

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021



A Message of Thanks

"Thank you, everyone, for the cards and gifts of remembrance that made our Christmas more special. Anna and I appreciate you all. It is a privilege to serve you as your pastor and church secretary. God's peace be with you all."

-Pastor Don and Anna

Red Cross Blood Drive

This important event will be held at Pilgrim **Tuesday, January 19th** between 1:30—6 pm. Blood is badly needed during this time so if you are able, please give blood! Please contact Pastor Short if you are willing to help set up before the event. Thank you in advance!



Our Sympathy

Our sister in Christ, and former Pilgrim, Barbara Brandt passed away on Dec. 11. Please keep daughter Patty Erwin, with whom Barbara lived, and her entire family in your thoughts and prayers.

Women's Bible Study

At this time, we still plan to meet for Bible Study on January 16, at 10 am, at the church. Please be flexible as our orders from the Governor may change. Please bring your Bibles, and the Gather magazine for January. Hope to see you there!

Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, January 31st, directly after worship.

Items on the agenda will include:

- 1) Election of 3 council members -- 2 may be re-elected for a 2nd term, 1 must be replaced.
- 2) Election of 3 members to the Endowment Committee, and a revival of the same.
- 3) Presentation by the landscaping committee
- 4) Discussing & adopting the 2021 Annual Budget
- 5) Appointing members to the nominating committee
- 6) Reviewing church business

The Annual Report, including the proposed budget, will be available on Sunday, January 24th, to review prior to the meeting. **(Kindly turn in all committee reports by Sunday, Jan. 17th)** If you can send them to the church electronically

pilgrimlutheran@hotmail.com, please do so. That will make it ever so much easier for Anna to put the packet together. **Thank you for your cooperation and your promptness!**

All are welcome to attend the congregational meeting. Only "voting members" may vote on motions. Thank you for your continued support of Pilgrim Lutheran's mission.

See you there!

Sorry-no **POTLUCK** this year! We are all looking forward to the day when we can resume our potlucks!

The Miracle of the Quilts-Rising from the Ashes....by Fay Coats

August 4, 2020, a giant explosion rocked the city of Beirut, Lebanon flattening an entire portion of the city. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has an active ministry among the large populations of Syrian and Palestinian refugees living there. 300,000 people were left homeless by the blast. Word was soon received that three of LWR 40-foot shipping containers stored at the Port could not have survived. These containers held 22,000 quilts, 100 cartons of school Kits, 300 cartons of personal care quilts and 125 cartons of baby care kits. Pilgrim Lutheran Quilters received the news with sadness knowing that, in all likelihood, some of the quilts we had made and shipped had also been destroyed.

Barbara Brandt, who recently passed away, served as the Pilgrim Quilters leader until ten years ago when she and her husband moved to Bellingham. Some years before her departure Barb initiated the practice of group prayer before we began quilting. At the time, we were struggling with few volunteers and a lack of resources. At Barb's insistence prayer was a regular feature. Sure enough, things improved as word spread throughout the community about what the group was doing. Women from all walks of life started coming – some went to a church, some didn't. It didn't matter. We were united in making the most beautiful quilts we could with the resources we had. We prayed every time – simple prayers asking God to bless our work and guide the quilts we were making to get to people in need. When the time came for Barb to move, she sat us all down and told us the most important thing for us to do was to continue praying and we would be given what we needed. We have honored her wish. If we get caught up in our quilting and lose track of time someone, usually our current leader, Sharon Bray, says "It's time to pray, ladies".

Fast forward to this past fall. It was some time before LWR via their local partner, Anera, was granted access to the port, and against all odds, the containers were intact! It was then they learned, despite the magnitude of the blast, the seals on the containers had held! Their placement in the port, inside a concrete storage building surrounded by other shipping containers, protected the LWR containers enough to even prevent chemical contamination. The quilts and kits have been distributed by this time; 24,000 people in desperate need have received supplies necessary to stay warm and have some of their other needs met. Our simple prayers to bless the quilts and guide them safely to their destination have been answered in a spectacular way!

January 2021 Message from our Pastor

Dear Pilgrims,

If your Christmas greetings were similar to the ones Anna and I received, we heard a lot of the letters echo the theme, "this has been a challenging year" in reference to 2020. All our lives have been disrupted by the pandemic. We have been dealing with isolation and social distancing for most of the year. Most of us know people who have been sick, some of us have been sick ourselves, and some of us know people who have died as a result of this virus.

As our calendar turned from the final days of 2020 to the opening days of 2021, I was reminded of the verses Paul wrote to the church in Rome, "We boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, Christ died for [us]." (Romans 5:3-6, alt.)

Christ did not die of COVID-19. Christ died a death he chose. Christ died of crucifixion at the hands of the Roman government and the direction of the Jewish Temple leadership. Christ died because Christ took on our own sin to kill it on the cross so that Christ could open for us the way of salvation. Christ was willing to suffer and die on our behalf in order to give us life; not just a cure from a virus or any illness, but life that lasts eternally!

That reminds me of another verse, that just might make suffering through this pandemic bearable: "For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

2020 is finally over. Many of us regard it as the worst year ever, yet even a bad year comes to an end to make way for a New Year. We welcomed 2021 with anticipation and hope, praying that it will bring an end to the pandemic and a return to normal life with the promise of a vaccine that will help us rid ourselves of the threat of COVID-19. However, we dare not put all our trust in the works of humans, regardless of how wonderful they may be. We will be disappointed when another virus comes along and creates another global catastrophe.

The only sure place to put our trust is in Jesus Christ, who makes all things new. As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17; "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Through this pandemic God is still at work. God is still bringing us peace, mercy, love, and salvation. God is still caring for us, and through the work of Jesus, our sins are forgiven. That good news should just about guarantee a happier new year! See you in church, even if it is online.

Peace,

Pastor Don Short

Pastor Short's office hours:

Tues-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**.

Pastor's Email: pilgrimlcpastor@gmail.com

Anna's office hours

Because Anna's hours are variable at the School District during closure, please contact her by cell phone if you need information! Thank you for understanding.

Cell phone **509-761-1205**



Stewardship

You Pilgrims **ROCK** at your faithfulness in stewardship that enables Pilgrim to continue its mission during the pandemic! Way to go Pilgrims! And thank you!

INFO CORNER

12/6	Attendance:	29	Offering: \$	3,011
12/13	Attendance:	31	Offering: \$	987
12/20	Attendance:	32	Offering: \$	2,252
12/27	Attendance:	18	Offering: \$	2,855
Christmas Eve"		48	Offering: \$	971

2020 Offerings — \$ 134,549

2020 Expenses— \$ 117,255

Thank you, Pilgrims, for supporting your Church and it's Mission!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Send a birthday card to someone on the list below! Call Anna for an address if you need to.	2 Send an uplifting text to a friend.
3 10 am Worship & Sunday School	4 Get outside for a walk in your neighborhood.	5 Pray for ALL the Front Line workers.	6 Epiphany Listen to tonight's message from Pastor Don.	7 Have your children or grands send a note to a Pilgrim.	8 Pray for Pastor Don and Anna.	9 Pray for those working on a vaccine for the Corona virus.
10 10 am Worship & Sunday School	11 Thank God for your friends by name.	12 Church Council 7 pm	13 Listen to tonight's message from Pastor Don.	14 Send a thank you message to Anna in the snail mail.	15 Are you a Saint or an Angel?	16 Committee Reports due to Anna tomorrow!
17 10 am Worship & Sunday School	18 Send a cheerful note to another Pilgrim.	19  Blood Drive 1:30-6 pm	20 Listen to tonight's message from Pastor Don.	21 Send your tithing to church.	22 Call a friend that you haven't spoken to in a long time.	23 Annual Reports Available Tomorrow!
24 10 am Worship & Sunday School	25 Thank God out loud for your family!	26 Take a walk around the block.	27 Listen to tonight's message from Pastor Don.	28 Donate Food to the Saints or Angels in the Narthex.	29 Pray for our Sunday School Children.	30 Read a devotion from <u>Christ in Our Home.</u>
31 10 am Worship & Sunday School Congregational Meeting	<p>Table Prayer from ELCA World Hunger Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, And let these gifts to us be blessed. Blessed be God, who is our bread; May all the world be clothed and fed.</p> <p>Virtual Services! FaceBook: Pilgrim Lutheran Church-ELCA Website: othello.lutheran.com Don't forget to hit the SHARE button to share the Good News with friends and family!!</p> <p>Wednesday messages continue! Please continue to join us on FaceBook for these uplifting messages!</p> <p>Birthdays-January 1 Whitney Blaak 6 Erika Moreno 9 Nancy Roth 9 Jeremiah Rodriguez 19 Manny Maine 20 Sally McFarlin 20 Eileen Lawrence 23 Dick Hudnall 25 John Betz 27 Pete Olsen 30 John Bunch</p> <p>Anniversaries-January 8 Bruce & Mandy Moore 12 Pete & Lynn Olsen 29 Michael & Paula McKay 30 Ron & Jan Hilmes</p>					



Pictured Above: Sunday School Christmas Presentation

Thank you to **ALL** the children, parents, and teachers who helped put on a wonderful Christmas presentation December 13th. A special thank you to **Marcia Bougher** and all her **helpers** for their unending devotion to Christian Education.



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

January 2021

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.**

Landscaping Update

Many thanks to Pete Olsen, Stan Horst, Ernie Summers, Rick Bougher, and the entire committee who showed up December 19th to help place the boulders, donated by Ernie, to our new landscaping. A lot of prior work went into this portion of the project, and the committee is grateful for how well all the pieces fell into place! Pun intended!
-Kristi



Thank you Stan!



**Saints vs. Angels Food
Drive Now Open**
January 9th to Friday
February 5th



SOUPER BOWL



Competition begins with receipt of the newsletter!!
Make it your mission to add to the Saints or Angels corner in the Narthex so that we can help the Food Bank meet people's needs these winter months.

Lectionary Readings for January

Jan 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:10-18
Jan 10	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalms 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Jan 17	I Samuel 3:1-10	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	I Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Jan 24	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalms 62:5-12	I Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Jan 31	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalms 111	I Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.