawn tractor fund will have \$561 to start. It was suggested

that additional fund raising will be necessary to acquire a new lawn tractor.

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. Current cash balance is \$7,055.

STEWARDSHIP: (Jim Lenselink) Fred provided a compilation of the Faith Inspiration surveys identifying members of the congregation interested in volunteering in various areas. Committee chairs are strongly encouraged to reach out to those interested in volunteering as well as those who did not complete the survey as they go about their various projects.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

(Terra Ecker) A multi-generational project is planned for March 24. We will be making Easter cards and small gifts. It is an opportunity to help the children create some masterpieces for those in need of a hopeful Easter message.

Progress Articles are due March 22, 2024.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. via a motion made by Charlene and seconded by Terra. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: April 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. A volunteer is needed to provide a devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Trempe, Secretary



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

David Larsen	04/01	Ben Strick	04/11
Gregory Larson	04/02	Christine Freiberg	04/19
David Theis	04/02	Dale Clark	04/22
Timmy Bannister	04/06	Lila Viegut	04/25
John A. Schneider	04/07	Steven Soenksen	04/26
Linda Soenksen	04/07	Mark Jones	04/28
Karla Schneider	04/09	Charles Freiberg	04/30

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

April

1 Anna Fehlhaber-Poppe	16 Nina James
2 Ella Fehlhaber-Poppe	17 Mark Jones
3 Mica Fehlhaber-Poppe	18 Rita Jones
4 Rachel Fehlhaber-Poppe	19 Debra Kaetterhenry
5 Steven Poppe	20 Kathy Kainz
6 Ronald Foreman	21 Deanna Kelly
7 Charles Freibeg	22 Ron Kelly
8 Chris Freiberg	23 Delores Kessel
9 Deborah Glascock	24 Jeff Kessel
10 Cathy Gottschalk	25 Gigs Kirsch
11 Willis Gresen	26 Ginny Kirsch
12 Janice Hayes	27 Ava Kislow
13 Kathleen Huebner	28 Jamie Kislow
14 Anlyss James	29 Job Kislow
15 Brody James	30 Jordan Kislow

APRIL

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1	2 ELECTION DAY 11:45 Prayer Circle	3 6:30 Choir	4 8-11 Office Closed 6:30 Worship	5	6
7 9:00 Worship	8	9 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Council Mtg.	10 9:00 Busy Bee Quilters 6:30 Choir	11 7:30 Men's Bible Study at Eagle's Nest 6:30 Worship	12 Lay School	13 Lay School 9-11He Chose the Nails Study Group
14 9:00 Worship 10:15 Town Hall Meeting	15	16 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 GWCS Meeting at Pilgrim	17 6:30 Choir	18 6:30 Worship	19 Progress Articles Due	20
21 9:00 Worship	22	23 11:45 Prayer Circle	24 6:30 Choir	25 6:30 Worship	26	27
28 9:00 Worship	29	30 11:45 Prayer Circle				

FINANCIAL INFORMATION UPDATE

March 28, 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
\$ 67,219	Balance: 02/29/2024		
\$ 706	Principal Payment	\$24,000	\$22,263
\$ 168	Interest Payment		
\$ 66,513	Balance: 03/28/2024		
		Outstanding Bills	
		\$1,618	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!

Women of the ELCA

Wisconsin River Valley Conference *Spring Event*

Saturday, April 27th
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Program concludes at 1:00 p.m.
Hosted by Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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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