



Pilgrim's Progress Keeping in Touch Issue 51



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

2155 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur, Illinois 62526

“Where the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God”



December 22, 2024

Rev. Brock Abbott
Rev. Bill Abbott

Staff:

Kay Tolly, Youth Director
Beth Abbott, Jenn Killion, Office Managers
Judy Tish, Secretary
Lucas Abbott, Custodian

Church Office: 217-877-2444

e-mail: plc@pilgrimlutherandecatur.org

websites:

www.pilgrimlutherandecatur.org
www.unitedlutheranmission.org
www.waltherseminary.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Sanctuary is reserved from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.

OUR RESPONSE TO CALVARY 12/15

General Fund: 20,967.00
Christian Sharing: 9.00
Sunday School: 11.00
CDs: 15.00
Angel Tree: 2,595.00
Donuts: 83.00
ULMA: 120.00
Total: 23,800.00

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

12/24 7:00 Christmas Eve Worship
12/25 9:00 Christmas Day Worship
12/26 8:00 Quilters
1/3 6:00 PKC/PYC Frenzied Friday

MITE OFFERINGS... ALL Pilgrim members are encouraged to use a mite offering box to collect their coins. Return your mite box at your convenience. **DECEMBER** mites will go to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE

12/15 Sun 8:00 service: 108
Sun 10:45 service: 93
Adult Bible Class: 110
12/15 Sunday School N3-Gr. 12: 15
12/18 Wednesday 10:30 Bible Class: 39
12/18 Wednesday 12:00 Advent service: 60
12/18 Wednesday 7:00 Advent service: 32



Offering Envelopes
2025 Offering Envelopes are available on the tables in the narthex. Please begin using them in January 2025. Pick yours up today!



The year-end cut-off date for 2024 contributions is Sunday, December 29, 2024.

SERVING THE LORD

Communion Assistant/Acolyte 12/29 Sunday

8:00 Gary Quandt 10:45 Greg Collingwood

Ushers 12/24 Christmas Eve 7:00 Stan Lange's

Team 12/25 Christmas Day 9:00 Tim White's
Team 12/29 Sunday 8:00 Tim White; Derek
Ames; Mark Ames; Scott Perry; Cory Ritter; Ron
Kelm 10:45 Stan Lange; Craig Goeppinger; Bob
Meadows; Steve Musgrove; Dave Pressley; Gary
Winchester

Coffee Servers 12/29 Sunday Kathy Fulk; Ron
Kelm

Financial Counters 12/29 Sunday John Mickler;
Ellis V. Buth; Dain Friend; Paul Zeck

Communion Set-Up/Clean-Up 12/29 Sunday

Karen Svendsen; Nancy Jacobs; Melinda Hiser;
Jane Martin; Carrie Thompson

Greeters 12/24 Christmas Eve 7:00 Doug Lueck;

Jim Snow 12/25 Christmas Day 9:00 Doug &
Vicky Lueck 12/29 Sunday 8:00 Harvey & Ruth
Ann Thompson; Smitha Jeyaseelan & Ivan
Jayakar 10:45 Gary & Mary Ann Driskell

DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 12/22 Jennifer Gensler; Joe Wisner
12/24 Dave Pangrac; Donna Phillips
Wayne & Barbara Buesking (70 years)
12/26 Gloria Parton
12/28 Jim & Carrie Snow (28 years)
12/29 Greg & Lesa Mills (40 years)
12/30 Mark Thompson; Ted Workman
12/31 Carol Allen; Mike Bunch; Ashley Lofland;
Marilyn Mills

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1/1 Greg Collingwood
Ron & Carolyn Wagner (43 years)
1/3 Mark Ames; Wendy Bickes;
Phyllis Kunzeman; Zofia Wegmann
1/6 Coline Ganley
1/7 Debbie Hoffman
1/10 Tara Martin
1/11 Erin Ripple; Karen Svendsen
1/13 Diane Jones; Darlene Lear

- 1/15 Makenna Haksasila
1/16 Blake Luka; Glenda Sinnard
1/17 Suzanne Heinkel
1/20 Celia Ritter; John Wainwright
1/22 Steve Gensler; Tim Laesch; Rita Wise
1/23 Jane Martin
1/24 Pat Abbott; Ellis Buth
1/25 Cathy Anderson; Bob Ellis; Shirley McMillen;
Brad Saul
1/26 Jared Potrafka
1/27 Don Mast
1/28 Mila Coers
1/30 Nora Kinney; Jordan Letterly; River Lofland;
Pete Williams

12.22.2024 LESSON 2



This week's lesson is "Lost-and-Found Wonders." Jesus shares three parables demonstrating our heavenly Father's concern for the lost. The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep to seek one that was lost. A woman sweeps the house to find one of ten silver coins. In the parable of the lost son, a young man squanders his inheritance, ending up in squalor. Determined to plead for his father's mercy and beg to return as a servant, the son instead receives a celebration. Angered at his father's welcome for the prodigal, the older son confronts his father. The father's gentle response reassures the young man of the father's everlasting love and care.

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*To our brothers and sisters in Christ,
Thank you for all the kind words and
cards of sympathy at the passing of my
dad, Charlie Kilzer. What a great
source of comfort and strength. Again,
thank you.*

*Blessings,
Allen, Kathy & Parker*





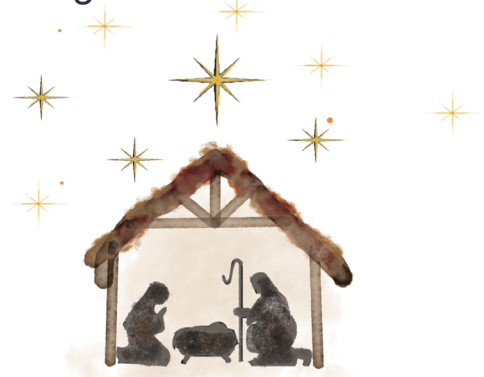
We have an opportunity during this Advent season to respond to God's gift ... His Son ... by giving a gift of love for those in our Faith Family who need our help and support.

In the narthex, at the north wall, is our **ANGEL TREE**. If you wish to participate, it's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Take one of the "angel" envelopes and put your gift inside.
2. Write your name on the envelope and place it in a church offering box.
3. Select an angel ornament and put it on the tree.

Let's fill the tree with angels in response to our love for our Savior and our Pilgrim members in need.

Blessed Christmas
from the Pastors and staff
of Pilgrim Lutheran Church!



*Thanks be unto God
for his inexpressible gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, ESV



HIGHLIGHTS

- 12 Nights Lodging
- 12 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 7 Dinners
- Luxury Motorcoach by Timi's Tours
- Travel Insurance Included (may be additional Cost for certain pre-existing conditions)
- Gratuities for Guides and Bus Driver Included
- Hotel Luggage Handling where available
- Great Platte River Road Archway
- Golden Spike Tower
- National Museum of Military Vehicles
- Craig Thomas Discovery Center
- Grand Teton National Park with Guide
- Grand Teton Snake River Float Trip with Dinner
- Jackson Hole
- Yellowstone National Park with Guide

- Badlands National Park
- Grizzly Discovery Center
- Buffalo Bill Center of the Wests
- Free Time in Downtown Cody, WY
- Old Train Town
- The Cody Cattle Company Dinner/Show
- Cody Night Rodeo
- Black Hill Touring with Guide
- Mt. Rushmore
- Custer State Park
- Buffalo Safari Jeep Tour
- Crazy Horse Memorial
- Tatanks: Story of the Bison
- Free Time in Deadwood, SD
- Trial of Jack McCall
- Wall Drug & Corn Palace

Double Occupancy \$4860.00 per person**Triple Occupancy \$4309.00 per person.

Quad Occupancy \$2890.00 per personSingle Occupancy \$7250.00 per person

A deposit of \$1000.00 per person is required to hold your spot. Payments must be made on time and in keeping with the payment plan.

Payments Per Person 1/2 balance due January 15, 20251/2 balance (Final payment) due March 15, 2025
Contact Kay Tolly at 217-358-4401/ 217-877-2444 or email at kt2155@gmail.com for the itinerary and registration form. There's complete brochures on the tract rack where the sermons are.

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Where the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God

The Church Council at Pilgrim Lutheran Church is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of church custodian. This is a non-exempt position supervised by the senior Pastor and reporting to the Church Council.

Requirements for the successful candidate are:

- High School diploma or equivalent
- Prior custodial or janitorial experience preferred, but not required
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Strong attention to detail
- Good communication skills (friendly/non-confrontational)
- Ability to frequently lift and move heavy objects (up to 50 lbs.)
- Flexibility to work as needed for special events such as funerals, weddings, etc.
- Ability to adapt
- Ability to handle a continuing cycle of mess to clean
- Basic mathematics

Working conditions:

- The Church Custodian will work primarily indoors, but may be required to work outdoors for events, activities, or to assist with snow and ice abatement.
- The position will require working with cleaning chemicals and other potentially hazardous materials.

Working hours:

- Regular hours
 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday
 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday
- The Custodian is required to be onsite minimally for 28 hours and may take a 20-minute lunch break Monday through Thursday.
- No other breaks will be allowed during onsite hours
- If the custodian must come back, the minimum for “call in pay” will be two hours pay. For example, if you must come back to work for an hour, you receive two hours of pay. If you come back and work for three hours, you will receive three hours of pay. Hours will be reported to the senior Pastor via email, with an explanation of the hours over 28 per week. “Odd” hours may occur on Saturday and Sundays due to funerals, weddings, congregational events, etc. You will need to be flexible enough to come in after these events and redo any cleaning necessary. There are times when it will be necessary for the custodian to come early in the morning or in the evening.

Compensation Package:

- \$19/hour
- If work exceeds 40 hours per week, overtime will be paid at \$28.50/hour.

- Paid leave: 1 hour paid leave for every 40 hours worked up to 40 hours for a 12-month period. (Taken at a minimum of two-hour increments)
 - The custodian may front load paid leave at a pro rata amount consistent with the employee's work schedule.
 - Paid leave can be carried over from one year to the next.
 - Unused leave hours are not payable upon separation from the church
- Custodian will get paid mileage for use their personal vehicle for church business at the current government mileage rate.
- Social Security and Medicare taxes will apply
- The custodian will have access to the church's 401 (k) plan with no match or contribution by the church. All contributions to this plan will be by the custodian.
- The following holidays are granted with pay:
 - New Year's Day
 - Memorial Day
 - 4th of July
 - Labor Day
 - Thanksgiving Day
 - Christmas Day
- There will be a background check
- There is a 6-month probationary period.
- This position is subject to an annual performance review and possible compensation adjustments

Job Description includes the following but not limited to:

- Assist all volunteer members working in the church and accommodate them whenever possible. Assist all staff and pastors as needed.
- Custodian will be required to go through initial training and as needed.
- Clean and sanitize restrooms after church events and due to everyday usage.
- Clean, dust, and wipe furniture; sweep, mop, or vacuum floors/steps, buff hard surface floors, spot clean carpet; empty/clean wastebaskets and trash containers; replace light bulbs; refill restroom dispensers. (We currently use R. D. McMillan to strip and re wax floors and shampoo carpets.)
- Order/Stock Janitorial supplies and maintain supplies as needed throughout the church from R. D. McMillan. Purchase wine, milk, supplies at Sam's, and other necessary items as needed for worship services, office, kitchen, and special events, such as Rally Day.
- Set up for services, meetings, classrooms, conferences, events, funerals, weddings, Seminary, etc. This includes the moving of furniture, usually tables and chairs. In the case of weddings, the wedding party is to pay \$150 to the custodian for his/her work. The custodian will be working with funeral directors and will be exposed to the dead and must be sensitive to grieving families.
- Help manage storage in the church. The Custodian should know where items are in church and sheds.
- Clean walls and equipment as needed; use ladders when required. We call in an electrical service to change bulbs in Sanctuary and All-purpose room. However, bugs accumulate in the lower dish of Sanctuary lights and need to be cleaned.
- Lock and unlock building; secure building when facilities are not in use checking for unlocked doors and windows, turning off lights and coffee pots, making sure that fire doors are properly closed, reporting any unauthorized occupants, and reporting to church if the alarm system is triggered. The custodian is on the alarm system call list and can be contacted in the middle of the night or other non-business hours to come to the church facility.
- Follow instructions regarding the use of chemicals and supplies. Use as directed. The custodian must be able to follow material safety data sheets (MSDS).
- The custodian is responsible for maintaining MSDS.

- Perform cleaning and related activities such as removing snow or debris from sidewalks and stairs in areas within sixteen feet of the buildings using hand-operated tools or small power equipment. This may require an additional hour before church on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, or special services such as when there is snow. When there is ice, apply ice melt and shovel where necessary for staff and pastors to enter the office door.
- Move furniture, books, equipment, supplies and tools on an incidental basis.
- Wash accessible interior and exterior windows. Clean blinds. Launder cleaning rags and dust mops.
- Remove bugs in the facility as needed, clean windowsills weekly, check for cobwebs in all areas, and remove grime, spots, and stains where possible using proper chemicals. Dust and wax pews as needed.
- Direct outside maintenance workers and do minor maintenance such as assembling pieces of furniture, hanging pictures, adjusting clocks, replacing batteries, removing and installing replaceable ceiling tiles, etc.
- Reports and responds to emergency calls for custodial assistance such as a bathroom overflow, spills, leaks, etc.
- The custodian will isolate areas in the church for deep cleaning and careful examination weekly and will recommend improvements for the facility.
- Dust and vacuum offices once a week and remove trash daily from offices. The custodian does not have access to the inside of cabinets, filing cabinets, or computers of staff and pastors. There are some drawers and cabinets in which the custodian will have access to in the main office. These will be pointed out by the office manager.
- The “business” of the church is to remain confidential. If the custodian is caught reading material in offices, listening outside of the door, or rummaging through files and cabinets, he/she may be immediately terminated.

Employment will begin Monday, February 10, 2025.

Interested parties should apply via an application found online (www.pilgrimlutherandecatur.org) or at the church office. Please submit applications to the church office.

Questions may be directed to:

Pastor Brock Abbott 217-877-2444

John Mickler 217-433-0627

Allen Kilzer 217-855-2316

December 5, 2024