

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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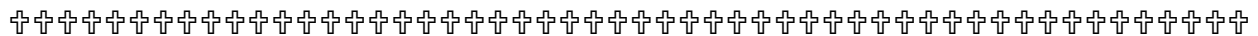
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The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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That window again . . .

One of the dictionary definitions for “pilgrim” reads, “a traveler or wanderer, especially in a foreign place.” (Dictionary.com)

I think of those words whenever I look at the beautiful gallery window at church. It shows the story of the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. Those two disciples were from Israel, and they were walking in Israel, but I'd like to say that they had become pilgrims: wanderers in a foreign place. Jesus had died two days earlier, and along with him their joy and purpose in life had perished. The trip to Jerusalem with Jesus had been full of hope and promise. Now as they left town the very landscape around them must have seemed foreign and harsh.

But Jesus walked with them, even when they didn't recognize him. Once he opened their eyes (the moment depicted in the gallery window) they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell their friends.

What a joy it is for us to know that Jesus walks with us in our earthly pilgrimage. With Christians all over the world we say that this world is not our home, and we look forward to heaven. But as we walk that road, plagued by illness, temptation, pain and loss we know that we are not alone. He's with us. His word and sacrament encourage us with forgiveness. His Spirit guides us.

During this post-Easter season, as we rejoice in a living Savior who is with us to the end of the age, let's think about some of the people in our neighborhoods. If a “pilgrim” is a traveler or wanderer in a foreign place, then our city is filling with pilgrims. Minneapolis has become a “gateway” community for people seeking refuge. If you listen to the stories of some of these refugees you will hear of persecution, warfare, squalid living conditions in refugee camps, even torture. Saddest of all, many of these people have made their journey to our neighborhoods without faith in a living Savior.

Has the Lord brought some of these people to our doorstep for a reason? I believe he has! He desires “all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4) Can you help a new neighbor

see Jesus in an act of kindness and a word of truth and encouragement? What a blessing it would be if through your witness some would be led to say, "My pilgrimage has been hard, but now I know that it all ends in heaven one day!"

"[God] made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is not actually far from each one of us, for "in him we live and move and have our being"

- from Paul's address to the Areopagus
Acts 17: 26-28

Pastor Pete Leyrer

Treasurer's Report

	February '08	Fiscal Year to Date
Income	104,600.09	466,301.69
Expenses	89,679.62	517,571.69
Income less Expenses	-----	-----
	14,920.47	-51,270.00

Treasurer – Michael Anderson

The Resurrection was God's

AMEN!

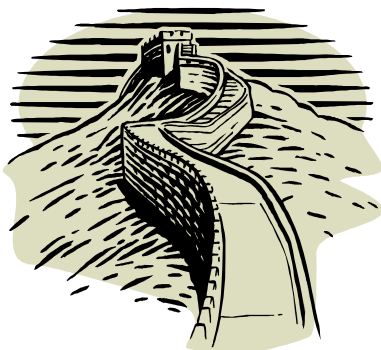


to Jesus'

It is Finished!

In the Middle Kingdom

The people of China refer to their country as the "Middle Kingdom" Like most cultures, in ancient times they believed that they were the center of the earth and the name has stuck.



God willing, I'll be there when you receive this newsletter. I plan to return on April 7. As I reported last month, I'm traveling for an organization called Friends of China. My job with them is to support and encourage the English teachers that Friends of China sends.

I'll spend most of the time in Ningxia province in northern China and I'll also make a short trip to Henan province which is closer to Beijing. My companion this time is Al Schleusener, pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Oconomowoc Wisconsin.

Among the teachers I visit will be Destin Waese-Casci, one of our Pilgrim members and a graduate of Martin Luther College. She lives and teaches in Yinchuan, the capital city of Ningxia province.

Please pray for us! Ask the Lord for safe travels and a safe return, for wisdom and power in the words that we share.

I'll have plenty of information to share when I return. If I remember my camera, I'll even have pictures!





Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways. Psalm 128:1

April Birthdays

Abram Johnson	1
Jon Voss	2
Anita Kurth	3
Ryanna Owens	3
Christopher Wasley	4
Geraldine Belanger	5
Janice Kiecker	6
Linda Munson	8
Anne Aune	9
Viola Jensen	9
Ethel Goplen	12
Arleen Swanson	12
Marilyn Anderson	13
Robert Helmen	14
Aaron Robinson	15
Esther Robinson	15
Walter Zimmermann	15
Randall Danner	16
Agatha Ledin	16
Michael Noonan	16
Theresa Wolter	16
Dedra Huggar	17
Deja Huggar	17
Cory Huggar	18
Benjamin Anderson	19
Caitlin Bandelin	19
Dominique Huggar	19
Blanche Odegard	19
Rodney Owens	19
Connie Wasley	19

Robert Gunderson	20
Galen Sommer	20
George Cattle	21
Elaine Weber	21
Timothy Holmgren	22
Mia Puterbaugh	22
Martha Miller	23
Yeane Kiazolu	25
Christen Sorensen	25
Connie Bonde	26
Rose Hoppenrath	26
Shirley Scroggins	26
Allen Geiselhart	27
Lois Knutson	27
Michael Anderson	28
Cynthia Sroga	28
LuVerne Jacobson	29
Leilla Penke	29
Adam Heilman	30

April Wedding Anniversaries

Thomas & Anita Kurth
April 1
Darrell & Karla Sampson
April 22
Herbert & Eunice Johnson
April 23

Thankful Thoughts

We have been reminded often of late that Pilgrim Church and School has been and is receiving many blessings. The foremost of these surely is the forgiveness of sins and salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ. But we should not fail to recognize the blessing we have in the one who faithfully nourishes us with the Word and Sacrament. Our pastor, Peter Leyrer, or Pastor Pete, if you will, does an exceptional job of teaching us with his sermons and Bible studies.

Over time we "old timers" have heard many sermons based on certain scripture passages that repeatedly occur as we cycle through the years. But I find myself often getting better understanding than before as Pastor really "plumbs the depths" of the scripture.

Thank you, Pastor!

While I have your attention, another blessing is that Pastor Pete is a very compassionate man. If you are not aware of this, you will be should you experience the loss of a loved one as did Betty and I a year ago.



Bob Helmen

Pilgrim's newest Members: Join in a celebration party Sunday April 6 during coffee hour.

Eric and Catie Michaelson

And our 2008 Confirmands

Dominic Cambrice	Romans 1:16 <i>I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile</i>	Rebecca Herzig	1 Peter 2:9 <i>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.</i>
Cierra Cumber	Revelation 2:10 <i>Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.</i>	Mark Lawrence	Matthew 10:32-33 <i>Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.</i>
Christopher Dykes	Hebrews 11:1 <i>Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.</i>	Lafayette McPhaul	1 Corinthians 13:6 <i>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.</i>
Khalil Dykes	Ephesians 6:11 <i>Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.</i>	Wesley Tucker	Ephesians 6:10 <i>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.</i>



Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain
- Why the early bird gets the worm
- Life isn't always fair
- Maybe it was my fault

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6 -year- old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Tylenol, sun lotion or a band-aid to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 3 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else Is To Blame, and I'm A Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

THE WILL OF GOD WILL NEVER TAKE YOU WHERE THE GRACE OF GOD WON'T PROTECT YOU.

Jottings from the March Pilgrim Ladies Guild Meeting

The snowy and slippery streets kept many of our members at home but the sidewalks around the church were clear. Four of the eighth grade boys were busy clearing the 1-1/2 inches of snow to make walking easier for the ladies. When the boys were thanked for doing it, the reply came quickly and politely, "You all do so much for us it's the least we can do." Wow!

After our lunch and the St. Patrick style dessert and décor, Mike Homan, the 7th and 8th grade teacher spoke to us about the school's basketball teams. The girls took second place in the New Ulm tournament. The boys are undefeated and receive comments on their good conduct wherever they play. Because the boys won the State Lutheran Basketball Tournament at Concordia University in St. Paul, they will go on to the National Lutheran Tournament in Val Paraiso, Indiana at the end of March. He asked us to consider helping with some of the expenses that will be incurred by the basketball

President Doris Belsaas opened the meeting only to be interrupted by her cell phone going off ...twice...

followed by Betty Helmen's cell phone ringing.

Finally, everything settled back down.



Margaret Johnson was thanked for conducting the February meeting in Doris Belsaas' absence. Lorraine Schanzenbach was welcomed to the meeting – thank you Doug for providing the wheels.

Committees reports of note: A successful, enjoyable Bingo party was held in the dining room of the Belle Plaine Home. As usual, stuffed toys were the favorite prizes. Those helping were Joy Kilber, Sherry Schochenmaier, Karen Sonnenburg, Mable Emde, Bob and Betty Helmen. Lue Rogers volunteered to co-chair a catering team. We now have three teams: Bernie Johnson & Phyllis Martin, Karen Sonnenburg & Lue Rogers, Doris Belsaas & Betty Helmen. Sherry Schochenmaier sewed and installed curtains to shield the musical equipment in the sacristy. Ways and Means Committee has Easter cards available.

Old Business: Jazmine Graves, the kindergarten student whose health we discussed last month, is out of the hospital. Since her family has to drive her to school, individuals could help the family by giving gift cards for gas.

New Business: A motion was made, seconded and passed to give the Boys Basketball team \$200 to purchase the banner that they must display at the tournament in Val Paraiso. The banner will be hung in the school after the tournament.

A motion was passed to take part in the April Showers campaign for Harriet Tubman Center and Chrysalis. **Bring diapers, wipes, lotion, sippy cups, teething ring, etc. to the April meeting to be given to these organizations.**

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Worship Committee Report March 5, 2008

MISSION STATEMENT:

IN CHRISTIAN LOVE WE REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW JESUSCHRIST AND NURTURE BELIEVERS THROUGH GOD'S WORD.

Discussion points

- a. We are inviting Bitter Ridge to play again for a couple of the summer outdoor services.
- b. Matt Helmen has agreed to head up the set up for the summer outdoor services. Thanks Matt.
- c. An effort will be made to increase the amount of liturgy and other material that is available for projection on the front screen during worship.
- d. The committee continues to be frustrated by the inability to confine the first service to its allotted time. This was a point that was continually brought up during the talks that went on during the planning stages of moving to two different formats of worship at Pilgrim and changing the service times. It was persistently mentioned that if we were to continue bible study, Sunday school, a youth program, coffee hour or the ability to be flexible with any other between service events then a strict adherence to an hour long first service is mandatory, not optional. The committee will have to look at alternative methods of dealing with this.

On the Horizon

- Worship Committee coffee hour is on the fifth Sunday of each month where there are 5 Sundays. The worship committee will have their next coffee hour on March 30, 2008
- Next regularly scheduled worship committee meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2008 at 5:45 pm

Worship matters!

From the office of WELS President; Mark Schroeder

One activity by far exceeds all others in involving people directly with the life and work of a congregation—worship. Public worship is so central to our understanding of the church that we couldn't possibly conceive of the church without it. It's the time when we gather with our fellow believers to hear the precious Word of God proclaimed. It's the setting for us to confess our sins and to receive the precious news of God's forgiveness. In worship we kneel beside those who share our faith and receive the body and blood of our Savior. In worship we witness and celebrate the new life that God creates in Holy Baptism. In worship we join our hearts and voices in prayer and in songs of praise to a gracious God. In worship, as God conveys his love to us in Word and sacrament, we convey to him our thanks, our gifts, and our faith-generated commitment to a life of faithful service.

Since worship is such an important activity in our lives as Christians, it's absolutely vital that we get it right. We need to be sure our worship is Christ-centered and biblically based. We need to be sure that our worship expresses the joy that we have in Christ and that it proclaims clearly the reason and basis for that joy. We need to plan carefully and to carry out our worship in a way that touches the hearts and lives of God's people and in a way that equips them for lives of service to him. In worship, as in anything we do as Christians, we will want to strive for excellence as we give God the glory and honor due him.

Worship is a timely topic in the church these days. Perhaps more now than at any time in recent history, people are discussing not only the value of worship, but they are also discussing important issues involving the role and purpose of worship, the styles of worship, and the ways to conduct our worship in the very best possible way.

This month's edition of **WELS Connection** tells the story of an important event that will take place this summer. WELS Commission on Worship will hold the **National Worship Conference in St. Peter, Minn., July 28-31**. This conference is the largest worship conference of all North American Lutheran church bodies. The sessions will focus on the important principles to remember as we plan and carry out our worship. And it's not just for musicians; it will offer helpful information and resources for musicians and non-musicians alike.

This conference is important for a number of reasons. It's important because worship is so important. It's important because it will provide encouragement and resources for pastors, teachers, and laypeople to plan and carry out worship in the very best possible ways. In a day when so much discussion on worship is taking place, this conference will help to clarify the important principles to keep in mind as we plan and carry out our worship. It will be a means for us to unite around the timeless worship heritage and values.

that we share and to explore the best possible ways for us to exercise our Christian freedom in worship in ways that glorify God, proclaim the saving gospel, and touch the hearts and lives of God's people.

Information about this summer's conference and online registration are now available at:

www.wels.net/jump/worship-conf

For a preview of what the conference is all about, watch March's WELS Connection online:

<http://streams.wels.net/video/mar08>

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

Summer 2008 Let's go Bike Riding Again!

This summer we'll add walking and rollerblading as additional choices for enjoying Marvellous Minneapolis. We will begin our biking along the Midtown Greenway Trail

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/midtown>

We'll meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Soo Line Community Garden between Harriet and Garfield Avenues between 28th and Lake Streets. There is parking available along both streets.

At 8:30 a.m. people can decide what method of movement they want to participate in as well as how far and for how long a time they want to do so and then go ahead and enjoy the exercise.

The dates for such are the third Saturday of the months of April through October.

April 19	July 19	Oct 18
May 17	August 16	
June 21	Sept 20	

Galen W, Sommer galensommer@aol.com.

Movie Night Suggestions

The Evangelism Committee is looking for suggestions for upcoming Movie Nights later this year and next winter. You can put such in Galen's mailbox at Pilgrim or email him at galensommer@aol.com.



Women's Bible Study - Resumes

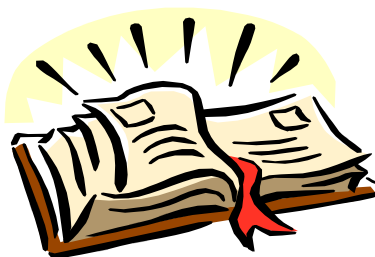
Lord, Teach Us To Pray *John 11:1*

Even as the disciples in Jesus' time wanted to know how to pray, so women at Pilgrim are invited to learn how to enrich their prayer life through the returning Women's Bible Study. Prayer isn't a requirement, it's a privilege.

Please join the women of Pilgrim on Saturday, April 12 for a continental breakfast, fellowship and launching of the new study book, "**Adventurous Prayer**." Books can be obtained prior to the first meeting from the church library. Take a book from the box on the desk and sign your name.

All women of Pilgrim are welcome as well as any guest you want to bring that would like to get to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Please consider this an invitation to you and friends you bring.

If you have questions, please call Doris, 612-922-5058 or Betty, 612-823-4885.



We meet twice a month, the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in the fireside room.

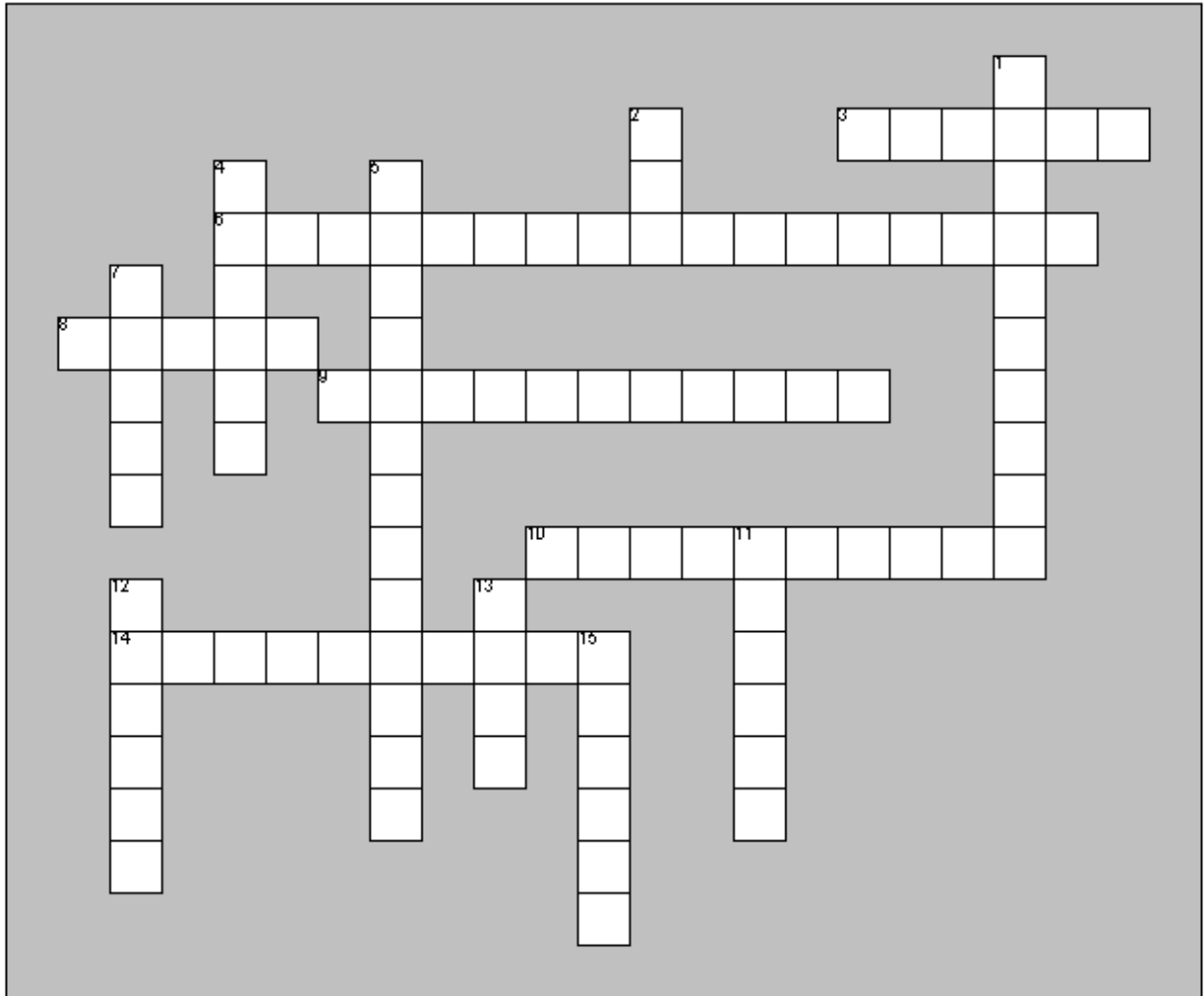
Large groups will be divided for more intimate discussion. Coffee is always available and treats just magically appear!

What kind of neighborhood surrounds Pilgrim? Here are some statistics from the EASI Updated Site Selection Reports & Analysis. This information is valuable as we plan for evangelism efforts and growth of our congregation. The data is in relation to the location of Pilgrim.

	Distance from Pilgrim:	1 Miles	3 Miles	5 Miles
Total Households	as of January 1,2007	12,200	103,590	191,055
Household by Race				
White Households		8,448	75,540	147,078
Black Households		2,307	14,240	21,948
Asian Households		320	3,845	8,032
Other Households		1,125	9,965	13,997
Households by Ethnicity				
Hispanic Households		860	6,829	9,535
White Non-Hispanic Households		7,965	71,709	141,005
Households by Age				
Householder, Median Age		42.2	41.2	43.1
♦ Aged 0 to 5 Years		2,410	16,934	30,393
♦ Aged 6 to 11 Years		2,279	14,044	26,350
♦ Aged 12 to17 Years		2,323	13,933	26,448
♦ Aged 18 to 24 Years		3,095	30,178	64,850
Householder, Aged 25 to 34 Years		3,159	26,670	42,521
Householder, Aged 35 to 44 Years		2,966	22,565	39,907
Householder, Aged 45 to 54 Years		2,761	21,112	39,362
Householder, Aged 55 to 64 Years		1,126	9,532	18,607
Householder, Aged 65 to 74 Years		604	5,382	12,061
Householder, Aged 75 Years and Over		787	7,245	18,079
♦ <i>These numbers taken from a different report but still appropriate.</i>				
Households by Size				
Households, Median Size		2.44	2.16	2.22
Households, 1 Person		4,345	46,838	82,466
Households, 2 Person		4,025	31,183	59,678
Households, 3 Person		1,603	11,339	21,801
Households, 4 Person		1,163	7,891	15,583
Households, 5 Person		524	3,417	6,664
Households, 6 Person		263	1,460	2,532
Households, 7 or More Person		277	1,462	2,331
Households by Year				
Households as of January 1/1/2007		12,200	103,590	191,055
Housing, Year Moved in 1999 or Later		6,932	63,631	114,658
Housing, Year Moved in 1995 to 1998		2,194	17,406	30,709

	Distance from Pilgrim:		
	1 Miles	3 Miles	5 Miles
Total Population as of January 1,2007	29,239	220,278	418,140
Male Population	14,423	111,983	209,344
Female Population	14,816	108,295	208,796
Total Male Population	14,423	111,983	209,344
Median Age	31.4	31.7	31.9
Aged 0 to 5 Years	1,270	8,788	15,752
Aged 6 to 11 Years	1,177	7,351	13,773
Aged 12 to17 Years	1,212	7,306	13,731
Aged 18 to 24 Years	1,571	15,279	32,458
Aged 25 to 34 Years	3,077	25,734	42,111
Aged 35 to 44 Years	2,295	17,787	31,389
Aged 45 to 54 Years	1,933	14,806	27,542
Aged 55 to 64 Years	869	7,508	14,994
Aged 65 to 74 Years	444	3,601	8,064
Aged 75 to 84 Years	366	2,697	6,890
Aged 85 Years and Older	209	1,126	2,640
Total Female Population	14,816	108,295	208,796
Median Age	33.1	32.8	33.5
Aged 0 to 5 Years	1,140	8,146	14,641
Aged 6 to 11 Years	1,102	6,693	12,577
Aged 12 to17 Years	1,111	6,627	12,717
Aged 18 to 24 Years	1,524	14,899	32,392
Aged 25 to 34 Years	3,124	22,897	37,673
Aged 35 to 44 Years	2,202	14,615	27,175
Aged 45 to 54 Years	1,975	14,054	27,114
Aged 55 to 64 Years	982	8,068	16,413
Aged 65 to 74 Years	542	4,403	10,019
Aged 75 to 84 Years	573	4,496	11,095
Aged 85 Years and Older	541	3,397	6,980

What is in the News this month?



Across

3. One summer activity everyone is invited to
6. Name the new Women's Bible Study book
8. The number of wedding anniversaries in April
9. Trust and Truth were the parents of _____
10. The wife of Common Sense
14. My _____ has been hard.

Down

1. Made sure we had some good soup during Lent
2. In Pastor's story, how many days earlier had Jesus died?
4. Best Minnesota grade school basket ball team, 2008
5. The daughter of Common Sense
7. Pastor Pete made one of his trips to _____
11. The son of Common Sense
12. I thought I would never see _____ come
13. Current congregational president
15. To what city where were the two disciples traveling?

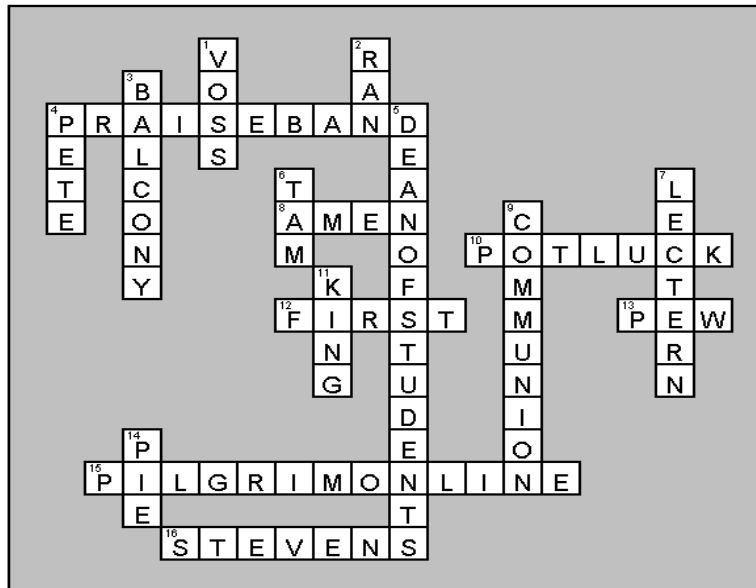
Got News??

I am always looking for contents for this newsletter. Pilgrim has such an amazing website thanks to Joe Sorensen that it is easy to forget how nice it is to sit down and read a newsletter. Plus many of us are limited or have no access to the Internet. (If you haven't visited this site, there is beautiful music playing while you navigate around.)

Just write up, hand in, or E-mail any items to Christine Bedor – newsletter@pilgrimonline.net

And thanks for your patience and support of my efforts to bring this to you each month.

March Crossword answers



Across

4. They often provide the music for the second service
8. Let all God's People Say
10. After the congregational quarterly meeting we have a
12. Pilgrim church faces _____ Ave South
13. What people sit on in church
15. The church's web page contains www._____.net
16. Pilgrim school faces _____ Ave

Down

1. A former Pilgrim pastor who played the guitar and banjo
2. When Jesus was arrested, His disciples _____ away
3. Pilgrim's organ in the
4. Our Pastor's nickname
5. Mrs. Cambrice's title
6. Our talented violinist
7. Where the pastor reads the scripture
9. The second and fourth Sunday of the month, we celebrate
11. Jesus was our prophet, priest, and _____
14. A favorite dessert at potlucks

Created with the help of Worksheets - www.Gualint.com

Our Mission Statement

*In Christian Love we reach out to those who do not know
Jesus Christ and nurture believers through God's Word.*

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran
Church and School
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