

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

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DECEMBER 2019



House Blessing

Following worship and fellowship Nov 17, several Pilgrims attended a House Blessing at the home of Kayla Spohr. Pastor gave a blessing and prayer in each of the rooms as members gathered together. Refreshments were served afterwards. Thank you to Pastor Don for helping to make Kayla's house a home.

Personal Care Kits Info

Quilters are putting together personal care kits to send off to Lutheran World Relief. They will not be sent until the quilts go out again, so we have lots of time to gather these materials. Items needed are as follows:

- 1) regular bars of soap (no minis or hotel size) in original packaging
- 2) Adult size toothbrushes in original packaging
- 3) Regular sturdy comb w/o packaging (no picks or fine toothed combs)
- 4) Metal nail clippers w/o packaging
- 5) Lightweight bath-size towels, dark colors preferred, measuring up to 52"x27"
- 6) Rubber bands, string, ribbon, or yarn to secure each kit



←
All
Saints
Sunday
With
Candle
Lighting
to honor
our
loved ones

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Services will be held on Wednesdays December 4th, and 11th in the Fellowship Hall. We will be decorating the Christmas trees after the service on Dec. 4th. December 18th we will have an Advent Service of Lessons & Carols at the Presbyterian Church. All services are at 7 pm.

Children's Christmas Program (see below)
Sunday December 8 10 am

Advent Fair and POTLUCK
Sunday December 8

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Tuesday December 24 @ 6:30 pm

Christmas Morning Worship
Wednesday December 25 @ 10 am

Children's Christmas Program

This year the Children's Christmas Program will present a Scientific Look at Christmas. Different characters from the Bible will be presented and we will discover how they all relate to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Christmas story. Come join us on December 8, at 10 am. Our Advent Fair and **POTLUCK** will follow this exciting service!!

Merry Christmas!

Advent Fair Coming December 8

Our Advent Fair this year is hosted by Fay Coats and Anna Short on Dec. 8 following the worship service. This year's proceeds will go to the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center. Coyote Ridge runs a prison-based program where inmates are paired with dogs that need training. Most of the dogs come from Adams County Pet Rescue. The idea is to have the inmates work with the dogs to make them more adoptable. The program is in need of \$1000 to continue. It has received money from the state in the past but has not received any state funds since 2018. In addition to the \$1000 to run the program each year, it also depends on the shelter to provide basic needs for the dogs such as food. Without that \$1000, all involved in this program are concerned about it's future. Currently, several of the inmates crochet and/or knit stuffed dogs and cats as well as hats to sell. They do this throughout the year and sell the items at adoption events all year long. This program helps the inmates because it so positively affects the dogs, and the care they give to the dogs is reciprocated when the inmates see how positively the dogs are impacted.

We will also be having a **potluck** on Dec. 8 while the Fair is going on. Please bring a dish to share, with an emphasis on side dishes & desserts. Ham will be provided! Any questions on what to bring, please talk to Fay or Anna.



December message from our Pastor:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I don't make a regular practice of using this space to discuss things that are not strictly related to Pilgrim Lutheran, or even the Lutheran Church in general, but this month I would like to take a moment to urge you to take an opportunity to see the Othello Choral Society's Christmas Cantata. It is a new cantata by Mary McDonald and Jay Rouse called "Love Made a Way" and it is almost a variety show in the diversity of musical styles among all the songs. From familiar Christmas carols to Gospel style showstoppers, this is a cantata to remember.

I am privileged to sing the part of Joseph in the duet called, "This Son". Many of us think we know about Joseph and Mary from what the Bible says. We know that Mary was an obedient servant of the Lord, and we know that Joseph was a righteous man who was also compassionate enough that he didn't want to see Mary face public disgrace. We know that Joseph heard from angels through his dreams and, perhaps skeptically, decided to marry Mary anyway, even though she was pregnant, and he knew the child was not his.

In the duet in the cantata though, we get a glimpse into what could likely have been different viewpoints for Mary and Joseph. The song begins with Joseph assuring Mary that he is with her and she is not alone in delivering her baby, and then he admits that neither of them had counted on lodging in a barn when they got to Bethlehem. Joseph seems tender, but almost sheepish when he sings, "But God will see us through." Then Mary begins to sing. I really like how the composers finally give us a glimpse into Mary's concern over what God is doing through her. She sings, "Should the Son of God be born here in this lowly place?" Almost as if she is finally having second thoughts about her role as mother to the Son of God. It seems obvious that she hadn't counted on giving birth in a barn!

If you recall, Mary sang in the first chapter of Luke, "[God] has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant... He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." (Luke 1:48a, 52, 53) So I wonder if Mary had higher expectations of the accommodations where she would bear the Son of God. It seems like when she got to Bethlehem, the lowly were NOT lifted up. The rich were NOT sent away empty, and in the duet from the cantata Mary seems disappointed. To me, it is the most realistic and accurate portrayal of what Mary may have been thinking when she went into labor on that first Christmas night. I hope you get a chance to come and hear it for yourself.

This is a busy month full of Christmas events, extra services at church, family get-togethers and so much extra shopping. But in the midst of the rush, as the Christmas carol reminds us, "Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!" (It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, ELW #282). See you in church—and at the cantata!
Peace,
Pastor Don Short

Pastor Short's office hours

Wednesday-Friday 9-12 pm
Tuesdays 9-11 am

Tues pm reserved for text studies & Wed-Fri afternoons reserved for meetings, visitations, 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

11/3 Attendance: 41 Offering: \$ 4,464
11/10 Attendance: 37 Offering: \$ 1,590
11/17 Attendance: 39 Offering: \$ 2,327
11/24 Attendance: 39 Offering: \$ 1,382

YTD Offerings — **\$ 100,663**

YTD Expenses— \$ 113,262

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

Let's Talk About Taxes-Message from Kristi!

This is a topic that I have wanted to talk about for quite a while, but I lack the technical knowledge and terminology to do so myself. Thank you to **Randy Deasy** for contributing the following information!

Here is a tax idea as the end of 2019 approaches: Recent changes in the tax law, including increasing the standard deduction (\$24,400 for married joint filers) have made it harder to take advantage of itemizing deductions. If you are at least 70 ½ years young, and are receiving required minimum distributions (RMD) from an IRA (not a 401K), this may interest you. You can designate a portion of your RMD to go directly to a 501(c)(3) organization (Pilgrim Lutheran Church, for example). The annual limit is up to \$100,000 per person of what would otherwise be taxable income and must be deducted from the IRA by the RMD deadline, typically Dec. 31. These qualified charitable donations (QCDs) provide an even greater tax benefit because they will never be included in your adjusted gross income. Also, the QCDs go toward satisfying your required minimum distribution. Other strategies, such as using donor-advised funds, stacking / lumping of donations or gifting of highly appreciated stock, can be discussed with your tax professional or financial adviser, keeping in mind the cutoff date for action – Dec 31, 2019.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10 am worship Sunday School Healing Service	2	3 Alfa y Omega 6 pm	4 9 am Quilting	5	6	7
8 10 am worship Children's Program Advent Fair & Potluck	9	10  Alfa y Omega 6 pm Church Council 7 pm	11 9 am Quilting	12	13	14 Women's Bible Study: 10 am
15 10 am Worship Sunday School	16	17 Alfa y Omega 6 pm	18 9 am Quilting	19	20	21
22 10 am Worship Sunday School	23	 24  Christmas Eve Worship 6:30	25 Christmas Morn Worship 10 am	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship	30	31 Alfa y Omega 6 pm 	Men's Group Breakfast- Saturdays 8am @ Casa Mexicana Sunday School-every Sunday in December except the 29th.			

Tuesday December 10
7:00 pm Council



Anniversaries-December
No anniversaries....

Birthdays on the back page!

Attention! If you do not see your birthday or anniversary on these lists, please contact Anna in the office so that they may be added to the master list. Thank you!



DATE	USHERS	READER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	ACOLYTE	SACRISTAN	BREAD	CLICKER	GREETER	COFFEE HOUR
Dec 1	Jim & Vicki Nau	Don Wade	Shirley	Maxwell	Anna Short	Cindy	Tammy R	Don Wade	Vicki Shirley
Dec 8	Marc & Kristi Spohr	MaryAnn Kirkpatrick	Fay Coats	Jacob	Nancy Roth	Cindy	Tammy R	Larry & MaryAnn	Potluck
Dec 15	Pete R	Kristi Spohr	Anna Short		Fay Coats	Nancy	Tammy R	Shirley McC	Elaine Anna
Dec 22	Randy & Liz Deasy	Linda Bork	Annie Smith		Liz Deasy	Nancy	Tammy R		MaryAnn Linda
Christmas Eve Dec 24	Pete R	Angela Martinez		Maxwell	Anna/Fay	Cindy	Tammy R		
Christmas Day Dec 25	Pete R	Annie Smith	Anna Short		Anna/Fay	Cindy	Tammy R		
Dec 29	Pete	Annie Smith				Nancy	Tammy R		Cindy E Elaine



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

December 2019

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 **servicing** our community, **being** a good neighbor, and **embracing** the power of prayer.

Birthdays-December

- 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

Women's Bible Study

December's Bible Study will be held on December 14, at 10 am in the Quilting Room next to the kitchen. Please come take advantage of this opportunity for study and fellowship with your Pilgrim sisters. Extra copies of the study are in the Narthex. For any questions, please call Fay Coats at 488-2886.



Children's Sermon-Saluting our Veterans

Lectionary Readings for December

Dec 1	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
Dec 8	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Dec 15	Isaiah 35:1-10	Luke 1:46b-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Dec 22	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 24 *	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
Dec 25 *	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14
Dec 29	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.