

Pilgrim Lutheran



Ministry Staff

Pastor

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

Director

Dr. Scott Gostchock (763) 205-4405

Principal

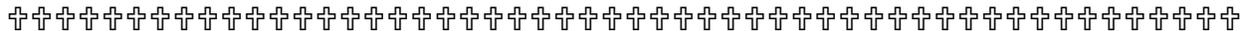
Mr. Barry Gostchock (651) 207-8387

Webpage

Http:\www. pilgrimonline.net

The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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



That which endures

In A.D. 635 a group of Christian missionaries from Syria arrived in China and began to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Spirit worked and the Christian church grew. Today the Tang Dynasty is remembered as the age of Buddhism in China, but historians also note that Christianity grew rapidly at the same time. More than six hundred years later Marco Polo noted the existence of many Christian congregations during his travels in China.

The ancient Chinese Christian Church would be almost forgotten except for a ten foot high stone known as the Nestorian tablet. Decorated with a cross and covered with more than 2000 Chinese characters, it was erected in A.D. 781 in testament to the inroads that Christianity made into that great empire. If you travel to China and visit the famous terra cotta warriors in Xian, you can also see the Nestorian tablet which has been moved there for display. (Many thanks to Bob and Betty Helmen who brought back a souvenir picture book of the tablet from their recent visit!)

I've given you that bit of history because lately I've been thinking a lot about one line from the tablet: "Its (Christianity's) principles will survive when the framework is forgot." World history has proven the truth of this statement over and over again. Churches have blossomed and flourished, powered by the gospel of Jesus Christ. As those churches grew, certain styles of worship and church policy grew up. Over time, those styles changed or were forgotten. I daresay that Chinese Christian worship style of A.D. 781 would be very different from our customs today. But the message—the grace that our Lord showed to us in Jesus Christ—has not changed or been forgotten.

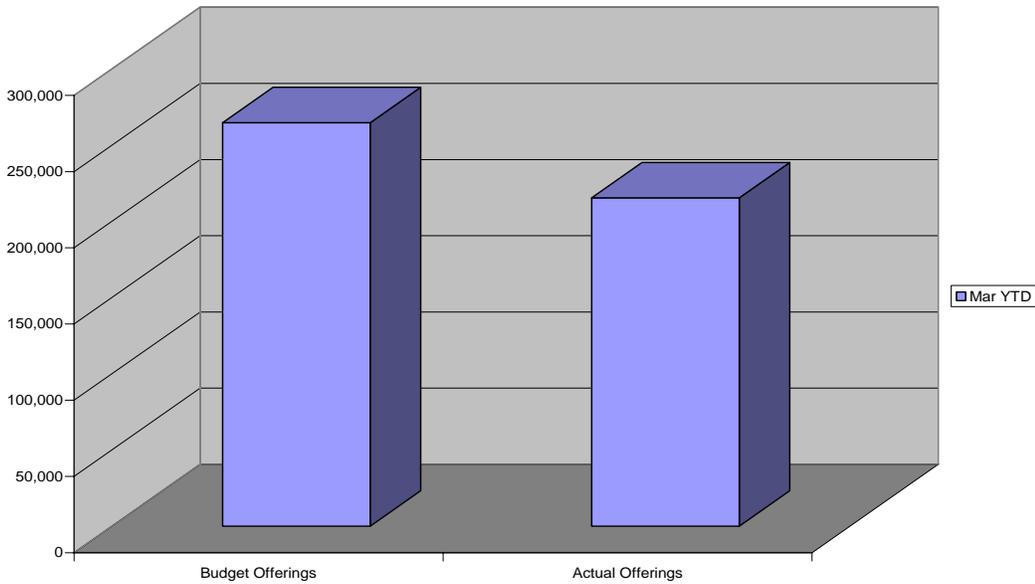
This month as we gear up for the summer, we'll be seeing some changes in worship at Pilgrim. On the first Sunday of June we'll start our outdoor worship services again. Along with that we'll change our schedule—first service at 8:30 AM and second (outdoor) at 10:30 AM. Once the summer season is over, we will keep the new service times—8:30 and 10:30. The style of the 10:30 service will be "contemporary" while we'll keep the 8:30 service "traditional." It's my hope that different worship styles will give us different perspectives on our faith and the meaning of worship. Neither style is right or wrong, and the message of Jesus Christ will not change. May the Lord keep us faithful to him!

(I fear I've gone a bit long this month . . . I'll be writing more on this throughout the summer.)

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.
-Isaiah 40:8

Pastor Pete Leyrer

Church Offerings



Treasurer's Report

	March	Year to Date
Income	60,494	422,097
Expenses	72,048	485,672
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Income less Expenses	(11,554)	(63,574)

Treasurer – Micheal Anderson



Celebrations & Congratulations
May Birthdays

Curtis Geiselhart	1	Mark Heilman	19
Helen Bronson	2	Sherman Goplen	20
Mary Kjornes	2	Danny Edwardson	23
Thelma Friton	6	Jacqueline Pruitt-Jones	23
Evelyn Hudriik	6	Marilyn Fechner	24
Marion Paulson	7	Tina Norman	25
Darrell Sampson	7	Kenneth Anderson	26
Peg Heilman	8	Carl Bloedel	26
Margaret Rodmyre	8	Diane Hartwig	26
Luella Rogers	9	Angela (Sorensen) Jennrich	26
Orville Delano	10	Keenan Lewis	29
George Scott	11	Julian Loescher	29
Phyllis Sandell	13	David Menk	29
Sara Sroga	13	Jennifer Combs	30
John Martin	15	Samuel Gostchock	31
Richard Bullemer	16	Michael Heilman	31
Kendra Bonde/Sivanich	17	Sharon Ledin	31

May Wedding Anniversaries

Rick & Sandy Puterbaugh	May 1
Gerald & Diane Hartwig	May 19
Christopher & Connie Wasley	May 27
Paul & Betty Weist	May 27

Dear Pilgrim Friends,

Thankyou for all your prayers, letters, calls, flowers and encouragement in Christ for health and healing during my surgery and follow-up treatments. God & our Savior Jesus Christ have sustained my health throughout the first half of chemotherapy. Continue to pray for health & strength. And thank Jesus for His lovin arme sustaining me I feel all your pryers on my behalf are working. I am looking forward to being physically back more consistently in the church pews and rejoining Praise Hymn in a few months. I miss you all

Your Sister in Christ,
Darlene Moy

Thank-you for the sermon tapes & bulletins, too!



Highlights of the April Ladies Guild Meeting

The ladies honored Gussie Ledin on her 90th birthday with a song, a beautifully decorated cake and fresh “jelly bean” colored flowers. Photos were taken of Gussie with the other special women who have reached 90, Dorotha Dorschner and Evelyn Melin.

Pastor Leyrer spoke to us about three new opportunities for service coming up at Pilgrim: 1) Evangelism training sessions to teach people how to share their faith in Jesus Christ. 2) Stephen Ministries, a caring ministry, to train people to visit the sick, elderly, shut ins or grieving. 3) Grief Group Ministry support for those who have suffered a loss. Detailed information will appear in the bulletins and newsletter.

At our March meeting we discussed changing the Constitution. The second reading of the change of Article IV, Section 1 is as follows: ...”These shall constitute the Executive Committee, and are elected for a term of **two** years. No member shall be allowed to hold the same office for more than **four** years in succession.”

SHARING-CARING: **Lila Aaske talked with Kathy Voss – she is doing well with both chemo and radiation after her cancer surgery and is thankful for prayers.

**Eldora Danner’s funeral was held at the mortuary with many Pilgrim members present. Her neighbor shared how she loved the Lord and her church and how blessed she felt receiving a prayer shawl before surgery.

**Ruby Lange has moved to be closer to relatives: 7825 Church St. #9, Clear Lake, MN s55319-4522,

**Bernice Jorgensen is in rehab at Augustana Health Care Center- she took her Guild reminder calling list with her! 1007 E. 14th St., #168, Mpls, MN 55404 **We were grateful to have Ardelle Bloedel with us; she beautifully accompanied our singing.

Evangelism Committee Notes - 3/28/07

The committee made plans for the 4/1/07 coffee hour which happens to be Palm Sunday as well as Confirmation Sunday. The committee chose to purchase a sheet cake in honor of the confirmands.

Sharon Fischer and Sheri Emde are looking into coming up with ideas for a welcome gift for new members as well as visitors. We plan to have something ready for the 5/6/07 New Member Welcome Event during coffee hour.

Sheri Emde presented some ideas for a Pilgrim Information Sheet that we plan to have ready for the 6/2/07 Blood Drive. The committee looked it over and made some changes and additions. Pastor Pete indicated that he’s updating the information in the Pilgrim Welcome Folder and will see how he can incorporate such into the Pilgrim Information Sheet. This should be ready for our next meeting on Wednesday 4/25/07.

Galen W. Sommer
Chairman

JUST A MINUTE ! Problems with the Pews

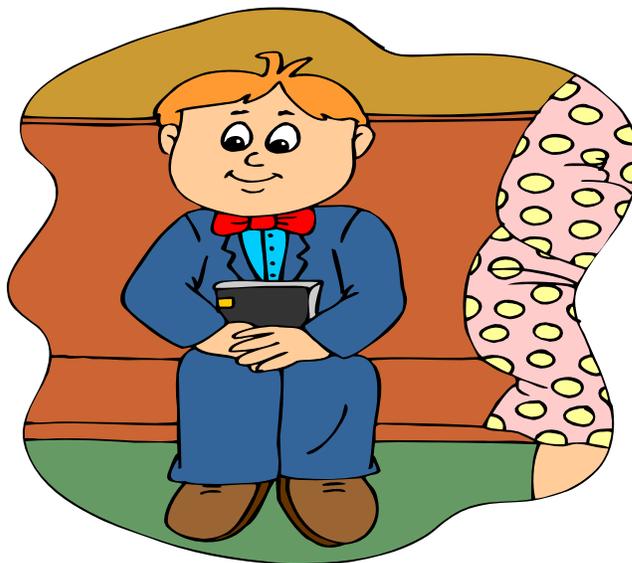
It appears that in a local church there was a potentially dangerous situation that was developing. The pews – which were as old as the church – had begun to dry out. This loss of moisture, and the subsequent loss of weight, had led to the distinct possibility that they might float free and move during the course of worship. That in itself presented a problem that during the worship service, a free-floating pew could damage a member or a guest. Further, it was believed that even if a member or a guest were able to dodge an oncoming free-floating pew, the evasive actions would probably disrupt the spiritual atmosphere of the other worshippers. The problem was brought before a committee in the church. The committee first considered using steel cables that would anchor the pews down to the bedrock beneath the church foundation, but that idea was thought to be too expensive.

The committee, after thinking over several options, decided that adding weight to the pews would be a better solution to the problems. The committee considered using brass or lead weights, but they, too, proved to be too expensive. After looking at different metals, they were either too costly or would not add to the worshipful atmosphere of the building. They wanted to find a medium density object that would be both sparkling and vibrant.

After looking at all the possibilities, the committee has chosen to use warm bodies to weigh down the pews, and the committee is asking membership to provide the necessary weight.

This can be done by coming to church and, if possible, by bringing a medium density object (in the form of a friend or neighbor) with you.

By - Pastor Scott Carmicheal
St. John's Lutheran Church
Lake City



God's Blessings are often Unexpected

WELS Announces Generous Gift from Donor

An anonymous WELS family has announced its intent to donate approximately \$2.5 MILLION a year for the next five years to support the Synod's ministry. A foundation previously setup by the family will also contribute approximately \$170,000 a year for the next two years to support WELS worker-training schools. According to the donor, the funds will be available this calendar year.

It's not clear yet exactly what the gift means for the synod's budget and ministry. The Synodical council is to discuss the matter at its next meeting April 27 & 28. Even so, WELS president Karl Gurgel is grateful. "we react with double gratitude," he said, "First, we're surely grateful that God has lavished this unexpected gift on us. Second, God's goodness inspires all of us to meet the remaining challenges before us."

The family's pastor said the family is truly grateful for their own personal blessings, and in view of the gift of eternal life through Christ, they are offering this gift to the Lord to support WELS ongoing ministry at this critical time.



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD!

25 O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success.

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

From the house of the LORD we bless you.

27 The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

28 You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalm 118:25-29

There are many reasons to give thanks in our lives. The very fact that you are reading this means you have eyes that work. You were able to work your hands on the keyboard, mouse, and/or open this letter from the mailbox. That means you have hands that work. You will, Lord willing, take this information and distribute it in some form to the congregation that you are serving as pastor, secretary, or contact man. That means you have a place that can call your church home, a place where you regularly receive God's means of grace – the Gospel in word and sacrament. The page is not big enough to list all the items – spiritual and physical – with which the Lord blesses us each and every day.

In gratitude for what our Savior has accomplished in our lives, and the peace he gives us each day with our heavenly Father, we join the psalmist *"in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you."*

We have an opportunity to respond to a need in our Synod, to continue the precious aspects of the gospel ministry our Savior has given us. But it is more than responding to a need; it is giving thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

God's richest blessings as you continue to proclaim the glorious Easter message each week, and as you work together with you flock to say thank you to the LORD for his mercy.

Pastor Duane C Schmeichel

MN District - Chairman Ministry of Christian Giving Chairman
Redeemer Lutheran Church, WELS
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Planning Ahead {Notices & Opportunities}

Women's Bible Study

Schedule

The 2nd & 4th Saturday

Morning – 9 am – 10:30 am

Fireside Room

May 12 & 26

June 9 & 23



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



Attention Blood Donors!!!

Your help is needed at the next Pilgrim Blood Drive!
The American Red Cross will be visiting on Saturday, June 2, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, in the school gym. To set up an appointment call Laurie Sorensen at 612-861-6182. Walk-ins are also welcome.

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 Boundaries 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

Looking for a safe and educational environment for your child during summer vacation?

PACE Summer Program

Pilgrim Assisting Children's Education

During the weeks of July 9th through July 27th, Pilgrim Lutheran School is offering a summer enrichment program for children to continue to develop the skills needed to be successful both now and in the future. The following courses will be offered:

- * Creative Writing
- * Critical Thinking
- * Physical Education
- * Computer Adventures
- * Language Arts
- * Math
- * Chinese
- * Art

What is PACE?

A learning opportunity for children who have completed grades kindergarten through fifth. Learning experiences will take place both in and outside of the classroom. Thursday afternoons are scheduled to be experiential learning adventures. Childcare is available for the afternoons, after the program, at an additional cost.

Why choose PACE?

Pilgrim will provide a safe learning environment where qualified and expert teachers will instruct children in various subjects. Pilgrim is a high achieving school that reaches toward excellence in all activities as it reaches out to all cultures and people throughout the community.

[PACE cont']

How do I register?

Complete the registration forms which can be found online at pilgrimonline.net or at the school office. Return the completed forms, completed program registration, and full program fees (\$150.00), along with the writing sample to the following address:

Pilgrim Lutheran School
3901 First Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Make checks payable to: WELS Kingdom Workers Twin Cities Chapter

If you have any further questions, please call Dr. Scott Gostchock at: 612-825-5375 ext. 106

Would you like to Make A Difference?

We live in a “me” society. We are a consumer-driven, self-centered culture. It is only by the power of Christ that we are willing and able to consider others more important than ourselves. In Philippians 2, the apostle Paul says that this is the attitude Jesus had. It is the one we should have. It is the giving up of our own blessings and sharing them for the sake of others. Yes, that has to do with our approach to financial giving. But it is also reflected in our prayer life.

It is easy to pray for your own church. What if you picked a church in your community and prayed for that church tomorrow? And what if you prayed for another church the next day? Do you think that would make any difference? Do you really believe that the church in America, the churches of America, are in desperate need of help?

Here are ten areas where you can focus your prayers:

- Pray for yourself—to be a part of the solution. Pray this prayer every day, first thing in the morning: “Lord, use me for your Kingdom purposes today.” You might be surprised what excitement enters your day!
- Every time you pray the Lord’s Prayer, focus, personally, on the words, “Your Kingdom come, here on Earth as it is in Heaven.”
- Pray for pastors everywhere, many of whom are stressed out, overwhelmed, and discouraged. They are challenged by this changing society, which is becoming increasingly secular. For many, their churches are declining or plateaued. Pray that these pastors get help....
- Pray for lifeless churches. There are millions of people who are distraught about the dwindling numbers they see in worship. There are people everywhere who are upset by the lack of young families and the growing median age of their “graying” church. They know their staff works hard, and many of their leaders do, too. They are challenged to know what strategically can help their church. They are good people struggling because they are using bad methods. They need help!
- Pray for fractured congregations. Many churches have a dissenting group that is frustrated and misbehaves badly. These are often people who are control-oriented.
- Thank God for the increasing number of growing churches! Yes, it is a slow but determined trend of churches that are reinventing themselves. Most of these are getting help from the outside. It is difficult work. It is challenging, but it is very rewarding to see churches involved in a turn-around.
- Thank God for the receptivity of the people in North America. They are spiritually very interested. They are looking for someone to speak to them in relevant ways, people who are genuine and for whom Christianity has really made a difference.
- Thank God for all the ministries that are working to make a strategic difference.... Thank God for ... ministries you know who are coming along side churches and helping them. Pray for those in these ministries. This is very challenging, tough, gutwrenching work. These are people who are continuously over-worked and under-financed. Pray for these warriors who are on the cutting-edge for God’s plan for revival.

Thank God for the signs of revival. Not only the growing churches, but other dimensions of the first fruits of revival: the increased interest of North Americans in God; the creative use of technology to bring the Gospel to people in relevant ways; the strong, relational, networking elements of younger generations, which are a perfect platform for the Gospel to travel from one to another; the growing advancements in church planting, children’s ministries, and engaging ministries that help Christians share what God has done in their lives.

Thoughts were quoted from: COMMENTS FROM THE CHURCH DOCTOR, KENT R. HUNTER
1230 U.S. HIGHWAY SIX, CORUNNA, IN 46730 USA 800.626.8515 FAX 260.281.2167 INFO@CHURCHDOCTOR.ORG
WWW.CHURCHDOCTOR.ORG

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**
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

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