

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

BROADWAY AT FLOREY

KILGORE, TEXAS



December 2015-January 2016

THE PILGRIMAGE

Mission Statement: Pilgrim Lutheran Church is to glorify God in proclaiming the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with Word and deed in our midst, in our community, and throughout the world.

The Greatest Gift

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

In our search for just the right present, we may seek clues from other family members or friends and maybe even from the recipients themselves, what they might need or like, but perhaps we are afraid to be a part of someone's receiving and keeping the greatest gift of all. We usually think that gatherings of family and friends are supposed to be peaceable occasions, and so no one is supposed to say anything at which someone else might take offense. Well, the reality is that some things that, in some sense, are offensive need to be said.

By nature we all are sinners, and so we all are in need of forgiveness, whether or not we might like to admit it. And, no generic "faith" or even faith in some generic "God" will save anyone from the eternal torment in hell we all deserve on account of our sin. Only faith in the God-man Jesus Christ, Who died and rose again to save all people freely by grace, saves, and that salvation is only received by means of His Word and Sacraments. His coming to us is the Greatest Gift! I am not necessarily saying that only (or that all) Missouri-Synod Lutherans will be in heaven, but both what we believe and how we practice does matter. Someone who is not baptized, given the opportunity, or who does not regularly hear God's Word preached, seek individual Absolution, or receive the Lord's Supper arguably despises those gifts that the Holy Spirit gives.

To be sure, talking to family and friends about religion, like politics, can disrupt otherwise peaceful gatherings. The preaching of the cross of Christ is offensive to those who do not want to hear it (1 Corinthians 1:18-25). Even Jesus Himself, Who is called "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6), said that He did not come to bring peace but division (Luke 12:51; confer Matthew 10:34), and He further said that that division cuts to a family's core: parents against children and children against parents, whether the relations are blood or affinity (Luke 12:52-53; Matthew 10:35-39). Do we care more about a false peace at such gatherings (see Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; Ezekiel 13:10) than about our loved ones' peace with God, the state of their eternal souls?

Everyone should care about everyone else's eternal well-being, but admittedly some of us have more responsibility in such regard than others. For example, parents are to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4 KJV), so that, when the children are old, there is a better chance that they will not depart from the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Likewise, Godparents and baptismal sponsors take vows to pray for those

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baptized, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. Many of us have such or even more vocational responsibilities.

No doubt we all have failed in such responsibilities in the past, fail in them now, and will fail in them in the future. Thanks be to God that when we repent and believe there is forgiveness for every sin! Yet, part of our repentance should be at least the desire to do better, if not actually doing better. Not only when observing holy-days such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, but also at birthdays and wedding anniversaries, whenever our family and friends are gathered, we should pray about, look for, and use the opportunities the Holy Spirit gives us to lovingly speak the truth to our family and friends (Ephesians 4:15).

Our family and friends may not always or maybe even ever appreciate our raising religious matters with them, but, if the Holy Spirit leads them to receive the Greatest Gift in the ways He gives Himself, they will be far better served by that Gift than by anything we could ever give them.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 03 – Malaisa Smith
- 04 – Jack Watts
- 07 – John Morton
- 15 – Toni Erickson
- 16 – Andrew Adair
- 17 – Leroy Thomas
- 18 – John Walker
- 21 – Laticia Smith
- 25 – Bryn Heil

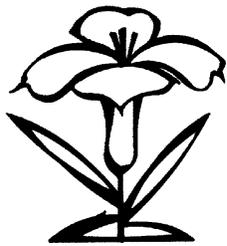


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 01 – Seth and Samantha Hiltzman
- 14 – Jeffrey and Ashlea Gill
- 15 – Ron and Carolyn Morton
- 17 – Don and Beth Nicol
- 22 – Wayne and Betty Miller
- 26 – Wendell and Carolyn Holcombe

Three seasons with extra services come in December and January

Three seasons of the new Church Year, which started the last Sunday of November, come in December 2015 and January 2016, providing extra Divine Services and other worship opportunities. And, all three seasons relate to the coming(s) of the Lord Jesus Christ.



First is Advent, which season can be said to focus on Jesus's comings more than any other season of the Church Year. We can think of Jesus's past coming in the flesh of the Virgin Mary to die for our sins, of His coming to us now in Word and Sacrament (especially with His Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Altar), and of His coming a final time in glory on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead. With expectant faith and certain hope (reflected in the season's blue paraments) the Church cries, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20). The Sundays of Advent that land in December

are as follows (with their Gospel Readings according to *Lutheran Service Book's* Three-year Lectionary: Series C, which largely uses the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke):

- Second Sunday (12/06): Jesus's Way is prepared by John the Baptizer (Luke 3:1-14)
- Third Sunday (12/13): Jesus speaks of who is great in His Kingdom (Luke 7:18-28)
- Fourth Sunday (12/20): Jesus causes joy even before His birth (Luke 1:39-45)

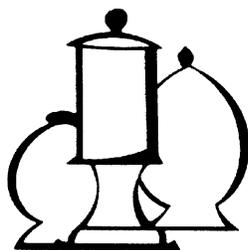
During Advent, our extra worship opportunities are four Midweek Advent Vespers services at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights (12/02, 12/09, 12/16, 12/23). In those services, in addition to hearing somewhat traditional readings for the services, we will reflect on and use the historic Collects for the season of Advent, with their special petitions connected to the coming of our Lord Jesus.

The second season that comes in December and January is Christmas, which 12-day season marks especially the past coming of Jesus in the flesh of the Virgin Mary. The season's notes of joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity, and innocence are especially reflected in its white paraments. The season begins with special services: our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Readings and Hymns at 6:00 p.m. on December 24th (featuring a number of Gospel Readings) and our Christmas Day Divine Service at 10:00 a.m. on December 25th (including the usual reading of John 1:1-14). The two Sundays of the Christmas season are as follows:



- First Sunday (12/27): The infant Jesus is praised at the Temple (Luke 2:22-40)
- Second Sunday (12/30): The boy Jesus teaches in the Temple (Luke 2:40-52)

As joyous as Christmas is, we do well to remember that Jesus's birth would have done us no good without His death and resurrection. Our Easter joy is far greater!



The third and final season that comes in the months this newsletter serves is Epiphany, which focuses especially on the revelation to the Gentiles of God in the flesh of the man Jesus, which brought spiritual growth to those individuals and overall growth to the Church, reflected in the season's green paraments, used for this year's three "middle" Sundays of the season. This year we will actually observe the day of Epiphany with a Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan`uary 6th (at which the

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Gospel Reading is the coming of the Magi as told in Matthew 2:1-12). Epiphany's four Sundays that land in January are as follows:

- First Sunday (01/10): Jesus is baptized for us (Luke 3:15-22)
- Second Sunday (01/17): Jesus miraculously blesses newlyweds (John 2:1-11)
- Third Sunday (01/24): Jesus preaches about His fulfilling prophecies (Luke 4:16-30)
- Fourth Sunday (01/31): Jesus casts out demons who know Who He is (Luke 4:31-44)

The season of Epiphany ends with the Transfiguration of Our Lord on February 7th, but more about that in the next issue of *The Pilgrimage*.

Pastor Galler

Fall Photos



(Above) Jeanna Watts, Tyler Watts, and Ken Koehlert practice their special music before the Joint Reformation Service October 31st at Our Redeemer in Longview. The ORLC organist's husband listens in the background. Thanks to all for adding to the Service!

(Right) For his excellent work in balloon sinuplasty and office sinus procedures, Dr. Ron Morton was one of twelve U.S. surgeons inducted into the Hall of Fame at the National American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery meeting September 28th in Dallas. Congratulations, Ron!



New members received in November

On November 15th, Maxwell Koen was received by Holy Baptism, and Emmett Koen, IV, was received by Profession of Faith/Adult Confirmation. And, on November 22nd, Paul, Jennifer, Colleen, Matthew, and Anna Hooge were received by transfer from Zion Lutheran Church, Tomball, TX.

Address Changes

George C., Kristen, and Ansleigh Heil: 841 Masters Trail, Newport News, VA 23602.

Ken Koehlert: 43 Colburn Lane, Hollis, NH 03049

DECEMBER	
1	Luke 1:46-55 Revelation 1-2
2	Psalm 1 Rev. 3-5
3	Psalm 2 Revelation 6-8
4	Psalm 3 Revelation 9-11
5	Psalm 4 Rev. 12-14
6	Psalm 5 Rev. 15-17
7	Psalm 6 Rev. 18-20
8	Psalm 7 Rev. 21-22
9	Psalm 8 Isaiah 1-3
10	Psalm 9 Isaiah 4-6
11	Psalm 10 Isaiah 7-9
12	Psalm 11 Isaiah 10-12
13	Psalm 12 Isaiah 13-15
14	Psalm 13 Isaiah 16-18
15	Psalm 14 Isaiah 19-21
16	Psalm 15 Isaiah 22-24
17	Psalm 16 Isaiah 25-27
18	Psalm 17 Isaiah 28-30
19	Psalm 18 Isaiah 31-33
20	Psalm 19 Isaiah 34-36
21	Psalm 20 Isaiah 37-39
22	Psalm 21 Isaiah 40-42
23	Psalm 22 Isaiah 43-45
24	Psalm 23 Isaiah 46-48
25	Psalm 24 Isaiah 49-51
26	Psalm 25 Isaiah 52-54
27	Psalm 26 Isaiah 55-57
28	Psalm 27 Isaiah 58-60
29	Psalm 28 Isaiah 61-63
30	Psalm 29 Isaiah 64-66
31	Luke 1:46-55

JANUARY	
1	Luke 1:68-79 Mark 2
2	Psalm 30 Mark 3
3	Psalm 31 Mark 4
4	Psalm 32 Mark 5
5	Psalm 33 Mark 6
6	Psalm 34 Mark 7
7	Psalm 35 Mark 8
8	Psalm 36 Mark 9
9	Psalm 37 Mark 10
10	Psalm 38 Mark 11
11	Psalm 39 Mark 12
12	Psalm 40 Mark 13
13	Psalm 41 Mark 14
14	Psalm 42 Mark 15-16
15	Psalm 43 Genesis 1-3
16	Psalm 44 Genesis 4-6
17	Psalm 45 Genesis 7-9
18	Psalm 46 Genesis 10-12
19	Psalm 47 Genesis 13-15
20	Psalm 48 Genesis 16-18
21	Psalm 49 Genesis 19-21
22	Psalm 50 Genesis 22-24
23	Psalm 51 Genesis 25-27
24	Psalm 52 Genesis 28-30
25	Psalm 53 Genesis 31-33
26	Psalm 54 Genesis 34-36
27	Psalm 55 Genesis 37-39
28	Psalm 56 Genesis 40-42
29	Psalm 57 Genesis 43-45
30	Psalm 58 Genesis 46-48
31	Luke 1:68-79

If you want to read the Bible more

If you want to read the Bible more, apparently you are not alone! The American Bible Society's "State of the Bible 2015" report (<http://www.americanbible.org/features/state-of-the-bible-2015>) indicates that only 14% of Americans say they read the Bible daily but 60% of Americans say they want to read the Bible more. And, since 88% of American households have access to at least one Bible (many own more than one), we might wonder what is stopping them!

The ABS report indicates 42% of Americans give being too busy with life's responsibilities as a reason for decreasing their use of the Bible, but I would challenge them and do challenge each of us to consider our priorities! God gets us through every minute of every day; can we not devote a portion of the time that He gives to us to letting Him work in us through His Word? A tithe of one day's 24 hours would be 2.4 hours but I am not even suggesting that much time is necessary (nor even the 1.6 hour tithe of what may be our 16 waking hours).

Far less time is really needed for the Daily Bible Reading plan that I continue to encourage everyone to follow. This plan consists of reading or listening to a psalm (or seasonal canticle) and about three chapters of another book. The plan is reproduced in the adjacent boxes (and in larger-print versions available in the Narthex) but comes from *Lutheran Worship* (pages 295-296), and is based on ancient models. Unlike the plan in *Lutheran Service Book* (pages 299-304) and reproduced on the weekly bulletin inserts, the *LW* plan takes us through the entire Bible over the course of a Church Year. The plan officially begins with December 1st, so now is a great time to start, but you can jump in at any time. (And, of course, reading any part of the Bible at any time, following another plan or no plan at all, is better than not reading at all.)

The best reason to read the Bible is that it is God's Word that both shows us our sin and shows us our Savior from sin. The ABS report also mentions people's saying the Bible brings them closer to God, helps solve problems, and gives needed direction and comfort.

I always am more than happy to help with your Daily Bible Reading however I can, and you can find resources available online at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/daily-bible-reading>. Those following this plan can also tell you how reading God's Word every day is a blessing. Always be in the Word!

Pastor Galler

DECEMBER EVENTS

JUNIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS Tuesdays December 1st, 8th, and 15th at 4:00 p.m. in Pastor Galler's Study (not December 22nd or 29th due to the Christmas vacation) and Saturdays December 5th, 12th, and 19th at 11:00 a.m. in Pastor's Study (not December 26th due to Christmas vacation).

SENIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS Tuesday December 1st at 5:00 p.m. at Pilgrim (note the special time and place due to the Christmas Parade) and Thursdays December 10th and 17th at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Longview (not December 3rd due to Pastor's being in the Dallas area and not December 24th or 31st due to Christmas vacation).

ANNUAL KILGORE CHRISTMAS PARADE: Tuesday, December 1st at 6:30 p.m. Park outside the route and walk into the area, following the markers on the sides of the streets to position #36. Please come by 5:30 to help set-up, but you must be there by 6:15. Afterwards, we will have a Chili Supper (sign-up in the Narthex). The rain date is Monday, December 7th.

MIDWEEK ADVENT VESPERS SERVICES: Wednesdays December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and the 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Tree trimming will be after the service on December 23rd.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY: Sunday, December 6th, at 4:00 p.m. at the Watts home in Waskom. Traditionally, the LWML society members provide meat dishes, and everyone else brings their favorite Christmas goodies. Directions to the Watts' home follow:

East on I-20 to exit 628

Right at exit 628, 200 feet to Frontage Road

Left onto frontage road, 0.3 miles to Ireland Williams Rd.

Right onto Ireland Williams Road, 1.2 miles to Watts' residence

(1 story light brick ranch house with a tan steel roof)

ELDERS Tuesday, December 8th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (Reading assignment: AC/Ap Conclusion, pp.62-63).

ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING: Sunday, December 13th after the Divine Service and lunch (on your own or together) we will go Christmas Caroling to three Kilgore-area nursing facilities and return to Pilgrim for hot cocoa available to all. All are welcome to join in!

LWML BIRTHDAY PARTY: Wednesday, December 16th, at 2:30 p.m. at Kilgore Health and Rehab at 2700 S. Henderson Boulevard in Kilgore. We will still need two more cakes and a volunteer to serve them to the residents. To help, contact Jeanette Paetznick.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF READINGS AND HYMNS: Join us Thursday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m. (note the special time) for what has become a Pilgrim tradition.

CHRISTMAS DAY DIVINE SERVICE: Join us Friday, December 25th at 10:00 a.m. (note the special time). What better way to celebrate Christmas than with a Mass of Christ?

EVE OF THE NAMING OF JESUS: Divine Service is usually offered at 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (1300 Judson Road in Longview)

LWML will not quilt or meet in December due to the congregational Christmas party.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY will only meet December 30th, due to Midweek Advent Services.

PLC co-sponsors Kilgore church-state Symposium

Nearly 150 people turned out Sunday, November 1, 2015, to consider “The Intersection of Church and State” in a Second-Annual Symposium in Kilgore, held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Devall Student Center Ballroom on the campus of Kilgore College and “sponsored” by Pilgrim Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church, and St. Luke’s United Methodist Church. Those present heard a presentation from St. Luke’s pastor, Rev. Darwood Galaway, and then, after a short break with refreshments, discussed the topic further with the pastors of the other churches and a Kilgore College government instructor. The event was moderated by Terry Booker of Kilgore College.



St. Luke’s United Methodist Pastor Darwood Galaway gives his portrait of a world without the word of God. Photo: J. Galler.

Rev. Galaway’s main presentation began with an editorial titled “A Portrait of a World Without the Word of God”, in which he suggested that, if the Bible is removed from society, some other ideology will take its place. For example, Galaway suggested, secular thinkers would provide a so-called “theory of everything” that ultimately would recognize human beings as “gods”, and he traced steps that are already taking place along those lines, such as teaching the language of science instead of faith and the decline of the traditional family model. Rev. Galaway also surveyed the history leading up to the current U.S. Church-State configuration, and so he spoke of the importance of a covenant relationship with God: personal, familial, and “governmental”, recognizing that the theocracy of the Old Testament developed over time and eventually declined. The coming of Jesus Christ, Galaway explained, brought a kingdom within a kingdom, the Church operating in the state, with various moral imperatives. Galaway cautioned against the co-opting of the Church by the state, and he ultimately offered a picture of a plurality of different “churches” and the state tolerating one another. (Audio of Rev. Galaway’s presentation is available online at www.pilgrimlc.org.)

Before fielding questions from the audience with Rev. Galaway, the three panelists responded to his presentation. For example, the Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler of Pilgrim Lutheran Church mentioned the Bible’s teaching and Lutherans’ confessing the so-called “Two Kingdoms” doctrine: the state, where the law is central, and the Church, where the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ is central. Jeff Stanglin, J.D., Kilgore College Government Instructor, referred to the government’s struggle to balance rights and interests in a religiously diverse society and to the decision to “separate” government and

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Pilgrim Lutheran Church Pastor Jayson S. Galler explains the Bible’s teaching of “Two Kingdoms”, before his fellow panelists Jeff Stanglin of Kilgore College and Dr. Glenn Young of First Baptist have their turns responding to Rev. Galaway’s presentation. Photo: James Draper, *Kilgore News Herald*.

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religion in America's founding documents in order to avoid the tyranny of the majority and protect those with minority status. And, Dr. Glenn Young of First Baptist Church likewise spoke of the separation of church and state and how, rather than being oppressive, societies that are primarily Christian are more tolerant of people's religious and other differences than those societies that are not primarily Christian. Audience members asked a number of different questions of the panelists, including how churches are dealing with the U.S. Supreme Court's legalization of so-called "same-sex marriage". (Audio of the panel discussion is also available online at www.pilgrimlc.org.)

The Symposium was free. No donations were received from those attending, so the three "sponsoring" congregations divided the Symposium's expenses equally.

On evaluation forms returned after the Symposium, the majority of respondents at least agreed that the Symposium as a whole was worthwhile, that its topic was interesting and relevant, that its format was appropriate, and that the facility used was fitting for the Symposium. Respondents had less consensus on the suitability of the Symposium's date and time, and organizers had already tried to address that concern in planning for 2016.

The Third-Annual Symposium is scheduled for Sunday, October 30, 2016, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (one hour earlier than previous years). Jeff Stanglin's working title for that event is "Religion and Politics in the 2016 Election: What to Expect in a Religiously Diverse Society".

Connected to the anniversary of the October 31, 1517, Reformation, the Symposia series began in 2014 with "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism". The purpose of the Symposia is to seek a deeper understanding of one another in our various church communities. Through the mutual sharing of knowledge and ideas, organizers believe that the Holy Spirit will draw people closer to that union that Christ desires for all (John 17:21-23).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

01 – Arlene Kuehn
03 – Kathy Hudson
11 – Matthew Smith
17 – Emma Morton
20 – Maggie Land
21 – Remo Gualtieri
23 – Hannah Morton
26 – Don Nicol
30 – Mary Criswell



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

05 – Carl and Gayle Gardner
08 – Brady and Shannon Gage
15 – Erik and Dana Freeman
18 – Danny and Sharon Sampson
22 – Jerome and Sallye Key

Pilgrim's dollars go beyond our doors

True "mission" goes back to what the Bible says about God the Father's love for the world leading to His giving or sending His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him might have eternal life (John 3:16). The Father sent Jesus with the authority to accomplish that good purpose, and Jesus, in turn, sent the disciples-turned-apostles with the authority to forgive and retain sins (John 20:21-23). The word for "sent" used in the Latin translations of that text is the word that gives us our English word "mission". The apostles (from the Greek for "sent ones") then ordained pastors in congregations in specific places along their journeys. Through that pastoral office the Holy Spirit still creates faith when and where God pleases in those who hear His Word.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church is the product of mission work from Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler and itself has done similar mission work, previously planting two other East Texas congregations. And, Pilgrim continues to be where some of God's East Texas sheep come to hear the voice of their Good Shepherd from His called under-shepherd. As those sheep gather around the purely preached Word and the rightly administered Sacraments, they receive the forgiveness of sins from the apostles' authoritatively sent successors. The "mission" of the sheep is to go and live faithfully in their callings (or vocations). As they do, they show in their words and deeds the love of God in Christ to the people with whom God brings them into contact.

At the same time, the pastor and people of Pilgrim give of the resources God has entrusted to their stewardship to support the work of bringing the Good News of forgiveness by grace through faith in Jesus Christ to the world. Such giving has good Biblical precedents. In the Old Testament, for example, the patriarchs gave one tenth of all they had received to the Lord (Genesis 14:20; 28:22). The people of Israel gave likewise to the Levites (Leviticus 27:30), who in turn gave a tithe of that tithe to the high priest, as to the Lord (Numbers 18:26-32). Such tithing does not justify a person before God, of course, as Jesus makes clear (Luke 18:9-14). Rather, such a tithe is given in thankful appreciation for all God does for us. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul encouraged the congregations in his care to set aside a sum of money on the first day of every week (Sunday) to give to the church in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem congregation had not only served as the mother church to many others, but at the time it was also plagued by drought and persecution (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). As St. Paul encouraged, Pilgrim Lutheran Church strives both to have its members cheerfully and proportionately give to the work of the local congregation and to have the congregation likewise give to the work of the Church at large (2 Corinthians 8-9).

Pilgrim Lutheran Church not only reaches out directly through its own people and activities, but the congregation also reaches out indirectly by supporting the work of Christ through other agencies. As the book of Acts records the Holy Spirit spreading the Gospel from a single city, to the region and nation, and to the ends of the world (Acts 1:8), so Pilgrim Lutheran Church strives to support the mission work of the Church at large in the Kilgore area, across

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Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Waller, Texas, a mission congregation supported by Lutheran Missionary Alliance and thus by Pilgrim's mission monies, hopes to be in its new multi-purpose worship center soon. The pastor and people thank everyone for their support. *Photo: H. Wied.*

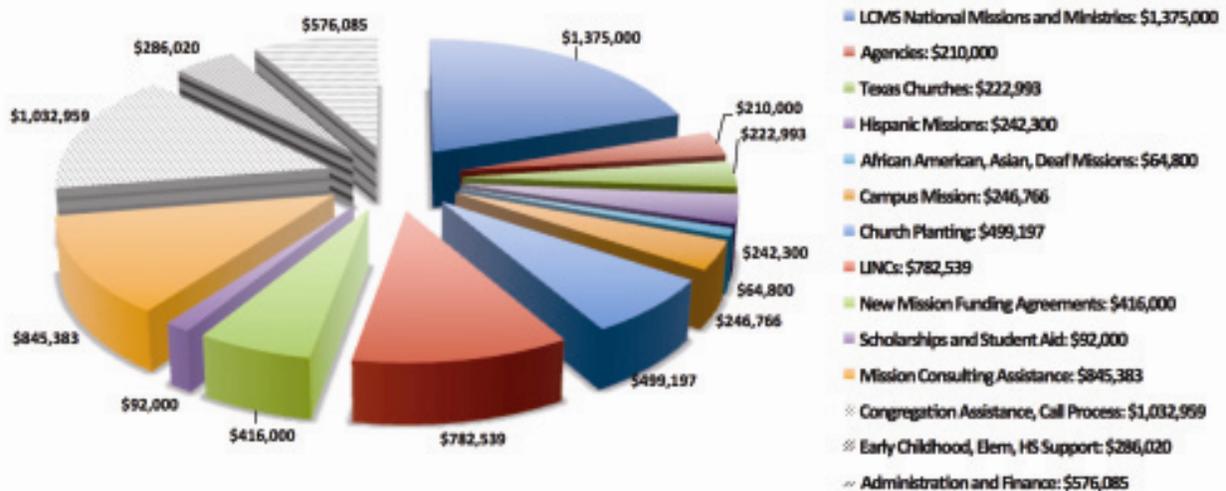
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Texas and the United States, and around the world. However, we do not support any and every mission effort. As the pure preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments are the identifying marks of the Christian Church and the basis for the true unity of the Christian Church, so our Pilgrim congregation does best when it supports mission work that shares its confessional commitment in teaching and practice.

Once, a faithful congregation could send its mission dollars to its District and Synod and trust that the monies would be used to support the purposes for which the District and Synod were established, but that is less the case in our time. Consequently, over the past few years, Pilgrim has redirected portions of its tithes of its unrestricted plate offerings to other agencies that faithfully support those purposes, as indicated in what follows, reflecting the changes the Voters adopted in November 2015 for the 2016 budget. (Note that while *the percentage* of the plate offerings going from Pilgrim to the District and Synod has gone down, *the actual dollar amount* has remained about the same, since *the total plate offerings* have gone up.)

- Texas District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:** The majority of Pilgrim Lutheran Church’s tithes (6% of the plate offerings received or 60% of its mission offering given) goes to the Texas District, and the Texas District in turn passes a portion of what it receives on to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (in 2015, the District passed on about 20% of what received to the Synod). The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was founded in 1847, and now is organized into 35 districts, with The Texas District dating to 1906. The Synod was originally founded in part for conserving and continuing the unity of the true faith and resisting schism and sectarianism, for protecting pastors and congregations as they fulfill their duties, for bringing about the largest possible uniformity in church practice and customs, and for a united effort to extend God’s

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The Texas District provided the above breakdown of its 2015 budget totaling \$6,892,042, but officials are less willing to go into more detail. For example, there are four “Mission and Ministry Facilitators”, who presumably both consult with missions and assist with call processes, but officials will not openly disclose how their salaries are distributed across those two categories. The District boasts about the number of its missionaries, church starts, non-English languages, and additional worship attendees, but less clear is how faithful any or all of the preceding are to Holy Scripture and to the Lutheran Confessions.

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kingdom and to promote aims such as seminaries, publications, and missionary activities. Sadly, the extent to which monies sent to the District and Synod support these goals is debatable, a situation worsened by a less-than-transparent disclosure of budgeted expenses. (See the figure and caption on the preceding page.)

- Concordia Seminary and Concordia Theological Seminary: Since neither of the Synod's two seminaries any longer receives significant funding from monies given to the Synod that was in part founded to support them, the seminaries have increasingly come to rely on direct donations. As a result, since 2013 Pilgrim Lutheran Church gives a portion of its tithe (2% of the plate offerings received or 20% of its mission offering given) to the two seminaries of the LCMS, Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri (each seminary receives 1% of the plate offerings received or 10% of the congregation's mission offering given). God works through both institutions, with their world-renowned faculties, to provide His Church with faithful pastors and deaconesses.
- Lutheran Missionary Alliance: Given the Texas District's abject refusal to plant and support confessional and liturgical mission congregations within its bounds, a number of congregations banded together more than a decade ago to do just that. Lutheran Missionary Alliance has since supported a number of faithful congregations around the state, and Pilgrim is convinced that supporting LMA is a faithful way of reaching out to our region. Since 2015, Pilgrim Lutheran Church gives a portion of its tithe (1% of the plate offerings received or 10% of its mission offering given) to LMA.
- The Luther Academy: The Luther Academy promotes genuine, confessional Lutheran theology and research, through conferences, scholarly exchanges, and publications that assist the Church both to preserve and to proclaim to the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the only saving faith. Pilgrim is convinced that supporting the Luther Academy is a faithful way of reaching out to the world. Beginning in 2016, Pilgrim Lutheran Church is giving a portion of its tithe (1% of the plate offerings received or 10% of its mission offering given) to the Luther Academy.

Beyond Pilgrim members' faithful financial support of the congregation's local ministry (a portion of which is distributed as described above), members may prayerfully choose to provide additional contributions to the mission efforts of other agencies, remembering that an agency's having or not having a formal relationship with the District or Synod is not necessarily an indication of the agency's faithfulness or unfaithfulness.

Pastor Galler

Pilgrim's to-date plate offerings reported

Following a request from Pilgrim's Board of Elders, Pilgrim's Financial Secretary reports the following figures for 2015 through November 25th:

Plate Offerings received:	\$120,749.48
Plate Offerings projected:	\$110,116.00

JANUARY EVENTS

REPORT DEADLINE FOR VOTERS' PACKET: Please have as much as possible, including any agenda items, in by January 3rd so that the Packet can be out January 10th, two full weeks before the January 24th, Voters' Meeting.

JUNIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS Tuesdays January 5th, 19th, and 26th at 4:00 p.m. in Pastor Galler's Study (not January 8th due to Pastor's vacation) and Saturdays January 5th, 19th, and 26th at 11:00 a.m. in Pastor's Study (not January 12th due to Pastor's vacation).

QUILTING BEE would normally be Tuesday, January 5th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

LWML would normally meet Tuesday, January 5th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library and a light supper would normally be served.

ELDERS Tuesday, January 5th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (Reading assignment: Smalcald Articles [SA] Introduction & Preface, pp.255-262).

EPIPHANY DIVINE SERVICE: Join us for a special Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6th, the Feast of Epiphany, when the Magi worshipped the boy Jesus.

SENIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS Thursdays January 7th, 21st, and 28th at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Longview (not January 14th due to Pastor's vacation).

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Sunday, January 10th, in the Divine Service. Orientation session after a light lunch at Pilgrim.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays January 20th and 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (not January 6th due to the Epiphany Divine Service, and not January 13th due to Pastor's vacation).

"LIFE, MARRIAGE, AND ETERNAL LIFE": North Texas Confessional Lutherans' Free Conference, Friday, January 22nd, and Saturday, January 23rd, at Faith Lutheran Church in Plano. Featured speakers are Professor Peter Scaer from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, and Scott Klusendorf from the Life Training Institute, and they will discuss Planned Parenthood, our culture of death, and the gift of life and Eternal Life. There is no charge to attend, though free-will offerings are received. Pastor Galler usually attends, and all are welcome.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for February are due Sunday, January 24th. Please submit your contributions for *your* newsletter by that time.

VOTERS' MEETING Sunday, January 24th, immediately after the Divine Service in the Sanctuary. Packets should be available in the Narthex and via email by January 10th.

ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING: Give your ideas to Tifaney Sampson. We promise to have a game night as soon as the building allows.

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

— Martin Luther, *Lutheran Service Book* 655:1

Please pray as our congregation has been requested to pray



The following are the petitions requested of our congregation that we usually include in the Prayer of the Church in the Divine Service, as well as encourage our members to make in their own personal prayers. If you are not presently receiving prayer updates by email or phone call and desire to do so, please let Pastor Galler know (likewise let Pastor Galler know if you are receiving them and wish not to receive them). If you initially made one of the requests below, please regularly keep Pastor Galler updated as to the status of the request so that he can update the congregation. Thank you!

CHRISTIANS BEING PERSECUTED WORLDWIDE LCMS, DISTRICT, AND CIRCUIT, PASTORS AND PEOPLE

Trinity, Fairfield, is vacant

Our member Rev. Michael Monterastelli, serving several congregations as needed

OUR PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Increasing our people's faithful stewardship of God's gifts

Filling the open Financial Secretary position

Clearing remaining barriers for new construction

THOSE NOT YET INCLUDED IN OR WHO HAVE STRAYED FROM THE FAITH:

Jessa Key (Jerome and Sallye's granddaughter who has not yet been baptized)

Elizabeth & Ava Nicol (Don and Beth's niece and grand-niece)

THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH HOMOSEXUALITY

FOR AN END TO THE EVILS OF ABORTION

PEACE IN THE WORLD

MEN IN THE SERVICE:

Victor Guinn (Paul Guinn's son, back in the States)

George C. Heil (orders to report to Newport News to work on Virginia Class sub)

Brian Holcombe (Carolyn and Wendell Holcombe's son in D.C.)

Ross Land (stationed at Fort Polk in Louisiana)

THOSE IN POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

THOSE WHO TRAVEL:

Brady Gage

Caryl Galler (travelling in and then home from Austin)

Jerome and Sallye Key

The Land Family (travelling November 20-28 to Mississippi for Thanksgiving)

David Navaille

The Watts Family (travelling November 21-28 to Michigan for Thanksgiving)

Edgar and Barbara Wuthrich

THOSE WHO MOURN:

Family and friends of James Willey (Remo and Kathy's friend)

SHUT-INS:

Bob Abraham (in an Alzheimer Center in Austin)

Gwen Heil (Carriage Inn Assisted Living in Katy)

THOSE WHO NEED HEALING:

Gary Adams (David Navaille's cousin, on the waiting list for a liver transplant)

Rev. Dennis Bragdon (ORLC's pastor, knee-replacement recovery and therapy)

Ardith Coughlin (ORLC friend of Pilgrim, dementia treatment, cornea concern)

Prayer list continues on the next page.

Prayer list continues from the previous page.

Tom Criswell (our member, still has occasional pain from shingles)
Candace Davis (George & Jeanette Heil's friend, working through chemotherapy)
Michele Davis (Remo and Kathy's friend's daughter, possibly injured in car accident)
Kimber De la Cruz (Maddie Freeman's sister, prematurely born 9/27, still in NICU)
Carolyn Delange (wife of car driver, suffered heart attack, also for husband Larry)
Kimberly Dietz (Shannon's partner's sister, infections and regeneration issues)
Landon Hawkins (baby known to Watts Family, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome)
Charlotte Herrell (Sharon Sampson's sister, some progress with cancer, still consulting)
Kathy Jennings (Remo and Kathy's friend, suffering from cancer)
Brenda Johnson (Pilgrim visitor, challenges include Stage 3 liver cancer and treatment)
Andrew Kaufmann (teenage son of Pastor's former classmate and friend, cancer)
Laura Key (Jerome's step-mother, continuing to decline in nursing home)
Sallye Key (spiritual strengthening, peace, and joy)
Emmett Koen IV (our member, doing therapy on a shoulder)
Carl London (Connie's coworker, expecting chemo pill and colostomy removal)
David McKeown (Remo and Kathy's Australia friend waiting for a kidney transplant)
Herb Michel (relative of Pastor's friends, in and out of hospital with various concerns)
Beth Nicol (recovering from nerve-severing procedure)
Gordon Reed (Kilgore Rotarian, investigating fever's cause, and vein procedure 11/30)
Ronnie Sanchez (Elaine Navaille's cousin, consulting at M.D. Anderson)
David Smith (mini-stroke, palsy, cyst on thyroid)
Charles Strong (the Walkers' friend, having heart issues, may need a pacemaker)
Rev. Harold and Joan Wageman (Pilgrim's former pastor and wife, at Brookdale)
Jerry Wallace (Arcele Wilburn's friend, stage IV brain cancer)
Robert Wiles (Betty Miller's nephew, untreatable cancer, still on a feeding tube)
Wendy Wright (Connie Wilburn's friend, breast reconstructive surgery in December)
ALL MOTHERS EXPECTING CHILDREN, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:
Jeanna Watts (our member, expecting her and Tyler's fourth child in March of 2016)
FAMILIES IN CRISIS OR NEED AND ALL FAMILIES
Myers Family (Indiana friends of the Watts, son Jordan imprisoned in North Carolina)
Thomas Family (Leroy's sons and grandchildren)
West Family (Dan is between jobs, expecting an offer from a company in Garland)

In holy conversation / We speak to God in prayer,
And at His invitation / Our deepest thoughts we share.
We come, His will obeying, / As children bringing needs;
And to support our praying, / His Spirit intercedes.
These holy conversations / Begin in childlike ways;
We bring our supplications / And words of thanks and praise.
With care our Father listens / To ev'ry thought expressed,
Then answers our petitions / In ways He knows are best.
As holy conversation, / In silence or by word,
In ev'ry situation / Through Jesus, we are heard.
So let us pray securely, / Expressing hopes and fears
With confidence that surely / Our Father ever hears.

— Gregory J. Wismar, *Lutheran Service Book* 772



Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA

Pilgrim friend Taylor Hertzler greets and updates

Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Greetings! Now that I am finally settled into a semi-permanent home and lifestyle here at school, I wanted to write you all and let you know how I am doing. But first, thank you all very much for everything you did for me while I was in Texas. I really loved having a church body that cared for me and church friends who were always helping me and looking to do things with me (like

Paul using every excuse possible to hang out with me away from the LeTourneau campus – that was nice).

My life since the beginning of school has been quite busy; of course, I would not have it any other way. Shortly before the start of classes, I found out that Westminster College has an excellent music department, and inquired with the orchestra director about ways to stay involved. To make a long story short, I ended up adding in Music as a Second Major within the first week of school. I believe my studies have benefitted as a result, because studying English while simultaneously studying music composition keeps me thinking on my toes, so to speak. Now that we are about two-thirds of the way through the semester, I can also say that I am doing well, as my grades have been steadily good.

When I first moved to Western PA to begin classes, I was living in an apartment in Sharon, about a twenty minute drive from my school, which is in New Wilmington. Two weeks ago (on the weekend of All Saints Day) my parents came out to the area and helped me move into a new apartment I found, one that is larger and cheaper than my previous abode and also right up the street from Westminster. This apartment is where I will spend the next three years while I complete my undergraduate studies.

In addition to school, I currently work two jobs, one as a bus boy at a local restaurant and one as a dishwasher for my school's food service. The restaurant, The Hickory Bar and Grille, is a place where my parents and I ate when coming out here for orientation back in June. It is about twenty minutes from my current apartment, and I very much enjoy working there. It is good work that keeps me busy and all of the servers really seem to appreciate me. I also seem to have gained the favor of my managers. My primary manager has decided to use me as sort of a guinea pig: she is experimenting with having me do different things in the restaurant, such as preparing salads and bread for the servers, and is also starting to train me to expedite.

Westminster's food service is run by Sodexo, and they hire student workers for every position possible. However, in stark contrast with LeTourneau, many of the students here have no interest in working for them, as Sodexo is still unable to fill all open positions. They are very flexible with hours, so I simply work the lunch shift right between my classes each day, as well as the dinner shift every Tuesday evening. Again, enjoyable work that keeps me busy, and between these two jobs I am now in a position where I am making enough money to cover my rent, food, and other needs and am using my savings only to pay for tuition.

Pastor Jayson helped to connect me with a church out here, Saints Peter and Paul

Letter continues on the next page.

Letter continues from previous page.

Evangelical Lutheran in Sharon. I have been attending there since September and plan on doing so for the remainder of my time at Westminster. The church is, in my opinion, theologically sound, and unfortunately I am finding that it is quite rare in this part of the state to find a church that actually follows the bible strictly. The congregation is very welcoming, reminding me a lot of Pilgrim: every service begins with people greeting each other, and there is almost always something going on following the service. The church has a choir that sings on special occasions, and since I am a first tenor and also sing in my school's Men's Choir they have been quite happy to have me. It is really nice to be singing hymns every week again. They even have me play classical guitar during communion on occasion.

I only speak with my family occasionally, but from what I hear from them they are doing well. My entire immediate family was gathered at my parents' home back in September for a wedding, and everyone appears to be getting along fine. My dad and uncle are staying ahead of the farm work; my mom is, as usual, running herself ragged being a mom and having two jobs; my oldest brother Jordan and his wife Dianah are still in Maine, where Jordan is still working on the naval destroyers; Logan, my next oldest brother, has recently decided to return home from Florida (where he is currently working at a boys' camp) in April; and Bradley, my younger brother, turned sixteen and obtained his driver's permit in September, much to my mom's chagrin.

I hope all is going well in East Texas. I am kept generally up-to-date through *The Pilgrimage*; it is nice to see the improvements going on at Pilgrim. Thank you all again for everything you did for me while I was at LeTourneau.

Sincerely,
Taylor Hertzler

Your Church Extension Fund investments can help PLC

At any time you may invest your money with the Texas District Lutheran Church Extension Fund, which is loaning Pilgrim the money for the new Parish Hall. Investments payoff for you as listed below, and the money invested can lead to a rebate of the congregation's interest. For example, investments totaling 10% of the loan will yield an annual interest rebate of 0.10%.



November
2015

Investment	Fixed Rate ^Δ		Floating Rate ^Δ	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note [◆]	1.000%	1.00%	0.500%	0.50%
Three Year Note [◆]	1.500%	1.26%	1.250%	1.26%
Five Year Note [◆]	1.750%	1.76%	1.750%	1.76%
Flex Savings			0.500%	0.50%
<u>Accounts For Congregations</u>				
Congregation Savings			1.000%	1.00%
Building Fund Savings			1.750%	1.76%

^Δ- Rates subject to change. [◆]- Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. Rates reviewed monthly. Texas District Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, CEF investments are not SIPC- or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by CEF's Offering Circular.

Texas Church Extension Fund
 1-888-951-1233 www.TexasCEF.org
www.facebook.com/texascef



Some time in the first century A.D., Jesus said “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21; Mark 12:17; and Luke 20:25), but what does that mean today in the twenty-first century? The upcoming Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) Texas District Circuit #14 Retreat will take up the topic “Render Unto Caesar”, and all are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

The retreat will be held Saturday, February 6, 2016, from 9:00 to about 3:00 p.m., at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine, Texas. The Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray, Fourth Vice President of the LCMS, serving the West Southwestern Region, will present. He has titled the day’s four sessions as follows: “Should the Church Speak to Caesar?”, “Who Are Our Partners?”, “First Amendment”, and “A Case Study: Houston Proposition 1”.

The Rev. Dr. Murray is the senior pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church and School, Houston, Texas, and author of numerous journal articles and two books. He earned his B.A. from Concordia College, Ann Arbor; M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; M.A. from Loyola University, New Orleans; and Ph.D from New Orleans Baptist Seminary, New Orleans. He previously served five years on the Synod’s Commission on Theology and Church Relations.



Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray
Photo: lcms.org

The Circuit #14 retreats are always informative and well worth the time and trip to Palestine. Registration is \$20 per person and includes abundant refreshments and a delightful and hearty lunch. Advance registration through the Church Office by January 30th is preferred to give those preparing the food (the Bethlehem LWML) the best possible idea of how many will attend, but registrations will also be taken at the door, usually beginning at 8:30 a.m. For more information, talk to Pastor Galler.

Circuit #14 of the Texas District of the LCMS is comprised of twelve East Texas LCMS congregations, with worship sites as far north as Hawkins-Holly Lake, as far East as Nacogdoches, as far south as Lufkin, and as far west as Corsicana.

*The retreat’s banner graphic was adapted from uncredited images found online.
Thanks go to Carla Adsit for composing the graphic.*

FEBRUARY EVENTS

JUNIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. in Pastor Galler's Study and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. in Pastor's Study.

QUILTING BEE would normally be Tuesday, February 2nd, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

LWML would normally meet Tuesday, February 2nd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library, and a light supper would normally be served.

SENIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS Tuesday February 2nd and Thursdays February 11th, 18th, and 25th (as needed) at 6:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Longview (not February 4th due to Pastor's being in the Dallas area).

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (not the rest of the month due to the Ash Wednesday Divine Service and Midweek Lenten Vespers services).

“RENDER UNTO CAESAR”: Annual Circuit #14 Retreat, Saturday, February 6th, from about 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine. (See article on preceding page.)

ELDERS Tuesday, February 9th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (Reading assignment TBA).

ASH WEDNESDAY: Special Divine Service with optional Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 10th.

MIDWEEK LENTEN VESPERS SERVICES: Wednesdays February 17th and 24th at 7:00 p.m.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for March are due Sunday, February 21st. Please submit your contributions for *your* newsletter by that time.

ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING: Let Tifaney Sampson know your ideas!

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸ Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on His people. ¹⁹ The Lord answered and said to His people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.”

— Joel 2:12-19 (ESV)
Old Testament Reading
for Ash Wednesday

KIDS' PAGE

December 25th is Christmas Day.

Can you unscramble the words related to the story of Jesus's birth and then use the letters in the numbered boxes to get a final message?



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DECEMBER 2015

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

www.pilgrimlc.org
903-984-4333

Pastor's Regular Study Hours
 Tuesday 5:00–8:00 PM
 Wednesday–Friday 9:00 AM–Noon
 Saturday Noon–3:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Communion Assistant – Carl Gardner Acolyte – Benjamin Morton Cleaning Volunteers – Edgar & Barbara Wuthrich		1 Noon Kilg. Min. Fel. 4:00 Jr. Catechesis 5:00 Sr. Catechesis 6:30 Christmas Parade (& Chili) M/M S. Hiltzman (A)	2 7:00 PM Advent Vespers Service	3 Pastor at North Texas Confessional Lutherans Study Group in Plano Malaisa Smith (B)	4 Jack Watts (B)	5 11:00 AM to Noon Junior Youth Catechesis
6 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service 4:00 PM Congregational Christmas Party at the Watts' Home in Waskom	7 John Morton (B)	8 2:00-5:00 PM Cleaning Ladies 4:00 Jr. Catechesis 5:30 Kilg. City Cncl. 6:00 PM Elders	9 7:00 PM Advent Vespers Service	10 Circuit Pastors meet in Nacogdoches 6:00-7:00 PM Sr. Youth Catechesis at ORLC	11	12 11:00 AM to Noon Junior Youth Catechesis
13 THIRDSUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service 1:15 PM Christmas Caroling to Nursing Homes	14 M/M Jeffrey Gill (A)	15 4:00 PM Junior Youth Catechesis Toni Erickson (B) M/M Ron Morton (A)	16 2:30 PM LWML Birthday Party at Kilg. Hlth. & Rehab 7:00 PM Advent Vespers Service Andrew Adair (B)	17 6:00-7:00 PM S.r Youth Cat. at ORLC Leroy Thomas (B) M/M Don Nicol (A)	18 John Walker (B)	19 11:00 AM to Noon Junior Youth Catechesis
20 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	21 Ticia Smith (B)	22 M/M Wayne Miller (A)	23 7:00 PM Advent Vespers Service (tree trimming follows)	24 EVE OF THE NATIVIY OF JESUS (W) 6:00 PM Candlelight Service of Readings and Hymns	25 THE NATIVIY OF JESUS (W) 10:00 AM Divine Service Bryn Heil (B)	26 M/M Wendell Holcombe (A)
27 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (W) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	28	29	30 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	31 EVE OF THE NAMING OF JESUS 7:00 PM Divine Service (ORLC)		



JANUARY 2016

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Regular Study Hours
 Tuesday 5:00–8:00 PM
 Wednesday–Friday 9:00 AM–Noon
 Saturday Noon–3:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (W) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Kathy Hudson (B)	4	5 4:00 Jr. Catechesis 5:00 PM Quilting 6:00 PM LWML Mtg 6:00 PM Elders M/M Carl Gardner (A)	6 EIPHANY 7:00 PM Divine Service	7 6:00-7:00 PM Senior. Youth Catechesis at ORLC	1 NAMING OF JESUS Arlen Kuehn (B)	2
10 THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (W) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service (with Officer etc. Installation) Lunch & Officer etc. Orientation	11 Matthew Smith (B)	12 2:00-5:00 PM Cleaning Ladies	13	14	15 M/M Erik Freeman (A)	9 11:00 Jr. Cat. Packet Reps. Tom.
Pastor Galler on vacation (an Elder will answer the Church phone and contact the on-call pastor as needed)						
17 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EIPHANY (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Emma Morton (B)	18 M/M Danny Sampson (A)	19 4:00 PM Junior Youth Catechesis	20 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Maggie Land (B)	21 Circuit Pastors meet in Palestine 6:00-7:00 PM Sr. Cat. at ORLC Remo Gualtieri (B)	22 M/M Jerome Key (A)	23 9:00 -1:00 Blood 11:00 AM Jr. Cat. News. Arts. Tom Hanna Morton (B).
Pastor Galler on vacation			Free Conference in Plano			
24 3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EIPHANY (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Voters' Meeting (following the Service)	25	26 4:00 PM Junior Youth Catechesis 5:30 Kilgore City Council Don Nicol (B)	27 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	28 6:00-7:00 PM Senior. Youth Catechesis at ORLC	29	30 Mary Criswell (B)
31 4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EIPHANY (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	Communion Assistant – Edgar Wuthrich Acolyte – Clay Ellis Cleaning Volunteers – Your Name Here?					

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

The Pilgrimage is a monthly newsletter for the members and friends of



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