

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

Greg Otsuka,
Congregation President

March 2014



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



Lent 2014: Lives Shaped By Jesus (Pastor Kristian Johnson)

"The good news as Jesus preached it is not about the minimal entrance requirements for getting into heaven when you die. It is about the glorious redemption of human life—your life."

- John Ortberg, The Life You've Always Wanted

Do you long to live a well-balanced life? Are you open to exploring the spiritual disciplines taught by Jesus?

If so, please join us at Pilgrim on Wednesdays and Sundays during a Lenten time of renewal.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, March 5th, with worship and imposition of ashes 10 AM and 7:30 PM.

Wednesday Mornings

from 10:45 AM to 11:45 AM
(after chapel in the Parlor)

Wednesday Evenings

from 6:15 PM to 8:00 PM
Free Soup supper included!

Sunday Mornings 8 AM and 10:30 AM

Come as you are, no experience or prior reading is necessary. Our core texts for these sessions will be the Bible and the book, The Life You've Always Wanted by John Ortberg, available via ebook or regular formats. You are invited to pick up a copy in advance, or... just come!

WEEK 1: March 3-9th

LIFE BEYOND REGRET: The practice of confession

Readings: Ortberg Book chapters 1, 8

Bible: Psalm 32

WEEK 2— March 10-16

BORN OF THE SPIRIT: The Practice of Sacred Change

Readings: Ortberg Book chapters 2,3

Bible: Psalm 121

WEEK 3– March 17-23

AN UNHURRIED LIFE: The Practice of Slowing

Readings: Ortberg Book chapters 4, 5

Bible: Psalm 95

WEEK 5: March 31- April 6

THE OUT DIMENSION: The Practice of Servanthood

Readings: Ortberg Book chapters 7,10

Bible: Isaiah 58:8-14

WEEK 4: March 24-30

THE GUIDED LIFE: Prayer and Scripture Study

Readings: Ortberg Book chapters 6,9

Bible: Psalm 13

SESSION 6: April 7-13

UNSTOPPABLE LOVE: The Passion of Jesus

Readings: Ortberg Book chapters 11,12,13

Bible: Psalm 31

Lent is a time of movement towards God. Embrace this opportunity to be renewed by the life of Jesus!



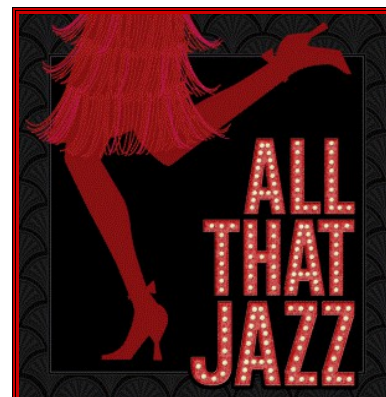
“Son of God” movie; The life of Jesus Christ!



Everyone is invited to special showings on Sunday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 9th at 1:00 PM; please plan on being there by 12:45 PM. The movie is 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 the North Cook County Chapter of Thrivent Financial and Pilgrim Lutheran Church. The “Son of God” is a major motion picture that opened 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!

- WHAT:** All That Jazz - A Roaring 20's Gala & Auction to benefit Pilgrim Lutheran
- DATE:** Saturday, March 8th, 2014
- TIME:** 7:00 - 11:00 PM
- PLACE:** Mrs. Murphy & Sons
3905 N Lincoln Avenue



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

Hot Meals News

(Janet Taylor)



Please join all HOT MEALS volunteers in thanking the following people for the "new and improved" pantry!!!!: Mr. Emery, the Church Council, Robert Knapp and the PTL, Gail Egebrecht, Julie Lea, and Marian Azarro. What are the changes? Walls and ceiling painted, floor tiled, cleaned and organized HOT MEALS cabinet, and a new wire cabinet for all paper goods for all the organizations at Pilgrim (a donation from the PTL).

HOT MEALS news will have to include the fact that the month of January was difficult for our guests to get to Pilgrim on Saturdays. We hope the spring will allow our numbers to go up again. Don't forget to pick up the flyers and cards at the back of the church and put them up in stores, stations, etc. PLUS keeping some cards in purses and wallets to hand out to the homeless as you use the CTA.

Thank you, of course, to all that support the ministry of HOT MEALS. IF you would like to be involved, contact Janet Taylor at jkstay@aol.com or call 773•777•4052. We need at least three shoppers. Time commitment? Enough time to buy groceries for a Saturday lunch. for approximately 30 guests.

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!

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.



Valentine's Day Outreach



Way To Go Pilgrim!

We distributed 352 handmade valentines to people at the "EI" stop at Montrose, made by our Pilgrim School Students... everyone was so touched to be remembered and blessed on Valentines Day!

Thank you to all of the children from Pilgrim that made 352 handmade Valentines for our Valentine's Day outreach! We distributed all of them to passersby under the EI stop at Montrose between 6:15 AM. and 7:45 AM. We received the following letter via email later that day:

Dear Principal Comella:

I was one of the lucky recipients this morning of a valentine from Pilgrim Lutheran handed out at the Montrose el.

I was very delighted to see that this outreach was from Pilgrim Lutheran because my two girls, Elizabeth Richter (1996) and Barbara Richter (1999), attended Pilgrim for grade school.

When looking for a kindergarten for Elizabeth in 1986 or 1987, Pilgrim was the last school we interviewed but the only school I fell in love with. Upon entering the door there was a large mural of the Holy Spirit climbing up the wall. For some reason that made me feel not only welcomed but assured me that this school had God at its heart. I was never disappointed over the 10 or so years we were associated with Pilgrim.

Thank you very much for the outreach this morning. You have no idea how it has touched my heart. Thank you also for the tremendous work you do every day with the children entrusted to you. Over the years I have recommend many school families to Pilgrim, including my former next door neighbor. All have loved the school.

The education received at Pilgrim has held my girls in good hands. Barbara has a Masters in Science, Education from Northwestern University. Elizabeth graduates this May from Northeastern Ill University with a degree in Social Work and has been accepted into the Masters of Social Work program at University of Illinois, Chicago Circle. Please share my pride in your graduates.


Regards,


K.Kim Allen

Raising Fund\$

(Anne Barsano)



Market Day orders are due Monday, March 10th for pick up on Thursday, March 13th, 3-4. You may pick up your order on Sunday or after PAS if you can't make it Thursday, but please charge your order and let Anne Barsano (773-472-6037 or cbarsano@aol.com) know of your plans. Check out our delicious desserts that will do well in your freezer until your Easter dinner! **If every family buys a "Bonus Days" dessert, Pilgrim will earn a 30% profit on each.** Remember that there are many more items available on the EZ order form than are pictured in the flyer, so don't be discouraged if your favorite item is not pictured. Just look on the order list and you should find it. 

Gift cards will be sold on all Sundays in March in the church foyer and will be sold on Monday and Friday in the school office with the exceptions of Monday, March 17th and Friday March 21st during school Spring Break. We have added Red Box \$25 and Fanatics \$25 to our list and will no longer have Marriott cards available. Please adjust your order forms to reflect these changes. Contact Anne Barsano with any questions 



February Dining Review

(Julie Lea)



Isla is a very small restaurant on West Lawrence Avenue where the dining group enjoyed Filipino food on Sunday, February 16th. The only Filipino décor is a pair of wooden carved spoons displayed on a wall. Several appetizers were ordered: crispy posit (calamari) with sauce, grilled eggplant tomato tower, and Lumpia Shanghai, mini fried egg rolls served with sauce. We ordered a second of the latter as everyone really liked them. Beer and wine were brought as it is BYOB. Mixed adobo, with pork and/or chicken was a recommended entrée and a very tasty one. Other entrees ordered were a whole grilled fish, excellent; Bicol express, a spicy combination of pork, mussels, shrimp and squid, all are served with rice. It was a first time for many experiencing Filipino dishes, and all were very happy and enjoyed the cuisine. The server was very busy, but friendly and we didn't mind waiting for our delicious meal to arrive. It is very inexpensive and recommended for families too.

Our next dining date is Sunday, March 16th at **Beograd Serbian** restaurant on West Irving Park.

Annual Congregational Meeting

January 26th, 2014



The meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM by Marian Azzaro

Pastor Kristian gave the opening prayer

There were no additions to the agenda and it was approved as submitted.

The minutes from the January 2013 meeting were reviewed. A correction to the Endowment Committee report to clarify the disbursements was requested. The minutes were approved with this change.

Written Committee Reports were distributed in advance of the meeting.

Ann Barsano presented the **Fundraising Report** highlighting a successful year in 2013 with increases in certificate sales, magazine sales, and Target with a reduction in Market Day sales. Flea Market profits were sent to the Knutsen's, our missionaries in South Africa.

Shellie Riedle reported for **Spark/Parish Life** sharing the broad ranging activities this group coordinates to build spiritual growth and fellowship. Shellie recognized the hard work of many in the congregation who coordinated events as well as those who participated in inreach and outreach activities. Highlights from 2013 included many activities from coffee hour coordination to women's volleyball and men's basketball teams and the Pilgrimfest Block Party Celebration co-sponsored by the PTL. Seasons of Service continued this year with support for the Lutheran World Relief Layette Project, a Fun Run to support the El Salvador mission trip, supported the Lincoln Square Friendship Center foot panty and resource center, and for the forth year supported Coat Angels to provide coats, gloves, and hats to 56 children in need in Chicago. Spark also hosted three Parent's Night Out events and entertained kids to allow parents a free night out.

In his **Pastor's Report**, Pastor Kristian recalled all the changes in the past year. He recognized Chris Comella for his leadership as principal of the school. He reminded us of all that was accomplished in creating the new mission for Pilgrim. He encouraged all to feel God's presence and vision as we continue to turn our mission into action. He recognized the leadership of Chris Wallace and the efforts of many more for starting a new ministry Vacation Bible School and the leadership of Darcia Dierking for bringing MOPS to Pilgrim. The focus for this year will be the leadership of our many ministries to continue this growth.

Jason Ruger presented the **Endowment Committee Report**. The Endowment Fund was able to support over \$10,000 in disbursements in 2013. Approximately 40% came back to Pilgrim as tuition assistance for families in the school and the rest was shared with organizations within our community and city as well as international missions.

Greg Otsuka reported on the **Capital Campaign**. After years 1 and 2 of the 3-year campaign we have received approximately \$151,000 in contributions and are on our way to meet our goal. Projects that have been completed include tuck-pointing, classroom door security, and the remodeling of parsonage basement to be a welcoming space for ministries and fellowship. Future projects include replacing the school roof and working with an architect to develop a master plan for our buildings. There was a question regarding mission gifts to the Synod and it was discussed that there is a committee forming to recommend to the Council on the direction of mission gifts.

(continued on next page)

(continued)

Carl Doerfler presented the **Treasurer Report**. He highlighted that the year ended essentially on budget with a less than 0.5% deficit. He also noted an increase of 7% in Sunday giving. A question regarding the PAS budget increase was explained due to the fact that many children now use the program that an aide has been hired to assist Ms. Calderone. The question of the Parish Life expense will be investigated. Carl encouraged people to consider using electronic giving. Gerald Hoffman moved that we approve the budget. David Pellauer seconded the motion. The budget was approved.

Ed Nelson presented a proposal to create the **Dave Maring School Endowment Fund** separate from the Church Endowment Fund to provide an opportunity for people who may be interested in donating to the school directly. All funds will go to school needs such as scholarships, supplies, equipment, teacher grants, and extracurricular activities. A question was asked about a lump sum to start this fund and it was discussed that there is not currently a lump sum for this purpose. Another question asked for clarification on where bequests go in an effort to prevent future conflict. It was discussed that currently the designation of undesignated bequests is by Council decision. Clarification was also provided that tuition assistance and scholarship programs will be paid out of the school fund. Donna Heintz moved that we approve the creation of this Fund. Brent Sparlin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mr. Maring shared his thoughts. He is very happy this Fund was approved and how humbled and honored he was to have it bear his name. He recognized how blessed Pilgrim is to have such a wonderful Staff, Principal, and Pastor. He reminded the Congregation that more scholarships are needed and encouraged all to keep moving forward on this important mission.

The slate of candidates for Church Council were presented: Greg Otsuka (1st 2-year term as President), Mike Suhajda (1st 2-year term as Vice President), Jenn Bodine (1st 2-year term as Administrator), and Jim Volkens, Halley Williams, Theresa Sparlin (1st 2-year term At-large member). Nancy Liljedahl moved to approve the slate. Cheryl Saiki seconded the motion. The slate was approved unanimously. And candidates for the Endowment Committee were presented: Marian Azzaro and Joe Cardo. The slate was approved unanimously.

The nominees for Synod Assembly Representatives for 2014 were announced: Clayton Dickerson and Stephanie Zimmerman. The slate was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Congregation, Greg Otsuka thanked Marian Azzaro for her 8 years of service as Council President and Council member. She led through many challenges and changes. One important highlight was her work to pull together our Ministry Site Profile that was used in our search for our new Pastor. Her willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done and her love for Pilgrim are examples for us all.

Pastor Kristian gave the closing prayer.

Attendance: 50 members of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Boecler, Church Council Secretary



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

MARCH

- 02** J Daniel; C Nigh
- 09** V Carlson; J Bodine
- 16** N Liljedahl; B Biery
- 23** S Lau; K Ruger
- 30** A Barsano; The Satters



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #10 @ Maring Hall
2 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am UCAN Presentation 10:30am Worship Service 8:30 am - 1:00 pm Pilgrim Dads' Pancake Breakfast @ Maring Hall	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 10:00am and 7:30pm: Ash Wednesday Worship 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	6 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	7 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	8 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #1 @ Maring Hall
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	10	11	12 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 Lenten	13 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Market Day pick-up @ Maring Hall 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm 7th Grade Decoration Committee Meeting @ Parlor	14 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	15 Pilgrim Lutheran School Spring Break 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #2 @ Maring Hall

			Supper/Worship @ Maring Hall 8:15 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary			
16 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service Pilgrim Lutheran School Spring Break	17 Pilgrim Lutheran School Spring Break	18 Pilgrim Lutheran School Spring Break	19 Pilgrim Lutheran School Spring Break 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm Lenten Supper/Worship @ Maring Hall 8:15 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	20 Pilgrim Lutheran School Spring Break 9:00 am MOPS @ Parsonage 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	21 Pilgrim Lutheran School Spring Break 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	22 Pilgrim Lutheran School Spring Break 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #3 @ Maring Hall
23 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service Pilgrim Lutheran School Spring Break 8:00 am - 12:00 pm New Member Sunday	24 8:00 am - 9:00 am Pilgrim School Classes Resume	25 7:30 pm Church Council @ Library	26 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 Confirmation Class (7&8) 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm Lenten Supper/Worship @ Maring Hall 8:15 pm Harmony Choir rehearsal @ Sanctuary	27 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	28 6:30 pm Girl Scouts @ Maring Hall	29 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #4 @ Maring Hall
30 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Visioning Retreat @ Maring Hall	31					

Legend:

■ Church public event

■ School public event