



## **THE PILGRIM HERALD**

February 2018

### **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) 305-1663

Rev. Christopher Raffa, Pastor  
(262) 388-8287

[www.pilgrimlutheran-westbend](http://www.pilgrimlutheran-westbend)

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FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR FISHER

**Genesis 3:1-13(ESV) <sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. <sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said,**

**“The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”**

Greetings in the name of our living and forgiving Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Pilgrim turned 63. It is always good to remember our past as we look to our future, so let us not forget, that on Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> the founding members of Pilgrim met and signed the charter and we are blessed to still have two of those members with us, Erv and Ruth Mertz, I pray that we will continue to take the time to thank them for their faith and support over the years, even as we continue to give thanks to God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost for His continued divine providence, provision, and protection.

February looks like it will be a very busy month for us here at Pilgrim as Ash Wednesday will be upon us on February 14<sup>th</sup> I hope you will be able to join us during this season of Lent as we will be using a Lenten series entitled, “Return from Exile” as we will be looking at the various motifs in the Scriptures that reveal to us Jesus. I pray you and yours will be able to join us for our Lenten services remember we celebrate Ash Wednesday on Wednesday the fourteenth of February at 1pm and 7pm with a Lenten supper starting at 5:30pm and then our service will be at 1pm and 7pm on Thursdays with a Lenten supper. I hope you can join us!

Below is the newsletter article provided for our Lenten series.

God Bless,

Rev. Joseph M. Fisher

Fellow Redeemed,

Once again, we prepare to enter into the Lenten season as we journey through the Church Year. Lent, however, is its own kind of journey. Lent is the journey we make as we travel with Christ from the Mount of Transfiguration to Jerusalem where He will face the cross and the grave for our sakes. It is a very sobering trip, a journey that often struggles to find joy. But there is Easter!

This year our theme for our Lenten worship will focus upon the journey, but perhaps not in the way we usually walk it. Our overall theme will be “Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey.” All journeys must have a starting point; and in the preaching and teaching this Lenten season, we will consider our starting point a land of exile.

The land of exile from which we begin our journey is the wilderness of sin and death. Sin came into the world when our first parents were unfaithful and disobedient, eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve sinned, and we have inherited from them not only the sin itself, but also the result of that sin—separation from our Lord and God. From the first sin in the first garden, we have been exiled into the wilderness where we have wandered without any ability to find our way out.

This is the beginning of our journey: exile. But every journey also has a destination, an ending point. Our return from exile brings us into the promised land. Our relationship with our God is restored by Christ’s sacrifice. Our destination, then, is the perfect place, the new garden, the courts of heaven—the ultimate destination which was established for us by His death and resurrection. There is great joy in the journey as we see where our returning brings us; but there

is also a somber attitude when we consider what Christ faced on account of our sin.

All journeys consist of many events that take place between the journey’s beginning and its end. Our Lenten journey is no different. Each leg of our Lenten journey begins in the Old Testament and then continues into the New Testament, pointing us to the joy that is ours in Christ Jesus. Do not be surprised to discover that from the very beginning, even outside the gates of the Garden of Eden, it is Christ who travels with us. He has always been our guide, from the very beginning, and He will journey with us to the very end. Indeed, He has even gone before us to prepare a heavenly dwelling place.

Life is full of journeys. Life itself is a journey. We enter this Lenten season contemplating the reality of our earthly journey but with eyes fixed on its destination—the empty tomb and the open gates of everlasting life. What joy there is in knowing that we do not walk this way alone!

Board of Elders Meeting Minutes, Pilgrim Ev.  
Lutheran Church  
1/2/2018

The meeting began with prayer by Pr. Fisher at 6:30. Present at the meeting were Pr. Fisher, Pr. Raffa, Dennis, Tanner, Brian, Gary J. Absent were Gary E. and John, owing to a scheduling mix-up of no fault of theirs.

Schedules were made through Feb. 14th (Ash Wednesday).

The elders again thank Dave and Ron for their years of service as elders.

The elders welcome Gary Jenovai as an elder.

An elder-usher meeting will be held on Jan 20th at 9:00 for all elders and ushers.

The voters meeting will be held on 1/28 at 1:00.

The next elder meeting will be held on 2/5 at the usual time.

Ash Wednesday is on 2/14 this year. This happens to be Valentine's Day this year. The elders do not recommend that anyone use this as an excuse to not do something sweet for their loved one; we cannot be held liable for any consequences of such.

On March 17th, a guest speaker will be presenting regarding his book: Rev. Dr. Jack Cascione will speak regarding the repetition in Scripture as a testament to its authenticity.

Elders shared some member contacts. The website was discussed.

The elders discussed sound and microphone quality (especially Pr. Raffa's). We are in the process of improving the quality through adjustment of our equipment and settings. The elders and pastors thank Mr. Brad Dunigan (not a member, but rather a friend of an elder) for his generous assistance in this matter.

The directory was discussed. Final edits are underway, and it should be finished in January, still.

Family assignments were redistributed among the elders. Please note, there will be a display on the bulletin boards in the narthex displaying the following information along with a picture of each elder for clarity's sake:

Gary Erdman is the elder for families **Aasen - Engmann**

John Heger is the elder for families **Erdman - Jennrich**

Brian Skrentny is the elder for families **Jenovai - Mayer**

Tanner Schmidt is the elder for families **McAfee - Rockrohr**

Gary Jenovai is the elder for families **Roell - Steiner**

Dennis Engmann is the elder for families **Stroh-meyer - Zunker**

Our book study was postponed owing to the time.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Pastor Raffa at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tanner Schmidt



Prayers and Christ's comfort to Carole Brockhaus and family on the death of her husband Don. Don was called home to heaven on January 16. The funeral was held here on Saturday, January 20, 2018.



Services will be held on Wednesday, February 14 at 1 and 7 pm. Ash Wednesday Lenten Dinner, will be served starting at 5:30 pm. by the Ladies Guild..

Sign up sheet for the Lenten dinners is in the Narthex on the bulletin board. If you would like to sign up your group, please make sure you list what you are serving for your dinner. Thank you.



**CHRIST IN OUR PLACE LIBRARY** (in the church basement) is in need of some volunteers to sort and organize books for check out. We will be meeting on Tuesday, February 6, from 1 - 3 pm. Hope to see you there.



Ash Wednesday 1 & 7:00 pm.  
Dinner at 5:30 pm

Starting on Thursday February 22, 2018 Lenten Services are at 1 & 7:00 pm. with Dinners served starting at 5:30 pm.



Ladies Guild/LWML

I always give thanks to God for all of you. Two members went to the LWML Winter Retreat in Fond du Lac. We thank those who contributed items for us to take along to help the Charis Pregnancy Help Center. We were able to participate in servant events including "No Sew Fleece Hats and Scarves" and "Blessing Bags" for the homeless.

Our group is getting ready to host the Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper. The menu includes Hot Ham and Buns, casseroles, salads and desserts. Donations will help support Missionary Micah Wildauer in Togo, Africa.

Please save the date, Sat., Feb. 10, to attend the LWML Lenten Prayer Service at St. John's New Fane at 10:30. Registration begins at 9:00 with a breakfast at 9:30.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 20. Bring your own sandwich or salad.

Judy and Mary will provide desserts, juice, and coffee. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

**The Pilgrim Church Council** January 8, 2018 meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President, Jerome Sommer, who opened the meeting with a prayer provided by Pastor Fisher. Others in attendance were Pastor Raffa, Pastor Fisher, Fred Leffin, Tanner Schmidt, Jim Behrens, David Boehlke, Suzanne Stadelmayer, Mary Lehtimaki, and Judy Frank. Minutes from the December meeting were approved as printed. President Sommer read a letter of thanks and appreciation for the gift of a book, The Bible Story.

#### Elders Report

There are six Elders now. The members have been assigned to each and this information is posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

The Pilgrim Directory should be complete in late January.

Audio improvements have been made to Pastor Raffa's microphone.

#### Trustee Report

David Boehlke and David Fellenz will be sharing head trustee duties.

Internet and phone supplier has been changed from AT&T to Charter.

Getting estimates for new carpet in the Fisher parsonage.

The walls in the old fellowship room will be painted white.

#### Board of Education

About 100 people stayed for the chili supper and fellowship after the Christmas service.

Pastor Fisher

- Continuing to teach multiple Bible and confirmation classes.
- Usher/Elders meeting is scheduled for Jan 20 at 9 am.
- Circuit forum scheduled for Jan 14 at 1:30.
- The free will offering jug will be used for donations to support Taylor Brown, Tyler McMiller, and Austin Meier in their church work studies.
- Ladies Guild is supporting Michael Wildauer.
- As circuit counselor, is meeting with church in Fredonia for vacancy planning as Pastor Zick is retiring in June.
- Planning to add Rite of Debt retirement to Jan 25 and 28 services.

A member has offered to donate \$200 toward the cost of upgrading the Servant Keepers church management software from version 7 to 8. \$1100 was donated over the holidays that was used to help 7 families.

Pastor Raffa

- Continuing to teach Bible classes Thursday mornings and after church on Sundays.
- Rev. Dr. Cascione, a Missouri Synod Pastor, will be presenting on a book he wrote on Patterns in the Bible on March 17 from 10 am to noon. Free to anyone who wishes to attend.

Voters Meeting is scheduled for January 28 at 1 pm.

Motion passed to end the meeting. Pastor Raffa closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Behrens



**We continued to have fun in Sunday School as we study the New Testament. Our Bible Stories for February include:**

*“Peter Denies Jesus”*

Mark 14:26-72

*“The Passion of Christ”*

Matthew 27:11-66

*“The Resurrection of Jesus”*

Matthew 28:1-10

*“The Empty Tomb”*

John 20:1-18

**Just a reminder that we have Sunday School classes for all children age 3 through eighth grade. We meet at 9:15 a.m. in the lower level.**



**The Quilters** are looking for donations of yarn. If you have yarn that you are not using, please consider donating to the Quilters. Please put it in the back of the Cry room. Thank you.



- 1- Ruth Mertz
- 2- Sierra Farmier
- 4- Andrew Hoffmann
- 6- Jim Behrens  
Fred Leffin  
Nancy Scherer
- 7- Keith Gierach
- 9- Clayton Kempf
- 10- Jamie Carron  
Kevin Deffenbaugh  
Rebecca Boehlke
- 11- Archer Roell
- 12- Jim Hodge  
Brynlee Kempf
- 13- John Held
- 15- Caden Olson
- 17- Lorraine Gierach
- 19- Dean Milis  
Carol Myers
- 20- LaRaine Farmier  
Brayden Thimmig
- 22- Samuel Grosskreuz
- 23- Shirley Mayer  
Diandra Henckel  
Diane Zell
- 24- Makenzie Daley
- 25- Dylan Kabitzke
- 27- Stephen Spalda, Sr.
- 28- Jodi Henckel



- 1- Shane & Melissa Oppermann
- 19- Glenn & Pam Zenda
- 20- James & Joan Prine
- 25- Jonathan & Sandra Thames
- 28- David & Marilyn Kasten

#### **KNOW YOUR ELDER**

Gary Erdman 334-3638  
is the elder for families **Aasen - Engmann**

John Heger 338-3028  
is the elder for families **Erdman - Jennrich**

Brian Skrentny 338-8586  
is the elder for families **Jenovai - Mayer**

Tanner Schmidt 262-470-9704  
is the elder for families **McAfee - Rockrohr**

Gary Jenovai 677-0517  
is the elder for families **Roell - Steiner**

Dennis Engmann 644-9687  
is the elder for families **Strohmeyer - Zunker**



## **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.

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.

*Note: After much consideration, we have decided to add a page in the newsletter that lists all of those struggling with health issues. (Not published on the website). Each month we will also have various petitions that you can pray at home for various needs all people in Christ, and especially those within our immediate church family here at Pilgrim. In the bulletin we will list those sick and infirm on the basis of need and emergency. In the event that you would like to have your name or your loved one's name removed from the prayer list, please let us know.*



## A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

*Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.*

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ...

F L S Y   F K Y   X E I Q B V O   O J   F  
 H M T A   I L A   Y H K R D Y P   S M   G  
 J N U C   L M C   Z K M S F B Q   W P   H

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E X M B   C L M B U   V F R   P L   V F R  
 F Y P C   F M P C X   W I S   Q M   W I S  
 G Z S D   I N S D A   X L T   R N   X L T

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A R J Q   C C S B   F K Y   X H L Q B Y I  
 E S M R   F G T C   I L A   Y J M R D A L  
 I T P S   I K U D   L M C   Z L N S F C O

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JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV



## heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.



### What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

### What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.