

Pilgrim Lutheran

Ministry Staff

Pastor

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

Director

Dr. Scott Gostchock (763) 205-4405

Principal

Mr. Barry Gostchock (651) 207-8387

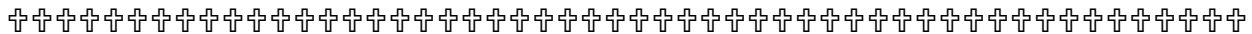
Webpage

[Http://www.pilgrimonline.net](http://www.pilgrimonline.net)



The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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



What if?

Children often ask “what if” questions. What if the sky was purple? What if we had a spaceship instead of a car? Adults grow tired of the questions—we’re used to dealing with facts rather than wild possibilities.

I notice that children often ask “what if” when they hear Bible stories. “What if Eve didn’t eat the fruit?” “What if one of the animals didn’t go on the ark?” We can’t give good answers to the questions because Scripture tells the stories the way they happened, not the way they might have happened.

There’s one part of Scripture, though, that plays the “what if” game. In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul considers the question, “What if Jesus hadn’t risen from the dead?” Apparently a few teachers in those days claimed that Jesus hadn’t risen, just like certain “noted experts” of today who say the same thing.

The answer to the question is simple: “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” (1 Corinthians 15:17) If Jesus is still dead, so is our faith. If Jesus is dead, the good news of forgiveness that we hear every Sunday when we gather for worship is an empty promise, a vain hope. If Jesus is still in the grave, then that’s the best future we can hope for.

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:20-21)

We don’t gather on Easter to worship the grave of a fallen hero. We gather on that great Victory day—and every Sunday—to gain comfort and strength from the life of the One who has conquered death and made heaven not a possibility or dream but reality.

If Jesus had not been raised all the work that we do to advance his church is, at best, an attempt to “keep his memory alive.” But the Christian church has grown and flourished all over the world because it is linked by faith to a living Savior. We don’t need to “keep him alive” by the things that we do in his name. He lives to keep us alive—now and forever.

Pastor Pete Leyrer

**Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
Proverbs 4:23**



**HE LIVES!
SO THAT WE LIVE!**

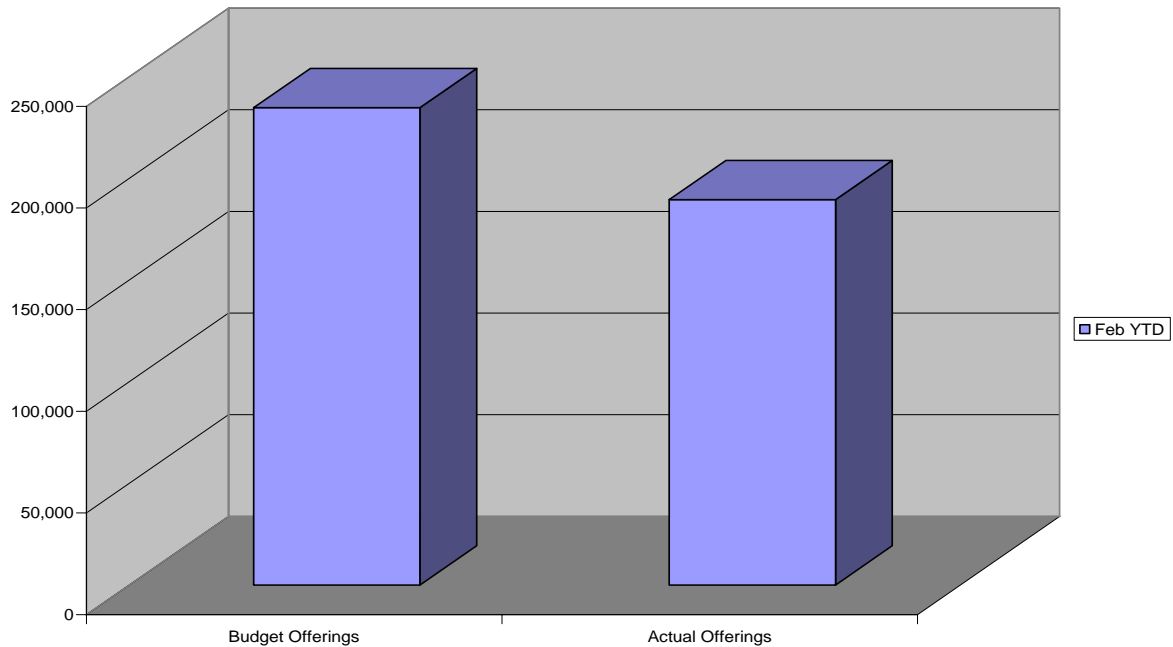
**EASTER
BLESSINGS**

Treasurer's Report

	February 07	Year to Date
Income	35,128.14	361,603.03
Expenses	50,363.05	413,585.98
Income less Expenses	----- (15,234.91)	----- (51,982.95)

Michael S. Anderson, Treasurer

Church Offerings





Celebrations & Congratulations

April Birthdays

Abram Johnson	1	Blanche Odegard	19
Jon Voss	2	Connie Wasley	19
Anita Kurth	3	Robert Gunderson	20
Christopher Wasley	4	Galen Sommer	20
Geraldine Belanger	5	George Cattle	21
Linda Munson	8	Elaine Weber	21
Anne Aune	9	Mia Puterbaugh	22
Viola Jensen	9	Martha Miller	23
Ethel Goplen	12	Yeane Kiazolu	25
Arleen Swanson	12	Christen Sorensen	25
Marilyn Anderson	13	Connie Bonde	26
Robert Helmen	14	Rose Hoppenrath	26
Aaron Robinson	15	Lois Knutson	27
Esther Robinson	15	Michael Anderson	28
Walter Zimmermann	15	Cynthia Sroga	28
Randall Danner	16	LuVerne Jacobson	29
Agatha Ledin	16	Leilla Penke	29
Michael Noonan	16	Adam Heilman	30
Dedra Huggar	17		
Deja Huggar	17		
Cory Huggar	18		
Benjamin Anderson	19		
Caitlin Bandelin	19		
Dominique Huggar	19		

April Wedding Anniversaries

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

A Remembrance

A line in our church bulletin noted the passing of **Duane Weber** on January 30, 2007.

Many of you may remember him as a pleasant, kind, quiet man who taught Sunday School at Pilgrim for over 20 years. One of his students told her mother that he was her favorite teacher because he calmly reprimanded another student who was picking on her and kept order in the classroom. Some of us remember him as a friendly, thoughtful and humble man.

Duane was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease about fifteen years ago. As the disease advanced, he found walking helped keep him going, and on Sunday regularly walked a few blocks to Bethel Lutheran Church for worship services. Eventually, he became a member of that church, from which his funeral service was held on February 2.

His wife, Elaine, is still a member of Pilgrim.

Thank-You

To All Out Dear Friends,

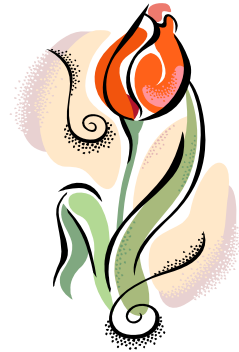
There is no beginning or no end to the gratitude our family feels for all who sustained us with your support and prayers during our journey of these past weeks.

We passed through some deep waters but they did not overflow us. We really found out that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. His strength was make perfect in my weakness. All of your prayers that besieged out LORD'S Throne of Grace were acknowledged and answered, and, they were like hugs sustaining me. Flowers, food, faith, family, friends - I was surrounded and I will be forever grateful. I love you all and thank you.

We're not yet sure what lies ahead, but I know that your prayers will continue to give me the strength and patience I need. I know that HE has begun a good work in me and will complete it until the Day of Jesus Christ. On a more personal note – I'm pretty impatient with the snail's pace of my rehab – I pray for patience but it's a tough job for me!

Thank you all again for EVERYTHING – we love you all and appreciate all your extra care and concern.

Love,
The Voss Family



PRAYERS & CARES

In the weekly bulletin, we are asked to remember family, friends, church and school. There are always those who need us day after day after day....

Remember in your prayers our family of God who are dealing with ongoing illnesses:

Katie Voss
Tim Helmen



Thanks to all - From PILGRIMS MIXERS

We would like to thank all fo the Pilgrim members and non-members who joined us this season for one fo the many activities that we had.

The Mixers are a group of Pilgrim members (but we have had and invite non-members to join us) who get together for the 3 F's; FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP November thru March. We have found that winter months are the bet for the group as when the weather turns nice we seem to dwindle in numbers.

A special thank-you to Brian & Cyndi Sroga and their family for setting up the 18 hole miniture golf course for the March activity. It seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended form the balloons, castle, tunnels and basketball hoops (and much more). It was fun and challenging. Of course all the food wasn't bad either.

If ou have any ideas or suggestions for next year, please feel fre to contact us any time as more hears are better than just these two.

Hope to see many more of you next year.

Carol and Mike Anderson 612-722-4809

What is the Needy Fund?

Perhaps many Pilgrim members are unaware of an existing dedicated fund called the “Needy Fund.” This has existed for many years. Its purpose is to make it possible to provide some emergency assistance to someone seeking help from the church. Some have referred to this fund as the “Pastor’s Discretionary Fund” since it has been the pastor who evaluates such requests for assistance. Any donation into this fund may be made by placing it in the offering plate in an envelope marked “Needy Fund.” Be sure to include your envelope number.

Strategic Planning/Stewardship Committee

WELS NEWS

A Milestone for Meditations

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of *Meditations*, Northwestern Publishing House is creating a special book of *Meditations* devotions. With selections from some of the first volumes, this compilation represents a small fraction of the thousands of devotions printed in this publication during the last half century. The book will be available in summer 2007.

First published by Northwestern Publishing House in 1957, *Meditations* quickly became a widely-used resource for daily devotions. Printed quarterly in correlation with the church year, the booklet has remained relatively unchanged since its beginning. Scripture passages often correspond to current church readings, and extending beyond Sunday’s sermon, *Meditations* is an accessible outreach tool for witnessing and evangelizing.

Pastors, missionaries, and professors across the United States and the world contribute to *Meditations*, allowing them to preach to an audience of nearly 150,000.

WELS Blue Star Families Offer Support

Since World War I, families of military personnel have displayed Blue Star flags—the unofficial representation of a child serving in America’s Armed Forces—in the windows of their homes. Many WELS military families have continued this tradition as a sign. Pastors, missionaries, and professors across the United States and the world contribute to *Meditations*, allowing them to preach to an audience of nearly 150,000. Pastor Curtis Jahn, editor of the anniversary edition, says, “*Meditations* is second only to the *Christian Worship* hymnal in the number of people it puts into direct contact with God’s Word on a weekly basis as a published material.” More than 75,000 copies reach Christian households through church, school, and individual subscriptions of pride and patriotism.

In addition to pride and patriotism, however, families experience separation, anxiety, and uncertainty. The WELS Blue Star Families organization was formed to connect the families of those serving in the military.



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To subscribe to *Meditations*, go to www.nph.net/periodicals or call Northwestern Publishing House at 1-800-662-6022.

In addition to discussing the immediate, physical needs of the troops, members of WELS Blue Star Families work to help the troops spiritually. They send care packages and raise awareness in their communities. These families also support and encourage each other by phone, e-mail, and in person. Through this connection, they can share their concerns and fears as well as their faith and parental pride.

WELS Blue Star Families is founded on common faith and Christian kinship. Just as the Blue Star in the window unites military families in the unique challenges they face, the cross of Christ unites these families with the heavenly assurance and spiritual comfort only God can provide.

To donate items for care packages or to learn more about WELS Blue Star Families, go to www.wels.net/jumpword/military or contact Special Ministries at 414-256-3241.

It's Friday.....But Sunday's Coming

It's Friday Jesus was nailed dead on a cross
but Sunday's Coming
 It's Friday Mary's crying her eyes out cause her
 baby Jesus is dead
but Sunday's Coming
 It's Friday The disciples are running in every
 direction like sheep without a sheperd
but Sunday's Coming
 It's Friday Pilate's strutting around, washing his
 hands 'cause he things he's got all the
 power and the victory
but Sunday's Coming
 It's Friday People are saying "as things have
 been, so shall they always be. You
 can't change anything in this world."
but Sunday's Coming

It's Friday Satan's doing a little jig saying "I
 control the whole world"
but Sunday's Coming
 It's Friday The temple veil ripped from top to
 bottom – the earth shook – the rocks
 split and tombs opened. The centurion
 screamed in fear, "truly He was the
 Son of God!"
but Sunday's Coming
 It's Sunday The angel like dazzling lightening,
 rolled the stone away, exclaiming
 He's not here! He is risen!
 It's Sunday! It's Sunday! It's Sunday!

Planning Ahead {Notices & Opportunities}

Pilgrim's Art Adventurers

April 27 & 28th. There will be having an Art Show in the gym to display our wonderful achievements of the year. It will be up for both the spring Program and the Touche' Fleming Banquet. Please come and admire the artwork and see the fun & educational things our Pilgrim Art Adventures have done.

Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson
 Art Teacher



Spring Drama

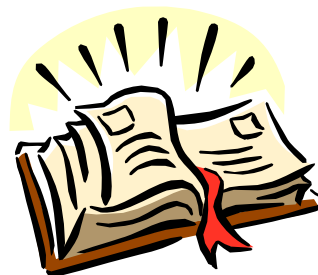
Something to watch for in April is our Spring Drama. This year the children will be performing a play called "Nic at Night", a rousing musical. The date to mark on your calendars is Friday, April 27th. This will also be a "must see" event.

Women's Bible Study Schedule

The 2nd & 4th Saturday

Morning – 9am – 10:30
 Fireside Room

April 14 & 28
 May 12 & 26



*We have been a growing diverse group of women.
 When the group is to large we will break into
 smaller groups.*

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Rally

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Spring Rally will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Osceola, Wisconsin on **Sunday April 15, 2007**.

All women at Pilgrim are members and are encouraged to attend.

Lunch will be served following the Program and Business meeting. Nominations are needed for President, Treasurer, Spiritual Growth Woman, and Spiritual Growth Pastor

Maps and Speaker names will be provided closer to the date

Women's Enrichment Weekend – Reminder for those registered

April 20-22, 2007, Salem Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN
Retreat Opening at 7:00pm Friday

National LWMS Convention

'Women of WELS'

44th Annual Convention

SAVE THE DATE!! June 21-24, 2007

Convention Theme "Engraved on His Hands"

"I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." Isaiah 49:16

The National Convention will be held in Detroit Marriott Hotel located in the GM Renaissance Center on the banks of the Detroit River (This is a really nice place – to quote from their website – "Marriott beds feature plush, down comforters and an abundance of fluffy pillows") Hotel Reservations can be made by calling the hotel group reservations – 1-800-266-9432 or online at <http://www.lwms2007.org/>

Distance to Detroit is 685 miles (about a 13 hour trip by car) Parking is available at the hotel

Tentative bus schedule:

To Detroit (Wednesday, June 20):

Departs St. Croix Lutheran High School: 7:00 AM
Arrives Detroit: approximately 7:00 PM

For information on bus transportation to/from convention:
Contact Pat Parker (651-426-8488)

Return from Detroit (Sunday, June 24):

Departs Marriott Hotel: ~10:00 AM (*close of convention*)
Arrives St. Croix Lutheran High School: ~10:00 PM

Cost: ~\$160/per person depending on total # of passengers

Registration forms and more information which will be placed in the church narthex.

Registration is due by **May 15, 2007** For more information contact – Eunice Johnson at 612-869-4167

**PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELISM COMMITTEE
PROPOSED 2007 ANNUAL CALENDAR**

Month	Event
April 4/25/07	Coffee Hour Quarterly Planning Meeting Neighborhood Easter Invitation & Summer Outdoor Service Invitation Blood Drive Preparations
May 5/30/07	National Night Out Preparations
June 6/27/07	Blood Drive
July 7/25/07	Quarterly Planning Meeting
August 8/29/07	National Night Out First Tuesday of the month
September 9/26/07	Movie Night
October 10/31/07	Coffee Hour Quarterly Planning Meeting Friendship Sunday
November 11/28/07	Blood Drive Plan 1/08 Movie Night
December No Meeting	Coffee Hour Neighborhood Christmas Invitation?

All are welcome to join this committee or offer ideas. Contact Galen Summer -612-872-8265

4th Annual Touche Banquet

Pilgrim Lutheran Church & School has again planned for the Touche Flemings Tuition Assistance Fund Banquet. The date for this gala event is April 28, 2007 and will be held at the school building in the gymnasium (3910 Stevens Ave S). Invitations have been sent out to Pilgrim and St Johns members as well as our school families. Please return reply cards promptly.

Guests may arrive at 5:15 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. The menu:

Turkey & Stuffing
Mashed potatoes & Gravy
Cranberries
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Rolls & Butter
Coffee & Lemonade
or
Roasted Vegetable Fettucine
Tossed Salad
Rolls & Butter
Coffee & Lemonade
(Prepared for us by Son Shine Catering)

The dessert will be provided by the Committee
Entertainment Following the Dinner

Vacation Bible School - 2007

- The days are **June 26-28**, Tuesday through Thursday night.
- The time will be **5:30-8:30 PM**. We will start with a meal then break off into groups.
- We will have childcare for children under the age of three.
- For children three through fourteen we will be having a puppet show, art projects, physical activity, and a lesson on God's plan for our salvation.
- The adults will be able to attend different sectionals of their choosing.



The sectionals that we have in place so far are as follows:

- + Value of Faith in the Home (Peter Leyrer)
- + Preparing Children for College (Ryan Buch, Bethany College)
- + Parent Involvement Leads to a Successful Student (Scot Goschtock, PHD)
- + Budgeting from a Christian Perspective (Barry Goschtock)
- + Setting Boundries for Your Children (Rhoda Wolle, WLCFS)

I am hoping to secure more teachers for sectionals. Also, if anyone is willing to donate toward VBS expenses it would be much appreciated.

For questions contact - Mike Homan

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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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