

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School
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Kristian Johnson, Pastor
Christopher Comella, Principal

Marian Azzaro, *Congregation President*

FEBRUARY 2014 

Jeanne Valencia, *Editor*
Robert Knapp, *Photographer*

All As Leaders (Pastor Kristian Johnson)

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."
Matthew 4:19

In response to Jesus invitation, we are living into our mission:
In Christ's love, we **gather, prepare, and send**
all as leaders for God's mission in the world. (GPS)

Pastor Kristian highlighted several points from his written Pastor's Report. He expressed how grateful he and Anna Kari are to Pilgrim for our call to them. And he talked about Pilgrim being a church community with many strengths and gifts, and one which needs a correspondingly big Vision for what it can accomplish through the Power of God at work within us. -- from Minutes of last year's annual meeting (January 27th, 2013)

As I read these words, I get chills down my spine. God has been so faithful to us.

Last January, we had no idea that our beloved Principal Beth Ruppe would leave in June to be a Preschool Director in Evanston. But God was faithful in providing us a fantastic leader to become our newest Principal, Chris Comella.

Last January, we didn't know that our key administrative staff (Angela Cardo and Barbara DeGraff) would be transitioning out of their positions within two months of each other. But God was faithful in providing us two highly capable and committed administrators in Ellen Twohig and Barbara Anthony.

There have been even more transitions and challenges than these... and all of this compels us to ask: *With all of these changes, what is the constant?*

The constant is **God's presence** and **God's vision** for this place. The people can change. The people will continue to change. This makes us sad. But we also rejoice... because God is faithful. (Psalm 46:5)

Last year, I was praying that God would give us a vision, and God answered those prayers. Our mission is to gather, prepare, and send all as leaders for God's mission in the world.

This year, I am especially praying that God would renew us ALL as leaders to embody this vision.

I believe God is ready to fulfill the words of Ephesians 4:12 and "equip the saints for ministry." It's time for each of us to own this vision and joyfully embody our part within it.

Pilgrim, thank you. Thank you for calling me to be your Pastor. Thank you for catching the vision. Thank you for your commitment to grow: in faith, in giving, and in serving.

Join us at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on Sundays at 8:00 or 10:30 AM. for a special sermon series featuring video clips of the soon-to-be-released “Son of God” movie:

Sunday, February 9th

Another Way to Be a Friend

Sunday, February 16th

Another Way to Be “Salty”

Sunday, February 23rd

Another Way to Deal with Adversaries

Sunday, March 2nd

Reducing Violence, Restoring Hope

JESUS

“Son of God” movie; The life of Jesus Christ!



Everyone is invited to special showings on Sunday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 9th. The doors open at 12 noon at the Davis Theater, 4614 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, 60625. Tickets for these special showings are only \$2 each. Purchase these tickets online through Event Brite: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/son-of-god-movie-event-tickets-10211301277> or from Barbara at the church office: 773•477•4824, hours from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Mondays through Thursdays and 8:30 AM. to 3:00 PM Fridays.

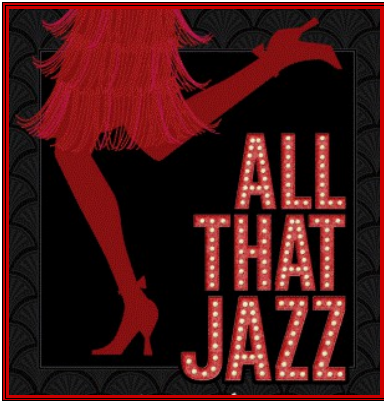
Sponsored by Thrivent and Pilgrim Lutheran Church. The “Son of God” is a major motion picture opening at the Davis and many other theaters on February 28th. We will have special prizes for the people that bring the most guests (from among their friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, etc). Bring your family and friends to experience the life of Jesus!

Epiphany Service,
January 5th, 2014



All That Jazz!

(The Auction Committee)



All That Jazz is just around the corner and we are so excited for a really fun event!

Please click on this link <https://plcas.ejoinme.org/?tabid=512794> to access the All That Jazz website, where you can purchase your tickets, find donation forms, register as a sponsor and find detailed information about the upcoming event.

Thank you so much to those of you who have submitted donations, signed up to host a party and/or registered as sponsors! So you know, there's still time to contribute - no donation is too small! Please contact Jennie Bodine at auktion@pilgrimchurchandschool.org with any questions regarding donations.

Another big thank you for all of your donations to the Wine Drive! So far, the lucky winner of the Instant Wine Cellar raffle will receive over 40 bottles of wine! Instant Wine Cellar raffle tickets are available for purchase on the auction website and on the night of the auction. The lucky raffle ticket will be drawn and the winner announced on the night of the auction. If you still have wine you would like to donate, please do so in the school office or feel free to contact Lara Otsuka at lcotsuka@gmail.com. **Thank you for your support.**



The deadline for the March Pilgrim's Progress is February 15th. Please email your news articles, photos, reports, event information to jmvalencia@comcast.net or leave in the Valencia church mailbox. Thank you :)

Sent To Serve



Come to El Salvador 2014

If you have ever wanted to serve God on a mission trip, now is the time! Come with us to El Salvador, Central America July 31st- August 10th, 2014. We will be witnessing the dedication of a new Resurrection Lutheran Church in San Salvador, El Salvador. We will be able to meet Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Bishop Medardo Gomez and the leaders in the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. We will accompany the church in their work to resettle and feed refugees, help children attend school, minister with the homeless, and encourage our sister churches who raise Christian voices for human rights on a daily basis. This trip is open to all people. **ALL AGES WELCOME**, no Spanish knowledge required. Please grab a brochure on the back table for next steps!

Prepare (Growth) Opportunities

“Exploring the Bible” Course: Creating a New Community



Would you like to grow in your knowledge of the Bible? Would you like to deepen your relationship with God? If you answered “yes,” or even “maybe” to any of these questions, please join us for our Explore the Bible Class that meets at 9:20 AM on Sundays. We are using a book by Pastor John Ortberg titled “Creating a New Community: Life-Changing Stories from Genesis to Deuteronomy,” which is available on Amazon.com.

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.



First Communion Program



We invite everyone who is in 2nd grade or older to participate in our upcoming First Communion Program, which will be beginning with an Interest meeting on February 19th. The interactive class is focused on helping us grow in our relationship with God. We will cover the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the meaning of the sacraments.

If you are interested in this class, please email us at churchoffice@pilgrimchurchandschool.org

Alumni Reunion Chapel Wednesday, February 12

We invite all Pilgrim Alumni to join us in Chapel on Wednesday, February 12th for our 10:10 AM chapel service. Chicago Public High Schools are not in session on this date, so all high school alumni can join us for chapel and then stay after for donuts and snacks.



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

A Productive Year For Hot Meals Program

(Janet Taylor, with a little history sandwiched in by some friends)



Thanks to all who participated in HOT MEALS, a 20+ year old program providing a Saturday hot meal to people in need. Thanks to all who participate through donations, serving on a team, or this past year, by distributing flyers and business cards to the homeless alerting them to the program. The number of guests did rise for several weeks, but the unusually hard winter has seen the numbers go down again.

The program was started by Judy Strassen and Pastor Mark Reshan. I know that Alderman Shulter was not happy with us. He must have received complaints of neighbors fearing that people would be lingering around. I think, over time, we proved we had that under control. We had about 50 people a week in the early years. I have always been impressed by the people who attend. Yes, we have had to escort away a few in inebriated condition, but that was very much the exception. People always seem to be genuinely grateful. They also always seem to have a good time interacting with each other sharing stories of the past week and of the distant past. **_David Maring**

I remember that for our team's first time (at least) there were ZERO guests! I treasure most the camaraderie that developed with all of our team members (past and present) over the years. Ms Huelskoetter has bragged that her original team is still intact.... while I am the only person remaining from our original group (read into that what you want!). I also recall the time when Terry Satherlie headed up Hot Meals and Christmas Day landed on a Saturday, she had her entire family come in and serve. **_Michael Suhajda**

I recall it starting in the early 1990s. We started out slowly, with just a couple of people showing up for meals. After a few years we built up to around 50 clients coming for a meal. **_Cheryl Saiki**

We have been on Team 5 with the Sparlins for almost 20 years. I believe they may be originals! At the time I became involved in about 1994, we averaged 50) guests. Back then, the weekly allowance for shoppers was \$80. I think it is pretty impressive that we were feeding people a good solid meal for less than \$2 (of course, some people/teams supplemented that amount from time to time). I also think that in the beginning we had a higher percentage of people who were low-income (as opposed to homeless). Because of my Back on My Feet connections to the local homeless community, I know that most of our current guests are from area shelters or live on the streets. **_Beth Ruppe**

Even with new challenges in 2014, we are never discouraged, because we are blessed in other ways. We added a new team - that makes 10 teams (of five to nine people per team) - thank you to the Doerflers, Rugers, Snyders and the Prestons.

Finally a blessing to all the people of Pilgrim that use the storage room in the basement (next to the kitchen). Mr. Emery has painted and tiled the room and it is beautiful!!!! Please thank him when you see him. There will be more changes to that room with the consolidation of buying the paper products that are used by all the organizations at Pilgrim - I count at least six!!!

We do have a need at this time - we need shoppers - this is a one-out-of-ten week commitment - the cost of the food is covered by the church (although some teams choose to pay for the groceries, too). Please contact Jan Taylor if you would like to shop for one of the teams - jkstay@aol.com or 773-777-4052.

Blessings to all of you in this NEW YEAR!!!!

Synopsis Of Church Council Meeting

November 26th, 2013

(Lynn Boecler)



In Old Business, the Council reviewed two proposals for the old pine tree space near the Church entry and will review an additional proposal at the next meeting prior to making a recommendation. Several Church members have expressed interest in moving into leadership roles on the Council as well as the Endowment Committee and Properties Committee to replace members whose terms are up. The Council also reviewed the processes necessary to establish a school endowment fund. These initiatives are expected to be ready in time for discussion at the Congregational Meeting in January.

In New Business, Mr. Comella notified the council of the plans for coverage for Ms. Chenery's leave of absence following the birth of her baby. Pastor Kristian discussed new member classes and welcomed seven new members joining in December. Many members, teachers, and school families were able to participate in engaging conversations about youth and family with Amy Kippen during her visit. There was very positive feedback about many elements of her program that various groups in the Church and School are considering for enhancements to our existing programs. The council reviewed the budget process and will finalize the budget at the next meeting for presentation at the Congregational Meeting in January. Jenn Bodine led the Closing Devotion.

The next Church council meeting is January 7th, 2014. The next Congregational Meeting is January 16th, 2014.

January Dining Review

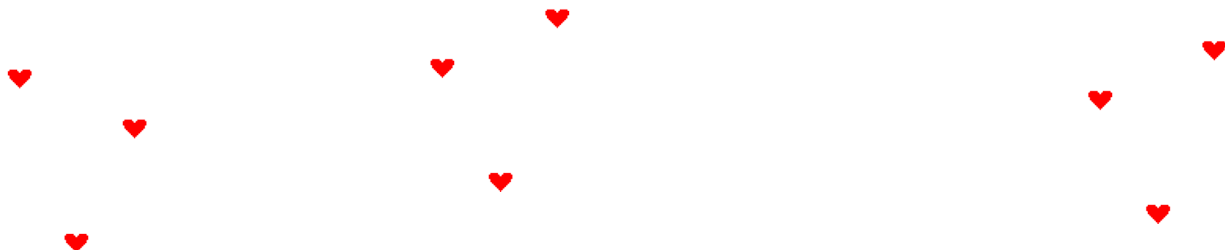
(Julie Lea)



The dining group went to Paprika on West Lawrence Avenue, an Indian restaurant, as Isla Filipino restaurant was unable to seat a large group on Sunday, January, 19th. It turned out to be an excellent last minute decision. It is a small, cozy restaurant, with photos of Indian landscapes on the walls. One can smell the aromas as you enter. Our table was set and crispy herb cones of bread were served with two kinds of dip. Wines and beer were brought in and glasses provided. The restaurant was very busy with one pleasant waitress, who took our orders of mainly chicken or lamb dishes. Any dish may be ordered without curry.

Plain, garlic and cheese naan (a type of bread) was delicious! The very flavorful food was worth the longer wait. Everyone enjoyed the excellent food and very reasonable prices. A very good neighborhood restaurant to try.

We have rescheduled dinner at Isla Filipino Restaurant, 2501 West Lawrence Avenue for Sunday, February 16th. Come join us!



Raising Fund\$

Anne Barsano



Are you looking for something to donate to the auction? Why not consider buying a **gift card**? We have many restaurant gift cards which sell well at auctions, as well as clothing stores like Aeropostale, Gap or Old Navy, Carson's, Macy's and others.

Some of the fast food restaurants and/or movie tickets can be put together by the auction team into baskets or neighborhood packages.

Prices range from \$5 to \$100 (quite a price range). Maybe one of them will fit into your budget! Every donation helps our auction and we get a double profit whammy with Operation CIP earning a portion of your purchase. We will be selling Sunday, Monday and Friday of this week.

Contact **Anne Barsano** cbarsano@aol.com or 773-472-6037 with questions.

Market Day orders are due February 10th by Noon in the school office or online by 11 PM that evening. This month you earn a FREE 8-count box of Five Cheese Garlic Toast with a \$40 purchase and the toast plus a box of Cheese Ravioli (60 count) with a \$90 order (see details). This month, an 18 count (3.2 oz each) package of Go-Go Squeez Applesauce is on sale for \$12.29 and Pilgrim earns \$1.23 of that sale. Why not make February the month to try Market Day!!



Food for the Hungry

Pilgrim is collecting 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.



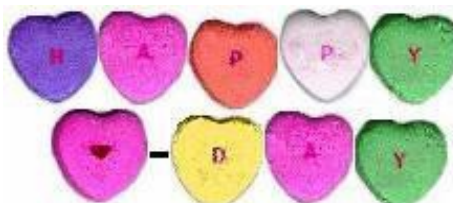
Luther North College Prep is hosting Trivia Night March 1, 2014



Location: 5700 W Berteau Ave, Chicago IL \$180.00 per table. Come and join us for Trivia Night. Form your own teams with as many as ten teammates, choose a theme for your table, dress up and decorate. Bring your own snacks and beverages and play the ten rounds of ten questions. Prizes will be awarded for best theme, heads or tails and high score. Last year's 50/50 winner took home over \$400!

Register online <http://luthernorthcollegeprep.org/201314-events/trivia-night/>

Questions? Email events@luthernorth.org





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 **Marian Azzaro** marianazza@aol.com or 989-172 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 3-hr shift (10 AM-1 PM) about four times a year. Interested in helping? Contact **Janet Taylor** 777-4052 or 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 **Angela Cardo** 244-0160 or acardo@pilgrimchurchandschool.org.

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** rkimages@me.com 612-3563.

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.

Coffee Hour Teams

FEBRUARY

- 02** The Doerflers; The Kaniiffs
- 09** The Azzaros; The Nootens
- 16** The Gronaus; The Heintzes
- 23** The Otsukas; The Williamses



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #6
2 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:45 pm - 9:00 pm Superbowl Party @ Parsonage	3 8:30 am - 10:00 am Certificates @ School Office	4	5 8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 7:30 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	6 9:00 am MOPS 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Pilgrim School Learning Fair 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	7 8:30 am - 10:00 am Certificates @ School Office 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	8 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #7
9 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Property Committee Meeting @ Parlor	10 Market Day orders due 8:30 am - 10:00 am Certificates @ School Office	11 7:30 pm Executive Committee	12 8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 12:30 pm Woman's Society @ Annex 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Confirmation Class (7&8) 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm All Together Night - Confirmation 7:30 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	13 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Market Day pick-up @ Maring Hall 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex 7:00 pm MOMSnext	14 Valentine's Day 8:30 am - 10:00 am Certificates @ School Office 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	15 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #8
16 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	17 President's Day	18	19 8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 4:00 pm - 5:10 pm Confirmation Class (7&8) 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm First Communion Class @ Narthex 7:30 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	20 9:00 am MOPS @ Parsonage 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	21 8:30 am - 10:00 am Certificates @ School Office 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	22 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #9

23 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	24 8:30 am - 10:00 am Certificates @ School Office	25 6:30 pm Worship Committee 7:30 pm Church Council @ Library	26 8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 7:30 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	27 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	28 8:30 am - 10:00 am Certificates @ School Office 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	
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Legend:

- Church public event

School public event
- Off-site event

Visiting group public event
- Parsonage
- School office