



MARCH 31, 2016

VOLUME 64, NO. 3

PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

The February fire at Gloria Dei Lutheran has given me much pause to wonder, and opportunity to learn. Many of us shared shock, grief and tears with them that Thursday. Every clergyperson in town who pastors a “landed” congregation has wondered, “How would my congregation react if our church building burned? Could we rebuild? Would we rebuild? Should we?”

Some of you have noticed what I have noticed: Though wounded and grieving, Gloria Dei is strong; as a church, they know who they are and why they exist. They know that God has called them to be in ministry to their Central Hillside neighborhood, and they are committed to that mission. This clarity of identity and purpose binds them together. It gives them reason to continue worshiping, giving and serving in this unexpected season, and it guides them in discerning their future. The way forward will be long, and we, with many other churches, pledge to accompany them with offers of volunteers, space, and our ongoing prayers in addition to the financial gift already given (see page 2). In case we had forgotten the power of Easter Resurrection in our world here and now, the faith community of Gloria Dei lives it out for us.

At a community prayer gathering on the property of Gloria Dei the day before Holy Week, Rev. Karen Bockelman shared these words of hymn writer Huub Oosterman, a reflection upon a “right relationship” between a living congregation and their building:

What is this place where we are meeting?
Only a house, the earth its floor,
walls and a roof sheltering people,
windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here,
and know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling,
sparks that are sown in us like seed.
Names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders
sent from the past are what we need. We in this place
remember and speak again what we have heard:
God's free redeeming word.

And we accept bread at his table,
broken and shared, a living sign.
Here in this world, dying and living,
we are each other's bread and wine. This is the place
where we can receive what we need to increase:
God's justice and God's peace.

As the hymn expresses, our church homes are dear to us; they are where we are formed in our faith. But we live our faith everywhere, and our purpose is to help build the Reign of God, not homes for ourselves. Our buildings and locations must allow us to fulfill God's mission, not become our mission. (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Through the New Beginnings process, we will step back, look at ourselves and the context in which we live, and discern how we are to be a faithful church in this present time. This is not Pilgrim deciding on a vision so much as it is Pilgrim discerning God's calling for us. God's mission is what matters, and we matter insofar as we discover and enact our place in that. Like Gloria Dei's journey, this won't be settled quickly. That's okay; it's not a race. But it will help you recognize the best candidate to be your next settle pastor.

To participate, contact the church office to find out when small groups are meeting. And whether you are in a group or not, we need faithful pray-ers, persons who will regularly lift this process to God. Will you be a New Beginnings Pray-er? Let me know, and I will get you a resource to help you know how to pray us through this process.

In the meantime, come be community together, worshipping the One who gives us Life and meaning, in the place where God meets us regularly.

Jennifer

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Search Committee has begun the first round of interviews with candidates to be our next Called Pastor. By the time you are reading this we will have conducted three interviews with 2-3 additional shortly. Our hope is to have narrowed the list to 2-3 viable candidates by early May and set up additional interviews soon thereafter.

Steve Cushing

MN MARCH FOODSHARE RESULTS

Pilgrims donated \$1,864.45 in monetary gifts to the Minnesota Food Share! This is in addition to the Pack the Pews food that was collected.

This is the largest amount donated in Pilgrim's history. Thank you so much for your generosity.

THANK YOU FROM GLORIA DEI

Dear Pastor Jennifer Amy-Dressler & the Congregation of Pilgrim Church,
I cannot tell you how much your prayers and the prayers of so many have meant to Gloria Dei in the wake of the tragic fire in our beloved church building.

On behalf of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, I am writing to acknowledge your gift of **\$2,547** toward the congregation's Rebuilding Fund. Thank you very much for this generous gift.

While we know that the church is the people of God, and not the building, we are aware of how Gloria Dei's unique worship space full of memory and beauty has been a vehicle of God's welcome, worship and witness for generations. We have every intention of rebuilding in the same location and have every hope of incorporating as much as we can from the original structure. At the same time, we look at this as an opportunity for growing in ministry and planning for the generations who will come after us.

We are still in the wilderness, but are continually seeing signs of God's goodness. Through your gift, and by God's grace, the living legacy of Gloria Dei's ministry will continue, to the glory of God and the good of our neighbors.

Yours in Christ,
David M. Carlson

Jennifer, Many thanks for your generous solidarity and prayers.

PACT TV REGULAR BROADCAST

Pilgrim's regular broadcasts on Channel 180 are Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm and Thursdays, 7:00 to 8:00 am and 8:30-9:30 pm.

April 6 and 7-Community Good Friday Service from March 25, 2016

April 13 and 14-Easter Sunday-"De You Know What You are Looking For?" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from March 27, 2016

April 20 and 21- Prayer Service for Emanuel AME from February 18, 2016

April 27 and 28-"Wise Whys" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from March 6, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 3

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday

“Holy As A Day Is Spent”

(Luke 24:13-35)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

April 10

Third Sunday of Easter

“Breakfast on the Beach”

(John 21:1-19)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

April 17

Fourth Sunday of Easter

One Great Hour of Sharing

Reunion Sunday

“The Power in Your Hands”

(Acts 9:36-43)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

April 24

Fifth Sunday of Easter

“Extravagance”

(Acts 11:1-18, Rev. 21: 1-6)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
APRIL 17**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women’s empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

GOOD NEWS!

The Building and Finance Committee received three good news reports at its last meeting. First, we were able to save \$11,110 on building insurance as our agent was able to insure the Tiffany windows in an advantageous manner. Second, the final distribution to Pilgrim from the estate of Lois Rood, who grew up in Pilgrim, was \$215,662; this money has been deposited in the Second Century Fund pending a final decision on its use.

Finally, pledges for 2016 are \$245,762 for operating expenses, which is \$20,762 more than budgeted, and \$45,610 for capital expenses. The Building and Finance Committee would like to thank the Stewardship Committee for its hard work and the congregation for its generosity.

**FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER
FOR ROBBIE’S CLOSET**

May 7

SAVE THE DATE! Once again, St. Mark AME will hold a fashion show at Pilgrim Church to raise funds for Robbie’s Closet, which provided good used clothing at an affordable price. Join in solidarity with our sister church to help support this vital ministry in the Hillside.

PARISH PERSONALS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those with ongoing health issues.

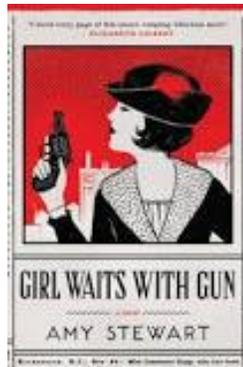
PILGRIM POSTS

Thank you dear friends at Pilgrim for all your kind thoughts, prayers and cards wishing for a speedy recovery after my fall and fractured hip—I am up and about now with cane “walker” and hope to be back with you soon.

Mary Jo Gould

WOMEN’S BOOK GROUP

The April 18th title is **Girl Waits With Gun** by Amy Stewart. There was a tie with voting so this was the title that was pulled “out of the hat.” It is a coincidence that it is written by the author who wrote **The Drunken Botanist**, the title that we are replacing. Jenny Ballew will facilitate.



Two free workshops on ensuring civility in our community and understanding how each of us can make a difference.

Future workshops:

But You’re Not Listening-April 12

What Hurt Was How You Said It-May 9

All sessions at Pilgrim. This is an initiative of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. For questions or to register, please call 218-726-0232 or email

info@dsacommunityforundation.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

The spring musical is in full swing! The youth are busy working on that with Rachael. We had an event with Animal Allies, it went very well, the kids made gift bags for adopters to take home with their new companion. We also had them help out with the Pack the Pews food drive event through CHUM, they decorated the bags that were placed in the pews. As far as Sunday School goes, we’re looking for teachers! If you are at all interested, whether it be for a whole month or just one Sunday, please contact me, Sophie Hillmeyer, at sophiehillmeyer@gmail.com, or call me at (218) 269-6877. Thanks in advance!

Sophie Hillmeyer,
Children and Family Ministries Coordinator

HOUSE BILL HF 3396

There's a bill being introduced by the MN state republicans that requires restroom, locker room, etc. use in schools and private businesses is assigned per birth gender. Below is a paraphrased example of the letter that Pilgrim member Josie Olson wrote to Mary Murphy and Tom Bakk. As part of our Open and Affirming commitment to LGPTQ issues, the Social Justice Ministry encourages you to take similar action.

HF 3396

I am horrified by the bill, HF3396 that is being proposed by Republicans of our State. This bill is the epitome of discrimination and undermines the very basic safety and dignity of transgender people. I'm appalled that the lead sponsor of this bill; Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen, claims his inspiration for it was a constituent who says she uses a different restroom at work now because a transgender person uses the restroom that had previously been most convenient for her. Just because this woman chooses to use a different restroom out of her own misguided fear and ignorance about transgender individuals absolutely does not constitute the creation of a law that allows her to continue to be ignorant. I see it as the problem solely of that woman and others who think like her. It would follow that if this bill passed, transgender people would need to publicly announce that they are transgender, which is no one's business. Minnesota is such a progressive, accepting State. Please do all you can to oppose this bill and the fear and ignorance it represents!

Josie Olson

MUSICAL STUFF:

Sewing Party:

Time to dust off those machines, and sharpen your scissors! Help sew, cut out, and iron some costumes for the musical on **Friday, May 13th from 5:30-7:30pm** at Pilgrim Congregational Church. It would be a good old fashioned sewing party. Bring machines, favorite fabric scissors, and a needle and thread! We can have refreshments, cheese and crackers, and desserts by the ironing boards.

Musical rehearsals Beginning April 14th and April 15th we will have weeknight rehearsals on Thursdays and Fridays from 6:00-7:15pm. A more comprehensive schedule will be sent out once the main roles are cast! The actual musical performance will be during the church service on Sunday, June 12th.

ARN COMMUNITY MEETING

(ARN is Arrowhead Regional Network of Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light)

Monday, April 11, 2016

Pilgrim Congregational Church
2310 E. 4th Street, Duluth
7-9 p.m.

Program: "What is a carbon calculator and how can I use it to help lessen my carbon footprint?" presented by Bret Pence. Also, we'll introduce the "Beyond Paris: Energy Efficiency Toolkit."

How do you determine how much carbon emissions you are responsible for? And once you determine that, what can you do to lower your personal emissions? Join us on April 11 to add some tools to your toolbox which you can also use to help your friends and family understand the concept of carbon footprint. Don't miss this opportunity to take steps to increase energy efficiency and be a part of building a stable climate.

**MAY DATES
FOR PILGRIM**

May 15-Reunion Sunday
May 25-Annual Meeting

CHUM CORNER

The most important aspect of CHUM is that it serves as a safety net organization in a society that struggles to meet the needs of all. Chum replaces broken systems (e.g., housing, health care, food access) with emergency services. Since we are a society that is driven by an economic engine, we tend to put weight to the dollar on decisions we make for giving. Well, you can rest easy because a study by Wilder Research with funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation shows large returns on investment in supportive housing in Minnesota. The study said that over 10,000 persons are homeless in Minnesota on any given night. Supportive housing, which throughout 2010 served an estimated 14,600 adults in Minnesota, provides a combination of transitional and permanent housing and services to help homeless people live as independently as possible. The study estimated the return on investing in supportive housing in Minnesota and compares the relative economic value of the benefits of supportive housing programs for families, single adults, and unaccompanied youth with their associated costs. The findings of the report showed that in 2010, supportive housing generated at least \$123 million for Minnesota taxpayers, returning \$1.44 for every public dollar invested. These are conservative estimates that don't include potential cost savings from improved health, reduced emergency room use or hospitalizations, or any child-related outcomes. So give with all your heart, soul, strength and mind for "A gift is pure when it is given from the heart to the right person at the right time and at the right place, and when we expect nothing in return" (Anonymous, The Bhagavad Gita)

Diane Desotelle, CHUM Delegate

**PEACE & PILGRIM MIDDLE
SCHOOL YOUTH CANOE TRIP**

Sunday, August 17 to Tuesday, August 19

Hold these dates for this summer's youth trip to Fenske Lake Campground. We have again reserved the Group Site -- a beautiful setting for swimming, fishing, fellowship, faith and fun. All youth entering 6th – 8th grades are welcome! Pastor Kathy from Peace Church and Nathan will lead the trip but will need other adult chaperones — think about joining us!

THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANIST SPRING POP CONCERT

A Fundraiser for the Chapter and Scholarship fund. It is scheduled for April 10th, 3 pm at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth. Our participants so far; Peterson Quartet, Jeremy Craycraft, Elias Mokole, Linda Turpening and guest (4-hands piano), duet-Alan Berg and Jeff Urbaniak, possibly Mark Monson and his brass. Other happenings for the event: silent auction with many handmade items from artistic quilts, hand knit items, jewelry, chocolate basket, homemade pies by Lee-Ann House and Shelley Gruskin. Also coffee and a scone sale prepared by Paul Sapyta, a scone master.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

Greetings from United Campus Ministry!

As we finish up our Lenten journey with Jesus, we move towards finding hope and new life in ourselves, our relationships with others and with God, our ministry and campus, and our world!

We would like to invite you to help with our survival bags for finals week. UMD gets out early this year! We will be handing out survival bags to students the first week in May and we are needing donations of candy, small toys, and toiletries. All donations can be brought to Hope UMC or contact Cynthia to make arrangements for pick up. We make about fifty bags!

We also want to thank everyone who participated and/or made donations to the CROP walk. We made over \$1000 that will go directly to those needing food and water.

Blessings, *Cynthia*

"I hope I live long enough to see us return to vigorous debates where we argue who is right and wrong, not who is good and bad."

- Bill Clinton

www.instituteforcivility.org

ALL MINISTRY NIGHT
Tuesday, April 12

**NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY!
DIRECTOR OF DISTRIBUTIVE SERVICES**

CHUM, a comprehensive social service agency located in Duluth Minnesota, is hiring a Director of Distributive Services. This is a full-time position responsible for overall management of CHUM's Distributive Services programming including the operation of the CHUM Emergency Food Shelf, leadership and direction of CHUM's food advocacy initiatives, and the collection and distribution of donated food, household supplies, furniture, backpacks/school supplies, and other necessities to CHUM's service population.

This employee will be a member of CHUM's leadership team and will coordinate the operation of CHUM's three food shelves. He or she will oversee CHUM's relationship with Hunger Solutions Minnesota and outreach to food insecure members of the Duluth community.

Our organization is seeking a dynamic leader who can successfully manage food distribution, coordinate volunteers, maintain relationships with other food-based organization in the community, and help to position CHUM as a leader in the provision of necessities to those in need. The core mission of the organization is to provide social safety net programs which include emergency food, shelter, advocacy, and outreach to over 7,000 hungry, homeless and low-income people each year.

To apply send resume and cover letter to chum@chumduluth.org by April 15, 2016.

CHUM NEEDS

Volunteer Needs

The Food Shelf is in need of a person with a truck or large vehicle to pick up food donations at four local grocery stores one Thursday each month.

A Family Moving From Shelter

into housing is looking for a couch and a queen-sized bed. They are also having a baby at the end of March so any baby items are welcome.

Another family currently in Family Shelter has a new baby in need of baby bottles and a bottle brush. Pleased contact [Tessa](#) or call 218-720-6521 if you can help either of these families.

The 12th Annual CHUM Rhubarb Festival will be held on June 25th. Save the date and watch for opportunities to sign up to volunteer. We are currently looking for volunteers to fill some coordinating positions.

MARCH 31 – APRIL 28

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, April 3 | 9:30 am | 0-4 Children's Music Time |
| | 10:00 am | Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School |
| | 11:00 am | Coffee Hour |
| | 11:00 am | Musical Rehearsal |
| Tuesday, April 5 | 7:30 am | Men's Fellowship Group |
| | 6:30 pm | Leadership Team |
| Wednesday, April 6 | 6:00 pm | Bellissimo Rehearsal |
| | 7:15 pm | Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal |
| Sunday, April 10 | 9:00 am | Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal |
| | 9:30 am | Youth Rehearsal |
| | 10:00 am | Worship and Sunday School |
| | 11:00 am | Coffee Hour |
| | 11:00 am | Musical Rehearsal |
| Tuesday, April 12 | | All Ministry Night |
| Wednesday, April 13 | 10:30 am | Pilgrim Women's Group |
| | 6:00 pm | Bellissimo Rehearsal |
| | 7:15 pm | Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday, April 14 | 6:00 pm | Musical Rehearsal |
| Friday April 15 | 6:00 pm | Musical Rehearsal |
| Sunday, April 17 | 9:00 am | Youth Rehearsal |
| | 9:15 am | Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal |
| | 9:30 am | Youth Choir Rehearsal |
| | 10:00 am | Worship and Sunday School |
| | 11:00 am | Coffee Hour |
| | 11:00 am | Musical Rehearsal |
| | 11:20 am | New Beginnings Small Group |
| Monday, April 18 | 6:00 pm | Women's Book Group |
| Tuesday, April 19 | 7:00 pm | BeFriends |
| Wed., April 20 | 6:00 pm | Bellissimo Rehearsal |
| | 7:15 pm | Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday, April 21 | 6:00 pm | Musical Rehearsal |
| Friday, April 22 | 6:00 pm | Musical Rehearsal |
| Sunday, April 24 | 9:15 am | Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal |
| | 9:30 am | Youth & Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal |
| | 10:00 am | Worship and Sunday School |
| | 11:00 am | Coffee Hour |
| | 11:00 am | Musical Rehearsal |
| | 11:20 am | New Beginnings Small Group |
| Monday, April 25 | | Newsletter Deadline |
| | 8:30 am | Cooking at Damiano's |
| Tuesday, April 26 | 6:00 pm | Church Council |
| Wed., April 27 | 6:00 pm | Bellissimo Rehearsal |
| | 7:15 pm | Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday, April 28 | 1:00 pm | Newsletter Assembly |
| | 6:00 pm | Musical Rehearsal |

Newsletter Deadline is April 25

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

April 3-Ushers
 Carri Hoagland, Gene Shull and Bob Hensley
Greeters/Coffee
 Carol Bacig and Brian Medred
Readers
 Nate and Elle Stumme
Counters
 Jack Setterlund and Mardi Bagley
April 10-Ushers
 Andrew Streitz and Charles Walters
Greeters/Coffee
 Len and Bobbie Edwards
Readers
 Patty Polasky and Parker Tewes
Counters
 Denny Falk and Greg Gilbert
April 17-Ushers
 Denny Falk and Carri Hoagland
Greeters/Coffee
 Steve and Joan Semenchuk
Reader
 Don Bjoralt
Counters
 Jack Setterlund and Mardi Bagley
April 24-Ushers
 Stacey Achterhoff and Martin Grune
Greeters/Coffee
 Brian Capps, Nyasha Spears, Freya, and August
Reader
 Jenny Ballew
Counters
 Denny Falk and Jack Setterlund

Please arrive at church between 9:15 and 9:30 to allow enough time to get ready for worship. Thank you!

PILGRIM CHURCH STAFF

Jennifer Amy-Dressler, Pastor
 Mary Sopoci, Business Manager
 Jim Brower, Administrative Assistant
 Rachael Kresha, Director of Music
 Bret Amundson, Director of Choral Music
 Sophie Hillmeyer, Children and Family Ministries Coordinator
 Annika Nielsen, Childcare Assistant

pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**2310 East Fourth Street
Duluth, MN 55812-1430
Address Service Requested**

**Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT No. 94
DULUTH, MN**

Inside This Issue

**Front Page Special Message
2015 Energy Report**
Page 1 Gloria Dei, etc.
Page 2 Events and News
**Page 3 Worship Plans and
Sunday Events**
Page 4 Posts and Personals
Page 5 Pilgrim Events
Page 6 Community News
**Page 7 Calendar and
Sunday Volunteers**

Office hours are 9-4, Monday
through Friday. You can reach us
at:
office@pilgrimduluth.org 218-724-
8503 or www.pilgrimduluth.org

Upcoming Events

April 3 Worship and Sunday School
**April 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Leadership Team**
April 10 Worship and Sunday School
April 12 All Ministry Night
April 13 Women's Fellowship Group
April 17 Worship and Sunday School

April 18 Women's Book Group
April 19 BeFriends
April 24 Worship and Sunday School
**April 25 Cooking At Damiano's
Newsletter Deadline**
April 26 Church Council
April 28 Newsletter Assembly



pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST