

Pilgrim Lutheran Church



Ministry Staff

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Rev. Peter J. Leyrer (612) 827-2723

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Director

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Dean of Students

Ms Michele Cambrice, (612) 825-5375

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Principal

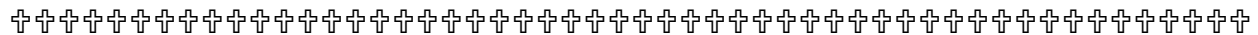
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Pilgrim Website <http://www.pilgrimonline.net>

The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

3901 First Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409 (612) 825-5375



First love . . . again

Revelation, the last book of the Bible, holds a certain fascination for people—the fantastic imagery, the obscure numbers and prophecies all give the book an air of mystery. I've enjoyed unraveling some of those mysteries with our **Wednesday evening Bible class**.

We've found that, like the rest of Scripture, this book still speaks to us today. For example, the book begins with letters from Jesus to seven churches, and those letters have much to tell us today.

"I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love that you had at first," Jesus wrote to the church in Ephesus. (Revelation 2:4) Many of us who have been Christians for a long time know what he's talking about. There was a time in our lives when our faith was young and passion for the Lord consumed us. And then, as sometimes happens in marriage, things get in the way. We become distracted by the responsibilities and cares of life. We know that Jesus is always with us, the way he promised, but his presence in our lives doesn't seem as important as it once did. In this letter we hear Jesus talking like a neglected spouse: "You don't love me like you used to."

Is there hope for a relationship when somebody says that? Of course! Keep listening to Jesus: "Repent, and do the works you did at first." (Revelation 2:5)

In the Bible, to "repent" literally means to "change your mind." In repentance we change our way of thinking, we change our priorities. We think differently about the sins that got in the way of our relationship with Christ. In repentance, we turn away from sin and back toward our Savior. And our

Savior, faithful lover of our souls that he is, takes us back. Once again, we feel the rush of love as his forgiving passion renews the bonds that he established when he gave himself for us.

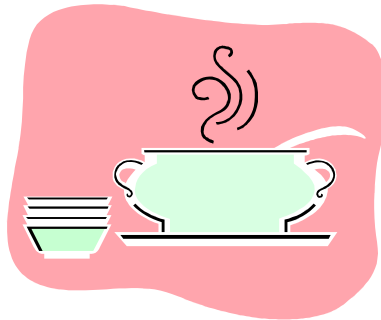
This month we memorialize love on Valentine's Day. On February 6 we'll also observe Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It's a perfect month, then to think about our first love and to return to him. He's waiting. He's never left.

**LENT Begins
Ash Wednesday
February 6
Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Worship at 1:00 and 7:00 PM
Wednesday's from February 6 – March 12
Worship at 1:00 and 7:00 PM**

Pastor Peter Leyrer

Come together on Wednesdays during Lent for a preservice Supper.

Watch for specifics in the Sunday bulletin



Treasurer's Report

| | 2008 Year To Date as of December 2007 |
|-------------------------|--|
| Income | 315,694 |
| Expenses | <u>366,441</u> |
| Income less Expenses | - 50,747 |

Treasurer - Michael Anderson



Celebrations & Congratulations

February Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Evelyn Cochran | 4 |
| Debra Elmore | 6 |
| Carrie Gerdes | 6 |
| Joseph Kjornes | 6 |
| William Olsen | 6 |
| Eldora Danner | 8 |
| Kormasa Jallah | 8 |
| Steve Owens | 12 |
| Isaac Monson | 14 |
| Mary Elwood | 15 |
| Carolyn Lyons | 16 |
| Donna Ditzel | 17 |
| Koleen Piske | 17 |
| Karla Sampson | 17 |
| Amanda Anderson | 18 |
| Jeffrey Ditzel | 18 |
| Rachel Homan | 18 |
| Violet Lowry | 19 |
| Nettie Fellows | 20 |
| Norma Seebach | 23 |

February Anniversary

Chad & Kristin Ellsworth
February 4

Blessings to Chad and Kristin on their first wedding anniversary!

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you...Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! Psalm 32:8,11

A Special Thank You

Thanks to the Pilgrim Pioneer Girls for the Christmas Bags of goodies you make up special for the 'shut-ins'. It was much appreciated!

Also out appreciation for the beautiful personal Christmas messages we received from the 5th and 6th graders; Ryan, Zachariah, Kaitlyn, Keona, Heather, Katie, Kalle & Darin also from Barry Gostchock. We ere indeed touched by your kindness.

Sincerely,

Virgil & Luella Engelke

Help Wanted

Anyone Can Do It—Someone Usually Does

For many years the Pilgrim Ladies Guild has had the privilege of serving the needs of the congregation for the fellowship luncheon after a funeral and at times of celebration for a birthday or anniversary party. While we are grateful for the opportunity and committed to serve (and we know that *anyone* can do it and, yes, *someone* usually does) we need additional help from the congregation. For instance, on the day of the event, *someone* is needed to set the tables in the fellowship hall and prepare food and beverages. Clean up is another area where *anyone* can help. If you are not able to be at the event, someone can provide bars that can be dropped off at the church on the way to work. The Guild hopes to get additional *someones* and *anyone's* to help on an "on call" basis when events come up. Guild membership is not a requirement and men are also invited to participate in all of the needed areas. Please consider the options listed and if *someone* is willing to help, fill out the form below and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. If *anyone* is willing to serve as a chairman or co-chairman of one of the serving teams, indicate that also. We have names of those who volunteered when we last asked for help – please register again. Thank all you *someone's* and *anyone's*!!



----- tear here -----

- I am willing to be on a list of potential helpers who can be called for funerals, birthday or anniversary events at Pilgrim. I have indicated my preference for service below:

- _____ Furnish bars
- _____ Set tables in the lunch room
- _____ Prepare food and beverages
- _____ Serve the food
- _____ Clean up
- _____ Serve on a team as Chairman or Co-chairman

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Mission Gifts Around the World

Last October the Ladies Guild held a Fall Extravaganza (aka Make and Bake Sale) in part to raise funds for mission gifts we send out in December. Thank you all for your participation in this effort to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the nations (including our own.) Below is a list of the missions we were privileged to support:

Japanese Mission Field
Hmong Mission
Apache Mission
WELS Visually Impaired
Mission Aviation Fellowship (Bruce Wied)
African Medical Mission

Friends of China
Martin Luther College
Lutheran Women's Missionary Society
St. Croix Palmer Scholarship Fund
Pilgrim Lutheran School
Pilgrim Tuition Fund

Happenings

Free Beginner PowerPoint Class at Pilgrim Lutheran School

Saturday, February 9, from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Instructor: Julie Christensen

Available to anyone 18 years or older

Free to the first 20 people who sign up

Please call Dr. Scott Gostchock at 612-825-5375 ext. 106 to make reservations.

The class will be held in the computer lab at Pilgrim Lutheran School

3910 Stevens Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55409

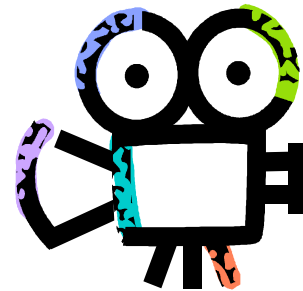
Parking is available in front of the school on Stevens Avenue and on 39th and 1st Avenues.

Movie Night in February

Sunday 2/17/08 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

"Amazing Grace"

Based on a true story, this historical drama tells the story of William Wilberforce, an 18th-century English politician who fought for the abolition of slavery. Despite staunch opposition, Wilberforce waged an aggressive campaign using boycotts, petitions and slogans



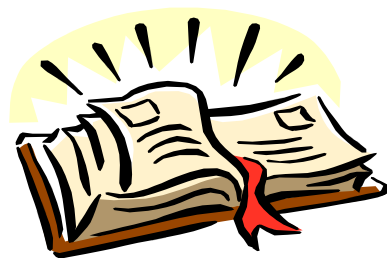
Free popcorn

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.

Women's Bible Study
2nd and 4th Saturday Morning
Fireside room at Pilgrim
See you there!

Women's Bible Study



The Touché Tuition Assistance Fund

Everyone is invited to the 4th annual Touché Flemings Tuition Assistance Fundraiser Banquet at Pilgrim on May 3rd at 5:15 p.m. Come for a night of great food, fun, and fellowship. Please be on the lookout for an invitation, check out the website pilgrimonline.net, or please call us at 612-825-5375 for more information on this event and how to donate to this wonderful cause.

Touché Flemings came to Pilgrim Lutheran School in 1st grade. He had cystic fibrosis, which then contributed to his many other illnesses, such as diabetes and more. He was a very sick, little boy but ALWAYS had a SMILE and would talk to everyone. All the children in the school loved him. The Lord called him home on January 25, 1984 at the age of nine. The Tuition Assistance fund was set up in his memory as a constant reminder of Touché and our love for him in Christ. It was also set into place to show our thanks to the Lord for sending him to us. Even though his time with us was brief, we had an incredible opportunity to share the love of Jesus with him and his family. Only a few remember that little boy when he was in our school but we continue the fund in his memory because of his love for Jesus and for Pilgrim Lutheran School. Touché loved to come to school and hear about Jesus.

We must keep building this fund up so we can help families that cannot afford the tuition to attend our school. Some of our additional fund raising efforts (i.e. the Non Public School Marathon, individual donations, Thrivent matching funds, etc.) are added to the Touché Tuition Assistance fund each year, but these are not enough to support the amounts that are needed to reach out to the city and to provide Christian education for all. Last year we gave out more than \$25,000.00 in tuition assistance. We need help from all of you to reach more and more children with the message of salvation. Pilgrim's ministry is your ministry. We are here to reach and teach in the city to a diverse population. It is all of our chance to spread the message across cultures and throughout Minneapolis. Praise be to God! We graciously thank everyone who has given gifts recently and in the past and look forward to new donors into the future. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and will help reach and teach in Christ.

Please help us to reach the city for Jesus! Pilgrim is truly your ministry!



A CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

PURPOSE: To answer the questions...
"How do I feel about my church?"
"What are my priorities for my church?"

PROCESS: The opinion of all members is very important. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Note that the survey is anonymous, so be completely frank in your reactions.

There will be announcements where the survey should be placed.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Please check one answer for each of the following questions.

1. How do you feel about the fellowship and group life of our congregation?
 - a. _____ Not Meeting Needs
 - b. _____ Barely Passing
 - c. _____ Meeting needs
 - d. _____ Very Effective
2. I find the worship services at our church...
 - a. _____ Dull, Uninteresting
 - b. _____ Routine
 - c. _____ Usually helpful
 - d. _____ Consistently inspiring
3. What potential does our congregation have for growth?
 - a. _____ Poor
 - b. _____ Limited
 - c. _____ Good
 - d. _____ Excellent
4. When our congregation puts its love into action by helping to meet people's needs, we are...
 - a. _____ Ineffective
 - b. _____ Partially effective
 - c. _____ Moderately effective
 - d. _____ Very effective
5. How do you feel about our congregation's program of Christian education for children?
 - a. _____ Not meeting needs
 - b. _____ Barely passing
 - c. _____ Meeting needs
 - d. _____ Very effective
6. How do you feel about our congregation's program of spiritual growth for youth? (ages 14 – 18)
 - a. _____ Not meeting needs
 - b. _____ Barely passing
 - c. _____ Meeting needs
 - d. _____ Very effective

15. How would you rate your attempts to verbally share your faith with others?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| a. _____ A total failure | c. _____ Sometimes try, with limited success |
| b. _____ Once or twice a year | d. _____ Look for and enjoy opportunities |
16. How would you rate your devotional life (personal Bible reading, prayer, etc.)?
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. _____ Non-existent | c. _____ Most of the time |
| b. _____ On-again, off-again | d. _____ Regular |
17. If given the opportunity to participate in training for outreach ministry, I would:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. _____ Run the other way | c. _____ Be available if asked |
| b. _____ Be cautiously interested | d. _____ Sign up |
18. In using my spiritual gifts in the work of the church, I...
- | |
|--|
| a. _____ Don't know what my gifts are |
| b. _____ Would like to find out more of my gifts |
| c. _____ Would like to use my gifts if asked |
| d. _____ I have identified my gifts and am using |
19. Choose three of the following statements that you think are the most important purposes of your congregation. Rank just those three statements in order of importance (1 being greatest, followed by 2 & 3). Please rank only three of the statements, leaving the other lines blank.
- | |
|--|
| _____ Outreach to non-Christians |
| _____ Spiritual care of members through visitation and counseling |
| _____ Spiritual growth of members through Bible study |
| _____ Nurturing children with God's Word |
| _____ Equipping members for serving |
| _____ Glorifying God with worship |
| _____ Regaining those who stray from the faith |
| _____ Providing a fellowship of mutual love, comfort, and admonition |

20. Choose five of the following statements that you think are the best ways for the pastor(s) to spend time in ministry. Rank just those five statements in order of importance (1 being greatest, followed by 2 to 5). Please rank only five of the statements, leaving the other lines blank.

_____ Counseling troubled members

_____ Preparing and preaching sermons

_____ Teaching children

_____ Visiting unchurched prospects

_____ Visiting inactive members

_____ Teaching and training adults

_____ Efficient administration and communication of church programs and organizations

_____ Personal (spiritual) and professional growth through study

_____ Creative planning and leadership

21. Additional comments that you wish to share.

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.



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
3901 First Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

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