

PARISH VISITOR
March 2023



Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Frederic, Wisconsin

*Pilgrim Lutheran Church is a family of God,
centered in Christ,
inviting all people to journey with us
in faith, hope, and love.”*

*We worship Sunday mornings at 8:30
Find our services online at bplutheran.com*

Pilgrim Office Hours

Church office Tuesday & Thursday, 9am-1pm

Pastor's Office Hours Thursday, 3-6pm

PILGRIM LUTHERAN VOLUNTEERS March 2023

USHERS Chris Byerly

LECTORS

- 05 Lisa Jensen
- 12 Phil Zuniga
- 19 Rhoda Jensen
- 26 Kerrie Erickson

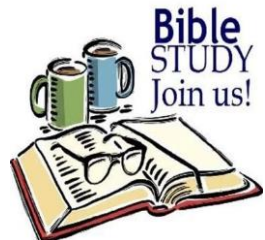
COFFEE SERVERS

- 05 Annie Slater & Carol Thompson
- 12 Carol Thompson/Phil Zuniga
- 19 Gilbert & Janice Berg
- 26 Todd & Lisa Jensen

ALTAR COMMITTEE Chris Byerly
Betsy Bengtson

FAITH CIRCLE Meets Wed, March 15 2pm

Tuesday Morning Adult Bible Study meets **10am at Golden Oaks in Frederic in March.** All are welcome to join us for discussion of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday.



**It's the Lenten season
Please join us at the table -
all are welcome!**



Soup Supper Services:

Looking at Holy Communion in a New Way

This year's mid-week Lenten practice will combine the soup supper with the service, like Jesus did at the Last Supper.

Supper will start at 6:05pm in the fellowship hall with prayer and Holy Communion. As we eat and talk around the table, we will *experience worship (Word & sacrament) in a new way.*

The Soup Supper Service will end at 6:45pm. Those who wish to do so are welcome to join Pastor Emily in the sanctuary at 7pm for a 15-minute evening prayer service.

Mar 1 at Bethany 6:05pm

Mar 8 at Pilgrim 6:05pm

Mar 15 at Bethany 6:05pm

Mar 22 at Pilgrim 6:05pm

Mar 29 at Bethany 6:05pm

Offerings taken at the soup supper services will go to each hosting church's food ministries.

More info go to bplutheran.com

To post on your refrigerator or bulletin board - the parish Lent & Holy Week events



LENT & HOLY WEEK 2023

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter invite us to remember and experience the mysteries of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. The Church does more than remember on these days. In ways we cannot fully understand, the faithful also participate in the passion in real, tangible ways that includes (yet exceeds) memory.

All are invited to join Christ on His journey to Jerusalem,

The Table, Calvary, and the New Garden where Christ defeats death and all evil!

More info go to bplutheran.com

Lent Feb 22 - April 6th

Every Wednesday in Lent

Noon Prayer at Bethany (10-15 minutes)
6:00pm Soup Supper Service

Mar 1 at Bethany
Mar 8 at Pilgrim
Mar 15 at Bethany
Mar 22 at Pilgrim
Mar 29 at Bethany

6:45pm Finish and Clean Up
7:00pm Evening Prayer Service in Sanctuary
7:20-8:00pm Individual Confession w/ Pastor
7:15-7:45pm Bethany Choir Practice in Choir Loft

Every Sunday in Lent

8:30am Worship at Pilgrim, fellowship
9:30am Bethany Sunday School & fellowship
10:30am Worship at Bethany
2nd & 4th Sundays Bible Study for the Average Joe following Bethany service

Holy Week April 2nd-9th



Palm Sunday April 2nd

8:30am Worship at Pilgrim, brunch to follow
9:30am Bethany Sunday School & fellowship
10:30am Worship at Bethany
Kids gather 15 min. prior to both services for processional

Monday April 3rd

12:00pm Noon Prayer @ Bethany

Tuesday April 4th

12:00pm Noon Prayer @ Bethany

Wednesday April 5th

12:00pm Noon Prayer @ Bethany
No Soup Supper Service/Confirmation
Easter Baptism/First Communion "Rehearsal" w/ families, time/place TBD

Maundy Thursday April 6th

12:00pm Noon Prayer @ Bethany
7:00pm Service at Pilgrim
Holy Communion and stripping of the altar

Good Friday April 7th

12:00pm Noon Solemn Prayer @ Bethany
3pm Bach's St. Matthew's Passion at Bethany
7:00pm Service at Bethany, Adoration of the Cross and Tenebrae

Easter Sunday, April 9th Feast of the Resurrection!

8:30am Festival Worship at Pilgrim
9:30am No Bethany Sunday School
10:30am Festival Worship at Bethany, brunch to follow



PILGRIM COUNCIL MEMBERS 2023

Kerrie Erickson	(term ends Jan 2024) 1 st
Chris Byerly	(term ends Jan 2024) 2 nd
Bruce Bengtson	(1 yr term ends Jan 2024)
Marty Davis	(1 yr term ends Jan 2024)
Brandon Dahl	(term ends Jan 2025) 1 st
Carol Thompson	(term ends Jan 2025) 1 st
Rhoda Jensen	(term ends Jan 2025) 2 nd
Bryn Anderson	(term ends Jan 2026) 2 nd

PILGRIM COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023

President	Rhoda Jensen
Vice President	Chris Byerly
Secretary	Carol Thompson
Treasurer	Kerrie Erickson

Worship volunteers meeting March 8, 7-8pm



Pilgrim volunteers...

- ...read the Sunday worship lessons.
- ...share special music during worship.
- ...serve coffee & treats after Sunday worship.
- ...perform monthly altar and communion duties.
- ...help usher at worship services.

...Would **you** like to help with worship?

...Are **you** interested in learning why and how we do what we do?

...Whether **you** are just curious or a veteran at helping with worship, **please join us on Wed, Mar 8, at 7pm in the fellowship hall** (right after the Lenten Soup Supper Service). **The meeting will last one hour.** Come **work with the leadership groups** (altar guild, tech, ushering, etc.) as we review our practices and explore ways to enhance our worship and coordinate our work.

...**Our church works because of our faith and our dedicated volunteers. Join us!**

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes (unapproved) January 29, 2023

Business

Call to order - by council president Chris Byerly at 9:10am.

Declaration of quorum – of 18 members was established.

Approval of agenda - accepted as printed.

Approval of annual meeting minutes January 30, 2022 - M/C (Steve Stoner/Lisa Jensen).

Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Nominees to Council – Thanks to Doug Gustafson and Jackie Kurkowski who are leaving the board after serving two full terms (6 years). Thanks to Bill Turk and Steve Young also leaving the board after completing one-year terms. Bryn Anderson has completed one full term and is willing to serve another term. Brandon Dahl has completed a one-year term and is willing to serve the remaining two years to complete a full term.

The slate of candidates:

Bryn Anderson, to serve a second term ending Jan 2026

Bruce Bengtson, to serve a one-year term ending Jan 2024

Brandon Dahl, to serve two years to complete one full term ending Jan 2025

Marty Davis, to serve a one-year term ending Jan 2024

M/C (Jackie Kurkowski/Jan Berg) to elect the nominees to council, with thanks to those who served and to those continuing to serve.

Nominees to Parish Board – Pilgrim representatives to the Parish Board include the council president and treasurer and two members at large. Bruce Bengtson and Terri Stoner currently serve two-year terms that end Jan 2024.

Nominees to Synod Assembly (Sat, April 30, Eau Claire) - Two nominees are needed; none came forward at the meeting.

Nominees to 2023 Nominating Committee - Committee members serve a one-year term. Thanks to Jackie Kurkowski for serving on the Nominating Committee in 2022. **M/C (Terri Stoner/Bryn Anderson) to appoint Lisa Jensen to the committee.**

Church Officers Report:

Secretary's report - Council meeting minutes are published in the monthly newsletters.

Treasurer's report - Jackie Kurkowski reviewed the 2022 income/expenses and noted that the bookkeeper and secretary salaries had not been fully disbursed during the past year due to staff vacancies. The office secretary position was filled in October and a bookkeeper will be hired in early 2023. **M/C (Bryn Anderson/Terri Stoner) to accept the report.**

Church Society Reports:

The reports were briefly reviewed with thanks to all who volunteer for the committees and gratitude for the past year's achievements. Chris Byerly thanked everyone for promptly submitting their reports and Terri Stoner noted that it was nice to look at the reports ahead of time. **M/C (Jackie Kurkowski/Lisa Jensen) to approve all reports.**

New Business:

The **2023 Mission Proposal** was discussed.

The (Frederic) Ministerium was added to the Mission Outreach section as a donation to the area pastors group that focuses on outreach including an annual scholarship to a graduating senior. Under Parish Administration \$4000 was added for potentially hiring a Youth & Family Coordinator in the future.

M/C (Steve Stoner/Bryn Anderson) to approve the 2023 Mission Proposal.

Special projects that need to be studied and possibly brought to the congregation to be addressed in 2023 include exterior church signage; re-roofing part of the church; and some repair and

replacement of fixtures in the upstairs men's bathroom. Most of the projects would be completed through a combination of fundraising and budget and memorial funds. Jan Berg also noted that anyone can apply for \$250 through Thrivent Financial to be used on a church project.

The church constitution is overdue for a complete review. Chris Byerly plans to work on the project and welcomes anyone who wants to be part of the group.

M/C (Steve Stoner/Jackie Kurkowski) to adjourn at 9:54am with the Lord's Prayer.

Prepared by Kerrie Erickson and Chris Byerly on behalf of Rhoda Jensen, Council Secretary



Thanks to everyone who donated / served / attended / cleaned up for the Luther

Point Campership fundraiser brunch on Feb 12.

We raised \$2,272 to send our kiddos to Camp!





After a delicious meal, the kids decorated Valentine cookies for the residents of Traditions.





All Ages, All People
Are Welcome
-Baptism Preparation for Easter Sunday
-First Communion Preparation for Maundy
Thursday or Pentecost Sunday

For more information:
Contact Pastor Emily Stelling
pastorstelling@sirentel.net or
320-438-5807
bplutheran.com/baptismholycommunion



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 20, 2023

Present: Pastor Emily, Chris Byerly, Brandon Dahl, Marty Davis, Kerrie Erickson, Rhoda Jensen. Absent: Bryn Anderson, Bruce Bengtson, Carol Thompson. Welcome to returning and new board members **Bryn Anderson, Bruce Bengtson, Brandon Dahl, Marty Davis.**

Call to order: President Chris Byerly at 6pm.

Opening devotions: Led by Pastor Emily.

Approval of agenda: Consensus to approve agenda as written.

Election of Officers: The following slate of officers for 2023 was nominated and elected: President – **Rhoda**; Vice President – **Chris**; Secretary – **Carol**; Treasurer – **Kerrie**. Rhoda led the rest of the meeting.

Secretary's Report: M/C (Chris/Kerrie) to approve the Jan 16 minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

- Former council member Jackie sat in to explain the new financial report which includes more detail.

Checking:

General- \$ 29,421.32
 Memorial- 4,243.96
 *Youth gather- 173.28
TOTAL- \$ 33,838.56

Savings:
 Memorial- \$ 3,936.92
 Money M- 10,890.38
TOTAL- \$ 14,827.30

Debit card- \$ 3,497.05
TOTAL- \$ 3,497.05

FUND TOTAL- \$ 52,162.91

Endowment Fund Balance- \$11,528.20

M/C (Chris/Marty) to accept the treasurer’s report.

- In Dec 2022, Pilgrim council had approved adding \$3,000 to the joint parish account to guard against overdrawing the account. It has been learned that Bethany council did not vote to add any funds to the account, so Pilgrim will not add funds at this time.

- Board consensus that offerings collected at the Lenten soup supper services will go toward the hosting church’s food ministries.

Pastor’s Report:

- Rhoda and Marty volunteered as delegates to the April 29 Synod Gathering, attending with Pastor Emily.

- The Frederic ministerium is looking at ways to help pay down the delinquent school lunch debt.

- The Lenten Soup Supper Service schedule was discussed and revised.

M/C (Chris/Marty) to accept Pastor’s report.

New Business

M/C (Rhoda/Brandon) to hire Jackie Kurkowski as PLC bookkeeper with pay retroactive to Feb 1, 2023.

M/C (Kerrie/Brandon) to approve use of the fellowship hall on April 18 by Burnett Co ADRC for a fraud/consumer protection seminar directed toward seniors. Chris will issue ADRC an invoice for building use based on current PLC policies.

Council members made standing committee choices and filled the monthly ushering schedule.

Old Business

- Brandon researched internet options for PLC in addition to CenturyLink, the current provider. Work continues on determining the most effective and affordable internet choice for the church. Pilgrim established a Gmail account and will move CenturyLink email data to Gmail in 2023. The Gmail address is pilgrimlutheranfrederic@gmail.com
- The glass in the outdoor sign in front of the church has broken this winter and will be repaired or the entire sign will be reworked.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Byerly for Carol Thompson

Fat Tuesday & Ash Wednesday Combine in Response to Snowstorm

*Thank you to **Frank Dao** for donating a fire pit to the parish to burn palms!*



Fat Tuesday

10-11am Bible Study

Noon Ash Wednesday Service @ Bethany
(9 attended)

12:30-3:00pm Walk-In Ashes (10 stopped
by)

4-5pm Ash Wednesday Service @ Pilgrim
(8 attended)

6-7pm Beer Hymn Sing held at Bethany
(10 attended, thank you to Erin Spohn for
playing!)

Ash Wednesday

Noon Prayer Service at Bethany (5 attended)

12:30-3:00pm Walk-In Ashes (6 stopped by)

All regular Wednesday night activities canceled

All in all, it was a success and was well-received!

Thank you for your flexibility.



To the members of Pilgrim Lutheran,

We the Hedlunds would like to say a huge thank you for the gifts!

Sorry about the delay. Everything happened at the same time with getting Adam transferred to stay local in Milwaukee. But he's finally home after 15 months. In April he'll be one year post transplant! All the prayers and generous donations have been overwhelming coming from a small community. Again, thank you for thinking of us in this time!

The Hedlunds

Adam, Annie, Azra, Annaliese and Atlas

Join the Bible Beginnings study at Bethany!
We meet at Bethany the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 11:45am.





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Reverend Emily K. Stelling
Telephone: 320-438-5807
Email: pastorstelling@sirentel.net
www.bplutheran.com

March 2023

Introducing New Parish Branding: Growing Together in Faith!

The tree is an ancient symbol of growth, new life, and, through the changing of the seasons, it is a testament of time itself. The bible includes many trees. You see trees on the first and last pages (Genesis-Revelation). We start and end with the Tree of Life. The first psalm likens God's people, the righteous, to trees:

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

Proverbs uses the tree image a lot:

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life.

"The Cross" is commonly, if not mostly, referred to as a "The Tree" in the New Testament. Paul writes in Galatians:

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

John writes in Revelation:

And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

How can we imagine our parish as part of the tree of life, or as Jesus says in John's Gospel,

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

How are we "Growing Together in Faith"? What does it say theologically that most churches gather around The Tree of Life (The Cross) every day, and every Sunday we are fed from the fruit of its branches through Holy Communion? I am encouraging all artistically talented people to help transform our worship space so that we can reflect on the Tree of Life throughout the year.

From Christmas trees, which remind us of the everlasting life we have in Christ, to dwindling, almost dead trees as we walk through the desert at Lent, to the blood-stained Tree on Good Friday, to the stunning garden found in the sanctuary on Easter morning that bears an empty Cross, we *do* gather around the Tree of Life.

Below are some examples of ways churches use trees in their worship. Theologically, what do we want our space to say to us and visitors alike?



Orianna Bowe, daughter of Brenda & Dr. Steven Tesch in Frederic, has used her talents and skills to bring the mission “Growing Together in Faith” alive. She has completely updated our parish’s website and gifted us with a new branding kit/church logo (see below!) at no cost to the parish. Thank you, Orianna!



Bethany & Pilgrim
Lutheran Parish




Bethany Lutheran
Church



Pilgrim Lutheran
Church

*All artistically talented people are encouraged to help transform our worship space so that we can reflect on the Tree of Life throughout the year.
Contact Pr. Emily if you are able.*



Tree of Life

"The Cross" is often called "The Tree" in the bible. How does the church gather around different kinds of trees in a year:
Christmas trees to bare/dead trees in Lent to a glorious resurrected tree!

We are looking for people to help artistically transform & enhance our sanctuary and worship experiences.

If interested, please contact
church office, Pr. Emily, Elvira Schmidt @ Pilgrim.



Yellow Lake Recap of Food Distribution for February

We had a total of 622 families, and we distributed 25,807 pounds of food to 1,588 people. The need is great.

PLCW NEWS ... (Pilgrim Lutheran Church Women)

**I bring you greetings from the women of the church:
"Ordinary Women Serving an Extraordinary God."**

(Carol and Phil have been on vacation in sunny climates for the past month and here's what greeted her when she returned home. The PLCW News will return in the April newsletter.)

Our hibiscus plant says welcome home! It has not bloomed in a couple of years. ❤️❤️



**Blessings to all - Carol Thompson
jcthompson1943@gmail.com or 715-371-0580(cell)**

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
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bplutheran.com

On Facebook at Pilgrim Church
Check us out and "Like" us!

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