

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017



Sunday School Christmas Program

Special thanks to all the children who came to help present the Christmas Story to our congregation on December 11. It was fabulous, and if you missed it, you can view it on Facebook at PilgrimLutheranChurch-ELCA. A BIG THANK YOU to Marcia Bougher, Kayla Spohr, Jan Charlston, Liz Deasy, Judy Summers, Emilee Jensen, Molly Jensen, and Pastor Don for helping with costumes, directing, and reading during the presentation.

Women's Bible Study

Join us Saturday Jan. 14, at 10 am for fellowship and Bible Study. Copies of the study can be found on the desk in the Narthex! We hope to see you there!

Thank you!

Thank you to **Bob Reichert, Vicki Nau,** and the **Pilgrim Lutheran Choir** for the wonderful music presented at the Christmas Eve service. It was lovely and added to the beauty of the evening. Thank you also to Donna & Bob Reichert for their gifts of playing piano & organ. If you missed the service, you can listen and watch the videos on Facebook.

Facebook tips!

To make sure you get up to date information on Pilgrim's activities, be sure to **LIKE** our page. To **spread** the news about our activities and to invite others to share in our joy and God's Love, please **SHARE** our sermons, photos, ELCA posts, and other offerings onto your own page. Please ask if you need help doing this!



Pictured above:
Molly Jensen as St. Lucia



The next Blood Drive at Pilgrim will be Tuesday, January 31, from 1-6 pm. We would greatly appreciate help in setting up, and taking down. If you feel called to donate blood, that is greatly needed and appreciated as well!!!

Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 29, 2017. It will be held in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

Items on the agenda will include:

- Confirmation of Pastor Short's 2nd Transitional Year
- 2017 Budget
- Filling 3 council positions
- Choosing Representatives for the Synod Assembly
- Appointing members to the nominating Committee
- Choosing members for the Endowment Committee
- Other business

The annual report, including the proposed budget, will be available on Sunday, January 22, to review before the meeting.

All are welcome to attend, but only "voting members" may vote on motions.

Thank you for your continued support of our church and we hope to see you there.

Thank you from Pastor Don and Anna

Dear Pilgrims,

Thank you so much for all of your thoughtful cards and other tokens of remembrance over Christmas. You have made our first Christmas in Othello very special. Anna and I appreciate being a part of your lives. Thank you again and may God bless your New Year.

Peace,
Pastor Don Short

Thank you to the Worship and Music Committee

We thank Fay Coats, Pastor Don, and the Worship and Music Committee for the wonderful services and fellowship during Advent. Topics included Angels, St. Nicholas, St. Lucia, and a Christmas Carol sing along. Attendance was great, and the fellowship superb. Thanks to all of you who attended!

An excerpt from St. Lucia's Advent Service:

December 13th marks the beginning of the Christmas season in Sweden. On that day, or rather, very early in the morning when it is still dark, a daughter of the household becomes a servant of all. She wears a long white dress and a red sash, and her halo is a crown of lighted candles. She becomes a servant to everyone in the house as she goes from room to room, waking them up as she sings the carols of her country and serves them hot coffee and rolls. Then a land that has slumbered in the dark shadows awakens as candles from nearby homes announce the beginning of a most joyous season.

From your Pastor:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to 2017. New calendars are on the wall. Dates are empty. Plans have yet to be made. Blank spaces have yet to be filled in. The new year beckons. We hope the New Year will be better than the last one. We make promises to ourselves to be better people. We make resolutions and dreams of improvements because we want this New Year to be a time of happiness and fulfillment. I wish you well on the accomplishment of your plans for 2017, whatever they may be.

There is something you may be certain of during the coming year. You may be certain that God will be with you. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6) God will be with you through all of the good and bad times of 2017. God will be with you whether you stay in Othello the whole year or travel to exotic destinations. God will be with you wherever you go, and we, your church, will be caring for you as the body of Christ.

One thing I have learned about this congregation in the short time I have been your pastor is that you care for one another. You care about each other's welfare and you care for each other when that is needed. So why not extend that beyond the doors of the church? What if we make 2017 the year of the invitation? What if we make a conscious effort to invite someone to church this year? It simplifies the answer to the question, "What makes your church special?" The answer only needs to be "Come and see!"

It is the same answer Jesus gave to the disciples of John the Baptist who were following him. "When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." (John 1:38 & 39)

The ministry of Jesus began with an invitation to come and see. Jesus didn't see the need to explain anything. He didn't need to give a dissertation on right theology or religion. He didn't need to justify himself or anything he was doing; he simply made the invitation and let the Holy Spirit do the work.

It seems to me we can do the same thing as a church. We are the body of Christ. We don't have anything to prove. We don't need to explain anything. We don't need to justify our existence. We can simply offer an invitation. What do you like about Pilgrim Lutheran? Come and see.

Peace,

Pastor Don

From your Church Council:

Greetings Fellow Pilgrims!

"With God, all things are possible."

What a big difference one year makes! Last year, at this time, we had just met Pastor Don and Anna who had graciously come to Othello during their vacation to Wenatchee for Pastor Don to lead our service on December 27. Following their visit we scrambled to get everything in place for the Synod council to give him a transition call on our behalf, in time for us to confirm at our Congregational meeting at the end of January. It was hectic, exciting, and we had renewed energy as we saw the Holy Spirit working, even as we were working hard to improve ourselves and be ready for a new Pastor.

As we move into 2017, we do so as a stronger unit of Christ's body. Attendance is up, giving is up, sharing of the Good News by members is up, and participation is up (thank you to all who sign up each month when the clipboard comes around!). We feel cared for and nourished...how very blessed are we! Let us take what Pastor Don says above and ACT on it-talk to people you know & love, AND to people you don't know... Make the invitation. We have so much to look forward to in 2017. Join the party—Christ's party. Happy New Year to all!

Danita, Larry, Kristi, Sandy, Ernie, and Jim

Pastor Short's office hours -Tuesday-Friday 9-12 Afternoons reserved for visitations, meetings, and appointments.

Anna's office hours-Tuesday & Thursday 9-11 Friday 9-11 & 2-4.

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

Council Members:

Danita Porter	—	509-346-7633
Kristi Spohr	488-9950	509-331-4406
Sandi Bosch	—	509-346-5211
Larry McCourtie	—	509-989-6645
Jim Nau	—	509-989-0327
Ernie Summers	—	509-989-1206



INFO CORNER

12/4	Attendance:	57	Offering:	\$ 2766
12/11	Attendance:	63	Offering:	\$ 1436
12/18	Attendance:	36	Offering:	\$ 2140
12/24	Attendance:	83	Offering:	\$ 1833
12/25	Attendance:	24	Offering:	\$ 2030

YTD Offerings — \$ 120,716

YTD Expenses— \$ 98,506

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Happy New Year!	2	3 Alfa y Omega 6 pm	4 Quilting 9 am	5	6 Epiphany Service 6 pm	7
8 9 am Book of Acts 10 am Worship Healing Service	9	10 Alfa y Omega 6 pm  See below	11 Quilting 9 am	12	13	14 Women's Bible Study 10 am
15 9 am Book of Acts 10 am Worship Recognition Sunday	16	17 Alfa y Omega 6 pm	18 Quilting 9 am	19	20	21
22 9 am Book of Acts 10 am Worship	23	24 Alfa y Omega 6 pm	25 Quilting 9 am	26	27	28
29 9 am Book of Acts 10 am Worship Congregational Meeting	30	31 Alfa y Omega 6 pm Blood Drive 1-6 pm		Temple Tender Tuesdays—10 am Men's Group Breakfast- Saturdays 8am Meeting @ the church Jan. 7 & 14. SUNDAY SCHOOL-January 8, 15, 22, & 29.		

Birthdays-January

2 Renee Redding
 9 Nancy Roth
 9 Jeremiah Rodriguez
 16 Sally McFarlin
 19 Manny Maine
 22 Bill Schlagel
 23 Dick Hudnall
 25 John Betz
 27 Pete Olsen
 28 Pauline Loeffler
 30 John Bunch

Anniversaries-January

8 Bruce & Mandy Moore
 12 Pete & Lynn Olsen
 16 Larry & FayAnn McCourtie
 25 Carol & Howie Strom
 29 Michael & Paula McKay
 30 Jan & Ron Hilmes

God's Peace, Love,
 and Joy to all in
 2017!!



Tuesday January

10th

6:30 Committees Meet
7:30 Council

Epiphany-January 6th

We will have an Epiphany service at 6 pm, followed by refreshments and taking down the Christmas decorations.

Congregational Meeting

Our congregational meeting will be held January 29, 2017 following worship. **If you would like your committee report included in the Annual Report, please get it to Anna by Jan. 18.** Thank you!

DATE	USHERS	READER	Communion Assistant	ACOLYTE	Sacristan	BREAD	CLICKER	GREETER
Jan 1	Pete Rodriguez Marc Spohr	Shirley McCullough	Donna Adams	Marc Spohr	Donna Adams	Donna Adams	Tammy Rodriguez	Tammy Rodriguez
Jan 8	Jim Weinkauff	Kristi Spohr	Sue Bunch		Liz Deasy	Donna Adams	Anna Short	Sharon Bray
Jan 15	Pete Rodriguez Phil Bennison	Shirley McCullough	Jim Weinkauff		Sue Bunch	Nancy Roth	Tammy Rodriguez	Tammy Rodriguez
Jan 22	Pete Rodriguez Phil Bennison	Anna Short	Jan Charlston	Jim Weinkauff	Bill & Danita	Nancy Roth	Tammy Rodriguez	Tammy Rodriguez
Jan 29	Steve Jensen Marc Spohr	Kristi Spohr					Tammy Rodriguez	Tammy Rodriguez



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

January 2017



Picture Left: Jacob Thornton in front of PLC Christmas Tree

Top: Vicki Nau singing at the Christmas Eve Service

Right: Decorating the Tree after our first Advent Service

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.

PLC will need to fill **three** Council positions at the Annual Meeting. Please prayerfully consider saying **YES** when asked by the Nominations committee!



Lectionary Readings for January

January 1	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalms 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23
January 8	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalms 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
January 15	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalms 40:1-11	1 Corinth. 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
January 22	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalms 27:1,4-9	1 Corinth. 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
January 29	Micah 6:1-8	Psalms 15	1 Corinth. 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.