

# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Ministry Staff

**Pastor**

Rev. Peter J. Leyrer (612) 827-2723  
pastor@pilgrimonline.net

**Director**

Dr. Scott Gostchock (763) 205-4405  
scott@pilgrimonline.net

**Dean of Students**

Ms Michele Cambrice, (612) 825-5375  
[michelle@pilgrimonline.net](mailto:michelle@pilgrimonline.net)

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



The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
3901 First Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409 (612) 825-5375



## Candle in the Window

One of the decorations that we often see at Christmas time is the candle in the window. Their cheerful warm glow is reason enough for the candles, but, as is true of most Christmas decorations, there's a story behind those candles.

In ancient Ireland hospitality was a matter of law. No homeowner could deny food, drink, entertainment and a bed for the night to any traveler. And no guests dared to pay for hospitality, though they may have entertained their hosts with a song or story. Fines were imposed on the inhospitable and at least one king was actually driven from the throne because he did not properly entertain his guests.

Candles in the windows of ancient Irish homes helped travelers find their way to hospitality. The laws protecting hospitality eventually faded, and the candles became a Christmas decoration. For those who remembered the ancient tradition, the candles reminded them that Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus suffered the humiliation of inhospitality in Bethlehem. It was their way of saying that they welcomed the Christ child into their homes and hearts.

Most of the candles that decorate windows this year will be electric, and I suppose that's much safer. Laws, customs and practices will change over time, but Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever. Whether there's a candle in your window or not this year, Christmas is about the gift of Jesus Christ. Once the decorations are up and a million things are crossed off the "to do" list we might say we're "finally ready for the holiday." But getting ready for Jesus is about preparing our hearts. We examine ourselves and turn to our God in repentance. And here's the good news—because of Jesus there's always a candle burning in God's window. Jesus said he's the light of the world. He said that in him we have rest. He said he is preparing a place for us in the Father's house.

Keep those candles burning, Pilgrims! As people who know that Christ has come into the world, we are a beacon of hope for weary wanderers. Share the joy! Share the light of Jesus this season!

"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."  
- Corinthians 8:9

*Pastor Pete Leyrer*



## Celebrations & Congratulations

*The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?...Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Acts 13: 6, 8*

### December Birthdays

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

### Wedding Anniversaries

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

### Do your Christmas shopping online with **Twinfinity Creations**

<http://www.t-creations.net/>

Why buy from Twinfinity Creations?

– Nice stuff for you or gifts and to encourage Christian artists, musicians and authors to continue and excel in their craft. You will be buying a treasure with lasting beauty. If you have questions about the items on our website, please contact us at [inquiries@t-creations.net](mailto:inquiries@t-creations.net) prior to purchasing the item.

### Artists

Now is the time to consider listing your items on Twinfinity Creations for Christmas shopping. Try out a few items to see that we are there to service your needs as an artist, musician or author. Get that extra spending money you need. In today's economy, your God-given talents may be a financial blessing. Consider giving a tithe of your sales to your favorite charity. There are no fees until you sell your items. Contact us at [artists@t-creations.net](mailto:artists@t-creations.net) if you have any questions about this exciting opportunity.

## Church burglaries in the Third Precinct

November 21, 2008

The Minneapolis Police Department is alerting all churches and other faith-based institutions to be particularly vigilant during and following any services and special events, especially though the upcoming holidays.

### Facts:

Since November 2, eight churches in the Third Precinct have reported burglaries. Incidents often followed church events. Most occurred Sunday afternoons through Monday afternoons, or Wednesday night into Thursday. The burglars entered through exterior doors or windows, sometimes by force. In some cases thieves broke windows or doors to get into offices or other rooms. At least one church was ransacked. Losses have included cash, a laptop computer, and damage to property. Burglars also broke into two churches and a synagogue recently in the Fifth Precinct, west of I-35W.

These are the Third Precinct churches that have been targeted:

Immanuel Baptist Church  
36xx E. 26th St.  
Nov. 2-3

Oakland United Methodist Church  
44xx Oakland Ave.  
Nov. 9-10

Hiawatha Church  
41xx 41st Ave. S.  
Nov. 10

Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo  
Church of Our Savior  
44xx Minnehaha Ave.  
Nov. 9-10

Minnehaha United Church of Christ  
40xx 38th Ave. S.  
Nov. 9-10

Isaiah Mennonite Church  
27xx E 22nd St.  
Nov. 12-13

Crosstown Covenant Church  
55xx 30th Ave. S.  
Nov. 16-17

Word of Grace Baptist Church  
21xx E. 38th St.  
Nov. 9-10

### Suspect information:

There are no witnesses and no suspect information. Suspects may also be entering during religious celebrations or meetings, then hiding and staying through the night to search for valuables.

### Crime prevention tips to remember:

- Perform a premise check before closing.
- Make frequent deposits of donations.
- Keep any non-deposited funds in a secure safe.
- Lock all inter-office doors.
- Call 911 to report any suspicious persons or activity.

Ask your members and neighbors to be on the alert for suspicious persons or the sounds of doors or windows being broken, and to call 911 immediately

## FOOD SHELF – Always an Urgent Need

We are all facing hard decisions these days. But for some when money gets tight, the food budget is often the first thing that gets cut.

Keep in mind that those who reach out to Pilgrim to fill this need will remember Pilgrim as a church who worships a God who fills us with loving and caring hearts.

**Thanks to all who have contributed.**



**The Making and Baking is Over  
Here Comes the Thanking**

The Pilgrim Ladies Guild Make and Bake Sale on Sunday, November 23 was a great social event and a chance to buy gifts and delicious baked food for family and friends. **Thank you to everyone who participated.** The baked goods and wonderful crafts kept flowing in, and .....out. There was very little to pack away. The drawing for the Royal Kent China was done at 10:15 in the fellowship hall. Pastor Leyrer agreed to pull out the winning ticket, which was purchased by ~ ~ ~ Red Herzig! When asked what he intended to do with the China, Red replied that the first granddaughter who got married would get it as a wedding gift. Thanks again...let's do it again next year!

**Planning Ahead**



**December Holiday Events and Worship Schedule**

Decorate the Church	Saturday	7	9:00am
School Christmas Concert	Thursday	18	6:30 pm
Christmas Eve Services	Wednesday	24	1:30 pm
Fellowship and Carole singing			3:00 pm Worship
Christmas Day	Thursday	25	9:30 am

Remember to check the Sunday Bulletin for updates.

**BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE TIM HELMEN FUND**

On Friday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m., *Proclamation* will perform a Benefit Concert for the Tim Helmen Fund at Bloomington Lutheran Church, 9350 Portland Avenue South. The Tim Helmen Fund was established to assist families with a terminally ill spouse or child. *Proclamation* is a new Christian rock band made up of talented musicians in the Twin Cities. They performed at Pilgrim at an outdoor concert in September. Two of Tim's original songs will be performed by *Proclamation*, "I've been Crowned" and "We Remember." Tim's CD will also be available for a donation to the fund. A free will offering will be taken.

**SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

A six-week Bible Study entitled "Financial Stress: Making Ends Meet" will begin Sunday, December 7, at 7 p.m. Walt Zimmerman will be the facilitator. All are invited! Bring a friend!

The **Make-N-Bake Sale** is Sunday, December 7 from 8:30-11:30. If you would like to donate baked goods or craft items for the sale, please bring them on the morning of December 7. Thank you so much for your support of Lutheran Girl Pioneers!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SCHOOL**

Volunteers for Barry Gostchock's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade class are needed in the afternoon from 1:00-1:30 or 1:30-2:00 for classroom recess, and for watching children from 2:45-3:30 for the second bus run. You can help as much or as little as possible. Please contact Barry Gostchock at 612-825-5375 ext. 104 with your availability. Thank you so much!

## HOSTS NEEDED DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK

Want to share this Christmas with someone who may not know of Christ's love? Consider hosting an international student. St. Croix Lutheran High School is looking for families who are willing to host international students over our Christmas break. The dates needed for hosting students are December 20 through January 4. Please contact Sue Galler, St Croix's international advisor, at (651) 455-1521 or [sgaller@stcroixschools.org](mailto:sgaller@stcroixschools.org) if you are interested in being a part of this special ministry. A stipend is awarded for hosting students.

### Pentecost in November

by Aurthur Wessel

I unexpectedly found myself at Pilgrim for supper on Wednesday night(11/19) and more unexpectedly found myself attending the "outside" Bible study that Scott Gostchock hosts and had told me about a couple of weeks before. And so? Oh, 'bout fifteen people, four of which were Scott, Walt, Greg Johnson and myself and the rest, these strangers from the street--folks looking kind of on the 'fringe' of society so-to-speak--not Pilgrimites. I brought organ music with me to peruse so as to listen to the study but also to get something else done since I know how Bible classes generally go for me. The 'Leadership'

outline on this night centered on FAITH with corresponding Bible verses printed out and on the projection screen for readers to read ~with then~ further discussion.

Scott threw out the ball to get things started and rarely ever got it back after that..... for what ensued for well over an hour was the most amazing Bible class free-for-all I have ever experienced in my 61 years! These 'evening strangers' under our Pilgrim roof began to EAT UP and ATE UP the Word of God

so voraciously from start to finish in the time allotted--all of them actively jockeying for the podium to testify and speak about faith and God--never letting up! A born again revival meeting? A Baptist infiltration into our hallowed Lutheran Fireside? Holy rollers on the roll? Pentecostal over the edge? Nope. It was a simple portrait of a joint 'meeting of hearts and minds and souls' around the table, reading the Bible with rapture! Men and women with more of life's problems that one should have reaching, grasping with everything they had in heart, voice and mind for the Holy Scriptures.

The air was electric throughout the encounter! Hallelujahs and Amens were uttered for punctuation after a reading or a point.

I was thinking "Holy Moses!(and yes we talked about him too) what is going on here?" I was reminded of what it must have been like when the tongues of fire appeared above the disciples' heads in that upper room! And so without realizing, my focus on organ music melted and I was in the race with the rest to read and understand God's Word- looking to Scott as a pupil with hand raised would -to give me the nod to read and speak what I thought.

In the brief hour we had I studied the faces and wondered if this outside band of believers were sent by God to strengthen and inspire the four of us. Obviously. I began to think later in retrospect that maybe they were His angels in humble earthly presence but rich in spirit--that read His Word so seriously--some very slowly with stumpled words but full of heart to speak! Angels sent direct to our little parish on a cold and lonesome Wednesday night?

I dunno. I do know I found myself energized in the heat of the Word by these new friends. I do know that their hearts overflowed into mine, these infectious John the Baptist types--men and women--that had drawn me into the fray!

And so it was.

And, at the front of our group was Scott. Was it Dr Gostchock at had revved up our spiritual motor with the energy he so often exhibits? I beg to say, Scott was very calm; gently adding a comment and deliberately guiding us through the outline when he could get a pause from the group.

Who then... "YOU ASK, WHO IS THIS? JESUS CHRIST IT IS, THE ALMIGHTY LORD. AND THERE'S NO OTHER GOD; HE HOLDS THE FIELD FOREVER"(as my organist soul recalled Luther's words!)--it was He that so moved and caught them and me up into this whirling dervish discussing FAITH.

And something to catch it was!

What to think? What to savor and feel afterwards? Easy - I thank God for guiding me to this group, for it was Him. These folks from different walks of life that so humbled me in my FAITH to renew. These outsiders from somewhere, so wealthy in their simple understanding and struggle to seriously understand that no matter what one might possess personally--that the REAL treasure is depositing yourself into the Truth and the Way.....JESUS! ("priceless treasure, fount of purest pleasure") as I hum the melody(#349).

Who would've known?

Thanksgiving has come a week early. What a great Thanksgiving gift for Arthur Wessels!

On November 11 we observed Veterans Day. Here is an article written by Jim Johnson (Apple Valley, MN) Jim was a Flight Officer in the U.S. Air Force.

### An Honor Flight for W.W. II Veterans to Washington D.C.

I recently had the opportunity to go to Washington with other World War II veterans and for free at that! We arrived at the Minneapolis-St Paul airport around 5am and received our name tags & passes. We were actually met at that hour by many already at the Lindberg terminal cheering us on, thanking us for our service rendered! We were quite the sight—all of us wearing maroon/gold T-Shirts embarking onto the plane at a ramp that was decorated with American flags and red, white, & blue bunting.

In a nice gesture as we boarded, the pilot asked a uniformed 89 year old female pilot in our group to come up and inspect the cockpit and check out the instruments. In a class act, she asked if the flight crew needed any assistance flying the plane! After a prayer and special thanks given on behalf of the pilot, we were off arriving within two hours to the capital where we were met with a band playing, honor guards, and for each of us ~a folded American flag with poppie plus a lunch bag (to keep our energy up).

Once again, there were so many people up so early to greet us in appreciation. Stepping outside the air terminal there we were met with three shiny red, white and blue buses which took us on a curbside tour of the city. We arrived at our chief destination, the beautiful W.W II Memorial, and were greeted by former Senator Bob Dole.

What a gorgeous place it is. You will be glad to know it is ALL funded by private organizations and citizens.

After placing a flag and wreath at the Minnesota pillar, we viewed the entire memorial which honored all our veterans' efforts and those that gave the ultimate sacrifice! Needless to say, there was hardly a dry eye in our large group. After a delicious luncheon, our veterans express tour continued on our way, visiting Iwo Jima monument where we heard stories of those (in our group) that were actually on the island during that conflict.

Seeing the Women's Monument next was interesting, as we heard of their initial involvement in the Civil War as nurses and continued advancement in participation and support in future American conflicts. We were equally moved by the Korean memorial with a life sized platoon of soldiers moving up a hill. So real.

And then, of course, the much visited Vietnam War wall memorial with all the names of those that gave their lives—forever etched in that black marble wall. Oh, and not to forget, driving slowly past Arlington National Cemetery dating back to the Civil War era. So poignant and historic with General Robert E. Lee's mansion rising up amidst the graves.

Later, as you might imagine, we ate like young hungry vets at the generous dinner buffet after the all afternoon touring.

Once again, winding up at the Washington airport we were surprised by the folks who were there to greet us as we boarded the plane home. After all this do you think we slept all the way home, exhausted and worn out?? Nope. Too much to talk about with our fellow comrades after a full day!

Touching down on the tarmac in good ole Minnesota, we were amazed as we deplaned to be greeted by the Pipe and Honor Guard with all services flags. So many folks were there to wish us well with our families assembled to hear our recall of this fabulous day.

In conclusion, it was (with tongue in cheek) a "monumental" day for this veteran to spend with so many like-minded others who gave their all, so unselfishly to our country, our USA! By the way please, any W.W>II veterans reading my account today—know that you can sign up for this trip when it is offered again soon. Every kind consideration is given, especially to those that might be challenged with infirmity or wheel chair, cane or slow gait. Oh, and by the way if you go, I can assure you our energy level will kick into overdrive on this out! AND, there is definitely no age limit required, so get going! Sign up, just like you did when you were 18. Just jump on a computer or get someone that can and go to the website [www.honorGuard.org](http://www.honorGuard.org) and print out TWO copies, one each for an Ohio address and a Roseville, Minnesota address—where you need to send your information. Then just wait.

Wait for the most incredible day in your later years. A day you will not regret I assure you! No money needed, just twelve hours of your time for a whirlwind tour and a big heart to accept the thanks of a grateful nation.

And so I say God bless our brave soldiers serving and veterans having served, and God bless the United States of America!

---

Editors note: Jim Johnson's 5 brothers (literally a Band of Brothers') also served in WWII. Arnold, Air Force (New Guinea); Bob, Air Force (England); Art, Navy (Guam); Burt, Marines (Okinawa); Chuck, Navy (South Pacific)



## Altar Flowers – 2009

Anyone wishing to reserve your special Sunday to beautify our altar and to honor a loved one or a special occasion may do so now. Certain dates have already been requested, and the following dates are still available:

January 11      January 18      January 25  
February 1      February 8  
March 1      March 8 (1)      March 15      March 22      March 29 (1)  
April 12  
May 3 (1)      May 24      May 31 (1)  
June 21      June 28 (1)  
July 19      July 26 (1)  
August 2      August 9      August 16      August 23  
September 6      September 13      September 28  
October 11      October 18      October 25(1)  
November 1      November 8      November 22  
November 26 *Thanksgiving*      November 30  
December 20      December 24-25

Please circle the date you would like to reserve, as well as a second choice, and fill out below:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

2 ARRANGEMENTS - \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 ARRANGEMENT - \$17.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Please put this form in my mailbox in the copy room marked **Altar Flowers Lila Aske** or you can mail this form to me. 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 would like in the 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)  
1640 Kilmer Avenue  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

## **WANTED - A volunteer to take on the Monthly Newsletter**

My new work position has placed many demands on my availability to manage the Newsletter.

This is an opportunity to serve Pilgrim and employ a creative spirit. There is no real set format and there are lots of options for content that could be tried out.

Requirements:

- E-Mail availability, proficiency in MS Word or some type of publishing software
- Document formatting and editing skills a plus
- Ability produce a PDF file format (although I believe Joe Sorensen could convert a file if needed)
- Reminding and beseeching a frequent duty

The Newsletter file is e-mailed to the printer and delivered to the office usually the next day.

**Karen & Duane Sonnenburg** along with **Sharon Ledin** are the tireless assembly and mailing team.

NOTE: As of January 2009, I will only be able to produce the newsletter on a Quarterly basis.

### **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

**Return Service Requested**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 413  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN