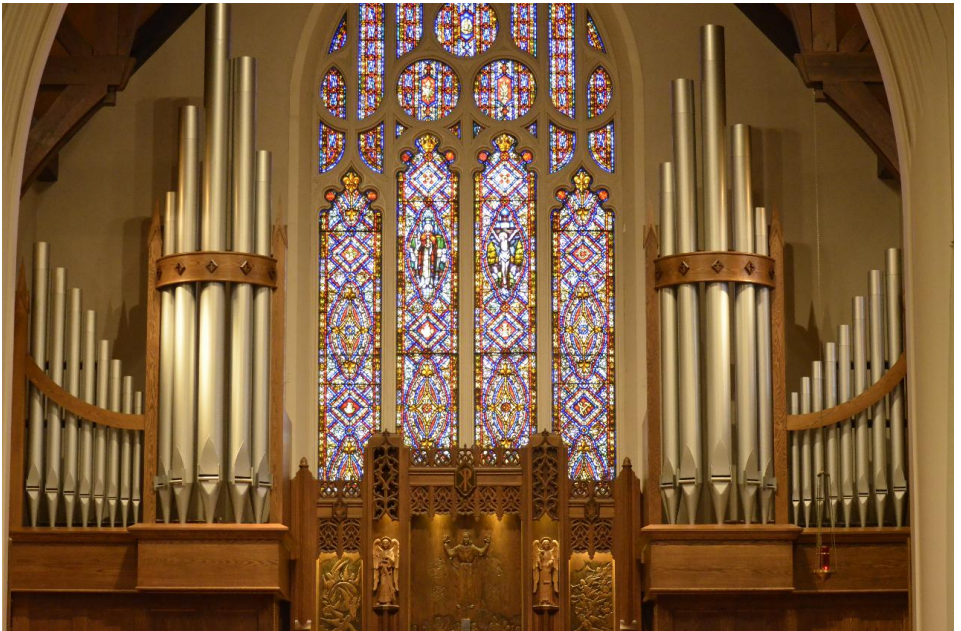


# The Pilgrim

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH



VOLUME 113, ISSUE 2

February 2012

# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

An ELCA Congregation  
A "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation

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

**Church Office:** 1935 St. Clair Ave.  
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**Pastor Carol Tomer**  
*Lead Pastor (full time)*  
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Rev. Lynn Peterson, Rev. Bonnie Nash,  
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### **The Rev. Dr. David Anderson**

*Theologian-in-Residence*

### **Dick Hensold**

*Composer-in-Residence*  
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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*

## Other Officers

Jon Chapman, *Financial Secretary*  
Shannon Kirubakeren, *Chair of Worship  
& Music*  
Karen Bjorkman, *Chair of Evangelism*  
Barbara McCauley, *Chair of Congregational  
Life and Care*  
Kent Miller, *Youth Committee*  
Dave Toeniskoetter, *Chair of Properties*

### **Annie Pasbrig**

**Alana Profit, Melissa Brown**  
*Nursery Attendants*

**Judy Boehm, Wedding Coordinator**

**Louise Stenberg, Asst. Wedding  
Coordinator**

*Cover photo by Chuck Regal*

# Pastoral Musings

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The state of the union address has passed, one of our annual occasions for shared conversation about our shared national life. The Pilgrim annual financial meeting is coming in this month of February, one of our annual occasions for shared conversation about our shared congregational life. I want to invite each of you to come to the forum on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 9:45 am. We discuss the proposed budget and the staffing plan, growing out of our Staffing to Thrive consultation, that will support our ministry and mission plan for 2012. And then come to the congregational meeting on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 9:45 am, as we continue the conversation.

Our Theologian-in-Residence, The Rev. Dr. David Anderson, led our Winter Rally Sunday Extravaganza in January and continues to give us tools for deepening our journeys of faith formation, as people of all ages. We know that Pilgrim is a home for hungry minds and souls, but is YOUR home a home for hungry minds and souls? Home is church too. How is your home a wide and welcoming home for hungry minds and souls, open to the Spirit of God and open to the mysteries of Christ enfleshed in our daily lives, our meals, our prayers with dear ones, our going out and our coming in, as we read in Psalm 121? What a wonderful calling, to be a home for hungry minds and souls, in your home where God dwells and in our shared Pilgrim home where God dwells in the community that gathers at St. Clair and Prior.

To my utter delight, I have been serving as our Interim Junior Choir director since early January. What a joy to be able to share in music-making and worship leadership with some of our young and wonderful singers! On our first Sunday morning making music together in worship, the theme running through that January service was “a joyful noise,” and the choir sang and clapped and swayed as they sang “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me.” They lifted us with irrepressible joy, being the hands and voices and messengers of Jesus’ joy among us. I give thanks for them and for all the children, youth, and adults who share in leading, supporting, deepening, and widening the music and worship that centers our congregational life. And I give thanks for this new and unexpected privilege in my ministry.

Transfiguration Sunday is coming (Feb. 19), the festival Sunday that is the hinge between Epiphany and Lent. It’s the last Sunday of our “Faith Goes to the Movies” sermon series (the featured movie will be: “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close”), we’ll “bury” the Alleluias for the season of Lent, and then a few days later, we’ll get marked with ashes and head into Lent’s journey of renewal in the way of the cross. During Lent, we gather each Wednesday night to share in a soup supper, Holden Evening Prayer, and reflections by members of Pilgrim, our second year of welcoming five Pilgrims as our Lenten reflectors. In our shared ministry, we are blessed to truly be a community of ministers of word and deed.

There are many ways we live out our Lutheran understanding of shared ministry, our holy vocation to get the neighbor loved in all the various aspects of our lives. Some of our ministries are offered through Pilgrim's ministry, some through the various other roles and responsibilities that make up our daily lives. If you would like to be equipped in deeper ways for roles of leadership in Pilgrim's ministry, please try to attend our Saint Paul Area Synod's Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders on Saturday, Feb. 25. (There is more information on page 27 of this newsletter.) If you would like to deepen your spiritual journey and deepen your connection to a group of Pilgrims, please consider being a part of our Pilgrim pilgrimage to Holden Village in the mountains of Washington state this summer. (Details on page 26.) If you would like to learn more about the Lutheran Christian community that we call the ELCA and about many facets of this faith we share, please explore each issue of The Lutheran magazine, the official magazine of the ELCA, that is provided to you by Pilgrim because you are a member of Pilgrim and because we have a Pilgrim commitment to link us all to the wider church and to ongoing nurture of hungry minds and souls.

And lastly, I heard someone speak recently, on the occasion of their retirement from a job they had loved for many years. They said, "Very few people have a job in which they make a difference in people's lives." And my Lutheran ears caused my Lutheran eyebrows to go up.

*(Continues on page 25)*

## A "More Than Money Matters" Class on Sunday Nights

During Lent, Pilgrim will host values-based financial education workshops (a free six-week series), led by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. This series has won an "excellence in financial literacy education" award. The sessions will be held on six consecutive **Sundays, 5:00-6:30 pm, beginning February 26. (\* The March 4 workshop begins at 5:30 pm.)** This series is **FREE**. No products will be sold. The workshop series includes these topics:

- Stewardship and Values, the responsible management of all the resources God has entrusted to our care.
- Communicating About Money, with family members and other key people in our life.
- Setting Goals, aligning our values and actions using SMART techniques.
- Credit and Debt, responsible management of both, reducing debt, avoiding pitfalls.
- Finding Money to Save, supporting share, save, spend decisions, and Budget and Net Worth, our plan for living in alignment with values and money management.

This series will be offered if at least ten people sign up. Sign up by contacting Andrew Bryant, Thrivent rep, at 651-288-7580, by February 15. Nursery care provided by request. RSVP is needed for ordering workshop material and arranging nursery coverage.

## A Reminder about Our Snowstorm Plan

Should we have any snowstorms that make you wonder if Sunday worship or other church events are going to be cancelled, please know that you can always call the church and listen to the answering machine in order to get an update.

## Christmas Eve Reflections

by Elizabeth Madson Ankeny

Saturday, December 24, 2011 I donned my long black skirt that concealed my gauze bandaged wrapped legs. Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> I had a 3 hour and 45 minute procedure done on both of my varicose vein-inflicted legs at the University Hospital. Optimistically, I envisioned attending Pilgrim's 4:00 Intergenerational Christmas Eve service with Hannah.

Hannah was having a rough day, so I trudged over alone arriving shortly after 3:30. I was greeted with a heavenly milieu. I witnessed Pastor Carol quietly anticipating and shepherding what was to be the first of three unique services. Pilgrim families and family members from near and far gathered in the sanctuary. Everyone arrived festively dressed and spirited. Little ones abounded. I witnessed friends and family members warmly greeted.

Adolescent girls were provided a space and an occasion to test their developing voices. During the first soloist's presentation a little blonde nymph in a green sweater and red dress ran up the church aisles and through the altar space. The young singer while alert to the situation was poised and unfazed and the second singer sat watching the youthful antics with glee. Do you suppose 10 years from now the little runner will be singing a solo at the 4:00 Pilgrim Intergenerational Service? I choose to think so.

Then, much like the angels heralding the first Christmas, Marsha shepherded in the walker parade. Marsha's smiling father and Pastor Carol's intent mother appeared, much like joyful eager angels to me.

Marsha, in Mary fashion, left the angels to sit at my side to ask about me.

I so wanted to stay to hear the cherub choir, to hear the familiar gospel story and Pastor Carol's words – which always nourish my soul: however, even with the kneeler out my legs could not locate a comfortable position.

I sadly disengaged myself from my pew, handed my offering envelope to an usher, and headed for the side door. There, God had a gift for me – a son – Micah's son, and Marsha's grandson, Abram. Abram stood resolutely with

his back to the west door. He pointed up the stairs and stubbornly announced, "I not go there." Dear, kind and gentle Micah responded not with punity, rather with wisdom and love, "Why don't we find your mother?"

Although I was not rewarded with the full experience of the service I was gifted with the Story: shepherds, angels, the milieu of little ones, elderly ones, mothers, fathers, grandparents, noise, confusion, delight, and a son who was warmly and wisely informed by his Luke-oriented father, "let's find your mother."

Elizabeth Madson Ankeny, December 25, 2011

## Scouting News

Jack Nelson, a Pilgrim member and member of Boy Scout Troop 91 here at Pilgrim has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Pilgrim members are invited to attend the Eagle Scout Award ceremony at Pilgrim on **February 25th, at 10:30 am.** Reception in the Fireside Room following the ceremony.

## February Worship at Pilgrim

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### Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 11 AM

**February 5** -- Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, ELW Liturgy of Holy Communion, Pastor Joel Benbow preaching

**February 12** -- Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, ELW Morning Prayer, Point for Pilgrims, baptisms of Lilja, Ella, and Joshua Boelke, Elizabeth Schoenknecht preaching

‡ **Pilgrim lunch at the St. Clair Broiler at 12:30 PM**

**February 19** -- Transfiguration of Our Lord, Global Liturgy of Holy Communion, Conclusion of "Faith Goes to the Movies" Epiphany Sermon Series, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching (Featured movie: *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*)

‡ **Congregational Meeting at 9:45 AM**

**February 26** -- **First Sunday in Lent**, Nordic Morning Prayer, Point for Pilgrims, reception of new members, Pastor Carol Tomer preaching

**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

# Faith Goes to the Movies: An Epiphany Sermon Series

## This year's theme: **Dream a Whole Lot Louder**

By Pastor Carol Tomer

This four-week sermon series covered three Sundays in January and concludes on Sunday, Feb. 19. Each sermon is based on both the appointed scripture texts for the day and a movie. Here's a suggestion: read the scripture texts for the day before you view the movie. It's a version of integrating text and context, as is the task of all preachers, also spoken of as "holding the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other." This last film is in the theaters now.

### **Feb. 19 -- *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (PG-13)**

2 Kings 2:1-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

## Sunday Morning Forums at 9:45 AM

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

**February 5 -- *Lutherans: The Original Evangelicals*** -- Pastor Joel Benbow will lead us in this introduction and review of Lutheran Christian theology. We are part of the ELCA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Why do we dare to claim the word "Evangelical"?

### **February 12 -- *Pilgrim Ministry and Mission and the Year 2012***

Come and learn more about the vision for the year ahead, as it informs the proposed budget being presented at the congregational meeting on February 19. And learn about how 2011 went for Pilgrim, in terms of matching resources to ministry. We will also be talking about our staffing plan going forward and the "Staffing to Thrive" report.

**February 19 -- *Congregational Meeting*** -- Please join us for fellowship and reflection on our shared ministry and mission. This is also our annual financial meeting, as we commit ourselves to some of the ways in which we will respond to the Holy Spirit's movement among us in this next year. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

**February 26 -- *Pancake Breakfast*** -- from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. This time of fellowship is also a fundraiser for Pilgrim's properties ministry. Suggested donation: \$4/person \$15/family.

## Our Lenten Journey Begins....

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on **Feb. 22** this year. We will gather for worship at noon and at 6:30 pm, with dinner preceding the evening service. Here are the details:

**Noon -- Midday Ash Wednesday worship** with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes; the homily will be an Ash Wednesday liturgical drama, created by Pilgrim member Elizabeth Schoenknecht

**5:30-6:20 pm - Congregational meal** -- another Chef Jeff meal; suggested donation for the meal is just \$6/person \$15/family.

**6:30 pm -- Ash Wednesday service** of communion and imposition of ashes, including an Ash Wednesday liturgical drama created by Elizabeth Schoenknecht and led by Pilgrims

**More about Ash Wednesday Worship** -- from Elizabeth Schoenknecht

During our Ash Wednesday worship, we will unfold the Gospel lesson by using a liturgical drama. Most often during worship while hearing the Gospel lesson, it is easy to become a passive listener. By scripting out the gospel and adding characters who respond to the reading, it is my hope that the Gospel becomes interactive and alive for you on Ash Wednesday. I am looking for some talent. If you are interested in being a reader for the script, please contact me by February 8<sup>th</sup>. I understand your time is precious so we will rehearse only once on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, after dinner at **M@P**. You will also need to be available on the evening of February 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Ash Wednesday service. All levels of experience are encouraged.

Elizabeth Schoenknecht  
[eschoenk@comcast.net](mailto:eschoenk@comcast.net)

## 2012 Lent Wednesday Night Worship Schedule

*The Joys and Challenges of Following Jesus:  
Pilgrim Reflections on the Journey*

**5:30-6:20 pm -- Dinner at Pilgrim** - a buffet meal; come when you can. A soup supper of soups made by wonderful Pilgrim chefs (YOU!)

**6:30 pm -- Worship at Pilgrim** -- Holden Evening Prayer  
Each service will include a Pilgrim reflecting on "*The Joys and Challenges of Following Jesus.*"

Here are the speakers:

Feb. 29 -- Coralie Hunter  
March 7 -- Caleb Drexler-Booth  
March 14 -- Mark Stahura  
March 21 -- Jack Nelson  
March 28 -- Pat Sween

## Lenten Dinners every week!

Beginning on Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, Congregational Life and Care committee will coordinate mid-week Lenten soup suppers, serving from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. CLC will provide bread and beverages, and members donate the soups.

You are invited to donate a pot of soup on one or more of the Wednesdays; all types of soup are welcome. We love variety! A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Pilgrim office door.

If you are in a group or committee who would love to use your group's energy to provide soups for one of the dinners, CLC will be delighted to work with you, providing basic assistance with set-up and clean-up. For *The Pilgrim, February 2012*

more information or for clarifications, please contact Barbara McCauley ([651-699-8929](tel:651-699-8929), or [bmccaule@luthersem.edu](mailto:bmccaule@luthersem.edu)).

## New Member Bios

My apologies to our new members and the entire congregation for the delay in writing these biographical sketches. The following individuals became members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church on November 13, 2011.

Kurt Schultz

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Aaron Bowser, Brenda Kowske and Sophie



Brenda and Aaron are natives of Eastern Wisconsin, Sheboygan and Milwaukee respectively. They moved to the Twin Cities about 15 years ago and have lived in the Mac Groveland neighborhood for six years. Then two years ago Sophie came into their lives and today Aaron and Brenda find themselves spending much of their time happily playing with her, whether that's at home or at the lake cabin. When time allows, the parents also

enjoy home remodeling and building projects.

The family is happy to find in Pilgrim a place to renew and strengthen their faith while providing a faith community for Sophie to grow in. They have expressed interest in worship team activities, and perhaps assisting with the Property Committee and Missions and Social Concerns.

Aaron earns a living as an Engineer with Seagate Technology, one of the world's largest manufacturers of hard disk drives and Brenda is an Industry Analyst with Bersin and Associates, a company that provides support services to human resource and learning professionals.

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Didrik Peterson, Elizabeth Schoenknecht and Solveig



Like the Bowser/Kowske family, the parents of this family unit are Wisconsin natives (Monroe and Eau Claire) and their daughter is a native of Minnesota. So, let's start there with Solveig Grace Peterson. Her middle name is borrowed from her great grandmothers and her cousin Allison. Solveig likes to play, smile and laugh, all of

which her parents help facilitate whenever possible.

Her father, Didrik, works in Information Technology at TCF Bank, and her mom, Elizabeth works for Augsburg Fortress as a Congregational Resource Representative. When not in the office, Elizabeth likes to run. She's a part-time fitness instructor, is on the leadership team for a local running club, and enjoys training for and running marathons. Word has it, she's also a

huge Packers fan, a particular demographic that seems to be drawn to Pilgrim. Didrik, on the other hand, enjoys home improvement shows, classic cars, music, LEGO, and riding the Honda scooter.

They are all excited to join the Pilgrim family. As they said in their New Member Profile, “We always felt welcomed whenever we worshiped at Pilgrim and we are anxious to give back to this community.”

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Dustin, Tara and Grayson Andrist



Both Dustin and Tara were born in Rochester, but now live in the Pilgrim neighborhood, and discovered their new church home through word of mouth. They are excited to be part of this community and to have a place in which one-year-old Grayson can grow up and learn about God.

Tara is a Pricing Analyst for Kemps, an iconic Minnesota company since 1914, and Dustin is a Manufacturing Engineer for Creganna Tactx Medical, a company that designs and manufactures delivery devices for minimally invasive therapies.

They like hanging with friends, travel, dining out, and fitness. Tara is also a fan of shopping.

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Diane Brehmer



Diane joined Pilgrim with the most recent group on November 13, and like many others with hungry minds and souls, she is looking for understanding, insight, and spiritual growth. Her stated vocation is “to serve those who serve.” Diane’s spouse, John, is IT staff at Minnesota Public Radio. And her son, Kent, is a sophomore at Minnehaha Academy and enjoys debate and technical theater.

Diane enjoys reading, the arts, politics, and crafts. In her New Member Profile, Diane writes, “I am very glad to be here.” And we are very glad that you are here.

## Upcoming New Member Series

**Sunday, Feb. 5, 9:45 AM** – First session: Lutheran Christian Intro and Review. (Pick up a copy of Martin Marty’s *Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers* in the Fireside Room, as preparation for this session.)

**Monday, Feb. 13, 6:00 PM**– Second session: Orientation to Pilgrim.

**Sunday evening, Feb. 19, 7 PM** - new member dessert, in a member’s home.

**Sunday, Feb. 26, 8:30 & 11 am** -- new members received during worship (you choose which service to attend).

If you are interested in participating in this process of preparing to become a new member, **please call or email the church office.**

**PLEASE NOTE: If you are interested in joining, but have a schedule conflict with some portion of this process, please give us a call.**

Also, if you are in need of child care for the Feb. 13 gathering, please let us know that as well. (Child care is already available provided on Feb. 5 and Feb. 26.)

## 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**

**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

**Nordic Contemplative Evening Prayer begins September 25**



**February 26** Bidden or Unbidden

**March 25** If You Go Out Far Enough  
*Guests – Twin Cities Hardingfelelag – They will lead an extended prelude, beginning at 6:30 pm*

**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

## Celtic Contemplative Evening Worship Marks Ten Years!

On **Sunday, March 11, at 6:51 pm**, we gather for the last Celtic evening service of this 2011-2012 season. It is also the Sunday when we mark ten years of offering Celtic contemplative worship at Pilgrim. We'll mark this milestone on March 11 with a special "Cake and Ceilidh Celebration" following the Celtic service that night. In addition, on the prior **Sunday, March 4**, Pilgrim's morning worship services at **8:30 & 11 am** will be a Celtic communion liturgy, led by the Pilgrim Celtic ensemble that leads evening worship. Also on that day, the **9:45 am forum** will be a time of reflecting together about Celtic contemplative worship at Pilgrim over these

ten years, a conversation led by Dick Hensold, our composer-in-residence, Suzanne Swanson, creator of the Celtic word sections, Pastor Carol Tomer, and more.

## M@P... Midweek @ Pilgrim

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<b>5:00</b>	<b>Junior Choir</b>
<b>5:30</b>	<b>Meal</b>
<b>6:15</b>	<b>Learning &amp; Activity Hour</b>
<b>7:00</b>	<b>Senior Choir</b>
<b>* 6:15-8:45 Nursery available</b>	

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

Join us on Wednesdays for M@P and meet our 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 \$6/person \$15/family. All are welcome!

#### **February 1**

**Children and Youth:** Board game night! Children and youth will be led in a devotional and join in fellowship following with some of our favorite board games.

#### **February 8**

**Children:** What is Lent? Following the Lenten tradition, we will make pretzels and learn about the meaning of Lent. Pretzels are shaped like arms folded in prayer, and can remind us to pray to God for our needs and the needs of others.

**Youth:** Mentorship Meeting. Youth and mentors, please share a meal together beginning at 5:30pm. We will have our second mentorship meeting directly following at 6:15. The meeting will begin with a large-group opener and will continue with pages 9-12 of the *What is This?* booklet.

**Youth: Snuffy’s** following the learning hour, from **7:15-8:15**.

#### **February 15**

##### **Children and Youth:**

Mardi Gras Party! Come join us as we celebrate the beginning of Lent with organized Mardi Gras games.

#### **February 22**

##### **Ash Wednesday Service**

#### **February 29**

##### **Lenten schedule**

# 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:

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 Notes, February 2012



### Music Schedule

February 5 <i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	8:30: 11:00:	Anna McFall, piano Senior Choir & Junior Choir
February 12 <i>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	8:30: 11:00:	Senior Choir Kinderchoir & Cherubs
February 19 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i>	8:30: 11:00:	Jimmy Olson, drummer; Tom Rosenberg, cello Jimmy Olson, drummer; Senior Choir
February 26 <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	8:30: 11:00:	Senior Choir Junior Choir

### New Names for our Youngest Choirs!

Pilgrim is incredibly blessed to have lots and lots of little kids! So many, in fact, that we're splitting the Cherub Choir into two choirs, one for preschoolers and one for elementary-age children. The preschoolers will sing as the Cherubs about every other month in worship. The elementary-age children will sing in worship as the Kinderchoir, about every three weeks. Kari Douma will continue to lead both groups, and rehearse with them during learning hour on Sunday mornings. This will allow each age group to learn and flourish at their own pace.

### Our Interim Junior Choir Director

Pastor Carol has generously offered to be the Interim Junior Choir Director as we continue to search for a permanent director. She started already in early January, and is introducing service music pieces, weekly quizzes and more to the weekly rehearsals. You'll be hearing the Junior Choir regularly in worship (see the article just above) with the great results of her leadership. Thanks you, Pastor Carol!!

# Trying Out a New Senior Choir Time

We're going to try a new Senior Choir rehearsal time for a few weeks. Until the start of Lent (Ash Wednesday is on February 22 this year) Senior Choir will rehearse from 7:00 to 8:30pm. The Choir thought this would be an easier schedule to keep, with family responsibilities and daytime work schedules.

Lent, when we have mid-week worship at 6:30pm, brings a return to our usual 7:15pm rehearsal start. We'll see how these times work for everyone.

## Choral Music in February

We start the month with the Junior and Senior Choirs singing together, on Carolyn Jennings' lovely "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain," which is based on Isaiah 40. The next week (February 12) the Senior Choir will offer a true gem of choral literature: Benjamin Britten's "Jubilate Deo," which also features a nearly-virtuosic organ part. That same week the Kinderchoir and Cherubs will sing at the late service.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> the Senior Choir will sing Bruce Neswick's "Epiphany Carol," which narrates many of the gospel stories of the Epiphany season, all in one varied and charming anthem. The last week of the month the Senior Choir will offer the lovely and flowing Herbert Howells anthem, "My Eyes for Beauty Pine," while the Junior Choir sings at the late service.

What a month of wonderful music!

## Pilgrim's Schantz-Berghaus Organ Dedicatory Recital

**Sunday, March 4, 4 pm** -- by Ray Johnston, Organist and Music Director  
at St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis

Raymond Johnston began his ministry as Canon Musician at St. Mark's in 2000. He received his musical training at Peterhouse in Cambridge, England (awarded a Master of Arts in 1984). He worked primarily under Dr. Donald Hunt at Worcester Cathedral as Deputy Chorus Master of a 200 voice choir, but has also experienced the varied approaches of Sir David Willcocks, Dr. George Guest, Simon Preston and Joshua Rifkin. A composer and arranger of both sacred and secular choral music, Raymond's own works have been performed in Worcester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Before coming to Saint Mark's, Raymond served as Director of Music for Kent College in England, Assistant Organist at Worcester Cathedral, and Music Master at The King's School, Worcester.

# February Calendar

## Week of January 29

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Wednesday, February 1		Midweek @ Pilgrim
	5:00 PM	Jr. Choir
	5:30 PM	Meal
	6:15 PM	Learning/Activity Hour
	7:00 PM	Sr. Choir
Thursday, February 2	7:00 PM	Pilgrims for Just Peace
Friday, February 3	9:30 AM	'Round Again
	4:00 PM	Groveland Park Math Team
	5:00 PM	Art Show
Saturday, February 4	9:00 AM	Art Show

## Week of February 5

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Sunday, February 5	8:30 AM	Worship
	9:45 AM	Learning Hour
	11:00 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Cantara Choir
Monday, February 6	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, February 7		COMMITTEE NIGHT
	9:30 AM	Rose Ensemble
	1:30 PM	Text Study
	4:00 PM	Pilgrim Staff Meeting
	6:45 PM	Boy Scouts
Wednesday, February 8		Midweek @ Pilgrim
	5:00 PM	Jr. Choir
	5:30 PM	Meal
	6:15 PM	Learning/Activity Hour
	7:00 PM	Sr. Choir
Friday, February 10	9:30 AM	'Round Again
	4:00 PM	Groveland Park Math Team
	6:30 PM	Rose Ensemble
Saturday, February 11	9:00 AM	Synod Conference Assembly
	2:00 PM	Rose Ensemble
	2:00 PM	Winter Carnival

## Week of February 12

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Sunday, February 12	8:30 AM	Worship
	9:45 AM	Learning Hour
	11:00 AM	Worship
	12:30 PM	Sundays at St. Clair Broiler
	2:00 PM	Cantara Choir
	5:30 PM	Y.A.P at the Tap-Young Adult Dinner
	6:51 PM	Celtic Contemplative Communion
Monday, February 13	10:00 AM	Women for Sobriety
	6:00 PM	New Member Orientation

	6:30 PM	Rose Ensemble
	7:00 PM	Earthtones
	7:00 PM	OA
Tuesday, February 14	1:30 PM	Text Study
	4:00 PM	Pilgrim Staff Meeting
	6:30 PM	Rose Ensemble
	6:45 PM	Boy Scouts
Wednesday, February 15		Midweek @ Pilgrim
		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
	5:00 PM	Jr. Choir
	5:30 PM	Meal
	6:15 PM	Learning/Activity Hour
	7:00 PM	Sr. Choir
Thursday, February 16	7:00 PM	Book Club - "A Flickering Light"
Friday, February 17	9:30 AM	'Round Again
	4:00 PM	Groveland Park Math Team

### **Week of February 19**

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Sunday, February 19	8:30 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Cantara Choir
	7:00 PM	New Member Dessert
Monday, February 20	10:00 AM	Women for Sobriety
	7:00 PM	OA
	7:00 PM	Earthtones
Tuesday, February 21	9:30 AM	Rose Ensemble
	1:30 PM	Text Study
	4:00 PM	Pilgrim Staff Meeting
	6:45 PM	Boy Scouts
	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, February 22		ASH WEDNESDAY
		Midweek @ Pilgrim
	9:30 AM	Rose Ensemble
	5:00 PM	Jr. Choir
	5:30 PM	Meal
	6:15 PM	Learning/Activity Hour
	6:30 PM	Worship
	7:45 PM	Sr. Choir
Thursday, February 23	6:30 PM	Rose Ensemble
Friday, February 24	9:30 AM	'Round Again
	4:00 PM	Groveland Park Math Team
Saturday, February 25	10:00 AM	Confirmation Trip to Mosque
	10:30 AM	Eagle Scout Court of Honor

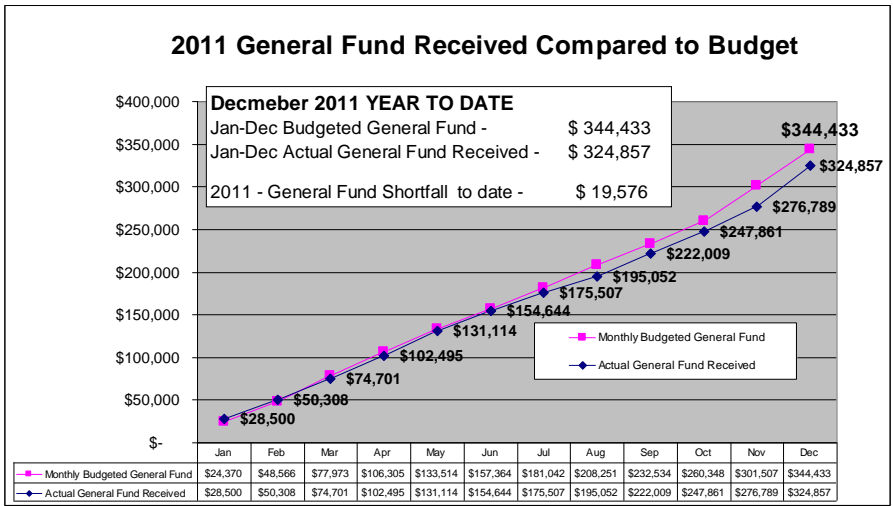
### **Week of February 26**

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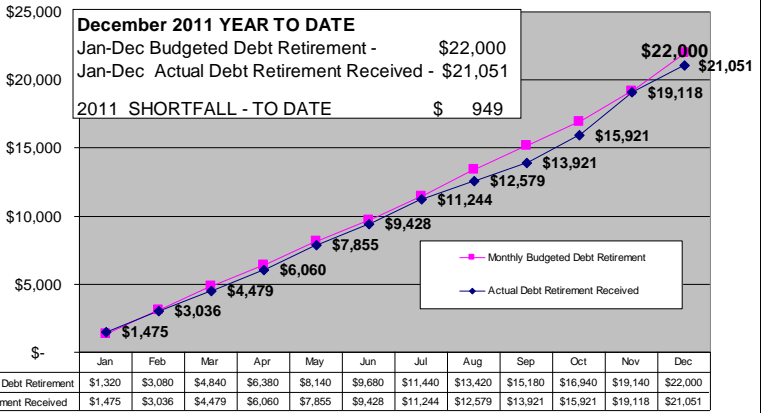
Sunday, February 26	8:30 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	Pancake Breakfast
	9:45 AM	Learning Hour
	11:00 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Cantara Choir
	5:00 PM	"More Than Money Matter" Class

Monday, February 27	6:51 PM	Nordic Contemplative Evening Prayer
	10:00 AM	Women for Sobriety
	7:00 PM	OA
Tuesday, February 28	7:00 PM	Earthtones
	1:30 PM	Text Study
	4:00 PM	Pilgrim Staff Meeting
	6:45 PM	Boy Scouts
Wednesday, February 29		Midweek @ Pilgrim
	5:00 PM	Jr. Choir
	5:30 PM	Meal
	6:30 PM	Lenten Midweek Worship
	7:15 PM	Sr. Choir

## Monthly Giving Report



## 2011 Debt Retirement Compared to Budget



# Vestry News

## From Our Co-Presidents

Dear Pilgrims,

As we look back at 2011 and look forward to 2012, we feel humbled and overjoyed to be a part of such a wonderful congregation filled with amazing people. As we live more fully into our shared ministries, the journey has brought forward some incredible opportunities to collectively spread the love and justice of Christ in our world. Through the work of so many of you, we have dedicated a new roof and a beautiful organ, a task force is talking about the marriage amendment and considering a response, we are in the midst of a interim process to thoughtfully consider the future of our music ministries, Pilgrims volunteered to participate in the Staffing to Thrive assessment, adults are mentoring youth, and we have participated in an enlightening mini-retreat & Extravaganza to help us better understand faith formation and outreach. And this is just a small sampling of how Pilgrims are engaged. Committees meet month after month, worship services are planned and carried out week after week, homebound members are visited, Sunday School children are taught, the sanctuary is decorated for the liturgical seasons and on and on. So many of you have been involved in various areas of ministry here and we want to take this time to publicly and sincerely thank you for your time and energy and passion around all you do with, and for, your fellow Pilgrims and the broader community. While we couldn't possibly name everyone or every ministry we want you all to know that you and your work do not go unnoticed. We know that the examples above are merely that - examples. There is so much more good and faithful ministry that goes on in and around Pilgrim that we couldn't possibly name it all. We hope you find as much joy in your various ministries as we feel

pride in being a part of such an incredible community. We are looking forward to the year ahead. It truly is an honor to serve in this role and be a part of the wonderful work that goes on around Pilgrim. Thank you!

*Kurt Schultz & Natalie Hokanson  
Co-Presidents*

## Education, Service & Fellowship

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### 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, February 2, 7-8:30 PM, Pilgrim main office. Focus: MN Arms Spending Alternatives Project.

Join us and be part of the planning and promotion of just peacemaking practices inside and outside of Pilgrim! Questions, contact [joan@pleromacoaching.com](mailto:joan@pleromacoaching.com) or Rod Olsen @ [651-228-7224](tel:651-228-7224).

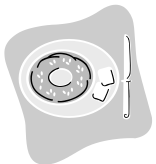
### Pilgrim Men's Breakfast

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, February 6<sup>th</sup>**. For more information, contact Dave Toeniskoetter (**651-690-5743**).



### 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. Lunch on Sunday will take place this month, **February 12<sup>th</sup>**.



### 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](mailto:rdsdesk@comcast.net).

**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

During winter months, the DayHikers will not have scheduled hikes. If there are any DayHiker activities they will be listed in the weekly church bulletin.

## Book Club News for February

Date and time: February 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.  
Host: Judy Tande – 72 Kent St. #1  
Book: ***A Flickering Light*** by Jane Kirkpatrick

## Art in a Box Show

The Fireside room at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave, will be the site of the 9th round-robin art exhibit on February 3 and 4. Eight artists participated in this collaborative art project. The starting point for this year's show, Putting Our Heads Together, is styrofoam heads. Plan to attend Friday, February 3 from 6-9 PM and Saturday, February 4 from 10 AM - 1 PM to enjoy light appetizers and see their work.

Margaret Olson  
[molson\\_55105@yahoo.com](mailto:molson_55105@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Visits to Neighboring Faith Communities: “Field Trips” for the Whole Congregation

An Invitation from Pastor Tomer

The Pilgrim confirmation class will be continuing to make some visits to learn about some of our neighboring faith communities. All of you are invited to join in these visits. Here are the details: **Saturday, February**  
*The Pilgrim, February 2012*

**25, 10 am -- noon** -- A visit to a Somali mosque in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, along with conversation with interfaith scholar students at Augsburg College. We will meet at the Augsburg College Chapel. Parking passes are available in the Pilgrim office.

**Saturday, April 14, 11 am -- noon** -- A visit to a Vietnamese Buddhist Temple in Roseville.

For both of these visits, if you would like to carpool, please email Karin Johnson by one week before the event and know that you may be needed to drive. [karinjohnson@pilgrimstpaul.org](mailto:karinjohnson@pilgrimstpaul.org)

## Pastor Diane Hooge – About Spiritual Direction:

Pastor Diane Hooge is part of our Pilgrim Spiritual Enrichment Team. About spiritual direction, she writes: One of the joys of serving Pilgrim Lutheran last 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 feel called to listen to others who are seeking to be more intentional in exploring their inner lives, discerning the movement of God’s Spirit within their lives. We have 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 last summer, which was to meet with people at Pilgrim. You may contact me at 651-330-8111 or [d.hooge@comcast.net](mailto:d.hooge@comcast.net).

## Chinook Books

Again this year, Pilgrim members and friends of Pilgrim purchased lots of Chinook Books. By doing so, they will, collectively, save themselves thousands of dollars over the next twelve months using the coupons. But even more importantly, every dollar of profit went into the Pilgrim general fund. This year Pilgrim received \$440 dollars from the sale of the Chinook Books. Thanks to all who helped sell the books and those who purchased them.

## Loaves and Fishes

Pilgrim is scheduled to serve food at Faith Lutheran Church at Charles and Mackubin Avenues in the Frog Town area of Saint Paul on Thursday, **February 9**. Volunteers are need to help serve the food from **5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. Some of our volunteers are celebrating winter in Arizona. We need help. Please consider assisting with this important Pilgrim mission. Contact: Margaret Olson

## Constitutional Amendment Task Force

A Pilgrim task force has been developed to consider the proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that states “Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota.” The task force will help guide Pilgrim in its discernment of this

historic attempt to constitutionally ban gay marriage and possible responses to it. This small group of thoughtful and energetic individuals is off to a running start. But it's not too late to join. All are welcome. Please call Cathy in the Pilgrim Office at 651-699-6886.

## *December/January Mission of the Month Review*

### **South East Asian Ministry (SEAM)**

Thank you Pilgrims, for participating in the Southeast Asian Ministry (SEAM) Christmas Friendship Program!

More than 25 Pilgrim families or individuals contributed to SEAM's annual "Christmas Friendship Program". Three Pilgrims delivered Christmas packages and laundry baskets filled with household items to two families, the week before Christmas. We provided gifts for 11 individuals, as well as a monetary donation to the organization.

The two families we met are Karen refugees from Burma; this group of refugees is persecuted by the Burmese military junta, who have conducted acts of genocide against them. Many Karen live in refugee camps along the Burma/Thailand border and started being resettled in St. Paul about 10 years ago.

The two families we delivered gifts to were very grateful; one family even gave us some beautiful handmade gifts before we left their apartment. The interactions were heartfelt and meaningful despite the language barrier.

While we don't know much about the families, we believe their needs are great as they try to learn English, find jobs, and deal with significant health issues.

As a follow up to the gifts we donated at Christmas, we would like to continue our relationship with these families. We hope to learn more about them, and ways that Pilgrim can assist them in the difficult transition from refugee camps in Asia, to living in St. Paul. Members of MSJ and PJP committees plan to visit the families with an interpreter at the end of January.

Stay tuned as we learn more, and keep our families in your prayers. If you would like to be involved, please contact Anne Hall at [hall.anne@gmail.com](mailto:hall.anne@gmail.com)

## *February Mission of the Month*

### **Undies and Socks Sundays at Pilgrim**

February is the month of Undies and Socks Sundays at Pilgrim! Throughout the month, the Missions and Social Justice Committee will collect new underwear and socks to donate to Listening House. All adult sizes of underwear and white athletic socks are needed for both men and women, although there is a greater need for men's items. A box for donations is located in the narthex and will be there throughout the month.

Listening House is a day/evening shelter and community resource center located in downtown St. Paul. The organization provides hospitality, practical assistance and counsel to people who are homeless, disadvantaged or lonely. They serve an average of over 200 men, women and youth each day.

Practical services include hygiene products, socks, clothing and basic goods. Referrals are made to partner professionals for mental and chemical health or housing. Some specialists visit on-site. Spiritual support is given through volunteer clergy and spiritual counselors, bible study is offered, and memorials are held to honor deceased guests and friends.

For more information on the Listening House, visit their website at [listeninghouse.org](http://listeninghouse.org).

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## Children & Youth

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### Sunday School Update

**Pilgrim's Winter Carnival is almost here! Saturday, February 11 2-4 p.m.**

Come one, come all—fun for all ages! Popcorn, tattoo parlor, face painting, duck pond, fishing, bingo, candy walk, bag toss, photo booth, bake sale, and much more. There will be a special surprise performance at 2:30.

Volunteers are needed to help set up/clean-up and supervise games. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the lower level by the coat racks. We also need donations for the bake sale and donations of gently used toys for prizes. Contact Jeanne Adelman if you have questions or would like to help out! 612-729-3805

### NEW - Lambs – Age 0-3 Parent/Child Sunday School

A message from Pilgrim member, Elizabeth Schoenknecht:

During worship recently, Pastor Carol ended her prayer with a resounding AMEN which was promptly followed by a resounding AMEN from my 14 month old Solveig. With that one small developmental act, I was reminded how quickly small children learn words of the faith. Let us come together to share those words of faith with our children. Lambs is a Christian Education time for parents and their children ages 0-3. We will gather one time per month (see schedule below) to share in songs, prayers, a story, and parenting discussions. Class will be during the education hour and welcome to all.

Questions please contact Elizabeth Schoenknecht at [eschoenk@comcast.net](mailto:eschoenk@comcast.net)

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** – Noah's Ark

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** – The Last Supper

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – The Empty Tomb

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** – The Holy Spirit

## Young Adults Pilgrim (YAP) at the Tap

Young adults (age 30 and under) come join us as we meet for dinner, drinks and fellowship at the Groveland Tap (located just down the street from Pilgrim at 1834 St. Clair Avenue) and head directly following to the Celtic or Nordic service on the following dates:

Sunday, **February 12**

Groveland Tap at **5:30**, Celtic service at 6:51

Sunday, **March 25**

Groveland Tap at **5:30**, Nordic Service at 6:51

Sunday, **April 22**

Groveland Tap at **5:30**, Nordic Service at 6:51

## Pilgrim Children and Families—Upcoming Events:

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** - Winter Carnival and Bake Sale (Saturday afternoon).

Wanted: Volunteers to help with games and activities, donations of gently used toys for prizes, and baked goods for the bake sale. Questions, contact Jeanne Adelman [612-729-3805](tel:612-729-3805) or [adeljo1@usiwireless.com](mailto:adeljo1@usiwireless.com)

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** - Meal at Family Place (Saturday afternoon)

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** - “Wishes for the Earth” Kite event at Harriet Island (afternoon)

**May 6<sup>th</sup>** - Pizza Party and Nursing Home Songfest (following 11 a.m. service)

**Summer 2012** - Feed My Starving Children—date to be announced

## Beyond Pilgrim

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**Mark's Gospel: The Whole Story** - Tuesdays, February 7 through March 27, 6:30-8:30pm. Delve deeper into the narrative of the first gospel written by the early Christian communities. Facilitated by Joan Mitchell, CSJ, PhD. \$20/session or \$150/series. Contact Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality at [www.wisdomwayscenter.org](http://www.wisdomwayscenter.org) or [651-696-2788](tel:651-696-2788).

**Let the Stones Shout Out!** - Friday, February 24, 1-8pm and Saturday, February 25, 9am-4:30pm. Come for hands-on stone carving and explore spiritual traditions from world religions in which stone is an essential element. \$125 (incls. Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, program tools, and stones). Contact Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality at [www.wisdomwayscenter.org](http://www.wisdomwayscenter.org) or [651-696-2788](tel: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:** Karen Johnson, continuing chemo for lymphoma; Lorine Mack

**Continued health concerns:** Gjertrud Anderson, Owen and Ethan Christenson, Hannah Elizabeth Ankeny, Pastor Bonnie Pene, Serena Asta, Lillian Knutson, Ron Landt, Jay Oakman, Elizabeth Ozmon, Margaret Sjostrand, 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: John Hunter, March 11; Lester Swanson, father of Suzanne Swanson, April 2; Helen Louise Cyptar, 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.*

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### ***(Pastor Carol Tomer's pastoral musings continued from page 4)***

I couldn't have disagreed more. Each of you is making a difference in the lives of many people, I hope you know, because of all of the ways, not only in paid work, that you serve and love the neighbor, big and small ways, ways in which we get to be the hands and feet of Christ for others. What a holy vocation. In reflecting on this, it brought to my mind a Christmas season letter I received several years ago from one of my models and inspirations in the faith, Carl Frost, a retired professor of organizational development and consultant to some great companies. You've perhaps heard me speak of him before, and of his book Changing Forever: The Well-Kept Secret of American's Leading Companies. Carl was 87 at the time he shared these thoughts. He wrote: We are becoming intrigued that our lives are mysteries to be lived and not puzzle-mysteries to be solved. This seems in contrast to the current popularity of novels, TV mysteries, Harry Potter, whose devotees seem committed to "solve the mystery and gain closure," often reading the final chapter of the book to get "the answer" before they read the book. However, I am as avid as any "mystery devotee" in my daily pursuit of promising clues, confirmed findings and personal experiences that challenge my search for making a difference for others. Thereby, I am hoping to become someone I never was before -- and closure is not my goal!

God bless you and your Pilgrims in becoming someones you never were before and doing things you never did before, changing forever!

May God bless our Pilgrim journey and our personal journeys of making a difference in people's lives and one another's lives, opening ourselves to God's leading in each new day, in each new challenge, in each new opportunity, in each new chapter of our shared Pilgrim ministry and our wide and holy vocations!  
 Pastor Carol

## Parochial Report

Feb. Birthdays	Feb. Birthdays
1 Don Hogquist 1 Jennifer Ose 3 Erik Girvan 4 Shannon Leach 4 Harper Hatch 5 Marguerite Steffes 5 Grayson Andrist 6 Greg Douma 7 Patrick Metzger 8 Karen Hedenstrom 10 Charlotte Hardt 10 Maggie Bruecken 11 Drew Baese 11 Andrew Shuros 12 Meredith Samuelson 13 Matt O'Toole 14 Dean Munzke 14 Donna Dingle 14 Jason Hoppin 14 Zhanna Dunagan 15 Jay Oakman 15 Walter Heinecke	16 Jennell Utecht 16 Annette Tews 16 Abby Chapman 17 Bert Bast 17 Didrik Peterson 18 Phyllis Lindberg 18 Sarah Thomas 18 Sophie Johnson 19 Amarantine Ninow 21 Kirsten Anderson 21 Johanna Shreve 22 Lynda Hirschboeck 22 Ella Otto 23 Karen Ekdahl 23 David Joyslin 27 Maya Adelman
	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Feb. Anniversaries</h3>
	16 Todd & Stacy Dunn 28 Beverly & Arthur Stolp

### Pilgrim Pilgrimage to Holden Village, Summer, 2012

**July 21-28** are the dates that Pilgrim will be at Holden Village this summer. Holden is a wonderful ecumenical Christian retreat center in the Cascade retreat center in the Cascade mountains of Washington state (more info at [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org)) It's a great place for all ages. If you would like to join this pilgrimage, email the office ([pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org](mailto:pilgrim@pilgrimstpaul.org)) to receive the email with additional details, including information about your deposit that is due by **March 5**. On **March 5, Monday, at 7 pm**, we will have an informational meeting at Pilgrim for all who have signed up. At that meeting, we will make decisions about roommates at Holden and where we will stay on the night before we get on the boat to go up the lake to Holden. For questions, please see Pastor Carol.

## Two Great Synod Events In February

On **Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 am -- noon**, all congregations in our Saint Paul Area Synod of the ELCA will gather for the annual “synod conference assemblies.” It’s a great opportunity to head a wonderful presentation, as well as join in considering resolutions and more. Pilgrim is entitled to four lay voting members (check with the Pilgrim office, if you would like to be a voting member), but there is no limit to the number who can hear the keynote speech, 9-10 am, and be non-voting participants in the business meeting of our conference. Dr. Deanna Thompson, a great teacher and theologian of the church, who has also dealt with a very serious kind of cancer, is the keynote speaker:

*A member of Gloria Dei, St. Paul, and the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, Thompson will speak on “**Hoping for More: Being the Church in Times of Lament and Times of Joy.**” Lutherans aren’t the kind of Christians who predict the imminent end of the world. But what do we say about where life is leading? What might Lutherans have to say about living in the hard times, when hope is both precious and hard to come by? We claim that Lutheran theology is a “theology of the cross”—the belief that God doesn’t simply lift us out of hard times, but is present with us in human suffering. How does that shape our living as Lutherans? How might our congregational life enrich lives with God’s promise of more?*

You can find more info about the synod conference assemblies gathering at: [www.spas-elca.org/events/conference-assemblies](http://www.spas-elca.org/events/conference-assemblies)

In addition, on **Saturday, Feb. 25, 8:30 am- 2 pm**, the synod is offering the annual Synod Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders. The Tool Kit is a training event for congregational leaders and those who would like to become leaders that features extended conversation with Bishop Rogness, networking opportunities with leaders from congregations throughout this synod, and workshops with information specific to leadership matters and concerns.

You can learn more about the variety of workshops offered at this website: [www.spas-elca.org/events/tool-kit-congregational-leaders](http://www.spas-elca.org/events/tool-kit-congregational-leaders)

In order to attend, you should register, choose workshops, and pay through this website. Pilgrim can reimburse you for your registration costs, through our lay development funds, when you turn in your receipt to the church office.

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