



Pilgrim's Progress Keeping in Touch Issue 6



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

2155 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur, Illinois 62526

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



February 8, 2026

Rev. Brock Abbott
Rev. Bill Abbott
Rev. Lucas Abbott

Staff:

Kay Tolly, Youth Director
Beth Abbott, Office Manager
Judy Tish, Secretary
Andy Apel, 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.

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 2/1

General Fund: 17,246.74

Walther Theological Seminary: 600.00

Memorials: 250.00

Loose: 90.00

Donuts: 64.00

Total: 18,250.74

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

2/8 12:15 Ladies' Guild Soup Luncheon

2/11 10:30 Bible Class

12:00 Wednesday Worship

4:15-6 Midweek Grades 1-6

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

2/12 8:00 Quilters

2/15 12:00-2:00 PKC Sunday FUNday

2/16 1:30 Ladies' Guild meeting to discuss PLC's 75th Anniversary. We need everyone's help!

5/16 5:00 Pilgrim's 75th Anniversary Dinner

More information coming soon!

ATTENDANCE

2/1 Sunday 8:00 service: 90

Sunday 10:45 service: 97

Adult Bible Class: 74

Sunday School N3-Gr. 12: 15

2/4 Wednesday 10:30 Bible Class: 35

Wednesday 12:00 service: 46

MITE OFFERINGS...ALL Pilgrim members are encouraged to use a mite offering box to collect their coins. **FEBRUARY** mites will go to United Lutheran Mission Association.

2025 year-end statements are available on the shelf in the Narthex!



SERVING THE LORD

Communion Assistants 2/15 Sunday 8:00 Tom Greenwood **10:45** Mark Thompson

Ushers 2/15 Sunday 8:00 Stan Lange; Will Bryan; Craig Goeppinger; Steve Musgrove; Dave Pressley; Gary Winchester **10:45** Tim White; Derek Ames; Mark Ames; Ted Lyons; Scott Perry; Cory Ritter; Mark Thompson

Communion Set up & Clean Up 2/15 Sunday Steve & Jennifer Gensler; Don & Jo-Anne Mast; Jane Martin

Coffee Servers 2/11 Wed Church Staff
2/15 Sunday Loren & Melinda Hiser

Financial Counters 2/15 Sunday Kevin Ripple; Bob Ellis; John Mickler

Greeters 2/15 Sunday 8:00 Allen, Kathy & Parker Kilzer **10:45** Byron & Nancy Brown



- 2/1 Jeff Spengler
- 2/2 Jason Leevy; B.J. Rotz; Nathan Scott
- 2/3 Steve Myrvold
- 2/5 Steve Musgrove
- 2/6 Bryant Bomball
- 2/7 Henry Ellison; Kenny Ripple; Luke Scott
- 2/8 Cory Ritter; Ron YaDeau
- 2/11 Jason Collingwood; Paul Giesler; Addison Rotz
- 2/12 Mike Williams
- 2/13 Smitha Jeyaseelan; Joseph Scott
- 2/14 Jennifer Bryan; Valerie Cotner; Courtney Taylor; Carolyn Wagner; Alex Wegmann Bob & Nancy Jacobs (61 years)
- 2/15 Greg Goebel; Aaron Norris
- 2/18 Ellis V. & Katie Buth (9 years)
- 2/19 Josiah Ohlwine; Ripken Rotz; Aldon Ruwe
- 2/21 Peg Musgrove; Bonnie Propst; Connie Searl; Lois YaDeau
- 2/24 Shannon Lanier
- 2/27 Kathy Helphrey; Cambell Lanier Steve & Jennifer Gensler (38 years)
- 2/28 Sarah Guhl; Sarah Marsaglia
- 2/29 Andy & Stacey Apel (10 years)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2.8.2026

Unit 2, Lesson 9

"The Wine Sign" is the lesson for this week. While Jesus and His mother are guests at a wedding in Cana, Mary asks Him to assist the wedding hosts, who have run out of wine. In Jesus' first recorded miracle, He changes a large volume of plain water into wine that is superior to what has already been served. Those who witnessed this miracle marvel at what He has done. Discuss, "What wonders does God still work through His people?"



PKC & PYC will be collecting spare change to support New Life Pregnancy Center through their "Change for Life" campaign.

You may pick up your bottle to fill at home or drop your change in the large plastic bottle provided.

The table with the bottles is located at the red door area.

Bottles must be returned by March 15.

Every coin helps support life and families in our community. Thank you for partnering with our children and youth in this meaningful project to support life.

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made... In your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me." ~Psalm 139:13-16

Thank You so very much to the Ladies' Guild for sending me so many Birthday cards, with gifts inside too, for my 8th Birthday! I had fun opening all of them!

Love,
River Lofland



Join Choir!

**Chancel Choir
&
Bell Choir**
rehearsals begin soon!

Chancel Choir:
Monday, February 16
at 4:30 p.m.

Bell Choir:
Thursday, February 19
at 4:30 p.m.



Mark your calendars! May 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m. More info coming soon!

The Ladies' Guild will be working on the upcoming dinner of the 75th anniversary of Pilgrim Lutheran Church! We are in need of help from the congregation. We want to hear stories from members about any memories you have from past years. It can be anything, such as: VBS, Fellowship Club, Mother/daughter banquets, Father/son banquets, Sports teams (bowling, baseball, basketball, softball, etc.) Who won all those trophies???, Forums, Evangelism, Choir directors (Who were some from the past?), PKC & PYC. Also: Pictures from the past! Does anyone have any pictures from the building of our church or the addition of the Sunday School wing or the all-purpose room and kitchen? We are scheduling a meeting to form some committees to help us with the above items and also with decorating. We will need some ideas and help with making decorations and any ideas you might have for them. Please join us on **Monday, February 16, 2026, at 1:30** for the first meeting. We need everyone's help! If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Kilzer or Linda M. Workman. Thank you!

Kathy Kilzer
Ladies' Guild Preside



PKC

February & March Activities

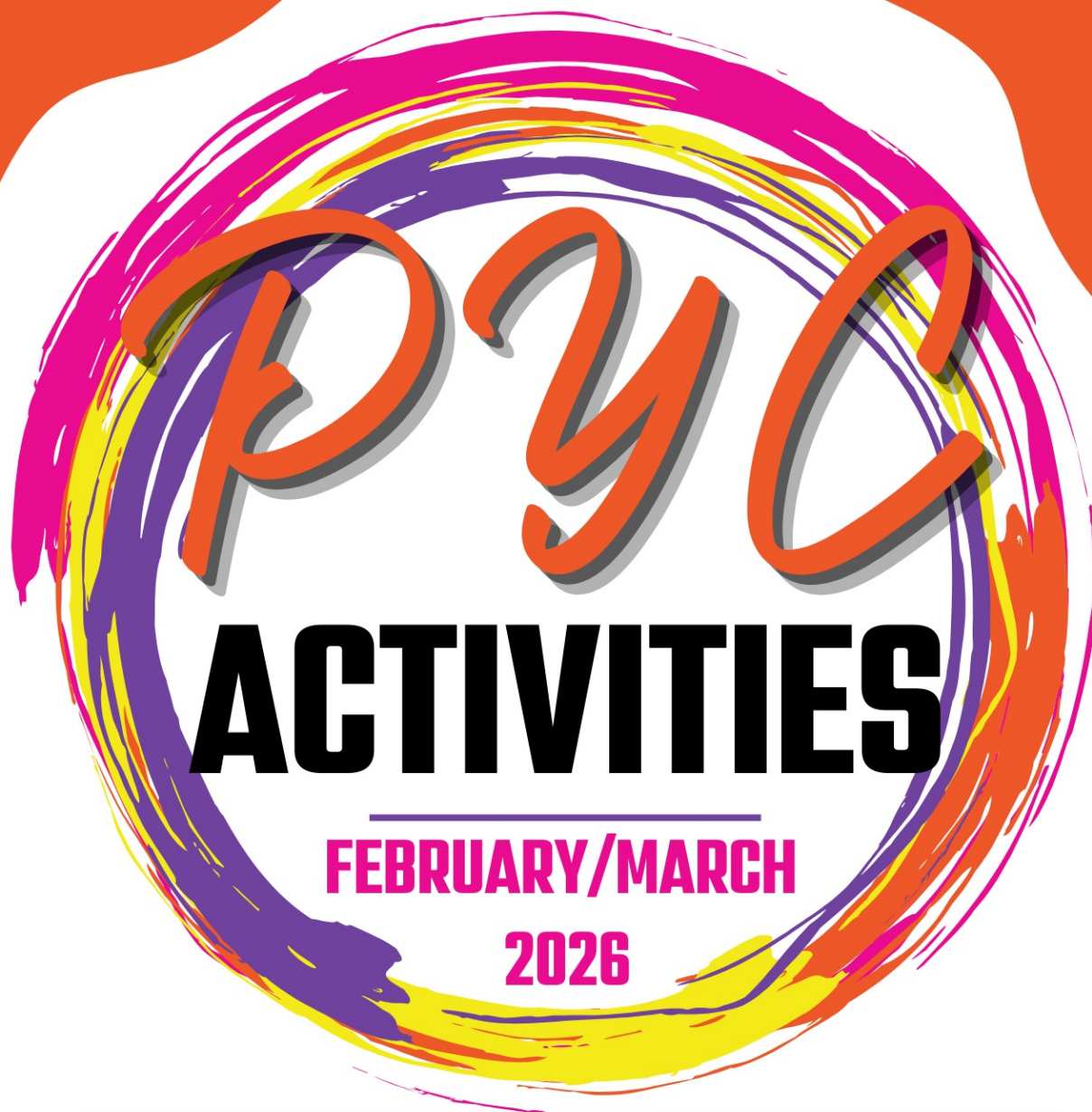
PKC is for 1-6 Grade and Family

- February 15--PKC Sunday FUNday! Noon-2
Lunch · Games · Friends · FUN! **SIGN UP BY 2/12**
- March 22--Bowling at Victory Lanes in Decatur
(More info to come) **SIGN UP BY 3/15**

Mark your calendar for VBS

“Diving Into the 10
Commandments”

June 8-12
9-Noon



PYC is for 7th-12th grade

****February 22 from Noon-2:30
PYC Connect (Invite a friend)
Sign up by 2/18**

****March 22 Bowling at Victory Lanes
in Decatur (More info to come)
Sign up by 3/15**

Officers Present:
President – Kathy Kilzer
Vice President – Nancy Quandt
Secretary – Dian Centers
Treasurer – Sarah Marsaglia

Pilgrim Ladies Guild Minutes

2155 North Oakland Avenue
Decatur, Illinois 62526

Poster Creator – Erica Meadows

The Pilgrim Ladies Guild business meeting was opened and called to order at 1:34 PM on Monday, January 12, 2026 by President Kathy Kilzer.

Vice President Nancy Quandt gave the opening prayer.

There were 14 in attendance.

MINUTES: The minutes were approved as read. Two Thank-You's were read.

TREASURE'S REPORT: Sara Marsaglia Reported that Norma Cooper wanted her Christmas check donated to the Angel Tree. Carriage Crossing Nursing Home and Lincolnshire Nursing Home do not accept checks for residents because they do not have an account system for them. Several Pilgrim recipients do not want a Christmas check. Sarah asked for alternative Christmas gift ideas for our Pilgrim nursing home and shut-in residents. Some discussion followed, but no suggestions were forthcoming.

-GUILD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS-

PRAYER GUILD – *This Guild unites members in imploring God to aid those in need and in proclaiming our thankfulness to Him.*

PRAYER CHAIN COMMITTEE: Patti Zeck

Please email your prayer requests to Patti Zeck at pzeck4055@hotmail.com. Prayers also may be requested by calling Patti Zeck at (217) 855-6395. Additionally prayers may be requested on the back of the Attendance Cards at any church service or by calling the Church office (217) 877-2444.

The Prayer chain is going well. I will be gone from Decatur until April, but I will still be forwarding prayers to the Prayer Chain.

PRAYER COMMITTEE: Sarah Marsaglia

This committee is still praying for the church militant, especially for members of ULMA (United Lutheran Mission Association), Pilgrim Lutheran, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, Faith Evangelical Lutheran, and anyone in altar and pulpit fellowship with ULMA, also for the professors and students of our Walther Theological Seminary.

Prayers are the same as usual.

CHANCEL GUILD

The following committees care for the chancel furnishings, prepare for and clean up after Holy Communion, Baptisms, and weddings.

CANDLE and BRASS COMMITTEE: Linda Snow

This committee cares for the brass furnishings and pew candles.

NO REPORT

COMMUNION COMMITTEE: Jane Martin

Sets up for Holy Communion, Baptisms, and weddings and cleans up afterwards.

Please call Jane Martin at 217-917-0996 if you would be willing to serve on this committee.

Help is still needed to set up or clean up – a once a month commitment is all that's necessary. Please call Jane Martin or the church office to volunteer.

HOSPITALITY GUILD

This Guild strives to maintain a friendly atmosphere at Pilgrim through these committees:

RECEPTIONS COMMITTEE: Jo Ames

Organizes receptions each year for functions such as: the Question and Answer night for the Junior Confirmation class, Junior Confirmation Sunday, and after the Christmas program.

Approximately 70 people were served cake and punch after the children's Christmas program on Sunday, December 7th, 2025. The servers were Jo Ames, Linda M. Workman, and Kathy Kilzer.

WEDDING RECEPTIONS: Set up - Shannon Lanier 217-413-7800

Clean up - Nancy Jacobs – 217-853-0802

This committee will setup and clean up wedding receptions for members of Pilgrim.

NO REPORT

COFFEE SERVERS COMMITTEE: Beth Abbott

A roster of volunteers is maintained by the church office. Volunteers prepare hot water for tea, regular and decaf coffee and provide tea bags, milk, and donuts during Fellowship time on Sunday and Wednesday mornings before Bible Study Classes.

Six volunteers rotate to help with coffee set up and clean up for the Wednesday Bible class.

Thirteen teams volunteer to set up and clean up coffee for the Sunday Coffee/Donut time.

There are 29 total members who serve as Sunday Coffee Servers.

GREETERS COMMITTEE: Beth Abbott

Greeters give a friendly welcome to Pilgrim members and visitors. The Greeter roster is maintained by the church office.

We have 21 teams of Greeters to welcome members and visitors to worship. There are 44 total members who serve as Greeters.

KITCHEN GUILD: Sandy Norris

The Kitchen Guild keeps the kitchen stocked with staples, clean, and orderly. This Guild oversees Congregational meals served from the kitchen. Any monies received from meals shall first be used to pay all expenses and the remainder given to the Guild Treasurer.

I am restocking the kitchen at this time.

LIBRARY GUILD: Nancy A. Brown

The Library is open to ALL MEMBERS of Pilgrim. This Guild selects books and media materials, keeps the library attractive, supervises the borrowing of material, and maintains books in good repair. The goal is to keep Christians growing in their faith by reading and studying. To check out a book, please sign the card in the back of the book, date it with the day you check it out, and drop the card in the green box. Remember to be considerate and return the book(s) in 2-3 weeks. You may check it out again for another 2-3 weeks.

PLEASE NOTE: For any book donations to Pilgrim, please call one of the Pastors. Space is limited. Please return any checked out materials to the Library in two to three weeks.

MISSIONS GUILD**MITE BOX COMMITTEE: Debbie Ripple**

Everyone in our congregation is invited to take and use a small cardboard box which we refer to as a "MITE BOX". It is like a small bank for any extra money you want to contribute for mission work. You may leave your mite box in the decorated box on the Guild table in the narthex and pick up an empty mite box when you are ready. As the story in Scripture tells about the "widow's mite", we too find that it is not how much we give, but the attitude of our heart when we offer our "mite".

Sept – Braille Workers - \$44.88

Oct – Walther Theological Seminary - \$67.01

Nov – Lutheran World Relief - \$26.60

Dec – Bethesda Lutheran Communities - \$41.65

Since First Mid Bank no longer accepts pennies, I've been culling them out and Sarah Marsaglia has been taking them to her bank to cash out. Those cashed out will be added to the next month's total.

TRACTS COMMITTEE: Victoria Schroeder

The Tract Committee is a pamphlet ministry giving brief, but readily obtainable information on life topics from the conservative Biblical perspective.

All is going well.

***BRAILLE CENTER COMMITTEE: Jean Mueller**

The Braille Center committee is a ministry that prepares reading materials for the visually impaired in mission fields.

We continue to make 10 books of 1st Samuel on the first Thursday of each month. These books will now be sent to missions in the U.S. The Post Office will no longer mail them free to missions overseas.

NURSERY GUILD *Chairwoman vacancy*

This Guild attends to all needs of the nursery including regular sanitizing of playthings and beds. There is no active Nursery at this time. If you need the Nursery for your child at a future church service or Bible Class, please contact the church office at (217) 877-2444.

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SITTING IN THE NURSERY ON A ROTATION BASIS WITH OTHER VOLUNTEERS YOUR PARTICIPATIONS WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

EASTER BREAKFAST COMMITTEE: Jean Mueller

This committee prepares an Easter Brunch between services on Easter morning.

I am working on it.

SUNSHINE GUILD

The committees of the Sunshine Guild strive to brighten the lives of those in the hospital, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities by sending cards.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE: Kathy Fulk

The Hospitals Committee sends cards to members in the hospital

NO REPORT

SHUT-INS COMMITTEE: Bev Myrvold

This committee sends birthday and holiday cards to shut-ins.

Assisted Living – 7

Homebound – 11

Four Birthday Cards were mailed in December and January.

Everything is going well.

FUNERAL DINNERS GUILD: Sandy Norris

The Funeral Dinners Guild provides funeral dinners for the family and friends of a departed Pilgrim member.

A funeral dinner was prepared for 40 and served to 35 for the family and friends of Cheryl Friend on December 5, 2026.

DORCAS QUILTING CIRCLE: Linda M. Workman

Quilters gather on Thursday mornings usually at 8 AM at Pilgrim. If you have any questions about having a top quilted, please call Linda Workman at (202) 286-5858.

The 75th Anniversary Quilt honoring all quilt guild members, past and present, has been pieced and is ready for finished quilting.

PROGRAM GUILD: Linda M. Workman

Programs and functions are determined and organized by this guild for the congregation and for the Ladies Guild.

There were 16 ladies in attendance at our Christmas Luncheon at Flessor's Candy Kitchen in Tuscola on December 1, 2025. This year everyone ordered off the menu. We had a short history lesson of Flessor's by the owner. We all enjoyed choosing free books from their vast free library.

President's notes: On Monday, February 26, at 1:30 P.M. we will finalize plans for Pilgrim's 75th Anniversary Celebration. The Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Convention Center and will highlight past events memories, people, and Pastors.

Vice Presidents notes: None

New Business: The menu for the Pilgrim Soup Luncheon in February was discussed. Ladies stated the soup or dessert they will prepare and bring. There will be at least four different soups and there will also be pies, desserts, and cookies. **If you would like to attend, please sign up on the poster board on the stand in the Narthex. A free will offering will be accepted.**

Old Business: None

Business tabled: None

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer said in unison at 2:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Dian Centers, Secretary