



Give
Thanks

TO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD/
AND HIS MERCY/
ENDURES FOREVER

Thanksgiving

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI | 262-781-3520 | office@pilgrimcares.org
Worship services - Wednesday 6:30pm, Sunday 8:00 and 10:30am

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." We know that keeping little children occupied for an entire church service can be a challenge. Don't worry; most of those worshipping around you have been in your shoes at one time. If you feel that you need to take your child out of church at any time, we have a Children's Room to the right as you exit the worship area. The first parking space in front of church is designated for **expectant mothers and families with small children**.

Restrooms are located to your left as you exit the worship area. There are **changing tables in both restrooms**.

LARGE PRINT copies of worship materials are available from the ushers. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to ask an usher.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof

Preacher

Pastor Aaron Winkelman

Organist

Amy Balza, David Porth

Instrumentalists

Adele Faust, Dominic Faust, JJ Faust, Ethan Ganshow,
Keith Gennerman, Noel Iles, Samuel Lyon, Sarah Mayer, Kellan O'Connell

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

Opening Hymn

Come, You Thankful People, Come | 491(1-4)

Come, you thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest-home.
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin.
God our maker shall provide For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and weeds together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come And shall take his harvest home,
From his field shall in that day All offenses purge away,
Give his angels charge at last In the fire the weeds to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store In his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To your final harvest-home;
Gather all your people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, In your garner to abide.
Come with all your angels, come; Raise the glorious harvest-home.

Please stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen

Thanksgiving Litany

Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

God's love is everlasting.

Come, let us praise God joyfully.

Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors:

We thank you, O God.

For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying:

We thank you, O God.

For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:

We thank you, O God.

For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love:

We thank you, O God.

For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures:

We thank you, O God.

For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies:

We thank you, O God.

For the young; for their high hopes; for their candid criticism; for their search for freedom:

We thank you, O God.

For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure;
for time made precious by its passing:

We thank you, O God.

For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases; for preserving us in
temptation and danger:

We thank you, O God.

For the Church into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by Word and
sacrament; for our life together in the Lord:

We praise you, O God.

For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love, who prays
in us and prompts our grateful worship:

We praise you, O God.

Above all, O God, for your Son, Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our
salvation; for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him:

We thank and praise you, eternal God, for all your goodness to us.

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

God's love is everlasting.

Please be seated

Anthem

Sung by the Adult Choir

A Sound of Exultation

Arr. David von Kampen

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His mercy endures forever.
Let Israel now proclaim,
"His mercy endures forever."
The Lord is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.
There is a sound of exultation and victory.
I shall not die, but live.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

-Psalm 118:1-2, 14-17, 24

THE WORD

First Lesson

Exodus 31:1-11

Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you: the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law with the atonement cover on it, and all the other furnishings of the tent— the table and its articles, the pure gold lampstand and all its accessories, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, the basin with its stand— and also the woven garments, both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests, and the anointing oil and fragrant incense for the Holy Place. They are to make them just as I commanded you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

James 1:9-18

Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer | 609(1-3)

- 1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Public domain

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 25:31-40

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Now Thank We All Our God | 597(1-3)

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Sermon

Offering

Offering boxes are available in the back of church. If you wish to give an electronic offering, you may use the QR code located at the end of the bulletin or you may go to pilgrimcares.org/giving. We present the offerings before the altar as a reminder that our giving overflows out of the Gospel and is itself an act of worship.

Offering Hymn

508(3)

3 Bring to this sacred altar
 the gifts his goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
 the souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before him
 when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
 who gave his life for all.

Please stand

Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed from the Small Catechism

I believe that God created me and all that exists, that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.

All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

After each petition spoken by the minister, the congregation sings one or two selected stanzas from a corresponding hymn.

We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious God, for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself into death that we might have life with you forever.

Hymn

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice | 332(1-2)

Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son has given.

To this vale of tears he comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.

We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious Lord, for the gift of your Word, through which we have found peace, comfort, conviction, assurance and hope.

Hymn

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage | 640

God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.

We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious Lord, for the gifts of life and health and the abundance of our earthly blessings.

Hymn

Praise to God, Immortal Praise | 612(1,3)

Praise to God, immortal praise,
For the love that crowns our days.
Bounteous Source of ev'ry joy,
Let your praise our tongues employ.
All to you, our God, we own,
Source whence all our blessings flow.

Peace, prosperity, and health,
Private bliss and public wealth,
Knowledge with its gladd'ning streams,
True religion's holier beams—
Lord for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

We give you our thanks and praise, O gracious God, for the growth of your kingdom in all the earth, to the glory of your name and the salvation of precious souls.

Hymn

Spread Abroad, O Mighty Word | 902(1,6)

Spread abroad, O mighty Word,
telling of a gracious Lord
whose all-pow'rful gospel call
fills his heav'nly banquet hall.

Lord of harvest, great and kind,
rouse to action heart and mind;
let the gath'ring nations all
see your light and heed your call.

For all these and countless other blessings to body and soul which are new to us every morning, we unite our hearts and voices in songs of praise and thanks:

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | 624(5)

Praise to the Lord,
oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the "Amen"
sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him!

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor † and give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Let All Things Now Living | 507(1-2)

Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

His law he enforces; The stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We, too, should be voicing Our love and rejoicing.
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living Unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

News & Notes

The annual Pilgrim Pie Social will be held tonight
after our worship service!

Please join us for fellowship and a slice of pie!

Please join us for an Open Forum on Sunday, November 30 at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary. Our Council and Elders have prayerfully reviewed Pilgrim's staffing needs in light of upcoming transitions and long-term ministry goals. At this forum, we will share two options for how we can best support our congregation moving forward. This is your opportunity to hear the details, ask questions, and provide feedback before any recommendations are finalized. Your input is vital as we seek God's guidance together. Depending on the direction the congregation chooses at this forum, we could immediately proceed with a call meeting following the forum or schedule a call meeting for a later date.

The women of the Tabitha Society and their friends are having a Christmas party on Thursday, December 4th, and you are all invited. Meet us at Olive Garden, [N91 W15848 Falls Parkway, Menomonee Falls](#), at 11:30 AM. We will order from the menu, so no payment is due at this time. Please sign up on the sheet in the church narthex. Join us for good food and fellowship. To add to the fun, bring a wrapped \$5 gift for our annual gift exchange. (We're always amazed at the variety of things \$5 can buy!) Hope you can join us!

There is a flyer on the shelf in the narthex with all the area Christmas concerts listed. There is also a link to it in the weekly email. We are certainly blessed to have so many places to enjoy the music of the season!



Pilgrim Lutheran Church can receive offerings electronically through a secure website. Scan the QR code with your smart phone (you might need to download a free QR scanning app) to be directed to Pilgrim's giving page or visit pilgrimcares.org/giving. Save the check – give online!

Pilgrim's Advent and Christmas Schedule

December 3, 10, 17 Midweek Advent Services - 3:30pm and 6:30pm

December 14 8:00am and 10:30am Advent Song Service

December 21 10:30am Children's Christmas Service in the gym
8:00am Divine Service in Church

December 24 4:30pm Lessons & Carols
6:30pm Candlelight Service

December 25 8:15am to 8:45am Hymn Sing
9:00am Christmas Day Festival Service with Holy Communion

No Wednesday Evening Worship on December 24 or December 31

Pilgrimcares.org

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