

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2026



Shrove Tuesday

All hands on deck for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake, Sausage, Applesauce Dinner! It takes place on **Tuesday, February 17th from 5-7** in the evening with a Mardi Gras theme. See the signup sheet in the Narthex to determine where you can best help out this year! We are looking forward to inviting the community into our facility for some great food and fellowship!



Lenten Opportunities

Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 18, at 6:30 pm
Our Soup & Bread Gatherings begin on Feb 25. We will be meeting at 6 for the meal. Following the meal we will be singing some hymns and doing a prayer activity with prayer bracelets.

Happy Valentine's Day!!



Congregational Meeting Update

Our annual congregational meeting was held Sunday, January 22nd, directly after worship. Thank you to Don Wade for filling in for President Linda Bork.

At this meeting we:

- 1) Reviewed & approved the minutes of the last congregational meeting of Sunday, January 26th, 2025.
- 2) Received info from Don regarding the Synod Assembly, to be held at First Lutheran Church in Kennewick on April 24, 25, 26. If interested in attending, please talk to Linda Bork.
- 3) Elected 2 to their 1st term on Council-Kristi Spohr and Carolyn Bunch, and elected Linda Bork to her 2nd 2 year term. Thank you for answering the call to serve.
- 4) Elected Bill Porter to the Endowment Committee to replace Carolyn Bunch who had to resign in order to be on council. Steve Jensen gave an update on the workings of the committee and how the committee's funds are generated.
- 5) Reviewed reports from Worship, Music, Fellowship, Education, Hymn Select Committee, Evangelism, and Building and Property Management Committees. Kristi thanked the congregation for their patience as the committee learns the different settings, as they have taken over that part of the worship job.
- 6) Discussed & adopted the 2026 Mission Budget of \$109,300. Because we are currently without a pastor, the budget does not include those items directly corresponding to the pastor's salary and benefits.
- 7) Evelyn Olson let the congregation know that she is no longer the point person for Property & Management. We will need someone to take charge and a small committee to back that person up.
- 8) Evelyn gave a short review of the roof. She has received 3 bids, and is awaiting a 4th bid for the roof. There is a huge range, so looking for some middle ground.
- 9) Don Wade, Marcia, and Evelyn gave a review of the interim pastor situation. Requires a temporary change of service time to 11 am, he will be here 2 days a week for about 3 hours each day.
- 10) Trudy introduced the idea of establishing a ride share. More details forthcoming.
- 11) Concluded with the Lord's Prayer, Don gave a prayer for the meal, and we adjourned to the Fellowship Hall. There we heard a presentation by Carolyn Bunch on the working of the Call Committee.
- 12) Larry & Marcia were presented with certificates of appreciation for their time on council.

That was a **delicious** potluck as only Pilgrim can put together. Many Thanks to everyone who helped in the kitchen and who brought food to share! It was fantastic!

Women's Bible Study

This month's Bible Study will be held on Saturday, February 21st, at 10 am in the sewing room at Pilgrim. Bring your Bible & your copy of the Gather Magazine or grab one from the Narthex. See you there for study, fellowship, sharing & some great discussions.

Souper Bowl Challenge

It's that time of year when we gather food for humans and animals. Instead of having 2 teams this year, let's get behind the Seahawks for the Super Bowl and challenge ourselves to fill the Narthex with food for the Food Bank, and food for our furry friends. (Please no 50 lb bags though!!)

A Message from your Pilgrim Council

Greetings, Pilgrims! (Doesn't that sound like John Wayne??)

It is amazing to me that we are already through January 2026!! More and more, what my mom used to tell me is coming true; time really does go faster the older you get!

We welcome two new council members, Kristi Spohr and Carolyn Bunch! Please congratulate them and prayers for them and the entire council are very welcome. Speaking of the council, we will soon be reviewing and signing a Draft Ministry Agreement with the United Methodist church, which will allow Pastor Conrado to begin serving our congregation. In the meantime, Heidi Cryer will be here on February 1st and Evelyn will preside over the February 8th service. Continue to keep the call committee in your prayers as they hopefully begin to wrap up their work in the next few months.

Perhaps you have noticed Lisa's new office hours posted on the window leading into the narthex. If you haven't they are:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Monday | 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| Wednesday - Friday | 8:00 am - 10:30 am |
| Saturdays | As needed |

These hours may change, but we will try to post that as soon as possible. Please keep Lisa's family in your prayers for continued healing.

Evelyn continues to be available to give communion to shut ins, please contact her. I continue to be available for anything that needs to be placed on the prayer chain. **Please contact me via phone or email (509 760 3490, lindabork04@msn.com)**

It goes without saying that keeping the church functioning is a village affair! Please reach out to any council member for ways to help. We need to keep this in mind as we call a new pastor, as they cannot do it all either! It continues to amaze me how many people step up and do things that help the church and congregation without being asked! I know that I have been guilty in the past about not being aware of what goes on behind the scenes, I just knew that things were running along seamlessly! Big shout out to all of those "behind the scenes workers", you are amazing and very appreciated!

May God's Peace be with you!

Linda Bork
Council President

With Gratitude

Thank you all for your prayers and support during my daughter's recent medical emergency. This has been a challenging season for our family, and your continued prayers and encouragement have meant more than I can express.

While her recovery remains slow, she is making progress, for which we are deeply grateful. As things stabilize, I am thankful to begin reestablishing a routine in the church office.

My goal is to be available in the office during the following hours:
Mondays: 4:00–6:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: 8:00–10:30 a.m.
Thursdays: 8:00–10:30 a.m.
Fridays: 8:00–10:30 a.m.

Please note that these hours may occasionally change due to medical appointments. If you need assistance outside of these times, feel free to contact the church office and we will respond as soon as possible.

It is truly a privilege to serve this church and to witness the love and care you show one another, the church, and our community.

With gratitude,
Lisa Lutey

News Regarding Donations

Your Giving Statements for 2025 (Contribution Report) are available. If you were not at the Congregational Meeting, please contact Kristi or Marc Spohr. Did you know that you may direct your **Required Minimum Distribution** from your IRA to come straight to Pilgrim without claiming it as income. Consult your tax advisor for further information. Thank you to those who are already utilizing this method of donation, **AND** to those who are using **electronic bill pay** as well. The latter is a great way to ensure that your church gets your donation, even if you are out of town. Thank you!



INFO CORNER

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|----|----------|----------|
| 1/4 | Attendance: | 25 | Offering | \$ 3,705 |
| 1/11 | Attendance: | 29 | Offering | \$ 1,256 |
| 1/18 | Attendance: | 27 | Offering | \$ 1,570 |
| 1/25 | Attendance: | 35 | Offering | \$13,698 |

Year to Date Offerings: \$ 20,229

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

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 10 am Worship Sunday School Alpha y Omega | 2 | 3 Alpha Omega 5-10 | 4 Quilting 9-12 | 5 | 6 Alpha Omega 5:30-9 | 7 |
| 8 10 am Worship Sunday School Alpha Omega 3-9 | 9 | 10 Council 6 pm Alpha Omega 5-10 | 11 Quilting 9-12 | 12 Feb 13-17 Mid-Winter Break | 13 Alpha Omega 5:30-9 | 14  Valentine's Day |
| 15 10 am Worship Sunday School WMF Meeting Alpha Omega 3-9 | 16 President's Day | 17 Shrove Tuesday 5-7 pm  | 18 Ash Wednesday 6:30 Quilting 9-12 | 19 | 20 Alpha Omega 5:30-9 | 21 Women's Bible Study 10 am @ Pilgrim |
| 22 10 am Worship Sunday School Alpha y Omega | 23 | 24 Alpha Omega 5-10 | 25 6 pm Soup & Bread Gathering Quilting 9-12 | 26 | 27 Alpha Omega 5:30-9 | 28 |

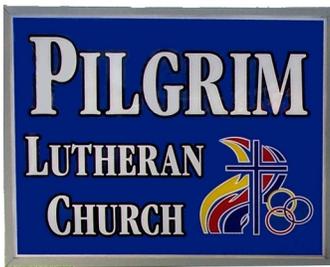
In Case of Emergency:

Please contact a Council person, who will contact the Pastor on call. They are listed here. Make sure that you have at least one of their numbers. If not, call or message Kristi Spohr who can assist you. Linda Bork, Don Wade, Carolyn Bunch, Evelyn Olson, Trudy Doolittle & Kristi Spohr (509)331-4406.

Many Thanks to these hardworking Pilgrims

- To Pastor Don & Anna for their 7 months of work during 2025! Happy retirement!
- To Linda Bork, council Pres, for keeping us in supply pastors, changing the reader board, doing a monthly update, and keeping us moving in the right direction.
- To Liz Deasy, and Bob Reichert for the beautiful music they have provided over the year and to Vicki Nau for stepping in when called upon
- To Evelyn Olson for being our worship assistant, and for heading up the Property Management Committee, for filling in the pulpit when necessary and being the liaison between supply pastors and Lisa in the office
- To Tammy for being the ever-ready clean up bunny in the kitchen and to Pete & Tammy for working on grounds clean up, to Pete for serving as usher!
- 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, bringing the garbage in and out each week, being a contact person for repairs needing to be made
- To DeeDee for keeping our facility clean and letting us know when supplies are low
- To Elaine for managing Worship, Music, and Fellowship, for her delicious cakes to celebrate birthdays, and organizing our gatherings, and to Don Wade for his support in these efforts
- To Shirley for paying our bills!
- To Marcia & Judy for working with the kids in Sunday School & for the wonderful Christmas Story Program
- To Kristi for putting together the newsletter and filling in for Lisa when necessary
- To our Council & Committee members for their work in continuing service to our Lord
- To Evelyn, Linda, and Marc for managing the parsonage while empty, and getting sheets & towels washed when needed
- To Lisa, who in spite of a family emergency, made sure that we had a bulletin and powerpoint each week
- To everyone who has provided treats after worship during the whole year, and food for our amazing potlucks
- 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.



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

February



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.**

Opportunities to Serve!

Please help with:

- 1) Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- 2) Filling the Narthex with food for humans and animals
- 3) Preparing soup & bringing bread to our dinners for the 5 Wednesday gatherings during Lent!
- 4) **Sunday services**

Anniversaries-February

Are we sure that there aren't any anniversaries in February?? Please let Kristi, or Lisa know!

Attention!!

You will notice that the chart with our signups for helping with the Sunday service is **MISSING** this month! That is because at publication (Thursday the 29th) there were no names yet on the signup sheet! If we want to have this reminder in the newsletter, we must do better at passing the notice around, or making sure that we sign up either before or after the service. This month we will need help! Please sign up if you can help! Thank you to everyone who helps make the service go smoothly each week!! We appreciate **YOU!**

Birthdays-February

- 3 Maya Martinez
- 7 John Bergstrom
- 7 Jennifer Rose
- 9 John Lawrence (RC)
- 9 Tammy Rodriguez
- 11 Brady Hilmes
- 13 Tyler Evans
- 14 Jolene McKay
- 15 Trevor Hilmes
- 16 Roger Martinez
- 21 Lupe Mendoza
- 23 Audrey Stephens
- 24 Jaxson Peter Jahns
- 25 Dee Wright
- 27 Jennifer Porter
- 27 Elija Rodriguez

Lectionary Readings for February

| | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Feb 1 | Micah 6:1-8 | Psalm 15 | I Corinthians 1:18-31 | Matthew 5:1-12 |
| Feb 8 | Isaiah 58:1-9a,[9b-12] | Psalm 112:1-9 [10] | I Corinthians 2:1-12,[13-16] | Matthew 5:13-20 |
| Feb 15 | Exodus 24:12-18 | Psalm 2 | II Peter 1:16-21 | Matthew 17:1-9 |
| Feb 22 | Genesis 2:15-17 | Psalm 32 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11 |

