



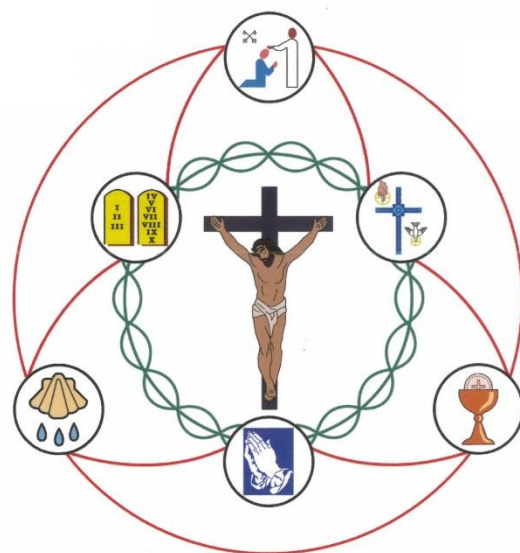
THE PILGRIM *Way*

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3.20).

MARCH 2024

Repentance, Faith, New Life

During our Lenten midweek services this year, we are engaging in Honest Repentance. As Lutherans, we believe that true, honest repentance always involves two things: “First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven” (Small Catechism, V.1). Those two things correspond to the first two chief parts of the Small Catechism, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles’ Creed. By these, the Law and the Gospel, the Holy Spirit moves us from repentance to faith.



But as Lent gives way to Easter and the cross gives way to the empty tomb, so repentance and faith give way to new life in Christ, that is, the life of holiness marked by obedience to the commands of God and trust in the promises of God. In other words, there is a third thing for us to experience as indicated by the three items within the green circle pictured above. Through the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer, the Holy Spirit works in us repentance, faith, and new life in Christ.

The Small Catechism does not only contain the essential doctrine of Christianity. Its first three texts work together as a living movement of the Holy Spirit. The remaining three chief parts of the catechism locate this threefold movement of the Spirit in the three promised means of the Spirit: Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. Through the Small Catechism, the Holy Spirit not only teaches God’s children the essential truths of Scripture, but also shapes and forms them to be the children God their Father has called them to be.

March 24, 2024 is Palm Sunday. It is also the Sunday of the Passion. The service shifts sharply from the triumphal entry to the suffering and cross of Christ. With Christ our Savior at the center that day we will also witness the Rite of Confirmation. This past schoolyear, Evangeline Rusnak and Trevor Staff have been catechized and prepared to confirm the faith the Holy Spirit has worked in them since their Baptism, to examine themselves in preparation for the worthy reception of the

Lord's Supper, and to publicly confess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. As we witness their Confirmation, we will be reminded of our own Confirmation in the faith as well as the living movement the Holy Spirit is still working in us.

Pastor Rusnak

March Birthdays

3.02 Alex Beattie	3.18 Megan McLafferty
3.02 Ron Booth	3.21 Audrey Gohr
3.02 Jovan Walker	3.21 Gail Zawacki
3.07 Mark Gaeth	3.24 Elisabeth Schenk
3.11 Karen Vogel	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Bible Breakfast

The weekly Men's Bible Breakfast is held on **Thursdays at 8:00am** at Mykonos Restaurant, located at 8501 W Capitol Dr in Milwaukee. We order breakfast, enjoy some fellowship and a meal, read until about 9:00 or so, and then pray together. Feel free to join us if and when you are available. We are currently reading in Numbers.

Sewing for Veterans

The Sewing for Veterans group will meet from 9:00am – 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 9th and March 23rd.

Women's Bible Study

The weekly Women's Bible Study is held on Thursdays beginning at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The invitation is always open to join us! A new weekly study on Daniel has begun. The second Thursday of each month will have an LWML emphasis. Please watch for further details.

Sunday Bible Study

With the new year, we began a new bible study. For at least seven weeks, the focus of our time together on Sundays at 8:30am will be the book Sculptor Spirit: Models of Sanctification from Spirit Christology by Rev. Dr. Leopoldo A Sanchez M. This book will lead us into a conversation about the Christian life, the life sanctified by the Holy Spirit. What is this life God has given us to live? What should it look like? What does it mean for us be people indwelt by the Holy Spirit? Please join us for these and other thought-provoking conversations.

PCDC Teacher & Director Openings

We are in need of a few more classroom teachers at PCDC. If you are aware of anyone that would be great with kids and has a passion for Christ, please have them contact PCDC. They can call 414-454-0888 or email Director@pilgrimtosa.org

We are also now accepting candidates for the open Director position. Interested candidates can obtain more information and the job description by contacting the church office at info@pilgrimtosa.org

Megan MacKenzie has agreed to fill the role of Interim Director at least through July. We are very thankful for Megan stepping up and taking on this role during our search. Megan has been with the Center since October of '22.

March Voter's Meeting and Lunch

Mark your calendars for our next Voter's Meeting on March 10th. Following the meeting there will be a lunch. We will also have the opportunity to recognize thank Nikki Strege for her 5½ years of service to PCDC.

Lenten Boxes

During the month of March, Lenten Boxes will be available in the Narthex. Lenten Boxes help support the work of our LCMS missionaries. We will collect the Lenten Boxes on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please consider writing a check to Pilgrim Lutheran and putting "Lenten Box" in the memo line. These offerings will be split between the Bakers and Ferrys as the two missionary families that we current support. This amount is also above the amount budgeted to support those families. Thank you!

Supporting A Place of Refuge

As reported last month, during the month of February, we were collecting special offerings to help fund an interior security camera system for A Place of Refuge Ministries, to help the network of volunteers and staff who are committed to life and to caring for women facing crisis pregnancy in South Wisconsin.

Through February 29th, Pilgrim members donated \$2,085, which was then matched using Memorial Funds as approved by the Church Council. We were able to provide \$4,170 of the \$5,000 that was still needed for their security system.

Thank you to everyone that so graciously responded to this need.



Clinic Blessing of Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wauwatosa



Upcoming Special Worship Schedule (in addition to regular Sunday 9:30am Divine Service w/Communion)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time(s)</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Notes</u>
03/06	11:00am & 7:00pm	Lent 4 Midweek	Communion	First Wednesday of the month. Rev. Dan Czaplewski
03/13	11:00am & 7:00pm	Lent 5 Midweek	No Communion	
03/20	11:00am & 7:00pm	Lent 6 Midweek	No Communion	Rev. Gregory Mech
03/27	No Midweek Service	-	-	
03/28	11:00am & 7:00pm	Maundy Thursday	Communion	
03/29	1:00pm & 7:00pm	Good Friday	No Communion	
03/31	10:00am	Easter Sunday	Communion	
April	No Midweek Services	-	-	
May- November	7:00pm	Worship on the 1 st Wednesday of each month only	Communion	Repeat of prior Sunday service

Easter Flowers Order Form

Please fill out the form below and attach your payment; either a check made out to "Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church" with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line or cash in an envelope labeled "Easter Flowers". Put the form and the payment together in the offering basket or mail them to 2664 N. 68th Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. The deadline is **March 17, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Helen Meyer at (414) 445-2775.

Name _____

Telephone _____

_____ Lily (\$16) _____ Tulip (mixed colors) (\$16) _____ Daffodil (\$16)

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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

EASTER BREAKFAST

DATE: Sunday, March 31, 2024

TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

(Festival Worship 10:00 a.m.)

MENU

Scrambled Eggs, French Toast Dish,

Sausage Links, Fruit & Bakery,

Tea, Coffee, Milk and Juice

Freewill offering on day of breakfast.

Donation of Bakery needed. Drop off at Church (Center Street Entrance) on Saturday, March 30th between 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____

Will provide bakery: _____

Place slip in the offering basket or send it to the Church Office by Monday, March 25th.

PILGRIM LWML by Ruth Mueller

As time Marches on, it is time for another Pilgrim Way article, and we continue to be “Abiding in Christ’s LOVE.” This has been the 2022-2024 biennium theme for the South Wisconsin District LWML. It is based on 1 John 4:15-16:

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he is in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

Focusing on God’s love for us, believing that through Jesus’ death and resurrection we have forgiveness of sins, salvation and eternal life, we can then, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit,

Serve one another, Study Scripture to know, and Share...CHRIST’S LOVE!

The official word from the district is that we our 2022-2024 Mite Goal has been met and all of the SWD Mite Grants have been paid! PRAISE THE LORD! There are 22 new Mite Grant Proposals that will be on the ballot for the district delegates at convention in June. Watch for more information about them in the coming months. The mite box in the narthex can still be fed as we get a head start on collecting for the new grants and also continue funding the national grants. Remember, for every \$1 that is collected, \$.25 goes to the national grants.

Since our local group is meeting on the second Thursday each month from 9:30-11:30 for an LWML focused Bible study and fellowship, we welcome others to join us to learn more about LWML as a whole and to FOCUS on Jesus as we reach out through missions. Ten of us receive the Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly magazine and we are willing to share our copies. We will leave them on the table under the LWML bulletin board (at the bottom of the steps) when we have read them.

Another activity this month will be the LWML SWD Heart to Heart Sisters Event on Saturday, March 16th. It is the annual multicultural event that gives us the opportunity to see and to hear how sisters from other cultures embrace their Christian faith under the theme “Hearts for the Harvest” Matthew 9: 37-38. It will be held at the Granville LUMIN school. See the posters in the narthex and in the basement, along with a planned schedule on the LWML board. If you are interested in attending, let Ruth Mueller or Diane Kosbab know so that we can plan carpooling and RSVP to the organizers to ease their planning. So, this month’s dates to remember are:

March 14th – 9:30-11:30 a.m. – Pilgrim LWML focused Bible Study – Fellowship Hall

March 16th – 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – Heart to Heart Sisters Event – Granville LUMIN school

(this can be an all-day event or come and go as you wish, lunch is included with tasty ethnic foods, free will offering)

This month, besides the March Prayer Calendar, the story and prayer guide for LWML Grant #8, “Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide - \$100,000” is included. Look for additional photos of some of the men who have been in this program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis on the LWML bulletin board. LWML Grant #25, “Bringing God’s Word to India,” has been paid. See the following news release.

NEWS RELEASE:

2023–2025 LWML Mission Grant #25 Bringing God's Word to India — India Bible Translation Project — \$100,000

Thank you for your generous mite offerings to support LWML Mission Grant #25 “Bringing God’s Word to India.”

Dr. Paul Dasari met with Lutheran Women in Mission President Eden Keefe at the LWML Office, and was presented with a check for the first portion of the mission grant for the India Bible Translation Project.

About this grant:

Thirty-two million Christians living in India do not have access to a study Bible in their own language that has abundant, doctrinally sound study notes, and commentary to help in understanding God’s Word. The India Bible Translation Project’s mission is to publish the study notes and commentary from The Lutheran Study Bible into the Tamil and Telugu language. This grant will provide funds to complete the translation work. With The Lutheran Study Bible translated in their heart language, indigenous Indian pastors, seminarians, and members of Lutheran churches in India and Sri Lanka will be better able to understand and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Indian Lutheran Study Bible will be a great blessing to the members of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church and Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka.





Advanced Theological Education for International Students

We rejoice knowing that in a number of countries, Christianity, including Lutheranism, is growing, and increased numbers of people are being reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ. However, ensuring the continued spread of the Gospel overseas with informed interpretation of Scripture according to Lutheran doctrine is highly dependent on addressing the significant shortage of well-formed pastors in several countries. Many nations have few seminary professors with advanced-level theological educations. The consequence is that these countries' Lutheran church bodies are unable to adequately train and produce well-formed pastors. They see Concordia Seminary as the gold standard. A seminary is where you send someone to prepare them to serve their church in a meaningful way. They know Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has over 180 years of experience in quality theological education. They look at the history and see the results.

Concordia Seminary is committed to addressing this concern to further the Great Commission with its Graduate School's ongoing acceptance and preparation of highly qualified international students. Most of these students, after earning their advanced theological degrees, will become master and doctorate level professors at their countries' seminaries. They will assume key roles in raising up the next generation of pastors to proclaim the Gospel among their people. They also will serve as leaders involved in further organizing and growing their church bodies, helping ensure that those living in every region of their nations will hear and learn of the wonderful message of salvation through Christ.

The Graduate School provides high-level theological learning via an interactive seminar format that includes frequent discussion and exchange of information, concepts, and opinions. Foreign students have shared their education not just academically, but there is a deeper spiritual engagement in these courses as well. The Seminary faculty make themselves available outside the classroom. They engage the students by talking with them and learning from them. The foreign students attend chapel and participate in numerous seminary conferences.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20).

2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 8

EXPANDING GOSPEL PROCLAMATION WORLDWIDE

CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI | \$100,000

Advanced Theological Education for International Students

PRAYER #1

Dear heavenly Father, as international students come to grow in their knowledge of You, please empower them with Your Word and Sacraments to complete the task which is ahead of them. Please guide and protect them so that they can return to their home countries and spread the knowledge of You that they have learned at Concordia Seminary. Make them bold witnesses and powerful educators wherever they serve You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER #2

Lord, we thank You for these willing servants who have heard the call to be equipped to share the Good News with the people of their home countries. Please bless their ability to learn and grow at Concordia Seminary. Continue to watch over them and their professors as they are prepared to further Your kingdom. You know their needs and will provide for them. Strengthen them through Your Word and Spirit and send them out to comfort and strengthen others with Your Word. In Your name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER #3

Heavenly Father, the funds from this grant will do wonderful things around the world by the training that international pastors will receive while attending Concordia Seminary. May the hearts and minds of the future pastors they will train at home be open to Your Holy Word. Equip them for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ, and spreading the word about salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER #4

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for the opportunity to be part of spreading Your Word around the world. The significant financial reality is that most of the global students are from developing countries whose church bodies do not have the funds to send them abroad to study. We are grateful for the opportunity to assist with the funding of their advanced education. We know that the world will be transformed by hearing Your Word from the returning pastors in their own countries and mighty things can happen as God's Word is shared. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Go therefore and
make disciples
of all nations,
baptizing them in
the name of the
Father and of the
Son and of the Holy
Spirit, teaching
them to observe
all that I have
commanded you.
And behold, I am
with you always, to
the end of the age
(Matthew 28:19–20).*

MARCH

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings. Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from LWML at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!



1. For a clean heart (Psalm 51:10).
2. For LWML Mission Grant #6.
3. For China, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For the work you do.
5. For things that make you smile or laugh (Psalm 68:3).
6. For the Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Communication.
7. For the country of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).
8. For the LWML Mid-South District.
9. For trials that strengthen and refine you (James 1:2-4).
10. For your basic needs.
11. For the country of Cuba.
12. For wisdom (James 1:5).
13. For government and world leaders.
14. For church leaders.
15. For the Czech Republic.
16. For the LWML Gulf States District.
17. For your family.
18. For the city/community where you live.
19. For the Dominican Republic.
20. For friends who are nonbelievers.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #7.
22. For your coworkers.
23. For the country of Ecuador.
24. For the persecuted.
25. For your enemies (Matthew 5:44).
26. For the country of Egypt.
27. For the missions of your church.
28. For those in nursing home facilities.
29. For those who clean and maintain your church.
30. For those facing life changes.
31. For those with serious illness.



2664 North 68th Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

The Pilgrim Way
March 2024

SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICE: 9:30am

Midweek Lenten Services – Wednesday 11:00am & 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday (3/28) 11:00am & 7:00pm (Communion)

Good Friday (3/29) 1:00pm & 7:00pm

Easter Sunday (3/31) 10:00am

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jonathan W. Rusnak

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Pilgrim is here by God's grace to serve our neighbor with Christ's love.