

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 12

## DECEMBER 2018



Othello Ministerial Association  
presents:

An  
**Ecumenical Service of  
Lessons & Carols**



**Wednesday, December 19th**  
at 7 pm at  
**Pilgrim Lutheran Church**

### Cantata

The last performance of  
"How Should a King Come" Cantata  
takes place Sunday afternoon at  
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church  
in Moses Lake at 3:30 pm. Directed  
by Bob Reichert and the Children's  
Choir by Donna Reichert, it is a  
wonderful message of hope and  
love to usher in the Christmas  
season.

### Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

**Advent Services** will be held on  
Wednesdays, December 5th, 12th in the  
Fellowship Hall. Dec. 19th will be an  
Ecumenical Service of Lessons & Carols  
presented by the Othello Ministerial  
Association. All Advent services are at  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church.

### Children's Christmas Program

Sunday December 16 10 am

### Advent Fair with ELCA Good Gifts & Fair Trade Products & POTLUCK

Sunday December 16 11 am

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Monday December 24 6:30 pm

### Christmas Morning Worship

Tuesday December 25 10 am

*As you enjoy the beauty of this season and  
the gift of our Savior, may the Lord fill you  
with Peace and Joy and surround you with  
Love.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS !**

### Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational  
meeting will be on Sunday,  
January 27th, directly after  
worship, to discuss and adopt  
the annual budget, elect new  
council members and review  
church business.

### Church Council Openings

We will have 3 openings on  
council that we will need to fill  
at our congregational meeting.  
Sandi Bosch, and Kristi Spohr  
will have completed two  
consecutive terms each and  
are not eligible to continue.  
Marcia Bougher will have  
completed one term and is  
eligible for another. If the Holy  
Spirit is leading you to serve in  
this way, please contact a  
member of the nominating  
committee, Joe Guzman, or  
Pete Rodriguez. We also need  
an additional person on the  
nominating committee. Let a  
council member or Pastor know  
if you are interested. Thank  
you!

### Thank you!

Thank you to **Steve & Liz Jensen**  
for the wreaths adorning our front  
doors, and to Liz's parents, **Dallas  
& Sharon Boge** for donating the  
beautiful Christmas Tree to our  
congregation. We appreciate so  
much this addition to our worship  
and the celebration of Christ's birth.



### Our Sympathy

We offer Pastor Short our  
deepest sympathy on the  
passing of his brother Jon  
Short. Please hold his family  
in prayer as they grieve their  
husband, father, brother, and  
uncle. Please keep Pastor  
Short and Anna lifted in  
prayer as well.

### Our Condolences

We extend our sincere  
sympathy to Liz Jensen and her  
family upon the unexpected  
passing of her mother, Sharon  
Boge. Please keep all the family  
lifted in prayer as they grieve  
her passing.

### Our Sincere Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy  
to FayAnn, and the entire  
McCourtie family on the passing of  
our friend and fellow Pilgrim Larry  
McCourtie. Please lift them in  
prayer as they grieve. We give  
great thanks to everyone who  
helped make his Memorial so  
wonderful and to everyone who  
brought food for the meal  
afterwards. A special thanks to the  
Othello Choral Society and Bob  
Reichert for their special  
presentations to honor Larry.



Decorating the Tree

### Women's Bible Study

Women will be gathering December 8th @ 10 am  
in the quilting room for their monthly Bible Study  
from the Gather Magazine. Extra copies are  
available on the table in the Narthex or by calling  
Fay Coats at 509-855-3911. Hope to see you  
there!

### Thank you!

Thank you to all who came early Saturday morning to decorate the church for the  
Christmas season. It was a good time of fellowship, and a wonderful breakfast.  
Thanks to the cooks, Fay Coats, and Kristi Spohr. Another photo on the back page.

### Christmas Eve Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

**From your Pastor:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you come to church on Christmas Day you will hear a reading from the first chapter of John. As a matter of fact, this is usually the ONLY time we read this passage in church, with the rare exception of when there are two Sundays in the season of Christmas. That doesn't happen this year, so we will only read John 1:1-14 on Christmas Day, and then we'll put it away again for another 365 days.

One of the reasons I enjoy serving you on Christmas Day is because I love this particular passage. I like it much better than the familiar passage in Luke where we hear about angels and shepherds. I like it more than the passage in Matthew where we read about the magi from the east. It is, without a doubt, my favorite Christmas passage because it is the only one where the Bible specifically tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (Italics mine)

John begins his whole book with an explanation that Jesus is God in human flesh, but the part I like the best is where John says, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." Jesus came to live where we live. Jesus came, as a line from the Christmas cantata observes, "and moved into the neighborhood." Jesus lives right here in Othello, and Jesus lives wherever there are people of faith. "The Word became flesh and lived among us."

Many people believe that when Jesus ascended into heaven that was the end of his earthly presence, but I don't think that is correct because near the end of the book of John, Jesus gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. It went like this; "Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'." (John 20:21, 22)

We believe in God of the Trinity. We believe in the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. If that is true, then there has never been a time since Christ walked the face of the earth that God was apart from us. God gives us God's own Holy Spirit to all people of faith to be in and among us, guiding us and leading us, not just at Christmas, but always. God loves you! Why would God leave? God is with you right now, even as you read this!

It isn't hard to see the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. All we have to do is look for those little God moments around us. God was with us when I suffered a pulmonary embolism and went into the hospital for weeks. God was with us again when I needed heart surgery. God was with Jack McFarlin at home and God was on the golf course with Larry McCourtie to welcome them into the heavenly realm, and God is with Larry's and Jack's families to assure them that the promise of eternal life is true. God is with those who suffer, offering peace and comfort in the hands of caregivers. God is in the voices of our children as they sing Christmas songs and tell us again the Christmas story. God is in the light that is shared from person to person on Christmas Eve as we sing 'Silent Night'. God is with us at all times and in all places because the Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood. God is with us, which in Hebrew is 'Emmanuel'. "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." May you feel the presence of God in your Christmas celebration and always. See you in church.

Peace,  
Pastor Don Short

**Pastor Short's office hours**

Tuesday-Friday 9-12

Afternoons reserved for visitations, meetings, and appointments.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact Pastor Don Short at **509-761-1212**.

**Anna's office hours**

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 2-4 pm

Cell phone 509-761-1205

**INFO CORNER**

11/4	Attendance: 52	Offering: \$ 1,806
11/11	Attendance: 50	Offering: \$ 3,053
11/18	Attendance: 42	Offering: \$ 2,320
11/25	Attendance: 39	Offering: \$ 1,432

YTD Offerings — \$102,839

YTD Expenses— \$106,376

Thank you for supporting your Church and it's Mission!  
God loves a generous heart! Our Church and it's Mission depend on it!

Greetings Fellow Pilgrims,

"Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the Earth Thou art!"

These words from the Cantata have resonated with me as I have been grappling with my dad's death, and the deaths of others across our congregation and into extended families. Pastor Short also touched on it in Sunday's sermon. We believe that God is **WITH** us during all our trials, He consoles us, gives us strength to get through the days, stills our wandering minds and souls. Upon HIM we dare to hope for our salvation and the salvation of this earth.

Please remember as we go through this season of celebration that there are many who are also grieving. Dare to be that hug, that smile, those words of care that is our Pilgrim way.

Celebrating the lives of all of our Saints and the birth of the Christ child who will save us all,  
Your Council Secretary,  
Kristi Spohr

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Men's Group Breakfast-</b> Saturdays 8am @ Casa Mexicana <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> -Sunday School every Sunday except December 30						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 10 am Worship <b>Healing Service</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Alfa y Omega 6 pm	<b>5</b> Quilting 9 am <b>ADVENT Service</b> 7 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10 am
<b>9</b> 10 am Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Council 7 pm</b> Alfa y Omega 6 pm	<b>12</b> Quilting 9 am <b>ADVENT Service</b> 7 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10 am Worship <b>Sunday School Program/Potluck</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Alfa y Omega 6 pm	<b>19</b> Quilting 9 am 7 pm <b>Ecumenical Advent Service</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10 am Worship	<b>24</b>  <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30 pm</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas!</b> <b>Christmas Morning Service 10 am</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10 am Worship <b>Noisy Offering</b>		 <b>Tuesday December 11</b> 7:00 pm Council			<b><u>Birthdays-December</u></b>	

## TREATS for December

**Dec 2:** Barb Maine & Jacob & Meghan Johnston

**Dec 9:** Darla Spurgeon & Shirley Jean

**Dec 16:** Advent Fair/**Potluck**

**Dec 23:** Liz Jensen & Annie Smith

**Dec 30:** Marcia Bougher & MaryAnn Kirkpatrick

## Please Remember!

December 16 is a **BIG** day here @ Pilgrim. The children present their Christmas Program, we have a **potluck** after church, as well as an opportunity to purchase Fair Trade products, and ELCA Good Gifts. It promises to be a very fun and exciting day here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church! Hope to see you here!

5 Liz Jensen  
12 Joshua Rodriguez  
15 Michael McKay  
17 Mike Roth  
19 Joyce Deleon  
20 Leonard Bland  
22 Jim Nau  
26 Jon Erickson  
27 Trudy Doolittle  
30 Randy Deasy

DATE	USHERS	READER	Communion Assistant	ACOLYTE	Sacristan	BREAD	CLICKER	GREETER
<b>Dec 2</b>	Randy Deasy & Larry Maine	Barb Maine	Fay Coats	Maxwell Martinez	Liz Deasy	Nancy Roth	Tammy Rodriguez	Sandi Bosch
<b>Dec 9</b>	Pete R. & Marc Spohr	Marcia Bougher	Shirley McCullough	Shawn Mendoza	Nancy Roth	Nancy Roth	Tammy Rodriguez	Paul & Bernie Snyder
<b>Dec 16</b>	Pete R & Jim Nau	Annie Smith	Annie Smith	Shawn Mendoza	Fay Coats	Barb Maine	Tammy Rodriguez	Sue Bunch
<b>Dec 23</b>	Pete R	Anna Short	Paula McKay	Rylee McKay	Anna Short		Tammy Rodriguez	Paula McKay
<b>Dec 30</b>	Pete R	Meghan Johnston	Annie Smith	Jada Moreno		Cindy Eidahl	Tammy Rodriguez	Erika Moreno





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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**December 2018**

**Mission Statement:** PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH is led by the Holy Spirit **to invite** everyone to experience God's **Love** and **Grace** through life's pilgrimage of faith.

**Vision Statement:** PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH provides a warm, caring, and open atmosphere where we spread God's Word by **serving** our community, being a good neighbor, and embracing the power of prayer.



**Ready and Waiting!**



**Saluting our Veterans on Nov. 11!**

#### Lectionary Readings for December

Dec 2	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalms 25:1-10	I Thessa 3:9-13 1:17-27	Luke 21:25-36
Dec 9	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec 16	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec 23	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalms 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45
Dec 30	I Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalms 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52



**book of faith**  
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.