

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2025



Special Concern

At this time there is no plan to run our Souper Bowl Program (where we gather food in the Narthex for the Food Bank, and pet food for Adams County Pet Rescue). If we want to support the Food Bank & Adams Co Pet Rescue with this program, we need to have an individual or group step up to organize it. Thanks for your consideration of this worthy project.

With Thanks

Thank you, Pilgrims for your generous Christmas gifts to Anna and me. Your generosity always astounds us, and we appreciate each of you, as you show your love for God by showing your love to one another. May God continue to bless you in 2025.

Peace,

Pastor Don and Anna Short

Congregational Meeting & Potluck

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, January 26th, directly after worship.

Items on the agenda will include:

- 1) Electing of 3 council members to replace Kristi Spohr, Ernie Summers (both finishing their 2nd year of their 2nd terms), and John Lawrence (finishing his 2nd year of his 1st term & has elected to not sit for a 2nd term). Marcia Bougher, Larry Kirkpatrick, & Linda Bork still have another year to complete their terms.
- 2) Discussing & adopting the 2025 Annual Budget
- 3) We will be looking to fill the position of Property & Management chair. Tammy Rodriguez has faithfully filled that position for several years, and is going to focus on helping Pete with the outside work this next year. Whoever fills this position will need to have a committee to work with.
- 4) Appointing members to the nominating committee
- 5) Appointing at least 1 member to the Endowment Committee to replace Trudy Doolittle whose term is complete.
- 6) Reviewing church business

The Annual Report, including the proposed budget, will be available on Sunday January 19th, to peruse and study. **(Kindly turn in all committee reports to Anna by Tuesday, Jan. 14th)** 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.

Following our meeting we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to share in a potluck. Meat will be provided; **please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share!**

See you there!

Thank you

Thank you to Marcia Bougher, Judy Summers, and all the children and young adults who participated in telling the story of Jesus's birth on Dec 15 during Worship. You all rocked it! We have actors in our midst!



Thank You To All

Thank you to everyone who provided residents at Eastern Washington State Hospital with caring gifts to make their Christmas special. Thank you to Shirley for transporting the gifts and making sure that they were labelled correctly for distribution. This is a project that Pilgrim has participated in for many years, and it is so appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who participated in purchasing ELCA Good Gifts from the Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hall. **\$1092** was collected and will be sent on to the ELCA for distribution of the goats, bees, pigs, water filters, girls education, etc. to the appropriate places and people. This is an area where help from all the congregations in the ELCA join together in making a huge impact in the lives of the recipients.

In addition, many members donated time, energy, and money to the successful Christmas Basket Fund, providing toys, and a holiday meal to families right here in the Othello area. Your participation does not go unnoticed, and we thank you for all the work you do.

Change is Coming!

From your newsletter editor —

July/Aug newsletter will be my last one. It will mark 11 years that I have worked on, written, taken & solicited photos, and with Marc's help, published the newsletter. It has been my distinct honor and privilege, to document the congregational goings & comings, activities, celebrations & losses over the last 11 years. Now it is time to focus my energy in other areas, not the least of which is my own health, as I will be 4 years into my metastatic cancer journey. Don't worry, I will still be active here, just in different ways. **May God Bless us all in the new year, with strength to be better stewards of His Creation, with resolve to rededicate our lives to fulfilling Pilgrim's mission in Othello and around the world, and with inner peace.**

Love from your fellow Pilgrim-
Kristi Spohr

[Newsletter Article for January 2025](#)

Dear Pilgrims,

Happy New Year!

Do you realize that, even as we begin a new year on our calendars, we are still celebrating Christmas? The festival of Christmas lasts twelve days, from December 25th until January 5th, and ends with the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th. Here in the United States, we don't celebrate Epiphany much, but in some parts of the world, such as Spain, Belgium, Greece, and elsewhere, Epiphany is the occasion where children are given gifts, rather than at Christmastime. As a matter of fact, in Spain, children write letters to the three kings and make their gift requests rather than to Santa Claus. None of this information will change how we celebrate Christmas at Pilgrim, but I find it fascinating to learn more about different cultures, and the diversity of traditions that all fit under the great umbrella of Christianity.

Here in the United States, much of our Christmas and New Year's celebrations are centered around a generalized idea of how Christmas is celebrated in much of the country. At least at my house, many of the cards I received this year showed pictures of a snowy church, or maybe a sleigh in the snow, or even a whole village blanketed in white powder. It makes for a pretty picture, but it is hardly the reality of Christmas in Miami or Houston. It's also pretty rare for snow to blanket the cities of Seattle and Tacoma. But the snow scene fits into the generalized narrative of a white Christmas, so we send and receive cards like that.

Even in the Bible, there are plenty of examples of diversity. In the book of Luke, Jesus tells the story of a Samaritan man who cares for a Judean who has been

beaten by robbers and left for dead at the side of the road. The crowd listening to Jesus is shocked because the Judeans and Samaritans didn't associate with each other because of petty religious differences. The gospel of John emphasizes this, saying that Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans, and then later explaining that the Samaritans worship on Mount Gerizim while the Jews worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. But in his interaction with the Samaritan woman, Jesus explains that the true worship of God is spiritual and is not tied to a specific place.

Acts expands the idea of diversity in chapter 8 when Philip explains the book of Isaiah to an Ethiopian eunuch. Such a person would not have been welcome in the temple in Jerusalem, but Philip baptizes him on the roadside and welcomes him into the fellowship of Christianity. There are other examples of diversity in the new Christian church of the New Testament, and I encourage you to read it for yourself. You will discover that the church has always welcomed a variety of people, along with their cultural differences, and we have worked together to form the body of Christ.

If you want to give your loved ones a gift on Epiphany, to honor those cultures who embrace that tradition, you're welcome to do that, but more importantly, I would like to encourage you to spend this year with an emphasis on embracing diversity. Get to know those who are different from yourself. Learn from them about their unique culture and the celebrations that are different from what you are used to. You just might find yourself enjoying it! May God bless you throughout this New Year.

Peace,
Pastor Don

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 office hours:
 Tuesday 9-12
 Thursday 9-1
 Friday 9-12
 Please call if you need info on anything!
 Cell phone **509-761-1205**

Our Deepest Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of R.W.(Ron) Hilmes, who passed away Dec. 17. Please keep his wife, Jan, and his 5 children, grandchildren, and great grands in your prayers as they grieve the loss of his physical presence. A celebration of Ron's life will be held on Friday, January 10th at 2 pm at St Paul's Catholic Church 14181 N. Glade Rd, Eltopia WA 99330.
 Everyone who would like to go, and is able to do so is welcome to join the family at his Celebration of life.

INFO CORNER

12/1	Attendance:	28	Offering	\$ 4,240
12/8	Attendance:	30	Offering	\$ 1,031
12/15	Attendance:	42	Offering	\$ 2,280
12/22	Attendance:	34	Offering	\$ 1,996
12/29	Attendance:	28	Offering	\$ 2,500
Christmas Eve		65	Offering	\$ 750
Christmas Day			Offering	\$ 220
Year to Date Offerings:				\$ 123,166
Year to Date Expenses:				\$ 151,200

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

Council Members

Marcia Bougher	Ernie Summers
Larry Kirkpatrick	(outgoing)
Kristi Spohr	Linda Bork
(outgoing)	John Lawrence
	(outgoing)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Men's Breakfast: Saturday mornings 8 am @ Checo's			1 Happy New Year!!	2	3	4
5 10 am Worship Sunday School Healing Service Take down decorations	6	7	8 Quilting 9-12	9	10	11
12 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship	13	14 Council 7 pm	15 Quilting 9-12	16	17	18 Women's Bible Study 10 am @ Coventry
19 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Sunday School WMF comm mtg. Coventry worship 2:15	20 MLK Jr Day	21	22 Quilting 9-12	23	24	25
26 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Sunday School Congregational Mtg & Potluck	27	28	29 Quilting 9-12	30	31	

- Birthdays- January**
- 6 Erika Dominguez Moreno
 - 9 Nancy Roth
 - 9 Jeremiah Rodriguez
 - 19 Manny Maine
 - 19 Joyce Fry
 - 20 Sally McFarlin
 - 20 Eileen Lawrence
 - 23 Dick Hudnall
 - 27 Pete Olsen
 - 30 John Bunch

- Anniversaries- January**
- 12 Pete & Lynn Olsen
 - 29 Michael & Paula McKay

Women's Bible Study will take place Jan 18 at 10 am at Coventry House, in the TV room. See you there for study, fellowship, and sharing. Bring your Gather magazine, your Bible, and your smiles!

Coming Up
On Sunday, Jan 5, we will gather after worship to take down and store all the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary, Narthex, and Fellowship Hall. We will also have snacks and treats provided.

Adult Forum
Adult Forum will reconvene on January 12th. We are doing a study of 1 John, which has a LOT of verses that are used many times throughout the year and are familiar to most everyone. Come join us at 9 am each Sunday! Coffee's on!

Many Thanks!

- To Anna for working to put together the PowerPoint and bulletin week after week
- To Pastor for his Sunday services, and for keeping the Ukestra playing for us
- To Bob & Donna & Liz providing us with wonderful music
- To Annie Smith and Evelyn Olson for being our worship assistants
- To Tammy for putting up the Christmas lights and managing the property, and to Pete & Tammy for working on grounds clean up
- To Marc for changing out lightbulbs, maintaining the mower and snowblower, preparing budget reports for the Council and financial reports for the Congregational meeting, and managing the church's budget
- To DeeDee for keeping our facility clean
- To Shirley for paying our bills
- To Kristi for putting together the newsletter
- To our Council & Committee members including Pastor Don for their work in continuing service to our Lord
- To all those not listed who provide physical & financial support for all our various activities

Thank you to all you Pilgrims for your continued service and love of our Lord.

	USHER/GREETER	READER	ACOLYTE	SACRISTAN	CLICKER	BREAD	TREATS AFTER WORSHIP
Jan 5	Pete R	Shirley			Tammy		Shirley & Kristi
Jan 12	Pete R				Tammy		Vicki & Anna
Jan 19							
Jan 26	Pete R				Tammy		Potluck

Attention!!
Thank you to all who have signed up in advance! Please note the large number of empty spaces, and come prepared on Sunday to help out wherever you can! Please check the signup sheet to see what still needs to be done! Teamwork makes the dream work! Let's do better!



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



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

January



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.**

Going Beyond Ourselves

In December the PLC Council voted to donate from the Bell Fund:

\$500 to the Ronald McDonald House of Spokane

\$500 to the Pacific Northwest Veterans Alliance,

\$400 to the Othello Food Bank

This is what our Bell Fund has been dedicated to:

1/3 Charitable contributions

1/3 General Fund

1/3 Capital Projects



Happy New Year Pilgrims!!

Thank you!

A big hearty thank you to Carolyn & Randy Bunch for opening their home for a New Year's Eve party. We wrote hopes & aspirations for 2025 onto paper and threw them into an outdoor fire, with the smoke going straight up to heaven! The pizza and salad were delicious, as were the drink options. Best of all-celebrating the New Year with our friends and church family. Thank you so much. Who knew we could make so much noise with those noisemakers!

Lectionary Readings for January

Jan 5	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7,10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 12	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalms 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17,21-22
Jan 19	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalms 36:5-10	I Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan 26	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10	Psalms 19	I Corinthians 12:12-31 a	Luke 4:14-21



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.