

The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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



From the Desk of Pastor Pete

It's all about "X"

Once in a while I'll hear people complain about a Christmas card or a poster that says, "Merry Xmas!" The complaint goes something like this: "The people who designed this card must be so anti-Christian that they have to x his name out of the holiday!"

Hold on, Pilgrim. There's a story behind that "X." Actually, it's not an "X" at all; it's a Greek letter that gets pronounced like our English "ch" as in "Christ." In Greek, that X-shaped letter is the beginning of the word "Christ." So, while a lot of people don't know it, the X stands for Christ. I don't get too upset, then, when a card wishes me a "Merry Xmas." I'll even admit that when I take notes I use "X" as an abbreviation for "Christ."

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But all those “Xmas” wishes do bring up something for us to think about . Our society loves to make a big deal about the winter holiday. The lights and decorations do put on a cheery show—I don’t know how I could make it through a Minnesota winter without them. What are the lights for? I think about that “X.” If you understand what the letter is for, it reminds us of the reason for the holiday. If you don’t know what it’s for, it’s a letter that covers Christ, eliminates him from the picture. The lights of the holiday are the same way—if they remind us of the angel chorus that announced the birth of Jesus, or of the God-man who described himself as the light of the world, well then praise the Lord for the lights! But if they’re just in place to cover up the reason for the holiday, then the lights have done us more harm than good.

“You are the light of the world,” Jesus said, “A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” ([Matthew 5:14-16](#))

Our purpose as lights in this world is not to draw attention to ourselves, but to help people see Jesus. We do that when our lifestyle reflects his love and forgiveness. And we share the good news of Jesus, a Savior born poor and humble to save people like us. Don’t “X” him out of your Christmas greetings this year!

In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

- [John 1:4-5](#)

Stewardship Verse of the Month for December

This month, I would like to call everyone's attention to familiar words from our hymnal. These words remind us of exactly what we are giving as we practice our stewardship here at Pilgrim...

" We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee."

Whether we give time, talent or treasure, what does not come from God? Our Money? Our talents and abilities? Our time? God provides us with all we need in this world through the many earthly blessings that he pours out on us. Nothing is really "ours" when you think about it. So let's take these words seriously and appreciate all that God does for us each day as we return our portions to Him!

BEFRIEND A MISSIONARY

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) supports those who serve in WELS home and world mission field. This is the Home Missionary assigned to Pilgrim (and others in the St. Croix district). Remember them in your prayers and give them support.

Pastor Andrew Mueller - Birthday, July 24th 1980
Fiancée Christina Kazyaka - Birthday, August 4th 1980

Address – 43821 Bayview Ave. #36309
Clinton Twp., MI 48038 (until April 2011)
Mission: Ascension Lutheran Church,
22800 Hall Road, Suite 530, Clinton Twp., MI

Special prayer needs: "Ongoing growth of the mission, reaching lost souls in our community. The missions in the Befriend A Mission program are reassigned every two years. Does your mission have a specific project it plans to want or complete in the next two years? "Yes, we plan to undertake and complete a building program. We're set to choose an architect within weeks."

Is there a special project we can either help fund or help create? "Yes, our building fund. It's obviously not as "special" as a specific invitational event. However, our mission has to pay a sizable tax assessment every year on our vacant land until the new church is finished. For a small mission congregation the tax assessment really challenges our building fund. Every little bit helps."

Special prayer needs: "Missionary's recent engagement and pending wedding."

Family wish list (food or other gifts we could send) "Dry foods such as cereal or jiffy mixes. Grocery stores in the area are Kroger and Meijer."

LWMS also suggests writing to students of missionary families who are going to school in the States; include in your correspondence stamps so they can write to their families. One of the students, Ben, is from Zambia and is a freshman at MLC. His brother is a junior at Lutheran Prep School.

Benjamin Birner,
Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm, MN 56073.

Zachary Birner,
Luther Preparatory School, 1300 Western Ave., Watertown, WI 53094



December Birthdays



Liana Leyrer	5	Mildred Suess	18
Dan Ribolzi	8	Jim Johnson	21
Tam Bandelin	12	Wesley Tucker	22
Lucille Flavin	12	Rebecca Herzig	23
Dorothy DeYoung	13	Zachary Johnson	23
Eric Johnson	13	Olivia Leyrer	23
Sondra Brust	15	Ila Janisch	26
Scott Gostchock	16	Charlette Benson	27
Laurie Sorensen	16	Luella Engelke	28
Laura Buck	17	Stephanie Johnson	29
Helen Lutz	18	Tammy Leyrer	31
Steve Munson	18		



December Wedding Anniversary



Robert & Lila Aske	2
Erwin & Marion Paulson	5
John & Phyllis Martin	9
Ramon & Geraldine Belanger	11
Stanley & Katherine Wasley	19
Douglas & Carol Johnson	28



Mark Your Calendar...



December 1st

Christmas potluck – please join us!

Our "Christmas Potluck" is this coming Wednesday, December 1st. We hope that all our members can come and if able to please bring a dish to share (salad, hot dish, dessert, etc). We are planning to sing a few Christmas Carols and also to be entertained by some of the school children. Guests are invited to come and join us. Hope to see you on Wednesday! Pilgrim Ladies Guild

December 5th

Congregation informational meeting

Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m.

Girl Pioneer Make N Bake Sale

If you have items or bake goodies to donate we will take those on Sunday morning December 5th. Any questions please call Jodi at 612-861-1260

December 16th

Pilgrim School Christmas Concert – 6:00 pm

Prayer Requests

(Please call the church office if you would like a name added to this list.)

Please pray for Mike Anderson, Christine Bedor, Doris Belsaas, Ardelle Bloedel, Mary Jean Florin, Joy Kilber, Jean Loescher, Mildred Suess, Kathie Voss, and Pilgrim shut-ins.

Please pray for the United States military and the following enlisted and/or deployed service men and women: **Paul Bandelin, Jacob and Errol Belanger, Thomas Bonde, Justin Brandt, Samuel Hass, Brent Hassler, Jennifer James, Andrew Leyrer, Andrew Rolston, Cory Williams, Isaac Wold, and John Wolter.**



Announcements ...



Email and home address update – let's keep in touch!

Pilgrim is updating its email and home address list once again. With the excitement of a new year approaching and its many activities, we would like to keep you informed and exchange ideas. Various members of the new church council would like to send out online questionnaires and surveys from time to time. By doing so, we will be able find our interests and talents as a congregation and see where we can best use those for God's glory.

If you are already receiving church communications via email and have not changed your email address/ home address, there is no need to reply. If you are new to Pilgrim or have recently changed your contact info, simply send us an email at: pilgrimsforjesus@gmail.com (If you have no access to email, please let us know. We need your input as well.

God's Blessings,
Church Council - Worship

Electronic News Letter

Did you sign up for the electronic version of our monthly news letter but are not receiving it? If you answered yes to this question please get in touch with me. It is due to the way you signed up so I would like to get that fixed for you.

Zoe Herzig 763-360-6150

Networking/Job Transition Group

If you have been recently laid off or are in search of a new position, please join the St. Michael's Job Transition Group. This is a very supportive group that meets at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington (address: 9201 Normandale Blvd; 952-831-5276).

- Meeting are held 2x a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays
- Meeting times are 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
- December meetings will be on the 2nd Thursdays only due to the Holidays.
- Contacts: St. Michael's - Ruth Arves at 612-869-0393 / ranna630@gmail.com or Pilgrim - Geri Geiselhart at 612-822-2318 / geiselhart27@msn.com
- We welcome all interested parties, you don't have to be a member of either St. Michael's or Pilgrim churches to be a member

Also, if you are currently employed and your company has job openings, in the areas of Administrative Assistant, Human Resources, Accounting, Dental Assistants, Cabinet Maker, Sales Management, Sales Operations, Data Entry, Customer Service, Marketing, or Graphic Artists, please let us know and we can post them on the LinkedIn group site.



Thank You.....



Recently we purchased beautiful red, blue and white cloth for "lectern banners" to cover the seasons of the church year that are not covered with the appropriate banner colors. And so, a grateful Pilgrim thanks...

~~~~~ ~Jennifer Hartzell~~~~~

for volunteering her talent of sewing in hemming up and arranging beautifully, the three large banners, parishioners will see hanging on different Sundays in the next four months! Your gift to us of your time and effort in seamlessly putting together cloth to glorify our God will be enjoyed visually for many years to come!

May God bless you in your Christian good works within our midst as you enhance our worship in God's house!

Arthur Wessels~

### LADIES GUILD MAKE & BAKE

To all who brought or bought, prayed or gave support or help for the sale, thank you for your part. The baked, canned and fried items were abundant and were snapped up to be enjoyed in homes all over the Twin Cities. Who would have thought you could worship and then buy fresh donuts, rosettes, apple cake, lefse, refrigerator pickles, gourmet cookies, eatable turkey table decorations *and more* on a Sunday morning? The Ladies' Guild appreciates your help to support missions at home and abroad. **THANK YOU!**

NOTE: A Monkey/Ladder Golf Game is still available for Christmas giving. Ask Sonnenburgs for a peek at this well made game.

### THANK YOU PILGRIM FAMILY!

Thank you to all who donated food or cash gifts to the food shelf on "Thankful" Sunday, and to those who generously donate to the food shelf on a regular basis. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by families who are experiencing financial difficulties. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

ALTAR FLOWERS – 2011



Anyone wishing to reserve a special Sunday to beautify our altar – honor a loved one or special occasion may do so. The following dates are available.

Jan 2...9...16...23...31  
Feb. 6...13...20...27  
March 6...13...20...27  
April 3...10...17...24  
May 1...8...15...22...29  
June 5...12...19...26  
July 3...10...17...24...31  
Aug 7...14...21...29  
Sept 4...11...18...25  
Oct 2...9...16...23...30  
Nov 6...13...20...24 (Thanksgiving)...27  
Dec 4...11...18...25

Please circle the date(s) you would like to reserve, as well as a second choice. Fill out below:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

1 ARRANGEMENT - \$17.50 \_\_\_\_\_

2 ARRANGEMENTS - \$35. \_\_\_\_\_

Please put this form in my mailbox in the copy room marked Altar Flowers Lila Aske, or it can be mailed. Please include your check payable to Pilgrim Ladies Guild with this form.

I will contact you a month before your date to determine the wording you'd like in bulletin the day your flowers are on the altar. Thanks so much for your continued support in adding colorful beauty to our Altar.

Lila Aske (952-544-1072)



# PILGRIM LUTHERAN SCHOOL BASKET BALL GAMES



## Basket ball games in December

**12/3/2010** - Bloomington at Pilgrim 5:30 pm

**12/10/2010** - Pilgrim at St. John's 6:00 pm

**Saint John, St. Paul, MN**  
**765 Margaret St. St. Paul, MN**

**From the East:** Take I-94 west to St. Paul exit (No. 243) RIGHT LANE on 61 (MOUNDS BLVD). Follow 61 to E. 7th street. Right on 7th to Hope street. Left at Hope. Hope runs into Margaret Street.

**From Minneapolis:** Take I-94 east to St. Paul exit (No. 243) LEFT LANE at Mounds Blvd. Left on Mounds Blvd. At the light, Right on E. 7th street to Hope Street. Left at Hope. Hope runs into Margaret street.

**Parking in the rear down the alley.**

**12/11/2010** - Salem S.W. at Pilgrim 1:00 pm

## Basket ball games in January

**1/7/2011** - Pilgrim at Bethany 5:30 pm

**Bethany Academy**  
**4300 West 98th Street, Bloomington, MN**

**From Pilgrim:** Go South on 35W. Take 98th street West (right)

**or :** 494 to France Ave South. To 98th street West (right)

**1/14/2011** - Mt. Olive at Pilgrim 5:30 pm

**1/21/2011** - Pilgrim at King of Grace 5:30 pm

**King of Grace Lutheran School**  
**6000 Duluth Street, Golden Valley, MN**

Once on Hwy 100 take the Duluth St. exit and go West. The Church is about a 1/2 mile on the right hand side.

**1/28/2011** – Good Shepherd at Pilgrim 5:30 pm

## **POP DONATIONS FOR CONCESSIONS**

If you would be willing to donate cans of pop to be used for concessions at basketball games, please drop them off at Mike Homan's classroom. Thank you so much for your contribution to the Pilgrim Athletic Program.

## **Massage offered at December 3<sup>rd</sup> basketball games**

Premier Health Chiropractic is offering 5 minute massages for \$2 at the home basketball games on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. All proceeds benefit the Pilgrim Athletic Program. Come and enjoy the games and a stress-reliever massage!



## West Lutheran High School

**REGISTRATIONS FOR CLASS OF 2015:** If you have a student currently in eighth grade and would like to enroll them as freshmen at WLHS for the upcoming school year we are now accepting registrations. Please share this information with members of your congregation; people in your neighborhood, friends or family that you think would be interested in learning about West. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Meitner or call the school office for an information packet and registration form to be mailed to you. The school's number is 763-509-9378.

### **Dates to remember:**

**December 17** Christmas Concert – 7 p.m.  
West Lutheran High School Gym



### **Home away from home**

Would you like to share your Christmas holiday with someone who needs a temporary “home away from home?” If yes, please contact our International Advisor, Sue Galler, about hosting an international student over our Christmas break, December 18 through January 2. We have many international students who need a host family this year, so we ask you to prayerfully consider this opportunity. If you can help, please contact Sue at [sgaller@stcroixschools.org](mailto:sgaller@stcroixschools.org) or 651-455-1521 ext 118. A stipend is awarded for hosting students.

### **Dates to remember:**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>** Chamber Brass Christmas Recital @ 6:30  
**December 17<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Concert @ 7 p.m.

# Family Fun Time

## Mystery Christmas Carol

The words listed below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. What is it?

Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters spell the name of the Christmas Carol.

H Y E P Y L L O H L M W C G N  
T L R R D T L W S E L E A A O  
I L O A T I E E H C K A R Y W  
W O F H A O S L M I T T O R Y  
J J E H E S G E L P L H L E Y  
Y O B H A E A E A E E E A E S  
U T Y L S S D S T R R R N H H  
L N N O U T S L U H R A G O T  
E E S R U E R S E W E U P R D  
W I E E S S A I A S O R O P L  
W C A D N E L T K B S L L O A  
I N S I R Y A W A E L I L S D  
N A O T G N I Z A L B D N O S  
D J N T S A F S U R O H C G F

|         |          |         |          |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| ALL     | FOLLOW   | MEASURE | TIDE     |
| ANCIENT | GAY      | MERRY   | TIS      |
| APPAREL | HAIL     | NEW     | TOGETHER |
| AWAY    | HARP     | NOW     | TREASURE |
| BEFORE  | HEEDLESS | OLD     | TROLL    |
| BLAZING | HOLLY    | OUR     | WEATHER  |
| BOUGHS  | JOIN     | PASSES  | WHILE    |
| CAROL   | JOLLY    | SEASON  | WIND     |
| CHORUS  | JOYOUS   | SING    | WITH     |
| DON     | LADS     | STRIKE  | YEAR     |
| FAST    | LASSES   | TELL    | YULE     |

# Candy Cane Poem

(Give out a simple candy cane with the following poem attached to a fellow Congregational member  
Let's see how many we can hand out)



---

It's just a little Christmas treat,  
but also (did you know?)  
It represents our Savior  
born so long ago.  
The shape is like a "J"  
to symbolize His name.  
The white is for His life,  
Holy, without blame.  
And the stripe of red  
is for His blood  
so pure and freely given  
that we might spend eternity  
with our Lord in heaven.

## **ANOTHER VERSION:**

A significant symbol of Christmas  
Is the Simple Candy Cane.  
It's shape is the crook of the Shepherd  
One of the first who came.  
The lively peppermint flavor is  
The regal gift of spice.  
The White is Jesus' purity.  
The Red is sacrifice.  
The narrow stripes are friendship.  
And the nearness of his love.  
Eternal, Sweet Compassion  
A gift from God above.  
The Candy Cane reminds us all  
of how much God cared.  
And like His Christmas gift to use  
It's meant to be broken and shared.

CHILDRENS FUN TIME





# DECEMBER 2010 Pilgrim Lutheran Church

| Sun                                                                                                                                | Mon                                                                                      | Tue                                       | Wed                                                                            | Thu                                                    | Fri                                               | Sat                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                          |                                           | 1 Ladies Guild<br>12:00<br>Bible Study<br>6 p.m.<br>Girl Pioneers<br>6:30 p.m. | 2                                                      | 3                                                 | 4                                           |
| 5 <b>Worship Services:</b><br>8:30 Traditional<br>9:00-10:00 Sunday School<br>9:45 Fellowship/Bible Study<br>10:30 Contemporary    | 6                                                                                        | 7<br>Men's Bible Study<br>6:30-7:30 a.m.  | 8<br>Bible Study<br>6 p.m.                                                     | 9                                                      | 10                                                | 11<br>Women's<br>Bible Study<br>9 a.m.      |
| 12 <b>Communion Services:</b><br>8:30 Traditional<br>9:00-10:00 Sunday School<br>9:45 Fellowship/Bible Study<br>10:30 Contemporary | 13                                                                                       | 14<br>Men's Bible Study<br>6:30-7:30 a.m. | 15<br>Bible Study<br>6 p.m.<br>Girl Pioneers<br>6:30 p.m.                      | 16<br>Pilgrim School<br>Christmas Concert<br>6:30 p.m. | 17<br>Early School<br>Dismissal<br>@ Noon         | 18                                          |
| 19 <b>Worship Services:</b><br>8:30 Traditional<br>9:00-10:00 Sunday School<br>9:45 Fellowship/Bible Study<br>10:30 Contemporary   | 20<br>NO SCHOOL<br>Christmas Vacation<br>December 20-January 2<br>School Resumes January | 21<br>Men's Bible Study<br>6:30-7:30 a.m. | 22<br>Bible Study<br>6 p.m.                                                    | 23                                                     | 24<br>Christmas Eve<br>Worship<br>3 p.m. & 6 p.m. | 25<br>Christmas<br>Day Worship<br>9:30 a.m. |
| 26 <b>Communion Services:</b><br>8:30 Traditional<br>9:00-10:00 Sunday School<br>9:45 Fellowship/Bible Study<br>10:30 Contemporary | 27                                                                                       | 28                                        | 29<br>NO Bible Study                                                           | 30                                                     | 31<br>New Year's Eve<br>Worship<br>6 p.m.         |                                             |