



**Pilgrim Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
820 Belknap Street
Superior, WI 54880
(715) 392-4731

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Superior, WI 54880
Permit No. 1194

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Website: www.plcsuperior.org
Facebook: [PilgrimSuperior](https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimSuperior)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you change your address or phone number,
or have a temporary address,
PLEASE CALL US AT 715-392-4731



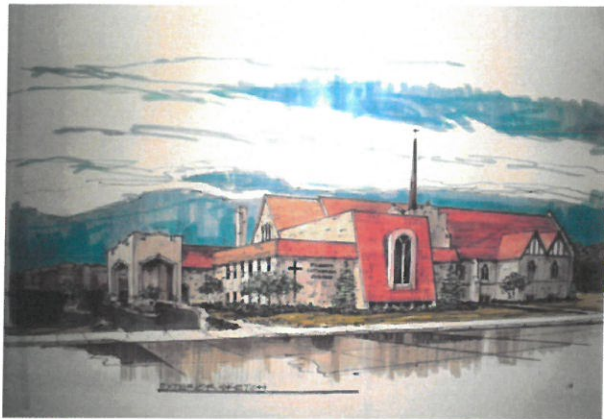
THIS MONTH AT PILGRIM

Worship Schedule in January

- January 7* – Worship at 9:30 a.m.
- January 14* – Worship at 9:30 a.m.
- January 21* – Worship at 9:30 a.m.
- January 28* – Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Table of Contents

Title page	2
Recital Invites	2
Annual Meeting	2
Pastor's Column	3
Thank you	4
Church Statistics	4
December Scripture	4
Servers	4
Sunday School News	5
Bible Study	5
Confirmation Information	5
Theology on Tap	5
Pie Thank you	5
Coloring Page	6
Council Page	7-8
Widening Our Acceptance	9
January Calendar	10



Monthly Pilgrim Progress

To make things easy we are going to have the Progress deadline be the **15th of each month**. If there is a problem contact Judy and talk to her.

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—1:00 pm
Church Phone: 715-392-4731

E-mail and Website Addresses

officemgr@plcsuperior.org (Judy)
tanner@plcsuperior.org (Pastor Tanner)

Church website: www.plcsuperior.org
Facebook: PilgrimSuperior
Synod website: www.nswi.org
ELCA website: www.elca.org

PLC ONLINE ~ Check out Pilgrim's website at www.plcsuperior.org for the monthly calendar and newsletter, pictures, and much, much more.

You are all welcome to come and join Eliza at a couple recitals she is hosting.

January 14th at 3:00 p.m.
will be a student recital.



January 28th at 3:00 p.m.
will be a recital by Eliza and friends.

STAFF

Pastor Rev. Tanner Howard
Office Manager Judy Hagen
Custodian Mark Pero
Music Director/Pianist Lorelei Holland
Organist Dr. David Tryggestad
Choir Director Curt Hanson
Education Coordinator Rebecca Waterhouse

**SYNODICALLY
AUTHORIZED MINISTERS**

Jenny Dudderar
Andrea Rubesch

OFFICERS

Council President . . . Mary Johnson-Garay
Council Vice-President . . . Dan Breneman
Council Secretary Courtney Dietsche
Congregation Treasurer Don Miller
Financial Secretary Julie McLaren

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

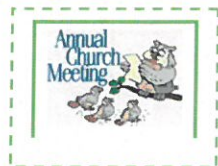
Colleen Goesling
Scott Swanson Bob Patterson

MISSIONARIES TO TANZANIA

Dr. Steven & Bethany Friberg

PLC ON FB: Go to your **FACEBOOK** page. Enter 'Pilgrim Superior' in the search box. When Pilgrim's FB comes up, 'LIKE' it. You can then see regular PLC news, updates and photos.

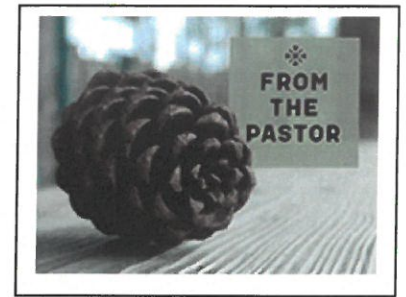
The Annual Meeting of Pilgrim Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 28th at 10:30. Please plan to attend this important event as we celebrate the work we've accomplished in 2023 and make plans for our life together in 2024.



January 2024

Saints and Siblings in Christ,

Merry Christmas! And a happy and blessed New Year to you all!



Often we think about God as this unchanging deity whose promises and presence endure and a steady, stable existence in our lives. And that's true. The scriptures are filled with images of God's faithfulness from generation to generation to generation to...you get the idea. God's promises persist and God's love is a gift that keeps on giving. But the scriptures also make it clear that nothing about God, or about our world, is static or stale. Yes, God's promises persist, but they are renewed in each generation of faithful folks. Yes, God's presence has been always, and also the way in which we experience God has changed and continues to change throughout our lives. Yes, God's love endures forever, and we know what it means to recognize that God's love is expansive, as we come to recognize just how BIG God's family is – even including some of those folks we may not think deserve to be the In-Kin.

I have always love this juxtaposition of constancy and change. It combines my love for “the way things are” with my excitement about “the way things could be.” Beloved traditions butt up against modern ideas which go on to become beloved traditions – often with us forgetting that something was ever ‘new’ to begin with. Ask me how I feel about some of my beloved 90s music ending up on the Oldies station!

The reality is that change is inevitable. And the coming of a new pastor (like myself) to a congregation can make it feel like that change is coming fast. As we learn and grow together in the coming months, there will be many adjustments to the way I'm used to doing things and the way you're used to doing things. I hope you're finding that fun and not overwhelming thus far. For me, it's been a wild ride getting to know the ins and outs of Pilgrim, and I know I have a lot more to learn.

Now I tell you all that because this new year comes with some new things here at Pilgrim. Please read the rest of this newsletter for more details about Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible Study, Theology on Tap, the Annual Meeting, Worship, and all sorts of opportunities for service in our community and with this congregation in the months ahead. I am excited about what God is already doing here at Pilgrim, and I am thrilled to see where the Spirit is leading us together.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Tanner



JANUARY SERVERS

Below is the list of those who are signed up to help with our worship service. If you are signed up and cannot make it, please find someone to fill in for you and also let the office know. Thank you to all of you for helping with our worship here at Pilgrim.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!

January 7 – Epiphany of Our Lord

Ushers: Team 1: Ted Nelson, Capt.
Worship Asst: TBA
Sound System: Fred
Altar Guild: Elaine and Nancy
Hospitality: Mary Houk

January 14 – Baptism of Our Lord

Ushers: Team 2: Tad Matheson, Capt.
Worship Asst: Courtney Dietsche
Sound System: Tyler
Altar Guild: Julie and Greg
Hospitality: Ken & Julia Kochsiek

January 21 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers: Team 3:
Worship Asst: Don Miller
Sound System: Colleen
Altar Guild: Laura and Sandy
Hospitality: Molly Warring

January 28 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers: Team 4: Tyler Austreng, Capt.
Worship Asst: Julie McLaren
Sound System: Colleen
Altar Guild: Rachel and Colleen
Hospitality: Mary Johnson-Garay

Pilgrim,
 Thank you so much for the cake and coffee, and the many good wishes for my retirement as financial secretary. It was much appreciated.

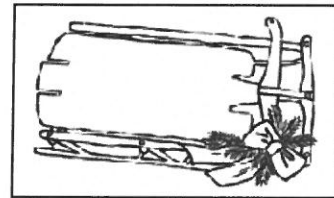


Anna Hansen

Church Statistics

November 2023

Total In-House Sunday Attendance:	223
Average In-House Sunday Attendance:	55
Total Online Sunday Attendance:	na
Average Online Sunday Attendance:	na
Total Combined Attendance:	223
Total Average Attendance:	55
Envelope Offering (General Fund)	\$ 5,038.00
Loose Offering (non-envelope):	\$ 226.00
Electronic Offering (General Fund):	\$ 1,815.68
Total General Giving:	\$ 7,079.68



Scripture Readings January 2024 Lectionary B

January 7 – Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12

January 14 – Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
 Mark 1:4-11

January 21 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Mark 1:14-20

January 28 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 Mark 1:21-28

Calling All Kids!

We are excited to offer Sunday School at Pilgrim beginning Sunday, January 7th. We'll gather for music with Pastor Tanner right after worship in the sanctuary, then move into classes, and finish up by 11:00 each week. Students of all ages are welcome to attend - no need to sign up. Contact Pastor Tanner with any questions



Thursday Bible Studies will kick off on January 11th at 10:00 in the Chapel space. Each week we will take a look at the texts for the upcoming Sunday. The coffee will be on so bring yourself, a bible, and a friend and join Pastor Tanner for conversation!

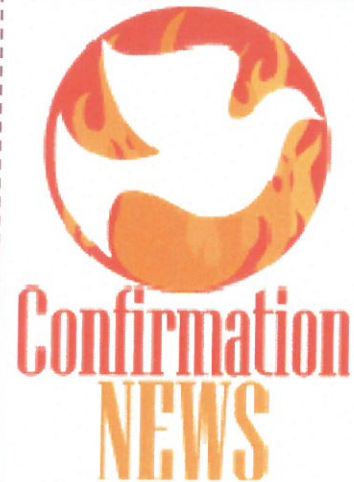


Confirmation is an important milestone in our lives of faith.

Pastor Tanner would like to start confirmation classes in the new year with anyone interested. If you or someone you know is a 7th or 8th grade student interested in class, please let us know!

Older students who missed confirmation are also welcome to attend.

Please contact the church office or email Pastor Tanner if you're interested, and plan to attend an information session on Sunday, January 21st after worship.



JOIN
US!

Join Pastor Tanner on Wednesdays at 7:00 for Theology on Tap at the Tap on Tower (1106 Tower Avenue). We'll gather for fellowship and informal conversation around questions both theological and secular. Grab a friend and come on out!

Thanks to everyone who purchased pie and bundt cake in support of our Ruth House fundraiser! We were able to donate over \$200 in money and supplies for their warming house and free store needs! A special thank you to Nancy Somerville and Ted Nelson for their donations for pie making supplies so more proceeds could benefit Ruth House and our Memorial Scholarship fund!





Have fun coloring a page. If you bring you page back to church we can put it on the bulletin board.

Name _____ Age _____

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Pilgrim Lutheran Church November 28, 2023 Council Minutes

- I. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer:** Meeting called to order at 6:35 by President Mary Johnson-Garay. Pr. Tanner led us in opening prayer.
- II. **Those in attendance:** Mary Johnson-Garay, Colleen Elonen, Tad Matheson, Courtney Dietsche, Don Miller, Dan Breneman, Pastor Tanner Howard, Ted Nelson. Excused: Jamie Peterson.
- III. **Approve Minutes:** Colleen made a motion to approve the October 24 council meeting minutes. Don seconded. Motion approved.
- IV. **Pastor's Report:**
 - All Lutheran churches in Superior meet once a month at various locations; if anyone on council is interested in going, let Pr. Tanner know.
 - A note will be added to the bulletins that people need to let the church know if they would like to be visited in the hospital. Due to HIPPA regulations, hospitals will not notify a pastor even if a church preference is indicated.
 - Pr. Tanner is working on the following items:
 - o Email and website issues
 - o Working with the SAMs to determine supervision duties and what they would like to do going forward
 - o Talking to UWS about the Moms as Mentors program opportunities
 - o Introducing a larger-sized worship bulletin

V. Music/Ministry:

- Abigail will be Santa Lucia at the Vesper Tea on December 17
- There is interest in bringing back greeters; people doing hospitality will be asked to do it as well as any volunteers.
- For people who are both ushers and members of the choir, there was concern over how to do both. The council determined that there are currently enough ushers each week to allow people to participate in the choir when both activities happen at the same time.
- Some ideas were discussed for supporting people with accessibility challenges. We will look into bringing back the hearing devices. Pr. Tanner reminded us that he and the ministry assistant will come to people in the pews if they prefer to remain seated during communion.
- For the Property Report, Tad said he had worked on fixing the roof leaks and getting several sinks in working order.
- The council will invite Shane to the December meeting to discuss kitchen cleaning and the use of other spaces for storing packaging.

- Some mission work ideas were blessing bags (some small necessary items placed in Ziplock bags and left around town); Bingo and Brews (will be checking with local breweries to find one to work with); and blanket in a bag (put blankets and quilts in bags and leave around town). The mitten tree is out, and we are also accepting donations of new socks.
- Pr. Tanner will contact Life Touch studio regarding the possibility of having them come to take pictures for a new member directory.

VI. Finance:

- The City of Superior is offering grant money for structural improvements. The council will get estimates for the roof and look into the grant.
- Mary made a motion to change Pr. Tanner's housing allowance to \$30,000 per year. Tad seconded. Motion approved.
- Colleen made a motion to approve the financial report with corrected numbers once they are determined. Mary seconded. Motion approved.

VII. Old Business:

- Dan and Tad will work on removing some pews to increase accessibility.
- Don checked on the price of having a button connecting the front door and the office installed, but it was high. Pr. Tanner will check with other companies to find a lower-priced alternative.

VIII. New Business:

- The emergency contact cards are being prepared.
- The next blood drive will be April 17, 2024.
- Colleen contacted the current gardener, and someone from the council will meet with her in June. Dan has spoken to some people who are willing to help with the landscaping.
- We are looking for a new Event Coordinator.
- Pr. Tanner is working on updating the website.
- The December council meeting date will be the 19th rather than the 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10, and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Reminder to Council members.

Please have your stuff turned in for the annual meeting by January 10th.



Widening Our Acceptance

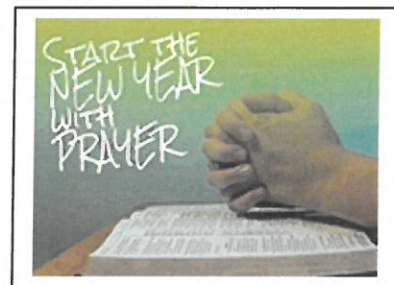
In a world that seems filled with division and challenges it is hard to know how to respond to the many daily conversations, experiences or news events that are on a continuous loop whether it be on a social media site, the television or the everyday chat that confronts us. I know sometimes I catch myself biting my tongue, resisting the urge to offer up my feelings or opinions on some of these topics that can get touchy. Or maybe you just get irritated by others because they are behaving in a manner you feel is unacceptable. It is easy to fall into this trap and not really know how to get out of these negative feelings or responses. Practicing meditation and allowing all the noise and inconveniences to enter our practice while maintaining a level of acceptance is a way to rehearse our reactions in real time. Staying calm, removing judgment and widening our acceptance of the way others live their lives will help support our own well-being and send out love into the world.

When we try to control our environment we cling to what we like and we reject what we dislike. By attempting to control our experiences, we believe we will keep ourselves safe and happy. In actuality we do ourselves a disservice, by intensifying our frustrations and unhappiness. We cannot control the way life unfolds, we can choose to become annoyed when things go awry or we can accept the unavoidable and welcome the unexpected change. Mindfulness puts us into a mindset that accepts where we are in the moment, widening our capacity to accept and flow through life with a sense of ease.

Dr. Becky of the book *Good Inside* has an acronym to help check your thinking. It is called MGI (Most Generous Interpretation). We tend to first respond with an LGI (Least Generous Interpretation). What does this mean? An example of LGI might look like this: A family in church has a child that is really noisy. Our LGI thinking might be: *that family needs to get that child out of the church area so I can hear what the Pastor is saying, don't they have any idea of what is appropriate? Children should be seen and not heard.* An example of MGI thinking might be: *it sure sounds like that child is having a good time in church, I am sure the parents are nervous they are making noise, I will turn around and give them a smile to know we love having them in our church.*

Widening our acceptance and looking at situations through the lens of our *Most Generous Interpretation* is a great way to start off the New Year. It just might change your life for the better. May you find joy, love and acceptance in the new year.

~ Mary Johnson-Garay,
Council President, Wellness Coach



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship Usher 1 10:30 Sunday School 2:00-3:00 NA committee	8	9 5:30 Choir Rehearsal	10 3:00-4:00 piano lessons—Zach Annual Reports Due	11 5:30-6:30 piano	12	13 10:00—3:00 p.m. Re-served /B-day party 3:00 p.m. Recital Rehearsal
14 9:30 Worship Usher 2 10:30 Sunday School 3:00 p.m. student recital All are welcome 1:30 NA committee 4:00 NA	15 Progress Articles Due	16 5:30 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Praise practice	17 3:00-4:00 piano lessons—Zach	18 5:30-6:30 piano lessons—Zach	19	20
21 9:30 Worship Usher 3 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Confirmation Information meeting 4:00 NA	22	23 5:30 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Praise practice 6:30 Council Meeting	24 3:00-4:00 piano lessons—Zach	25 5:30-6:30 piano lessons—Zach	26	27
28 9:30 Worship Usher 4 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Annual Meeting 3:00 recital by Eliza Everyone is Welcome 4:00 NA	29	30 5:30 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Praise practice	31 3:00-4:00 piano lessons—Zach	Violin music lesson's scheduled throughout the month		