

The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



VOLUME 112, ISSUE 11

December 2011

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

An ELCA Congregation
A "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation

A Home for Hungry Minds and Souls
A "Caring for Creation" Congregation

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Officers of the Congregation

Kurt Schultz, *Co-President*

Natalie Hokanson, *Co-President*

Marsha Foss, *Co-Vice President*

Carl Samuelson, *Co-Vice President*

Pete Newburg, *Treasurer*

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Melissa Johnson, *Stewardship*

Anne Hall, *Missions and Social Concerns*

Caleb Drexler Booth, *Faith Formation*

Sara Mergens, *Worship & Music*

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Jon Chapman, *Financial Secretary*

Shannon Kirubakeren, *Chair of Worship
& Music*

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Barbara McCauley, *Chair of Congregational
Life and Care*

Kent Miller, *Youth Committee*

Dave Toeniskoetter, *Chair of Properties*

Alana Profit, Melissa Brown

Nursery Attendants

Judy Boehm, Wedding Coordinator

**Louise Stenberg, Asst. Wedding
Coordinator**

Cover photo by Chuck Regal

Pastoral Musings

In his 2010 book *Wonder Reborn*, theologian Thomas Troeger tells this story:

The standing ovation went on and on and on. The audience members were stomping their feet, clapping as loudly as they could, and shouting “Bravo! Bravo!” We had just listened to an electrifying performance of Anton Bruckner’s Fifth Symphony. As the ovation continued, my wife turned to me and asked “Can we sing the Doxology now?” She was serious. “Can we sing the doxology now?” Standing was not enough. Stomping our feet was not enough. Applause was not enough. Shouting “Bravo!” was not enough. Something more than an ovation had been awakened in her soul and in mine.

We have begun the season of Advent once again, as we long for Christ to be born again in our hearts, for the Word made flesh to be among us, as if for the first time. This is a season for the rebirth of wonder and expectation and hope. I love this story that Troeger tells about the necessity of praising God. Whether it be through a hymn of praise that we call a doxology, or in prayers of praise of any kind, to open ourselves anew to wonder might mean that we allow ourselves to feel in ever deeper ways our desire to praise God, in the face of the ineffable, the beautiful, the awe-filled proclamations of the mysteries of God come among us as a child. I hope you will discover these wonder-filled experiences in worship, concerts, and opportunities for quiet meditation in these Advent days, against the backdrop of cultural commercialism.

In these Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany days at Pilgrim, I am thankful for the group that we are calling “The Spiritual Enrichment Team.” This group of several pastors is helping us lean into a time of deepening our ministry. We are rich in Pilgrim “friends,” pastors who know us and our Pilgrim ministry and are in our “orbit.” Some of them were Renewers-in-Residence last summer during my sabbatical and you gave them rave reviews. Here are some of the ways they will be among us in these coming weeks and months:

- Pastor Diane Hooge, preaching and doing pastoral care of seniors
- Pastor Lynn Peterson, preaching
- Pastor Bonnie Nash, preaching and providing on-call coverage
- Pastor Joel Benbow, leading a ten-week Bible survey course of the New Testament on Wednesday nights
- Pastor Roger Wilson, leading some of the Tuesday afternoon text studies

In addition, as we continue to lift up the gifts of our whole community in our shared ministry, we will continue with a worship committee initiative of a few years ago, of inviting lay people to share reflections in worship. Matt Koukol, a member of the Vestry, will be preaching in December. This year, the Pilgrim Vestry has been beginning each Vestry meeting with a member of the Vestry leading devotions about some aspect of their spiritual journey.

Those devotions have already been, in these first vestry meetings of the program year, a reminder that each of us has a holy faith journey and a powerful witness to share with one another.

Another kind of holy journey has been our Pilgrim pilgrimages to Holden Village in Washington State. Now is the time to consider being a part of our summer, 2012 Holden group. Toward the end of December, we will be sending in our application to Holden, with our first and second choice weeks. So, if you hope to be a part of the group, now is the time to let me know of your interest and your preferred dates. There is more information in this newsletter about Holden, 2012.

And, right after the twelve days of Christmas, not only comes my open house (Jan. 6, on the Day of Epiphany), but also our Winter Rally Sunday Extravaganza on Sunday, Jan. 8. Our Theologian-in-Residence The Rev. Dr. David Anderson will lead us on that day, in preaching and an intergenerational learning hour, as we seek to deepen our ministry with children, youth, parents, and in our whole intergenerational congregation. We also are planning a congregational mini-retreat with Dr. Anderson for that afternoon of Sunday, Jan. 8. Stay tuned for more information, but please save that afternoon for an exciting start to 2012 and the season of Epiphany at Pilgrim!

May wonder reborn and praise of God come bursting forth from your whole being in these holy days. "And the Word became flesh and lived among us." Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! *Pastor Carol*

Stewardship Article

As we approach the end of 2011, we want to take a moment to thank you for your generous support of the Pilgrim Community. Your gifts allow us to do offer the programming, music, services, support and fellowship that make our Pilgrim Community unique. Your generous sharing of God's blessing does not go unnoticed at Pilgrim. Thank you.

And what a year 2011 was! Because your time, talents, and treasure we made a lot happen. From record-attendance Celtic and Nordic services to missions work, blessing of our animals, celebrating Pilgrim's 90th anniversary, youth travel to the Boundary Waters, peace and justice work, Sunday school, a children and youth-focused Theologian-in-Residence, new communications and music staff, sabbatical and Renewers- in-Residence, and so much more, Pilgrim continues to be a dynamic, active community.

As the year draws to a close, we'd like you to consider an additional gift to support Pilgrim's ministry and mission. An approach might be to give an extra week's offering. Whether you are striving to meet a personal pledge or goal in your giving, or whether you just feel moved, the impact on our ministry will be significant and pave a foundation to a strong start in 2012.

See you in church!

Carl Samuelson and Pete Newburg
Co-Vice President and Treasurer of the Vestry

December Worship at Pilgrim

Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 11 AM

December 4 – Second Sunday in Advent, Holy Communion, lighting of the Advent candles, dedication of the new Pilgrim organ, Pilgrim member Matt Koukol preaching

December 11 – Third Sunday in Advent, Advent Lessons and Carols, lighting of the Advent candles, Point for Pilgrims, reflections by Pastor Carol Tomer

‡ **Advent Tea after both morning services**

December 18 – Fourth Sunday in Advent, Holy Communion, lighting of the Advent candles, Pastor Lynn Peterson preaching

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Intergenerational Candlelight Service - Holy Communion, Junior Choir, Cherub Choir, Point for Pilgrims, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching

‡ **3:45 pm – Prelude of Christmas Carols and Solos**

‡ **Festive coffee hour follows the worship service**

6:51 pm – A Celtic Christmas Eve Service – Our fourth annual!

The service will be filled with traditional Christmas carols, led by Dick Hensold on Northumbrian smallpipes, tin whistles, recorders, and medieval greatpipes, along with the Pilgrim Celtic musical ensemble. Pastor Carol Tomer will lead the reflections in this service of Holy Communion and candlelit Celtic Christmas wonder and joy.

‡ **Nisse's Feast follows worship** (potluck hors d'oeuvres for all) -
- We bring our Celtic and Nordic evening worship flavors together with this Celtic service and this Nordic-named Christmas eve fellowship time for all.

10:00 pm – Christmas Eve Festival Candlelight Service – Holy Communion, Senior Choir, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching

‡ **9:45 pm – Prelude of Christmas Carols and Solos**

‡ **Cookie hour follows worship**

December 25 – Christmas Day, Holy Communion, Pastor Bonnie Nash preaching

(PLEASE NOTE: One service only, at **10 am**, on Christmas Day)

Jan. 1 -- First Sunday of Christmas, Christmas Lessons and Carols, Welcoming of the New Year

(PLEASE NOTE: One service only, at **10 am**, on New Year's Day)

Sunday Morning Forums at 9:45 AM

Our Sunday morning forums meet in the Upstairs Community Room (UCR).

Dec. 4 -- "Creating a Humane Society in a Dysfunctional Political System" – Led by Minnesota State Senator John Marty. We'll reflect together about the loss of vision in American politics, whether the issue is health care, or global warming, or equality and justice for those who differ from us. Senator John Marty has been a Minnesota state senator for 25 years and is a Lutheran and a graduate of St. Olaf College.

Dec. 11 – Pilgrims Through This Frenzied Land? How do we bring the journey of faith into this culture's landscape of holiday, commercialized frenzy? Come and share your stories, as we seek to support and encourage one another in walking with reverence and joy through these Advent and Christmas days. For those who are seeking some alternative approaches, consider this website from the Canadian Mennonites: www.buynothingchristmas.org. Pastor Carol Tomer will guide our conversation.

December 18 – Sunday School Christmas program

Advent & Christmas Decorating

Saturday, December 3, at 9:30 AM

Come and join the festivities! It's time to prepare our worship space for the upcoming seasons. There are tasks for all – and a willingness to climb ladders is not required! Come and help the Pilgrim sanctuary light the way to the unfolding Advent and Christmas seasons!



You are invited to Pastor Carol's
Annual Christmas Open House!

- WHEN?** On the Day of Epiphany (also known as the twelfth day of Christmas) – Friday, January 6
- WHERE?** The home of Pastor Carol Tomer – 630 Brimhall in St. Paul
- TIME?** From 3 to 8 pm (some daylight hours, some evening hours)
– come when you can, leave when you must
- BRING?** Christmas snacks, sweets, or festive drinks to share

The Pilgrim Staff Wishes You Blessed Advent and Christmas Seasons and Another Year of God's Good Grace!



Back Row (From Left to Right): Nick Huseby (Communications Specialist), Cathy Salin (Church Administrator), Rev. Carol Tomer (Lead Pastor), Dick Hensold (Composer-in-Residence)

Front Row (From Left to Right): Karin Johnson (Coordinator of Children's & Youth Ministries), Dr. Larry Wilson (Organist), Dr. Mark Stahura (Interim Music & Senior Choir Director), Rev. Dr. David Anderson (Theologian-in-Residence)

We give thanks to God for the privilege of partnering with you in our shared Pilgrim ministry of the Gospel.

OUR PILGRIM THEMES for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany liturgical seasons, shaped by our seasonal worship planning gatherings, are:

Mountains and Valleys

Advent: All the Earth is Hopeful
Christmas: Heaven and Nature Sing
Epiphany: The Widening Horizon

Saint Clair Sunday Evenings

Worship, Music, and Arts ~ 6:51 PM Sundays
2011-2012 theme:

Roads Everywhere & Signs in our Hearts

Celtic Contemplative Communion begins September 11

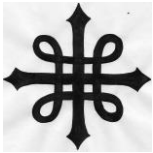
- December 11** Here I am Again, Huddled in Hope
January 8 An Imperceptible Light
February 12 My Soul Thirsts for You
March 11 Take My Moments and My Days



Featuring musicians Dick Hensold, Michelle Kinney, Marc Anderson on Northumbrian smallpipes, medieval greatpipes, recorder, cello, and percussion and Peggy Larson as cantor

**Our 4th Annual Celtic Christmas Eve service will
be Saturday, December 24 at 6:51 PM**

Nordic Contemplative Evening Prayer begins September 25



- January 22** We Begin Again, We Don't Give Up
February 26 Bidden or Unbidden
March 25 If You Go Out Far Enough
Guests – Twin Cities Hardingfelelag
April 22 Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth

Featuring Peggy Larson's uniquely Nordic singing styles, including kulning (Swedish) and joiking (Sami), and Rachel Jensen on Hardanger fiddle and violin

M@P... Midweek @ Pilgrim

- 5:00** Junior Choir
5:30 Meal
6:15 Learning & Activity Hour
7:15 Senior Choir
** 6:15-8:45 Nursery available*

Need a “M@P” for the Fall? Midweek at Pilgrim is every Wednesday Night!

Join us this Wednesday for M@P and meet our new catering team for the year: Chef Jeff Catering. Supper is served at **5:30 PM**, and our learning & activity hour follows at 6:15. With Junior Choir before the meal and Senior Choir following the learning & activity hour (and free nursery care offered!), it's an evening for everyone. The suggested donation for the meal is just \$5/person \$15/family. All are welcome!

December 7

Children and Youth: Christmas Caroling! (We'll start at 6:15 so Senior Choir can be back in time for rehearsal.) It's true that we wait until December 24 to sing Christmas carols in worship, but there are no liturgical limitations on neighborhood caroling! Wear warm clothes and bring an extra dose of enthusiasm for an evening of musical cheer in Pilgrim's neighborhood and to nearby nursing homes.

Adults: Bible Survey – The Synoptic Problem and the Priority of Mark

December 14

Children and Youth:

It's a Story Hour, with Pilgrims reading well-loved Christmas stories aloud.

Youth: Join us for fellowship and malts at Snuffy's following the Education hour from 7:15-8:15.

Adults: Bible Survey – Matthew and Luke

December 21

No M@P

Our Bible Survey Course Continues

Pastor Joel Benbow, Pilgrim friend and former associate pastor, will be back to lead a ten-week Introduction to the New Testament, on Wednesday nights at 6:15 pm, as part of our M@P gatherings. Here's the schedule of dates and topics:

Dec. 7 -- The Synoptic Problem and the Priority of Mark

Dec. 14 -- Matthew and Luke

Jan. 4 -- John and the Johannine School

Jan. 11 -- The book of Acts and the life of Paul

Jan. 18 -- The Letters of Paul, Part 1 -- those generally recognized as his:

Philemon, 1 Thessalonians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Jan. 25 -- The Book of Romans

Feb. 1 -- The Letters of Paul, Part 2 -- those with questions about authorship:

2 Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus

Feb. 8 -- The General Epistles: Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, Jude

Feb. 15 -- Apocalyptic Literature and Revelation



Music Schedule

December 4 <i>Advent II</i>	8:30: 11:00:	Larry Wilson Senior Choir
December 11 <i>Advent III (Advent Lessons and Carols)</i>	8:30: 11:00:	Senior Choir Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Cherubs
December 18 <i>Advent IV</i>	8:30: 11:00:	Carl & Meredith Samuelson Senior Choir
December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00: 6:51: 10:00:	Junior Choir, Cherub choir and others Pilgrim Celtic music ensemble Senior Choir, and others
December 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	10:00:	The organ leads us in Christmas carols

Hymn of the Season (Advent): “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” (ELW 436)

This hymn is often referred to as the “King of the chorales,” indicating its high standing among the hymns we have today that originated in the early years of the Reformation. Both the music and original German text are by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), the same man who wrote the so-called “Queen of the chorales,” “O Morning Star” (ELW 308). The tune is confident and solid, in the common chorale form in which the first musical phrases are repeated before a different idea is presented (this is called “bar form” by music historians).

The text is surprisingly layered. It’s based mostly on the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids in Matthew 25:1-13, but includes references to many other biblical passages. The wedding allusions are why this hymn is still used in Germany for many weddings. More hidden to us is an acrostic of the first letters of each verse, which spell out in reverse the formal title of a deceased student of Nicolai’s, the Graf zu Waldeck (Count of Waldeck): the verses begin with Wake, Zion, and Gloria in our marvelous translation.

Singing the Psalms

We’ve spent some weeks as a community singing the psalm during worship. In our worship book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, it even says, “The Psalm for the day is sung.” Psalms were written to be sung, and it’s been great hearing so many in the pews raising their voices along with the cantor or choir!

Chanting a psalm takes practice, so don’t be surprised or embarrassed that it doesn’t come naturally. We’ll continue to sing the psalm fairly often, so we can get comfortable and confident chanting these poems to God. This month we’ll begin using musical settings from a collection called *Psalm*

Settings for the Church Year, which features psalm setting in various styles by over a dozen different composers. Don't worry: we'll still provide musical leadership for you to hear and lean on, but we hope you'll jump in and join us as we learn to raise our voices to proclaim this scripture.

Do you sing? Do you play an instrument?

We are so blessed with musicians at Pilgrim. Many participate in our musical groups, but many others offer their gifts occasionally, as soloists or in small pick-up ensembles. Do you sing or play an instrument? I don't mean sing or play for a living. Most of us sang or played in high school or college, and wouldn't mind taking up that skill again. Or, maybe you're still in high school or college, and wouldn't mind sharing with the rest of our Pilgrim community.

I'm eager to hear from you if you are willing to share your gifts, or are just curious about possibilities. We can plan things to suit your ambition or comfort – but we'd love to know about your talent! Drop a line to Mark Stahura (mstahura@pilgrimstpaul.org), or catch him after worship to chat.

Pilgrim Welcomes New Pipe Organ

It has been a long time in coming, but Pilgrim's new pipe organ has arrived, been installed, and voiced. As we await a dedicatory recital and additional special events over the coming months, the organ will have time to settle into its new home and will continue to be adjusted to make sure it sounds its very best. What a joy it is to hear our organist, Dr. Larry Wilson, accompany congregational singing and worship with such a beautiful sound.

Pilgrim's Wangerin pipe organ, installed in 1941, was known for years to be gradually failing. In December 1999, Tom Bartsch, who was the organist and choir director at the time, convened an organ committee. Scott Riedel, our organ consultant, came on board in 2000. During the next few years the committee went on many "listening tours" of local organs to determine the kind of organ that would work best for Pilgrim. In 2005, the committee delivered its recommendation to the Vestry, for a new Letourneau pipe organ at a cost of over \$500,000.

Between 2005 and 2009 we made no progress toward the purchase. The cost of a new pipe organ was simply too high for Pilgrim to afford. In 2009 the committee met again with Scott Riedel to reconsider our options. Scott raised the idea of seeking out a high-quality used pipe organ that could be refurbished, revoiced, and installed at Pilgrim for approximately half the cost of a brand new organ. This idea appealed to the committee and we asked Scott to look for such an organ. He advised us that this decision carried the risk of losing out on an organ if we were not prepared to act quickly when one came up for sale. A 1986 Schantz pipe organ became available at an excellent price, and the Vestry, led by President Sheila Hoffman, brought to a special congregational meeting a proposal to go forward with the organ project, along with two other Legacy Projects, a new

metal “green” sanctuary roof and renovations to the lower level. The congregation voted unanimously on Nov. 21, 2010 to undertake these three projects. Pilgrim contracted with Berghaus Pipe Organ Builders of Chicago in November 2010 to purchase, refurbish, revoice, and install our new pipe organ. To refurbish and repurpose an existing organ was another “green” choice for Pilgrim.

In early 2011, the Schantz organ was dismantled at its original church, Community Reformed Church in Zeeland, Michigan, and moved to the Berghaus factory in Chicago, where it was completely taken apart and rebuilt. On October 2, Berghaus delivered the organ to Pilgrim, and began the painstaking process of installing the instrument and voicing every pipe. On November 20, Pilgrims heard the organ sing out for the first time.

The organ has 31 ranks (sets of pipes), 29 stops, 31 ranks, and 1712 pipes and is a two manual and pedal pipe organ, with electro-pneumatic action. It was installed and voiced to match both the visual and aural characteristics of Pilgrim’s sanctuary, including the beautiful new casework visible at the front of the chancel. The organ console is on wheels and can be moved almost anywhere on the main chancel platform, in keeping with the flexibility of our chancel area. The organ also has a set of chimes and a zimbelstern, which is a wheel on which several small bells are mounted, producing a tinkling sound. The pipes of the old organ were hidden from view by coverings over the openings in the loft, adjacent to the chancel. The new installation doesn't have coverings over those openings and therefore many of the pipes are visible from the chancel floor and east transept seating. While our previous organ served Pilgrim for 70 years, this new organ could well be expected to serve our congregation for at least 100 years.

Over the past twelve years, many wonderful people have served on the organ committee. Drew Baese and Jane Toeniskoetter were part of the original committee formed in 1999. Current members also include Larry Wilson, Chuck Regal, Rod Olsen, Phyllis Lindberg, Mark Stahura, Brad Savola, and Dave Toeniskoetter. Pastor Carol Tomer has served in an advisory role to the committee throughout the journey of the project.

Over the years many Pilgrims have donated to the organ fund, and many memorial gifts have been received. We are particularly grateful for estate gifts to the organ fund from Pilgrims Dorothy Randels and Bernice Seifert; without their gifts, we would not have been ready to purchase our new organ in 2011. Through support of the Legacy Projects Fund and many Pilgrims, this organ has become a reality. What a wonderful way to make joyful and thankful music to God. We will dedicate it to God’s praise during our morning worship services on **Sunday, Dec. 4.**

December Calendar

Week of November 27

Thursday December 1, 2011 6:30 PM Rose Ensemble

	7:00 PM	Pilgrims for Just Peace
Friday December 2, 2011	9:30 AM	'Round Again

Week of December 4

Sunday December 4, 2011	8:30 AM	Worship
	9:45 AM	Learning Hour
	11:00 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Cantara Choir
	5:00 PM	Rose Ensemble
Monday December 5, 2011	7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast
	10:00 AM	Women for Sobriety
	6:30 PM	Rose Ensemble
	7:00 PM	OA
	7:00 PM	Earthtones
Tuesday December 6, 2011		COMMITTEE NIGHT
	9:30 AM	Rose Ensemble
	1:30 PM	Text Study
	6:00 PM	Boy Scouts Court of Honor
Wednesday December 7, 2011		Midweek @ Pilgrim
	4:00 PM	Pilgrim Staff Meeting
	5:00 PM	Jr. Choir
	5:30 PM	Meal
	6:15 PM	Learning/Activity Hour
	7:15 PM	Sr. Choir
Friday December 9, 2011	9:30 AM	'Round Again
	7:00 PM	Earthtones Concert

Week of December 11

Sunday December 11, 2011	8:30 AM	Worship followed by Advent Tea
	9:45 AM	Learning Hour
	11:00 AM	Worship followed by Advent Tea
	2:00 PM	Cantara Choir
	6:51 PM	Celtic Contemplative Communion
Monday December 12, 2011	10:00 AM	Women for Sobriety
	7:00 PM	OA
Tuesday December 13, 2011	9:30 AM	Rose Ensemble
	1:30 PM	Text Study
	4:00 PM	Pilgrim Staff Meeting
	6:45 PM	Boy Scouts
Wednesday December 14, 2011		Midweek @ Pilgrim
	9:30 AM	Rose Ensemble
	5:00 PM	Jr. Choir
	5:30 PM	Meal
	6:15 PM	Learning/Activity Hour
	7:15 PM	Sr. Choir
Thursday December 15, 2011		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Friday December 16, 2011	9:30 AM	'Round Again

Week of December 18

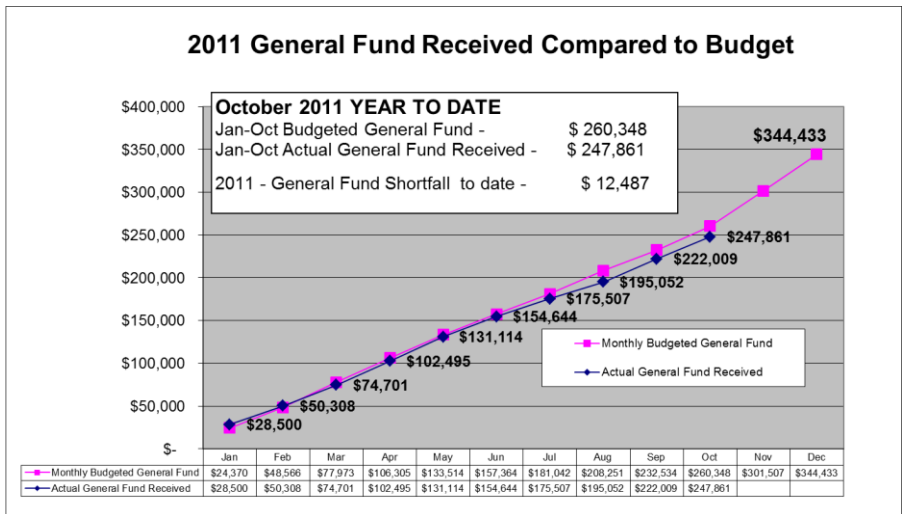
Sunday December 18, 2011	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship

	2:00 PM	Cantara Choir
Monday December 19, 2011	10:00 AM	Women for Sobriety
	7:00 PM	OA
Tuesday December 20, 2011	1:30 PM	Text Study
	4:00 PM	Pilgrim Staff Meeting
	6:45 PM	Boy Scouts
	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
Wednesday December 21, 2011	5:00 PM	Jr. Choir
	7:15 PM	Sr. Choir
Friday December 23, 2011	9:30 AM	'Round Again
	12:00 PM	OFFICE CLOSING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
Saturday December 24, 2011		CHRISTMAS EVE
	3:45 PM	Prelude of Christmas Carols and Solos
	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Intergenerational Service
	6:51 PM	Celtic Christmas Eve Worship
	9:45 PM	Prelude of Christmas Carols and Solos
	10:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

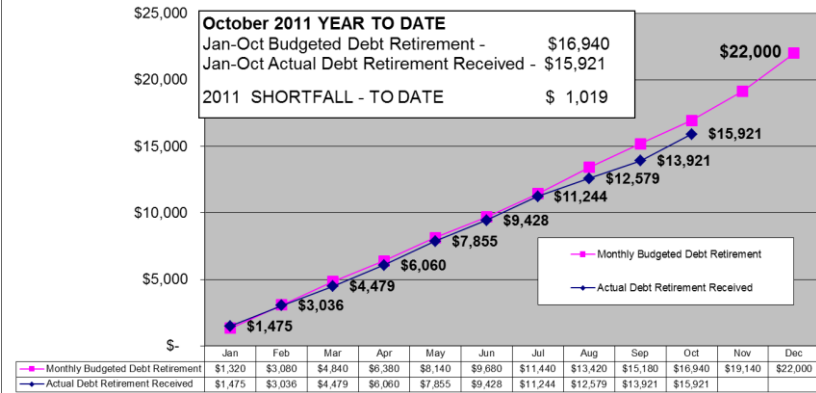
Week of December 25

Sunday December 25, 2011		CHRISTMAS DAY
	10:00 AM	Worship
Monday December 26, 2011		OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
	10:00 AM	Women for Sobriety
	7:00 PM	OA
Tuesday December 27, 2011	4:00 PM	Pilgrim Staff Meeting
	6:45 PM	Boy Scouts
Friday December 30, 2011	9:30 AM	'Round Again
Saturday December 31, 2011		NEW YEAR'S EVE

Monthly Giving Report



2011 Debt Retirement Compared to Budget



Vestry News

From Our Co-Presidents

Like most people, the two of us, and our spouses, were drawn to Pilgrim, and remained at Pilgrim for a number of reasons. We both like the beautiful sanctuary, the compelling sermons, the commitment to social justice, the growing number of young families, and the welcoming community. Pilgrim has long been a welcoming community, and in 2003 this congregation took the bold step of becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, thereby making an intentional commitment to people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender, as well those who have been excluded by race, economic status, mental or physical disabilities. The fact that Pilgrim is an RIC congregation was an important aspect of our decision to become members, and we believe is key to why many others visit and join the Pilgrim congregation.

Like many of you, we believe the welcome and acceptance and support of the GLBT community should extend beyond the walls of Pilgrim into the broader community. We are, therefore, deeply concerned by the fervor growing to amend the Minnesota Constitution to ban gay marriage. At times, it seems that this attempt to amend the Constitution, is more about shutting down the conversation at a political level, than it is to address a pressing legal issue.

Proponents of this amendment, including religious bodies such as the Minnesota Catholic Conference, are motivated and mobilized. We, therefore, believe that it is important for Pilgrim to consider the issue and determine whether we, as individuals, or we as a congregation, should take a stand on the amendment. To this end, a task force is being assembled to guide the congregation's exploration of this amendment, that might include

study, reflection, dialogue with other faith communities, and other possible avenues of action. We would like to invite all who are interested to consider participating in this task force. If you would like to participate, please contact Cathy in the Pilgrim office by calling her at 651-699-6886 or emailing her at: pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org

Thank you.

*Natalie Hokanson & Kurt Schultz
Co-Presidents*

Education, Service & Fellowship

Daytime Text Study

Pilgrim's text study meets every **Tuesday at 1:30 PM** for a lectionary Bible study. As we read and ponder the scripture together, relationships are formed and strengthened, wisdom is shared, and we are renewed as the people of God. The text study is open to all – no experience necessary.



Pilgrims for Just Peace



Pilgrims for Just Peace, PJP, meets the first Thursday of the month - **Thursday, December 1, 7-8:30 PM**. This month, join us for an Advent gathering at Joan Haan's home, 2249 Summit Ave, jmbhaan@comcast.net.

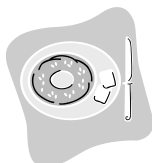
Curious about PJP? Join us and be part of the planning and promotion of just peacemaking practices inside and outside of Pilgrim! All are welcome.

Pilgrim Men's Breakfast

The Pilgrim Men's Breakfast group meets at **7 AM** - usually on the first Monday of the month at the Highland Café and Bakery, 2012 Ford Parkway. The next meeting is on **Monday, December 5**. For more information, contact Dave Toeniskoetter (**651-690-5743**) or Jim Jahnke (**651-699-8053**).



Sunday Lunch at the Saint Clair Broiler



On the **Second Sunday of the month**, we gather at **12:30 PM**, after worship and coffee, for lunch at the St. Clair Broiler, down the street from Pilgrim. Due to the Advent Tea on Sunday, December 11th, we will not meet in December. Sunday

Lunch at the Saint Clair Broiler will continue on **January 8**. Come join the fun!

Advent Tea

Sunday, December 11 - Congregational Life and Care will serve both the coffee hours with a "light" Tea at **9:30**, and a few extra treats at **noon**. If anyone would like to donate some cookies or other holiday specialty, that would be lovely, just bring your donation to the Fireside Room by **11:30a.m.** All are welcome!

Salt Shaker Dinners

January and February 2012 - Congregational Life and Care will again sponsor Salt Shaker dinners. Through Salt Shaker Dinners we hope to help folks get to know each other in groups of 6 to 10 over dinner. When you sign up, you will indicate if you can host a dinner at your home or at church; or if you prefer to be a guest. The hosts will set the date and time for the dinner and provide the main course; our committee will assign salads, sides and desserts to the guests. Watch for your chance to sign-up in early December.

Classics For Pilgrim

Unique Reads with Probing Discussion

Join in the exploration of lasting stories that survive the decades and influence the culture. Discussions run 7-9 p.m. the first Thursday of the month. Find the current title on Pilgrim bulletin boards with more details at <http://classicsforpilgrim.wordpress.com/welcome/>. There you will also find reviews of past featured books. Contact Roger Sween at 528-7454 or rdsdesk@comcast.net.

December 1: *Frankenstein* (1831) by Mary Shelley. Create life and face the consequences.

January 5: *Things Fall Apart* (1958) by Chinua Achebe. A tribal leader resists colonialism.

February 2: *The Metamorphosis* (1915) by Franz Kafka. Being accepted becomes difficult.

March 1: *1984* (1949) by George Orwell. Power for power's sake requires total control.

April 5: *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (1953) by James Baldwin. A family leaves the South for Harlem but members cannot escape their passions.

May 3: *My Ántonia* (1918) by Willa Cather. Nebraska prairie life is hard; yet Ántonia proves her pioneer spirit.

June 7: *As I Lay Dying* (1930) by William Faulkner. The journey to bury Addie revives the past and sets the future.

Pilgrim DayHikers

There will not be a hike during the month of December. In January we will head to Bayfield, WI. For a weekend of hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing. This is always a fun weekend with activities for everyone. The dates are **January 13-16**. If you would like information about the January excursion, please contact Mary or Jim Jahnke **651-699-8053**.

Book Club News for December

Date and time: **Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.**
Host: Barbara Grudt – 2114 Goodrich Ave.
Book: *The Ice Princess* by Camilla Lackberg

We hope you'll join us for our annual Christmas breakfast. Please bring a dish to share. Barbara will provide beverages. Contact Barbara at 651-698-9160 if you have questions.

Chinook Books

Do you like saving money at your favorite local businesses? How about \$5 off at Mississippi Market and Lunds, or 20% off at the Bibelot, and \$10 off at Ten Thousand Villages? Would you like to see a show at the Ordway for half off, or get two tickets for the price of one at the Guthrie? Maybe \$5 off at Pizza Luce and Ngon Vietnamese Bistro, or \$3 off at Trotters interests you? You can't tell me that two-for-one offers at the Science Museum and Minnesota Historical Society doesn't excite you. There are over 500 coupons like these in the 2012 Chinook Book (formerly Blue Sky Guide) and you get them all for only \$20. And all profits stay right here at Pilgrim. That's right, \$10 from the sale of each book supports the great things happening at Pilgrim. The books make great gifts for friends and family who live in the Twin Cities so don't delay getting one for yourself and one for someone else. Kurt Schultz and Karen Hedenstrom will be selling books between services on some Sundays through November or you can reach them at 651-774-7359 or kurtkaren@earthlink.net

Holden Village Pilgrimage, Summer 2012

As we prepare to identify our choice of which week to request for our time at Holden Village next summer, please be in touch with Pastor Carol to let her know (1) of your interest in considering being a part of the group (you don't have to put money down for a few months yet), and (2) to let her know which weeks will not work for you. She needs to hear from you by Dec. 18. More about Holden at www.holdenvillage.org. It's a very special Lutheran/ecumenical retreat center in the North Cascade mountains of Washington state. You do not have to be a member of Pilgrim to be a part of this pilgrimage group next summer; friends and relatives are most welcome! Please send your name, contact info, and dates that won't work, to pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org.

Our Sister Congregation in Tanzania

by Mark Hirschboeck

Each week we pray for our sister congregation in the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania. Often it seems more habitual than heart-felt. What does our sister congregation in Luganga mean to us?

For many years the Saint Paul Synod of the ELCA has had a relationship with the Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Pilgrim is a small part of what has been touted as an example of excellence of mission work in a third-world country.

As we reach beyond our walls and neighborhood we strive to spread God's love by providing basic necessities. Each year we have a \$1,000 commitment. This is referred to as a building fund, as their schools and churches are ever expanding or in need of repair. In 2009, largely with money from the Pilgrim Endowment, we helped dig a new well that continues to provide badly needed potable water for the village of Luganga. Another long-term and ongoing mission is our contribution to education through scholarships. Schools are available but often the cost is prohibitive for the local families. Some Pilgrims have, for years, made donations for an individual scholarship. Last year we were able to sponsor six (6) students. We will do the same this year.

The students are appreciative. We've received thank you notes from two of them posted in the narthex. It is hard to monitor exactly which children are being helped. Communication is difficult. We have excellent representation, from Minnesota, in Tanzania for much of the school year. We are confident that the money is being used for its intended purposes.

An educated populace is necessary to improve the quality of life in a poor, largely illiterate, country. It is a gradual process. Pilgrim is making a positive impact on the lives of a few individuals. By extension we're helping the families, and the community. Our prayers do not go unappreciated or unreciprocated. We are in the prayers of the Tanzanians as they are in ours. Feel the grace?

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes volunteers are needed to help serve and clean up the Loaves and Fishes meal at Faith Lutheran Church (Charles and MacKubin Avenues) on **Thursday, December 8. Please plan to arrive about 5 PM.** We're always out by 7. This is an ongoing Pilgrim mission. We serve an evening meal 6 times a year on the second Thursday of the even months. The work is not hard and we serve about 100-175 guests. If you can't help in December consider February 9th or April 12th when many of our volunteers will be sunning themselves in Arizona. Thank you for your consideration and thank you to our faithful volunteers tanned and untanned alike.
Margaret Olson

Water for Peace

Wow and Hip Hip Hooray! Pilgrims contributed over \$2000 to Water for Peace!

Special thanks to Pilgrims for Just Peace, who sponsored the event; to Kate, our able co-coordinator; to Karen, who made phone call for the bake sale; to Pat, who ran the bake sale; and, of course, all the bakers who contributed such wonderful goodies. Kudos to Martha, who taught lefse making and stood over a hot griddle all day during the sale, and to Lynda and Jane, who made even more lefse at home. Thank you, Barbara and Judith and Congregational Life, for coffee and doughnuts; Karen and Anne for being "floaters;" Al for his beautiful cards; Mary for the messages; and all the crafters: Eileen and her friends from Merriam Park, Kate, Bert, Chillon and to Rod for answering questions about Water for Peace, and always, Thanks to Cathy, our wonderful church administrator; and to Margaret for Emily's Christmas plates.

Thank you, Sunday School children for filling film canisters with quarters and to all the people who wrote generous checks. All profits go to Water for Peace through the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project to supply water filtration systems. It was a joy to have the Iraqi delegates speak with us after church on Sunday after they spent time with the Sunday School and Confirmation students.

I hope I haven't forgotten anyone!

Barbara Grudt

Pastor Diane Hooge – About Spiritual Direction:

One of the joys of serving Pilgrim Lutheran over this past summer, as one of the Renewers-in-Residence, is that it opened the door for me to explore opportunities to “hold the space” for people to do their own spiritual work. I so appreciated having the time and space to set up a half-day retreat, and I appreciated the response of those who chose to explore Spiritual Direction work. I feel called to listen to others who are seeking to be more intentional in exploring their inner lives. It's out of having a listening presence that one often is enabled to discern the movement of God's Spirit within their life. Based on this summer's experience, I've been asked if I would consider continuing the work. After meeting with Pastor Carol, we agreed that this spiritual practice is important to continue to be made available to the Pilgrim community. I will charge the same amount as Pilgrim was paying during the sabbatical which was \$50.00 a session. I will continue the process set this summer which was to schedule appointments at Pilgrim. You may contact me at 615-330-8111 or d.hooge@comcast.net.

December Mission of the Month Christmas Friendship Program

Once again Pilgrim has been matched with two families for the annual Christmas Friendship Program sponsored by Southeast Asian Ministry, a faith-based organization to empower refugees and immigrants. Both of our assigned families are ethnic Karen from the Burma Thailand area and have been here less than one year. In addition to facing discrimination and a bleak job market, Karen refugees must also adapt to a new culture and a Minnesota winter.

We will be gathering items during the early weeks of Advent -- between November 27 and December 18 -- in order to have the gifts to families in time for Christmas.

A list of family members will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. There will be an index card with gift suggestions for each individual. You may take a card, purchase and wrap the gift for the person you've chosen, and return the index card with the gift.

In addition, we will also be contributing a basket of everyday household items and supplies. In a large sturdy laundry basket we'll collect items such as bath towels and wash cloths, blankets, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and baby shampoo, band-aids, nail files, vaseline, toilet paper, combs, bar soap, and laundry soap -- things that we take for granted in our day-to-day living.

Or you may wish to make a monetary donation using the blue envelopes in each pew and designating your offering for Southeast Asian Ministry.

Gifts will be delivered by members of Pilgrim. Contact Marsha Foss of the Mission and Social Justice Committee (651-756-8633 or marshafoss@comcast.net) if you have questions or **if you would like to be personally involved**.

Children & Youth

Sunday School Update

December 4: Sunday School text: Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-58)

December 11: Sunday School text: Jesus is Born (Luke 2:1-20)
Christmas Program run-through

December 18: Christmas Program at 9:45 am! Directed by Miriam Shuros, created by Kent Miller and the Confirmation youth: Aaron Cook, Ellen Dunn, Theo Hicks, Laura Jameson, Sam Jameson, Quinn McCullough, Mara Mergens, Lucas Mueller, Anna Stalka, Cameron Swenson, Laura Nelson, Lydia Nelson. Come watch the Sunday School

children and Confirmation youth act out the story of Jesus's birth from many perspectives.

December 25: No Sunday School

January 1: No Sunday School

January 8: Winter Rally Sunday Extravaganza

Beyond Pilgrim

Songs of Africa: A concert to raise funds for the Itungi, Tanzania Water Development Project, **Friday December 9, 7:30 pm** will be held at Pilgrim. Earthtones choir is directed by Peggy Larson. The concert will include Rocky Mjos on guitar, and Bonnie Hering on percussion.

When Shadows Hold Their Breath: A Winter Solstice

Celebration: At Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality on **Wednesday, December 21, 7-8:30pm**. "There is a certain slant of light," Emily Dickinson wrote, on winter afternoons. "When it comes, the Landscape listens—Shadows—hold their breath." In this time of quiet stillness, when the winter landscape listens, we gather to celebrate the Winter Solstice and the slant of light it brings. With candles and shadow, with poetry, music and silence, we will hold the night's darkness and its light, its stillness and its song. Free will donation suggested. Wisdom Ways is a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105 651-696-2788



Prayer Corner

We pray for God's loving presence for these Pilgrims who need healing, hope, comfort, and care:

Births: Lukas Shepela, born to Chris and Anja Shepela on July 19; Liam Samuelson, to Carl and Meredith Samuelson on

August 24.

Concerns: Richard Carlson, recovering; Gene Vogel, recovering from surgery; Jean Sanford, recovering from surgery; Margaret Sjostrand, recovering from pneumonia; Ron Landt, recovering from surgery; Pastor Bonnie Pene, recovering.

Continued health concerns: Gjertrud Anderson, Bert Bast, Owen and Ethan Christenson, Hannah Elizabeth Ankeny, Serena Asta, Lillian Knutson, Jay Oakman, Elizabeth Ozmon, Leone Vogel, Carole Wilke

Christian Sympathy: We pray that the power of the Gospel will comfort those who are grieving the death of loved ones who have died within the past 12 months: Jerome Greseth, father of Scott Greseth, November 6; Jennifer Roberts, mother of Michele Roberts-Bauer, December 7; Joanne DeWitt, stepmother of Lee Fargo, December 19; Lloyd Christjaener, January 26; Chuck Harkness, January 27; John Hunter, March 11; Lester Swanson,

father of Suzanne Swanson, April 2; Helen Louise Cypar, April 6; Ray Youngbauer, July 1; Ed Boehm, July 4; Kay Tews, mother of Anne Tews, July 22.

You are encouraged to send greetings to those you are moved to communicate with. We also invite prayer requests for loved ones, either in this Prayer Corner or through our Prayer Chain. Let us know if you are expecting or adopting a child. If you wish to add or remove a prayer request, please call the church office regarding the Prayer Corner and Judy Boehm, 651-690-3568, regarding the Prayer Chain. For prayers during worship, please contact a pastor.

Parochial Report

Dec. Birthdays	Dec. Birthdays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Amy Himmer 1 Lawrence Wilke 2 Jeff Holisky 2 Martin Johnson 2 David Toeniskoetter 3 Michael Jacobsen 4 Mary Jahnke 4 Patricia Sween 5 Herb Elmstrom 6 Gjertrud Anderson 6 Everett Smith 7 Allen Zumach 8 Johanna Shepela 9 Marsha Foss 10 Pat Benincasa 10 Art Carlson 10 Rachel Hatch 11 Miri Douma 11 Brett Kahnert 13 Desiree Hoveland 13 Lilleana Thomey 14 Daniel Ninow 16 Aevan Girvan 17 John Haberkorn 18 Dane Breimhorst 18 Ellie Greseth 18 M. Brian Hartz 19 John Askew, Sr 19 Katharine Drexler Booth 20 Laurie Johnson 21 Nick Bruecken 24 Eloise Ormseth 24 Reva Rasmussen 24 Paul Rothman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 Owen Foss 25 Elizabeth Haan 25 Abram Whetstone 26 Jonathan Kretman 27 Barbara Holisky 27 Laura Jameson 27 Jen Sherman 28 Zoe Breimhorst 29 Kurt Schultz 30 Sophia Oakman 31 Ethan Christenson 31 Lucas Mueller
	Dec. Anniversaries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Jane & Jay Fasteen 10 Didrik Peterson & Elizabeth Schoenknecht 18 Eric & Corrin Kaluza 19 Sonja Hagander & Jonathan Gusdal 21 Beth & Eric Nelson 21 Jay Ankeny & Elizabeth Madson-Ankeny 22 Philip & Joan Haan 23 Thomas Prather & Kristin Grangaard 30 Natalie & Carl Hokanson

All Saints Rap

A Note from Pastor Carol:

For my All Saints sermon this past month, I shared a “six-degrees-of-separation rap” of sorts, lifting up a chain of connections between Pilgrims, as I did for the past two years in my All Saints sermon. I could have gone on and on :), because we are all connected in a wide variety of ways. But this was just a small telling of our connectedness this year. Here, by request, is this year’s All Saints rap:

I come from a long line of dead people and saints alive. So do you. You and I live in a great mystical web of dead people and saints alive. We talk about the web alot these days. There’s a world wide web that is about the internet. But I’m taking about the web of connectedness that we know, the six degrees of separation kind, and then there is the web that is even deeper. Sometimes the web we know is amazing enough. I mean, have you met our newest Solveig? She is the little daughter of Didrik Peterson and Elizabeth Schoenknecht, who works at Augsburg Fortress, as does our Music Director Mark Stahura, who has helped us welcome our new choral scholar Scott Tolzman, who is a student at Concordia University, which is where Brock Behling works, whose wife Danielle Behling works at the University of Minnesota, which is where scientists Steve Jameson and Kris Hogquist work, Kris who is an alum of St. Kate’s, as is new member Tara Andrist, whose husband Dustin is an engineer, as was John Hunter, whose wife Coralie has taught music and German, whose son-in-law in Sioux Falls is an ELCA pastor, as was the grandfather of Carl Samuelson, whose wife Meredith Samuelson works for a bank, as does Jonathan Gusdal, whose son Benjamin is a new member of the Pilgrim Junior Choir, where he sings with Hannah Sween, whose grandparents are Roger and Pat Sween, who joined Pilgrim when they moved here from Red Wing, where they were in a small group at church with a hospital chaplain who Kris Grangaard knew at Luther College, where Pete and Jen Newburg met, Jen who was president of the Rose Ensemble board, which practices at Pilgrim, as does the Earthtones Choir, led by our Celtic and Nordic cantor Peggy Larson, who is a Concordia College -- Moorhead grad, as is Jean Omodt, who grew up in Rochester, as did Joanne Schneider, who serves on the Pilgrim Worship Committee, which is chaired by Shannon Kirubakeren, who has a daughter named Ella, as do Greg and Kari Douma, Kari who directs the Pilgrim Cherub Choir, which is filled with lots of great singers, such as another Ella, Ella Kahnert, whose parents Brett and Emily, today’s cellist, went to St. Olaf, which is the northern campus of Luther College, but is a fine school too, where Brian Hartz, among many others, attended, who is an incredible photographer, as are Kurt Schultz and Karen Hedenstrom, Karin Johnson, Chuck Regal, and Al Zumach, who sells his photo cards in shops around St. Paul, where Jim and Mary Jahnke and Mike Schulze and Karen Johnson and Jim Boehm and many Pilgrims saints were born, this city that is the home of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, which is a home for hungry minds and souls, in which we discover that, really, we are all connected, in more ways than we ever thought!