

Pledging pilgrimage

“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage” — Psalm 84:5

Most of us have been tourists, but alas, setting your eye of ambition on the broad trip of a meandering lifetime is, in all likelihood, a pilgrimage. It’s not a pilgrimage in reference to lanky elementary kids adorned in starchy paper hats and bonnets we reminisce of this time of year, but the kind of pilgrim that traverses a lifetime. One might imagine, these are giant boots to walk in.

An indelible man in our sacred history is Abraham, whose family set out as just that—pilgrims. To be a pilgrim is to set out on a God-journey expecting that it will be an unknown and sometimes foreign “land.” Ask most folks and they will witness that their life has uncertainties even with their most detailed and best-laid plans. Jesus, Moses, the Israelites, the holy family, the early church and we have plans muddled and jumbled with illness, loss, love and surprise.

Both Genesis and Hebrews expand on Abraham’s family. “By faith Abraham was called to set out for a place that he would receive an inheritance.” Typically, we imagine inheritances to be touchable like money or land that we can set our feet upon or capture in our hands. Abraham’s inheritance references the longer view of giving, bounty and thanksgiving. The family was to go awkwardly forward trusting an inheritance that would conceivably be more a likened to the bounty of stars in the sky. There is more about this trip of a lifetime.

The *Good News* and *The Message* versions of the Bible enlighten our grasp of sacred pilgrimage: “Abraham’s family left their own country without knowing where they were going. By faith he lived as a foreigner in the country that God had promised him.” *The Message* reads, his family did it by keeping their eye on an inner “unseen city with real, eternal foundations—the City designed and built by God.”

Conceivably we might give this a nod. Who doesn’t know by living that life is nestled equally in vision, hard work and unsuspected change? When we experience a new place there are swaps, adjustments and refinements awaiting for most of us and not all of them are pleasing. We need to keep our eyes on the best of life designed with real eternal foundations. There is a dark side of disillusionment surrounding this globe whirled with the nimbleness lit by what is good, lovely and worthy of praise and excellence.

This is exactly why we love to read this eternally human scripture describing the uncertainty the early Christians may have lived. It reminds us of something we may have forgotten. “They did not receive the things God had promised, but from a long way off they saw them...and admitted openly that they were foreigners and refugees on earth. Those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for a country of their own. If they were homesick for the old country (or the old way of living), they could have gone back any time they wanted. They did not keep thinking about the country they had left; if they had, they would have had the chance to return. But they were after a far better country than that—heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them.”

It is possible that sensing anything close to heaven seems distant today and it is equally true as your eyes cross this page that you sense the Sacred’s nearness. While either is true, it is the truest to recall the pursuit of a pilgrimage is to a part of bringing bountiful tender kindnesses to the places we name as home. We journey resurrecting new pathways trudging in the footsteps of Jesus—Jesus, the Pilgrim. JJ

A Blessed Thanksgiving from WBLUMC and Prayer Team!

Prayer at WBLUMC: One of the ways our church helps to nourish and support the hungers of life is through prayer. If you have a special need or celebration that could use extra care, we invite you to partake in one of these prayer avenues. If your spirit has the need to support others through prayer, we invite you to join in one of the teams. **The Prayer Team:** If you would like to request a prayer of this team, please write it on a prayer request card, or contact Julie Jacot at 651-777-3728, ljjacot@q.com. **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts email requests via a call or email to a pastor or the email prayer chain lead, Ronda Nelson, at rondalauva2@msn.com. **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. Call Eva Shipley if you would like to request a prayer at 651-429-3570.

STAFF		
Bill Eaves , Senior Pastor bill.eaves@wblumc.org , 763-355-7825 mobile	Joan Hartman , Director of Children & Family Ministries Linnea Uhler , Director of Youth Ministries Peteria Cochran Routt , Director of Traditional Music	Patricia Kytola , Director of Operations Lauri Hopple , Administrative Assistant Lori Hughes , Website & Social Media Tom Leiser , Treasurer Harry Jones , Financial Secretary Ron Houde , Housekeeper
Brooke Heerwald Steiner , Associate Pastor John McBride , Associate Pastor	John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music Matthew Goinz , Chancel Choir Director	



9am Worship Pledge Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS • PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“If the only prayer you ever say in your life is thank you, it will be enough.”

~ Meister Eckhart, 13th century mystic and philosopher

PRELUDE “Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace” by Kevin McChesney
Written in dedication to the victims at Columbine High School and other acts of senseless violence.
Alleluia Ringers with Karen Flynn, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP “God Is Spirit” Hal Hopson
Chancel Choir with Choral Scholars Ingrid Haugen, soprano; Tara Priolo, alto

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)
Praise to our God, the powerful creator of all the world.
All of us who see, let us draw near to our God.
Praise to our God, whose care enfolds us and upholds us.
All of us who see, let us draw near to our God.
Praise to our God, who nourishes life and restores us.
All of us who see, let us draw near to our God.

Praise to our God, for breath and life and grace and love.
Let all that is in us forever adore God. Amen.

+OPENING HYMN “Praise to the Lord” No. 139
Stanzas 1, 2, 4 & 5

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
After the baptism, children and youth through 8th grade are invited to leave for Sunday school.

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM Levi Gary Gibbons
Born July 1, 2017, son of Krystin and Jacob Gibbons

BAPTISMAL SONG “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”
I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We welcome Levi joyfully and reverently as a member of our family, the family of God. We offer ourselves to be his brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, grandfathers and grandmothers in Christ to surround him with God’s kind of love. We accept as our sacred responsibility to help him grow, together with us all, to full humanity, as we see it in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

“I Thank You God” by E.E. Cummings

Chancel Choir with Choral Scholars Ingrid Haugen, soprano; Tara Priolo, alto Arr. by Lloyd Pfautsch

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 100 Reader: Dave Hegdahl

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Leader: For the word of God in Scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Stuff – What the Bible Says about Material Things: Living With a Thankful Heart

Pastor Brooke Heerwald Steiner

At this time, all youth in grades 10-12 are invited for conversation in the youth room outside the sanctuary.

CONNECTION CARDS

Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards. After the prayer of dedication, place them in the offering plates.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

“Allegro Con Moto” Jason Krug

Alleluia Ringers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN “O God Beyond All Praising” No. 2009

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE “Toccata In Seven” John Rutter

Altar flowers: This week’s arrangement is provided by Carolyn and Terry Sayles in thankfulness for their dear family and friends — those with us now and those who have passed.

In memoriam: We are so sorry to have omitted Hannah Amundsen and her daughter, Avery, from the list of Loren McLean’s survivors during the All Saints Day Service, Nov. 5.



Advent Sermon Series

Transforming our Bah! Humbug! World into one of peace, love, hope and joy this Advent.

Dec. 3 — The Remembrance of Christmas Past

Dec. 10 — The Life of Christmas Present

Dec. 17 — Lessons & Carols

Dec. 24 — The Hope of Christmas Future

Adult Faith Advent Class

Is redemption possible for Ebenezer Scrooge? Discover the teachings of Jesus in the words of the Charles Dickens’ classic *A Christmas Carol*. We’ll dive into the dark, sad, greedy world of Scrooge and discover a man in dire need of a second chance. Along with Scrooge, we will meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future and in the process learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by God. Rediscover and reinvigorate your faith this Advent and Christmas season and look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith. Led by Pastor John McBride, **Mondays 6:30-8pm, Nov. 27-Dec. 18** in room 200. Sign up in the narthex.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, Nov. 19

9-9:45am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
9:45am—Stewardship brunch, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery

Monday, Nov. 20

10am—Hang Loose Women's Al-Anon, room 206
7-8:30pm—Hearts and Hands knitting group, library

Tuesday, Nov. 21

12:30-1:45pm—Faith in Action, library
6pm—Yoga Devotion, Fellowship Hall
6-8pm—Board of Directors, room 200

Wednesday, Nov. 22

No activities scheduled at WBLUMC
7pm—Community Thanksgiving service at
Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3770 Bellaire Ave. S

Thursday, Nov. 23

Office closed; Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov. 24

Office closed

Saturday, Nov. 25

7:30am—Men's Prayer Group, room 107
10am—Women's Breakfast group, room 200
1:30-3:30pm—Mary Danielson music recital

Sunday, Nov. 26

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:15am—All-church conference, room 200
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery

WHITE BEAR LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Visit wblumc.org for weekly sermon podcasts, the church calendar and programming details.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Sunday:	9am to 12pm
Monday:	9am to 3pm
Tuesday:	9am to 3pm
Wednesday:	9am to 3pm
Thursday:	9am to 3pm
Friday:	9am to 12pm
Saturday:	CLOSED

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Please email information to office@wblumc.org by
noon on Tuesdays. Most events require a two-week
lead time, but the earlier you get us the information,
the more time we have to get the word out.

WEEKLY E-BLAST

To receive our weekly email update, call
651-429-9026 or email office@wblumc.org. Please
submit church-related events or announcements by
3pm Wednesdays. All e-blast and bulletin information
is subject to staff approval.

LIFESOURCE

If you're part of a group or ministry that plans to hold
a church event this December 2017 through March
2018, we want to help you spread the word. Photos
from repeating events would be great! Please email
info and photos to Lauri at office@wblumc.org.

NEXT DEADLINE: Tuesday, Nov. 21.

'Tis the season to gather & celebrate!

Lessons & Carols

WBLUMC INVITES
YOU TO A SPECIAL
MUSICAL EVENT

Sunday,
Dec. 17

Peter Mayer, nationally known
folk singer & songwriter, will perform
music focused on Advent, Solstice and
New Year at the 9am & 10:45am services

All are welcome, bring a friend!



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

7pm Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017

Join with your neighbors
in a Thanksgiving Eve service
as we meet to share thanks
in this season of gratefulness.

Hosted by Redeemer Lutheran Church

3770 Bellaire Avenue South
White Bear Lake MN 55110
651-429-5411

Christmas Eve worship

We'll have four services on **Sunday, Dec. 24.**

10am: Worship unplugged — A simple service with
carol singing accompanied by piano and guitar.

3pm: Family worship will be a shorter service of car-
ols and visuals for our most wiggly and energetic
friends.

5pm: A service of carols led by the music team.

10pm: A traditional service of carols and candle
lighting featuring the choir.

Our Church Thrives Because We Give!

Today is pledge day!

Please place your completed pledge cards in the offering baskets. We thank you for your generous commitment to the church so we can continue to provide nourishment for the hungers of life.

Join us for brunch today

To celebrate this year’s pledge day, a catered brunch will be served today in Fellowship Hall starting at 9:45am — worship will end early so we can sit down together.



December Baking With a Purpose

December’s breads — 40 loaves each of Challah egg bread and roasted potato and olive — will be available on a first-come, first-served basis on **Saturday, Dec. 2**, 1-2pm, or **Sunday, Dec. 3**, 10am-12pm. All December donations will go to Second Harvest. Thank you for your continued support to help address hunger in our community.



All-church conference

Please join us for an all-church conference at 10:15am on **Sunday, Nov. 26**, in room 200 to approve pastoral compensation.

New artwork

You may notice we have a new hall-way display — a collection of water-color, oil and acrylic paintings by artist Linda Fertig. Linda grew up in Duluth, where she learned to appreciate the beauty of nature and the changing of seasons. She now lives in Arden Hills.

The Gathering award

Lyngblomsten Community Services wishes to congratulate its volunteers for their part in helping them receive the \$10,000 Rose Dobrof Award in recognition of The Gathering, a group respite program helping those living with memory loss and their caregivers. WBLUMC has been a host site for many years and has several active volunteers. Thank you!

Welcome Linnea!

We have a new Director of Youth Ministries! Linnea

Uhler officially began her new role on Nov. 8. Linnea grew up in this church and has been volunteering weekly with our youth for more than two years. She’s already established good relationships with our youth and is excited about expanding her role from volunteer to paid staff. For the next 9-12 months, she’ll be working another full-time job, limiting her daytime availability here to Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.



Today is Amy McGrew’s last Sunday with us. *Thank you, Amy!*

UMW WINTER PROGRAM: The Ornaments We Remember



Childhood memories of Christmas often revolve around the tree and its ornaments. Each year we take out ornaments that remind us of special memories and stories of Christmases past. This year’s UMW Winter Program will bring those memories to life on **Saturday, Dec. 9**, at 9:30am, starting with brunch followed by stories of your favorite or most memorable Christmas ornament or decoration. All are welcome —bring an ornament and share your story, if you wish.

Please bring new socks and underwear (men, women, children, in all sizes) to donate to God’s Closet. Instead of an auction this year, crafts from the 2017 Harvest Market will be available for free-will donations that will go to the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf.

Sign up in the Narthex or contact Eva Shipley at shipley.41@comcast.net for more information.

Next book club Nov. 27

Join us in the library at **7pm on Monday, Nov. 27**, to discuss *Hidden Figures* and *Hidden Human Computers*.

December’s selection will be *The Other Einstein: A Novel* by Marie Benedict, and the meeting will be on Dec. 18, a week earlier than usual because of Christmas.

Organ update

The new organ has arrived! Today will mark its debut in worship, played by Director of Traditional Music Peteria Cochran Routt. However, we’re still tweaking the sound and learning more about the instrument. A professional organ “voicer” will be adjusting it Nov. 27-28, and we’ll have a celebration concert the afternoon of Sunday, Jan. 21. Watch for more details.