

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 11

## DECEMBER 2022



### Calendar of Events for Advent & Christmas 2022

Advent Services will take place each Wednesday from now to Christmas, Nov 30, Dec 7, Dec 14, and Dec 21.

Wednesdays at 7 pm we will be studying some Psalms together, and enjoying good fellowship with cookies, coffee, and hot chocolate provided.

Dec 18 we will have fellowship after worship with cookie decorating and exchange. Lots of fun to be had, more information below!

Wed. Dec 21, we'll have lessons and carols with special music.

Saturday, December 24, is **Christmas Eve**. Our service will be at 6 pm.

Sunday, December 25, is **Christmas Day**. Our service is at 10 am as usual!

### Othello Choral Society

Presents

#### Love was Born a King

The 2022 Cantata "**Love was Born a King**" will be presented at the following times and places:

Sunday, Dec 4 @ 3:30 pm	Nazarene Church 835 S 10th Ave, Othello
Saturday, Dec 10 @ 7:30 pm	Bethel Assembly of God 915 First Ave, Othello
Sunday, Dec 11 @ 3:30 pm	Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church 200 N. Dale, Moses Lake

Attending a Christmas Cantata is a wonderful way to welcome the Christmas season, and puts the emphasis where it should be, on the birth of Jesus. Directed by Bob Reichert, and assisted by Treva Reichert, this year's Cantata promises to be fantastic! Hope to see you there!

### Cookie Exchange & Decorating

On December 18 following worship, we will have a cookie exchange and decorating extravaganza! Please bring 2-1/2 dozen cookies to share and exchange. Six cookies will be shared with fellowship and two dozen will be given away during the exchange. Fellowship will also be providing cookies for decorating.

We will laugh, visit, decorate, eat, and sing Christmas carols together. It promises to be fun and entertaining!!

### ELCA Good Gifts

Our ELCA Good Gifts Tree is up in the Fellowship Hall. It is filled with special ornaments which include but is not limited to the following:

Feed 50 @ soup kitchen	\$100
Water Filter	\$ 30
Honeybees	\$ 20
Child's School Supplies	\$ 10
Couple of goats	\$100
Girl's School Fees & Uniform	\$ 40

Please make your checks payable to PLC, write Good Gifts in the memo, give them to Fay or Anna, and we will batch them and make one check to ELCA at the end of the season. This should make it easier than it was last year to reconcile. Thanks for your help!!



## MERRY CHRISTMAS



### Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Roger Thieme, who passed away November 6. Please keep Roger's wife Sylvia, and his children, Kelly and Dan and their families in your prayers. Roger was an endless supporter of our Othello Community and Pilgrim Lutheran. He loved the Lord and took part in many Cantatas, theatrical productions, and leadership positions within our church. We will miss him as we continue our pilgrimage, and remember his smile and faithfulness.

### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will be held Saturday, Dec 17th at 10 in the Quilting Room at Pilgrim. We are looking forward to seeing you all there! Bring your Gather Magazine for December and your Bible! If you need a copy of the study, please talk to Anna beforehand so she can make you a copy!!

### Budget Deliberations

PLC Council will be looking at the budget for 2023 and trying to work out a way to continue giving out more whilst working to bring our budget more in line with our actual offerings. Please contact one of the council members if you have a budget idea that you would like them to consider. Council members are listed to the left of the Info Corner on page 2.

## December Message from our Pastor

Dear Pilgrims,

Welcome to December, the last month of the year. We are almost ready to close the curtains on 2022, and most of this month will be spent getting ready for, and then celebrating, Christmas. It seems we like to end the year on a joyful note, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. But did you know that Christmas is actually one of the last celebrations to make it onto the church calendar? The first recorded celebration of Christmas on December 25th wasn't until the year 336, a full three hundred years after Jesus walked the face of the earth! Why did we wait so long, you may be wondering?

As it turns out, it is because Christians, at least in the early centuries of Christianity, didn't make a big deal out of when someone was born. Instead, it was much more important to the people of the church to make note of when someone died and entered the gates of heaven. The whole reason Christians have worship services on Sunday is because Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday, giving us Easter, which was celebrated LONG before Christmas, and all of the saints' days, like Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day, are celebrated on the day those people died.

It wasn't until 336 that a pope determined that Christ was born on December 25th. The way he came up with that date was because the church had been celebrating the annunciation of Mary on March 25th for a few years already, and the pope simply did the math and wrote the date down.

But since the pope declared the date sacred, other people decided it was worth celebrating. The only problem was, they had no idea how to celebrate it, and

they got no guidance from the church, because the church was trying not to make it a big deal. But of course, it was a big deal! So, people began to borrow the traditions of their pagan neighbors.

They noticed that the Romans gave the poor gifts on the feast of Saturnalia, on December 22nd, so they began doing that on Christmas, and even going one better than the Romans by giving gifts to their loved ones and children. About a thousand years later, in northern Europe, Christians noticed that their neighbors brought evergreen trees into their houses to celebrate the Solstice (December 21st or 22nd), decking them out with garland and candles, and another Christmas tradition was born.

In between those two things, a monk named Nicholas (before he was a saint, celebrated on December 6th) was moved to give away his family fortune. He would sneak into the homes of young ladies who lacked a dowry and would leave gold in their stockings as they hung by the fireplace to dry out after washing. (I'll bet you know where I'm going with that legend) Although, his outfit and reindeer were entirely the creation of an anonymous author in 1822 and by Clement C. Moore in his famous poem, published in 1823.

It was in the thirteenth century, after Christmas had been celebrated for almost a thousand years, that we finally hear the first Christmas carols, and hundreds have been written since. This year, you have the chance to participate in many of these sacred Christmas traditions, and our whole list of events is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Come along and join in the celebration!

See you in church and online.

Peace, Pastor Don Short

### Pastor Short's office hours:

**Tues-Friday** 9-12 am

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**.

**Mondays** are Pastor's Day off. Please limit contact to emergencies only. Thank you.

**Pastor's Email:** pilgrimlcpastor@gmail.com

**Anna's New Hours:** Tues 9-12 pm  
Thurs 9-12, 1-2 pm  
Fri 9-12

Please call if you need info on anything!  
Cell phone **509-761-1205**

### Council Members

Marcia Bougher  
Larry Kirkpatrick  
Annie Smith  
Kristi Spohr  
Ernie Summers  
Don Wade



### INFO CORNER

10/30	Attendance:	31	Offering:	\$ 595
11/6	Attendance:	30	Offering:	\$ 3,915
11/13	Attendance:	27	Offering:	\$ 1,285
11/20	Attendance:	34	Offering:	\$ 2,055
11/27	Attendance:	29	Offering:	\$ 540

2022 Offerings — \$ 103,460  
2022 Expenses — \$ 121,929

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Men's Breakfast:</b> Saturday mornings 8 am @ Casa Mexicana				1 Cantata Practice 7:30-9:30	2 Be sure to turn your clocks <b>BACK</b> one hour tomorrow night!	3
4 2nd Sun Advent 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship & Sunday School	5	6	7 9 am Quilting Advent Service 7 pm	8	9	10
11 3rd Sun Advent 10 am Sunday School Program	12	13 Church Council @ 7 pm	14 9 am Quilting Advent Service 7 pm	15 7 pm W & Music	16	17 10 am Women's Bible Study @ Church
18 4th Sun Advent 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Cookie Exchange	19	20	21 9 am Quilting Advent Service 7 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 6 pm
25 Christmas Day 10 am Worship	26	27	28 9 am Quilting Advent Service 7 pm	29	30	31 Happy New Year

### Upcoming Meetings

Church Council-

Tues. Dec 13 @ 7 pm

### Worship & Music-

Thurs. Dec 15 @ 7 pm

### Fellowship-

Dec 18 Cookie Exchange after worship

### Anniversaries-December

4 David & Heidi Reichert

### Birthdays-December

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



### Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas Program will be held on December 11 at 10 am. Please call Marcia Bougher for more information and to find out when the kids will practice!

DATE	USHERS	READER	GREETER	ACOLYTE	CLICKER	COMMUNION PREP Set Up	COMMUNION PREP Bread	COMMUNION Assistant	Coffee Hour
Dec 4		Angela	Please note that there are many opportunities to help out with Sunday services this month. If everyone does a little bit, then one person won't have to do multiple tasks. That would really be helpful!! It would also be helpful if people signed up in advance so I can be sure to get it in the newsletter! Thanks so much in advance!! Kristi		Tammy		Donna A		Elaine Angela
Dec 11		Donna A			Tammy		Donna A		Liz D
Dec 18		Linda B			Tammy		Donna A		Cookie Exchange
Dec 24									
Dec 25		Anna S			Tammy		Donna A		No Fellowship





The Corner of 7th and Elm  
640 East Elm Street  
Othello, WA 99344

e-mail: pilgrimlutheran@hotmail.com  
Facebook: PilgrimLutheranChurch-ELCA  
Website: othellolutheran.com  
Church Phone: 509-488-9952

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Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

December 2022

**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.**

### Adult Forum

Adult Forum is in full swing Sunday mornings at 9 am. The study focuses on the book of Galatians. Please join us **Dec. 4 & 18** this month for Adult Forum!

### Gifts for Eastern WA State Hospital Patients

Our Eastern WA State Hospital Giving Tree is just to the left as you walk in the front door. Pick on ornament (or 2 or 3), purchase the requested item(s), and bring it (them) back to church by the **Advent Service on Dec. 14th**. Please do NOT wrap them-just put in a bag with the ornament taped on the bag, so Shirley can sort them by patient and take them to the Hospital in Medical Lake. Staff at the hospital will make sure that they get wrapped! Thanks so much for brightening the Christmas for these patients for whom Christmas may seem bleak.



Pastor Don with his Birthday Cake made of cupcakes! Thank you Angela Martinez!!

### Lectionary Readings for December

Dec 4	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 71:1-7, 18,19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Dec 11	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Dec 18	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-17,17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 24	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14[15-20]
Dec 25	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:[1-7]8-20



book of faith  
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.