

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OTHELLO, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 12

## DECEMBER 2024



### It's Cantata Time

There are 3 opportunities to attend the Othello Choral Society's presentation of "LIGHT Out of the Darkness."

Sunday, Dec 8th at 3:30  
Bethel Assembly of God-Othello

Saturday, Dec 14th at 7:30 pm  
Church of the Nazarene-Othello

Sunday, Dec 15th at 3:30 pm  
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church-  
Moses Lake

This year's Cantata, directed by Treva Reichert, promises to be a wonderful way to prepare for the Christmas season. Let us support our wonderful musicians!

### Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Wednesday, Dec 4th-online

Advent Wednesday, Dec 11th-online

**Advent Wednesday, Dec 18th-Service of Lessons and Carols @ 6:30** in the Fellowship Hall. The Ukestra will be playing and there will be treats for all. It promises to be a wonderful time.

**Sunday, Dec 15th at 10 am-The Sunday School** will be presenting the annual Christmas Story of our Savior's birth followed by fellowship.

**Tuesday, Dec 24th at 6 pm-Christmas EVE service** that includes so many favorite carols as well as the candlelight singing of Silent Night. Come and be amazed yet again at the beauty of the night our Savior was born!

**Wednesday, Dec 25th at 10 am-Christmas Day service** with lots of Christmas carols and Holy Communion

### Opportunities to Give this Season

In the Narthex we have the tree dedicated to gifts for the Eastern Washington State Hospital patients. Pick an ornament, buy the gifts, and bring back to church unwrapped, in a bag, with the ornament attached (no staples please). These must be back to the church by Dec 10, for Shirley to pick up and deliver to the Hospital on Dec 11.

In the Fellowship Hall we have a tree dedicated to the ELCA Good Gift program. It has lots of ornaments on it to be purchased. Simply take one or several, add up the total, and write a check to **Pilgrim Lutheran Church with ELCA Good Gifts in the Memo Line**, give the check to Anna, along with a list of the items you purchased so that she can fill out the forms correctly.

The Annual Firemen's Breakfast to support the Othello Community Christmas Basket Program will be held this Sunday, Dec. 8th at the Eagles Lodge from 8 am to 12 pm.

We thank you in advance for your generosity to these important programs.

### Big Thanks

Hearty thanks go out to all those who stayed after the service on Nov 24th and helped put up the Christmas tree, decorate the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and the Narthex!

A special thank you to Pastor Don and Anna for providing the chili and cornbread to sustain us for the job!

Another thank you goes to Liz Deasy for the beautiful banner shown next to the tree and to Liz & Steve Jensen for the wreaths which adorn our front doors!



# Merry Christmas!



### Thank you Sally McFarlin

The railing has been installed (thank you to Bill Porter and his helper Linda Bork). It looks wonderful, and is so helpful. We dedicated the railing on Dec 1 with everyone lining the halls, and Pastor giving a blessing. The railing has been given in honor of the Lottes and McFarlin families. We thank you, Sally!

**Newsletter Article for December 2024**

Dear Pilgrims,

Did you notice that the Christmas commercials started before Halloween this year? Some stores had Christmas decorations filling sales aisles by Labor Day. I am all in favor of planning ahead, but that seems a little extreme, at least to me. Perhaps you appreciate the sales of Christmas decorations while wearing sunscreen, but I have to admit, I was a bit taken aback.

Of course, I'm more of the last-minute type. I think you can picture it; on December 24th, around noon I may have finally figured out what Anna should get for Christmas. I then rush right out to the nearest variety store, in this town that's Walmart, and look for said item that I believe in my mind will be perfect. Of course, Walmart has been out of stock on that particular item for about two weeks, so I'm out of luck, out of time, and out of options. I have to settle for something else that may or may not be appreciated by my lovely wife, but it's my own fault for having waited until the last minute.

Does that scenario sound at all familiar? It probably does to a few men in Othello, or maybe it really is just me. I get so caught up in all of the Christmas activities that I forget about the most important part. I forget about the time spent in the company of loved ones. That really is the heart of what Christmas is all about, when you think about why God sent Jesus to live among us in the first place.

In the first chapter of the gospel of John the fourteenth verse says, "The Word became flesh and lived among us." God, the One who is the everlasting Word, the one who embodies love because God is love (1John 4:8), God came to live among the people God loves.

Now, John warned us that the presence of God among us was not all sunshine and roses before John even

mentioned that God set up shop in the neighborhood. Back in verse 10 of that same first chapter in John he wrote, "He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him."

That is the tragedy of human existence. We have lost our relationship with God. We severed our relationship through sin. We were tempted by Satan, and we failed to resist, and as a result we are sinners in need of forgiveness. We cannot restore our relationship with God on our own, no matter how hard we try. Our own efforts to get in right relationship with God fail because we cannot remove the power of sin without God's help. That's why Jesus had to come.

Jesus HAD to come to restore our relationship with God through his own sacrifice. Jesus HAD to come in order to hang out with the people God loves and share the love of God directly with us so that we have a foretaste of the feast to come. Jesus HAD to come to bring us the gifts of Holy Communion, the body and blood of Christ to eat and drink. It is through those gifts we are cleansed from sin and our relationship with God is restored.

That is why Christmas is so important. Through the gift of God's own Son at Christmas, our relationship with God is restored and we are free to live without sin, free to live without the fear of death, free to live and share God's love with others so that God's presence and power increase on earth until all people are gathered into God's fold of grace and mercy. So, get your Christmas shopping done early, and cherish the people you love. That is a Christmas to remember. See you in church or online.

Peace,

Pastor Don

**Pastor Short's office hours:**

**Tues-Friday 9-12 am**

Afternoons reserved for visitations, meetings, and appointments.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact Pastor Don Short at **509-761-1212**.

Mondays are Pastor's Day off.

Please limit contact to emergencies only. Thank you.

Pastor's Email: pilgrimlcpastor@gmail.com

**Anna's office hours:**

Tuesday 9-12

Thursday 9-1

Friday 9-12

Please call if you need info on anything!

Cell phone **509-761-1205**

**INFO CORNER**

11/3 Attendance:	32	Offering \$	3,895
11/10 Attendance:	23	Offering \$	650
11/17 Attendance:	27	Offering \$	1,768
11/24 Attendance:	31	Offering \$	1,140

Year to Date Offerings: \$ 110,329

Year to Date Expenses: \$ 133,000

**Thank you, Pilgrims, for supporting your Church and it's Mission!**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Sunday School	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Cantata Practice 7:30	<b>4</b> Quilting 9-12 Advent Online	<b>5</b> Cantata Practice 7:30	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Sunday School Healing Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Quilting 9-12 Advent Online	<b>12</b> Cantata Practice 7:30	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Women's Bible Study 10 am @ Coventry
<b>15</b> 10 am Worship Sunday School Program Coventry worship 2 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Council 7 pm	<b>18</b> Quilting 9-12 Service of Lessons & Carols @ 6:30	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Winter Begins(brrr)
<b>22</b> 10 am Worship Sunday School	<b>23</b> School's OUT	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service 6 pm	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! Christmas Day Service 10 am 	<b>26</b> <b>27</b> <b>28</b> Pastor and Anna vacation		
<b>29</b> 10 am Worship Sunday School	<b>30</b> Pastor and Anna vacation	<b>31</b>	<b>Jan 1st</b>	<b>Birthdays-- December</b> 5 Liz Jensen 12 Joshua Rodriguez Sr. 15 Michael McKay 17 Mike Roth 19 Joyce Fry 20 Leonard Bland 22 Jim Nau 25 Evelyn Wright 26 Jon Erickson 27 Trudy Doolittle 28 Macie Tricola 29 Randy Deasy		

### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will be meeting Saturday, Dec 14, at 10 am at Coventry House in the library. Come for fellowship, learning, and coffee! Bring your copy of the Gather Magazine, your Bible, and an open mind! See you there!



### Council Members

Marcia Bougher  
Larry Kirkpatrick  
Kristi Spohr  
Ernie Summers  
Linda Bork  
John Lawrence

### Thank you Quilters

The quilters are donating 25 quilts to the Othello Christmas Basket Program. These quilts will provide warmth to the neediest of our local population, and express our care for them.

### Anniversaries-- December

4 Heidi & Dave Reichert

**Lutheran Disaster Relief Efforts at PLC**  
Pilgrim's month-long Disaster Relief Drive during October garnered nearly \$500 to aid in the Hurricane Relief. Good Job Pilgrims!

	USHER/GREETER	READER	ACOLYTE	SACRISTAN	CLICKER	BREAD	TREATS AFTER WORSHIP
<b>Dec 1</b>	Pete R	Linda B			Tammy	Elaine	Elaine & Fellowship
<b>Dec 8</b>		Angela	Maya/Maxwell		Tammy	Elaine	Angela/Elane
<b>Dec 15</b>		Linda B			Tammy	Elaine	Anna
<b>Dec 22</b>	Pete R	Evelyn			Tammy	Elaine	Cookie Sharing
<b>Dec 29</b>	Pete R	Linda B			Tammy	Elaine	POTLUCK!





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Facebook: PilgrimLutheranChurch-ELCA  
Website: othello.lutheran.com  
Church Phone: 509-488-9952



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**December**



**Mission Statement:** PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH is led by the Holy Spirit **to invite** everyone to experience **God's Love and Grace** through life's pilgrimage of faith.

**Vision Statement:** PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH provides a warm, caring, and open atmosphere where we spread God's Word by **servicing our community, being a good neighbor, and embracing the power of prayer.**

**Going Beyond Ourselves**

In November Council voted to donate \$2000 from our Bell Fund to the Othello Food Bank.

Council also added \$360 to the \$140 from the Noisy offering in Sept to make \$500 total going to the Othello Cancer Support Group.

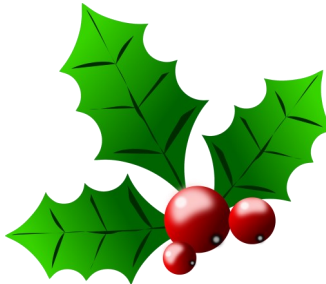
This is what our Bell Fund has been dedicated to:

- 1/3 Charitable contributions
- 1/3 General Fund
- 1/3 Capital Projects

**Deck the Halls**

**with boughs of Holly**

**Fa la la la la la la la la**



**Thank you!**

Thank you for continuing to bring in the pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The tabs are turned into \$\$\$ which help families stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their children or family members receive treatment in the Spokane Medical Community. Your donations are very much appreciated! To add to our donations, try to have your friends, neighbors & businesses save them too!

**Lectionary Readings for December**

Dec 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalms 25:1-10	I Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec 8	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec 15	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec 22	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalms 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45
Dec 29	I Samuel 2:18-20,26	Psalms 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52



**book of faith**

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.