



# Pilgrim's Progress Keeping in Touch Issue 32

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 2155 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur, Illinois 62526

"Where the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God"



Home of



217.877.2444

NOVEMBER 20, 2020

**PASTORS:** Brock Abbott  
William Abbott

#### Staff

Patti Newlin, Office Manager  
Kay Tolly, Youth Director  
Judy Tish, Secretary  
Lucas Abbott, Custodian

e-mail: [plc@pilgrimlutherandecatur.org](mailto:plc@pilgrimlutherandecatur.org)

website: [www.pilgrimlutherandecatur.org](http://www.pilgrimlutherandecatur.org) and  
[www.unitedlutheranmission.org](http://www.unitedlutheranmission.org) and  
[www.waltherseminary.org](http://www.waltherseminary.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Patti Newlin

**Newsletter Deadline:** 9 A.M. Wednesday

**Patti's office is open: Mon-Thurs 7 a.m. to Noon  
and 1 to 4 p.m. and Friday 7 a.m. to Noon.**

**Reservations are accepted 8:00 a.m. Mondays  
through 2 p.m. Thursdays each week. You may  
call me (Patti) at 877-2444 OR email me at  
[plc@pilgrimlutherandecatur.org](mailto:plc@pilgrimlutherandecatur.org)**

**HELP MAKE MORE PEWS AVAILABLE . . .**

**Families...**if all family members are agreeable ask  
for a seat for parents and children, grandparents,  
etc.

**Singles and Couples...**if other members are  
agreeable make one reservation for your group.

**When you make** a reservation I need to know how  
many people are sitting together and the names.

**I cannot guarantee a particular pew.** The pews are  
set up for various numbers of people and I need to  
stick with that guideline.

Thank you for your cooperation. —Patti Newlin

#### COMING UP

Fridays: 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. sanctuary reserved  
11/25 NO Midweek School or Confirmation Classes  
due to holiday.  
11/26 Thanksgiving Service On-line  
11/29 8:00, 10:00 and 12:00 Worship  
9:15-9:50 Sunday School  
9:15-9:50 Adult Bible Study  
11:15-11:50 Adult Bible Study  
.....God willing.....

#### OUR RESPONSE TO CALVARY 11/20

General Fund: 11,276.05  
Memorials Dale Workman: 150  
Memorials Bill Dondeville: 50  
Loose/Thanksgiving food gift cards: 1,125.00  
Walther Theological Seminary: 280  
Total: 12,881.05



#### TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST:

This has been a most humbling, rejoicing, roller  
coaster ride God has chosen us to experience. I  
would not be truthful if I said "it's ok" because it's  
not ok. But God has given us the gift of life through  
salvation with him, and the gift here on earth of the  
love of all of you. Thank you from our family for  
your cards, kind words, shared tears and memories



of Dale. The comfort we have from them is yet another miracle.

— Love, Linda and family

#### TO ALL OUR PILGRIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, and messages concerning brother Dale's earthly departure to join his Lord and Savior in Heaven. He was steadfast in his faith and a powerful witness to the end. The support received from our faith family has been both tremendous and humbling. Words cannot express how much you mean to us, we love you all!!

#### TO PASTORS BROCK AND BILL

Thank you for calling on Dale and comforting him with Holy Scriptures, Communion, and prayer. The grave side service and message was very comforting to us. We are all truly blessed to have such loving and dedicated shepherds.

— Ted and Linda Sue Workman

#### 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Many members are not coming to church due to Covid.

I need to get 2021 offering envelopes to our members.

I am trying to lessen the time and the expense of postage that will result from mailing offering envelopes.

1. Those of you who are attending in-church services will see your offering envelopes on tables in the narthex. They are spaced so you can pick up your box without touching the other boxes.

2. All the offering boxes of members who are not attending in-church services, are in my office. I am asking that when you are out for an appointment or picking up meds or groceries, etc. please stop by the church and collect your offering box. If you don't want to come inside just give me a call (877-2444) and I will leave your offering envelopes in the outside mail box for you.

3. I realize some people may not be able to come to Pilgrim. Any offering boxes left at the end of December, I will begin mailing out.

#### USHERS:

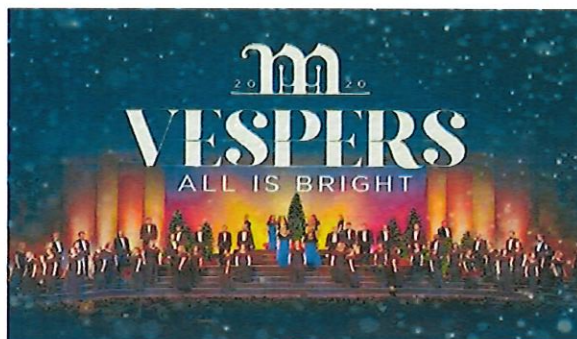
11/29

8:00 Jim M. Snow

10:00 Mark Thompson

12:00 John Wainwright

**MITE OFFERINGS for NOVEMBER** go to **Bethesda Lutheran Communities**. Pilgrim members, women AND men are encouraged to use a mite offering box to collect their coins. Return your mite box to the church office at your convenience. Thank-you.



From Brad Holmes, Director of Choir Programs, Millikin University:

#### 2020 MILLIKIN VESPERS "All Is Bright"

For over sixty years, Millikin University has welcomed members of the community onto campus for Vespers at Millikin, our annual celebration of the season. Every year I hear of those who attend Vespers together with their entire church choir or Sunday School class.

This year's Vespers will be a virtual concert, an on-line event featuring the best moments from the last five years of television broadcasts. Additionally, this year's students have put together "virtual choir" selections to add to the pre-recorded program. It is their way of saying, 'We are still here and we look forward to the day when we can share our music face to face.'

We want all to join us and help us continue the tradition, building a bridge to that time when we will again gather on campus for this wonderful community event.

#### The concert information is:

Vespers at Millikin will be available for live stream viewing:

**December 5 at 7 p.m. and**

**December 6 at 2 p.m.**

No ticket is required.

#### To attend the concert go to

<https://millikin.edu/> OR

<https://www.facebook.com/MillikinUniversity/>

#### FREE YARN

"Nice size bag" of Macrame yarn in assorted colors...free.

Call Bonnie Propst 521-6581 if interested.

## Patricia Newlin

---

**From:** Patti Zeck <pzeck4055@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 3:07 PM  
**Subject:** SERVICE UPDATE

From Church Office: 11-17-20

UPDATE 11/17/2020

Dear Pilgrim Brothers and Sisters,

As many of you know, the Macon County Health Department is asking churches to be virtual at least through January 15 as Covid-19 cases continue to rise. Meanwhile, nothing has changed on the Illinois Department of Public Health website regarding faith-based organizations.

Since June, we have been offering in-person services with the highest possible regard for safety. We have been following the Illinois Department of Health guidelines for faith-based organizations. Also, our members have been incredibly cooperative and have been very careful to abstain from coming to church when they do not feel well. They follow all the rules when they are here. We have not had a known incident where someone with Covid-19 has attended any of our services or classes.

Consequently, we have decided to continue to hold our in-person services and classes unless something indicates that we should do otherwise. So, nothing will change with what we are presently doing.

We will monitor the situation in Macon County and in our own parish. We will, for now, refrain from expanding our in-person opportunities.

For those of you who would like to give thanks to God for his gifts, especially for the forgiveness of sins in the blood of Jesus, we will be offering an online Thanksgiving service in which you will be able to find on our PLC website. We will not be conducting in-person or online Midweek Advent services due to logistics.

Again, everything else will continue as it has since June. To repeat what we have repeatedly said, it is recommended by many public guidelines that people who are older, or who have medical conditions should avoid a congregate setting. You are not sinning against God if you choose not to come, nor will your pastors be hurt or think less of you. Again, there is no reason why you should feel guilty if you choose not to attend. Go with your "gut," while understanding that there are no guarantees in Scripture that church going Christians are immune from catching COVID-19 and dying.

Beloved, we pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your souls! We send you our love and prayers in Christ, who shed his blood, died, and rose from the dead and ascended into heaven that we might rise and live with him in his eternal kingdom!

Your Servants,  
Pr. Brock and Pr. Bill

*"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

11/22 Gary Driskell; Stan Lange

11/23 Stacey Apel

W Larry & Ilene Henrichsmeyer 29 yrs

11/24 Peyton Ruwe

11/25 W Gene & Linda Wise 53 yrs

11/26 Dean McMillen; Bryce Turner;

W Dick & Judy Arnold 66 yrs

11/27 Megan Wooters

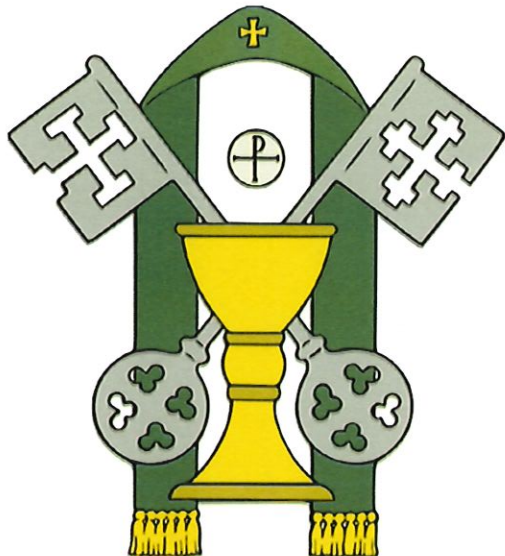
11/28 Alex Maddox

W Tim & Lynette White 39 yrs

11/29 William Bork; Emily Musgrove

11/30 Betty Potrafka





**Forgiven 2021**

**Higher Things Youth Conference**

**Calvin University Grand Rapids, MI**

**July 20-23, 2021**

**If you are interested in attending this conference please contact me by December 1.**  
**You are not obligated to attend at this point but I need an idea of who is interested.**  
**Kay Tolly call or text 358-4401 or email me at kt2155@gmail.com**

"If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven." (John 20:23)

"I forgive you." The three most powerful words in the universe. They don't just change the universe for someone. They change someone's eternity. They change your eternity!

From His Cross, Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). His once-for-all death is yours, made yours, and is delivered into your ears, your heart, soul, mind, and strength with those three words: "I forgive you." His resurrection from the dead is also yours. Not just yours in your Baptism—once is never enough for Jesus—the forgiveness (justification, innocent verdict) of His resurrection is also made yours through those words: "I forgive you." Jesus delivers through those words all the benefits of His death and resurrection to all who hear and believe them; "He who by grace the Word believes The purchase of His blood receives" (LSB 614:6).

Forgiveness of sins in His Name is everything to Jesus. He sends out pastors to deliver those three eternity-changing words all over the world. He sends your pastor to deliver them to you. If you have sins, even a specific sin, your pastor's there to deliver Jesus' forgiveness for it. It's not just your pastor, either. You, too—yes, you! You were baptized and gifted all the people in your life so that "if your brother sins against you seven times a day and returns to you seven times saying, 'I repent,' you will forgive him" (Luke 17:4).

"I forgive you." Powerful words. Jesus' words. His words for you through "The minister whom Christ has sent" (LSB 614:5). Also His words for others through you. These words won't just change your summer or transform your daily life as a baptized child of God. With these three words, Jesus changes your eternity.