

Our Pilgrim Stories



ENVELOPED

Always a member of a church in Charleston, Kristin remembers her mother singing in the choir and her father being a lay reader for the church. Church was a Sunday family tradition. After moving away from her childhood church, Kristin was searching for a church home for her family in a new city. She would scope out church services on Sunday and if it met the family's criteria, she would bring her family the following Sunday. The search involved sixteen different churches of varied denominations around the Midlands.

In 2007, Kristin stepped into Pilgrim Lutheran Church. While seated in the sanctuary, Kristin observed what appeared to be a homeless man approach the altar, kneel, and sob uncontrollably. She watched the Pastor approach the man from behind, "enveloped him in his robe and kneel beside him." After listening to the Pastor's sermon and the music throughout the service, Kristin knew she had found her family's church.

Kristin watched her son, Drew, light up with Jesus at Pilgrim. He served as a lay reader and communion assistant, he went on mission trips, and he was always excited to get up on Sunday to go to his church. Watching her son's relationship with God grow filled Kristin's heart. At the same time, Kristin became a part of a new women's Bible study on Sunday mornings before service. Starting by studying "Women in the Bible," the group of women grew together in faith and love. Kristin says, "These women are my lifeline and kindle the fire and joy for Jesus in my heart."

Much has changed in the Women's Group lives over the years. They are now in congregations all over the city. The women still meet and believe, "Maybe this is God's intention to spread us out to serve him in the city." The desire and yearning for God's word and teachings continue to be nurtured and challenged by the church and the Women's group. Kristin says, "Through relationships in the church, Pilgrim taught me to be on fire with Jesus. My life is more peaceful, and I have learned to let go and give things to God."