

Progress

Volume 24, Issue 3

March 2026

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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Wausau WI 54403

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

In-Person and
Zoomed Online

9:00 am

LENTEN LUNCHES

WEDNESDAYS
12:00

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WORSHIP

THURSDAYS
6:30 pm

Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday
8-12 and 1-3

Thursday and Friday
Closed

CHURCH TRIVIA

1. In what year was St. Stephen founded?
A. 1881 B. 1910
C. 1925 D. 1945
2. What Lutheran Church first met in St. Stephen's basement around 1918?
A. Trinity B. Zion
C. First English D. Good Shepherd
3. Which Church captured the 1951 Church League Softball Championship?
A. St. Stephen B. First English
C. Pilgrim D. Zion
4. What area Church did Pilgrim members help establish around 1953?
A. St. John's in Mosinee B. Good Shepherd
C. Mt. Calvary in Rothschild D. Calvary Lutheran in Merrill
5. When was Pilgrim's original Church building completed?
A. 1949 B. 1955
C. 1965 D. 1970
6. Four square nails were placed in Pilgrim's corner stone back in 1948. Which area Church, erected in 1873, did they come from?
A. St. Stephen B. Trinity, Town of Stettin
C. Zion D. St. Peter Lutheran Church of Schofield
7. In 1974, Rev. Karen Bloomquist was ordained at St. Stephen, only the 4th woman to be ordained by the American Lutheran Church. Her grandfather was St. Stephen's first Pastor. Who was he?
A. Rev. Spiegel B. Rev. Wehahn
C. Rev. Seidel D. Rev. Reinicke

(Answers on page 2)

CHURCH TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. (A) St. Stephen was established in 1881 with 25 members who left St. Paul German Reformed Church, now St. Paul United Church of Christ
2. (C) First English, named as such because English was spoken in the new Church, not German
3. (C) Pilgrim's team won the softball championship in 1951
4. (C) Mount Calvary in Rothschild was established with Pilgrim's help
5. (A) Pilgrim's Church building was completed in 1949
- 6 (B) Rev. M Pulz, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in the Town of Stettin provided the square nails
7. (D) Rev. Reinke was Rev. Bloomquist's grandfather. He was St. Stephen's first Pastor serving from 1881 - 1898

LENTEN SERVICES Free-Will Offering

The free will offerings from the mid-week Lenten services will be collected and given to the Wausau Free Clinic. his clinic provides free primary care to low income and the uninsured in Central Wisconsin. The medical professionals are volunteering their services which can include treatment for common illnesses, diagnostic testing, and free or low cost medications. They focus on households with incomes 300% below the federal poverty line level. With federal monies drying up, our community has the opportunity to step up and help this clinic help our neighbors.

GRADUATING?

If you know anyone who will be graduating from high school, technical college, or a four-year college, in April or May, please let the church office know. Thank you!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

THRU EASTER

During Lent, all Sunday worship services will be held at St. Stephen. There will be no Sunday services at Pilgrim on these Sundays.

All midweek Lenten services will be held at Pilgrim. Noon Lenten lunches (with soup) will be held in Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays. Plus, Lenten Holden Evening Prayer services will be held in the sanctuary on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Please look at the sign-up sheet on the information table in the lounge for opportunities to contribute to the Wednesday luncheons. There will be no soup suppers on Thursday evenings.

Palm Sunday will be a shared service with St. Stephen, held at Pilgrim, when there will also be a baptism.

This year, we will again have these three combined services: Ash Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. (Pilgrim); Maundy Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (Good Shepherd); and Good Friday 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m. (St. Stephen).

Individual Easter services will be held at all three churches. And, so that the choir can sing at both St. Stephen and Pilgrim, Pilgrim's service will be held at 8:30 a.m. and St. Stephen's at 10:30 a.m.

Make a joyful noise!

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

--Numbers 6:24-26, NKJV

Recently I've been thinking a lot about grief from many perspectives. I have family members and friends who are going through life changing experiences. Our world continues to be very fractured politically. We are going through life changing times within our Pilgrim faith community. It is almost certain that quite soon Pilgrim will close and our congregation will merge with St. Stephen. Many of us find ourselves feeling both grief and hope at the same time.

During my thinking about our collective grief, I reflected on a ritual that our choir has used for many years, long before the Pilgrim and St. Stephen choirs united four years ago, at the end of each practice. The singers face each other and sing the beautiful words of The Blessing of Aaron to each other as a prayer for each other; it is a wonderful way to close our time of shared singing. Here are the words to the song, The Blessing of Aaron. You will see that the words of the song are almost identical to those of the blessing from the book of Numbers. This blessing is for ALL of us!

*The Lord bless you, The Lord keep you,
Make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, And give you peace. And give you peace.
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.*

In my mind, there is very little that is more powerful than blessing someone else.

One day recently I experienced one of those wonderful accidents of coming upon a poem by Pastor Jan Richardson that talks about blessings. These words are so comforting to me, and I hope to you, also. They also seem to me to be a perfect fit with the words of the Blessing of Aaron.

There is nothing a blessing is better suited for than an ending. This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you, will not give you false comfort; it will not talk to you about one door opening when another one closes. It will simply sit itself beside you, among the shards and gently turn your face toward the direction from which the light will come, gathering itself about you as the world begins again.

To Jan Richardson's poem, I say Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

With thanks for the Blessing of Aaron which has comforted me and millions of others, many times,

With thanks for people like Pastor Richardson who have the gift of offering hope to us in poetic images,

Delores Kessel

* Pastor Jan Richardson is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. The part of the poem I shared in this article is from a book called *Blessing When the World Is Ending*

* You can hear a beautiful recording of The Blessing of Aaron by listening to the McFarland High School A Cappella Choir · 2018 on YouTube. You will notice that in the recording, the singers used the original word "thee" which our choir modernized by replacing the word thee with you.

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Sunday, March 22nd

We will be collecting NEW items to be delivered to The Babies' Place. We will be collecting items such as Body wash, Diaper Rash cream, Baby Lotion, Dove sensitive Bar Soap, Baby Food, Similac Formula, Wipes, as well as Diapers size 5 and up and Pull Ups 3T/4T and up. They have a budget to purchase diapers and wipes from the national diaper bank at a cheaper cost; however, baby hygiene/food is something that is completely run on donations. Please bring your donations to St. Stephens Lutheran Church and place them in the black laundry cart near the office labeled Community Baby Shower before Monday March 30th. A collection box is also located in the narthex at Pilgrim. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation please give or place them in Shauna's Mailbox with a memo indicating it is for the Baby Shower and I will go purchase items on March 29th. If you have any questions please contact Shauna.

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS HYGIENE DRIVE

February 22–March 15th

Items being collected include: Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Razors (Men/Women), Toilet Paper, Paper Towel and Trash Bags. These items will be collected in the brown cardboard box located in the lobby near the St. Stephen office. A collection box is also located in the narthex at Pilgrim. Items will go to The Neighbors' Place, Open Door, Community Center for Hope and Granite House. Monetary donations can be given to or put in Shauna Robinson's mailbox in the church office (Please indicate Hygiene Drive in Memo Line) and what is collected will go towards purchasing items on the afternoon of March 15. The items will be picked up the week of the March 16th by The Neighbors' Place. Lets help our neighbors in need. If you have any questions Please talk to Shauna 608-514-4504.

SEASON OF HOPE

LENT

Share God's love with your neighbors this Lent.

Lent may be a time of waiting, but it need not be one of inaction. By making **Personal Care Kits**, we can deliver tangible hope to our neighbors in need around the world. Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict, and more. We focus on providing kits to those in need and, as the need increases, we accept the challenge. We will be collecting personal care kit items throughout Lent and Holy Week. Here are the items...



2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap equaling 8-9 ounces, any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars.



1 metal nail clipper

1 sturdy comb.
(no picks or fine-toothed combs)



1 light-weight bath-size towel
(20" X 40" to 52" X 27")



1 adult-sized toothbrush in its original packaging
(multipacks may also be used.)

** collection containers are located in the Pilgrim narthex **

Walking Together to Celebrate Christ's Love: An Update from Transition Workgroups

February 19, 2026

It is an exciting time! On February 1st, a combined worship service was attended by 83 people. We truly are “walking together” as one congregation, one church family. Transition workgroups have been involved with different areas as we move toward completing a merger. They’re moving at a brisk pace!

Worship – Traditional Sunday worship services continue at both churches, with joint worship on designated Sundays. Pilgrim offers evening worship services on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. We are reviewing worship traditions and practices. The plan is to blend elements of both churches. As part of that goal, altar sacraments and other sanctuary fixtures are being inventoried.

Facilities & Property –The St. Stephen Trust Fund has approved funds for an architectural survey of both buildings to learn about any concerns. The study may provide suggestions for suitable uses. We’re also looking at routine maintenance required of Pilgrim’s property until disposition is determined.

Prayer – You may have noticed that prayer requests at Sunday worship are now combined at both St. Stephen and Pilgrim, so that members can come together to pray for those in need. We’re looking at how Pilgrim’s prayer group, as well as other opportunities for prayer, can be expanded to include members of St. Stephen. Our goal is to normalize Prayer in daily activities and reinforce organized prayer traditions at both churches.

Constitution & Bylaws – We’ve updated St. Stephen’s constitution to conform with the required template from the ELCA which incorporates bylaws. Changes are being recommended. There are a few pieces yet to be completed prior to submission for congregation and synod review and approval.

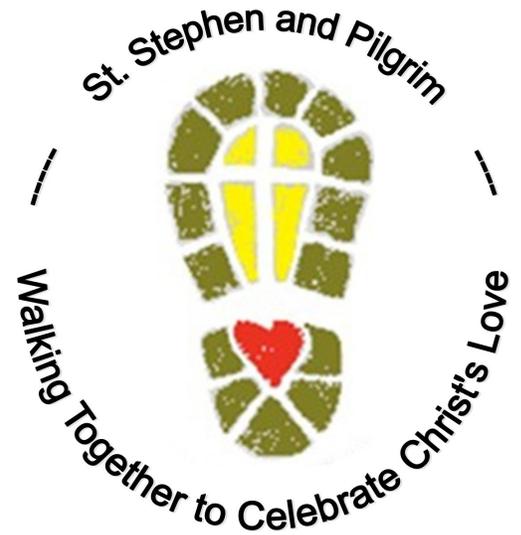
Policies & Procedures – Both churches have a plethora of written policies. We are looking at everything from joyous weddings to the details of safety. The group aims to make recommendations for policies that will be used for the renewed Church.

Legal – Copies of deeds for Pilgrim’s property have been gathered. A certified survey may be required. Once all details are gathered, legal resources will be engaged.

Financial – Our Treasurers say they’re ready to go when we are. Here is a piece of trivia for you: Do you know who previously audited St. Stephen’s Trust Fund? If you guessed it was Pilgrim’s own Charlie Freiberg, CPA, you would be right.

In-reach and out-reach – We are gathering data from each congregation about our various out-reach programs. Examples include support for the homeless and hunger, and the quilters at both churches.

Do you have ideas, questions, or just want more information? Please contact Nancy at St. Stephen or Fred at Pilgrim. They will direct you to the workgroup leaders.



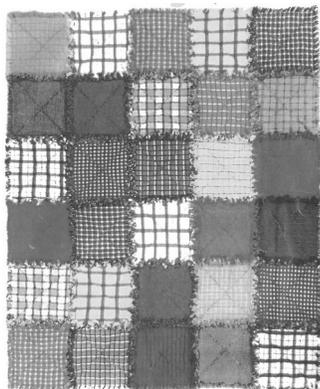
Watch for this logo for future updates about the merger.

FLAT SHEETS NEEDED

Double size or larger.
No fitted sheets, please.

The Busy Bee Quilters use these
for the backs of the quilts.

Thank you.



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 Brunch at Eagle's Nest

2nd Thursday of the Month
11:00 a.m. (*new time*)

The next gathering for food, faith, and fellowship is **March 12**. If you are interested in joining, contact Eugene Viegut at (715-359-9895).

MINUTES

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 25, 2026
Not Yet Approved

Council Present: President Jean Trempe, Vice President Frank Koerten, Treasurer Charlie Freiberg, Secretary Linda Konkol, Jim Lensenink, Charlene Buttner, Sue Koerten (online).

Congregation Present: Shirley Ecker, Jenni Zaitz, Cathy Gottschalk, John Trempe, Deanna Kelly, Tom Brown, Steve Konkol, Ron Kelly, Jeanette Carlson, Katie Ecker, Delores Kessel, Jeff Kessel. The following members attended via Zoom: Eugene Viegut, Lila Viegut, Kathy Brown, and Christine Freiberg.

1. Meeting called to order by President Jean Trempe at 10:16 a.m.
2. Jean Trempe provided an opening prayer.
3. Received/Approved Minutes of the previous annual meeting (January 26, 2025.) Motion to accept the minutes from the prior annual meeting made by Jeanette Carlson and seconded by Tom Brown.
4. Received/Approved Minutes of the special meeting (September 21, 2025.) Motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting by Jeanette Carlson and seconded with gratitude by Charlie Freiberg.
5. Received/Approved the reports of the congregational leadership. Motion by Charlene Buttner and seconded by Frank Koerten to accept with gratitude the reports of our congregational leaders as printed.

6. Audit Report. Jeanette Carlson and Karen Larson audited the books of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and found them to be in good order. Jeanette thanked Fred Patten and Charlie Freiberg for having organized records and for all their hard work this past year. Shirley Ecker made a motion to accept the auditor's report of Pilgrim Lutheran Church as presented, seconded by Jeff Kessel. Motion approved.

7. The proposed budget for 2026 was presented by Treasurer Charlie Freiberg. He noted that due to the proposed merger with St. Stephen some budget item amounts were arrived at using a five-month calculation rather than a 12 month. An example is maintenance costs will continue for all 12 months whereas some operational costs IE: guest pastors will cease after the merger. Fred Patten's salary will continue as he will continue to be an employee of St. Stephen. Shelby Brod's position is still under discussion.

An error on the printed 2026 Budget/2025 Actual Report was pointed out. The \$11,580 shown under Expenditures/2025 Actual, Furniture and Equipment should not be there. With removing that figure the Total Expenditures for 2025 Actual should be \$99,253 not \$110,833. The Summary of Revenue and Expenses Excess/Deficit is now \$11,358 rather than \$378. The costs of the furnaces were paid out of the restricted funds for that purpose. We ended the year with an excess of \$11,958. That is down from 2024's excess of \$19,153. Pilgrim ended the year in a good financial position.

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Parish Updates

DEATH

February 18, 2026—Friedrich Gerhard (Gigs) Kirsch

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The mortgage on the building stands at \$52,368. There are no plans currently to pay the mortgage off prior to the merger as the decision on how the building will be used after the merger has not been determined. Building maintenance will still be necessary. Funds for the cost of this maintenance will be needed as will insurance, heating and other facility-related costs.

If the merger takes longer than the budgeted five months, there are unrestricted funds that could be used until the merger is completed.

Motion to accept the 2026 budget prepared by the Budget Committee and approved by the Church Council, was made by Frank Koerten and seconded by Delores Kessel. Motion carried.

8. There was no election of council members or committee members whose terms expire this year. A resolution passed at the September 21, 2025, Special Meeting that all council/endowment committee members whose terms ended this year would continue their respective positions until the merger is completed.
9. Election of Delegates to the Synod Assembly to be held at The Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center on June 4-6. Depending on the progress of the merger, delegates may not be necessary. Shirley Ecker and Jeanette Carlson have volunteered to be Pilgrim's delegates with Randy Ecker as a backup should one be needed. Motion by Katie Ecker to accept Jeanette Carlson and Shirley Ecker and Randy Ecker as a backup to be Pilgrim's delegates to the Synod Assembly if necessary. Seconded by Delores Kessel. Motion carried.
10. Election of Delegates to Homme Home's Annual Meeting. Jeff Kessel volunteered to be Pilgrim's delegate. Motion by

Charlene Buttner to accept Jeff Kessel as Pilgrim's delegate to the Homme Home Annual Meeting seconded by Jeanette Carlson. Motion carried. This delegation may also be unnecessary should the merger be completed by the time of the meeting.

Steve and Linda Konkel volunteered to be Pilgrim's delegates to the Wisconsin River Valley Conference Assembly in October should we need them. Motion by Shirley Ecker and seconded by Tom Brown to approve the Konkel's as Pilgrim's delegates to the conference assembly. Motion carried.

11. New Business

Updated/Action on merger exploration of the Transition Team and the workgroups with St. Stephen.

Some of the workgroups have begun their work in their respective areas.

Communications-Jeff Kessel

This group is working on keeping everyone up to date on the changes going on in each congregation and with both communities the congregations serve.

Prayer-Charlene Buttner

This group has started meeting on Tuesdays for prayer circle and are getting acquainted with each other.

Legal

No report.

Constitution and Bylaws-Jean Trempe

This group is working on getting St. Stephen's current constitution up to date with the requirements of the Synod's new model constitution which incorporates the bylaws into one document. St. Stephen's bylaws are currently in a separate document. The Synod must approve the new constitution that is developed for the "new" church. St. Stephen's constitution, once approved by

the congregation and Synod, will be used for the "new" merged church. St. Stephen and Pilgrim had different ways that the church council operated. The group is working on suggested changes in governance for the "new" merged church such as council positions and length of terms for council members. The new constitution and bylaws will impact some of the legal work required for merger. Congregational approval of the new constitution will not take place until after the merger.

Policies & Procedures-Jeff Kessel

The group is starting to meld the different practices and procedures together. IE: Safety in the Church. Both office managers have given the group their set of policies and procedures for them to work through.

Long Term Facility Use-Delores Kessel

The group has begun their job by making a list of currently three options for the building.

- Selling the building.
- Using the space for St. Stephen and Pilgrim ministries.
- Rent the building to non-profit organizations in the area to take care of people. (i.e. elder care or childcare.)

As talks continue, additional ideas may be added to this list.

The group is planning to bring in an architect to look at the infrastructure concerns of both buildings and give suggestions for space usage, nothing that would make a substantial change to the footprint of the buildings.

They are also making a list of things that need attention in both buildings.

Any other ideas are welcome.

Both congregations have similar

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views and goals as to what should become of the Pilgrim building.

Outreach-Shirley Ecker

Charlene reported that the Pilgrim quilters have visited St. Stephen and a quilter from St. Stephen has visited Pilgrim during their quilting times to start to get to know each other. The workgroup is reviewing each congregation's programs and organizations supported, looking at areas to combine efforts and plan for the new merged church's programs.

Shirley Ecker reported that a combined rummage sale is being planned. It will be held at Pilgrim. She is asking for help identifying who made the wooden toys that belonged to Pilgrim's Preschool. It was determined that a Pilgrim family member made them and she would like to return them to the family if possible. They may be donated to the Little Scholars Preschool if the family is not found. It has not been determined what will be done with the proceeds of the rummage sale at this time.

Building & Grounds-Jim Lenselink

This group did a walkthrough of Pilgrim and is working on a checklist of routine maintenance required when Pilgrim's building is no longer in regular use. Shoveling, mowing, and general maintenance are just a few of the items that will need to continue. Suggestions were made on how to improve on some of the maintenance to require less man hours.

Worship-Shirley Ecker

The group has met and is making a list of all the worship items that each congregation has. IE: Banners, alter linens, candelabras, plant stands. Once they have this list they will de-

termine what to do next. The group is also reviewing the traditions of each church as a start to meshing the two churches worship styles.

In-reach-Linda Konkel

This workgroup has not begun their work yet. This group is tasked with reviewing how the new merged church supports its members.

Financial

Charlie reported that the financial merging of the funds should go fast. The two treasurers have had initial conversations. Fred Patten has been hired by St. Stephen as an assistant treasurer. His knowledge of Pilgrim's bookkeeping system will be an asset in the merger of the financials.

Jean explained how the trust fund at St. Stephen works. Some of the benevolence donations made to St. Stephen go into the Trust Fund. The yearly interest from the fund is then used to support different organizations and programs during the year as approved by the Trust Fund Board.

Celebration Committee

This work group has not begun their work yet.

Workgroups have been asked to complete their work in April with a tentative timeline to complete the merger by the end of April dependent on legal work and Synod approval.

Jean asked if there were any questions from the online attendees. There were none.

12. Old Business: No old business. Closing prayer led by Jean Trempe.

Motion by Jeff Kessel to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Charlie Freiberg. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Jim Lenselink led the doxology.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Konkel, Secretary

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
 February 10, 2026
 Not Yet Approved

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

ABSENT: Janet Williams (Life & Growth Chair), Sue Koerten (Worship Chair).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Jean Trempe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Jim Lenselink led the devotion based on Judges 16 :17. When you need strength, don't seek it in any worldly source. Ask God to empower you to do whatever you need to do.

SECRETARY'S REORT: (Linda Konkel) Motion by Frank Koerten and second by Jim Lenselink to accept the January 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Charlie Freiberg) Cash in the banks total \$86,753. With \$11,630 being held in restricted funds. Again, the largest portion of the restricted funds are Blessings that Give Hope. Our long-term debt stands at \$51,718. A reminder that the church real estate is not included on the balance sheet. One of the checking accounts was closed and funds were moved into the general fund. This was done to start to prepare for the move to St. Stephen's accounting system once the merger is completed.

Motion by Charlene Buttner and seconded by Frank Koerten to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

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(Meeting Minutes continued from page 8)

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Jean Trempe reported that at the last Transition Team meeting it was suggested that we begin having joint council meetings with St. Stephen. The plan is for us to meet as a combined group and then break off into separate councils to transact the individual church’s business. St. Stephen and Pilgrim council meeting dates are both the second Tuesday of the month so this will be an easy transition. Our next council meeting will be March 10 @ 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephen.

Motion by Frank Koerten to begin having joint council meetings with St. Stephen beginning with the March 10th meeting. Seconded by Charlie Freiberg. Motion passed.

Beginning with the March newsletter, there will be a featured article to convey progress on merger exploration as well as a spotlight on a workgroup. Temple Talks were also discussed.

St. Stephen’s new Constitution and Bylaws will be submitted for Synod Committee review shortly. They must be approved by the congregation and Synod, after the merger.

St. Stephen’s Trust Fund Board has approved funds for legal work and architectural surveys of both facilities.

Pastor Karoline will provide the lead article for The Progress beginning with the March newsletter.

Worship, Outreach and Prayer workgroups continue to share ideas, traditions and discuss the future.

New Member Sunday was a great success with 83 people in attendance and more who watched the service online.

A discussion was held on establishing a procedure on how/when

Pilgrim’s physical assets will be disposed of. It was decided that until the merger is complete, we cannot dispose of physical items. It is our plan to start making a list of the physical items that Pilgrim has and then determine what could be used at St. Stephen in the future. There are also items that families donated to Pilgrim in honor of loved ones and they may want back. So they will need to be contacted.

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT: (Jim Lenselink) Jim has a call in to Home Insulation for the two leaks that are occurring. (The one in the back hall going downstairs and the one in the library area.) He is waiting for a return call. A call has also been placed to Bob’s Electric. The heat tape on the front of the building is not working. He is waiting for a return call on this also.

WORSHIP REPORT: (Sue Koerten) In Sue’s absence, Linda Konkel read Sue’s written report.

The special services during lent will be shared by three congregations. Pilgrim will host Ash Wednesday. Good Shepherd will host Maundy Thursday. Good Friday (noon and night) will be hosted by St. Stephen. All music for the special services has been chosen.

Thursday night Lenten services will be at Pilgrim. The Holden Evening Prayer Service format will be used, and those services will be very similar to the midweek lent service we have had in the past. Pastor Karoline will lead the Thursday night services.

All Sunday services during lent will be at St. Stephen.

Easter services will be at both Pilgrim and St. Stephen. Pilgrim’s service will begin at 8:30 and St. Stephen’s will be at 10:30.

Dolores Kessel is beginning to work with the Celebration work group. This includes both the closing service at Pilgrim and the celebration service when the merger is complete. She has contacted the synod office for some guidelines for worship items that are required.

LIFE & GROWTH REPORT: (Janet Williams) No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Progress articles are due by February 18, 2026.

Motion by Charlene Buttner and seconded by Jim Lenselink to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Konkel

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.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION UPDATE

February 25, 2026

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	Revenue
\$ 51,718 Balance: 01/31/2026	Year-to-Date
\$ 716 Principal Payment	\$11,130
\$ 159 Interest Payment	Outstanding Bills
\$ 51,003 Balance: 02/25/2026	\$1,165 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

Steven 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... 310

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!

BIRTHDAYS!

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

Daniel Staffeil	03/01	Michael Kislow	03/19
Sara Konkel	03/03	Claire Laughlin	03/19
Shylo Moon	03/03	Larry Brandenburg	03/20
Lynn Rueth	03/04	Patti Petersen	03/21
Sonya Bergeth	03/07	Brad Bartell	03/25
John R. Schneider	03/07	Jill Windorski	03/27
Preston Meyer	03/13	Katie Ecker	03/29
Mary Dettmering	03/14	Stan Myers	03/31

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

March

1 Lindsey Koski	17 Elise Laughlin
2 Violet Koski	18 Theresa Laughlin
3 Kathi Kunze	19 Colton Lemanski
4 Annie Landeau	20 Taylor Lemanski
5 Cheryl Landeau	21 Jamie Lemke
6 Darryl Landeau	22 Jim Lenselink
7 Marshall Landeau	23 William Marx
8 Sarah Landeau	24 Don Mattke
9 Alex Larsen	25 Preston Meyer
10 Anna Larsen	26 Shylo Moon
11 David Larsen	27 Jill Myers
12 Michelle Larsen	28 Stan Myers
13 Grant Larson	29 Adam Petersen
14 Gregory Larson	30 Patti Petersen
15 Karen Larson	31 Ryan Petersen
16 Claire Laughlin	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Shared Worship at St. Stephen—No Worship at Pilgrim.	2	3 11:45 Prayer Circle 1:00 Worship Transition Work Group	4 LENT 12:00 Noon Lenten Worship Luncheon at Pilgrim	5 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer Worship at Pilgrim 7:00 Choir	6	7
8 9:00 Shared Worship at St. Stephen—No Worship at Pilgrim	9	10 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Council Mtg.	11 LENT 9:00 Busy Bee Quilters 12:00 Noon Lenten Worship Luncheon at Pilgrim	12 11:00 Men's Bible Study Brunch at Eagle's Nest 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer Worship at Pilgrim 7:00 Choir	13	14
15 9:00 Shared Worship at St. Stephen—No Worship at Pilgrim	16	17 11:45 Prayer Circle 5:30 GWCS Meeting at Pilgrim — Transition Team Meeting	18 LENT 12:00 Noon Lenten Worship Luncheon at Pilgrim	19 5:30 Bingo 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer Worship at Pilgrim 7:00 Choir	20 Lay School Progress Article Deadline	21 Lay School
22 9:00 Shared Worship at St. Stephen—No Worship at Pilgrim	23	24 11:45 Prayer Circle	25 LENT 12:00 Noon Lenten Worship Luncheon at Pilgrim	26 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer Worship at Pilgrim 7:00 Choir	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Shared Worship at Pilgrim; Baptism 10:00 Reception	30	31 11:45 Prayer Circle				



Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services at Pilgrim Wednesdays (noon) and Thursdays (6:30 pm)

Staff

Ministers
Music Coordinator
Choir Director
Pianists
Custodian
Office Manager

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

If you wish to give a gift to Pilgrim electronically,
please go to



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH...

Sharing God's Never-Ending Love with All People through Faith and Service!
www.pilgrimofwausau.org

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715.842.4544
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March 2026
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