



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School
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DECEMBER
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Advent: The Power Of Waiting (Pastor Kristian Johnson)

(adapted from Sister Joan Chittister's Article: "Becoming an Advent Person")

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope. _Psalm 130:5

Advent is one of the most difficult periods of the church's liturgical cycle. Why? Because Advent is all about waiting. And waiting is not easy. Most of us do not wait well for what we want or what we are meant to be. We get impatient or we get depressed. We question or we doubt. We argue or we get alienated. The question is, what is there about the waiting that is redemptive?

In the first place, waiting makes for humility in the classic sense of the word. Real humility is simply the willingness to let God be God in our lives. Once we're made to wait long enough for something that matters... there's no room for arrogance. If you are forced to wait and wait for something, there's surely no danger of getting caught saying, "See, I knew it all the time," or, "I've been telling you." No, when you must wait unduly for something good to happen, there's no crowing when it finally comes. There's only gratitude.

Waiting, I have discovered also, does a great deal to cement a conviction. Putting off the inclusion of gays and lesbians into leadership of the church, for instance, is not making the question go away. On the contrary,

the question is becoming more alive than ever. Why? Because the waiting has proved the depth of the idea. The waiting itself has separated the fad from the vision.

Waiting is a call to conscience. Waiting leads us to compare what is probable with what is possible—if **we ourselves do something about it**. Waiting engages all of us in the struggle, for or against, until there can be no disinterested bystanders, no free rides, no unconscious commitment to the unconscionable.

Finally, waiting is not about defeat or failure or frustration. Waiting is about the virtue of hope. Waiting gives witness to the fact that, like it or not, want it or not, help it or not, God's will will indeed be done, and *we become active participants in bringing God's future into the here and now*. It is no wonder that in the language of Spanish, the word "to wait" and the word "to hope" is the same word: *esperar*, or in the noun form, "*Esperanza*".

Waiting invites us to be conscientious and creative. And no matter who wants to suppress us or to silence us, we can be signs of hope that never, never go away until, someday, the star finally shines.

To ponder in your heart:

What do you plan to do this Advent to make the waiting in your life holy? To make the waiting in your life conscientious and creative? To become a sign of hope that will never, never go away? Write this plan into a call to commitment that you will read aloud to yourself during Advent. Sometime during Christmas week, have a conversation with someone significant about how this call to commitment changed you, deepened you, and brought the sign of hope to others.



4th Annual Pancake Breakfast

Sponsored by Pilgrim Dads

**Sunday,
Dec. 7th
Maring Hall**

Pilgrim Lutheran School & Church
4300 N. Winchester, Chicago, IL

1st serving 9am

(following 8am service)

2nd serving 11:30am

(following 10:30am service)

All you can eat

Suggested donation: \$5 per person

Donations will be collected at the door

For more information:

Pete Gillespie-peter.j.gillespie@comcast.net

or Glenn Williams-gtwilliams67@gmail.com

MMMM
mmmmmmmm
PANCAKES



All Proceeds Will Support The Technology Fund For The School.

Advent And Christmas At Pilgrim 2014

Thursday, December 4th, 12 PM to 2 PM



Annual Seniors Christmas Luncheon
Church Parsonage, 4332 N. Winchester Ave



Saturday, December 6th, 10 AM

Christmas Decorating Party



Sunday, December 7th, 8:00 and 10:30 AM



Join us for our Dad's Pancake Breakfast after both services, and enjoy worship music from our School Chorus.

Sunday, December 14th, 8:00 and 10:30 AM



Enjoy worship music from our Praise Team and from our Harmony Choir And later:

Sunday, December 14th, 2014, 4 PM

♪ ♪ ♪ **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** ♪ ♪ ♪
Hot Chocolate, and Chili



Meet at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church, (4300 N Winchester Ave) for caroling in the neighborhood. Then join us for a Chili dinner following at 5:30 PM at Pastor Kristian and Anna-Kari's house at 4332 N Winchester Ave.

ALL ARE INVITED!

Wednesday, December 17th, 10:10 AM

School Christmas Service Dress Rehearsal
Open to the Public! Come hear our children sing and join us in a daytime version of our renowned Christmas service!



Thursday, December 18th, 7 PM

School Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21st, 9:15 AM
Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsal
Worship at 8:00 and 10:30 AM



Wednesday, December 24th

4:30 PM **Family Candlelight Service**

7:30 and 11:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services



Thursday, December 25th, 9:30 AM



Christmas Day Service



Sunday, December 28th 8:00 and 10:30 AM
Service of Lessons and Carols





Poinsettia Orders

(Lindsay White)

Help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas celebrations and then enjoy your flowers into the New Year!

Poinsettias with red or white flowers are available in the following sizes:

6 1/2 inch pot (1 plant) = \$12

8 inch pot (3 plants) = \$26

Orders are due by December 12th at 2 PM. To order your flowers, please call or email the Church Office: 773•477•4824 churchoffice.pilgrim@gmail.com

Or if you would like to stop in and see us, the order forms are available in both the Church and School offices.

Poinsettias will be delivered to the Church for Sunday, December 21st. You are welcome to take your pot home after the 9:30 AM service on Christmas Day.

Thank you so much for your order!

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.



Hot Meals Plus!

The plans to extend the HOT MEALS program in the fall had to be postponed until this coming winter. The goal now is to deliver a hot Saturday lunch to housebound members or friends of members.



The cooking is already done!!!!!! The Hot Meals team will make a few extra meals - - - - - What are needed at this time are drivers (to pick up a hot meal at the church at 11:30 AM on Saturdays and deliver to a housebound member or friend of Pilgrim). It would be great if the deliverer could take the time to eat with the recipient, but that is not a requirement. Also needed (the most important part) are names and addresses of the people receiving the hot meal. AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT is for YOU to make the initial offer to the recipient. THEN, if the person is open to our new idea, give the name, address and telephone number (e-mail address, too; if possible) to Janet Taylor - 773•777•4052 - jkstay@aol.com

We are open to your suggestions on how to start this new program. IF all goes well, we would like to start HOT MEALS PLUS after the new year begins. Please direct any questions and suggestions to J. Taylor - e-mail address above.

Thank you. Janet Taylor

Raising Fund\$
(Anne Barsano)



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



Orders may be placed Mondays, 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, or, if necessary to order, it will be available the following Wednesday. You may also email or call in your order to Anne Barsano. A large order (over \$200) will need to be accompanied by a check or cash. 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 (\$50 Visa card)! We also offer "Certificate for Certificates" so people can order a gift card they would like in the amount you specify- very convenient!

Merry Christmas from all of us at Operation CIP!!

January **Market Day** ordering will change from Monday to Saturday with your January order! The times will remain the same at 11 PM for online orders and Friday by Noon for paper orders due in the school office. Pickup dates and times will stay the same. Please mark the change on your PTL calendar.

Orders are due Friday, January 9th for pickup on Thursday, January 15th! Contact Anne with questions 773-472-6037 or cbarsano@aol.com

Thank you!



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

Dining Review

(Julie Lea)



On a cold Sunday in November, some hearty diners got a warm, homey welcome at the cozy restaurant, Smakosz to enjoy Polish food. It is a small restaurant with black and white photographic scenes on the walls. A pitcher of Polish beer and red and white wine were the beverages of choice. Everyone received appetizers of pickled beets, creamed cucumber and cabbage slaw along with their meal. The menu includes meat, chicken, and fish dishes. Of these several combinations, roast duck, and pork entrees were

ordered. All were served in a very timely manner and the food was very delicious. We were informed the apple strudel had just come out of the oven, so we all enjoyed some. It is reasonable and very accommodating and located at 5619 W. Lawrence Avenue.

**No outing in December, one may attend the caroling party.
January 18th will be Serbian at Beograd on Irving Park Road.**

Thank you and best wishes

**Thank you all so much for helping this past year to be such a wonderful experience for me. Pilgrim is truly a blessed place, and I am so very thankful for my time here and for each interaction I have had with you all. I pray God's blessing on you in the times ahead. I am sad to leave, but am also excited to see what God has ahead for my husband and me. Friday, November 14, will be my last day in the office, so if you are around, stop by and say hello. I will always fondly remember my brothers and sisters in Christ here at Pilgrim. Thank you, and blessings to you,
_Barbara Anthony**



Communion Bread Bakers Needed

If you can follow a simple recipe and are willing to bake communion bread, please contact Chris Wallis at cewallis1949@yahoo.com.

School Subjects

Congratulations to our Science Olympians!

Pilgrim won a Gold Medal as well as a couple of Silvers at the Science Olympics held at Concordia University in November!



Pilgrim students celebrating veterans.



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.



Prayer Time

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

An initial update on the Growing Forward Capital Campaign pledges reflects that \$153,629 has been committed from all of you to date. We would like to remind our members that it is still possible to make commitments now and going forward to the Campaign with time, talents and pledges.

Fall Adult Bible Discussion Group: Unpacking Discipleship



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!



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).



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.

Merry Christmas

Coffee Hour Teams



DECEMBER (After the 10:30 AM Service)

07 J Daniel; C Nigh
14 V Carlson; J Bodine
21 N Liljedahl; B Biery
28 S Lau; K Ruger

JANUARY (After the 10:30 AM Service)

04 A Barsano; The Satters
11 D Erdbeer; The Dooleys
18 J Lea; G Egebrecht
25 K Cares; N Tarah; C Dickerson

COFFEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! (call Anne Barsano if you can help)