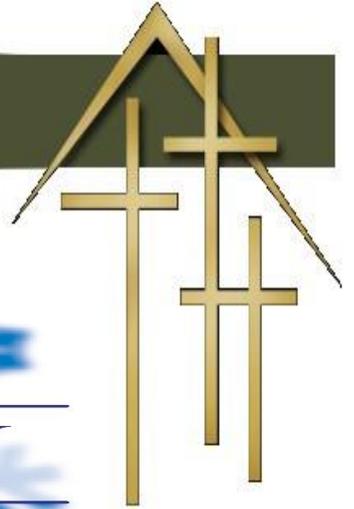




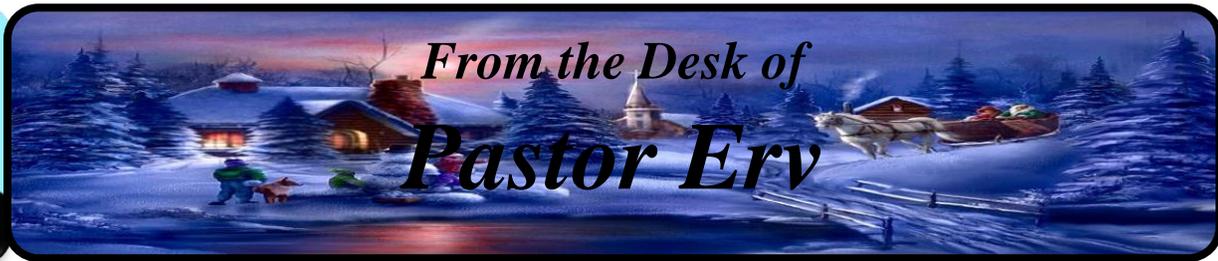
Pilgrim's Progress



JANUARY
2017



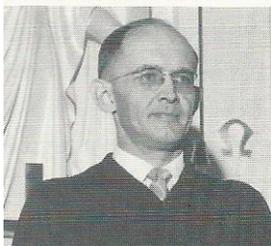
Pilgrim Lutheran Church building 1942-1958



Greetings, in the Name of the LORD!

The year was 1941, the Great Depression was just coming to an end, and World War II was about to begin, but here in Essexville, there was a more pressing question: should we start a Lutheran Sunday School in Essexville, so that the local children don't have to travel so far into Bay City to learn about Jesus? A small group of Essexville residents took this question to two area pastors, Rev. Theodore Stiegemeier of Immanuel, and Rev. Herman Mayer of Zion, both in Bay City. Essexville was growing. Young families were buying and building houses in Essexville and surrounding Hampton Township. Many didn't have reliable transportation, and the Balsler Bus line didn't travel on Sunday mornings.

On April 2, 1941, a Joint Mission Committee composed of members of both Zion and Immanuel, as well as their pastors, made an application to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri for a Pastoral Candidate who would develop not only a Sunday School, but perhaps even a new parish in Essexville. At the request of this committee, the seminary assigned Pastoral Candidate Hillis F. Hall to begin work on September 1, 1941.



Rev. Hillis F. Hall

A mission headquarters and chapel was found in the old Michigan Sugar Company office

building at the southwest corner of First Street and Woodside. The first Sunday School class met there on September 14, 1941. Twenty-one children attended that first class.

The first Worship Service was conducted on October 26, 1941, at the mission office building. This building continued to serve as the mission chapel, and doubled as an apartment for Candidate Hall, until February 1942, when he received a divine call to serve at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lowell, Indiana.

The little community grew rapidly. In January 1942, the office building that was their mission headquarters was sold by the owner in order to convert it into apartments. So, for a period, with no building, the mission ceased Sunday School and Worship Services, but their vision did not fade.

In May of 1942, just five months after the loss of their headquarters, the Joint Mission Committee approved the purchase of a portable chapel building from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Flint for \$1,500. In June, the corner lot on Pine and Nebobish was purchased for \$1,000 by the Joint Mission Committee, and the new chapel was constructed on this property. (a photograph of this "portable chapel" is on the front cover of this Pilgrim's Progress.) In August, several members dug the basement and footing for the building and others drove to Flint to bring the building to Essexville in pieces and reassemble it here. Also in August, Rev. Donald

Dohrman, was called and installed as the new spiritual leader of the "Essexville Lutheran Mission". On October 11, 1942, the renovated chapel was dedicated, and the following month, on November 9, 1942, Pilgrim Lutheran Church of Essexville, Michigan, was officially chartered as a member of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Over the next 11 months, as we move closer to that important date of November 9; we as a congregation will celebrate our past, our present and our future as God's mission station to the community of Essexville and the surrounding area. During this year of celebration, which also coincides with the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, let us together thank our God for all the graces and mercies He has shown in the past, demonstrates in the present, and promises for the future.

In HIS Service

Pastor Erv



**Essexville Lutheran Mission
First St.at Woodside—1941-1942**

DECEMBER VOTERS MEETING: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. and was opened with a Lutheran Hour Devotion. The minutes were presented. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried. The Financial Secretary's report and Treasurer's report were presented. A motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded and carried. OLD BUSINESS: Slate of officers was presented. A motion to accept the slate of officers as presented and seconded. The motion carried. Installation of officers will be held on the second Sunday in January. A coffee hour will follow the service. A wish list is now available in the church office. ELDER'S REPORT: 2 new members have been approved. 1 transfer out has been approved. Elders for Saturday for January will be Jim Schaub and Daniel Johnson on Sundays. TRUSTEE'S REPORT: No repairs are needed at this time. Lighted exit signs will be installed. BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: There was no report. Preschool Christmas program will be held Wed. the 21st at 6 p.m. REPORT OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE: Suggestions have been made for a history book. There will be a new Directory. The official kickoff will be January 22nd. Rev. Kurt Eichinger will be here for both the Saturday and Sunday services. There will be a spaghetti dinner. Events will follow on March 26, May 14th, and July 23rd as well as something in September. The final celebration date will be Nov. 5th or 12th. The actual anniversary date is November 9th, 1942. Volunteers are welcome. Pictures of events are needed. The committee is considering selling ads for the directory. PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported that he has tried two advent services on Wednesdays this year and he feels it has been a success. He will probably have two services during Lent as well. NEW BUSINESS: Undecorating of the church will take place on Jan. 14th at 9 a.m. New foam has been purchased for the planters in the front of the church. Housecleaning and sorting of old supplies and decorations need to be done. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried. The meeting was closed with recitation of the Lord's Prayer at 7:40 p.m.

PILGRIMS SERVING IN JANUARY

Elders:

Saturday - Dan Johnson
Sunday - Jim Schaub

Altar Guild: Dolores Mast

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JANUARY 19th

2017 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES – The 2017 envelopes have been placed in your church mailbox. If you have not picked yours up yet, please do so as soon as possible.

2016 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS - The 2016 contribution statements will be in your church mailbox by the weekend of January 15th. Please check yours for any errors or omissions.

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 14th 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 \$951.00. Thank you to everyone who brought baked goods and/or purchased something.

THANK YOU – The Hutterers 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.

PILGRIM PRAYER NETWORK – The Prayer Network wishes a safe and Happy New Year to all our Pilgrim members and their families. You may call the church office, 893-7224, anytime that you have a prayer request. Next meeting is January 11th at 1 pm.

Pastoral Acts since the end of October

Baptisms:

Charlotte Rose Stasick	11/5/2016
Evan Kyle Sofian	12/4/2016

Adult Confirmation:

Aaron Kyle Sofian	12/4/2016
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No Funerals or Weddings.

January Anniversary Dinner

On Sunday, January 22, 2017, we Pilgrims will be kicking off our 75th Anniversary Year of Celebration and Thanksgiving with a parish Worship and Dinner celebration. Pastor Kurt Eichinger, who served our congregation as a parish assistant from 1985-1991, will be our guest preacher for our Saturday and Sunday Worship services. The Sunday service will be followed by a spaghetti dinner and parish fellowship and celebration time. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending, and why not bring a friend or relative, or even several people to help us celebrate!



Men's Network is a new men's ministry effort here at Pilgrim. On Thursday, January 26, 2017, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall to kick off this new ministry. This group is open to all men ages 16-116 (those older than that will have to have doctor's permission to join...lol). This is not a knitting circle or just another boring program, this group is

focused on ministry to our congregation and community, as well as fraternal fellowship. Mark your calendar, come on down and be a charter member. Remember it's Thursday, January 26, 2017, starting at 7:00 pm.

Church Directory Meeting

As part of our 75th Anniversary, we will be developing a new church pictorial directory in the next couple of months. In order to get started on this project we need a few people to help with organizing it. We'll need some photographers to take pictures during the course of the year. We'll need a couple of volunteers to help on the picture taking days and the like. The work load is considerably less than the past directories, the publishing company has simplified things in order to help us make it happen. We will be having an organizational meeting with the publisher at 6:30 pm, on Monday, January 9, 2017, just before the monthly voters meeting. Please help us make this happen.

ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>SAT</u>	<u>SUN</u>	<u>OTHER.H.C.</u> 11/23=38+	<u>GEN. FUND</u>	<u>IMP FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>+ OR -</u>
11/26=20	11/27=62	11/30=44*	2,738.20	0.00	2,738.20	+ 726
12/03=30	12/04=88	12/07=36*	85 2,679.25	0.00	2,679.25	+ 667
12/10=19	12/11=39	12/14=30*	1,812.73	0.00	1,812.73	- 200
12/17=28	12/18=81	12/21=13*	88 <u>3,284.20</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,284.20</u>	<u>+1272</u>
			\$10,514.38	\$ 0.00	\$10,514.38	+ 2465

+Thanksgiving Eve, *Advent

SPECIAL GIFTS: Thanksgiving, \$226.00; Advent, \$591.00; Adopt-a-Student, \$10.00; Thompson Memorial, \$20.00; Acolyte Gowns, \$20.00; Tai Chi, \$14.00; Cunningham Memorial, \$1,725.00; Christmas Eve, \$10.00; Christmas Day, \$1010.00; New Year's Eve, \$10.00

<u>OUR STEWARDSHIP TO THE LORD</u>	
PILGRIM'S 2016 BUDGET	\$104,638.00
BUDGET THROUGH DECEMBER 21 st	\$102,626.20
CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 21 st	\$111,555.67
<u>CONTRIBUTIONS OVER BUDGET NEEDS</u>	<u>\$ 8,929.47</u>
TOTAL INCOME THROUGH NOVEMBER 30 th	\$131,456.60
EXPENDITURES THROUGH NOVEMBER 30 th	\$163,521.77
INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES 11/30/2016	(\$32,065.17)

FINANCES HERE AT PILGRIM

If you are one of those people who look with interest at our financial statements here in *Pilgrim's Progress*, then perhaps you have noticed a new set of numbers being reported. In the past, we have only reported our income versus our annual budget; and while that is certainly a valid set of numbers, it does not give the whole picture of Pilgrim's financial stability. Starting this month and going forward, we will also be reporting our total income versus our total expenditures. These numbers will always be a month behind, because they are actual numbers reported after the close of business on the last calendar day of the month.

Unfortunately, as we look at the report for the end of November 2016, it is not a healthy set of numbers. As of that date we spent \$32,065.17 more than we received from our various income sources. While this information has monthly been reported to the congregation in the voter's meetings, for those who don't attend voter's meetings this might be a surprise to you.

The bottom line is that we cannot sustain another year of deficit spending like we did this year. As all of you who operate household budgets realize, there are two areas of control to fix this situation: increase income and cut expenses. We, here at Pilgrim, need to do both. Our annual expenditures for 2016 will likely add up to over 180,000 by the time we close the books.

Our pledges for 2017 add up to \$1,234 per week which would be \$64,168 for 52 weeks. The 2017 Church Budget is set at \$181,060, which means that only 35% of this year's budget has been pledged by our members. We all know that not everyone pledges and that some end up giving much more than they pledge to give, but in order to operate this parish on the level that we have planned to do for 2017, we need to receive almost \$3,500 per week in our collection plate. This is lofty task, but one that can be achieved with the grace of God and the prayers and willingness of each of our members.

The leadership of the congregation will look at ways to trim our expenses, but we will also need each member to pray about how you fit into this picture.

No one is saying that you "don't give enough". That's not what it is about at all. It is about the communal work that we do as God's people, serving in the mission opportunity that He has given us to do.

We are blessed with a beautiful building that is nearly 60 years old and has on-going maintenance obligations. The cost of having a full-time pastor is a significant portion of our overall expenses, but his compensation package is in the bottom 2% of the pastor's in the Michigan District, so while we are not looking at increasing his compensation in the near future, we have an obligation to support him and his family as he serves us and our community.

Please, keep Pilgrim and our mission in your prayers this coming year, and where you are able to financially help meet that mission, please consider doing so to the best of your financial ability.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The officers for 2017 are as follows:

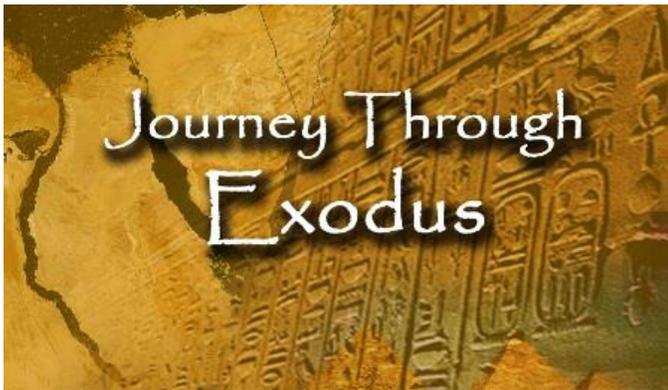
President –	Gary Leinberger
Vice-President –	*Vacant*
Secretary –	Sandra Davis
Treasurer –	Scott Schiefer (Scott has agreed to remain until another Treasurer may be found.)

Board of Elders: Paul Pett, Mark Anthony, Dan Johnson, Ryan Morley, Kim Miens, James Schaub, and Aaron Sofian

Board of Trustees: Robert Setzer, Tom Dagneau, Don Jones, Sr., Bill McDonald, Bill Cataline, Robert Stiefel, Jim Mallory, and Duane Sprague;

Board of Christian Education: Joni Klepser, Ruth Manke, Adeline Wicker, Tonya Swartout-Wrege, and Denise Sprague.

Installation of Church Officers will take place on Sunday, January 8th during our regular Worship Service. Please plan to attend.



Wednesday Bible Study Begins Again! Beginning on Wednesday, January 11, we will be starting a new bible study. We finished the Book of Genesis in November, and now we will start into the Book of Exodus. We will dig into the life story of Moses, see archeological evidence of the Exodus, including the crossing of the Red Sea, the encampment at Sinai, the burning bush, and the giving of the Ten Commandments. Our sessions will run from January 11-February 22. 7 weeks of in depth Bible study, brought to life and understanding. Join us Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30.

Valley Lutheran High School – Valley Lutheran High School has openings for a high school Math teacher



school Math teacher beginning August 1, 2017. The ideal candidate will be a commissioned minister of the Lutheran Church-

Missouri Synod certified to teach high school Math with experience/interest in teaching advanced Placement Calculus. The ability to lead an extra-curricular activity is also desirable, especially coaching athletics. Other applicants may be considered. Applicants may send a resume' with references and a cover letter to Dr. John Brandt, Valley Lutheran High School, 3560 McCarty, Saginaw MI 48603 or by e-mail at jbrandt@vlhs.com. Applications will be accepted

until the position is filled. For further information call Dr. Brandt at 989-790-1676.

The annual booster club chicken dinner will take place at Valley Lutheran on Sunday, January 8th from 11 am to 1:30 pm. Cost is \$11 for ½ chicken, \$8 for ¼ chicken. This is sponsored by the VLHS Booster Club and the chicken is grilled by the St. John Athletic Club. Proceeds are used to fund Valley's extra-curricular activities.

The Choral Christmas Concert has been rescheduled for January 8th at Trinity/Monitor on Salzburg Road starting at 4 pm.

Thank you to all the churches and people associated in any way with our fruit sale fundraiser. Our appreciation to all buyers, sellers, distributors and helpers for your cooperation and support. Money raised will help support music, drama, athletics, and many other activities at Valley Lutheran High School. Through your support and the student body, we are fortunate and thankful to meet our goal. Total boxes sold for 2016 were 537 – 16,000 pounds of fruit! Wow!!!

VLHS Auction Approaching! "Back to the 80's" is the theme for the 14th Annual VLHS Benefit Dinner and Auction, Saturday, February 25th at Apple Mountain Conference Center. The past thirteen 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, gift cards, 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, Beth (Lambert) Kaul at 989-754-5918 or kaulfarm@airadv.net; or Karrie Gatzka at 989-415-6776 or Karriekookies@aol.com.



Pilgrim Lutheran Church



January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Christmas 1 10 ³⁰ - Holy Communion	2 Office Closed	3 9:30 – Quilting 6:30 – Choir Practice	4	5	6	7 7-Holy Communion
8 Epiphany 9- Bible Class Sunday School 10 ³⁰ - Holy Communion Installation of Officers 11 ³⁰ - Confirmation 6 ³⁰ -Elders	9 6 ³⁰ - Trustees 6 ³⁰ Church Directory Mtg. 7- Voters 8 - Anniversary Committee Mtg	10 9 ³⁰ - Quilting 6 ³⁰ - Choir Practice	11 1-Prayer Network 6 ³⁰ - Bible Class	12	13	14 9- Take Down Christmas Decorations 7-Holy Communion
15 Epiphany 2 9- Bible Class Sunday School 10 ³⁰ - Holy Communion 11 ³⁰ - Confirmation	16	17 9 ³⁰ - Quilting 6 ³⁰ - Choir Practice	18 6 ³⁰ - Bible Class	19 10- Pineview 11- Keenagers	20	21 7-Worship
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #d9e1f2; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> FOOD PANTRY WEEK </div>						
22 Epiphany 3 9- Bible Class Sunday School 10 ³⁰ - Worship Anniversary Dinner	23	24 9 ³⁰ - Quilting 6 ³⁰ - Choir Practice	25 6 ³⁰ - Bible Class	26 7- Men's Network	27	28 7-Holy Communion
29 Epiphany 4 9- Bible Class Sunday School 10 ³⁰ - Holy Communion 11 ³⁰ - Confirmation	30	31 9 ³⁰ - Quilting 6 ³⁰ - Choir Practice	Notes:			



January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Tom Dagneau Carol Jankens Eileen Schulz	2	3 Monica Anthony	4 Spencer Killey Mary Kochaney	5	6	7 Sam Carlin Wesley Fritz
8 Ken Caspers Evelyn Mielens	9 Megan Yageila	10 Tom Klepser	11 Mackenzie Kucera	12 Tyler Imker	13 Donn Barber	14
15	16 Carol Borchardt	17 Audrina Carrisal	18 Sarah Morse Renee Reinke	19 Helen Thompson	20	21 Paige Rochefort Loretta Rozewski
22 Inge Cohrs Trisha Fritz	23 Carol Valley Debra Wentworth	24 Collin Spencer Preston Toyzan	25	26 Layne Scharich	27	28 Matt Dardas Jr.
29	30	31 Natalie Yenglin				