Ordinarily, when we think of Old Testament prophecies of the birth of Christ, we have in mind specific verses such as, “The virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14); “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6); and “From you [O Bethlehem] shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days” (Micah 5:2). These direct prophecies point clearly to the coming of Jesus as the Savior Messiah.

But in addition to these wonderful verses, Jesus teaches us that, in fact, the entire Old Testament prophesies about Him—“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:27). “For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away” (2 Corinthians 3:14). “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me” (John 5:39). All of the Bible is about Jesus. From the very beginning of creation, the ways God interacts with His people give us living symbols that foreshadow and foretell Jesus’ advent among us in the flesh. As the hymn puts it: “For deep in prophets’ sacred page, And grand in poets’ winged word, Slowly in type, from age to age The nations saw their coming Lord. (LSB 810:2)

The various “types” in the Old Testament point to a complete fulfillment in Jesus. He is the perfect Israel and the culmination of its divinely given institutions. He is the embodiment of the Scriptures, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The Old Testament is not just a historical record; it was and continues to be the active, Spirit-filled Word of God that proclaims Christ to us.

The Advent sermons in this series focus on three particular Old Testament narratives that serve as symbols of Jesus’ coming to share in our humanity: the burning bush, the cloud in the tabernacle, and the call of Gideon. The Christmas sermon then focuses on how the narrative of Jesus’ birth is no fairy tale but a true story that also foretells the purpose of Jesus’ incarnation. Jesus takes on our flesh so that He might die in the flesh for our sins and be raised bodily for our justification (Romans 4:25). All of Scripture finds its culmination and fulfillment in Him. May God the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bless our meditation this season on Him who is the Word made flesh!

**Advent One Midweek:** The burning bush foretells the time when the Son of God would descend to this world again and take on our human nature in order to deliver us from our enemies. Sermon: “Old Testament Christmas” *Exodus 3:1–14.*
Advent Two Midweek: The Son of God, who once dwelt among His people in a tent made of animal skins, has made His eternal dwelling place among us in our human skin in order to bring us back to life with God. Sermon: “The Lord Sets Up His Tent Among Us” Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38.

Advent Three Midweek: By means of the weakest and least, the Lord, as one man, conquers our enemies and rescues us. Sermon: “You Shall Defeat Them as One Man” Judges 6:11–24; (7:2–9).


Throughout the series, we will use an original hymn, “O Great I AM,” with a text by David Rogner:

O great I AM, almighty Word,
Whose saving deeds were seen and heard
Among Your people Israel,
Come now to us, and ever dwell.

Appearing in a bush of flame,
You called on Moses to proclaim
Deliv’rance from captivity
And lead Your people through the sea.

You dwelt amidst the wand’ring band
And led them to the Promised Land;
Your presence hovered, as a cloud,
Your glory filled the tent of God.

You chose the weak and gave them might
To conquer in the mortal fight,
Then took on flesh to draw our breath,
Meek child, yet victor over death.

O Word Incarnate, Christ of God,
Partaker of our flesh and blood,
Be in our midst and always dwell
As Savior, Lord, Immanuel.

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Ron and Betty Benz 12/7
David and Debra Kneib 12/17
Roger and Coralie Pierson 12/26
A Prayer for Waukesha, Wisconsin

Collect Form:

P: Most merciful Father, with compassion You hear the cries of Your people in great distress, especially those who suffer physically, emotionally, and spiritually in the aftermath of the events in Waukesha. Be with all who now endure affliction and calamity and comfort the families of those who mourn those who died in this tragedy. Bless the work of those who bring rescue and relief, help and healing to those are broken and bruised. Grant the pastors and people of our congregations in the area to be a bright light of hope in this midst of such darkness. Enable us to aid and comfort those who are suffering in our own community that they may find renewed hope and purpose as we point this and future generations to Jesus; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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 Mahinke 12/25
Pam Wilkiewicz 12/25
Scott Christensen 12/29

PCDC From Niki Strege - The children and staff are looking forward to celebrating the upcoming holidays. The Parent Sunshine Committee is organizing a Thanksgiving Lunch for the staff this week to show their love and support for PCDC. The teachers are already planning for a door decorating contest in December, the PCDC Board members are organizing a Christmas party to celebrate the birth of Jesus together with the staff, and there is already a bit of Christmas music playing in a few rooms! Praise the Lord for this time of celebration and togetherness. We are truly thankful for Pilgrim and PCDC!

From Stephanie Gehm: A HUGE THANK YOU to the volunteers who helped with the PCDC Workday on November 20th. PCDC was so grateful for their help in cleaning and clearing out so much space at the Center! To God be the Glory!
LUMIN From Kimberly Springer - Pilgrim Lutheran School is off to a great school year!

We are blessed that we are able to safely return to full in-person schooling this year and were beyond excited for the opportunity to disciple and educate 235 scholars. Our team at Pilgrim Lutheran School is a combination of 22 new and returning high quality educators that are aligned with our mission to spread the word of God and create servant leaders in our community. We are especially grateful for our partnership with Pastor Jon who leads weekly chapel for our staff and scholars. It is the highlight of our week to be able to praise the Lord in His house rather than over Zoom this year! Pastor Jon also led our team in a beautiful chapel service to start the year where he conducted a blessing for our entire staff and reinstalled Jessica Rupprecht, our K4 teacher called to service at Pilgrim Lutheran School.

God is so good and continues to bless our work within LUMIN Schools. This past Spring LUMIN Schools underwent the process to renew our accreditation. In doing so, we earned the Schools of Distinction Award by Cognia, our accrediting agency. Each year Cognia identifies schools and systems worldwide that best exemplify excellence in education and stand out in the way they serve their scholars and communities. LUMIN Schools is the only network/system in the state of Wisconsin to be recognized under this award this year! We are also excited to share the returning of our Opportunity Academy and Royal Ambassadors Program. The Opportunity Academy serves as a career exploration program for our scholars and sets out to ensure that our scholars have the skills and experiences to find success beyond 8th grade and lead like Jesus in all facets of their lives.

Looking to donate? As the winter season approaches, we are always looking for extra hats, mittens, and coats to ensure our scholars stay warm and healthy! Any donations are greatly appreciated so we can stock our Caring Closet for the cold season ahead of us. If interested place in the box in the Church parlor by the restrooms or give to the Usher to take down.

Thankoffering

At the September Voter’s meeting we passed a resolution to donate $50,000 to various entities in response to the blessings God has bestowed on our congregation, especially the forgiveness of our PPP loan. One of those entities was to be an LCMS church based in the inner city. In consultation with the South Wisconsin District Office it was recommended that we consider Mission of Christ Lutheran Church, located at 9th and Center, to be the recipient of our final donation.

On Thursday Nov 11th Pastor Rusnak and I met with Rev Dennis Harmon, who also serves Hope Lutheran, and Darryl Winston who is the President of Mission of Christ. We spent about forty-five minutes with them and had a very pleasant conversation, learning more about how they serve the community in that neighborhood. Some of those ways include the Free at Last ministry, whose purpose is to re-integrate parolees into the community, a food and clothing pantry, and youth ministry at the SOS Center at 47th and North. In addition, Mission of Christ and Hales Corners Lutheran are partnering to try and establish a food store on a vacant lot at 20th and Center to provides fresh produce and home economic classes to facilitate healthy eating habits in the community. All of these efforts to serve also include ministry with the Word of God. Mission of Christ was started in 1979 as a way to serve the black Lutheran community when Immanuel Lutheran Church merged with St Peter Lutheran in 1973 and moved to the far northwest side. We were well impressed with Pastor Harmon and Mr Winston and the enthusiasm and vision they have to serve this area of Milwaukee. Perhaps Pilgrim can continue this relationship in the years to come and possibly share in their work through volunteer opportunities and/or ongoing financial support. A check for $5,000 has been sent to them as the final portion of our mission commitment enacted at that September Voter’s meeting. Thank you for your support of the mission initiatives of our Synod and your desire to serve others with the gifts God has given us.

Gary Mueller
President
Why not give gift cards as gifts this Christmas? Scrip has a large inventory that includes some $5 cards and also $100 cards with many steps in between! Think of $5 Starbucks, Barnes & Noble (both also in $10, $25), Arby’s $10, also Burger King, Noodles, Cousins, Dairy Queen, Boston Market, and Taco Bell. $25 restaurants include Applebee’s, Cheesecake Factory, Chilli’s/Magiano’s, Olive Garden, Panera (also $10), Red Lobster, Qdoba, Texas Roadhouse, TGI Friday’s. Also $25 Speedway and Kwik Trip as well as BP at $50. General use cards in the $25 range are Amazon, Ace Hardware, Bath & Body, Gap, Target, Walmart, and Whole Foods. Our Scrip supplier, Great Lakes Scrip Company has many hundreds more cards available for order. Questions? Call Sue at (414) 476-7612. You may leave a message. PLEASE NOTE: Orders placed after December 13, are not guaranteed to be delivered by Christmas, if I need to order them. So, order early!

FUNERAL PLANNING. As you know, our plan to discuss funeral planning included room for both theological considerations as well as practical considerations. On November 14, we focused on the first part. We discussed the theological truths about the role of funerals. If you would like a hard copy of the Lutheran Witness issue we read, please contact Pastor. Since we did not yet cover the second part, the practical considerations for funeral planning, let’s plan to meet again on Sunday, December 5 around 10:15am. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our risen and reigning Lord, Jesus Christ!

VOTERS’ MEETING. Our next quarterly Voters’ Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 12. The meeting will be called to order after worship that day, around 10:15am. One of the topics we will discuss is our Sunday morning schedule. At our last Voters’ Meeting, it was mentioned that the 8am Bible Study on Sundays is too early for many of our members, some of whom would otherwise like to attend. So, we will make a change. The Board of Elders will offer two options for you to consider: A) we could return to the previous schedule of 9am worship, 10am fellowship, and 10:15am/10:30am Bible Study or B) we could shift our current schedule by one hour to 9am Bible Study, 10am worship, and 11am fellowship. Please attend and join the conversation as we make a decision.

BIRTHDAY FOR JESUS celebration will be on December 19. We will meet downstairs (around 10:15am) following the Divine Service. All are invited to stay for the Sunday School Christmas program, bingo, games, crafts and cake. Hope to see you there!

From Diane Kosbab - Our Pilgrim Lutheran Women’s Missionary League would like to thank you for your generous door offering in October of almost $190, that helped fund the two grants below. Our big Mite box is on the table in the narthex always looking to be fed. Monies collected will next go to help build a church in Nigeria.

On October 12, the 6th grant to POBLO was mailed. ON NOVEMBER 9, 2021, THE 7TH GRANT WAS PAID. Yet another circumstance where GOD PROVES HIS FAITHFULNESS as we strive to be His hands and feet in building the kingdom. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation check for $12,000 will be used to translate, print and distribute 1,000 Lutheran books to those in Muslim communities. Thank you, for your diligence in "feeding your mite boxes", and thank you, treasurers, for your timely mailing in of the result.

Grant #8 takes us to Asaba, Delta State Nigeria where our mites will assist this fledgling congregation to complete a place of worship. Pastor Chris Ikanih and Joy Ikanih, of Bethany LC, Milwaukee, have been faithful in reaching out to residents there and have come to the time of establishing a church building among their midst. Pray that our mites will be a blessing and mighty encourager to Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church Asaba, Delta State Nigeria.

During the month of December we encourage you to donate to LUMIN’s request for hat’s, gloves and coats.
O Give Thanks unto the Lord, for He Is Good, and His Mercy Endures Forever!

We give thanks to the Lord for all His mercies to us! This week we are especially thankful to the Lord for our completed Mongolian work visas! We have been assured by UPS that our passports (with our new Mongolian visas in them) will be back to us from the Mongolian Embassy by 7pm tonight! Tomorrow, we will celebrate Thanksgiving with family (including Julia!) in Wisconsin, and on Friday we will fly out for Mongolia!

We are also thankful to the Lord for YOU! We know that many of you have been lifting us up in prayer throughout our extended time in the United States. Likewise, so many of you have been extra supportive financially as we faced unexpected needs with travel and the like. We treasure our partnership in the mission!

Please keep us in your prayers as we travel this weekend.
- Praise God with us for our approved visas!
- Praise God for a travel itinerary that gets us back to Mongolia for the first Sunday in Advent!
- Pray that our passports are delivered by UPS by tonight.
- Pray that our PCR tests (required for travel) would be negative, and that we would receive the results before check-in at the airport.
- Pray that there would be no delays in our travels.
- Please pray for our readjustment to life and ministry in Mongolia. We have a lot of changes ahead as we move to Western Mongolia, to a new stage in our ministry. May the Lord prepare both us and those we will serve among!

God’s blessings on your Thanksgiving celebrations!

In Jesus’ hands,
The Baker Family

Poinsettia Order

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. 68th Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. Deadline December 19, 2021. Any questions, you may contact Mrs. Helen Meyer at (414) 445–2775.

Name ________________________________

Telephone ________________________________

_____ Red _____ White _____ Marble _____ Jingle Bell at $12.00 each.

Total Amount Enclosed $ ___________

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

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