

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

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*You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked  
that a murderer be released to you. \_Acts 3:14*

## What Sets Us Apart (Pastor Kristian Johnson)

Holy **from the Greek** *hágios* – different (unlike), other ("otherness"), holy; for the believer, *hágios* means "likeness of nature with the Lord" because "different from the world."

Can I make a confession? Sometimes I wonder about why we fill Holy Week with a series of gatherings within the walls of our church. Is our ambitious Holy Week schedule (eight services in five days) really advancing the Kingdom of God?

But when I reflect on the true meaning of the word "Holy", I come back to gratitude, and yes, excitement, about what this week means to us.

You see, in the moment that Pilate offered the crowd a choice: Do you want us to release to you Jesus or Barabbas? (Matthew 27:17) Why would the crowd choose Barabbas?

I think that, to the crowd, Barabbas seemed like the more expedient choice. He had clearly identified Rome as the enemy that needed to be overthrown, and he was to "do something"... he was willing to fight.

Meanwhile, Jesus represented mystery. God in human form? A king willing to be arrested without a fight? A miracle worker who couldn't save himself? And so the crowd disowned the holy.

But in the midst of this mystery was someone who was willing to embody what sets us as Christians apart... the awesome, liberating, non-violent LOVE of God.

Friends... as we approach Holy week, let's not "disown the Holy." Let's step outside the world's expectations of us for a few days so we can be reminded of God's love for us and for the world. May we be re-inspired to live as people of the Holy Spirit for this time and place.



## Prepare (Growth) Opportunities

### **Save The Date:** GPS Visioning Retreat

Calling all leaders! We will be uniting under the banner of our mission statement to Gather, Prepare and Send to listen to God and to one another to identify our goals for the coming months of ministry. Sunday, April 27th from 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM. Lunch provided. Watch for details.

### You Are Invited To Holy Week At Pilgrim 2014.

#### **Palm Sunday** 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Join us for a joyful service, starting with an outdoor procession at 10:10 AM



#### **Preschool And Kindergarten Passion Play**

Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 PM

#### **Maundy Thursday**, April 17th

10:10 AM and 7:00 PM

Family friendly services led by children and youth



#### **Good Friday**, April 18th

Family Service 4:30 PM

Candlelight Prayers Around the Cross, 7:00 PM



#### **Easter Saturday**, April 19th

Vespers Service, 7:00 PM



#### **Easter Sunday**, April 20th

8:00 AM and 10:30 PM

Easter Breakfast beginning at 9:00 AM

**Easter Egg Hunt to Follow 10:30 service**



(L to R: S Volkens, C Robinson, K Johnson, C Henry)

**Sunday, March 2nd:** Shellie Riedle Volkens and Pastor Kristian Johnson welcomed representatives from Uhlich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN) to discuss how Pilgrim's core value of advocating justice for the vulnerable might support UCAN's mission to build strong youth and families through compassionate healing, education and empowerment.

Claude A. Robinson is Executive Vice President of External Affairs and Diversity at UCAN, and Corrine Henry is Director of Institutional Advancement.

For more information, contact Shellie Riedle Volkens, or visit the UCAN website, [www.ucanchicago.org](http://www.ucanchicago.org).

**Sunday, March 23rd:** Pilgrim welcomed Pastor Lalissa Gemechis of the Mekane Yesus (Lutheran) Church of Ethiopia as our guest preacher. The Lutheran Church of Ethiopia is the fastest growing Lutheran Church in the world, having grown from 22,000 to over 5.5 million members over the past 50 years. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in Indiana.



## Great Banquet Retreats

Men's Weekend—April 24-27

Women's Weekend—May 1-4 Park Ridge, IL



The Great Banquet is an experience of God's grace, beginning Thursday evening and ending Sunday evening. Guests grow in their relationship with God through fellowship with a wonderful community of disciples. Information and registration materials are on the back table. For more information, please talk to Renee Stuedemann or call Anna-Kari at 773-990-0814.

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### Project Linus Save the Date!

Mark your calendar now for our annual Thrivent Join Hands Day event on Saturday, May 3rd from 10 AM to 2 PM, when we will join other members of the Thrivent North Cook County chapter to make comfort blankets for kids. Kids will use fabric markers to create quilt squares to be sewn into blankets by our volunteers, but you don't have to sew to participate. We also make fleece blankets with knotted fringe or crochet edges, so there's something for every skill level. A delicious lunch is included.

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### Prayer Ministry

Join us Saturdays at 8:30 AM for our weekly prayer time. It is such a wonderful way to spend a morning! We meet at the Parsonage, 4332 North Winchester Avenue.



### Come to El Salvador Mission Trip, July 31st – August 10th 2014.

This trip is open to all people. ALL AGES WELCOME, no Spanish knowledge required. Please grab a brochure on the back table at Pilgrim for next steps!

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### Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS program, Gangway to Galilee, will take place the week of June 16-20, in the mornings. Children ages 3 through 12 are eligible to participate. Over the coming weeks we will be asking for adult, teen and 7-8th grade volunteers to help with our preparations, as well as lining up people to help during VBS. Last year's volunteers had a great time, so please consider signing up to help this year, even if you don't have kids! Questions? Contact Chris Wallis, [cewallis1949@yahoo.com](mailto:cewallis1949@yahoo.com).



### Food for the Hungry

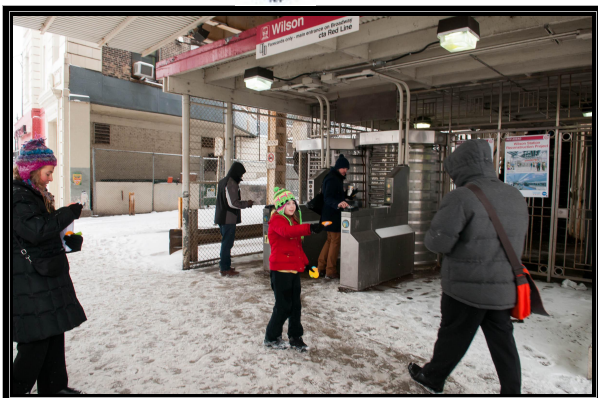
Pilgrim accepts grocery donations for the Friendship Center and Common Food Pantries. Please bring nonperishable food and leave it at the top of the stairs near the entrance of the church.



# Ash Wednesday Outreach



On a cold and snowy day, between Pilgrim's Ash Wednesday observances, Pastors Kristian and Anna-Kari Johnson, accompanied by daughter, Hope, offered prayer and the blessing of the ashes to passersby at the intersection of Wilson and Broadway from 7 AM to 9:15 PM, and between 3:45 PM and 5:20 PM.



## Raising Fund\$

(Anne Barsano)

**A**pril **MARKET DAY** order forms have been distributed and orders are due Monday, April 14th, by Noon in the school office or by 11 PM online. Call Anne by 10 PM that night with your order. Check out the **E-Z Order** form for a complete listing of items. Look at the clearance site online for some great deals! Soft Pretzel Breadsticks, Vegetable Orzo Blend and Honey BBQ Chicken Wings are new to the program. Pick up is Thursday, April 17th -- in plenty of time for your Easter dinner. Contact Anne [cbarsano@aol.com](mailto:cbarsano@aol.com) with ??



**G**IFT CARDS will be sold Sundays, Mondays and Fridays for the Month of April- with the exceptions of Fridays, April 18th and 25th. Why not pick up some gift cards before your shop for your Easter finery and goodies! Amazon gift cards work well online and reward Pilgrim with 4% of your purchase or 2.6% if you order through [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com). Call Anne Barsano 773-472-6037 with ?? or if you want to order and can't make it on our selling days. Thank you for your support!



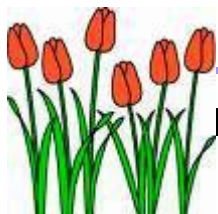
## March Dining Review

(Julie Lea)



At 2933 West Irving Park is a great Serbian restaurant, **Beograd Café**, where our dining group ate on Sunday March 16th. We were in a small back room of a very busy, and a bit noisy, establishment. The décor is very plain, indicative of a bar/grill. Our waitress was very friendly and helpful in explaining and suggesting dishes. We first ordered lager and pilsner beers which were superb, and white and red wines.

The combination appetizer plates consisted of a variety of smoked meats and several cheeses and ajvar and kaymak spreads served with their special breads. For the main event combination platters of Chevapchichi sausages, pljeskavica (Serbian hamburger), pork chops with bacon were on the table and were extremely flavorful and savory. Everyone was very delighted with the food and the super service. The restaurant also has a deli where all the meats and cheeses are sold or you can order a sandwich. Their busiest time is for lunch, so come early. This has got to be on the top of ethnic restaurants and very reasonable too. **Keep watch for the announcement of our next outing.**



**Deadline for May newsletter items (and taxes!) is April 15th.**  
**Send to [jmvalencia@comcast.net](mailto:jmvalencia@comcast.net) or put in my church mailbox.**



# Synopsis Of Church Council Meeting

March 25th, 2014

(Lynn Boecler)



The Council welcomed Pastor Michael Fick and Patrick Donnelly from Ebenezer Lutheran Church to learn from their experiences with establishing a plan for their buildings. Ebenezer has recently worked with an architectural firm on an Architectural Reserve Study. The Council gained a deeper understanding of the process as well as insight on how to prioritize projects. The Properties Committee has been busy acquiring proposals for an Architectural Master Plan/Reserve Study. The Council reviewed two proposals for Architectural Master Plans/Architectural Reserve Studies and determined that more information is needed to make the proposals similar prior to choosing a firm to work with Pilgrim.

Carl Doerfler presented the Financial Report, which is on target for budget despite significant increases in healthcare benefit costs. Although it is too early for finalized numbers, Carl reported a very successful Pilgrim Benefit and recognized the hard work and contributions of many.

The Council reviewed the schedule for work to convert the old pine tree space in front of the church to a gathering area and garden. Weather permitting; we will have a welcoming new space by Easter. A team is looking into selling engraved paving bricks to cover some of the costs of the space. The bricks would be installed at a later date.

A Taskforce has been formed looking at an opportunity to partner with Luther Memorial Church and expand our early childhood (preschool) program with an additional classroom. The Taskforce is working to investigate feasibility and determine next steps and will return to Council with a specific recommendation.

Jason Ruger led the Closing Devotion. The next meeting will be April 29, 2014

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## Teamwork Makes The Dream Work

(Wende Niforatos)



Pilgrim Women Wildcat Volleyball finished a successful second season! Games were won against teams we lost to last season, shaking up our Lutheran League! We said goodbye to some friends (Sacha Thieme Arterberry; Angie Pilgrim), but were pleased to welcome new players this season (Tarah Dickerson; Ali Feczko; Jen Stoker; and Lila Knapp). We look forward to next season and making an appearance in the league tournament for the first time! Thanks to everyone for participating and making this 2014 team great!

Standing: Tarah Dickerson, Jen Stoker, Cheryl Saiki,  
Beck Anstee, Wende Niforatos, Janet Hanks.  
Kneeling: Ali Feczko, Lauren Cardo, Lila Knapp, Lara Otsuka.  
Not pictured: Angela Cardo, Shellie Riedle, Megan Zegler.



What's better than a MAN in the kitchen cooking pancakes?



A whole slew of them!



What's better than MEN serving pancakes?



EATING them!



March 2nd Pancake Breakfast  
Was Hosted By The Pilgrim Dads

Benefiting the Pilgrim School Technology Fund. To  
all who supported this event,

Thank  
You





## Pilgrim Groups And Committees

**CHURCH COUNCIL** Oversees the business of the church, but delegates committee work to the committees. They meet the last Tuesday of the month in the School Library at 7:30 PM. Council positions are elected, but anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Contact **Greg Otsuka** at 944-5648 or [gregoryotsuka@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryotsuka@gmail.com) for info.

**DINING GROUP** A group for all ages which dines out once a month, usually on the 3rd Sunday, and patronizes restaurants with varied ethnic cuisines. We would love to have you join us!! Contact **Julie Lea** 764-3140.

**GIRL SCOUTS** Pilgrim Church is the home of four troops of Girl Scouts: Cadettes, Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Seniors, and Ambassadors. Contact **Judy Daniel** 588-2101.

**HOT MEALS** Successful outreach program working in teams to prepare and serve Saturday noon meals for area homeless. Each team commits to a three-hour shift (10 AM-1 PM) about four times a year. Interested in helping? Contact **Janet Taylor** 777-4052 or [jkstay@aol.com](mailto:jkstay@aol.com).

**MOMS IN TOUCH** Part of an international organization. All Pilgrim School mothers are invited to join us in the church parlor on Wednesdays, 9-10:30 AM, to pray for our children and school (childcare provided). Contact **Cathy Basler** 509-0988.

**PARISH LIFE BOARD** This group meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 7:30 PM, and is responsible for most of the hospitality, assimilation and outreach activities and projects that go on within the church. If you are interested in joining, please talk to **Anne Barsano, Shellie Volkens, Jim Volkens, Emily Haite, or Gloria Schwarz.**

**PROPERTIES COMMITTEE** Oversees the property of the congregation and coordinates its repair and general upkeep, including church, school, teacherages and parsonage. They meet the first Sunday of the month in the School Office at 9:30 AM (8:30 in the summer). For more information, contact **Ellen Twohig** 244-2944 or [twobe2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:twobe2@sbcglobal.net)

**PTL** The Parent Teacher League is a very active organization that supports the staff and families of Pilgrim Lutheran School. The PTL hosts many events for the families and staff through the year. Contact PTL President, **Bob Knapp** 612-3563 or [rkimages@me.com](mailto:rkimages@me.com).

**QUILTERS** The group welcomes anyone interested in fellowship and quilting (or other needlecraft). Gatherings are informal and do not adhere to a set schedule. For dates and locations of meetings, please contact **Gail Mendiola** 725-8028 or **Chris Wallis** 561-5419.

**SCHOOL BOARD** Oversees our Christian education programs, including Preschool, K-8, Before School Program, After-School Program (PAS) and sports programs, as well as other programs helpful for youth. Board positions and committees are elected, but anyone interested is encouraged to attend. They meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the school Library. For more information, contact **Nancy Liljedahl** 271-9290.

**T.O.P.S.** (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 PM in the church annex. Please join us for a friendly support program with helpful hints and discussions of current information regarding personal health. Contacts: **Millie Ostrander** 281-5762 or **Anne Barsano** 472-6037.

**WOMAN'S SOCIETY** An organization of women that meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:30 PM. All women are invited to join this group for fellowship and fund raising activities.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE** Plans and creates meaningful worship for the needs of the congregation. They coordinate the activities of the choirs, ushers, acolytes, Altar Guild, organist, worship and communion assistants. They are also responsible for the creation, purchase and display of seasonal decorations in the church. They meet as necessary after the late church service in the Parlor. For more information, contact **Chris Wallis** 561-5419 or [cewallis1949@yahoo.com](mailto:cewallis1949@yahoo.com).

### Coffee Hour Teams

#### APRIL

- 06** D Erdbear; The Dooleys
- 13** J Lea; G Egebrecht
- 20** S Lau; K Ruger
- 27** C Cares; N Tarah; C Dickerson





## Pilgrim Lutheran Church

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 10:45 am - 11:45 am "Lives Shaped By Jesus" Session @ Parlor 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm First Communion Class @ Narthex 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm All Together Night - Confirmation 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm Lenten Supper/Worship @ Maring Hall 8:15 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	<b>5</b> 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #5 @ Maring Hall 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Fundraiser Lincoln Care Friendship Center @ Maring Hall
<b>6</b> 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 9:20 am - 10:15 am Guest Jennifer DeLeon forum @ Maring Hall	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 am - 11:00 am Pilgrim School Open House	<b>9</b> 8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 10:45 am - 11:45 am "Lives Shaped By Jesus" Session @ Parlor 12:30 pm Woman's Society @ Annex 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm First Communion Class @ Narthex 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm Confirmation Class (7&8) 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm Lenten Supper/Worship @ Maring Hall 8:15 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	<b>10</b> 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Market Day pick-up @ Maring Hall 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	<b>12</b> 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #6 @ Maring Hall

<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service <b>8:00 am Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 am Procession with Palms 12:15 pm El Salvador Interest Meeting @ Annex	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm PTL and Committees Meeting @ Library 7:30 pm Board of Education @ Library	<b>16</b> <b>8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor</b> 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm Lenten Supper/Worship @ Maring Hall 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Pre4 & K present The Passion of the Christ @ Sanctuary 8:15 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	<b>17 MaundyThursday</b> 9:00 am MOPS @ Parsonage 10:00 am Maundy Thursday worship <b>6:30 pm Pre-School and Kindergarten Passion Play</b> 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday worship	<b>18 Good Friday</b> No School, Good Friday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Confirmation - Good Friday Service 4:30 pm Good Friday Family Service 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship	<b>19</b> 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #7 @ Maring Hall 7:00 pm Vespers Service @ Sanctuary
<b>20 Easter Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 7:30 am - 12:00 pm Confirmation - Easter Breakfast & Services <b>8:00 am Easter Sunday Worship Service</b> <b>9:00 am Easter Brunch</b> <b>10:30 am Easter Sunday Worship Service with Easter Egg Hunt afterward</b>	<b>21</b> REMINDER SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!!!	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:35 am - 11:45 am 1/2 Day Pilgrim School <b>8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor</b> 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm First Communion Class @ Narthex 8:15 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Dr. Biana Hardin Lecture series: Sex, Drugs and RocknRoll @ Sanctuary 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Chicago Opera Playhouse presents Hansel & Gretel @ Maring Hall	<b>26</b> 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #8 @ Maring Hall
<b>27</b> 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Visioning Retreat @ Maring Hall	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:30 pm Church Council @ Library	<b>30</b> <b>8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor</b> 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm First Communion Class @ Narthex 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm All Together Night - Confirmation 8:15 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary			

Legend:

■ Church public event

■ School public event