

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2020



Easter Services:

At this time there is no plan for Easter services due to the social distancing required by our state to help in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Please know that you are able to contact Pastor Short with any concerns you have regarding, church or any situation that you find yourself in.

Sunday Services:

Pastor and Anna have been putting together Wednesday Evening Meditations and Sunday Services for us including some wonderful hymns. If you are in need of a hymnal and would like to follow along or sing, please come by the church during Pastor's hours to pick one up. These meditations and services are posted to Facebook, and to our website for viewing at your convenience. Please make sure to thank Pastor and Anna for their devotion and for making sure that we receive God's Word and message.



Pastor Don addressing our congregation via video for Lenten Meditation

Happy Easter!!

God is Stronger than Covid-19

submitted by Anna Short

It seems to me that we are living in a time of confusion in our community. It has taken me a while to get my head around the fact that we are socially isolated, that school has been cancelled for six weeks, and that church has been suspended for who knows how long. The kids in our community, along with their parents, who don't have enough money or even gas to get to the store—they still need to be fed. There are people who are without shelter, and it is still cold at night. For some folks, there is no way to socially distance themselves nor do some of them understand what that means.

There is still also spiritual food that is needed—at least I have needed it. I have needed to read and to hear that God is still with us. In my heart I know he is, but it is good to hear and read that "Yes" he is with us now and with us always. I said this to Pastor the other day after hearing the school will be closed and seeing no food on the shelves at the store, "This is not God at work, this is the devil." How do we fight this? Are we in control? What is God calling us to do during this time? I think God is calling us to be faithful. God is calling us to talk to our neighbors via phone not only to make sure we are all safe and taken care of, that we have enough food and the basics of life, but also to hear an encouraging voice on the phone so that we do not feel so isolated. My faith is important to me and even though I have a front seat to listening to Don when he talks, it is good to also read the Bible and hear what God is saying to us. It is also good to hear what Don is saying, sometimes hearing a calm voice in the storm is encouraging. We will be doing weekly Wednesday devotionals on FaceBook and for those who do not have FaceBook but who are on the prayer chain, Pastor Don will be including a written copy for you to read.

We will get through this tough time and we will come out on the other side a lot stronger. We are in this together and with God's help we will make it. God is stronger than Covid-19 and we just need to trust that no matter what, God is there and he loves us.

Services on FaceBook and Website!

This time of social distancing is challenging for believers who love to worship together. Thankfully Pilgrim Lutheran has a system in place for delivering a shortened service, music, and Lenten Meditations to our Pilgrims via FaceBook, and/or our website. That little iPad that the church purchased in 2016 is still going strong, and is being used to bring you worship. You will find the addresses for both every month on the return address area for our newsletter. I will put it **here** as well!

FaceBook:

Pilgrim Lutheran Church-ELCA

Website:

othellolutheran.com

I would like to encourage you to SHARE each message that is posted on FaceBook, so that we are plastering our Othello Community and beyond with Pastor Don's message of hope, and love. Surely we want to spread the Good News, and "invite everyone to share in God's Love and Grace" as we say in our Mission Statement!

Larry McCourtie Memorial

You may have noticed when driving by Pilgrim Lutheran in the dark, that our sign on 7th and Elm is now lit by two LED lights that have been installed by Farmer's Electric. This was made possible by Memorials for Larry McCourtie. As an avid supporter of Pilgrim Lutheran and our Othello Community for so many years, Larry would be happy to know that Pilgrim is shining its light out there for the community to see...

April 2020 Message from our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every week as I prepare the sermon for Sunday, I read commentary on a website called, "Working Preacher" (workingpreacher.org). The commentators do a great job of suggesting how to use the lectionary readings to speak to contemporary topics. This week I almost laughed out loud when I read a comment from Dr. Matt Skinner of Luther Seminary. He said, "You're in uncharted territory this week, Working Preachers."

We have never done church this way before. I have lived over 60 years and I have never been told by the government not to have a gathering in a church building before. These are strange days indeed. We are not gathering in person for the next several weeks. Who knows how long these restrictions will last? What will this do to the churches? Will small churches be able to survive without gathering together? Will people be too afraid to return to church even after the restrictions are lifted by the government? All of these questions and more surround us as we make decisions about how to be church together during this time of physical separation.

One thing is still constant, though, in the midst of this chaos. God still with us. Even as Jesus was ascending into heaven, he did two things. First, he gave the disciples a mission. He said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20a) That has always been the mission of the church and it still is. We are called to make disciples. We are called to share God's love with our neighbors and tell them about all of the wonderful things Jesus does for us. We are called to teach people to do the same.

But the mission of the church is dependent on Christ, the head of the church, who also promised, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Jesus is with us, even when we cannot be with each other. Jesus is with us, even when we cannot see or feel His presence. Jesus is with us, even when we are dealing with dread diseases like COVID-19, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, or any other difficulty.

We are in uncharted territory, but we are not alone here. We are working together to accomplish God's mission, and we are working together to make disciples even if we are in a room by ourselves. Trust that God is always with you. God is always loving you. God is always caring for you and God will never leave you.

April 12th is Easter Sunday and it is sure to be the most unusual Easter Sunday we have ever had, but I know that God will show up. God knows how to bring life out of death, and God will continue to give life to God's church and God's people. Do not be afraid. God is with you and the church will not fail as long as Jesus is our head. Even if we cannot meet together, we are still God's church, currently worshipping in an online format. God be with you as we explore this uncharted territory together.

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

Please remember that even though we are not physically attending church due to the corona virus, we still have expenses to cover, such as utilities, salaries, insurance, etc. Your continued and consistent stewardship is appreciated!

INFO CORNER

3/1	Attendance:	44	Offering:	\$ 3,930.35
3/8	Attendance:	33	Offering:	\$ 2,212
3/15	Attendance:	24	Offering:	\$ 1,075
3/22-3/27			Offering:	\$ 4,905
2020 Offerings —				\$ 33,121
2020 Expenses—				\$ 32,486

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Here are some ideas of activities to help us get through the month together!			1 	2 Plant a flower.	3 Send a note to another Pilgrim! Shirley Jean turns 80 years young!	4 Take a walk around the block.
5 Watch the Pilgrim Service on FaceBook.	6 Pray for Pastor Don and Anna.	7 Donate to the Food Bank.	8 Pray for ALL the Front Line workers.	9 Send your tithing to church.	10 Read the Passion Story in the Bible. John 18:1-19:42.	11 Pray for a flattening of the curve.
12 Watch the Pilgrim Service on FaceBook.	13 Shout Alleluia!	14 Church Council To Be Determined Thank God for your health.	15 Call Pastor & thank him for the Easter service.	16 Have your children or grands send a note to someone at Coventry.	17 Color a picture and send it to a relative.	18 Text a thank you message to Anna.
19 Watch the Pilgrim Service on FaceBook.	20 Send a cheerful note to another Pilgrim.	21 Read a devotion from <u>Christ in Our Home.</u>	22 Get outside for a walk around the neighborhood.	23 Send an uplifting text to a friend.	24 Pray for our Sunday School Children.	25 Call a friend that you haven't spoken to in a long time.
26 Watch the Pilgrim Service on FaceBook.	27 Paint a rock with an encouraging message & hide it outside the church.	28 Send a book to one of your relatives/ grandchildren.	29 Spend an hour working in your yard!	30 Be thankful for what you have!	Birthdays-April 3 Shirley McCullough 4 Jorn Ogendahl 5 Kevin Spohr 9 Jose Guzman 10 Bruce Moore 15 Becca Thornton 16 TJ Spurgeon, Jr 19 Judy Summers	



Anna & lunch ladies preparing food for Othello School District Children

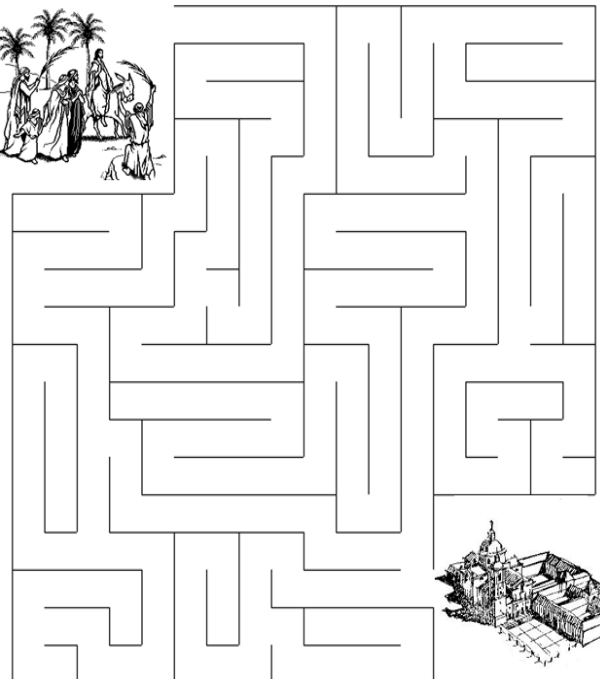
No April Anniversaries



Triumphal Entry Maze (to the right)

Follow Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Matthew 21:9





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Nonprofit
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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

April 2020

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.**



Cell Tower Update:
Preliminary work is starting on the cell tower. Swing by
the parking lot and have a look!

Alleluia!
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

Lectionary Readings for April

Mar 1	Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7	Psalms 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Apr 5	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 27:11-54
Apr 12	Jeremiah 31:1-6	Psalms 118:1-2,14-24	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 28:1-10
Apr 19	Acts 2:14a,22-32	Psalms 16	I Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
Apr 26	Acts 2:14a,36-41	Psalms 116:1-4,12-19	I Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.