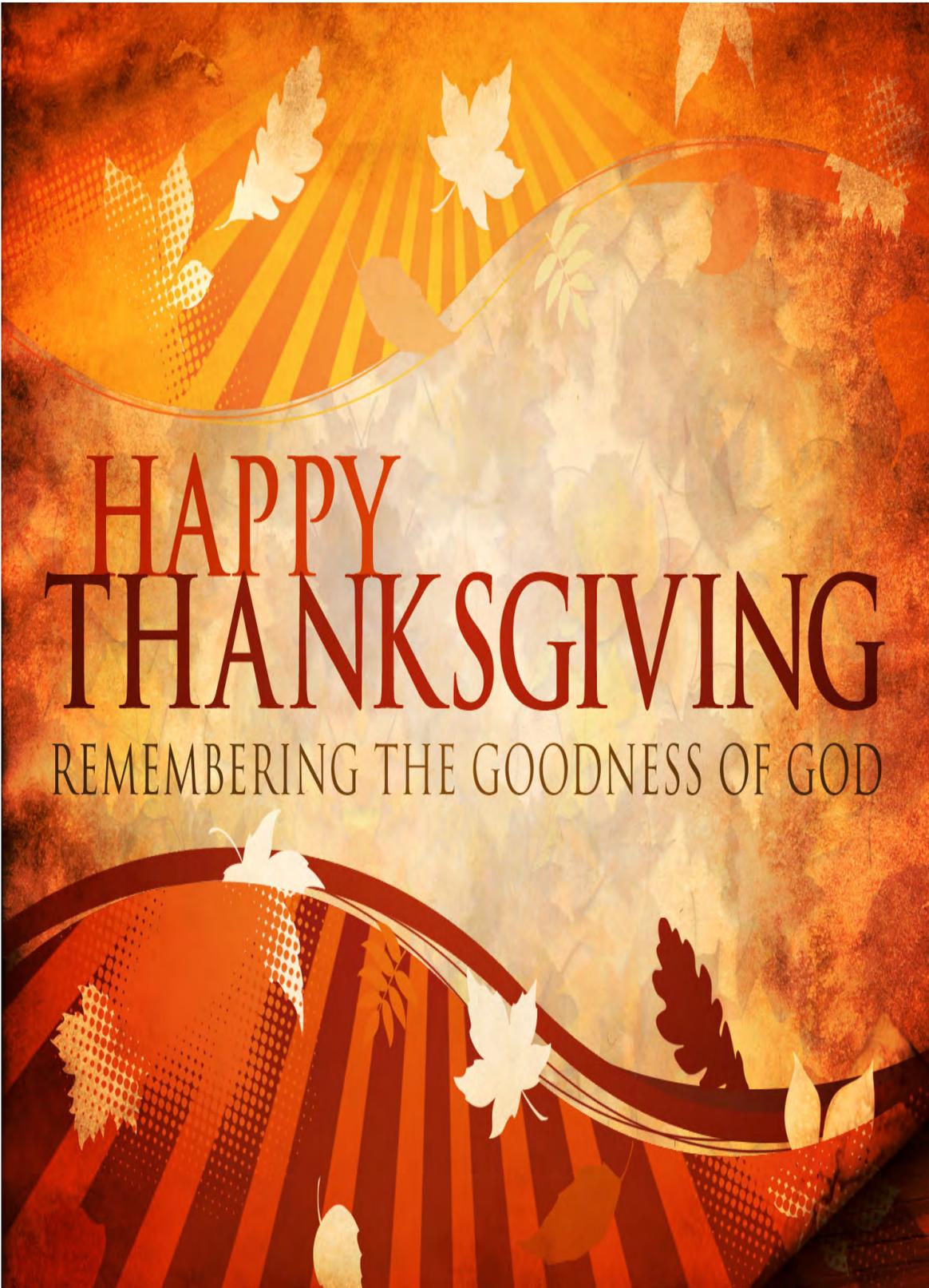
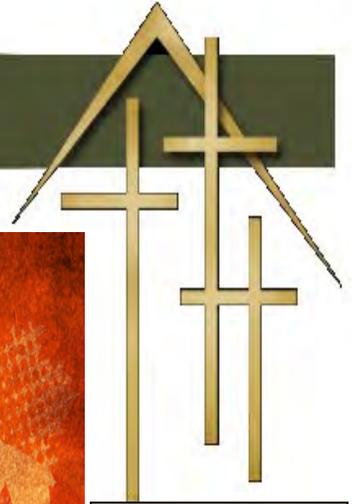




Pilgrim's Progress



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

REMEMBERING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

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From the Desk of Pastor Erv

Greetings, in the Name of the LORD!

As I write this article, the 2016 election campaign is drawing to a close. I, like many people, have not been overwhelmed by the candidates for national office, their ability or their commitment to do good and speak truth. That being said, I continue to pray for them and for our country.

Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 2:1–4, *“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”* God told the Israelites in exile to pray for Babylon: *“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper”* (Jeremiah 29:7). Romans 13:1 says, *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”* Paul requested prayer “for all the Lord’s people” and for himself that he would speak the gospel boldly (Ephesians 2:18–20).

Prayer is important. And it seems the Bible makes special mention of praying for those in positions of authority. Such authorities include government officials (international,

national, and local) and pastors, church elders, school boards, school principals, employers, and the like.

We do not pray for our leaders simply because we are commanded to. Praying for them makes practical sense. Our leaders can affect the conditions we live in and have an impact on our families, our churches, our workplaces, our cities, and our countries. When those in authority are obeying the will of God, it is easier to *“live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness”* (1 Timothy 2:2). When evil people are in authority, our prayers for them are just as needed, as illustrated by William Tyndale’s last words as he was being burned at the stake: “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.”

Also, we do not pray for our leaders merely for our own benefit. Leadership can be a tiring task. James 3:1 says, *“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”* Leaders carry a degree of responsibility to their followers. They are often the targets of criticism and the go-to people in a crisis. If they are leading well, they are living their lives in service. We pray for them because we recognize the greatness of their task and because we are grateful for their willingness to lead.

So how should we pray for our leaders? First, if we are uncertain that

they know Jesus, we should pray for their salvation. But whether or not our leaders are Christians, we should pray that God will guide them as they guide us. We should pray that they be wise and discerning and surrounded by helpful advisors. We know that God has placed our leaders in authority over us (Romans 13:1), and we can ask Him to use them as He will. We should also pray for their protection. When praying for pastors or ministry leaders, we can pray for them to have strength in the midst of spiritual warfare and to remain encouraged in the Lord. We can pray for their families, who often feel scrutinized and bear an extra load.

Briefly stated, we should mention our leaders before God in prayer and ask Him to have His way in their hearts, to support those around them, and to use their leadership to benefit their followers.

However, this election turns out, God is still in His heavens, and we are still the apple of His eyes. His will will ultimately be done and nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ our LORD. Pray for whomever gets elected.

In HIS Service

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Erv". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Erv

October Voters Meeting – The meeting was called to order at 7 pm and opened with a devotion and prayer by Gary Leinberger. The minutes, Financial Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's report were accepted as presented. Under Old Business: A security lock, camera, and intercom system has been bid out at a price of \$3,616.00. This would bring our security up to state code. A motion was made, seconded and passed to have the system installed and start a fund to cover the purchase. Discussion was held concerning the 75th Anniversary Celebration. A planning committee will be formed. Elders: The proposed Worship Schedule for 2016-17 was approved. Trustees: The Trustees will now hold their meetings on Monday evening at 6:30 pm before the Voters Meeting so that Pastor Hutter is able to attend. Board of Christian Education: A Tuesday morning Bible study will be led by Donna Stagray. Supplies have been ordered. The Sunday School is still in need of volunteers. The Christmas program planning is in progress. Pastor's Report: His report contained information on Pastoral Acts and the proposed Worship Schedule for 2016-2017. He also proposed that a men's group be formed with the first meeting taking place on the last Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Under New Business: The new budget was discussed. Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the budget as presented. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:47 pm

PILGRIM SERVING IN NOVEMBER –

Elders- Sat - Jim Schaub
Sun - Mark Anthony

Altar Guild – Dolores Mast

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOVEMBER 17th

WOMEN'S GUILD – The next meeting of Women's Guild will be on Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. The hostesses are Dolores Mast and Marilyn Niederer. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to join the fellowship and fun.

QUILTERS NEEDED – The quilters are in need of a couple of people who can sew either here or at home. If you would like to help out with this volunteer effort please contact the church office, 893-7224.

TIME CHANGE – The first weekend of November we will observe Daylight Savings time by turning our clocks back one hour. Remember to **Fall Back** one hour before going to bed Saturday night November 5th!

KEENAGERS THANKSGIVING – The Keenagers (retirees) will meet at 11:30 a.m. on November 17th at the Hampton Meal Site for a Thanksgiving Meal. The cost is \$2.50 and reservations must be made 2 days in advance by calling Marilyn Niederer at 980-8835. All Retirees are invited to join them for fun and fellowship.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF UPDATE

– A big thanks to everyone from Pilgrim for your

generous spirit of giving to Lutheran World Relief. Results tabulated of items sent from Pilgrim are: 65 quilts, 4 blankets, 54 & 1/4 pounds of soap, and \$55 in cash.

WELLSPRING LUTHERAN SERVICES **- CHILD & FAMILY AUXILIARY** –

Chapter 3 of the Child and Family Auxiliary will hold their next meeting on Monday, November 14th at the Agency Conference Room, W.S. Saginaw Road, at 7 p.m. The guest speaker to be announced.

GIVING TREE – Pilgrim Lutheran's Helping Hands Group is once again sponsoring a Giving Tree to collect items for the veterans at the Saginaw Veterans Hospital. The first weekend in November there will be a "Giving Tree" in the narthex with tags listing items needed. Please take a tag, purchase the item and return to church UNWRAPPED by December 2nd.

CHURCH DECORATING FOR **CHRISTMAS** –

We will be decorating the church on Saturday, November 26th at 9:00 a.m. A great lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board so we have an idea who will be there to help make our church festive for the upcoming celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- We are asking everyone who has attended and enjoyed "Advent by Candlelight" to consider being on the committee. To volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Mary Setzer, 893-7224.

ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTION –

<u>SAT</u>	<u>SUN</u>	<u>H.C.</u>	<u>GEN FUND</u>	<u>IMP FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>+ OR –</u>
9/24=18	9/25=74		2,554.53		2,554.53	+ 542
10/01=23	10/02=56	65	1,560.76		1,560.76	- 452
10/08=36	10/09=43		1,795.00		1,795.00	- 217
10/15=28	10/16=73	83	1,912.50		1,912.50	- 100
10/22=31	10/23=58		<u>2,037.02</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>2,087.02</u>	<u>+ 75</u>
			\$ 9,859.81	\$ 50.00	\$ 9,909.81	- 152

Special Gifts . . . Adopt-a-Student, \$5.00; Livingston Memorial, \$30.00; Long Memorial, \$50.00; Thompson Memorial, \$140.00; Together in Mission (Pastor Mahlburg), \$80.00; Tai Chi Gift, \$192.00; Dancers Gift, \$194.00; Gift for Confirmation Books, \$50.00; Gift for Preschool Security, \$20.00; Food Pantry, \$11.50

OUR STEWARDSHIP TO THE LORD AND TO PILGRIM

Pilgrim's 2016 Budget	\$104,638.00
Budget through October 23 rd	\$ 86,528.04
Contributions through October 23 rd	\$ 90,869.79
Contributions Over Budget needs	\$ 4,341.75

Pastoral Acts

Funerals: **John Livingston** departed this life on September 30th at 91 years of age. He was given a Christian Memorial Service (Rev. Kurt Eichinger) from Gephart Funeral Home on Sunday, October 2nd.

Jerry L. Thompson departed this life on Wednesday, October 12th at 78 years of age. He was given a Christian Funeral from Pilgrim Lutheran Church on Monday, October 17th and laid to rest at Floral Gardens Cemetery.

Marvin B. Valentine departed this life on Tuesday, October 4th at 86 years of age. He was given a Christian Memorial Service at Andersen Chapel, Camp Rotary, Clare, MI on October 30th and interred at Custer National Cemetery.

"In Christ shall all be made alive."



The Sunday School Christmas program

planning is in process with the program scheduled to take place on Sunday, December 18, during the 10:30 AM service. All children and youth are welcome to come and be part of the Christmas program: **"Wise Men from Afar . . . There's a New Star in the Sky . . . We Come to Worship Jesus."** There are group songs, speaking parts, and/or narrative parts, and non-speaking parts . . . which could include someone for Mary, Joseph, Star of the East, Wise Men, and others. Copies of the program will be available on Sunday, November 20, at 9 AM at the beginning of Sunday School for all those interested in making a selection to participate. We will incorporate practice as part of Sunday School at 9 AM on Sunday, December 4, 11, and 18.

- No Sunday School on Sunday, November 27
- Materials have been ordered for the December, January, and February quarter.



The Blood Drive

with Immanuel Lutheran Church, 10th and Lincoln, Bay City, will take place on Tuesday, November 22nd from 2 pm to 6 pm. If you would be able to donate, please call the church office, 893-7224, to let us know.



75th Anniversary Committee Meeting-

Our first committee meeting to plan our 75th Anniversary celebration will be held in the Blue Room at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. All persons interested are invited to attend. This is a very special event in the life of our congregation and we want to mark it appropriately, so we are always open to your ideas and your assistance in the planning of this year-long celebration.

Around the Circuit

HARVEST TIME – Fields of golden grain, the honking of migrating geese, the pungent odors of ripening grapes or freshly pressed apple cider. . . . these are the sights, sounds and smells of autumn, and reminders of God’s rich harvest of goods to supply our human needs. But, when our Lord reminds us in Matthew 9:37 *“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few . . . ,”* He is talking about the harvest of men’s souls. Your investment in the Church Extension Fund can help bring in that harvest by making CEF loans available to facilitate our churches in reaching out to other souls. Call CEF at 1-800-242-3944 or visit www.mi-cef.org today!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR and Bake Sale at Valley Lutheran High School on Saturday, November 5th from 9 am to 3 pm. Free admission to shop at 50 crafter and vendor booths in our gym. Choose the cookies you want at our Cookie Walk and eat a delicious lunch between 11 am -1 pm in our cafeteria. Sponsored by our PTO, all funds raised go to improving our classrooms or impacting our teachers and students.

HARVEST DINNER – St. John’s Lutheran Church, Pinconning, is hosting their 77th annual Harvest Dinner on Sunday, November 6th from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at St. John’s Fellowship Hall, 1633 E. Pinconning Road. A delicious meal of homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, chicken, squash, baked potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, homemade desserts, and beverages will be served. Cost is: Adults - \$9.00; children 5 – 12 years - \$4.00, and under 5 are free. Take outs are available. A cutlery sale and bake sale will be held during the dinner.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE



THANKSGIVING CHORAL VESPERS SERVICE will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 6100 Westside Saginaw Road, Bay City, on Sunday, November 20th at 3 pm. The service will include congregational hymn singing and anthems from a combined choir of area churches. The offering will be given to the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission of Bay City.

Mission Opportunities



Mission Opportunities Short Term
MINISTRIES

MOST MINISTRIES (Mission Opportunities Short Term) is a short-term Christian mission sending agency located in Ann Arbor, Michigan and is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. For the past 27 years, we

have had the privilege of sending over 5000 individuals to 48 different countries and meeting the physical and spiritual needs of over 200,000 people through our various team projects. Please consider joining other like-minded individuals and spend one week providing the gift of sight in one of the poorest communities in northern Mexico the week of April 1 – 8, 2017. Team members will stay at the Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas and cross the border into Mexico for the daily eyeglass clinics. Depending on the number of team members 100 – 300 people can be served each day. For more information, contact MOST Ministries at 734-994-7909, dsuchyta@mostministries.org or visit our website at www.mostministries.org/1728_mexico. A firm commitment to go is needed by December 8, 2016. We look forward to hearing from you.

Community Events

"MANAGING DIFFICULT BEHAVIORS"

A dementia educational class

Tuesday, November 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

-or-

Thursday, November 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

--Classes are free. Registration is required. Call Bonnie Fritz, LPN, at 989-892-6644.

--Classes are held at Golden Horizons, 1001 Marsac St., Bay City, Michigan (corner of Broadway & Fremont in the former Fremont Elementary School building)

--Certificate of completion is given.

--Program funded by Region VII Area Agency on Aging and the Alzheimer's Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation.

--To register call 989-892-6644.



"Christmas Stockings For Soldiers"

Gephart Funeral Home is participating in this nationwide program. Now through mid-November, stop in at the funeral home and pick up a free Christmas stocking. Take it home and stuff with small gift items (a list of suggestions is available at the funeral home). Return the stuffed stocking to Gephart by November 18, and they will ship the stockings to troops in time for Christmas. Call 686-2291 for more information.



Join the Boy Scouts

Boy Scouting is a fun-filled adventure experience for young men in the fifth grade through high school. Service, community engagement, and leadership development become increasingly important parts of the program as youth lead their own activities and work their way toward earning Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. There are currently 855,000 Boy Scouts and 485,000 adult volunteers in the United States.

While there is guidance from experienced leaders, Boy Scouts take their own lead, exploring places they've never been as they dive into the rugged world of outdoor adventure. With a spirit of teamwork, they pack up their Scout gear and their sense of adventure, and dive into the learning and excitement that comes from being in the brotherhood of the Boy Scouts.

Our local Troop 119 meets on Monday nights at 7:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran School, 300 N. Sheridan Street, Bay City. For more information contact Andy Hutter at 989-980-0000.



What is Your Story?

Recently I spent some time visiting the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, LA. As you enter, you are given a dog tag representing a veteran that you follow during your journey through the museum. At various points, you get to hear their story in their own words. You can also hear the stories of many other servicemen and women throughout the war. It made the entire experience much more personal and engaging.

All of us have a story. If you had the chance to talk to your grandparents, what questions would you pose to them? What interesting or surprising nuggets would surface from those exchanges?

Think of the valuable and endearing lessons we might learn from their experiences. How much closer would you feel as you discover almost forgotten stories that fill in the voids of life?

You can have tremendous impact on your kids or grandkids by letting them know your stories. What did you enjoy doing as a child? What was the best advice you ever received and who gave it to you? Describe the best vacation you ever experienced. How did you celebrate birthdays or specific holidays? List three people that had a memorable influence on your life. Explain what was done to influence you. Who had the biggest impact on your faith? The questions could go on and on.

The story telling task seems almost overwhelming. Take it one step at a time. Let your kids or grandkids ask you questions that interest them. If you need help getting started, go to the Church Extension Fund website, www.mi-cef.org under Gift Planning. Scroll down to the bottom PDF file titled "Creating a Family Legacy". You will find 25 starter questions to get going. Then just grab a pen, your phone, a digital recorder or camera to capture your answers. Now your Life Story is preserved for posterity.

Be sure to tell your story of how God's Grace has made a difference in your life. Your future is secure. Your place in Heaven has been prepared. Future generations will be glad you took the time to record stories about your life and left them such a valuable legacy.

Another legacy is to prepare your estate plan, including a Will or Revocable Living Trust. Prayerfully consider what you want to leave your family and your most beloved ministries. Sharing your faith, completing your plan and leaving gifts to your family can be a huge blessing. You can also leave an important legacy with a planned gift to ministry that will benefit them for years to come. What story will you tell?

Bill Burmeister
Church Extension Fund – Michigan District
800-242-3944 t bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org



Mark Your Calendars
**Michigan District-wide
Reformation Worship Service**
Sunday, October 15, 2017

Breslin Center
at Michigan State University
2 p.m. Concourse Displays Open
4 p.m. Pre-Service Concert
5 p.m. Celebration Worship

michigandistrict.org/500

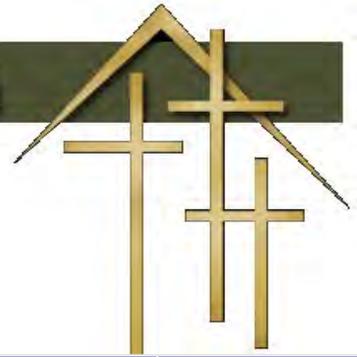


Michigan District
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

This event is generously sponsored by a
Michigan District Church Extension Fund grant



Pilgrim Lutheran Church



November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 ³⁰ - Quilting 6 ³⁰ - Choir Practice	2 6 ³⁰ - Bible Class	3	4	5 7-Holy Communion TIME CHANGE! Turn clocks back one hour before going to bed
6 All Saints Day 9- Bible Class Sunday School 10 ³⁰ - Holy Communion 11 ³⁰ - Confirmation	7	8 9 ³⁰ - Quilting 6 ³⁰ - Choir Practice	9 1- Prayer Network 6 ³⁰ - Bible Class	10 7- Women's Guild	11	12 7-Worship Stewardship
13 26 th Sun/Pentecost 9- Bible Class Sunday School 10 ³⁰ - Worship. 11 ³⁰ - Confirmation 6 ³⁰ -Elders Stewardship	14 6 ³⁰ -Trustees 7- Voter's	15 9 ³⁰ - Quilting 5 ⁰⁰ - 75 th Anniversary Committee Meeting 6 ³⁰ - Choir Practice	16 6 ³⁰ - Bible Class	17 10 - Pineview 11:30- Keenagers meet at Hampton Meal Site for Thanksgiving Dinner	18	19 7-Holy Communion
20 Last Sunday 9- Bible Class Sunday School 10 ³⁰ - Holy Communion 11 ³⁰ - Confirmation	21	22 Blood Drive with Immanuel, 2- 6 pm	23 7 - Thanksgiving Eve Service	24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving	25	26 9- Christmas Decoration Set-up 7-Worship
FOOD PANTRY WEEK						
27 Advent 1 9- Bible Class 10 ³⁰ - Worship 11 ³⁰ - Confirmation	28 6-Set up for Advent by Candlelight	29 8 ^{am} - Set up for Advent by Candlelight 9 ³⁰ - Quilting 6 ³⁰ - Advent by Candlelight	30 1-Advent Service 7-Advent Service	Notes:		

November 2016

Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Christopher Wojcik	3	4 Kathleen Doud Robert Konarzewski	5 Rebecca DeSloover
6	7	8 Tim Smith	9 Doris Larkin	10 Renee Griebe Katelyn Morris	11 Shari Schiefer Kevin Yenglin	12
13 Diane Spiekerman	14 Maxton Nordstrom	15	16	17	18	19 Timothy Smith
20 Craig Carson Sandra Davis Lynn Malusi	21	22	23 Stella Peoples Mary Setzer	24 Cathy Mast Allan VanTol Andrew Walkowiak	25 Carol DeSloover	26 Curt Howard
27 Adalyn Killey Melissa Musinski Ryland Schlickemeyer	28 James Spenner	29	30 Patricia Dammann Brittany Kuch	Notes:		



Pilgrim Lutheran Church



Greetings in the Name of the LORD!

This month we kick-off our 75th anniversary countdown. 74 years ago, in November 1942, Pilgrim officially became a congregation of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Over the next 12 months we will celebrate our heritage, as well as focus on our future, as God's people located in Essexville, Michigan.

As we begin our celebration, we take stock of all the blessings that God has showered on us as a people over the past 75 years. We also more particularly take stock of how God has blessed each of us individually. Pilgrim has begun a rejuvenation. We are growing again and we are again focusing on serving the community in which God has planted us. In order for us as a congregation to plan our future, beginning with the next calendar year, we again as HIS people are asked to plan our own part of God's work.

On Saturday, November 12 and Sunday November 13, as part of our worship service we will recommit ourselves corporately and individually to doing God's work in this place. Please consider how you fit into this work. We all have differing talents, time and treasures, and yet we all have a part to play.

This annual commitment is between yourself and your LORD, so no one is going to step into that process other than to encourage you to do your share.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a commitment form to assist you in your planning. While some pastors preach "tithing", giving 10% of our gross income to do the LORD's work, I would rather encourage you to give of the "first-fruits" of your income. God has blessed you richly. Please consider returning a portion of that generosity to do HIS work in this place.

And while financial giving is certainly a necessary thing, please also consider how you might also donate of yourself, your time and your talents. Only you know how you can accomplish this, but please consider how you can use your time and talents to benefit the work of God's Kingdom especially here at Pilgrim.

Blessings to you as you pray about this.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pastor Erv'.

Rev. Erv Hutter, Pastor

"Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first-fruits of all thine increase." Proverbs 3:9

TO GOD AND TO PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

"WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD!"

In thankfulness and praise for all the blessings received from God,
and in response to the love of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I/We pledge to:

- _____ Worship God faithfully and regularly
- _____ Receive the Lord's Supper frequently
- _____ Read and study God's Word faithfully
- _____ Give of my/our time and talents to extend God's Kingdom
- _____ Give a first-fruits gift of \$ _____ per week in 2017

Date _____ Name(s) _____

(Husband and wife may both sign if this is a joint commitment)

Fold and tear . . . Return top portion to the church – the copy below is yours

"Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first-fruits of all thine increase." Proverbs 3:9

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Date _____ Name(s) _____