

Progress

Volume 23, Issue 8

August 2025

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 - Wednesday
8-12 and 1-3

Thursday and Friday
Closed

A BRAVE NEW WORLD AS CHURCH

As Pilgrims, we have been through some unsettling times together in the past several years. We embraced the lack of a Pastor by greeting two students who are both Pastors at other churches now. We have seen our congregation dwindle, especially during those crazy COVID years. Now we are contemplating our next journey together as church, perhaps through merging with St. Stephen. We are faced with embracing more changes, new experiences, opportunities and the possibility of developing new relationships with other believers. There will be some sense of loss along the path and perhaps even some fun.

For those of us who attended the Polka worship service on June 22 and the fellowship that followed over brats and potato salad, it was wonderful to see a church full of folks tapping their toes and children dancing in the aisles. We also managed to raise almost \$400 for the Alzheimer's Association. Thank you to all who helped to bring this event to life with your energy, talents, connections and get-it done attitudes. And thank you to all of those folks who attended. Working together with other churches in the area certainly

made a difference. Now if we could just replicate this and draw in new people or even just those old friends that we have not seen in a while.

I made some interesting observations that Sunday of the Polka service. First of all, this was a brave experiment. As a church, we stepped outside of our traditions. You don't hear much Polka music today, or even live music outside of the organ at church. Sure, there are a few praise bands with more contemporary music, but could Polka music draw a crowd? Though the crowd was generally us more experienced folks, a few younger folks joined us. Perhaps they were drawn by curiosity, the brass quintet or the food that followed, or a parent's insistence, but they fully participated.

Who knew that Polka music could unite so many believers? All who attended seemed to enjoy themselves as they heard the gospel in a new setting. Perhaps it was because it was a new experience with no preconceptions of the social etiquette of the place. Perhaps the atmosphere was one of joy and lack of perceived judgements. Perhaps it was the friendly faces of the strangers getting acquainted by sharing some tales of life experiences

(Continued on page 2)

("Brave New World" continued from page 1)

and finding common ground over some good food. Perhaps it was the picture of happy children with painted faces, dancing and laughing. My sense was that all who attended felt that they belonged and were experiencing something special.

Perhaps the lesson here is that practicing our faith in Jesus, God, our Father and the Holy Spirit can take many forms. After all Jesus and his followers drew crowds routinely, even without a building. The growth of Jesus' church over the centuries is proof that the Gospel and Good News can be spread in many ways. Today's fractured Christian Church with its many denominations with differing policies, traditions, customs, politics and values is living proof of that. Just look at all of the options to worship we have as Lutherans. As we contemplate the next steps in our Pilgrim journey, how can we shed some of those perceptions of what it is to worship and have courage to enter the brave new world of church, looking for new ways to serve others and spread the joy of believing? Perhaps some good Polka music at points along our path would help.

In Christ's Love,
Jean Trempe
Council President

Weekly Prayer Circle Tuesdays 11:45 a.m.

If you would like to join the group, drop in. If you would like to receive the weekly prayer list, or place a prayer request, contact the office.

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 **August 14th**. If you are interested in joining, contact Eugene Viegut at (715-359-9895).

WANTED

Menards Rebates

Do you take advantage of Menard's 11% rebate program when you shop Menards? Pilgrim has been sourcing cleaning supplies and sanitizers from Menards. A simple way to make a contribution to Pilgrim is to donate your Menards rebate coupons. Simply drop the rebates off at the church office or mail them to Fred's attention at the church. Your gifts will be a great blessing. Thank you for supporting this effort.

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!

Blessings That Give Hope Update—July 2025

Blessings That Give Hope (BTGH) will be donating a wide variety of items to John Marshall and Horace Mann this summer. Pilgrims and southeast siders are also encouraged to donate.

In the 2024-2025 school year Horace Mann served 84 – 86 students identified by a wide variety of staff members as needing help in various ways and at various times. The pantry coordinator wants to hit the ground running come fall. She has provided BTGH with an extensive list of needed items. There will be major construction at Horace Mann this summer so special arrangements will be made to deliver donations to their pantry, Eagle Pride Market. Pilgrims and southeast siders are asked to bring their donations to Pilgrim, and I will arrange delivery. Alternatively, in August, you can call me if you want me to pick up your donations.

Horace Mann's list of needed items for their pantry is included in this update. With regards to gift cards the coordinator told me that the gift cards are not handed to the students. A Horace Mann staff member goes shopping with the student(s) to assure that only needed items are purchased.

As for John Marshall, their social worker provided me with a list of items that needs to be replenished regularly. Items needed include individual serving size cereal boxes, ramen noodles, soup, mac n cheese cups, canned fruit, and canned veggies.

It's possible that Wausau East will ask for items in August and September.

Jeff Kessel (715-675-4271)

Horace Mann Eagle Pride Market Pantry Needs

Food (must fit in a backpack)

Jelly (plastic container)
Rice (instant/white)
Peanut Butter
Lipton Rice and Noodle sides
Granola/Nutrigrain bars
Soft Taco Shells
Pancake Mix
Mac n Cheese
Boxed Milk (powdered milk)
Pasta/Sauce (Canned or plastic Jar)
Instant Oatmeal
Gravy (packets)
Cake Mix/Frosting
Ravioli/SpaghettiOs
Taco Seasoning
Spaghetti Sauce (canned or plastic jars)
Canned Vegetables/Fruit
Stuffing mix
Canned Chicken/Tuna
Salt/Pepper and spices
Canned Meat/Spam or Ham
Soups, Stew, Chili
Dried Fruits
Rice
Small Boxes of Cereal
Pasta - Shells/Spaghetti noodles
Instant Potato
Instant pudding boxes
Jello boxes
Small box of crackers

Snacks (Pretzels, chips, etc)
Brownie Mix
Muffin Mix
Meal in a box (pizza mix, pasta, rice, soup kits)
Beans

Hygiene

Deodorant - Male and Female (Spray and Stick)
Shampoo & conditioner
Body Wash (bottles)
Toothpaste
Tooth Brush
Hair Brush
Comb
Hair scrunchies

Household items

Kleenex
Toilet Paper
Laundry Soap (smaller bottles)
Dryer Sheets
Spray stain remover (Shout)

School Supplies

Highlighters - different colors (Fine-smaller)
#2 pencils
Pink Erasers
Markers - Color - Fine
Glue Sticks

Colored Pencils
Pens - Red, Blue and Black
Ruler
Earbuds
2 Pocket Folders
1 subject spiral notebooks
Dividers for 3 Ring Binders
Sharpie Fine Tip Markers - Black
Calculator - TJI-30XIIS Texas Instruments
Basic Calculator
Scissors
Pencil bag
Post it notes 1 1/2 x 2 (mini post its)
Pencil sharpeners

Clothing

Shoes Men's and Women's all sizes (tennis shoes)
Men's Joggers
Women's Joggers and yoga pants
Men's & Women's T-shirts, Sweat-shirts, Hoodies all sizes

Gift Cards

Kohls
Walmart
Target
Amazon
Hobby Lobby for material



Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to all who contributed to the success of our first ever Polka worship service, a collaborative effort between Pilgrim, St. Stephen and Good Shepherd churches, held at Pilgrim.

- Thank you to the people who suggested a Polka service and provided the band recommendation
- Thank you to the planners and sign makers
- Thank you to Pastors Karoline and Tryphine for leading worship
- Thank you to the greeters and ushers
- Thank you to the Celebration Brass Band for the music
- Thank you to the singers who tried to keep up with the band
- Thank you to all the smiling faces and toe-tappers who came out on a hot day and filled the pews
- Thank you to Pilgrim's Administrator for his technical expertise
- Thank you to those who donated food and beverages for the meal that followed the service
- Thank you to the setup crew
- Thank you to the decorating crew
- Thank you to the grill master
- Thank you to the food shopper and the kitchen help
- Thank you to the artistic face painter, who does beautiful work
- Thank you to the kind person who donated the use of their polka collection played during fellowship and the DJ who knew how to operate the CD player
- Thank you to the servers, especially the ice cream crew
- Thank you to the cleanup crew
- A **BIG THANK YOU** to the generous donors who contributed \$383 to the Alzheimer's Association
- Above all, thanks be to God!

Pilgrims:

Thank you so much for your generous fundraiser and donation for our mission. Polka sounds like fun! These funds will go to research and local free care and support programs.

*Sincerely, Lisa Berg
Alzheimer's Association
Wisconsin Chapter*

shout OUT!

- ☺ To our visiting pastors and lay ministers this month—Pastors Tryphine Schrubba & Karoline Schwantes; Shirley Ecker, and Eugene Viegut

Community Outreach Update July 15, 2025

St. Stephen's Good Stewards committee put a call out to Pilgrim and two other churches a couple of weeks ago asking for help for two individuals who were facing the possibility of homelessness. Donations from Pilgrim members for these individuals totaled \$765.00. Thanks to your generous gifts, these folks will not become part of the homeless population in Wausau.

It is easy to take our comfortable homes for granted, isn't it? For folks falling on hard times, facing eviction, getting a helping hand can make a huge difference. No matter the amount of your donation, you made a difference for these two people.

Acts 20:35

(Excerpt from Paul's Message to the Ephesians)

"In all this, I have given you an example, that by such work, we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus for he himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY

On Sunday, June 1st, Pilgrims celebrated Ryland Robl's graduation with his family. During the worship service, Ryland was presented with a quilt from the Busy Bee Quilters; and, at the reception that followed, everyone continued the celebration with him and also enjoyed a piece of his favorite cake. Thank you to the quilters and all who helped out, especially Linda Konkel for presenting the quilt and getting the cake.



Transition Task Force

If you have a question or comment for the Transition Task Force, email or talk to one of the team members.

Charles Freiberg	charlesfreiberg@icloud.com	715-574-4904
Jeff Kessel (Chairperson)	Kessel.jeffrey@gmail.com	715-573-4491
Frank Koerten	fmkoerten@gmail.com	715-301-3939
Karen Larson	jar5804@gmail.com	715-297-4945
Stephen Moede	jar5804@gmail.com	715-297-4945
Jean Trempe	jtrempe@frontier.com	715-575-5592

Monthly Town Hall Meetings

2nd Sunday of each month
following worship service

**Next Meeting
August 10th**



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 10th, 2025

Approved

PRESENT IN PERSON: Jean Trempe (President), Frank Koerten (Vice President), Charlie Freiberg (Treasurer), Linda Konkel (Secretary), Jim Lenselink (Building & Grounds Chair), Charlene Buttner (Church & Society Chair), Janet Willimas (Life & Growth Chair).

ABSENT: Sue Koerten (Worship Chair)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Jean Trempe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Jim Lenselink led the devotions based on Psalm 104.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Linda Konkel) Motion by Jim Lenselink seconded by Frank Koerten to accept the May 2025 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CONFERENCE REPORT: (Linda Konkel) The Conference leadership has begun work on the implementation of the Conference Ministry Guide. This guide is to be in place beginning January 2026. The conference will be led by an executive committee that will now consist of five members. It was three prior to the change. There are now specific term limits for the positions. At the Conference Assembly in February 2025 four of the five leadership roles were filled. Since then, a fifth person has been found to fill the last position.

Another change will be how the Conference Funds will be managed. The Conference funds will be housed at the synod. Currently, each conference has controlled their funds locally. We have not been given the exact procedure yet from the synod on how this will all be managed.

The new executive board needs to determine which one of the given formulas suggested by the synod will be used to collect the funds from the member churches. The group is currently working on which option will work best for our conference.

The Conference Assembly is usually late January or early February but as there needs to be a vote taken to adopt the Conference Ministry Guide before 2026 the annual assembly will need to be held in late 2025. The plan is to have it in October. Pilgrim will need to send two representatives to the assembly. Steve and Linda Konkel will be Pilgrim's representatives at this meeting. Pilgrim is also allowed a called rostered minister(s) or Synod Authorized Minister(s) to vote, or more, based on the size of the congrega-

tion, in alignment with synod assembly voting allocation as detailed in the synod constitution should our situation change before October. The next meeting of the executive committee will be July 7, 2025.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Charlie Freiberg) Reviewed financial reports for May 2025. Cash in the bank totals \$83,389 with \$21,804 held in restricted funds. Again, the largest portion of the restricted funds are for Blessings that Give Hope of \$12,396. Our long-term debt stands at \$57,201. The church equity stands at \$25,307, not including real estate. Expenses are in line with prior months. We issued the down payment of \$5,790 to Best 1 Plumbing and Heating for the down payment on the two furnaces. The Recycling Sales proceeds were sent out as follows: Crossways Camping Ministries \$283.45, East Central Synod of WI AMNPARO/Bishop Fund \$259.74, and St. Stephen Community Outreach \$283.45. The Bake Sale proceeds of \$316.50 were given to the Busy Bee Quilters. Motion by Charlene Buttner and seconded by Jim Lenselink to approve the Treasurer's report and the distribution of the Recycling Sale proceeds as designated by the Recycling Sale Committee.

TRANSITION TEAM REPORT: (Jeff Kessel) Jean presented the transition team's report. The report is based off the minutes from the Pilgrim Town Hall Meeting of June 7th.

After 18 months of working with St. Stephen and Good Shepherd Churches, we have made some progress. We have had some successes such as the shared services during lent and last summer's round robin event where we worshiped at each of the churches including Immanuel. We have jointly raised some funds for Community Outreach in support of the homeless in Wausau. We have added new benevolence opportunities such as the Marty bus. We met new people, visited with some old friends.

Our next joint activity, a Polka Service held at Pilgrim, is slated for Sunday June 22, 2025. The Celebration Brass Quintet of Minocqua will provide music. Pastors Tryphine and Caroline will officiate. A meal of traditional German food includes brats and sauerkraut will follow. Look for Sign-up sheets for volunteers which will be out shortly. I looked through the music this week and we are in for a lively church service. Plan to attend and bring your family and friends.

The GPS group agreed to meet again at the end of September. The group agreed that it is important to take time to follow up with each of our congregations. Other than our joint activities, no real progress toward consolidation has been made.

We met with Synod staff on April 26, part

of a routine check in with congregations. Good Shepherd indicated that they have seen some growth in their congregation over the past few months and have determined that their original charge may no longer be their best option. In our private meeting with the Associate Bishops, they suggested that perhaps we begin to look at other options as well.

Toward that end, a meeting has been scheduled between Jean Trempe as President of our council, St. Stephen's council president, Dick Holster, and our two transition team leaders, Jeff Kessel, and Verlyn Oelke in order to start a dialogue between willing partners. Hopefully, the dialogue will result in some good options for us.

Pilgrim began as a mission site of St. Stephen back in 1947. We started some discussions with St. Stephen shortly before we hired our first Vicar and before St. Stephen hired their current Pastor. Our church cultures are similar. Our Choir is already one. Strong, trusting relationships have been developed over the past few years through joint committee work and joint projects. We are excited about the prospects.

Pilgrims are encouraged to visit St. Stephen for a worship service if you have not already visited.

Jeff Kessel and Jean Trempe will be meeting with the St. Stephen council president and transition team chair on Thursday June 12 to begin conversations about how a merger would look between just the two congregations.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Jean Trempe) Jean and John Trempe attended the East central Synod of Wisconsin annual Synod Assembly as our delegates on June 7, 2025.

This one-day event's theme was "To Serve All People Following the Example of Jesus." Over 250 representatives from six conferences (Appleton Area, Green Bay Area, Oshkosh Area, Shawano Area, Tomorrow River, and our conference WI River Valley) representing 113 churches attended.

Elections were held for various Synod Council Positions. Nearly all positions were filled by unopposed incumbents.

Pastor Venice Williams of the Milwaukee area was the keynote speaker.

Pastor Williams has been a Pastor for over 30 years. Though she attended a Missouri Synod Seminary, she opted to become an ELCA Pastor. She is a third generation Lutheran who grew up in Pittsburg. Her family was very involved in her all-black Pittsburg church, where she became the church secretary at 15.

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Pastor Williams started a garden ministry called Alice's Garden in Milwaukee which has evolved from an urban farming experiment where she held programs to teach people how to grow food to a full-fledged ministry including a Church facility and numerous programs evolving around the garden.

The Pastor gave a dynamic and impassioned presentation focused on the question of "What is holding us back from Building God's Kingdom and inviting others in." She talked about understanding our personal worth and suggested that as Christians we are the stewards of the Gospel. She explained the importance of growing church together with no excuses.

Each year, the Assembly takes on special projects and requests donations. This year contributions were collected for the Bishop's Resource Fund and Ammparo. Thank you all for your generous donations. A portion of the proceeds from our recycling sale were provided for this cause as well.

Claudette Haring will be at Pilgrim on September 7 during the coffee hour. New Beginnings for Refugees is a local organization that supports refugees in Wausau. She will present all the work that is being done for the new refugees that are settling in the Wausau area.

Shelby Brod is due for her performance review this month. Everyone is incredibly pleased with the job she is doing here at Pilgrim. Frank Koerten made a motion to increase Shelby's wages per our original agreement with her. Seconded by Charlene. Motion carried.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: (Jean Trempe) Fred has prepared a list of inactive members. The topic of how to manage these members was discussed. It was decided to table this issue until more information is available about the direction Pilgrim will be moving to in the near future. This list will need to be dealt with at some point during the consolidation process. The list will be referred to the Stewardship Committee for a recommendation of a process to be used.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Frank Koerten)-No Report

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT: (Jim Lenselink) The phone system is up and running again.

The two new furnaces should be arriving in a couple of weeks and will be installed once they arrive.

There is a problem with the roof where the steeple, metal roof, soffit and fascia meet. A call has been made to Kulp's to come and check on what is going on.

The Memorial Garden has become very overgrown and is in need of some care. Motion by Frank Koerten to get some quotes for a redevelopment of the area with the work beginning in fall with a second by Charlie Freiberg. Motion passed.

WORSHIP REPORT: (Sue Koerten) Linda Konkel gave the worship report in Sue's absence.

There will be a sing a long at St. Stephen on June 15 at 9:00 a.m.

The hymns are picked through the month of August.

Good Shepherd is having summer campfires on the last Thursday of each month during the summer. More information can be found on their website.

St. Stephen staff is working on a "bingo card" for people to use during the summer to record fun and unusual worship experiences they may have.

The Polka Service will be at Pilgrim on June 22 at 9:30 a.m. with a picnic lunch to follow. The band has been in contact with the committee to work out the logistics of the service. Pastors Karoline and Tryphine are working together on the worship service preparation.

Randy Ecker will be the "grill master." The menu will be brats, hot dogs, potato salad, sauerkraut, baked beans, snack chips, with cookies and ice cream for dessert. Donations of chips and drinks are needed.

Jim Yunek will be the DJ during the meal in Fellowship Hall.

There will be a free will offering for the meal with all proceeds going to Alzheimer's Association. There will be an honor wall for participants to honor a loved one who has Alzheimer's or has passed away due to Alzheimer's. Angie Huckbody of Good Shepherd will oversee this.

There are yard signs advertising the event for anyone who would like to place them on their lawn.

Face painting will be available for the children.

The committee will need volunteers the day before to set up Fellowship Hall, serving the meal, and take down and clean up. Ushers are also needed for the service.

The committee received two \$250 Thrivent Action Team grants to help with the cost of the food and advertising the event.

LIFE & GROWTH REPORT: (Janet Williams) Janet has been working with the Polka Service Committee organizing the food purchases and other details that need to be taken care of. She indicated that they may need more money to purchase necessary items (IE: plates, silverware, etc.) She would like to use money from the script account for these items. Motion by Charlene Buttner and seconded by Charlie Freiberg to allow Janet to

use money from the script account to cover costs of food once the Thrivent Action Team grant is exhausted. Motion carried.

BLESSINGS THAT GIVE HOPE: (Jeff Kessel) Linda Konkel gave the report in Jeff's absence. Blessings That Give Hope (BTGH) will be donating a wide variety of items to John Marshall and Horace Mann this summer. Pilgrims and southeastersiders are also encouraged to donate.

In the 2024-2025 school year Horace Mann served 84 – 86 students identified by a wide variety of staff members as needing help in numerous ways and at various times. The pantry coordinator wants to hit the ground running come fall. She has provided BTGH with an extensive list of items needed. There will be major construction at Horace Mann this summer so special arrangements will be made to deliver donations to their pantry. Pilgrims and southeastersiders will be asked to bring their donations to Pilgrim, and I will arrange delivery. Alternatively, you can call me if you want me to pick up your donations.

As for John Marshall, their social worker had provided a list of items that need to be replenished regularly. Jeff is collaborating with the social worker to identify any additional items needed when school starts.

Jeff will be distributing a list of items needed to Pilgrim members and Southeastersiders this month.

It is possible that Wausau East will ask for items in August and September.

CHURCH & SOCIETY REPORT: (Charlene Buttner) Because of the very generous donations that were received, we were able to make donations to the following groups with items left from our Recycling Sale:

Pilgrim's Little Library, Marathon County Public Library, Marty Bus, Wausau/ Marathon County Homeless Shelter, United Way Clothes Closet-baby clothes (in collaboration with the Neighbors Place Diaper Drive), St. Vincent DePaul Store.

The next meeting of the council will be held on July 8th. Charlene will have devotions.

Motion by Frank Koerten and seconded by Jim Lenselink to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Konkel

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

June 15th, 2025
Approved

Held at
St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Pilgrim Members in Attendance:

Jean Trempe, Council President, Transition Team Member

Frank Koerten, Vice President, Transition Team Member

Charlie Frieberg, Treasurer, Transition Team Member

Sue Koerten, Chair Worship Committee

Jim Lenselink, Chair, Building & Grounds

Jeff Kessel, Transition Team Chair

Council Members Unable to Attend: Janet Williams, Charlene Buttner, Linda Konkell

Transition Team Members Unable to Attend: Steve Moede, Karen Larson

Business:

A meeting of Pilgrim's Council and St. Stephen's Church Council was called to order at 1:00 p.m. A possible merger of the two churches was discussed. Some background of Pilgrim's current programs and financial information was shared. Staffing was discussed. Pilgrim's property and building were discussed. It was indicated that a Building Advisory Committee would be established if the merger was approved to determine the best use or action to take with Pilgrim's building and property. An income statement of St. Stephen's Trust Fund was presented and discussed in terms of the potential for enhancing programs that Pilgrim now participates in. The councils went into separate rooms to discuss a possible merger.

Action of the Council:

Jim Lenselink made a motion to make a recommendation to the Pilgrim Lutheran Church Congregation that the church merge with St. Stephen Lutheran Church and that a date be set for a special congregational meeting to vote on approving a merger. Motion was seconded by Charlie Frieberg. Motion Carried.

Sue Koerten made a motion to adjourn Pilgrim's special council meeting. Charlie Frieberg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The two councils and transition teams reconvened. A date was suggested to hold special congregational meetings at both churches. A question-and-answer session will be held at Pilgrim on July 13, after church. Verlyn Oelke and Dick Holster graciously agreed to attend to share information about St. Stephen. Pastor Karoline agreed to contact Synod Staff. Dick Holster, St. Stephen's Council President will contact Good Shepherd.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Trempe
Pilgrim Council President

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

July 13th, 2025
Unapproved

Council Members Present: Jean Trempe, Frank Koerten, Charlie Frieberg, Jim Lenselink, Charlene Buttner, Sue Koerten,

Excused: Linda Konkell, Janet Williams

Purpose of Special Meeting: The purpose of this special council meeting was to approve repairs to Pilgrim's building.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Council President, Jean Trempe.

The Building Chair, Jim Lenselink shared that a technician with Kulp's Roofing, who installed the church's cooper roof originally, looked at a bulge and sagging soffit on the east side of the church, on the tower, facing the school. Kulp's determination was that a panel bulge was caused by it slipping out of a j-channel. Kulp's can fix the j-channel, reposition the cooper panel and fix the sagging soffit this week if approved by the council. Estimated costs are \$2,000.

Frank Koerten made a motion to approve the repairs. Charlene Buttner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sue Koerten. Charlie Frieberg seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Trempe, Council President

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 8th, 2025
Unapproved

PRESENT IN PERSON: Jean Trempe (President), Frank Koerten (Vice President), Linda Konkell (Secretary), Jim Lenselink (Building & Grounds Chair), Charlene Buttner (Church & Society Chair), Sue Koerten (Worship Chair).

ABSENT: Charlie Frieberg (Treasurer), Janet Williams (Life & Growth Chair).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Jean Trempe called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Charlene Buttner led the devotion titled "A Safe Place to Hide." The devotion emphasized God's unfailing love and protection.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Linda Konkell) Motion by Frank Koerten and seconded by Charlene Buttner to accept the June 10, 2025, meeting Minutes. Motion passed.

Motion by Jim Lenselink and seconded by Frank to approve the June 15, 2025, Special Joint Council Meeting Minutes between Pilgrim and St. Stephen Church Councils. Motion passed.

WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CONFERENCE REPORT: (Linda Konkell) The Executive Board met again on July 7, 2025. We are continuing to work through the new Conference Ministry Guide and making updates to apply to our situation. Example: term limits for executive board members and a mission statement. We are in the process of finding a host congregation for the Conference Assembly planned for October. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2025.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Charlie Frieberg) Jean Trempe gave the treasurer's report in Charlie's absence. Reviewed financial reports for June 2025. Cash in the bank totals \$83,989 with \$22,159 held in restricted funds. Again, the largest portion of the restricted funds are for Blessings that Give Hope of \$12,452. Our long-term debt stands at \$56,502. A reminder that the church's real estate is not included on the balance sheet. Expenses are in line with prior months. Motion by Sue Koerten and seconded by Jim Lenselink to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

TRANSITION TEAM REPORT: (Jeff Kessel) Jean Trempe gave an update from the meeting of the Pilgrim and St.

(Continued on page 9)

(July 8th Minutes Continued from page 8)

Stephen combined councils and transition teams on June 15, 2025, at St. Stephen. A possible merger of the two churches was discussed. Background on the current programs of the two churches was given along with financial information was shared. Staffing was also discussed. A discussion regarding Pilgrim's building and property took place also. It was indicated that a Building Advisory Committee would be established if the merger were approved to determine the best use or action to take with Pilgrim's building and property. An income statement of St. Stephen's Trust Fund was presented and discussed in terms of the potential for enhancing programs that Pilgrim now participates in. The councils separated and had private discussions on the possibility of merging. After the councils and transitions teams reconvened, it was decided to have congregational meetings at both churches to inform membership of the possible merger. Verlyn Oelke and Dick Holster agreed to attend Pilgrim's meeting and share information about St. Stephen. Pastor Karoline will be contacting Synod Staff of the possible merger and what needs to happen next. Dick Holster will be contacting Good Shepherd and updating them on this new development.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Jean Trempe) Representatives (Verlyn Oelke and Dick Holster) from St. Stephen will be at Pilgrim to answer questions relating to a possible merger at the July 13, 2025, town hall meeting.

The next meeting between the Pilgrim and St. Stephen councils and transition teams will be on August 14 from 1-2:30 P.M. Pastor Dara from the Synod will be meeting with the group and providing the agenda.

Jean met with Shelby to conduct a performance review. Based on her performance, a wage increase was given as agreed to at her time of hire and discussed at the last council meeting.

St. Stephen contacted Pilgrim, Immanuel and Good Shepherd regarding an urgent need for a community outreach opportunity. Funds are being raised through July 15 to assist with the roughly \$2,000 needed to help two individuals who could become homeless without help.

Jean attended the council presidents' meeting on June 17. St. Andrew is interviewing candidates for an open pastor position. There are plans in the works for a "God's Work, Our Hands" joint event. The planning meeting will

be July 15. The group also discussed holding joint bible studies. A situation came up at a local church regarding a person who has applied to become a member who is on the sex offender registry. The area church councils may want to discuss this should the situation arise at their church. The next meeting will be on August 26.

We have received two letters of transfer.

Hannah Neumann has requested a membership transfer to St. John, Town of Maine.

The Cody Augustine family has requested a membership transfer to St. John, Town of Maine also.

Motion by Sue Koerten and seconded by Jim Lenselink to accept the transfer of both Hannah Neumann and the Augustine Family. Motion passed.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Frank Koerten) No report.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT: (Jim Lenselink) Jim contacted Best 1 to check on the installation of the two furnaces. They are currently terribly busy with air conditioning calls, so they are looking at three to four weeks out.

Kulp's will be here tomorrow to look at the roof where the leak is occurring. They will also look at the rest of the roof to make sure everything looks good and there are no issues.

Randy Ecker has begun clean-up work on the memorial garden since our last meeting. Thank you, Randy! If anyone knows someone who might be interested in helping us redesign that area, please give Jim a call.

WORSHIP REPORT: (Sue Koerten) The hymns are picked through August.

The Polka Worship service was a big success. Thanks to Delores and her committee for making it happen. It was a great shared ministry event for the area. The band was a super addition to our worship service which was led by Pastors Karoline and Tryphine. About 136 people attended on an extremely hot Sunday morning. The food was wonderful. We served about eighty people for lunch. Thank you to all the volunteers. They did an excellent job from set up, preparing and serving food and cleanup. Many thanks for all the donations of drinks, cookies, and chips from the three congregations. The extra food and drinks were donated to the homeless shelter. The face painting was a hit with the kids (and adults!) thanks to Angie Huckbody from Good Shepherd. Thank you to Thrivent for their action

team funds which paid for food and advertising. The memory wall was a unique way to honor people who are dealing with, or families who have dealt with, Alzheimer's. We were able to send \$380 to the Alzheimer's Association. The unfortunate part of the day was that Jim Yunek was unable to play at the last minute due to a medical emergency. He did supply polka CDs for the "mood music" during lunch! We hope he is doing better.

CHURCH & SOCIETY REPORT: (Charlene Buttner) We are currently collecting items for Baby Care and School Kits. Lists of items needed are in the Progress and in the collection area.

Our Little Library is currently filled. Thanks to all for the generous donations. With the closing of three elementary schools in the area some of the new donations may have come from the libraries at those schools.

LIFE & GROWTH: (Janet Williams) No report.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: (Committee) Jean reported that the stewardship committee has looked at the current church membership rolls. It was decided that a letter would be sent out asking what the inactive members' plans are. The inactive members were given the option of transferring their membership to another church, dropping their membership with no transfer of membership, or continue as members of Pilgrim. A purge has not been done for several years. It will give the transition team and council a better picture of how many members we really have.

BLESSINGS THAT GIVE HOPE: (Jeff Kessel)-No report.

NO OLD BUSINESS.

NO NEW BUSINESS.

Charlie Freiburg is on for devotions for August.

Motion by Charlene Buttner and seconded by Jim Lenselink to adjourn, Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Konkel



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

McKenna Ecker	08/01	Melani Lemanski	08/13
Bryce Widmark	08/01	Shirley Ecker	08/14
Chad Lemanski	08/03	Deanna Kelly	08/18
Nancy Schneider	08/05	Sara Cravens	08/27
Rachel Fehlhaber-Poppe	08/06	Willis Gresen	08/27
John Cravens	08/11	Jenni Zaitz	08/27
Ron Dins	08/11	Eugene Viegut	08/28

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.

August

REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

the following members of our
Pilgrim family on their

August

1 Sue Koerten	17 Anna Larsen
2 Eric Konkell	18 David Larsen
3 Linda Konkell	19 Michelle Larsen
4 Michael Konkell	20 Grant Larson
5 Sara Konkell	21 Greg Larson
6 Steve Konkell	22 Karen Larson
7 Ian Koski	23 Stephen Moede
8 Lindsey Koski	24 Kara Larson Seiffert
9 Violet Koski	25 Claire Laughlin
10 Kathi Kunze	26 Elise Laughlin
11 Annie Landeau	27 Theresa Laughlin
12 Cheryl Landeau	28 Chad Lemanski
13 Darryl Landeau	29 Colton Lemanski
14 Marshall Landeau	30 Melani Lemanski
15 Sarah Landeau	31 Taylor Lemanski
16 Alex Larsen	

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2
3 9:00 Worship	4	5 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Task Force Meeting	6	7 6:30 Worship	8	9
10 9:00 Worship 10:15 Town Hall Meeting	11 3:30 WRV Conf. Exec. Board Mtg. at Pilgrim	12 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Council Mtg.	13 9:00 Busy Bee Quilters	14 7:30 Men's Bible Study at Eagle's Nest 1:00-2:30 Council/Trans. Teams Mt. with Pr. Clifford from Synod Office 6:30 Worship	15	16
17 9:00 Worship	18	19 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 GWCS Meeting at Pilgrim	20	21 6:30 Worship	22	23
24 9:00 Worship	25	26 11:45 Prayer Circle	27	28 6:30 Worship	29	30
31 9:00 Worship						

FINANCIAL INFORMATION UPDATE

July 31, 2025

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
\$ 57,201	Balance: 05/29/2025		
\$ 1,338	Principal Payment	\$66,900	\$58,436
\$ 411	Interest Payment		
\$ 55,863	Balance: 07/31/2025	Outstanding Bills	
		\$945	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... 304

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!

Items Needed For:

LWR School Kits
and Baby Care Kits
(page 2)

Blessings That Give Hope
(page 3)

Staff

Ministers
Music Coordinator
Choir Director
Pianists
Custodian
Office Manager

All Pilgrims
Delores Kessel
Jim Lenselink
Delores Kessel, Norah Brown
Shelby Brod
Fred Patten

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

Progress
August 2025

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
709 Weston Avenue
Wausau WI 54403
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