

# Progress

Volume 22, Issue 5

May 2024

## Pilgrim Lutheran Church

709 Weston Avenue  
Wausau WI 54403

715.842.4544

pilgrimofwausau@gmail.com  
www.pilgrimofwausau.org

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAYS

In-Person and  
Zoomed Online

9:00 am

#### THURSDAYS

6:30 pm

#### Office Hours

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

Friday  
Closed

The devotion for April 18<sup>th</sup> in the Christ in Our Home\* was written Katie Langston. The title is: "What Makes the Church Distinct?" Thinking that many of you have also read the devotion, let's think more about it here.

It was interesting to have this devotion coming on the heels of our last Town Hall meeting. Part of the conversation at the Town Hall Meeting was to discuss Pilgrim's Core Values and what we thought God was calling us to be. The devotion fits right in.

The verse associated with the devotion was Acts 4:12, "There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." The devotion continued on.

"After Jesus was raised, the apostles went out, proclaiming his resurrection and healing people in his name. It seems we sometimes forget that we are called to do the same."

Soooo... what are we thinking of in terms of the core values for Pilgrim going forward? What is God calling us to do? Is it a matter of more money on the offering plate? More people in the pews each Sunday? Or are we to proclaim His resurrection! To shout out the good news?

The devotion continued...

"The church isn't a service club or a place of private piety. If that was all we wanted, we could volunteer at our local food bank or go into the wood to pray. Indeed, more and more people are leaving church because they assume precisely this."

What comes to mind is the phrase of

being spiritual but not religious. The new 2024 way of approaching how we connect with God. As the devotion mentions we could merely go to the woods to pray. If that was what we are looking for. But is it really?

The part of church being a service club stunned me. Is that not what we are all about? Serving our community? Pilgrim does great things for the community. But to the point of the devotion, the church is not a service club. Yes, we can, and many of you do volunteer outside of Pilgrim. This is a big piece of who we think we are as Pilgrim. Not sure that makes it right.

The devotion continued with a critical point.

"What makes the church distinct? We have been charged to go into the world and declare that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead to be the means of salvation. His name means 'God saves.' Through Jesus, God has broken the power of sin and death, through the Holy Spirit, God offers repentance of life and forgiveness to all."

If we go back to the Town Hall discussion, were we thinking of what makes the church (Pilgrim) distinct. What would set Pilgrim apart for volunteering at a community food bank or praying by ourselves in the woods. What can we offer to the community that would make us distinct? Spreading the message that God saves! That God has broken the power of sin and death through Jesus dying on the cross and the work of the Holy Spirit in each of us. That God is

*(Continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

meeting all of us where we are. As broken as we may be. That God offers each and every one of us, regardless of the sins we silently hold in our hearts, repentance of life and forgiveness.

But wait there is more!!!

“As Christ’s body in the world, we – the church (Pilgrim) – get to share his healing and forgiveness, hope and transformation – indeed, his saving name – far and wide. May it be so.”

On May 19<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating the Day of Pentecost. What a great time to begin our opportunity to show how Pilgrim is distinct in our purpose. Acts 2: 1-21 tells of the Disciples being gathered together in one place as they celebrated the Jewish festival of Pentecost. During the

celebration the Holy Spirit fills the people in attendance, and they begin to speak in different languages. The result was the disciples were sent out to speak in the languages of the people they were traveling to see so that they could speak of God’s offer of repentance of life and forgiveness to all.” We are saved from our sins!

What are your thoughts on how we can distinguish ourselves as we go forward in the life of Pilgrim or as we ponder joining in relationships with our fellow churches?

Kay Palmer

\*Christ In Our Home is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

300 N. First Street, Wausau

#### Members Only Sale

Wednesday, May 1, 5 - 7:30  
(non-members can join at the door for \$10)

#### Public Invited

Thursday, May 9, 9:30 - 7:30  
Friday, May 3, 9:30 - 4:30

Bag Sale Day—\$6.00 a Bag  
Saturday, May 4, 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.



### Pilgrim Recycling and Bake Sale

Thursday, June 20th, 8:00 – 3:00

Friday, June 21st, 8:00 – 3:00

Saturday, June 22nd, 8:00 – Noon

If you have been looking for a new home for those household items, clothes, shoes, books, games, and other treasures that you don't need or have room to store anymore we will take them off your hands. NO ELECTRONICS, PLEASE!

Set up for the recycling and bake sale will begin on Sunday, June 16, 2:00 p.m. There are several ways you can participate—help or come and shop for great bargains. Fill out the form and return it to the church office or put it in the offering plate by Sunday, June 2nd.

- I have items to donate and need someone to pick them up.
- I can help set up and mark items during the week of June 16th.
- I can pick up items from members' homes.
- I will donate items for the bake sale
- I will help at the bake sale
- I am willing to help with publicity (making posters, distributing flyers, making calls, etc.)
- I can make phone calls to remind members
- I can help on the day of the sale (circle each):
  - cashier    clean up    straighten tables during sale
  - greet shoppers    carry purchased items to vehicles.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Phone Number

Members of all ages are welcome. Bring a friend to help or shop. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Shirley Ecker at 715-301-3372. Thank you.

# Make a joyful noise!

*“Good singing is not the sign of a good congregation,  
but the forging of one.”*

~ Alice Parker

As many of you know, in our exploration about what’s in our future, Pilgrims have started looking at our congregation’s values. I recently asked our choir (I no longer call it a combined choir; it is our choir) the values they think of when they think of a church choir. Within less than five minutes these words popped out of their mouths:

- A choir helps create **community** both for the members and it helps create the climate of the congregation.
- A choir is meant to be **uplifting**. Choir music can help us praise God. It can also help lift our moods when we are feeling down.
- A choir **adds depth to worship**.
- A choir offers **fellowship** for its members.
- A choir offers **encouragement**. All of us need an emotional and spiritual boost from time to time.
- A choir is meant to be **inspirational**. Choir music can spur us on to do amazing things on behalf of our faith.
- Choirs help **maintain tradition** AND choirs **create new traditions**. Choirs and music have been a part of our faith communities since the beginning of faith in God. Our specific choir has revived a tradition of having an Advent choral service which has been gratefully received by both of our congregations.
- Choirs are great as **teachers of our faith**. Teaching the faith through singing has a long tradition. In the history of our country, the slaves weren’t taught to read but hearing the repetition of the words in spirituals taught them a faith that weathered the uncertainties of their lives and gave them hope for a future.

Perhaps as you read these words, additional values around choirs will occur to you. As I sat with this list for a while, an additional value occurred to me that applies to *our* choir. Our choir represents **unity**. It is the joining of a choir from two different congregations that is a great example of how we are “Better Together”.

Creator of music, thank you for the many ways choirs add to congregations.

Thank for all the ways sacred music builds us up as the community of God.

Delores Kessel



*Creating  
Easter Cards*



## MINUTES

### REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 9th, 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), Sue Koerten (Worship Chair)

**EXCUSED:** Janet Williams (Life and Growth Chair)

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Shirley Ecker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Devotions were led by Jim Lenselink. The devotion was grounded in Judges 20-21. The message was that God works his Will in unexpected ways, through unexpected people. Though we are sometimes tempted to give up, God delivers an answer to people's prayers. Don't give up! Keep trying.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** (Jean Trempe) Review of minutes from March 12, 2024 regular council meeting. A motion to accept minutes by Jeanette Carlson and seconded by Charlie Freiberg. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Charlie Freiberg) Reviewed financial reports for March 2024. It was noted that for the first time we can remember cash on hand exceeds the Church's debts. There was a gain from general operations of \$2,972 for the month. This number excludes restricted expenses and income. Offerings were on par with prior years. Cash in banks totals \$67,602. Of that, \$27,121 are restricted funds. The mortgage debt stands at \$66,513. Charlene Buttner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and it was seconded by Sue Koerten. Motion carried.

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

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** (Shirley Ecker) Synod Assembly will be held

on May 17-18, 2024. The project for this year is for Crossways Camping Ministries. A list of items requested will be out shortly. Cash donations can also be made. Church members can make checks payable to Pilgrim noting that the funds are for Crossways. Pilgrim will then send one check.

A request was made for rental of Fellowship Hall by Olivia Lenselink for a baby shower on June 8, from 10:00 am -3:00 pm. Sue Koerten made a motion to approve the rental and it was seconded by Charlene Buttner.

There will be no worship service on Thursday July 4.

The local chapter of Women of the ELCA will meet at Pilgrim on Saturday April 27 with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. The program begins at 9:00 am ending at 1:00 p.m. The cost of the event is \$15. A light lunch will be served. Gifts for the unhoused in the Wausau area will be collected. Items such as personal hygiene products, soft fruit bars, pudding/Jello cups and tarps will be donated to Marty's Bus. Marty's Bus serves the needy at White Water Hall from 11:00 am – 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Sign-up sheets are available for volunteers and donations of food needed for this event.

Attention Crafters! A craft sale has been suggested with a date yet to be determined. Council members agreed that this would be a nice event. Shirley will get back to the planners. Watch for more details to follow as plans are developed.

**Task Force Update:** After spending time researching the possibility of changing Pilgrim's affiliation to Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ (LCMC) the taskforce's recommendation is not to pursue this avenue. Availability of pastors appears to be an issue within this group of churches as well. Qualifications for pastors and vetting processes are quite different. Interviews were conducted with members of other churches who have considered moves to the LCMC. The process was difficult and painful. One church abandoned the process and stayed with the ELCA. Over the past several years

Pilgrim has developed strong relationships with other ELCA churches in the area. This includes our combined choir, joint services, confirmation support as well as joint works for various local charitable organizations. Feedback from various members of the congregation also aided in this decision. Good Shepard and St Stephen's task forces have been reluctant to discuss consolidation with us until they know that leaving the ELCA is off of the table.

The group's focus is to work toward determining what God wants us to be. We will work on what outcomes we hope to obtain by working with the other churches. That involves a shared mission and determining our priorities. The next townhall meeting with the congregation will be after worship on Sunday April 14, 2024.

**President's Meeting Update:** The last President's meeting was held on March 19 at Immanuel Lutheran. There was representation from Good Shepherd, First English, Mount Calvary, Pilgrim, St. Stephen, St. Andrew, and Immanuel. We shared ideas about how the congregations can work together such as: youth activities, summer camp, lock in's, VBS, Confirmation and other activities. St. Andrew has a program called "Welcome Table" they share a meal on Sunday evening at 5:30 pm and church service at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Our next President's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 30 at 6:30 pm at St. Stephen.

**WORSHIP REPORT:** (Sue Koerten) All singers and musicians worked very hard on music for Holy Week. The shared Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter service at Pilgrim were very meaningful. All of the singers and musicians' hard work proved to be wonderful. At a later date, we will look at our midweek Lenten services. With low attendance we may do something different for next year. Pastors and readers are lined up through June. Fred asked if there are any shared services planned for the summer. He will be lining up pastors for July, August and September soon and it would be helpful for scheduling purposes to be alerted to dates being discussed. We don't know of any at

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Council Meeting Minutes continued from page 6)*

this time. Hymns are picked through May. Hymn pickers will meet to pick hymns through the summer on April 18 at 1:00 pm.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** (Kay Palmer) There are ongoing discussions regarding options for maintaining the lawn mowing for this season. A “thank you” to the Zaitz family for their help with snow removal last month. A spring clean up event is in the planning process. More information to come on the day and time.

**EVANGELISM:** (Linda Konkel) No report

**BLESSINGS THAT GIVE HOPE:** (Molly Augustine) Members of the Southeast Side community continue to drop off items to add to those collected by the congregation. The balance in the Food Program’s restricted checking account is \$17,643 as of March 31. A total of \$731 was expended this month.

**CHURCH AND SOCIETY:** (Charlene Buttner) Coats for unhoused people were delivered to Marty’s Bus. Charlene attended the Good Stewards meeting at St. Stephen. We will be working with St. Stephen on the April 28<sup>th</sup> Community Meal at the Presbyterian Church. They are planning to feed 125 people. A meal for Gospel TLC Mission will also be prepared that day. We will have signup sheets to donate chips and cookies. Further information will be coming on help needed in preparing the meals. A God’s Work, Our Hands Event is being planned for September 8, 2024.

**LIFE AND GROWTH:** (Janet Williams) The April Election Day bake sale was held on Tuesday, April 2. Cathy Gottschalk unexpectedly fell ill. Our prayers are with Cathy for a speedy recovery. Thanks to all who rallied to help with the sale. It was a great success. Voters were once again very appreciative. Thanks to all of the bakers who provided a good selection of treats and to those who worked the day of the sale.

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 \$5,363.

**STEWARDSHIP:** (Jim Lenselink) Jim reflected on the good works that the congregation does, referring to the church as a “Mission Outpost.” Our church membership roster needs review once again. It was done a number of years ago. As we begin to assess how we can work with the other ELCA churches it will be important to have up to date information.

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH:** (Terra Ecker) The multi-generational card making project on March 24 was a great success with good participation. We made and mailed 27 Easter cards. We plan to have some similar events in the future. Watch for details.

**Progress Articles are due April 19, 2024.**

**ADJOURN:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. via a motion made by Terra Ecker and seconded by Sue Koerten. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Next Council Meeting: May 14, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.** Kay Palmer has volunteered to provide a devotion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Trempe, Secretary

### Recorded Worship Services and Town Hall Meetings

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](http://www.pilgrimofwausau.org).

Would you like to view the latest Town Hall meeting? Contact the office and a link will be sent to you the day after the meeting.

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

The next monthly meeting is  
scheduled for **May 12th**.



## Transition Task Force

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

Mollie Augustine	Mollie08@yahoo.com	715-574-1450
Charles Freiberg	charlesfreiberg@icloud.com	715-574-4904
Jeff Kessel (Communications)	Kessel.jeffrey@gmail.com	715-573-4491
Frank Koerten	fmkoerten@gmail.com	715-301-3939
Karen Larson	klar5804@gmail.com	715-297-4945
Stephen Moede	klar5804@gmail.com	715-297-4945
Kay Palmer (Chairperson)	kaypalmer@42llc.com	302-983-6946
Jean Trempe	jtrempe@frontier.com	715-575-5592



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

Taylor Lemanski	05/01	Karen Larson	05/18
Ellen Anderson	05/03	Austin Fehlhaber	05/19
Mica Fehlhaber-Poppe	05/03	Patricia Roberts	05/24
Frank Koerten	05/04	Kassidie Augustine	05/26
Lindsey Koski	05/05	Rachel Clemment	05/26
Cody Augustine	05/06	Terra Ecker	05/28
Connie Brandenburg	05/06	Paul Ziebell	05/28
Manda Strick	05/10	Anna Larsen	05/29
Chris Ecker	05/16	Nathan Stromme	05/31
Donald Matkke	05/17		

*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

**May**

1 Kayle Kislow	17 Annie Landeau
2 Logan Kislow	18 Cheryl Landeau
3 Maureen Kislow	19 Darryl Landeau
4 Michael Kislow	20 Marshall Landeau
5 Frank Koerten	21 Sarah Landeau
6 Sue Koerten	22 Alex Larsen
7 Eric Konkell	23 Anna Larsen
8 Linda Konkell	24 David Larsen
9 Michael Konkell	25 Michelle Larsen
10 Sara Konkell	26 Grant Larson
11 Steven Konkell	27 Gregory Larson
12 Ian Koski	28 Kara Larson
13 Lindsey Koski	29 Karen Larson
14 Violet Koski	30 Claire Laughlin
15 Kathi Kunze	31 Elise Laughlin
16 Amanda Landeau	

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

			<b>1</b> 6:30 Choir	<b>2</b> 3-7 Blood Drive at Pilgrim 6:30 Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Lay School Celebration Saturday
<b>5</b> 9:00 Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> OFFICE CLOSED 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Task Force Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:00 Busy Bee Quilters 6:30 Choir	<b>9</b> 7:30 Men's Bible Study at Eagle's Nest 6:30 Worship	<b>10</b> Lay School	<b>11</b> Lay School 9-11He Chose the Nails Study Group
<b>12</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Town Hall Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Council Mtg.	<b>15</b> 6:30 Choir	<b>16</b> 6:30 Worship	<b>17</b> Synod Assembly	<b>18</b> Synod Assembly
<b>19</b> <b>DAY OF PENTECOST</b> 9:00 Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:00 GWCS Meeting at Pilgrim	<b>22</b> 6:30 Choir	<b>23</b> 6:30 Worship	<b>24</b> June/July Progress Articles Due	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 Worship	<b>27</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b> 11:45 Prayer Circle	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 Worship	<b>31</b>	

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION UPDATE

### April 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
\$ 66,513 Balance: 03/28/2024	
\$ 598 Principal Payment	\$32,000      \$32,883
\$ 276 Interest Payment	
\$ 65,915 Balance: 04/25/2024	
	Outstanding Bills
	\$1,693 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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

### THOSE PILGRIMS UNABLE TO ATTEND SERVICES

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

#### In Care Facilities

Kathleen Huebner.....Mount View

#### In Their Homes

Kathy Boehm      John Schneider  
Donald Mattke

### PRAYER SHAWLS

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

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

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

**Shawls given to date... 289**

### CAN'T GET TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY?

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

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



**Blood Drive**  
Thursday, May 2nd

**Pentecost**  
Sunday, May 19th  
(wear red)

**Pilgrim Recycling and Bake Sale**  
June 20th - 22nd



**Staff**

Ministers  
Music Coordinator  
Choir Director  
Pianists  
Office Manager  
Custodian

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

If you wish to give a gift to Pilgrim electronically, please go to [www.pilgrimofwausau.org](http://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](http://www.pilgrimofwausau.org)

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