

# Pilgrim's Progress

A monthly publication.

December 2018



The Church Year begins with the Season of Advent, from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming into.” On one level, this is a time of preparation before the Church celebrates God coming into the world at the birth of Jesus of Nazareth who lived, died, rose, ascended, and is now reigning over all things. On another level, this is a time of preparation before the Church celebrates God coming into the world again at the second coming of Jesus the Christ. On yet another level, this is a time of preparation as the Church continues to celebrate God coming into the world by His Holy Spirit through Word, water, bread, and wine. All of God’s advents mean both preparation and blessing for the Church.

With God’s first advent in view, the birth of a certain Child to a virgin named Mary roughly two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, the nineteenth century poet William Dix asked “What Child Is This?” That question points us to how uncommon this child is. The angel who announced this child’s birth on Christmas Eve answered the question by saying, “*a Savior, who is Christ the Lord*” (Luke 2.11). The hymnwriter answered, “This, this is Christ the king” (LSB 370.1).

This Advent Season, we will ponder this question and its answer for us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the promised Messiah, the Christ, our Savior and the King. During the month of December, Advent Midweek Services will be held on Wednesdays at 11:00am and 7:00pm. On **December 5**, we will sing “Haste, haste to bring Him laud,” as we hear of “The Child Who is Zechariah’s Hope” from Luke 1.5–25. On **December 12**, we will sing, “Hail, hail the Word made flesh,” as we hear of “The

Child Who is a Virgin’s Great Son” from Luke 1.26–38. On **December 19**, we will sing, “Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary,” as we hear of “The Child Who is John’s Joy.” Finally, when we gather for the Divine Service at 10:00am on **December 25**, this hymn will again be our theme as we celebrate “The Child Who Is the Lord.”

As the Church catholic celebrates Advent, the world celebrates celebration. December has become nothing more than a materialistic, hedonistic feast, either ignorant of or ignoring both the question and the answer of who this Child is and therefore lacking all the blessings He brings. Let us join the Church catholic and celebrate Advent by listening to God’s Word and singing His praise. This is a penitential season in which we must come face to face with our sin and condemnation, that is, our need for a Savior. But this is a preparatory season precisely because it gives way to God’s advent for us. Therefore, we do not celebrate celebration. We celebrate Christ, the Child, our Savior and King, who comes to us and among us with eternal blessings for us.

“Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever” (*Collect for Christmas Dawn*, L07).

Blessed Advent,  
*Pastor Rusnak*

Come on down and hear **Eric Jensen** speak after church on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> about his experiences as an archaeologist. You will also learn how to determine what is factual in the media. **Congratulate** Eric as he will receive his PhD on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP**  
**11:00a.m and 7:00p.m.**  
**December 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>** also w/ Lord’s Supper

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**  
**December 24 – 6:00 p.m.**  
“A Service of Lessons and Carols”  
**December 25 – 10:00 a.m.**  
“The Nativity of Our Lord”  
w/Lord’s Supper

**NEW YEAR EVE'S SERVICE**

6:00p.m.



Roger and Coralie Pierson

12/26

**SCRIP** offers money to our PCDC without charging us **anything!** It works by selling to us at a discount. We resell the items at face value and get to keep the discounted amount.

**Don't forget if you are looking for gift cards for Christmas presents check us out.** Stop downstairs Sunday or at the PCDC Tuesday through Friday. **Questions –Sue Jensen 414.476.7612.**

During the next month Pilgrim will have many family and friends visit. Many people no longer carry cash or checkbooks with them however many carry their **Smartphone**. It is now easy for them to make a onetime gift to our congregation. **Have them go to the App store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download free. Enter the church name Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church, or zip code and select our church. Tap "GiveNow" and follow the prompts. Done.**



*"How beautiful on the mountain are the feet that bring good news . . ."*  
**Isaiah 52 v.7**

Hello from Pilgrim's LWML. Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. The next LWML meeting is December 14 at 7PM.. We will be assembling the Birthday Boxes for Bethesda. These boxes are to celebrate the lives of their clients with disabilities. If you have not and still wish to contribute, you can bring items and place them in the narthex through December 9. Bethesda has recommended the following items to be included in each box:

- \* **Birthday card or letter**
- \* **Paper plates and napkins**
- \* **Balloons, streamers and other decorations**
- \* **A small gift – such as a devotion or prayer book**
- \* **Christian CD, gift card, or movie tickets.**

Thank you for your support and assistance for all of our in gatherings throughout the year. If you want to learn more about the LWML or help assemble the Birthday Boxes **please join us on December 14**. All Pilgrim ladies are always welcome at LWML meetings and events.

The next grant our district mites will support is **Scholarships for Low Income Campers at Camp LuWiSoMo \$20000** to Supplement campers' fees for families of low income children. **Don't' forget to feed the large mite box in the narthex.**

The 2019 Winter Getaway will be held on Feb. 1 – 2 at Wintergreen Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. If you are interested see the form downstairs on the board by the kitchen or talk to Ruth. You can also search [lwml-swd.org/events/retreat](http://lwml-swd.org/events/retreat).

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Nicole Moritz	12/1
Joanne Bognar	12/2
Evie Rusnak	12/3
Melissa Janowski	12/7
Karen Bremer	12/8
Carol Moore	12/19
Shirley Amport	12/21
Robert Kickbusch	12/21
Jennifer Booth	12/22
Sue Jensen	12/22
Diane Kosbab	12/22
Jayden Meyer	12/24
Todd Mahnke	12/25
Pam Wilkiewicz	12/25
Scott Christensen	12/29

**Poinsettia Order Time**

Please fill out the form and include your payment (clearly mark in the memo made out to Pilgrim Lutheran Church/Poinsettias). Put it in the **offering plate or mail it** to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 2664 N. 68<sup>th</sup> Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. **Deadline December 15, 2018.** Any questions, you may contact **Mrs. Helen Meyer at (414) 445-2775.**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Red  White  Marble  jingle bell at **\$10.50 each.**

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

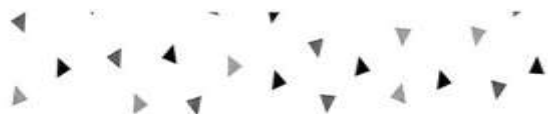
Remembrance line: In memory of; In honor of; In celebration of:

## *Deutscher Weihnachtsgottesdienst*

The annual German Christmas service at Benediction Lutheran Church, Milwaukee is on December 16 at 1:30 pm.

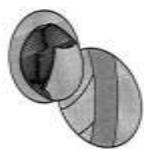
## **LUMIN School Pilgrim Lutheran Christmas Program Tuesday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm – Church**

The children of the PCDC are gearing up to celebrate the birth of Christ! **They will be doing their Christmas program on Saturday, December 15 at 3pm in the church.** The children are excited to present the true meaning of Christmas for all. Hope you can be there!



# COME, CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH!

JOIN US SUNDAY, DEC. 23RD  
FOR GAMES, SNACKS, CRAFTS,  
CAKE, AND A SHORT PROGRAM  
BY OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL



Following our 9am worship service, we'll be in the church basement from 10-11:30am.

FREE event and ALL AGES are welcome!

Questions? Call 414.476.0735



Our **Sunday school students** have been busy making Reformation decorations for their homes and learning about the meaning behind Luther's Rose,



trying a "Diet of Worms",



and delivering Thanksgiving crafts to our home bound members.



## Exciting Things are happening at PCDC

### Cathedral Square Tree Decorating

The 2 ½ - 4 year old children of PCDC decorated a tree at Cathedral Square. They worked very hard making their own ornaments. It will serve as a witness to the community of the real meaning of Christmas.



### Empty Inkjet and Toner Collection

For many years the PCDC collected used printer cartridges. These were recently sorted, counted, and sent to a recycling company for redemption. The company sent us a \$333.15 check for the 550 items that we submitted. Thank you to all who faithfully saved the cartridges, and also Diane who oversaw the Fed-Ex pick-up of the 4 large boxes of cartridges.

### New Playground Fence

For years replacing the wooden playground fence with one that requires a minimum of maintenance has been a dream. It has finally been realized with the erection of a new non-wooden fence that will require no painting. Gary Mueller, Roger Pierson, Mike Zawacki, and Nikki Strege spent many hours to make this dream a reality.



### Sprucing Up

Although the children were not in attendance the Friday after Thanksgiving, much was being done at the PCDC, both inside and out. Workmen replaced all the lighting with more efficient LED bulbs. Repairs were being made on the playground; while Nikki was giving the office a must needed new coat of paint. We thank God for the many people who have supported the PCDC with their gifts, talents, and prayers.

