Pe patient... Until the coming of the Lord. JAMES 5:7

THE PILGRIM HERALD

December 2016

PILGRIM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

462 Meadowbrook Dr., West Bend, WI 53090

(262) 334-0375

Rev. Joseph M. Fisher, Pastor (262) 335-6736 Rev. Christopher Raffa, Pastor (262) 388-8287

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The Pilgrim Herald

Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church LC-MS 462 Meadowbrook Drive, West Bend, WI 53090 December 2016 FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR FISHER

Isaiah 9:2-7(ESV) ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Greetings in the name of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem, our Redeemer and Savior! I always look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior with you and your family and friends that you invite to come with you. It is a pastor's prayer answered to see the children, continue to clearly confess the Christian faith in their Christmas program. So, an early thank you goes to the Sunday School teachers who give of their time to help the children, also I would like to thank the parents who work so hard with their children to get them ready for the program and bring them to Sunday School and practice, and lastly the children themselves who willingly use their talents and gifts to aid in boldly confessing the true meaning of Christmas for all to hear. Thank you all!!!!

As you know the Christmas season is a busy time, with the activities and services at church. I hope to see you all at the Advent mid-week services our theme this year is "Evergreen ... and all I Ever Want!" and the Sunday services which will be different from our Mid-Week Advent Thursday services, and all the Christmas services. To make it easier for you I have included a listing of all the special services.

Please make note of our schedule for this Advent and Christmas season:

All **Advent mid-week** services will be on Thursday night at **1pm** and **7pm**

The **Sunday School program** will be on **December 18th** at **4pm**

Christmas Eve Saturday December 24th will have a 6pm service with communion and a 10pm candle light service of Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Day Sunday December 25th, we will have only one service at 9am and no Sunday School.

On **Sunday December 29th** will have our regular **7pm** services.

New Years Eve Saturday December 31st will have a 6 pm service.

New Years Day Sunday January 1st will have a 9am service.

To help you in sharing the true joy of Christmas I offer you this devotion from "Celebrating the Saints" by Rev. William Weedon:

Terrified, the shepherds stared into the light that bathe the night and listened to a voice of mirth, ringing with heaven's laughter. **"Fear**

not," cried the angel, "for behold, I bring you good news of great Joy that will be for all people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).



That baby is the great joy Himself come dome to earth. There, wrapped up like any other human child, the shepherds (and you with them) found the world's Creator. The very flesh He assumed from His holy mother remains the irrefutable proof that your God does not hate you. He loves every one of us, and that is why He gave His great joy, His beloved Son.

Behold the measure of His great love: our Savior came, a child of man by nature, to make the fallen and lost the children of God by grace! And what He once put on, He will never take off. From the moment of His incarnation He will always be not only the eternal Word of the Father but also your brother, flesh of your flesh and bone of your bone. Even to this day exalted at the right hand of His Father, He bears the body that He took for Himself in Mary's womb.

This is the mystery that led the angels to exult in their Christmas Glorias. Their Master! How great His love! Whoever would have conceived

it? Dreamed it? For the lost race of men, He becomes a man. When humanity could not come to Him, He came to us. This is the mystery that sent the shepherds running to Bethlehem. In faith, you journey with them. With them you bend your knees in silent adoration. With them you gaze in wonder and awe upon Jesus, the great joy, who now lives and breathes in our human flesh and will forever.

And there in the manger's lowly wood, you may see prefigured already the cross on which those little limbs, grown to manhood, would be cruelly stretched and torn. The same love that brought Him to you will bring Him to that. He will embrace His Passion to wipe out your every sin, destroy your death, and bring you home to His Father. That's why He came, after all.

As you kneel to receiver His Eucharist, He gives all this to you, and you taste anew the great joy. You have been loved with a love eternal, vast, divine.

God Bless and have a wonderful Christmas!!!

Rev. Joseph M. Fisher (Heb. 12:1-2)



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Advent services are on Thursday's from December 1st—December 22, 2016 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Children's Sunday School Christmas program is December 18th at 4:00 pm. With a light supper to follow.

Christmas Eve services: December 24th at 6:00 pm. Communion Worship service. December 24th at 10:00 pm. A Service of Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Day services: December 25th at 9:00 am ONLY No Bible Class or Sunday school.

Thursday December 29 7:00 pm.

New Years Eve: 6:00 pm.

New Years Day: 9:00 am. ONLY.

Sunday school will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 9:15 am.

Board of Elders Meeting 11-7-2016

The meeting began with prayer by Pr. Fisher at 6:34. Present at the meeting were Prs. Fisher and Raffa, ken Tanner, Dave, Gary, Howie and Ron. Dennis, not yet and elder, was also present. Absent was Brian.

Schedules were made through 12/15. Services in the holiday season were scheduled.

A question was raised concerning the delinquent members, particularly concerning their mailboxes. This matter, already in the process of being resolved, will be addressed properly in the next voter's meeting.

A question was raised concerning finances and the budget. The pastors and elders note that the budget shortfall is beyond our ability to readily "fix" and there are simply two possibilities: either the congregation spend less (lose staff) or it take in more. Pr Fisher notes that he will never preach a "money sermon". Pr. Raffa notes that the congregation may be made aware of our shortfall in a way that does not offend against the proper distinction between Law and Gospel by means of the proper use of the Law. Additionally, such an announcement conceivably could be made after service, given that the pastors and the congregation do not view it as appropriate to have such things in the bulletin. In any event, this matter must be somehow addressed soon.

Moreover, Pastor Fisher notes that work is needed on the parsonages even despite the fact that our pastors are paid below the district scale to the magnitude of 10's of thousands of dollars altogether. He also notes that this is not simply a question of life for our pastors, but simply faithful use of the resources entrusted to the congregation.

Moreover, the elders note that a possible

method to help with this would be to better

regulate the tuition assistance given our families. Budgetary issues notwithstanding, the elders wish to see this fund documented and applied for in writing by those who would take advantage of it only for record keeping purposes.

Moreover, it has come to the elders attention that the Raffa family has not been given the proper funding for tuition, as the funds - which are gifted to any other family in the congregation as gift - have incorrectly taken form his rightful salary. The board of elders feels this is a grievous oversight that demands swift remedy, for "the worker is worthy of his wages" (1Tim. 5:18). We ask the council to address this at all costs.

A question was raised concerning the 500 th anniversary of the Reformation and Pilgrim's observance thereof. The elders note that we will somehow commemorate this festival, though it will be discussed in depth in the future. Suggestions thus far include a special service, perhaps with a guest preacher, and a charity dinner with the proceeds going to a mission.

Pr. Raffa notes that beginning on the first Sunday of Advent the introit will be sung responsively rather than spoken responsively on the Sunday services. The tones provided in the LSB will be used for this purpose. To assist the congregation and pastors in this historic practice of the Church, we will institute the office of cantor at Pilgrim, who will lead the congregation in the singing, a necessity given our lack of a choir. The board of elders approves this, and we ask that the organists and other pertinent ones also lend their support.

A question was raised concerning usher teams. The elders as the church council to institute the office of head usher to alleviate issues of communication and scheduling that have been occurring recently.

Given Allen's move and Ken's impending end of term, the board of elders will have two new

members soon, both positions being already slated to be filled. Dennis Engmann has begun to sit in meetings.

A comment was made that the voters recently approved the motion to send more money to missions given the fact that our debt is now owed with w smaller interest rate. The elders acknowledge this motion and will consider how to best follow its directive. We ask that the church council also do their part in addressing this matter.

Pr. Raffa notes that the church could do better in educating the congregation as to the missions we support as a congregation.

A question was raised concerning our offering envelopes. The elders notice that the envelopes say "general fund" despite the fact that there is no real need to. The elders note that this might be a way to save an admittedly small amount of money in the future. We also suggest that perhaps a line be provided in the event that the donor desires to indicate a particular fund for his money to support. We ask the council to consider this.

Pr. Fisher requests that the congregation continue to support those of our congregation suffering mental illness in prayer.

Pr. Fisher notes that, in spite of possible claims to the contrary, the pastors are not barring anyone whomsoever from the congregation. They are simply practicing pastoral care in regards to the Lord's Supper. In the event that any bemoans this, we note this to be the case beforehand to prevent offense being given to our shepherds by any who feel slighted.

The study will be postpones again until next month owing to time.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Pr. Raffa at 8:43.

Respectfully Submitted, Tanner Schmidt TS/ss

Board of Elders Meeting Minutes 10-3-2016

The meting began with prayer by Pr. Fisher at 6:32. Present at the meeting were Pr.s Fisher and Raffa, Ken, Tanner, Brian Dave, Gary, Howie, and Allen. Absent was Ron.

Schedules were made through Thursday, Nov. 10th.

The pastors will be unavailable from the 10th through the 12th owing to a pastors conference.

The website development is in progress; we hope to find a second helper, possibly in Pr. Fisher's son-in-law if he is willing and able.

Web traffic continues to improve even apart from a paid advertisement.

Allen has bid the board of elders a fond farewell and has submitted his letter of resignation (to follow). At the 10:30 am service we will have a rite of Godspeed and farewell to him and Mrs. Latall.

A question concerning a processional cross was raised. We have not progressed in this. Pr. Raffa notes that a crucifix (with a corpus) is both preferable and more likely to offend that a bare cross. The pastors also note that we shall need to investigate costs and general sentiment of the congregation.

A question was raised concerning our debt: we are no indebted to the bank, but roughly 25K remain owed to our lender.

We note that the concealed carry class is merely held here: the church does not receive any money.

A point of clarification was given concerning the eventual removal of uncontactable lapsed members. Any removed are done so via voter's assembly rather than unilateral action of a pastor. Moreover these latest are those with whom we have truly no contact. On a related point, we would like to encourage all to register with the cards in the offering plate for ease of keeping these things clear.

A question was raised concerning organ playing rotations. We determined this issue largely be due to lack of communication between the members of the music dept. Some discrepancy may be due to illnesses. Dave F. and offered to serve as a middleman and mediator for the for the future. Pr. Fisher will speak with the organists to ensure that none are offended. Pr. Fisher also notes that the pastors have no intent to spurn or offend the organists with whom we are most graciously blessed. To this end, Dave's offer of mediation may be an effective solution.

Pr. Fisher notes that a 9:15 slot on Sunday could be well spent with Pr. Raffa leading a catechetical series of studies. This would serve both youth and adults. This could conceivably begin in the new year. Pr. Raffa notes that this would be an excellent way for new members to readily integrate into the fabric of the congregation. Moreover, Pr Fisher notes that this can help with delicate situations or exceptional circumstances of varied natures. In short, the goal is to begin a cycle of catechism classes.

The study will be postponed again until next month owing to time.

Duties for the elder liaison to the voters meeting and church council, formerly held by Allen L., are transferred to Tanner S.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Pastor Raffa at 8:05 .

Respectfully submitted,

Tanner Schmidt

TS/ss

October 3, 2016

Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church 462 Meadowbrook Dr. West Bend, WI 53090 ATTN: Board of Elders

Dear Fellow Elders and our Pastors,

As most, if not all of you have heard, Margie and I are moving out of state. We are looking to be out of West Bend by or before months end.

I was married to my lovely wife Margie at Pilgrim on September 4, 2004 and officially transferred my membership to the church in the spring of 2005. I was asked later that year if I would like to run for an open position on the Board of Elders and I agreed to do that. I was voted in and began serving on the board in January 2006. I have retained my role as Elder at Pilgrim ever since.

In the ten plus years I have been fortunate enough to serve. I have been blessed beyond any measure I could imagine. I have also been challenged to examine myself in a deeper way as an individual and as a Christian in the community at large. I pray that I never brought any dishonor to Pilgrim or my position.

With a new home in Oceanside, CA, it would be impossible to continue as an Elder at Pilgrim. My current term would expire at the end of this year but with sadness in having to leave out current church home and with joy because of the chance for Margie and I to live in a better climate for our health needs, I resign me position as Elder of Pilgrim Lutheran Church. My resignation also includes being the Elder representative on the Church Council.

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving

with each and everyone of you. Thank you for the support you have given me. I will miss our gathering together but look forward to the new doors the Lord may open for us. God's peace be with all of you in your mission and service. You will remain in our prayers along with Pilgrim.

Sincerely,

Allen Latall

AL/ss

Results of the Voters Meeting Elections VICE PRESIDENT: James Behrens replacing Scott Densow SECRETARY: Nancy Rosenthal 2nd term ELDER: Dennis Engmann replacing Allen Latall ELDER: John Heger replacing Ken Frank TRUSTEE: Dave Boehlke 2nd term TRUSTEE: Mark Ringgenberg replacing ??? BOARD OF EDUCATION: Carolyn McAfee 2nd term

CHURCH COUNCIL: Mary Lehtimaki replacing Mary Schwittau.

FOUND IN THE CHURCH PARKING

LOT, in September a key on a key chain. Please call the Church office to identify. 334-0375.

Church Council Minutes 11-14-16

Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Sommer at 7:00 pm.

Present were Pastor Fisher, Pastor Raffa, Jerry Sommer, Scott Densow, Fred Leffin, David Boehlke, Tanner Schmidt, Carolyn McAfee, Mary Schwittau, Judy Frank. (Absent, Suzanne Stadelmayer.)

Pastor Fisher opened with prayer.

President Jerry Sommer asked for any corrections to the last minutes of October 10, 2016. They were approved as printed.

Elders Report: Tanner Schmidt reported that they have set the schedule for the holidays. The Board is very concerned about the budget shortfall that is occurring in our congregation. The "Office of Cantors" will be used with the Introit for all the Sundays in Advent. There was extensive discussion on the Tuition Assistance program and the omissions that have occurred. The Tuition Assistance and the Minister's Salaries will be added to the agenda to the Congregational Voter's Assembly meeting January 29, 2017

Trustees Report: David Boehlke stated that there was an expenditure for the office computers and laptops. Also repairs have been completed to the Fisher parsonage. There is also a list of projects that need to be done but have no funding. This list will be added to the monthly newsletter.

It has been suggested that the Treasurer put together a list of projects that have been needed and have not been funded. Maybe if we see what has not been funded and is a real need, someone would be willing to donate for various projects or contribute to part of a project.

Pastors Report: Pastor Fisher stated that this Saturday is the Adults with Special Needs Bible study. Anyone is welcome to come and help. Pastor Raffa will be starting class for members and non-members alike regarding church doctrine. Pastor Fisher is conducting services ar area assisted living homes. Pastor Raffa family will be hosting the Thanksgiving Dinner. Pastor Fisher will be teaching at Concordia University, Mequon, in February and March 2017.

President Jerry Sommer lead discussion on changing some of the language in the Constitution and By-laws to make it more concise. This will also be on the agenda for the January meeting.

A question about the Raffle Sale, Silent Auction has been tabled to the next meeting. The concern is about holding this event in the church and a conflict with our church doctrine and practicing what we teach.

Pastor Raffa closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Frank

JF/ss

The Annual German Christmas Service at

Trinity Lutheran Church, 824 Wisconsin Ave., Sheboygan, is Sunday, December 11 beginning at 2 pm. The guest preacher is Rev. Don Hougard of Benediction Lutheran Church, Milwaukee. The voices of the Trinity Mixed Choir will join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior. A time of fellowship and German treats will follow the service in Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall. The service is handicap accessible.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE IS NOW OPEN

through December 18th..

We are still accepting donations of gently used Christmas items, hand crafted items, and food stuffs. If you are able to help at all with the Christmas Shoppe, please contact the church office.

Thank you

TWELFTH ANNUAL ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

"Christmas in a Foreign Country" To the ladies of our congregation and guests; join us for food, fellowship, music and an inspirational program that will help prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of our Saviors birth. This year Alvina Federwitz will share how she created a special Advent calendar for her children and grandchildren. We will sing many of our favorite hymns and carols. There will be special music performed by Julia & Nathan Federwitz and Kris Goedde. An offering will be taken to support Avina's ministry with Lutheran Bible Translators.

<u>Please let us know by Friday December 2nd, if</u> <u>you are planning on attending.</u> Please call Sandy Preder at the St. John's Lutheran Church Office Random Lake at 920-994-2228.

Ladies Guild/LWML

We will meet for our Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 20th at noon. Nancy and Ruth will be our hostesses. Here is the information for our Christmas Cookie Sale:



Cookies, Cookies, Cookies—Our Christmas Cookie Sale will soon be taking place. We are hoping that you will bake a double batch of your favorite Christmas cookies! Please bring your cookies to church by 11:00 am promptly on Saturday, Dec. 10. We will sell our 1-pound boxes for \$7.00 each after both services on Dec. 11. The money raised goes to Rev. Micah Wildauer who is serving as missionary in Togo, Africa. Thank you for baking buying and enjoying the cookies. Ladies Guild/LWML

Christian Education Sunday School

Our Fall Quarter is almost over. We will be finishing our Old Testament Lessons with stories of David. Concordia Publishing has supplied us with a free Christmas lesson. In January we will begin the Winter Quarter with New Testament stories.

We have begun preparing for the Christmas Program. Rehearsals will be held from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on Saturdays, December 3, 10, and 17 as well as during Sunday School time. Just a reminder: toys, gum, candy, etc. should be left at home.



Mark this joyful event on your calendar so you don't forget: *To Us a Child Is Born* Children's Christmas Service at

on Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Let the joy about Jesus' birth fill your heart! Plan to stay for food and fellowship immediately following the program.

Please note: NO Sunday School on Christmas Day Sunday, December 25th and New Year's Day Sunday, January 1st. Classes will resume on January 8th.

FUNDING NEEDED

These are items that are in need of funding if you are so inclined to help out the congregation other than your regular Sunday offering, please prayerfully consider one of these items.

Current expenses (already spent) not funded:

Computers and software replacement: \$1630 - <u>\$1150</u> donated

\$ 480 still needed, plus \$29.99/month for cloud storage service

Water heater replacement in parsonage #2: just over \$1000

Dishwasher replacement in parsonage #2: approximately \$700

Pouring chalice re-plating Approximately

Future projects and expenses waiting for funding:

Sidewalk leveling (mud-jacking): estimate \$2500

Replacement of main church roof

Window replacements in the parsonages

Parking lot sealing and eventual replacement

Staff training

IN OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

All servicemen at home and deployed, especially Isaac Wirtz (son of Rev. Nick Wirtz) who is stationed in Baghdad.

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For the sick.

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call on You for help. Give strength and confidence to Your [son/daughter] in [his/her] time of great need that [he/she] may know that You are near and that You uphold [him/her] with Your everlasting arms. Grant that, resting on Your protection, [he/she] may fear no evil, for You are with [him/her] to comfort and deliver [him/her]; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For our Seminaries, especially the Ethiopian Lutheran Church and Seminary

O God, through Your Holy Spirit You illuminate the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom You call to the work of pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon this seminary for the instruction and formation of those who are to serve in the sacred ministry of Your Church. Bless those who teach and those who learn that they may apply themselves with ready diligence to the knowledge of Your Word, which alone is able to make us wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



This outline is a devotional reading plan that covers the entire Sacred Scriptures each year. The selections are based on ancient models and are generally in harmony with the liturgical church year. The average reading is three chapters daily. The lectionary is in accordance with Martin Luther's suggestions:"But let the entire Psalter, divided in parts, remain in use and the entire Scriptures, divided in lections, let this be preserved in the ears of the church". Also: "after that another book should be selected, and so on, until the entire Bible has been read through, and where one does not understand it, pass that by and glorify God."

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Decembers Readings		
Dec. 1	Luke 1: 46-55	
	Revelation 1 - 2	
Dec. 2	Psalm 1	
	Revelation 3 - 5	
Dec. 3	Psalm 2	
	Revelation $6-8$	
Dec. 4	Psalm 3	
	Revelation $9 - 11$	
Dec. 5	Psalm 4	
	Revelation 12 - 14	
Dec. 6	Psalm 5	
	Revelation 15 - 17	
Dec. 7	Psalm 6	
	Revelation $18 - 20$	
Dec. 8	Psalm 7	
	Revelation 21 – 22	
Dec. 9	Psalm 8	
	Isaiah 1 – 3	
Dec. 10	Psalm 9	
	Isaiah 4 – 6	
Dec. 11	Psalm 10	
	Isaiah 7 – 9	
Dec. 12	Psalm 11	

	Isaiah 10 – 12
Dec. 13	Psalm 12 Psalm 12
Dec. 15	Isaiah 13 – 15
Dec. 14	Psalm 13 – 15
Dec. 14	Isaiah 16 – 18
Dec. 15	Psalm 14 $10 - 10$
Dec. 15	Isaiah 19 – 21
Dec. 16	Psalm 15
Dec. 10	Isaiah 22 – 24
Dec. 17	Psalm 16
	Isaiah 25 – 27
Dec. 18	Psalm 17
	Isaiah 28 – 30
Dec. 19	Psalm 18
	Isaiah 31 – 33
Dec. 20	Psalm 19
	Isaiah 34 – 36
Dec. 21	Psalm 20
	Isaiah 37 – 39
Dec. 22	Psalm 21
	Isaiah 40 – 42
Dec. 23	Psalm 22
	Isaiah 43 – 45
Dec. 24	Psalm 23
	Isaiah 46 – 48
Dec. 25	Psalm 24
	Isaiah 49 – 51
Dec. 26	Psalm 25
	Isaiah 52 – 54
Dec. 27	Psalm 26
	Isaiah 55 – 57
Dec. 28	Psalm 27
	Isaiah 58 – 60
Dec. 29	Psalm 28
	Isaiah 61 – 63
Dec. 30	Psalm 29
D 44	Isaiah 61 – 63
Dec. 31	Luke 1:46-55
	Mark 1
	Isaiah 64– 66



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Michael Zenda Brittany Meinburg
- 2- Keefe Olig
- 3- Thomas Becker4- Jennifer Molter
- Dorothy Young Beverly Hanson
- 5- Richard Reeck
- 7- David L. Olson
- 9- Angela Torre
- 10- Nancy Kleinke Paul Tarvin Tom Kabitzke
- 11-Orville Gierach Loretta Waechter Sarah Schober Braycen Nitzke
- 12- Patrick Schnabel Betty Voelzke
- 14- Dennis Hausmann
- 15- Edith Frank Stephanie Baerenwald
- 16- Gilbert Maffit John Meilahn
- 17- Richard Reich
- 18- Haley RinggenbergRichard LewandowskiPaige DaleyLucas Milis
- 19- Carl Belling Anne Farrington
- 20- John Mckay
- 21- Ashlyn Olig Gary Jenovai Abby Janssen

- 22- Evelyn Schleif
- 23- Bruce Gilbert Jeanne Tarvin Marilyn Meylor Lynne Lange Gabriel Baker Jennifer Schmidt
- 24- Patricia Faul
- 25- Ryan Mayer Carol Jenovai
- 26- Sally Volkman
- 27- David Carey Brad Eifert Caroline Reich
- 28- Gabriel Kempf
- 30- Tom Sumner Daniel Grosskreuz Gary Erdmann Parker Roell Paul Soat
 21 Tana Galarita
- 31- Tanner Schmidt



ANNIVERSARIES

- 5- Franklin & Betty Schroeter
- 17- Paul & Jeanne Tarvin
- 28- Gary & Sue Erdman

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Voters Meeting October 30, 2016

President Jerome Sommer brought the voters meting to order at 1 pm. Opened with prayer by Pastor.

<u>Roll Call</u> - 31 total {30 present 1 excused absence/ hospital.}

Elders Report - Pastor Fisher

Studying by video and book "Elders and Pastors"

Working on a list of names to be removed from our church roster due to many reasons, moved away, address change, etc.

Just making sure everything runs right.

<u>Trustees Report</u> - David Boehlke Basement storm windows.

Computers for Secretary and Financial Secretary. Pouring chalice recoated.

Lawn mowing and outdoor stuff taken care of.

Board of Education - Carolyn McAfee

First day of Sunday school attendance was 36, average each week about 27 children. Christmas Program practices will be the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Saturdays of December. Program itself will be December 18th at 4pm. With a small meal following.

New Teachers helping with Sunday school are Julie Raffa and Ginny Schober. WELCOME! Brittany Virchow has been heading up the Youth Group for the children 5-12 grade. Many fun times and more to look forward to. Youth Christmas Party is November 20th with an ugly sweater thing going on that day.

<u>Secretary Report</u> - Nancy Rosenthal The minutes to the last meeting were posted in the Herald, it was not necessary to read again. Minutes for this meeting were unanimously

passed.

<u>Pastors Report -</u> Pastor Fisher-Pastor Raffa Thank-you cards sent to church

- 1. Thank you form Pastor Mummy from Concordia.
- 2. Patty Dahl– Dorothy Young's daughter sends a lovely note thanking everyone for all the nice things that everyone has done for Dorothy.
- 3. A woman who attended the LWML Fall Rally wrote a thank you and good job to all who were involved.

Meeting November 19th for Special Needs Adult Group –Hymns, crafts and class. Theme -"O Give Thanks Unto The Lord" also a donation was given to put an ad in the paper to get this out a little better.

Places that the Pastors visit or preach:

Ivy Manor 1,2,3

Auxiliary Court

Meadowbrook

Jackson Crossing

Samaritan

Beechwood

Lighthouse

Cedar Bay East and West

Still working on St. Andrews Vacancy Pastor spot.

Confirmation classes are going great– children have a lot of questions

A thank you to Brittany Virchow on her hard work at organizing activities for the youth. Pastor Raffa would maybe like to begin an in-

structional class between services on Sundays. A Thanksgiving dinner just like last year - so if you like please come and join the Raffas. Mostly good feedback on the new design of our bulletin.

Concordia Report - Ron Kabitzke

They are building a new building provided by fundraising.

Carnegie hall June 25th anyone interested in singing "500 Voices for Luther"

No Unfinished Business

New Business

Election of Offices and boards are as listed: VICE PRESIDENT: James Behrens SECRETARY: Nancy Rosenthal ELDER: Dennis Engmann ELDER: John Heger TRUSTEE: Dave Boehlke TRUSTEE: Mark Ringgenberg BOARD OF EDUCATION: Carolyn McAfee CHURCH COUNCIL: Mary Lehtimaki

2017 Proposed Budget - Fred Leffin

Fred explains the proposed budget-Dennis Engamnn made a motion to add to budget, monies for missions. Fred explains that we already are short funds and would have to borrow to do it. Subject has been tabled, will be discussed in elders meeting and brought up next voters meeting, where it will be addressed further. Bob Swanson and the motion to table subject and Howie Glassel 2nd it.

Dennis Engmann motioned to accept 2017 budget proposal and David Boehlke 2nd it. All agreed. David Boehlke also brought up our fund raising projects whether they should be happening. Silent Auction recently brought us \$1800 for our debt.

Mary Schwittau motioned to close meeting and Howie Glassel 2nd it. All agreed.

Pastor Raffa ended with prayer.

Sincerely submitted by,

Nancy Rosenthal

Nancy Rosenthal, Secretary of Pilgrim Lutheran Voter's Meeting.

The Preus Family in the Dominican Republic

November 2016

Llegamos!

We have arrived! Upon our arrival to Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, we received a very generous reception from the missionary team. We are so happy to be here, and we know that God has wonderful things in store for His Church. We look forward to staying in touch with you and sharing the progress of God's work in the Dominican Republic. We are excited to share with you the work being done on this mission field in Santiago. God bless all of you and keep you steadfast in His Word!

From St. Louis to Santiago...

We received Andreas's visa on October 30th just in time for our departure from St. Louis and arrival at the Cibao International Airport on November 3rd. Moving a family of nine through the airport was quite the struggle, but we were overjoyed at the generous welcome we received from the missionary team here in Santiago. We have since settled in to our new home, acquired a twelve passenger van ("una guagua") and bought an insurance policy for the next year. Wach day we have been getting things done. We have duplicated our keys, gotten the electric garage door fixed, figured out the Dominican currency, learned how to buy and cook food, hired a plumber to fix our toilets, and we are still stumbling through every-day Spanish in order to get our electricity and house in good order. I have started formal Spanish lessons, but no sooner have I had the opportunity to preach several sermons in broken Spanish. Jenny, too, is working hard to keep the house, she will beg in her Spanish lessons after the New Year. We have a long way to go, but these baby steps, which are everything we are able to do, are critical in becoming effective missionaries.

Tragedy and Triumph

On November 10th at midnight, Erasmo, a member of our oldest congregation in Palmar Arriba, suffered a massive heart attack and died at the age of forty. He left behind a grieving wife, Mildred, and three daughters. Only a week into my missionary work, I had the opportunity to read 1 Thess. 4:13-18 with a short sermon to follow. With about three hundred people in attendance, the funeral was a wonderful opportunity to preach the good news of Christ's death and resurrection to the community of Palmar. Erasmos knew that his Redeemer lives before he died. As Mildred is naturally very concerned about how she will make end's meet and put her daughters through school, we have a tremendous opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Christ and invite her to put her mind on spiritual things. Jesus says: "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). We know that God, who had given her the greater gift of salvation for the sake of Jesus, who bore her sins and those of her husband, and carried their sorrows, will easily give her the lesser gift of daily bread. May God comfort Mildred and her family during this time of grief! We are one church richly blessed by God, and we have much to be thankful for!

Torrential rain in Palmar

Over the last few days and for the next week we are visiting the family of Mildred and her in-laws in order to bring the gospel of Christ's resurrection to this afflicted family in Palmar Arriba. On Sunday, I had quite the adventure. It had been raining almost nonstop for many days, and the river has flooded for the first time in seven years. Having just begun to drive, I came to the river. but since I was unable to cross due to the flooding, I turned back and found another route to the mountain village of Palmar. Fortunately, I arrived in plenty of time to participate in a short Vespers service for the family. It is essential that I establish a relationship with this family as I will soon be installed as their pastor. Idjon, a dutiful servant of the church and our vicar living in Palmar, had a magnificent sermon on Job emphasizing the comfort of the resurrection of the body and eternal life with Jesus. My way back to Santiago proved even more difficult than the way up. The torrential rains forced me to find the highest point of the road in order to cross the overflowing river. Relying on locals for directions, I crossed over the rapids and found my way back home. (I am thankful for all of my hunting adventures in Montana, which taught me to navigate mountain roads.) Tomorrow is another day is Christ's vineyard as we continue our daily services for the grieving family. Nothing gives me greater joy that to bring the saving gospel of Jesus to Mildred and her family. God give them strength and hope! And may he grant me safe travels through this tropical mountain forest.

Reflections from home, by the Preus Kids Question:

What is the biggest highlight from this past week for you?

Hans (13); "the drive home from the airport and seeing our house again. Also, getting more settled into our home. Oh, and my birthday. And getting my finger nipped by a lizard."

Rebekah (11): "I do miss my friends a lot. But I do like getting my room set up and also look forward to going to school soon."

Rolf (8): "Well not much has changed. I still goof off and make jokes most of the time. And I caught a lizard but it detached its tail and got away."

Lena (7): I had fun going to the swimming pool near our house. The music was really loud there. Right now the language sounds like gibberish but I am going to learn it soon."

SØren (5): "My favorite thing is playing Transformers. Also going on the plane was fun."

Leif (2): "The house, the tree. "Mom: "Oh you like our house and the lemon tree in the back yard?" Leif: 'Sure'

Andreas (31/2 months): (Blowing raspberries) Coo, coo. Ah."

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into pieces.

Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ lesus our Lord, Bornans 623, NIV