

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School
4300 N Winchester Ave, Chicago, IL 60613
Phone 773•477•4824 Fax 773•477•8996
www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org

Kristian Johnson, Pastor
Christopher Comella, Principal

Mike Suhajda,
Congregation President

 **November** 2015

Jeanne Valencia,
Volunteer Editor

Great Minds Think Alike! (Pastor Kristian Johnson)

"I'm always about fans worrying; go ahead and worry as much as you'd like... From our perspective, we have to just go out and play the game like we always do. I'm here to tell you, man, I just can't live that way. The line I've used is I don't vibrate at that frequency. ... The process is fearless. If you want to always live your life just based on the outcome, you're going to be fearful a lot. And when you're doing that, you're really not living in a particular moment. If you take care of the seconds, the minutes, the hours in a day take care of themselves." _Joe Maddon, after Game 4 Win

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."
-Jesus, Matthew 6, 25-27, 33-34

It has been said that it is impossible to worry and to pray at the same time.

What is your process? It is very difficult to live in the present when we are burdened by the pains of the past, and filled with anxiety about the future. Take a cue from Joe Maddon and the Cubs, who have refused to believe in curses, and refused to be anxious about the future, and just "play the game."

What is our game? Our game is the Kingdom of God. *"Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness..."* As we head toward Commitment Sunday on November 8th, let us consider the awesome opportunity we have as followers of Jesus to invest in the Kingdom through Pilgrim.

How many congregations do you know that:

- Invest in children and families through a dynamic Pre-K through 8th Grade School
- Provide a free meal for the hungry and homeless every Saturday
- Cultivate active partnerships with 14 local congregations/agencies and three global ministries (Ethiopia, South Africa, and El Salvador)
- Have started four new small groups, three new outreach ministries, and have added over 50 new members in the past three years

All of these ministries joyfully reflect the Kingdom of God in our midst, in a city that is in desperate need of communities that build community and hope.

We are excited to invite you to prayerfully consider making a commitment to give monthly to both our worship offerings and to our "Growing Forward" Capital Campaign, especially during Commitment Sunday on November 8th.

October/November Worship Theme: "Faith is..."

Join us in worship in November as we continue the preaching series, "Faith Is," exploring questions that are central to our lives and to our relationship with God, based on the book of Hebrews.

✚ Sunday Theme:



- November 1st All Saints Sunday (Hebrews 11:1-16)
- November 8th "Something Better" (Hebrews 11:17-40)
- November 15th Seminarian Marissa Becklin, preaching receiving guests from UCAN Chicago (Pilgrim Mission gift recipient)
- November 22nd Receiving guests from LSTC (Pilgrim Mission gift recipient)
- November 29th Seminarian Hans Becklin, Preaching

Sunday, December 6th:

Receiving



Guests From ELCA Good Gifts.
School Chorus Sings



Sunday, December 13th:

Chili and

Caroling at Parsonage, 4 PM



Prayer Time at the parsonage (4332 N Winchester), Saturdays from 8:30 – 9:30 AM

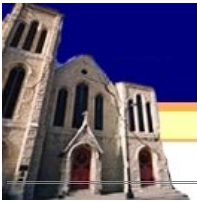


Participate in **Ultimate Youth Lock-in** on November 6-7, 2015

Take part in the Ultimate Lock-in on November 6-7, 2015 beginning at 9 PM on Friday and ending on Saturday at 5 AM. The cost is \$30. From 9 PM. to 12 AM, youth and adult chaperones will gather at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 515 S. Wheaton Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187, for a concert with Rachel Kurtz and Agape. Then from 12 AM until 5 AM, participants travel to Enchanted Castle in Lombard (1103 S Main St, Lombard, IL 60148) for arcade games, bumper cars, go-karts, laser tag, food, and fellowship. For more information about the event contact Pastor Kristian.



Each Sunday at 10:15 AM, please bring your children to the first floor hallway through the green doors of the narthex. Later, during the offering, we invite parents to come to the first floor hallway to pick up your children so that you can take communion/receive a blessing as a family.



Pilgrim School Open House for Prospective Families:

Tuesday, November 17 at 9:30 AM. Call Pilgrim at 773•477•4824 to RSVP.



Pilgrim students, **Hayden Kipp**, **Erin Franke**, and **Joe Twohig** completed instruction in the Christian faith and affirmed their Baptism during worship service on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1, 2015. Congratulations! (watch for their Confirmation Testimonies in this and upcoming issues)



Faith Testimonial (October 11th Service)
God Strengthens Our Faith Through Difficult Experiences
(Jeanne Valencia)



Martin Luther King said: *"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."*

I see Faith as something stretchy ... like a ribbon of elastic. Taut and tidy when things are going smoothly. Stretching out of shape as we face difficult, dark times ... stretching, stretching, stretching until it has no more give. The handy thing about elastic is that when the tension eases, it snaps back into place. Similarly, I have found that the waxing and waning of my faith, just makes it stronger.

I have had prayers answered. I have experienced miracles in my life. Sometimes people lose faith because God didn't answer their prayer. Or maybe God DID answer, but not to their liking. The Lord's Prayer teaches us "God's will be done." It's hard sometimes, to see the bigger picture, when you're in crisis mode.

On several occasions, for long periods of time ... control of my life fell completely into the hands of others. Other people managed my health, my mobility, and my decision making. Even my breathing was controlled by a respirator. I couldn't ask questions about what had happened to me. Will I get any better? Will I be able to TALK again? Does anybody know, or care, that the clock on my wall doesn't work? ... is it 7:30 AM or PM?!! Will I go home ... when? Staff talked around me ...but not to me. I confess that my faith in these people wavered occasionally.... but not my faith in God.

I had so much time laying there day after day. I prayed a lot. Sometimes my prayers were in gratitude for the blessings of family and friends, and pleasanter days; but often times, I prayed for hope, for strength, for healing, and forgiveness.

God has placed within our minds, within our personalities ... potential strength, and ability, and adaptability. In times of stress, I find prayer helps me tap into these gifts and develop them. This intimate connection and communication with God can guide me through difficult experiences because God's comfort and support is just a prayer away.



The Box Tops For Education

collection program continues at Pilgrim....you can also place your box tops in the container on the table in the narthex of the church or in the container in the school office. Join the effort! All funds raised from the box tops collection will go to fund Pilgrim Kids Care. Questions? Email Paula Raabe at praabe@pilgrimchicago.org or check out the program's website: www.boxtops4education.com



Can you give three hours of your time every ten weeks to help a homeless person? **Hot Meals** at Pilgrim Lutheran Church is always in need of volunteers to help cook and serve a meal every Saturday noon. More information needed? e-mail Janet Taylor at jkstay@aol.com



Dining Review

(Julie Lea)

As one enters **Honky Tonk BBQ** on the corner of Racine Avenue and 18th Street, the sound of live



honky tonk piano music together with a massive old wood bar with mirrors highlighting the liquor bottles in the front of the restaurant really sets the atmosphere of the establishment. We were seated in the back room where walls were lined with paintings and photos, with large shades on the light fixtures, and old fringed valances on the very high windows. They have a very large selection of beers. One can choose pork, brisk, ribs or chicken, either sandwich, platter including all sides or just the entree. There are three kinds of sauce, regular, tangy or honey garlic mustard; all were tried and very tasty. The service was

excellent and friendly. It is gets very busy, but is family friendly and definitely worth the trip. I highly recommend it and for a fun time too.

On Sunday, November 15th, we will have **Czech food at Café Prague**, 6710 W Belmont Avenue.

Watch for the notice!

Oct 25th ... Halloween Youth Group Movie Night!!



**Friendly Kids + Scary Good Movie + Pizza Dinner +
a whole lot of candy = FUN!**

Deadline: Please submit items for the **December** newsletter by November 15th.
Send to Jeanne Valencia at j3valencia@yahoo.com or put in my church mailbox.



WE WELCOME OUR NEW BUSINESS MANAGER, RUTH WASIUKIEWICZ! Ruth has many years of experience working in banking and real estate. Ruth also served as Deputy City Clerk for the City of Berwyn and as Township Clerk for the City of Rockford. God continues to bless Pilgrim with so many talented workers!

(November 1st Service)
Confirmation Testimonial
(Hayden Kipp)



Confirmation was something that wasn't a popular thing for the kids in my class. I made a promise to myself I was going to do it because it would help me with my spiritual side with God. My thought process leading up to it was, you're doing this, no matter how it turns out, you stick through until the end.

Pastor made confirmation a place of enjoyment for me. Everybody could be open and you never had to worry about being judged. I feel like this is something I saw God in. No matter where you go, you can always find people getting judged. When we went to confirmation on Wednesdays, it was a sanctuary for me.

When I think of Jesus working through people, I always think of Pastor. He always wants to help people no matter what their background. He always sees the best in people which is a trait I admire a lot. Also, I think of Mr. Suhajda. He was my coach for four years. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. He would always help me as well as other people. He never gave up on anyone, no matter what, and to me, that is Jesus working through a great man. I learned in confirmation that it's easy to lose yourself if you don't stay in touch with God.

Now that I've been in high school for three months, I can see how people can be corrupted by getting caught up in things that don't matter. The most important thing that I keep with me is to always stay in touch with God, no matter where I go, because then I know I am always safe.

There are a lot of differences between high school and Pilgrim, most noticeably the size. But what I see that most disappoints me is that they aren't helping one another out. At Pilgrim, everybody else came first. We would help each other out because we were family. But that's what you get with Pilgrim -- a family that cares.

FIRST SUNDAY, FEED THE HUNGRY



On the first Sunday of every month, Pilgrim makes a special effort to collect money in support of local and world efforts to help feed the hungry. We invite you to use the special envelopes in each pew, check off our Hot Meals program or any other designated mission listed, enclose your donation of any amount, take the envelope with you when you go for communion, and hand the envelope to the usher standing behind Pastor Kristian. Thanks for keeping the hungry in your hearts.

School Subjects

(Principal Christopher Comella)



Pilgrim Kids were on the move in October! Ms. Huelskoetter's homeroom went to the Lincoln Square Farmer's Market. Mrs. Raabe led the 4th Grade on three day-long trips to Emily Ochs Nature Center in Skokie for Outdoor Education. Mrs. Tighe and Mrs. Cardo chaperoned the 5th and 6th Grades to WalCamp for a three-day/two-night Outdoor Education Experience in the woods near Oregon, Illinois. Pastor Kristian joined the students at WalCamp for a day, too. Each of these trips underscores Pilgrim's commitment to teach to the whole child. Field trip experiences truly shape the academic, physical, social-emotional, and spiritual lives of each of our students. Thanks to all of our families for your support of field trips. The extra expense is well worth it! Thanks also to our partners at the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation (CLEF) for underwriting a major portion of the costs to go to WalCamp.



Pilgrim Kids are also engaged in acts of service to others. Kindergarten has adopted Millie and Sheridan Ostrander and they will be checking up on each other throughout the year. The Grade 1 and 2 Homeroom is going to be working with the Pablo Casals School and the Friendship Center. Grades 4, 5, and 6 are working with Jan Taylor and the Pilgrim Hot Meals Program this year. Grades 7 and 8 will continue to work with the Night Ministry and the Friendship Center as well as doing individual acts of service to the community. Please support all of our students with your prayers. The Student Council is starting up again soon, and they will also be exploring other ways to serve the Pilgrim community.



The Pilgrim Technology Committee has been very busy in the last few weeks. Chris Andreen and Hans Mickelson prepared our 15 new Chrome Books for student use. Mrs. Tighe's class reports that they are working well. Chris White is connecting up a new Smart Board in Ms. Daczyszyn's homeroom. Finally, our new school website went live on Saturday, October 18. Sarah Eva Monroe has worked very hard to design a new site under our new domain, which allows Pilgrim to access software for free from Google. John Telford, Rob Anstee and Murphy Monroe have also spent many hours ensuring that the website is accurate and attractive. If you access www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org, the page should direct you to www.pilgrimchicago.org in order to get information about the school. The www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org continues as the Pilgrim Church website. When you access the new website, we welcome your feedback at office@pilgrimchicago.org.



A huge "Thank You!" goes to all Pilgrim Families for supporting the many fundraising efforts in the past few weeks. We are still waiting on final totals for each of the ones thus far. Anne Barsano led the magazine drive, with proceeds going to the tuition assistance fund; school parent Jenn Goolsby hosted the shoe party and Tarah Dickerson signed us up for the shopping day in Roscoe Village—the proceeds from both these fundraisers also go to the tuition assistance fund; the Dave Maring School Endowment Fund Committee celebrated Cocktails for a Cause, with proceeds going to the school endowment fund; school parent Erin Mendoza is coordinating the greenery sale, with proceeds going to special PTL fund to fund projects in classrooms; school parent Alexis Rollins Dunton and the Pilgrim PTL arranged Dine-Out for Pilgrim at Lou Malnati's, with proceeds going to a project designated by the PTL. Last year's designated project was the playground fund. Your generosity is much appreciated, and regardless of the fund, all proceeds directly benefit the students in the school. (We promise to do our best to make November a fundraiser-free zone!)



Rai\$ing Fund\$ (Anne Barsano)



C H R I S T M A S is coming, the Goose is getting fat!

Buy a useful gift card for Aunt or Uncle Pat!!



It's that time of year when you have to start thinking about Christmas shopping and what you need to buy and for whom. Pilgrim has you covered with gift cards in values from \$5 Dunkin' Donuts to \$500 Amazon! We will be placing orders every Monday, starting after Thanksgiving, and every other Monday during November. The traditional green order forms will be available before Thanksgiving so you can find out what is available for your relatives to choose. If you don't see what you like on that list, please talk to Anne Barsano, as we may be able to order the cards that you are seeking. Let's make this the best holiday season yet for Operation CIP!

CONTACT: Anne Barsano with Raising Funds questions (cbarsano@aol.com or 773-472-6037).

Regarding Coffee Hour teams!

We presently have 13 teams who serve coffee hour four times a year. Eight teams are comprised of two people or families, four teams need another person or family and one team has dates which are open to anyone. If we combine the teams which are short, we end up with 10 teams, each of which must serve coffee hour just five times a year. That is not fair to those teams!! If we want to have coffee hour every week, then it is mandatory that we have four more people or families to complete the teams.



Duties of coffee hour servers are to make coffee (which is provided) before service, purchase or make a variety of snacks and juices for people to enjoy, and set out the plates and cups (which are also provided). Monies collected can be donated to a cause the team supports or kept by the team for their own reimbursement. Cakes are provided by Pilgrim for special occasions.



If you think that you could help us out, please contact Anne Barsano. The coffee hour schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Would you please check out the dates which need help and let Anne or the person listed know that you would like to help that Sunday. Coffee hour is too good a thing to lose!!



Pilgrim Groups And Committees

CHURCH COUNCIL Oversees the business of the church, but delegates work to 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 **Mike Suhajda** 773-878-8163 or mike@accurate-prod.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** 773-764-3140.

GIRL SCOUTS Pilgrim Church is the home of four troops of Girl Scouts: Cadettes, Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Seniors, and Ambassadors. Contact **Judy Daniel** 773-588-2101.

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** 773-777-4052 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). Call **Cathy Basler** 773-509-0988.

MOPS is a morning group for moms that meets monthly on the first and third Thursdays, 9-11:45 AM at the Pilgrim parsonage. Cost is \$10 and includes childcare. For questions or to RSVP, please contact **Tarah Dickerson** at tdickerson15@hotmail.com.

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**, or **Jim Volkens**.

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 **Jim Volkens** 773-477-4824.

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** 773-612-3563 or 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** 773-725-8028 or **Chris Wallis** 773-561-5419.

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** 773-271-9290.

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** 773-281-5762 or **Anne Barsano** 773-472-6037.

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. Contact: **Millie Ostrander** 773-281-5762

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** 773-561-5419 or cewallis1949@yahoo.com.

Coffee Hour Teams

NOVEMBER (After 10:30 Worship)

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 01 | Team 1 |
| 08 | Team 2 |
| 15 | Team 3 |
| 22 | Team 4 |
| 29 | Team 5 |

