

# Pilgrim's Progress

**PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH** ... *where by God's grace, believers from all walks of life, together **WORSHIP** Christ, **GROW** spiritually in Christ and **SHARE** His love with others!*

## **PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Bellevue Nebraska 68123  
Church Office: 291-2848  
Childcare: 293-2813  
Pilgrim website: pilgrim-lutheran.org

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## **Daffodil Sunday...**

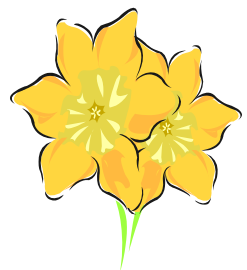
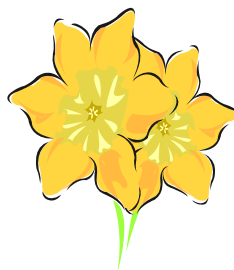
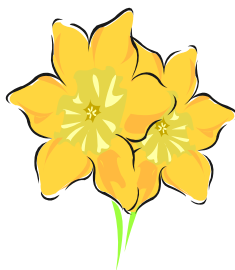
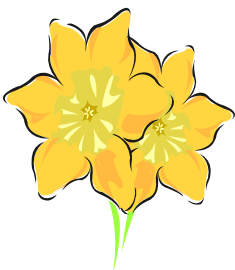
### **DAFFODIL DAYS ARE COMING!**

Once again we will participate in the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Sunday on March 11, 2012.

Members of Pilgrim are invited to purchase a bouquet as a memorial to loved ones who have lost the battle, or as a tribute to those who have survived cancer.

Orders will be taken for a donation of \$10 per bouquet of 10 flowers. A vase and bear are also available, please see the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

The order deadline is February 19. Please contact Kathy Skinner to place an order. Payment is required at time of order. Flowers can be taken home after the 10:30 service on March 11.



# From the Pastor

I recently read an article entitled **Churches Looking for the Silver Bullet in a Microwave Culture**. The point being that churches, like so much of our culture, are looking for the latest and greatest big thing. That big thing will cause their church to be the one with the full parking lots; to be known as the church where something exciting and amazing is happening. Most importantly, to be the church that everyone in town knows about.

The article finally says there is a Silver Bullet; it is called discipleship. Now that is not glamorous or eye catching. I have never heard anyone say "That church is known for their discipleship." No, we hear, "they have a dynamic preacher, or a great youth program, or their worship and multimedia is great! But discipleship? No; never mentioned. But that is what Jesus was about. The question that we are often afraid to ask is "do we want lots of people who don't really care about belonging to the body of Christ, or do we want people who are seeking to grow as disciples?"

We recently had a funeral at our church following the tragic death of one of our members which involved a large attendance. It was pointed out to me that "Pastor, you spoke about Pilgrim as a family. Did you notice the family of God at Pilgrim at work making everything happen that day?" I did. I noticed disciples at Pilgrim who made sure the church was picked up and clean for when all our guests arrived, who graciously provided lunch for all our guests, who set up the altar and the chairs, who came early to usher and make sure there was someone here in case help was needed, who lit the candles, who ushered out the people.

While growing our Lord's church should always be on our hearts and minds, we get there through discipleship which comes in many forms.

In His Service,  
Pastor  
Fred Simon

## Best Practices in Congregational Stewardship

Much has been written about best practices in congregational stewardship. The internet provides a wide variety of resources on this topic. In an internet article titled “Best Practices for Effective Stewardship in the Church,” David S. Bell says that the term “best practices” refers to a leadership style that employs optimal strategies. What is a best practice in one congregation, however, may not be a best practice in another.

Best practices will vary depending on the location (rural, suburban, urban) and size of the congregation, among other issues. The best practices given here are designed to stimulate thinking, encourage new perspectives, and foster discussion.

An important place to begin any discussion of Christian stewardship is an understanding of the Biblical definition. “Stewardship,” writes T.A. Kantonen in [A Theology for Christian Stewardship](#), “is the English word used to translate the New Testament word oikonomia. The Greek word is a compound of oikos, meaning house, and nomos, meaning law. It refers thus to the management of a house or of household affairs ... In the Gospels an Oikonomos, steward, is a slave or hired servant to whom the owner entrusts the management of his household ... The term acquires a spiritual significance, however, when our Lord uses it as a metaphor to describe a man’s management of his whole life in responsibility to God. In the Pauline epistles, oikonomia becomes a definite religious concept” .

A good definition of Christian Stewardship is this: “Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the Church, in managing life and all of life’s resources for God’s purposes.” The definition underscores the fact that Christian stewardship is a whole life issue and not just a money issue.

## **Lutheran Braille Workers Plate Embossing Device**

\$100,000



Lutheran Braille Workers is committed to providing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the visually impaired throughout the world. With more than 180 million people around the world who are blind or who have only partial sight, the need is great. Since 1943, Lutheran Braille Workers has provided Christian materials in more than 30 languages to visually impaired people in more than 120 countries. Each year, Lutheran Braille Workers produces and distributes over 11 million sheets of Braille material throughout the world, as well as large print books of the Bible and other Christian materials.

Lutheran Braille Workers has grown into one of the largest faith-based producers of free Braille Bibles and Christian materials throughout the world. Lutheran Braille Workers currently supports almost 200 work centers with over 5,100 volunteers in the United States and Canada, who punch, emboss, and collate sheets of Braille paper and large print materials for distribution.

LWML is providing \$100,000 in funding to help Lutheran Braille Workers purchase a new Plate Embossing Device (PED) to replace worn out zinc plates, as well as create zinc plates for new Braille titles. The PED is the sole device in the United States to emboss Braille plates for the production of Braille books. Without the PED, the ability to produce Braille material would be restricted in the near future as existing plates wear out. Thus, obtaining a new PED would ensure continued production of the zinc plates for many years to come, allowing Lutheran Braille Workers to continue providing Braille Bibles and other Christian resources to visually impaired people worldwide. Lutheran Braille Workers has pledged to commit \$50,000 toward the \$150,000 needed to purchase, ship, and provide supplies for the new PED.

The free Braille and large print Bibles and Christian materials provide the message of salvation through faith in Jesus to individuals who are visually impaired, bringing those on the edge into the Kingdom of God and providing those already with Jesus the comfort of reading His Word. Your mites will aid thousands of people who are not able to see but who want to be with Jesus.

February 2012

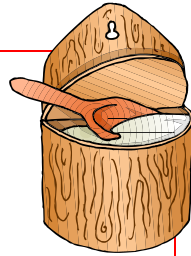
## PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

1. Did you turn the page on your calendar? If you did, 50¢; if not, \$1
2. Forward a favorite Mustard Seed Devotion to someone – 25¢
3. Do you have church fellowship tonight? – 25¢
4. Look up the Lutheran Braille Workers website – 50¢
5. Praise God for His provision and care – freewill offering
6. Pray today at noon giving thanks for the volunteers who help produce and distribute Braille Bibles and Christian materials - 25¢
7. Did not visit the LWML website today? – \$1
8. Still looks like winter outside – 50¢; if the sun is out – \$1
9. Call up a relative you haven't talked to in a while – 50¢
10. Put 10¢ in your Mite Box for each Valentine's card you will give
11. Put 20¢ in your Mite Box for every heart decoration you see today
12. Praise God for His unconditional love in Jesus Christ – freewill offering
13. Pray that Braille Bibles and Christian resources will be distributed where needed - 25¢
14. Put 10¢ in your Mite Box for every "Happy Valentine's Day!" you hear today
15. For every piece of chocolate you ate today – 25¢
16. For each hug given to your loved ones today – 25¢
17. Call up a friend for coffee – 50¢
18. Bake cookies to share with your neighbors – 50¢
19. Invite a friend to church – 50¢
20. President's Day – pray at noon for our nation's leaders – 25¢
21. Find out about local organizations for the visually impaired – 50¢
22. Do you have Bible study tonight? – \$1
23. Be thankful that tomorrow is Friday – 25¢
24. Check out the Mission Grants resources at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) – 50¢
25. Gather up items to donate to your local thrift store – 50¢
26. Talk to someone you don't know at church today – 50¢; if not – \$1
27. Thank God for the work of Lutheran Braille Workers in sharing His Word – 50¢
28. Share a favorite Bible verse with a friend – 50¢
29. It's a leap year! Praise God for the extra day – \$2



*\* Please be Together in Prayer  
at Noon every Monday with LWML sisters.*

# HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH!!



The **Bellevue Pantry** needs many of the same items month after month. Although repetitive, those are the items most needed. During the month of **February**, please fill the **pantry box** (located in the coat room) with **Jell-o** and **Hamburger Helper**. It's the month to remember loved ones. We encourage you to think of others and help stock the shelves at the pantry. Your support has been amazing! Let's continue to be generous to those in need of help with the designated items or any other donations. Thank you!

Thank you to my Pilgrim family for all the love, prayers, support, cards, gifts, and memorial money you have shared with me and my family during this difficult time. Please continue to keep us in your prayers in the months to come as we deal with Scott's tragic death. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our congregation and feel very blessed to have you all in my life!

Laura Siebenborn

## UPCOMING CHRISTIAN CONCERTS

Thursday 2/16/2012—Mid America Center, Council Bluffs--Artists: Skillet, Aaron Shust, Peter Furler, Kari Jobe, Building 429, Group 1 Crew, Dara Maclean, For King & Country, We as Human... Hosting: Newsong... Speaking: Nick Hall... Illusionist: Brock Gill—Tickets Just \$10 at the door

**Saturday 2/18/2012—Bellevue Christian Center--Girls Night Live: Mandisa, Britt Nicole, and Laura Story—for tickets go to [kgbifm.com](http://kgbifm.com).**



# Summer Sunday School

Sunday School classes will be held for children entering Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade beginning in June (9:15-10:15 am). Plans have tentatively been made to feature an opening devotion with music and prayer, and then children will be divided up into two groups to watch age-appropriate Christian videos. Due to summer vacations and uncertain attendance, a structured curriculum like the one used during the school year is impractical during the summer months.

**Volunteers are needed to staff Summer Sunday School.** You don't have to be a teacher to help out, and we're only asking for a commitment of 2 or 3 Sundays.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please see Ken Eakins or call him at 402-657-0330.

**It's Super Bowl time again** -- and the Boy Scout Troop 476 will be taking orders for Super Bowl Subs. We have heard this is a fundraiser that is missed so we decided to continue with them again this year. Please look for an order form in your church mailbox.

Subs can be picked up on ***Super Bowl Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, following the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.***

# EDUCATION CENTER NEWS



The month of February is always exciting for the children. They look forward to exchanging Valentines, talking about people we love, and learning about God's love for us. President's Day exemplifies our freedom to live in a country that allows people of all races, religions and backgrounds the same opportunities. The children will be talking about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and how these presidents contributed to our freedoms today.



## CHILDCARE FIELD TRIPS

The Childcare will be having two "In House" field trips.

- Dental Health Week - Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, a Dental Hygienist will visit the classrooms.
- Omaha Children's Museum, Science Show — Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Preschool will be joining the Childcare for the Science Show, from 11:30 – 12:30.

## PRESCHOOL NO SCHOOL DAYS

Winter Break, Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

## CHAPEL

February Chapel will be on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

This month's theme is "To Love". Bible Verse: John 15:12b "Love each other as I have loved you".

This month's food item donations: Peanut Butter and Jelly.

## PRESCHOOL OPEN ENROLLENT

Preschool Open Enrollment for fall of 2012 has begun. Classes available are: T, TH morning classes for Three Year Olds, M, W, F morning classes for Four Year Olds, M, T, W, TH, morning and afternoon classes for Pre-K 5 children. Pre-K5 children must be five years old by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Hurry, classes are filling up! Call 291-3259 or 293-2813 for more information. Mrs. Schulman will be happy to assist you.

## LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

"Securing Each Child's Future-Equipped" based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

## COOKS NIGHT OUT

Lansky's night is on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 3:00pm – 9:00pm. Come and have your meal at Lansky's. The Education Center receives 40% of the proceeds. All proceeds go towards the Playground Fund. See you there.

Jane Kemp  
Director, Education Center

Gloria Schulman  
Coordinator, Pilgrim Preschool



# Financial Report

Pilgrim Lutheran Congregation

For Dec and Year End 2011

Dated – 21 January 2012

## Financial Summary

YTD for the congregation as a whole shows a positive \$2,586.

Entity	Dec Income	Dec Expense	Dec Net	YTD Inc	YTD Exp	YTD Net
Congregation	\$101,854	\$128,449	-\$26,595	\$1,213,616	\$1,211,030	<b>\$2,586</b>
Church	\$31,371	\$31,577	-\$206	\$347,355	\$336,844	\$10,511
Daycare	\$59,298	\$80,730	-\$21,432	\$755,761	\$767,322	-\$11,561
Preschool	\$11,185	\$16,142	-\$4,957	\$110,500	\$106,864	\$3,636
<b>End-Of-Month Balances</b>						
Mortgage Bal	\$181,339					
Operating Bal	\$22,515					

## Financial Observations

Sent \$2,500 to the district this year.

A substantial dent was made in the mortgage this year. We paid down \$114,258 in principal. Our mortgage on 31 December 2010 was \$295,597

As a congregation, we used to see a general fund increase in giving in December, but as you can see with this chart, that bump had gone away in 2009 and 2010. However 2011 is again showing a slight increase. I won't go into details in this report, but the last column titled "Variance From Previous Year" shows an interesting trend. Please keep in mind that BBT competed with our General Fund from 2009 to 2011.

Year	Gross Church Revenue	Average Monthly	December Revenue	December Increase	Variance From Previous year
2005	\$377,722	\$31,477	\$41,185	\$9,708	NA
2006	\$416,208	\$34,684	\$45,970	\$11,286	\$1,578
2007	\$394,576	\$32,881	\$42,727	\$9,846	-\$1,440
2008	\$382,494	\$31,875	\$38,098	\$6,223	-\$3,623
2009	\$364,736	\$30,395	\$29,923	-\$472	-\$6,695
2010	\$350,416	\$29,201	\$26,911	-\$2,290	-\$1,818
2011	\$347,355	\$28,946	\$31,371	\$2,495	\$4,785

Our net worth has climbed steadily over the past four years, due mainly to our debt reduction efforts

<b>Net Worth 31 December 2011</b>	4,545,091	+3.9%
<b>Net Worth 31 December 2010</b>	4,372,520	+5.1%
<b>Net Worth 31 December 2009</b>	4,159,565	+5.1%
<b>Net Worth 31 December 2008</b>	3,956,666	NA

<b>Current Assets</b>			<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
GS Bank - Operating		22,515		
GS Bank - Reserve CD		100,337		
GS Bank - Reserve MM		7,023		
LCEF Funds (Educational)		40,729		
FWBank - Stock Sales Holding Acct		32,000		
FWBank - Legacy Bldg Fund CD		88,546		
FWBank - BBT CD		153,604		
TD Ameritrade - BBT		10,236		
<b>Internal Accounts</b>				
Sanctuary Interior		453		
Building Fund - New Sanctuary		107,544		
Building Fund - Principal Reduction		0		
ChildCare Designated		-1,263		
Prayer Garden		9,266		
Sound System		3,224		
Memorials		0		
Thrivent		6,489		
Designated Discretionary		3,627		
Operational Designated Accounts		12,100		
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		596,430	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	0
Vehicles		50,000	FWB (Mortgage)	181,339
Building		3,000,000		
Real Estate (11 acres)		1,080,000		
<b>Total Assets</b>		4,726,430	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	181,339
<b>Net Worth</b>		4,545,091		

Respectfully Submitted,

# February Birthdays

- (1) Wayne Bengtson
- (1) Darrell Jourdan
- (1) Emma Lindell
- (2) Glen Anderson
- (3) Dana Leonard
- (3) Jenny Staroscik
- (4) Billy Strongin
- (5) Alexia Siefken
- (6) Tammy Moffat
- (8) Skyler Moffat
- (9) Benjamin Dalton
- (9) Austin Glenn
- (10) Welton Chase Jr.
- (10) Ron Coleman
- (10) Peggy Corpman
- (10) Benjamin Skoff
- (11) Clay Barnett
- (11) Dave Offutt
- (12) Jeff Barelman
- (12) Joyce Evener
- (12) Alexandra Mangette
- (12) Paul Sanny
- (13) Michelle McIntosh
- (13) Dianne Ristow
- (14) Horace Beach



- Jeremy Carson (14)
- Arlene Wetzler (14)
- Becky Neville (15)
- Cindy Clark (16)
- Matthew Worrall (16)
- Ashley Moffat (17)
- Karla Culbertson (19)
- Cruz Homan (20)
- Mitchell Markley (20)
- Erna Duckworth (22)
- Julie Hladky (23)
- Danny Hockett (23)
- Mark Lowe (23)
- Angela Frost (24)
- Marie Hansen (24)
- Travis Larson (26)
- Al Sledge (26)
- Arthur Aden (27)
- Teri Johnson (27)
- Zoey Hladky (28)
- Heide Kuss (28)
- Tim Roth (28)

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

Robert & Debbie Snyder (11)  
Larry & Carol Jean Hurley (13)  
Tim & Shannon Brooks (14)  
Fred & Mary Brown (14)  
Bryan & Heidi Young (14)  
Frank & Eleanore Barrett (16)  
Harvey & Lavonne Marx (22)  
Jon & Kendall Marx (25)



# Worship Schedule for February 2012

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Elders</i>	<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Readers</i>
Feb. 4 (Sat)	Rich Boehne				
5:30 p.m.	Ken Eakins				
Communion					
Feb. 5 (Sun)	Wes Hansen	Joshua Voogd	Boy Scouts		Boy Scouts
8:00 a.m.	Dave Britton	Ben Dalton			
Communion	Jim Mangette				
10:30 a.m.	Dave Broderson	Joshua Voogd	Boy Scouts		
Communion	Ron Coleman	Ben Dalton			
	Ron Methot				
Feb. 11 (Sat)	Wes Hansen		Robert Snyder	Debbie Snyder	
5:30 p.m.	Jerry Lovell				
Communion					
Feb. 12 (Sun)	Duane Wyatt	Jacob Mikkelson	Jordan Bald	Genise Bald	Eleanore Barrett
8:00 a.m.	Lloyd Hasche		Nolan Bald	Brian Bald	
Communion	Lou Ferony				
10:30 a.m.	Jeff Fox	Heather Moffat	Sam Dalton	Lori Dalton	
Communion	Clif Moffat	Anthony McIntosh	Phyllis Timm	Liz Fox	
	Rich Boehne				
Feb. 18 (Sat)	Jim Lightfoot		Robert Snyder	Debbie Snyder	
5:30 p.m.	Duane Wyatt				
Communion					
Feb. 19 (Sun)	Dave Britton	Cristiano Marx	Erv Bamesberger	Wandyne Bamesberger	Gloria Wilde
8:00 a.m.	Ron Coleman	Ethan Schmidt	Don Wilde	Gloria Wilde	
Communion	Lloyd Hasche				
10:30 a.m.	Ron Carnes	Alyssa Beyersdorf	Bruce Clark	Cindy Clark	
Communion	Ken Eakins	Ben Skoff	Ruth Tempelmann	Ron Methot	
	Clif Moffat				
Feb. 22 (Sat)	Wes Hansen	Natalie Young	Al Sledge	Lynne Sledge	
6:30 p.m.	Jeff Fox	Ayrianna Sellers	Lou Ferony	Astrid Ferony	
Communion	Jim Mangette				
Feb. 25 (Sat)	Ken Eakins				
5:30 p.m.	Jim Lightfoot				
Communion					
Feb. 26 (Sun)	Lloyd Hasche	Anna Mangette	John Keim	Carol Lange	Astrid Ferony
8:00 a.m.	Jim Mangette	Jackson Mangette	Don Stoltenberg	Ron Coleman	
Communion	Duane Wyatt				
10:30 a.m.	Dave Brodersen	Jordan Thorstad	Bruce Clark	Cindy Clark	
Communion	Rich Boehne	Cameron Hessler	Jim Hill	Deb Hill	
	Jeff Fox				