

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



The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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



Our Questions find Answers in God's Word

Recently somebody sent me an "ask the Pastor" question. "I am angel of the Lord sent to grant you three wishes for Pilgrim for the coming year. What are they?"

The question made me think of Ephesians chapter 3, where the apostle Paul offers a prayer for his brothers and sisters in faith. Based on those words, I'd like to offer not three wishes but three prayers for Pilgrim in 2007:

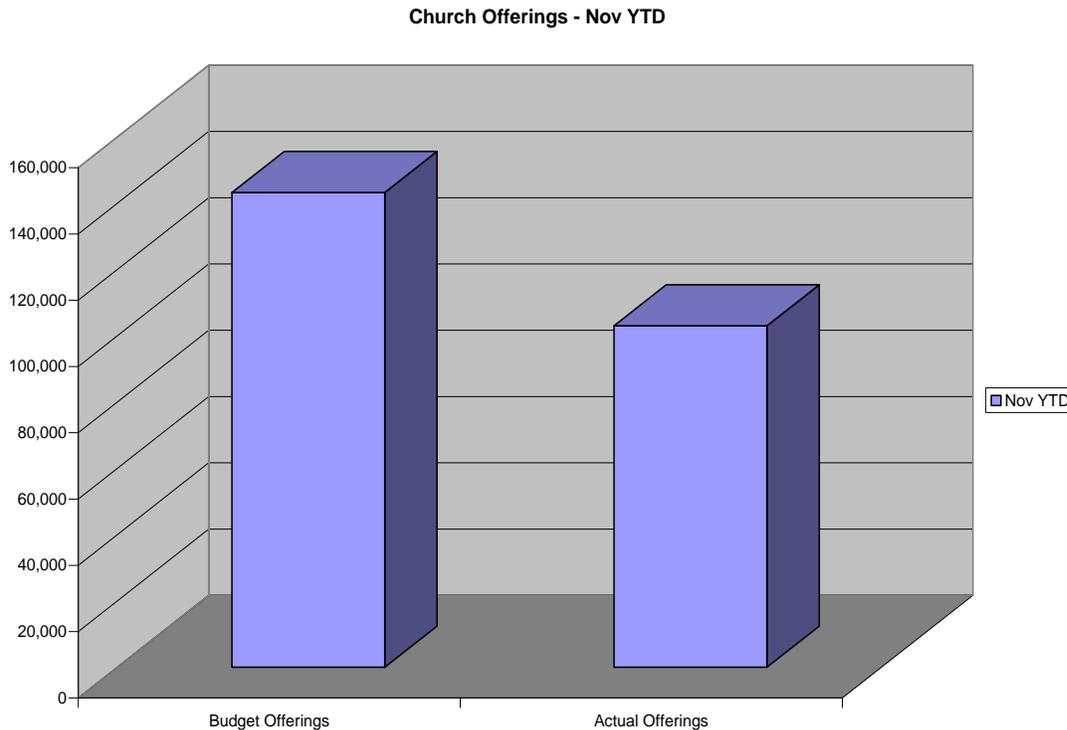
1. First, I pray that as we continue to preach and teach Jesus here at Pilgrim, Christ would continue to live in our hearts. I pray that the message of Jesus Christ would lead each of us to wrestle with what's in our hearts, and that Jesus would lead us each day to turn to him in repentance and faith. And I pray that Jesus in our hearts would be the force that drives each of our thoughts, each of our choices, and each of our actions. I pray this prayer for every one of us as individuals, and for us as a congregation. Think of how we could impact our families, neighborhood and our world if Christ were the motivating power behind everything we do!
2. I pray that we would be "rooted and established in love" There a couple of beautiful pictures in these few words. First of all, I pray that we would drive our roots deep into the love of God. When we gather together around God's word and sacrament, may we grow deeper and deeper into that love so that we know no matter where we've gone or what we've done; God's love is always there. Then, that we are "established" in love and the picture there is to build on a foundation. I pray that Pilgrim would become known as a church that loves people because God loves people. I pray that each of us would think of how we can show God's love to the people who come through our doors, whether those people are brand new or long time members. It would be wonderful for me if people said about us this year, "That is a church that loves people."
3. I pray that we would be "filled to the measure of the fullness of God." I pray that each of us would know how God has blessed us and would put those blessings to work as in service to one another so that we can together use this church to give glory to God.

Would you join me in praying these for Pilgrim in 2007?

“I pray that out of his glorious riches [the Father] may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and deep and high is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen (Ephesians 3:16-21)

Pastor Pete Leyrer

Treasurer’s Report



Fiscal Year 2007	Nov 2006	Year to Date Actual
Income	\$ 55,031	\$ 213,897
Expenses	\$ 46,949	\$ 255,106
Income less Expenses	\$ 8,082	\$ (41,209)

While we are still in the negative for the Year to Date Income – Expenses, I feel we should celebrate the PLUS \$8082 that was contributed during the month of November. To me it seems like we are investing and perhaps starting to see some return.

2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Messages of Thanks

Many thanks to the **Girl Pioneers and leaders** who so artfully decorate the window ledges in the church for the holidays and seasons. Your thoughtfulness in beautifying the church is appreciated.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER UPDATE

A generous thank-you to the host families for the event, they are the **Puterbaugh's, Gerde's & Denn's** for opening their beautiful homes for another successful progressive dinner.

Thank-you to all the members that joined in & contributed food for the appetizer's, dinner, or dessert, it was another great time for the Pilgrim mixers.

We had a few new people join us as well as old coming back it was good to see everyone which made for a great mix of people

Please plan on joining us next year if you can; the more, the merrier.

From the November Minnesota District newsletter

Ministry of Christian Giving

The WELS – Nine month totals for Christian Mission Offerings
SYNOD: \$13,482,693 = **102.3%** of the projected goal
MN District: \$1,526,798 = **96.9%** of projected goal
There are still three months left.

Faith Focused Finances

Money. It's an awkward topic for Christians to discuss—but it's also an important one. As much as we may want to avoid talking about it, money is an earthly blessing that God expects us to handle responsibly. The development of **Faith Focused Finances** can help us determine exactly what that means.

Faith Focused Finances is a group of workshops, seminars, and resources that provide vision and training for personal and congregational management of financial resources.

"This is not about paying the synod's bills," says Pastor Dave Kehl, administrator of the Commission on Adult Discipleship and coordinator of the program. "This is about individual Christians finding more satisfaction in the way they're honoring God with their finances."

Faith Focused Finances will have three main components:

- 1 Pastoral Leadership Seminars: These seminars for pastors and their wives will provide helpful training for the wise management of their own personal finances. The seminars will also provide training for developing and leading greater ongoing financial faithfulness within the congregation.
- 2 Congregational Workshops: These weekend workshops for pastors and congregational leaders will consist of biblical and practical training in stewardship. Practical training includes setting up regular communication of the stewardship message, developing an annual stewardship focus, and training in personal finance. "We will also help congregations get a handle on managing what comes in from God's people," says Kehl. The first workshop will be held in January 2007 in Antioch, Ill.
- 3 Personal Finances Training Course: This locally led course will provide information to train members in the basics of wise, faith-focused finances for their daily lives. The goal is to have this course available by summer 2007.

"The hope is that through these resources Christians will excel in their financial stewardship as part of their growth in faith and that an atmosphere of joyful giving emerges," says Kehl.

**Though this was posted on the WELS web site in November, it still seems very appropriate.
'Everyday is Thanksgiving day'**

THANK YOU LORD...

"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits -- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns your life with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your strength is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed." Psalm 103:1-6.

What kinds of things do you include in your prayers? When you talk to God, what do you say? If you are anything like me, you spend much of the time in the "give me" category. We ask the Lord for many things in our lives. We go to him for the basics, food, clothing, shelter, etc. We go to him with special requests: help my sick friend, help me find a job, give me strength to make it through my difficult time. These are all important things. The Lord wants us to go to him with all of our requests. There is nothing too big or too small for the Lord to handle. He tells us in his word, "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you." Our Lord has the power and the desire to give us everything that is for our good.

As we look around us we see that the Lord has richly blessed us. He has given us everything we could ever want and more. He has given us physical blessings, as well as spiritual blessings. How do we react when the Lord blesses us? Do we include that reaction in our prayers? The Lord gives us opportunities to thank and praise him for all of his wonderful goodness. The psalmist could not stop praising the Lord for all of his marvelous gifts. The list went on and on. He praised him for his benefits. He praised him for the forgiveness of sins, protection of life, his love and compassion. He praised him for satisfying his desires, and giving him strength to make it through each day. What a wonderful model for us to follow in our lives.

November 23 is Thanksgiving Day. It is a day when we will gather together with family and friends to look back at the blessings of another year. It is also a time when we thank the Lord for his bountiful goodness. Gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ to thank your Lord. Invite your friends and family to join you. Stick the turkey in the oven before you go (or wait until you get home after church) and spend this special time thanking your Savior for another year of his blessings of grace.

May our Thanksgiving always show itself in "thanks living."

Pastor Duane C Schmeichel
MN District MCG Chairman4

Celebrations & Congratulations



January Birthdays

Kula Roberts	1
Mark Odegard	2
Sarah Manthe	9
Norma Kettner	10
Phyllis Martin	10
Thomas Kurth	12
Katherine Wasley	13
Geri Geiselhart	14
Zoe Herzig	15
Travis Moy	15
Nicol Minea	17
Hannah Bandelin	18
Arthur Wessels	22
Elmer Melin	23
Brita Mickevicius	27
Nolan Dittrich	23
Amanda Wasley	27
Sarah Wasley	27
Mary Lindgren	30

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Wedding Anniversaries

Duane & Karen Sonnenburg
January 7

Do you have a Special Person to Celebrate?



Or a Special Event or Adventure??



Share it with your church family by adding it to the Celebrations & Congratulations

Just let the Newsletter box know

Planning Ahead

Upcoming Pilgrim Mixers

PILGRIM MIXERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2007 – 7:00 PM

BUNCO

A FUN & EASY DICE GAME

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE EVENING

BRING AN APPETIZER TO SHARE & YOUR

OWN BEVERAGE

DESSERT IS ALWAYS PROVIDED

The MIXERS meet the second Saturday at 7:00 PM in the fireside room from November to March.

We ask that you bring a snack or an appetizer to share along with your beverage.

Dessert is always provided.

If you have suggestions for games or activities that are suitable for groups or would like to host one, please call: **Mike or Carol Anderson 612-722-4809**

SHINE *Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.* Philippians 2:15b-16a

A WELS Singles Ministry of the Twin Cities

Meets – The 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room

Bloomington Lutheran Church
9350 Portland Ave South, Bloomington, MN 55420
(612)888-2475

Women's Bible Study Schedule

The 2nd & 4th Saturday

Morning – 9am – 10:30
Fireside Room

January 13 & 27
February 10 & 24



Give a Gift that will last a LifeTime Pilgrim Student Sponsorship

Pilgrim Church and School needs your support. Our mission is centered upon *"The Great Commission," Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)* ¹⁸*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

We have students in our school or looking to come to our school for the first time and need financial assistance in order to be able to attend. They need your help. Without tuition assistance and your help in sponsoring them, they will not be able to receive a Christian education at Pilgrim.

Pilgrim is a remarkable institution of quality. Over 95% of our students have gone on and graduated high school. Many have gone into and graduated college and graduate level work. Our school has been blessed and is a blessing. Through your commitment to sponsor a student, you will be helping to ensure a bright educational future and an eternal future of heaven through Christ.

The following amounts are listed as the full charges per student. Please feel free to sponsor full amounts or portions of those amounts. No sponsorship is too small or too large. ☺

I _____
(name)

_____ (contact number) am willing to sponsor the following amounts for a student or multiple students:

non-member child (K-8)	\$2,750.00	_____
member child (K-8)	\$995.00	_____
preschool child (2 days)	\$657.00	_____
preschool child (3 days)	\$972.00	_____
school lunch for a year	\$360.00	_____
Pilgrim bus for a year	\$540.00	_____

Total commitment: _____

Committee Coffee Hour Schedule

Sundays	Odd Month	Even Month
First	Worship	Evangelism
Second	Youth Group	School Board
Third	Ladies Guild	Ladies Guild
Fourth	Stewardship	Finance
Fifth	Circle of Christian Friends	CCF



HAVE A VERY BLESSED NEW YEAR

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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