

Progress

Volume 23, Issue 2

February 2025

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

709 Weston Avenue
Wausau WI 54403

715.842.4544

pilgrimofwausau@gmail.com
www.pilgrimofwausau.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

In-Person and
Zoomed Online

9:00 am

THURSDAYS

6:30 pm

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday
Closed

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

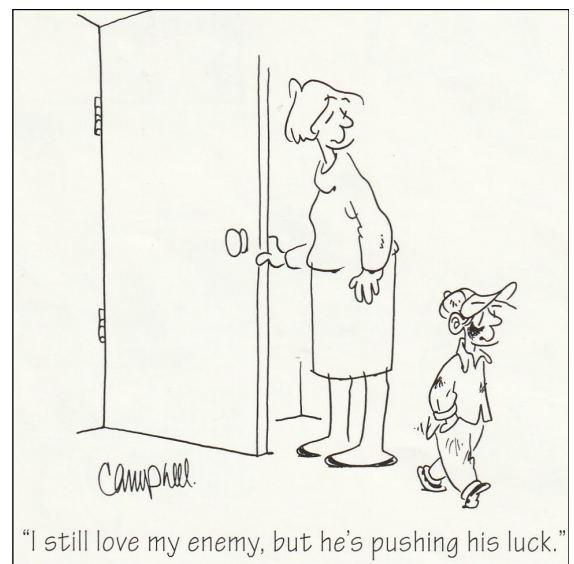
February 14 is the day we express our love for family and friends with cards, candy, flowers, and a special dinner. Valentine's Day originated as a Christian feast day to honor a martyr named St. Valentine with multiple stories about him including one that he was a priest who secretly married soldiers in defiance of the Roman emperor's ban on marriage. Legend shows that before Valentine was executed on February 14, he sent a love letter to his jailer's daughter, signing it "from your Valentine."

I enjoy listening to people share their Valentine's Day stories, hearing the barber shop quartets and University choirs that go and sing a special song picked especially for them from their loved ones. John 3:16 states, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*" This Bible verse reminds me of all the love God has for his children and the love he wants us to give back to others.

Ash Wednesday is March 5 when we mark the beginning of the Lenten season. During Lent we observe many special days – Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

Last year we shared Ash Wednesday, soup suppers, Midweek Lenten services, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter with Good Shepherd and St. Stephen's. Watch for more information on Lenten services and soup suppers this year.

Peace,
Shirley Ecker



“Furnace Fund Kick-off”

Whether you own or rent a home, there are always things that need attention and sometimes they are costly. It may be routine maintenance, but sometimes repairs are more major and can catch us by surprise. Some repairs just need to be done. Costly repairs can cause some financial stress in our households. The same holds true for our House of Worship.

We have not talked about furnaces in some time. Most of you are aware that our House of Worship has 11 furnaces. The furnaces are checked periodically. Recently, one of the older furnaces was checked and it was not working properly. This was the furnace that serves the lounge and office area. It had to be replaced. This was one of the original furnaces that were installed as part of Pilgrim’s expansion back in 1992. Fortunately, funds were available to cover the replacement of this furnace from your generous donations.

There are four more identical furnaces that were installed that same year, over 30 years ago. A new furnace runs between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Just like those costly repairs at our homes, this future cost will cause Pilgrim some financial stress unless funds are set aside to cover the inevitable need to replace additional furnaces. These furnaces will be checked this upcoming Spring and it is highly likely that more furnaces will need replacement.

Some may question why Pilgrim would continue to invest in our building in light of recent conversations about transitions. No decisions are imminent. Pilgrim Lutheran Church continues on as a congregation as it stands now. It may continue to be a home for our congregation well in the future. The building may be repurposed. Thus, it becomes imperative to plan ahead and replenish Pilgrim’s Furnace Fund.

As beloved members of our congregation, you have generously supported Pilgrim to help the church survive difficult times in the past. Please give prayerful consideration to pledging your support to help build the reserve for furnaces. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 in two years. Please return the pledge card indicating your commitment by February 16, 2025 (extras blank cards are available on the information table in the lounge). Payments can be made over the two-year period. Donations to the furnace fund can be designated by using the special occasion envelopes in the back of your church envelope packet and noting “Furnace Fund.”

Thank you for sharing your resources.

With God all things are possible.

In Christ’s Love,

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Stewardship Committee

Make a joyful noise!

“We become what we sing.”

—Susan Palo Cherwien

February is Black History month. The words, “We become what we sing,” joined with the words of “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, often called the Black national anthem, stand powerfully together. Think for a bit on these words:

*Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.*

This hymn is a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the progress in racial equality that has been made and a plea for faithfulness and freedom. It asks God to help us remain faithful to the tasks before us. Much has been accomplished in our country toward racial justice and equality. Much remains to be done, not just for African Americans but for many groups of people regardless of their ethnic or racial heritage.

Our prayer during Black History month, and all year long is that we don't forget our history AND that we keep our eyes focused on the hope that the present brings us. We can face the rising sun of each new day, moving deliberately to a time when true racial justice exists in our native land. That will be a time of victory.

The words of this hymn were written by James Weldon Johnson and the music was composed by his brother J. Rosamond Johnson. Not all of us have the talent to create such amazing poetry and music. All of us have the power to sing these words with our mouths and through our actions as we become what we sing.

With thanks for all the creative ways in which we can become what we sing,

Delores Kessel

HYGIENE DRIVE Shared Mission with St. Stephen Church

The Angels are hosting a Hygiene Drive from February 23rd through March 16th for the Bridge Street Mission. This is a residential Christian discipleship program providing the support and skills needed to live addiction free and also to live a productive life. They provide recovery support groups to help maintain the sobriety of the men enrolled. They encourage healthy relationships, help find jobs with job training and support, and provide financial literacy for those needing help. Items needed—pillows, zip covers for pillows, nail clippers, men’s deodorant, men’s lotion, plastic soap boxes, and Chapstick/lip balm stick. Please drop off items in a labeled box in the narthex. Thank you.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 2025 Homeownership Application Period Open

Since 1990, Habitat for Humanity of Wausau has been helping area low-income individuals and families achieve their dreams of homeownership. As a non-profit Christian organization, Habitat assists income qualified applicants who are currently living in substandard or inadequate housing conditions and are willing to partner with us on the construction of a new home. We are proud to announce that we are currently constructing our 74th and 75th homes in our community!

Habitat for Humanity homes are not free. Through our Homeownership Program, Habitat for Humanity of Wausau provides an affordable, non-profit mortgage for a safe, decent, and affordable home to our partner families. Monthly mortgage payments include principal on the loan, homeowner’s insurance, and property taxes. Eligible applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, reside in the greater Wausau area for at least one year, and meet the criminal background check requirements.

A flyer is available on the church bulletin board. For additional information, visit our website at habitatwausau.org or call 715-848-5942.

**Men’s Monthly
Bible Study Breakfast**
at Eagle’s Nest
2nd Thursday of the Month
7:30 a.m.

The next gathering for food, faith, and fellowship is **February 13th**. If you are interested in joining, contact Eugene Viegut (715-359-9895).

Weekly Prayer Circle
Tuesdays
11:45 a.m.

If you would like to join the group, drop in. Or, if you would like to receive the weekly prayer list, contact the office.

LWR Quilts and Kits

Stitch by stitch, bundle by bundle your quilts and kits are tangible gifts of love. In times of greatest need, you wrap that love around your neighbors’ shoulders and provide comfort, dignity, and hope. Here are some ways your handmade gifts blessed your neighbors this year:

Earthquake affected families in Turkey

- * 11,880 LWR Mission Quilts
- * 14,440 Personal Care Kits
- * 5,760 Baby Care Kits

Key Bridge Collapse in Maryland, USA



The ship crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge, very close to LWR’s office in Baltimore. The bridge collapsed, killing six people and trapping 11 ships in the port for several weeks. Because LWR depends on seafarers to carry your love around the world, we felt called to make their stay more comfortable by delivering them quilts and Personal Care Kits.

Quilt & Kit Ministry officially expanded to reach neighbors in the United States in Sept. 2024.


**Monthly
Town Hall Meetings**
2nd Sunday of each month
following worship service


**Next Meeting
February 9th**




“They who


sing through the summer

must dance in the winter.”



—Italian proverb

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
BOOK SALE**

300 N. First Street, Wausau

Members Only Sale

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 5 - 7:30
(non-members can join
at the door for \$10)

Public Invited

Thursday, Feb. 6, 9:30 - 7:30
Friday, Feb. 7, 9:30 - 4:30

Bag Sale Day—\$6.00 a Bag
Saturday, Feb. 8, 9:30 - 3:30

Visit the library for great deals on thousands of like-new and gently used books, movies, music CDs, and more!

All proceeds are used to support library programs.

**AARP INCOME TAX
PREPARATION**

Tuesday's & Wednesdays
2/4/25 thru 4/2/25

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will offer free income tax preparation in Wausau. This program is especially for those 50 and older, with low to moderate income, who can't afford a tax preparation service.

We are now receiving calls on Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00—3:00, at 715-298-5734 to setup REQUIRED appointments.

For other local sites in the surrounding area, search: AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Site Locator or call 1-888-227-7669.

Transition Task Force

If you have a question or comment for the Transition Task Force, drop a written note in the box on the information table in the lounge or talk to a team member.

Charles Freiberg	charlesfreiberg@icloud.com	715-574-4904
Jeff Kessel (Communications)	Kessel.jeffrey@gmail.com	715-573-4491
Frank Koerten	fmkoerten@gmail.com	715-301-3939
Karen Larson	jar5804@gmail.com	715-297-4945
Stephen Moede	jar5804@gmail.com	715-297-4945
Kay Palmer (Chairperson)	kaypalmer@42llc.com	302-983-6946
Jean Trempe	jtrempe@frontier.com	715-575-5592

shout OUT!

- ☺ To our visiting pastors and lay ministers in January — Pr. Natalie Bassett, Shirley Ecker, Eugene Viegut, and Kay Palmer.
- ☺ To Shirley Ecker, Jeanette Carlson, and Terra Ecker as they step down, after serving terms on the Church Council
- ☺ To Frank Koerten, who has been elected to begin serving as the Church Council Vice President
- ☺ To councilmember Jean Trempe, who begins the second year of her first term on council, but moves from the position of Secretary to President
- ☺ To councilmember Linda Konkel, who begins the second year of her first term on council, but moves from the position of Chair of Evangelism to the position of Secretary
- ☺ To the councilmembers who continue to serve: Jim Lenselink (re-elected to a second term), Charles Freiberg, Kay Palmer, Charlene Buttner, Sue Koerten, and Janet Williams
- ☺ To Larry Brandenburg as he steps down after serving two terms on the Endowment Fund Committee
- ☺ To Eugene Viegut and Lila Viegut for filling the two vacant seats on the Endowment Fund Committee.
- ☺ To Mary Swanson, Charlene Buttner, and Jeff Kessel who continue to serve on the Endowment Fund Committee

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 10th, 2024
Unapproved

Unapproved

PRESENT IN PERSON:

Shirley Ecker (President), Charlie Freiberg (Treasurer), Jean Trempe (Secretary), Linda Konkel (Evangelism Chair), Sue Koerten (Worship Chair), Jim Lenselink (Stewardship Chair), and Terra Ecker (Children & Youth Chair).

PRESENT VIA PHONE: Kay Palmer (Buildings & Grounds Chair)

EXCUSED: Jeanette Carlson (Vice President), Janet Williams (Life & Growth Chair)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Shirley Ecker called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Devotions were led by Jean Trempe and focused on Ephesians 4:17-5:1, Paul's message about having a new life in Christ and sheading our old life as old clothing. Our new life in Christ has a future, just as our Church has new life and a future.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Jean Trempe) Review of minutes from December 10, 2025 regular council meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jim Lenselink and seconded by Sue Koerten. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Charlie Freiberg) Reviewed financial reports for December 2024. Cash in banks totaled \$77,539, with \$21,767 held as restricted funds. The largest portion of restricted funds is for Blessings that Give Hope of \$12,705. Our long-term loan stands at \$60,573. Contributions are on par for the month. For the twelve months the church's equity stands at \$17,426 (cash –

debts) Expenses are in line with prior months. Charlene Buttner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, and it was seconded by Jim Lenselink. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Shirley Ecker)

- ◆ The committee consists of Eugene Viegut, Jenni Zaitz and Katie Ecker. The following nominations will be brought forward at the annual meeting on January 26, 2025:
 - President – Jean Trempe
 - Vice President – Frank Koerten
 - Stewardship - Jim Lenselink
 - Secretary – Linda Konkel
 - Pilgrim's Endowment needs to fill positions for a secretary and possibly one other position currently held by Larry Brandenburg.
 - Members of the nominations committee are needed. Two former council members and two members at large from the congregation are needed.
 - The Children and Youth and Evangelism positions will not be filled at this time.
- ◆ The new council will be installed on Sunday February 2. All council members should plan to attend.
- ◆ Applications for the Internship process have not been submitted and the deadline for Luther will not be met. Synod Staff have not responded to emails.
- ◆ Jeanette will be asking Eugene for assistance with the audit of the church's financials prior to the annual meeting.

◆ Reviewed the annual meeting agenda for January 26, 2025. The annual reports have already been printed. A revised agenda will be available the day of the meeting.

◆ Good Shepherd has asked for volunteers to assist with their commitment to serving as an overflow sight for the un-housed for February 9-15. Interested volunteers should attend a training session on January 20. Contact Laurie Sturzenegger at Good Shepherd or Shirley Ecker at Pilgrim for more information.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Jeanette Carlson) No report

WORSHIP REPORT: (Sue Koerten)

On January 23, Delores and Sue will meet with worship leaders from St. Stephen, Good Shepherd and Immanuel to discuss plans for shared services during the Lenten season.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH: (Terra Ecker) No Report. Charlene Buttner mentioned that some multi-generational activities may be planned.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: (Kay Palmer) Focus continues on finding a solution to the church's custodial needs. Kay has assessed that there is a need for a 4-5 hour a week person focused on cleaning. She is waiting for a quote from Service Master. In the meantime, Kay will contact St. Stephen's part-time person to see if there is an interest in either temporary or ongoing part-time cleaning. Linda Konkel also knows of an individual that may be interested. He previously had a cleaning company. It was suggested that the congregation be informed as volunteers may be

(Continued on page 7)

(Council Meeting Minutes continued from page 6)

needed to help clean in the short term. Thank you, Fred and Kay, for handling some of our immediate needs.

Kay has reviewed the tasks that should be handled routinely. There are a number of things that the prior custodial person took care of that fall outside of routine cleaning. Small repairs and maintenance projects will fall to the buildings and grounds committee as it has previously. Contractors will be brought in for larger projects as usual.

Also, under consideration is finding some grants for replacement of the roof over the lounge area and preservation of the skylights.

TRANSITION TASK FORCE: (Kay Palmer) Thanks to all who attended the Town Hall meeting on January 12. The conversation was helpful in defining and recognizing the wishes of our congregation as we take the next steps. These conversations will be critical as Pilgrim's Transition Team meets with the GPS (Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, St. Stephen) team in building the possibilities of going forward.

The GPS team is shifting gears to bring more action to exploring how we can work together. The next meeting will be at Pilgrim on January 21. Pastor Karoline will be facilitating an exercise that will focus on building the church going forward what would meet the needs of the new joint congregation and our community. We will consider the building blocks of Church as Learning, Worship, Witness, Service and Support. GPS is planning a workday on January 25 focused on what we could do better together. We can expect to hear of more activities that will include more of us. All of the results will be reported at

our next town hall meeting.

EVANGELISM (Linda Konkel) No report

BLESSINGS THAT GIVE HOPE (Jeff Kessel) BTGH provided many items for needy students at John Marshall Elementary and Horace Mann Middle Schools before Christmas vacation. Items included waterproof ski gloves, many snacks, winter clothing, Christmas gifts for 9 Horace Mann students and \$5.00 vouchers for use at both schools' winter wish stores.

Needs exist all year long, not just at the beginning of the school year or at holiday time. Blessings that Give Hope will keep in touch with both schools to provide help where needed throughout the winter and spring.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY (Charlene Buttner) Thank you to all who made contributions to the Mitten Tree. With your very generous gifts, we were able to distribute items to the following groups:

- ◆ John Marshall School
- ◆ Head-start
- ◆ Salvation Army (Grocery Bags & Ink Cartridges also)
- ◆ Christian Fellowship Church
- ◆ Aspirus
- ◆ Conditional Release Program members

We are also placing mittens in our Little Library regularly throughout the winter. A Christmas cactus and ornament were delivered to Pilgrim's home-bound members.

LIFE AND GROWTH (Janet Williams) No Report

STEWARDSHIP (Jim Lenselink) A meeting was held on December 22. We discussed the furnace situation and opted to bring fundraising discussions back to

council. We reviewed the Faith Inspiration and Opportunity form and pared it down. Stewardship Sunday will be February 2.

The council discussed the need to raise funds for the potential of replacing four furnaces all installed in 1991. The plan is to have these furnaces inspected this spring and determine how many of them require replacement. Consensus was that a fund drive should be initiated as of February 1, 2025 requesting pledges to be paid off over 2 years ending February 1, 2027. The goal is to raise \$40,000 which would cover all four furnaces. This will be shared at the annual meeting with a letter and pledge cards going out to members shortly thereafter. The possibility of seeking some grants was also discussed. Focus on Energy was mentioned as was possible ELCA grants.

A motion was made by Jim Lenselink to initiate fund raising efforts for four furnaces as of February 1, 2025, with a goal of raising \$40,000 by February 1, 2027. Charlie Freiberg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Progress articles are due January 24, 2024.

Next meeting: Tuesday February 11, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Jean Trempe has devotions.

ADJOURN/LORD'S PRAYER: 8:30 p.m. Charlie Freiberg made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Terra Ecker. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Trempe



Happy Birthday from your Pilgrim family!
Please contact the church office with any updates.

Nina James	02/04	Alexander Fandre	02/13
Jenna Windorski	02/04	Gigs Kirsch	02/13
Makayla Ecker	02/05	Maureen Kislow	02/14
Ruth Schlitz	02/05	Jack Ziebell	02/15
Ann Brooks	02/06	Easton Augustine	02/16
Alex Larsen	02/06	Harry Fehlhaber	02/17
Richard Boller	02/09	Josephine Billington	02/18
Nathan Fehlhaber	02/09	Bo Fehlhaber	02/19
Dennis Wunsch	02/10	Ava Kislow	02/28
Michelle Larsen	02/11	Wesley Schneider	02/28
Adam Fandre	02/13	Kevin Zaitz	02/28

REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

the following members of our
Pilgrim family on their

February

1 Adam Petersen	15 Lynn Rueth
2 Patti Petersen	16 Jay Schlitz
3 Ryan Petersen	17 Ruth Schlitz
4 Walter Petersen	18 Ramona Schmitz
5 Doug Pittsley	19 Brauley Schneider
6 Kim Pittsley	20 John A. Schneider
7 Caroline Randow	21 John R. Schneider
8 Timothy Remley	22 Nancy Schneider
9 Debi Rhyner	23 Wesley Schneider
10 Jean Rhyner	24 Marion Schultz
11 Joel Rhyner	25 Carol Shaw
12 Brandon Roberts	26 Linda Soenksen
13 Patricia Roberts	27 Steven Soenksen
14 Kenneth Rueth	28 Bonnie Spangberg

On birthdays, we honor our beginnings and remember that in God's eyes, we have a place in this world that no one else has.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 STEWARSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 Worship; Install Councilmembers 1:00 WRVC Annual Meeting at St. John's Mosinee	3	4 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Task Force Meeting	5 6:30 Choir	6 6:30 Worship	7	8
9 9:00 Worship 10:15 Town Hall Meeting	10	11 11:45 Prayer Circle 6:30 Council Mtg.	12 9:00 Busy Bee Quilters 6:30 Choir	13 7:30 Men's Bible Study at Eagle's Nest 6:30 Worship	14 Lay School	15 Lay School
16 9:00 Worship	17	18 11:45 Prayer Circle 5:00 GPS Meeting 6:00 GWCS Meeting at Pilgrim	19 6:30 Choir	20 6:30 Worship	21 Progress Article Deadline John Marsh. Ldrship Day-Overflow Pkg Pilgrim	22
23 9:00 Worship	24	25 11:45 Prayer Circle	26 6:30 Choir	27 6:30 Worship	28	

FINANCIAL INFORMATION UPDATE

January 30, 2025

A budget is a statement of faith. It is our way of saying this is what we believe God wants us to do. And we trust that God will provide.

Mortgage	Year-to-Date Revenue Budget vs. Actual
\$ 60,573 Balance: 12/23/2024	
\$ 642 Principal Payment	\$8,920 \$6,765
\$ 232 Interest Payment	
\$ 59,931 Balance: 01/30/2025	
	Outstanding Bills
	\$788 Total Bills

PARTICIPATE IN THE SCRIP PROGRAM AND SUPPORT PILGRIM

Put your regular household shopping dollars to work by purchasing gift cards at Pilgrim. Scrip-participating retailers sell gift cards to Pilgrim at a discount and you get the full face value of the gift card. Orders are taken periodically. For information, email or call the office at 715-842-4544

THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that Pilgrim Church receives funds through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members can recommend which nonprofit organizations they feel should receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you are an eligible member, please consider us when directing Choice Dollars. Call 800-847-4836 or visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

THOSE PILGRIMS UNABLE TO ATTEND SERVICES

Please remember the following Pilgrims who are not able to attend worship due to personal limitation. If you need their addresses, please contact the church office.

In Care Facilities

Kathleen Huebner.....Mount View

In Their Homes

Kathy Boehm John Schneider
Donald Mattke

PRAYER SHAWLS

Do you know someone who needs prayer and a special word of encouragement? Consider extending the love of Jesus through a Circle of Women prayer shawl.

A cabinet in the lounge holds a variety of prayer shawls. Choose one to deliver to a person who needs a special, tangible reminder of God's love and presence. Sign the book to show that you have taken one, and use a prayer request form to add this person to the Prayer Circle list, if that is appropriate.

A wicker basket sits next to the cabinet. If you have extra yarn to donate, you may place it there to be used for other handcrafted shawls. Thank You!

Shawls given to date... 299

CAN'T GET TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY? COME WORSHIP THURSDAYS AT 6:30 PM!

We gather for worship each week in a simple service of hymns, prayers, Scripture, sermon, and the Lord's Supper. We don't "dress up," and it only lasts 30 – 40 minutes. If your spirit needs food for the journey, please consider joining us. We promise you will be fed!

I love

Staff

Ministers
Music Coordinator
Choir Director
Pianists
Office Manager

All Pilgrims
Delores Kessel
Jim Lenselink
Delores Kessel, Norah Brown
Fred Patten

If you wish to give a gift to Pilgrim electronically, please go to www.pilgrimofwausau.org and click on the DONATE button on the home page.

Thank you.

Donate



Services

Sundays at 9:00 am / Thursdays at 6:30 pm

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH...

Sharing God's Never-Ending Love with All People through Faith and Service!
www.pilgrimofwausau.org

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
709 Weston Avenue
Wausau WI 54403
715.842.4544
Electronic Service Requested

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