



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School

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Pilgrim ... From The Outside (Pastor Kristian Johnson)

Have you ever wondered what a newcomer to Pilgrim's first impressions of us? I have. Especially considering that our neighborhood has a LOT of young adults who have not yet had kids and who are not active in a church community. Like... thousands...

So when one of them comes to worship with us and then blogs about it, it is an interesting and informative read! Please enjoy an excerpt from the following blog:

<http://www.chicagonow.com/religious-journey-through-chicago/2014/10/finding-a-lutheran-home/>

"I found the service unpretentious... The congregation was an eclectic mix of young families (with unruly children who intermittently ran through the pews) and grey-haired (presumably) long-time members. Unlike some of the people in my parents' church (much as I love it), everyone seemed genuinely happy to be there. There was a warm welcome for an Ethiopian family the church was hosting as he attended Seminary. The Children's Sermon was an entertaining science experiment using treated water, iodine, and sodium benzoate. With a little bit of iodine (sin) the water turned black. With a little bit of sodium benzoate (forgiveness through Jesus), the water once again turned clear. I smiled at the *oohs* and *ahhs* of the kids, who looked on with wide-eyed wonderment.

The warm hymns of the organ filtered through, lifted up with the cheery voices of the parishioners. I took a few minutes to admire the massive organ wrapping around the back of the church. The beautiful wooden organ showed off the church's Teutonic heritage, etched with Bavarian looking designs and colors.

The sermon that day was an analysis of the Vineyard, one of the more interesting parables in the Gospel. In the parable,

the owner of a vineyard recruited day laborers at the local market at different times of the day. In a modern context, it seems to say that any time is the right time to come (back) to the church. Some spend their whole life within the church. Others, he said, come to the church later in life, or stray for a period before returning. Others (re)enter at the very end of their life. All are welcome and valued.

During the sermon, I couldn't help but think of my own connection to the parable. It honestly felt good just to sing the hymns I grew up with. I was amazed at the way both the words and melodies flooded my memory. When sharing the peace, I met everyone there. I've never been to a church that expends as much time greeting and shaking hands. For a denomination that some friends have called "stodgy," this group was certainly not reserved. There was even a homeless looking gentleman who was accorded the same warmth as everyone else. To me, true Christianity is not about judging or creating division, but embracing everyone through the grace of shared faith. I saw that here in spades.

For a re-entry to the Lutheran Church, it was a wonderful starting point."

May God continue to bless Pilgrim as an entry point into deeper connection with God and with God's mission in the world!

2014 El Salvador Mission Testimony

As Presented On Sunday, October 19th
(Ralph Maffucci)

Buenos dias! As many of you know, I was part of the Solar Project team last year and again this past August. In 2013, my first involvement in Pilgrim's Mission, we shipped eight solar panels and erected them on the Church and six houses in the small village of Loma de Ramos outside of San Salvador, the Capital.

This year, we devised a more ambitious plan and ordered and shipped 40 solar panels that we intended to install at another nearby rural village called Las Brisas del Valle (the Valley of the Breezes). The 2013 venture was fraught with trepidation and unknowns, having been our first venture into this type of technology. However, via the grace of God we managed to forestall our fears and exceeded our expectations, as you might recall from the video that Pastor Kristian put together last year. We were truly a grace guided band of brothers and sisters, [letting a little light shine].



This year we were much more confident in our methods and materials. We were able to locate and locally purchase lighter weight steel framing that made cutting and erection of the panels more efficient and lasting. However, I do not want to explain the technical aspects of this project. I can address any questions regarding this process after the service during coffee hour.

What I'd like to discuss are the more intangible and personal aspects of the Mission. My experience in El Salvador was very different from many of the others who attended. I didn't visit any hospitals, or schools, nor marched in the Peace Parade. I was totally immersed in the construction portion of the Mission – the Solar Project. In so doing we, our little band of soldiers, Soldiers of Christ, took up arms in the form of drill guns, crescent wrenches and reciprocating saws and willingly and literally engaged to do battle with the forces of darkness.

At one time our team consisted of five pastors, including Kristian. We truly had the grace of God in our crew. We had come a long way from home, were operating in an environment far outside of our usual comfort zone, but we were bolstered by the concept that we were doing good. When one reaches out to help someone, to touch someone's life, you can't help not being touched in return. In a small way, perhaps a very small way, we were at the effort of changing the world, one house at a time, one family at a time, one child at a time – giving them the gift of light. The returns of such a gift are one hundredfold and in many ways unknowable. It is enough for me to know that the simple provision of light will bear fruit and continue and multiply again and again in so many ways that we can hardly imagine.

When I was thinking about what I was going to say to you this morning, two of my favorite Christmas carols came to mind – “We Three Kings” and “The Little Drummer Boy”. Why these? Most of us do not have the wherewithal to provide the gifts of the Magi. Rather we fall in the category of the Drummer Boy. I entreat you to **find your drum** and beat it with all the reckless abandon that you can muster. Come to El Salvador. I guarantee that you will be changed forever: how you see the world, especially in a place like El Salvador; how you relate to others in this City, in this Church, in your workplace and in your family; and especially in how you perceive yourself [and your talents]. **Find your drum!**

Hot Meals Ministry (Janet Taylor)

Pilgrim provides a free home-cooked meal for the community every Saturday at 11:30 AM in our church fellowship hall (basement). We welcome all to this meal. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Janet Taylor.



Gloves Needed for Hot Meals Program

Our guests at the hot meal have been asking if we could provide gloves as the weather is getting cooler. Please bring gloves to the church office or to the kitchen, placing them near the hot meals box. Thank you!

Godspeed!



It is with a mix of joy and reluctance that we say goodbye to Administrative Assistant, Barbara Anthony. Her husband, Pastor Barry Anthony, will be serving at Bethany Covenant Church in DuBois, Pennsylvania beginning December 1st. Barbara reports that "DuBois is a quaint, small town and the people are wonderful. Our kids will not be joining us there, so this will be our first truly 'empty nest' adventure. Our oldest, Nathan, has fallen in love with Chicago and will stay here. Our youngest, Matthew, continues to tour with his band, and we hope they will make it out to Pennsylvania as often as possible!"

We wish the Anthonys happiness and God's peace as they embark on this new life phase. Barbara, you will be missed!

Quilters' Craft Day (Chris Wallis)



On Sunday, November 9th, the **The Pilgrim Quilters** will be taking over Maring Hall starting at 1 PM for an afternoon and evening of sewing (or other crafts) and fellowship. We'll supply ironing equipment and power strips for sewing machines, and a cutting table.

Bring a snack to share, and we'll order dinner around 5 PM, which usually runs around \$9 per person. Want to learn to quilt? We are planning to offer a beginners' class that afternoon. If you are interested, please contact Chris Wallis (cewallis1949@yahoo.com) to find out what supplies to bring. No prior experience needed, and we'll include hand-piecing for those who don't have sewing machines.

Raising Fund\$

(Anne Barsano)

Don't forget to order your goodies from **Market Day** for the holidays. We have Fannie May Meltaways (6.2 oz) and Pixies (5 oz) for \$6.99- less than the \$20/pound cost in the store, Gingerbread Boys in a festive tin- \$13.99, Chocolate Toffee Pretzels- 10 oz for \$7.49 and a 30 pack of Flavored Hot Cocoa in a decorated box for \$13.99 - just right for those last minute hostess gifts. November orders are due online by 11 pm, Monday, November 3rd for pickup on Thursday, November 6th 3-4 PM- of course you can pick up your order the following Sunday or when you gather your child from PAS (just pay for your order and let Anne know). November is also PIE MONTH with many delicious pies available, including new Coconut Custard and Pomegranate Blueberry Pies. Just perfect for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many of them are "thaw and serve" and are as delicious as Baker's Square (as they are from the same bakery). Help Pilgrim earn an additional 30% by buying a pie this month--many are not available next month! Contact Anne with questions: 773-472-6037 or cbarsano@aol.com.

"CHRISTMAS is coming, the goose is getting fat,
Buy a handy gift card for Aunt or Uncle Pat"



Gift Card orders may be placed Mondays, November 24th, December 1st, 8th and 15th and will be available the following Wednesdays for pickup. You may drop off your order with payment to either the Sunday Seller or in the school office any day of the week. Your order will be filled on the next selling day. You may also email or call in your order to Anne Barsano. Even if a store or denomination is not listed on the green form, please ask- we may be able to get what you want. Gift cards are good across the country and great for those hard-to-buy-for people! We also offer "Certificate for Certificates" so people can order what they want in the amount you specify- very convenient!

Gordon Food Service or Peapod If you shop at Gordon Food Service or Peapod, please register with them listing Pilgrim as your charity of choice and we will receive a percentage of your order! No cost to you but a benefit to Pilgrim!!

Amazon Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Pilgrim Lutheran Church. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2284295> Buy an Amazon gift card from Operation CIP to pay for your purchase on Amazon Smile and earn an additional 5% for Pilgrim.



School Subjects

(Principal Christopher Comella)



Principal Comella, representing Pilgrim at the Elementary School Fair hosted by the Neighborhood Parents Network on October 18th.

Student Council had its first official meeting this year last Wednesday. Our first order of business was to elect officers. The students assemble chose 8th Grader Audrey Howaniec as President; 7th Grader Maya Llewellyn as Secretary; and 8th Grader Campbell O'Connor as Treasurer. We will meet again this Wednesday to set the docket for our business this year. We have a large number of members from Mrs. Tighe's homeroom so some of them are going to represent the lower grade classrooms. Among business we will discuss: Homeroom grant applications to use money from Pilgrim Kids Care for homeroom service projects; special events that Student Council would like to sponsor; and ways Student Council can bolster school spirit.

Please, "friend" the **Pilgrim Facebook** page and "like" liberally! We are working hard to keep the FB page updated and fresh, thanks to parent Andy Frye.

The Upper Grades have started work on the **Spelling Bee** and **Science Olympics**. If you would like more information about these projects, contact Kathy Tighe or Angela Cardo.



October 6th Cross Country Meet. Pilgrim Girls, Grades 4-6 finished in 1st Place!

The **Cross Country Team** ended their regular season at LaBagh Woods on Monday, October 6. Pilgrim was **1st Place for Grades 4-6 Girls and 7-8 Girls in all 3 meets** and for **1st Place for 4-6 Boys in 2 of 3 meets**. Not enough 7-8 boys ran to qualify for a team. Congratulations to all the runners, each of whom ran the whole course of the race and many made their personal best times. Thanks go to everyone who came out to support our runners, coached by Beata Halter and Dylan Allingham.

Pilgrim **Volleyball** Teams have wrapped up their 2014 seasons. The **Girls Team** won **1st Place** at St. John's Tournament. What a great way to end their season! Major Kudos go to the girls and also to coaches Wende Niforatos and Robert Knapp, as well as assistant coach Beck Anstee.



Pilgrim Girls Volleyball Team wins 1st Place at St John's!

The **Boys Team** won 1st Place at the St. Philip's Tournament and at the Holy Family Tournament. Thanks again to Coaches Knapp and Niforatos. The Boys Team has qualified for State Tournament Play, November 7-9, in Springfield. Look for more information in SIS. Go Wildcats!

Meanwhile, the **5th/6th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball** practices have started. Games stretch from the end of October through December. Carol Schlensker is coaching the girls; Malik Kvamme is coaching the boys.

School Endowment Fundraising Success!



Pastor Kristian, Members John and Mary Satter, former Pilgrim Principal David Maring, and current Pilgrim Principal Chris Comella at the Maring School Endowment Fundraiser on October 17th, 2014 at the Atlantic Bar and Grill.

Thanks to an amazingly generous matching gift from the Satters, the fund is now at over \$50,000!

Dining Review

(Julie Lea)



On Sunday, October 19th, it was decided not to dine at the Hofbrauhaus in Rosemont. Instead a very few attended the Oktoberfest at United Church of Christ on Pensacola Avenue. The German band 'Phenix' provided the polka music for dancing. The usual fare of bratwursts, sausages, sauerkraut, and potato salad, chicken and your choice of condiments were on the menu, along with beer and wine. There were many delicious homemade desserts to choose from. There were door prizes and raffle tickets to be bought. It was a fun-loving crowd of all ages and a good time was had by all.

Sunday, November 16th is our next dining date, restaurant yet to be determined. Watch for the notice.

Pilgrim Kids Rock the Chicago CROP Hunger Walk!

October 19, 2014
10K walk raising money to
fight hunger both locally and globally.





Adult Bible Discussion Group: Unpacking Discipleship Following Jesus is life's deepest, most challenging, and most rewarding adventure! Yet, when we hear words like "evangelism" and "discipleship," we don't always get so excited. Is it because these words are too dated and "churchy" to be useful in 2014? Or do they need to be renewed and reclaimed so we can live Jesus' dream for us? Join us on Sundays at 9:15 AM as we study "Unpacking Discipleship" together. This is a "no experience necessary" group, even if you've never read the Bible, you are invited to learn with us!

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

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.

Good News for Fathers!



Pilgrim now has a diaper changing table in the men's bathroom! Thank you to Denise Hamilton, for this generous donation!



MOPS

Please join Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) on Thursday, November 6th for a special speaker- Gillian Marchenko. Gillian is a poignant and funny speaker who will return to share her talk, "Will I Ever Pee in Peace?" Please RSVP to samanthadoerfler@hotmail.com if you are interested in attending the event! We meet at 4332 N Winchester from 9:00 -11:45 AM.



Prayer Time

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



Kids age 3 through 5th grade are welcome at our Sunday School, which meets at 9:15 in the sanctuary before splitting up into classrooms. Join us for music, prayer, Bible stories and fun activities. Parents are welcome to stay, or of course we are more than happy to have your children with us while you attend the adult discussion group downstairs. Questions? Contact Chris Wallis (cewallis1949@yahoo.com).

Growing Forward Leadership Summit, Thursday, November 6th

Commitment Sunday for both our weekly worship offerings and for our 2015-2017 "Growing Forward" Capital Campaign will be on Sunday, November 16th. We will once again be engaging in 10 days of intentional prayer leading up to this special and important day. Join us at the Parsonage (4332 N. Winchester) on Thursday, November 6th at 6:00 PM for dinner. At 7:00 PM we will have pie and coffee as we enjoy a presentation from nationally renowned speaker Steve Oelschlager, Stewardship Program Coordinator for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The goal of the evening is to be reinvigorated in our faith and renewed in our vision to build a strong church and school for generations to come. Please RSVP to any member of the Capital Campaign Committee: Co Chairs Jim Volkens and Gerhardt Boecler, Michael Marinelli, Pastors Anna-Kari and Kristian Johnson, Jason Ruger, and James Franke.





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 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.

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

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.

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

NOVEMBER (After the 10:30 AM Service)

- 02** G Schwartz; S Volkens; D Dierking
- 09** The Dorflers; The Kaniiffs
- 16** The Azzaros; The Nootens
- 23** The Gronaus; The Heintzes
- 30** The Otsukas; The Williamses

COFFEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
(See Ann Barsano if you can help)

Our Mission:

In Christ's Love, We gather,
prepare, and send all as leaders
for God's mission in the world.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time @ Parsonage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #5 @ Maring Hall
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends All Saints Sunday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services, 9:15 Sunday School, with coffee hour following second service @ Sanctuary 9:30 am Growing Forward Capital Campaign Information Session @ Parlor 10:30 am School Chorus @ Sanctuary 11:45 am Growing Forward Capital Campaign Information Session @ Parlor	3	4	5 8:30 am - 11:45 am 1/2 Day of School 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Confirmation (7/8) @ Parsonage 7:30 pm Harmony Choir @ Sanctuary	6 9:00 am MOPS @ Parsonage 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	7 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	8 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time @ Parsonage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #6 @ Maring Hall
9 8:00 am - 12:00 pm 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services, 9:15 Sunday School, with coffee hour following second service @ Sanctuary 9:30 am Growing Forward Capital Campaign Information Session @ Parlor 11:45 am	10	11 Veteran's Day	12 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Women's Society @ Annex 6:30 pm Confirmation Pot Luck @ Parsonage 7:30 pm Harmony Choir @ Sanctuary	13 8:50 am Principal Talk @ Annex 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	14 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	15 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time @ Parsonage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #7 @ Maring Hall

Growing Forward Capital Campaign Information Session @ Parlor 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm Quilters & Crafters Workday						
16 8:00 am - 12:00 pm 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services, 9:15 Sunday School, with coffee hour following second service @ Sanctuary	17	18 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm PTL Meeting @ Maring Hall 7:30 pm Board of Education @ Library	19 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 7:30 pm Harmony Choir @ Sanctuary	20 9:00 am MOPS 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	21 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	22 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time @ Parsonage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #8 @ Maring Hall
23 8:00 am - 12:00 pm 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services, 9:15 Sunday School, with coffee hour following second service @ Sanctuary 10:30 am Gospel Kids Sing	24	25	26 8:30 am - 11:45 am 1/2 Day of School 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary 7:30 pm Harmony Choir @ Sanctuary	27 Thanksgiving Day No School: Thanksgiving Break 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	28 No School: Thanksgiving Break 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	29 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time @ Parsonage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #9 @ Maring Hall
30 First Sunday of Advent 8:00 am - 12:00 pm 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services, 9:15 Sunday School, with coffee hour following second service @ Sanctuary						

Legend:

Church public event

School public event