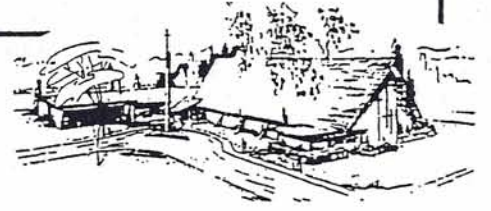




PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

JANUARY 2013



FROM THE PASTOR - "ARE WE FOR JANUS OR JESUS?"

Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

January is named after the Roman god Janus, the guardian of doors and gates. The month of January, which opens the door to the new year and closes it to the past, was important to him. As a door has two sides, so Janus was represented by having two faces. The doors of his temple in the Forum were shut in times of peace and open in times of war. In Rome's history these doors were rarely closed.

Born when Rome ruled the world, Jesus, the Prince of Peace, also associated Himself with a door. "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."

We do well to commit ourselves to Jesus as January 1st opens the door to the New Year. Time passes, centuries come and go, empires fall, rulers die, idols like Janus are forgotten – but Jesus lives! He is "the same yesterday and today and forever."

As this year begins, we ask ourselves – "Are we for Janus or for Jesus?" If we live for the things of this world – its idolatries, its materialism, its sensualism – then we are for Janus. If we enjoy a good fight – if not bloodshed in the streets or war throughout the world, then personal and passionate aggressiveness – we are then again for Janus.

But if we put our God on top, if we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and if we work for peace because we know we're forgiven and reconciled with God through the death of His Son, we are for Jesus! We have chosen well, for Jesus is "the author and perfecter of our faith." He is the only way to the Father, the only door to eternal life.

May He be with you all and bless you in the New Year and always!

Yours, in the Savior,

Rev. Carl F. Trosien, Pastor

DECEMBER VOTERS MEETING: The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. and was opened with a prayer by Pastor Trosien. A motion to accept the list of nominees was made by Mark, seconded by Don, and passed. Pastor presented a program called Beacon of Hope. It is a pregnancy care center that teaches women about adoption and alternatives to abortion. They would like to provide baby bottles to members of the church who would like to fill them with coins and return them in February. Meeting closed with a prayer at 8:10 p.m.

PILGRIMS SERVING IN JANUARY

Elders:

Sat - Gary Leinberger

Sun - Dan Johnson

Altar Guild:

Dolores Mast & Ruth Manke

Acolytes:

6 – Matthew Bickham

13 – Dakota Fritz

20 – Madison Wagner

27 – Jaelyn LaPouttre

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JANUARY 17th

2013 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES – The 2013 envelopes have been placed in your church mailbox. The numbers have been changed. If you have not picked yours up yet, please do so as soon as possible.

2012 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS - The 2012 contribution statements will be in your church mailbox by the weekend of January 13th. Please check yours for any errors or omissions.

PILGRIM PRAYER NETWORK – The Prayer Network wishes a safe and Happy New Year to all our Pilgrim members and their families. Next meeting is on January 9th at 3:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS – Pilgrim donated 6 food baskets for Christmas to fellow members and friends of members who are in need. Our thanks to all of you for your generous gifts of food and money that made these baskets so special. Thank you to Billie Jo McDonald and Laurie Morley for the time and work they put into getting the baskets ready. We couldn't do it without them!

SPECIAL THANKS - A special thanks is extended to everyone who helped plan and decorate the Church for Christmas. Thank you for the hours put in to make our church look special in honor of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ! Thanks for all your hard work! We will be undecorating the church on Saturday, January 12th at 9:00 a.m. Many hands are needed to make the work go faster.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE RESULTS – The Holiday Bake Sale was a huge success. Our profit was \$841.00. Thank you to everyone who brought baked goods and/or purchased something.

THANK YOU – Pastor would like to thank Sandra Hines, Stella Peoples and the children of the Sunday School who helped make this year's Children's Christmas Service so beautiful! Everyone did a great job!

THANK YOU – The Trosiens and the Setzers would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Pilgrim members for your Christmas greetings and gifts. May God bless you richly through the coming year and enable us to minister effectively together in His church.

CHURCH COOKBOOKS – The church cookbooks have arrived! They are available through the church office during the week. The cost is \$10.00. They make great gifts!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES – The Good Samaritan Rescue Mission has two openings for Shelter Assistants. One is for a man in the Men's wing and another is for a woman in the Family Emergency Shelter section. All information has been posted on the bulletin board.

ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>SAT</u>	<u>SUN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>H.C.</u>	<u>GEN. FUND</u>	<u>IMP FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>+ OR -</u>
		11/21=41*	34				
11/24=18	11/25=67			\$2,581.28	\$ 0.00	\$2,581.28	- 169
12/01=33	12/02=57	12/05=24#	71	3,783.00	0.00	3,783.00	+1032
12/08=23	12/09=68	12/12=26#		2,441.00	0.00	2,441.00	- 309
12/15=25	12/16=59	12/19=23#	82	<u>3,438.00</u>	<u>20.00</u>	<u>3,458.00</u>	<u>+ 707</u>
				\$12,243.28	\$ 20.00	\$12,263.28	+1261

*Thanksgiving, #Advent

SPECIAL GIFTS: Thanksgiving, \$283.00; Advent, \$477.00; Food Pantry, \$30.00; Christmas Eve, \$5.00; Christmas Day, \$15.00; Adopt-a-Student, \$250.00; Gift from Dancers, \$50.00; Niederer Memorial, \$988.00; Simmons Memorial, \$15.00; Super Storm Sandy Door Collection, \$207.82

OUR STEWARDSHIP TO THE LORD AND TO PILGRIM

PILGRIM'S 2012 BUDGET	\$143,013.00
BUDGET THROUGH DECEMBER 19 th	140,262.75
CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 19 th	125,820.99
CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER BUDGET NEEDS	\$ 14,441.76

PASTORAL ACTS –

Adult Baptism – Michael Jewell baptized on November 25th.

Release at own request – Kristina Rouech and children Zachary, Olivia, and Nickolas to Bethel Lutheran Church, Essexville

Funeral – Amelia Simmons departed this life on Sunday, December 16th at 92 years of age. She was given a Christian funeral from Rivertown Funeral Chapel and laid to rest in Gerrish Twp. Cemetery.

“Because I live, you will live also!”

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2013 – We will have installation of church officers on Sunday, January 6th. They are: President – Jerry Thompson, Vice President – one needed, Secretary – Sandra Davis, Treasurer – One Needed/Sue Wade; Trustees: Tom Dagneau, Bob Setzer; Steve Bickham, Don Jones I; Elders: Gary Leinberger, Carl W. Trosien, Chad Mielens, Tim Walraven, Paul Pett, Dan Johnson, Don Jones II, Mark Anthony; Board of Christian Education: Jill Benchley, Jennifer Mallory, Stephanie Jones, Kim Trosien, Tom Klepser, Joni Klepser.

SAVE THE DATE – Groovin to the 70's – The 10th annual Valley Lutheran High School Benefit Dinner and Auction is going to be on Sat., Feb. 23, 2013 at Apple Mountain Conference Center. The past nine auctions have netted over half a million dollars which has been applied to various school improvements. Thank you for your past support of VLHS! We could use your help – we are asking for items to be donated and put up for bid (merchandise, tickets, services, vacation homes, etc.) There are also opportunities to participate by way of prayer, advertising, sponsorship, or attending the auction. Click on our auction link www.vlhsauction.com for more information and check out our often-updated list of items. Watch your bulletin and/or church message board for ticket/donation fliers. For further information or questions, you may call Valley Lutheran at 790-1676.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tom Dagneau Carol Jankens Susan Nutt Eileen Schulz Ednalouise Wojcik	2	3 Monica Anthony	4 Spencer Killey Mary Kochaney	5
6	7 Sam Carlin Wesley Fritz	8 Ken Caspers	9 Shannon Groke Megan Kochaney John Pascuzzi	10 Thomas Klepser	11 Chad Scharich	12 Kellie Bunnel Tyler Imker
13 Donn Barber	14	15	16 Carol Borchartd	17 Audrina Carrisal Casey Dillard	18 Sarah Killey Renee Reinke	19 Don Jones II Helen Thompson
20	21 Paige Rochefort Loretta Rozewski	22 Inge Cohrs Trisha Fritz	23 Carol Valley Debra Wentworth	24 Preston Toyzan	25	26 Layne Scharich
27	28 Matt Dardas Jr.	29	30	31 Natalie Yenglin		

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1705 Nebobish Avenue
Essexville, Michigan 48732

JANUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Bible Class, 9:30	3	4	5 <u>HOLY COMMUNION</u> , 7
6 The Epiphany of our Lord Sunday School, 9:15 Bible Class, 9:15 <u>HOLY COMMUNION</u> , 10:30 Installation of Church Officers Confirmation Class, 11:30	7 Elders, 7	8 Quilting, 9:30 Bible Class, 7 Stewardship, 7:30	9 Bible Class, 9:30 Prayer Network, 3	10	11	12 Undecorate Church, 9 <u>WORSHIP SERVICE</u> , 7
13 1 st Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday School, 9:15 Bible Class, 9:15 <u>WORSHIP SERVICE</u> , 10:30 Confirmation Class, 11:30 Trustees, 11:30	14 Voters, 7 Food Pantry Week	15 Quilting, 9:30 Bible Class, 7	16 Bible Class, 9:30	17 Keenagers, 11 Newsletter Deadline	18	19 <u>HOLY COMMUNION</u> , 7
20 2 nd Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday School, 9:15 Bible Class, 9:15 <u>HOLY COMMUNION</u> , 10:30 Confirmation Class, 11:30	21	22 Quilting, 9:30 Bible Class, 7	23 Bible Class, 9:30 Prayer Network, 3	24	25	26 <u>WORSHIP SERVICE</u> , 7
27 3 rd Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday School, 9:15 Bible Class, 9:15 <u>WORSHIP SERVICE</u> , 10:30	28	29 Quilting, 9:30 Bible Class, 7	30 Bible Class, 9:30	31	<p>Rev. Carl F. Trosien, Pastor Home: 893-5266 Office: 893-7224</p>	