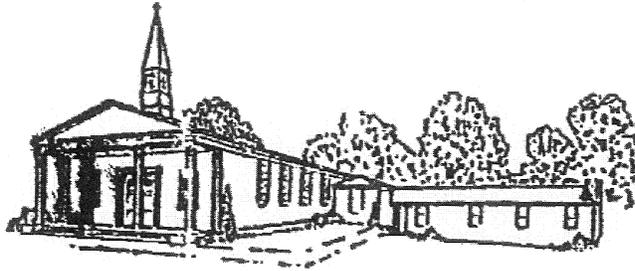


Pilgrim Lutheran Church

BROADWAY AT FLOREY

KILGORE, TEXAS



February 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.

Hearts and minds

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

At some local stores, Christmas's candy canes were soon replaced by Valentine's heart-shaped boxes of chocolates candies, which themselves will soon be replaced by Easter's candy eggs. Retailers move more quickly from one holiday to the next than we in the Church move from one holy-day to the next, especially when we have intervening seasons! Nevertheless, the popular February more-secular focus on hearts for (St.) Valentine's Day can prompt us, even in our seasons of the Church Year, to reflect on human hearts, especially as they relate to human minds.

When we hear the words "heart" and "mind", we might think both of the organ in our chest that pumps our blood and of the brain in our head that in various ways runs our bodies. To some extent such thoughts help us when the Bible uses those words, though not completely. In the language of the Bible, the "heart" can be thought of as the seat of all physical and spiritual life, be used as equal to the soul or even to the mind, as the fountain of all thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes and endeavors. The "heart" can even refer to understanding, the faculty and the seat of intelligence, human will and character. Obviously heart and mind overlap with each other and can be used parallel with such things as soul and strength.

For example, we are told to love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and also with all our soul and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5; Joshua 22:5; Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; and Luke 10:27). Yet, we as individual complete people are not divided up into those four constitutive parts or even into three (as some interpret 1 Thessalonians 5:23's spirit, soul, and body) but rather into two, namely body and soul (for example, Matthew 10:28). Our hearts and minds are parts of our bodies that are given life by our souls.

Some separate heart and mind, thinking that the heart is more the seat of emotion and that the mind is more the seat of intellect and understanding. Such a separation can be helpful, but we cannot think that our faith is necessarily more a matter of one than of the other. Even the verses noted above indicate that our love of God (and we Lutherans might add also our fear of and trust in God) is to be of heart and mind.

God's law that shows us our sin is written on both our hearts and minds (Jeremiah 31:33-34; Hebrews 8:10; 10:16). Both heart and mind are corrupted by original sin and involved in our actual sins. By our own reason and strength, we are unable to come to faith or believe in

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Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, so the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel and with His gifts enlightens us, heart and mind, producing in us repentance and faith and leading us to produce other fruits of faith, good works that serve God in the persons of our neighbors, who we are to love as we love ourselves.

We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). True love is not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins so we might live through Him (1 John 4:9-10). Our resulting relationship with God involves both our hearts emotionally trusting and our minds intellectually knowing and understanding, for we believe in God understood a certain way.

A newborn baby normally comes with its heart to trust its parents who nurse it, well before the child is able with its mind to understand and articulate the concept of “parent”. But, come to understand and articulate the child normally will and should. Likewise with the Christian faith, newly baptized children nursed on the Word of God believe in and trust God and come to understand and articulate the teaching of that Word about God. They at least should move from milk to meat (see 1 Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12-13 [note what follows in ch.6]; 1 Peter 2:2).

While not necessarily in keeping with church practice everywhere, always, and by all, the Lutheran Church for its nearly 500 years and the Missouri Synod for all of its history has instructed those baptized as infants and young children and then confirmed them before admitting them to the Rail to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. That practice raises a legitimate question about how much head knowledge is needed to commune and whether any answer to that question turns something that is at its core the purest Gospel into law. We all can benefit from reflecting further on these matters, even if we never reach a point of changing such a long-standing practice. (A related question is when an elderly or infirm person can no longer be admitted to the Rail.)

The historic Christian liturgy and hymns that provide the context for our receiving God’s gift of forgiveness not only reach hearts and minds, but they also confess the truths about hearts and minds that I have been discussing. (For examples, check out the following hymn stanzas in *Lutheran Service Book*: 497:1; 573:2; 830:6; 845:2; 848:1; 904:3.) Truly, through such reception of God’s gift of forgiveness and use of His Word, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding (and is worth far more than any candy cane, heart-shaped box of chocolate candies, or candy eggs), guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

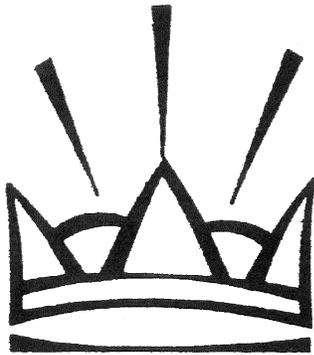
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

03 – Brandy Ellis
14 – Jerome Key
15 – Carolyn Morton
18 – Danny Sampson
19 – Heaven Chiasson
21 – J.D. Sampson



This month, Epiphany ends and Lent begins

The calendar month of February 2016 bridges two seasons of the Church Year, namely, Epiphany and Lent. And, in bridging those two seasons, February offers extra opportunities both to hear God's Word and to receive His forgiveness.



The first of those two seasons, Epiphany, as you may remember, focuses especially on the revelation to the Gentiles of God in the flesh of the man Jesus. That revelation brought then and brings now both spiritual growth to individuals and overall growth to the Church. Arguably the greatest or most-glorious revelation of the Divine nature from within Jesus's human flesh came when Jesus was transfigured, which event we observe on the First Sunday of February, when white paraments are used, bringing to mind joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity, and innocence. That Sunday we sing what should be a very familiar Transfiguration hymn, and we also "put away" the joyful word "Alleluia", which means "Praise the Lord", before we begin the second of the two seasons February bridges, Lent.

Lent is a season of somber and sober preparation for the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection that comes in the Easter season. Anciently, people during the 40 days prepared for Baptism or Confirmation at the Vigil of Easter, but those of us already baptized can still observe the season in a helpful way, in a sense renewing our baptisms and growing in our appreciation of them. Lent begins with the first of our extra opportunities both to hear God's Word and to receive His forgiveness, namely Ash Wednesday. At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10th, we are offering a special Divine Service, in which all have the option of receiving the imposition of ashes. Other extra worship opportunities are Midweek Lenten Vespers services at 7:00 p.m. on February's remaining Wednesday nights, the 17th and 26th. In those services, we will as usual hear read a narrative of our Lord's Passion combined from the four Gospel accounts, and we will use and reflect on the seven penitential psalms, in special use during Lent since before the Reformation.



Especially Lent but really anytime is a good time for private Confession and individual Absolution. The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is not only known as "Fat Tuesday" (in French *Mardi Gras*), the last opportunity for people to indulge before their Lenten fast, but it is also known as "Shrove Tuesday", a day to "shrive", another word for "confess". Lutherans do not confess to their pastor all their sins (who can do that anyway, as Psalm 19:12 asks), nor do they confess because they have to, but Lutherans confess to their pastor the sins that trouble them most, those that they know and feel in their hearts, and they confess because they want the comfort of the forgiveness from the pastor as from God Himself. You are always welcome for private Confession and individual Absolution (see *Lutheran Service Book* pages 292-293) during my scheduled Study Hours (usually Tuesdays 5-8 p.m., Wednesday through Friday 9 a.m. to Noon, and Saturdays noon to 3:00 p.m.) and at other times by appointment.

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The Sundays in February 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):

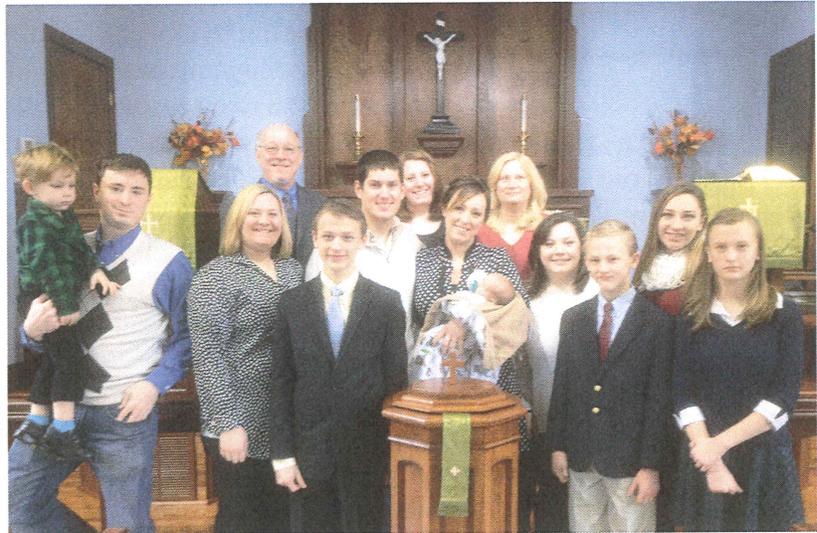
- Transfiguration of Our Lord (02/07): Jesus shows that He's God (Luke 9:28-36)
- First Sunday in Lent (02/14): Jesus resists the devil's temptation (Luke 4:1-13)
- Second Sunday in Lent (02/21): Jesus wants to gather everyone (Luke 13:31-35)
- Third Sunday in Lent (02/28): Jesus teaches about repentance (Luke 13:1-9)

Remember that you can read and usually also hear all the sermons preached at Pilgrim by visiting our website at www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons.

Pastor Galler

Meet some of Pilgrim's newest members

The whole Morton family poses for a picture on November 15th, when Ron and Carolyn's son-in-law Emmett Koen, IV, was received by Profession of Faith/Adult Confirmation and their grandson Maxwell Koen was baptized. From left are Emmett Koen, V; Sam; Rebekah; Ron; Benjamin; Emmett Koen, IV; Rachel (their eldest daughter visiting from Wisconsin); Caroline Koen holding Maxwell Koen; Carolyn; Hannah; John; Grace; and Emma. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*



The Paul Hooge Family was received by transfer from Zion Lutheran Church, Tomball, Texas, on November 22nd, but we did not capture their photo until a few weeks later. From left are Paul, Matthew, Jennifer holding Anna, and Colleen. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*

1	Luke 2:29-32
	Exodus 1-3
2	Psalm 59
	Exodus 4-6
3	Psalm 60
	Exodus 7-9
4	Psalm 61
	Exodus 10-12
5	Psalm 62
	Exodus 13-15
6	Psalm 63
	Exodus 16-18
7	Psalm 64
	Exodus 19-21
8	Psalm 65
	Exodus 22-24
9	Psalm 66
	Exodus 25-27
10	Psalm 67
	Exodus 28-30
11	Psalm 68
	Exodus 31-33
12	Psalm 69
	Exodus 34-36
13	Psalm 70
	Exodus 37-38
14	Psalm 71
	Exodus 39-40
15	Psalm 72
	Leviticus 1-3
16	Psalm 73
	Leviticus 4-6
17	Psalm 74
	Leviticus 7-9
18	Psalm 75
	Leviticus 10-12
19	Psalm 76
	Leviticus 13-15
20	Psalm 77
	Leviticus 16-18
21	Psalm 78
	Leviticus 19-21
22	Psalm 79
	Leviticus 22-24
23	Psalm 80
	Leviticus 25-27
24	Psalm 81
	Numbers 1-3
25	Psalm 82
	Numbers 4-6
26	Psalm 83
	Numbers 7-9
27	Psalm 84
	Numbers 10-12
28	Luke 2:29-32
	Numbers 13-15

Daily Bible reading prompts two Q&A

I continue to encourage everyone connected with Pilgrim to be in God’s Word on a daily basis by following the Daily Lectionary from our former hymnal, *Lutheran Worship* (pp.295-299), reprinted at left and available in larger-print copies in the Narthex. As a result of people reading God’s Word daily, two questions were asked via email that I answer below for everyone’s benefit.

Q: My question is about the cursing of the fig tree in Mark 11. In vv.12-14, Jesus’s reaction seems so human, and yet later in vv.20-25 He seems to use the tree’s withering as an example of the power of prayer. Since figs were not even in season, what did the poor tree do to deserve being cursed?

A: We certainly see the man Jesus hungry in v.12, but we do not want to think that the cursing of the tree is somehow unworthy of the Lord Jesus, as if somehow He were guilty and the tree “innocent”. Supposedly the fig trees’ leaves (a sign of the times in Mark 13:28-31) should have been accompanied by early figs, which themselves are supposedly an indicator of later figs to come. Since there were none, the divine Creator in human flesh condemns such fruitlessness (see Jeremiah 8:8-13), and, when next the disciples see the tree (confer Matthew 21:19-20), it is withered, including its roots. Peter’s reaction (confer Matthew 21:20) serves a catechetical purpose, and Jesus’s response can be taken as emphasizing our need to repent and believe, including our bringing forth the fruits of faith, such as praying to our all-powerful God. Some say Jesus speaks in vv.22-24 of a faith, distinct from “saving” faith, sometimes called “heroic” faith. Regardless, God will not act contrary to His nature, and neither should we pray that way. Finally, note well that before we pray, asking God to forgive us, we should forgive the sins our neighbors have committed against us. (This passage includes the verses in Mark most similar to the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4.)

Q: The accounts of the creation of Adam and Eve have always puzzled me. Genesis 1:26-27 describes the creation of male and female humans on the Sixth Day, and Genesis 2:7 also covers the creation of man, with a description of Adam in the garden in vv.8-17, but it seems some time passes before Eve is created in v.22. How do these accounts fit together? Is there a general human-creation on the Sixth Day and a later specific creation of God’s chosen ones, Adam and Eve?

A: Different people have less-than-faithful solutions to this puzzle. A short, faithful solution is that Genesis 2:7-25 details the same Sixth Day’s unique creation of two human beings, with bodies and souls, which was summarized in Genesis 1:26-31. The rest of humanity comes later from their being fruitful and multiplying. For more on Genesis 1 and 2, make use of the audio and handouts from our Midweek Bible Study titled “Salvation History is Our Story” online at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/salvation-history>.

Your questions about the Bible are always welcome, whether or not you are even following the reading schedule we are reproducing. Just ask in the format best for you!

Pastor Galler

Pilgrim LWML Society helps keep the world warm



At their monthly Quilting Bee, ladies of the Pilgrim LWML Society work together tying knots on a quilt they are making for Lutheran World Relief. From left are Kathy Hudson, Jeanna Watts, Jeanette Paetznick, Sharon Sampson, Elaine Navaille, and Barbara Wuthrich. *Photo: Sarah Land.*

January 23rd blood drive a success!

Our most recent blood drive netted 13 units of life-giving blood, short of our “dream” of 25, but still an excellent number, especially considering that the Carter BloodCare double-red equipment was not working, which forced three people to give one unit of whole blood instead of two units of red cells. Also, two people were deferred at the time, and one person who had made an appointment did not come. The people from Carter were pleased with the response, as always, since they had set a goal for us of twelve units.

Special thanks goes to Tyler Watts, who had invited all of his students at ETBU to come with him to give blood, and had two students accept the challenge. Pastor enjoyed talking with the two young men when he and Emma Watts joined them for lunch after Emma’s Junior Catechesis class. Thanks also go to Tif and J.D. Sampson, Kathy Hudson, and Elaine Navaille who worked the drive, greeting the people, keeping records of those who gave blood, and helping them sign-up for the drawing for money prizes offered by Citizens Bank of Kilgore. No drawing for the money occurred this time, because the total number of units collected did not reach the goal of 25 set by the individual giving the money as an added incentive, but there will still be three blood recipients who will benefit from each unit donating, for a successful number of 39 people helped!

Mark Your calendars for the next drive on April 23rd, and feel free to bring extra people with you, although you are not required to treat them to lunch, like Tyler did.

Barbara Wuthrich

This IS YOUR Father's House!

If you have room for one more New Year's resolution, may I suggest volunteering for some project or job at church. At this time, most of the spots on the Clean-Up Chart on the bulletin board in the Narthex are vacant, possibly because people don't know what they would be signing up to do. So, I will explain the logic for the list. We have a professional cleaning lady who comes (on the second Monday of each month). She cleans the bathrooms, dusts, and sweeps and mops the floors. People who sign up on the chart are promising to do what I lovingly refer to as "slicking up" in between her monthly visits. These "slicking up" items are posted next to the sign-up list. The highlights follow:

- Empty waste baskets in the cry room, restrooms, office, study, etc.
- Pick up debris left on pews, straighten hymnals, restock the visitor registration slips, and sharpen pencils (as needed)
- Sweep or dry mop floors, especially if dirt, leaves, dead bugs, etc. are seen
- Restock the paper supplies from the janitor's closet to the cabinets below the sinks in each bathroom

These are most of the duties, and the full list posted in the Narthex makes it easy, but ask questions if anything is unclear. Many use this as a family project to help children learn to "serve the Lord with gladness."

We also **STILL** need a Financial Secretary, who counts and deposits the offerings each week, and prints a quarterly report of each member's giving. While I have you in the spirit, please consider helping Pastor with the actual generation of both this monthly newsletter, the *Pilgrimage*, and the weekly Sunday and other bulletins. George A. Heil, Jeanette Paetznick, Sharon Sampson, and Cindy Harantcavage have helped in the office since Pastor Galler arrived, and I have been helping lately, but mostly in the printing **AFTER** things have been generated on the computer. Someone with basic computer-skills and a desire to commit to this work would be a real blessing and would free Pastor to use his God-given talents to "serve the Lord with gladness" in ways that only he, as an ordained pastor, can. You have witnessed my computer skills recently as I literally "cut and pasted" when compiling the Voters' Packets.

Even though the official officers and board and committee members were recognized recently in church, you could still approach those people and offer to join them, or approach Pastor or an Elder to see where else you can help. They sometimes have a single short-term project that needs attention, if committing to a weekly job is more than your time allows. A church family is only as strong as the sum of its members.

Barbara Wuthrich

FEBRUARY EVENTS

JUNIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS will meet Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m., both in Pastor's Study, (except not Sat., Feb. 6th due to the Circuit 14 Retreat).

LWML will meet Tuesday, February 2nd, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library, and a light supper will be served. (Note the times are changed for this month only.)

QUILTING BEE will be Tuesday, February 2nd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

SENIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS meets Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. (location TBA).

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY will be held 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 the Midweek Lenten Vespers services).

GAME NIGHT AT THE WUTHRICHERS' is planned for Friday, February 5th, at 6 p.m. Come and play with your church family. See article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

"RENDER UNTO CAESAR": The Annual Circuit #14 Retreat will be Saturday, February 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine. (For more information, see the article in last month's *Pilgrimage*.)

ELDERS will meet Tuesday, February 9th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (Reading assignment Smalcald Articles [SA] I, p.262).

ASH WEDNESDAY: There will be a special Divine Service with the option of receiving the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 10th.

MIDWEEK LENTEN VESPERS SERVICES: Join us to hear again of our Lord's Passion and reflect on the Penitential Psalms 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.

LWML Birthday Party

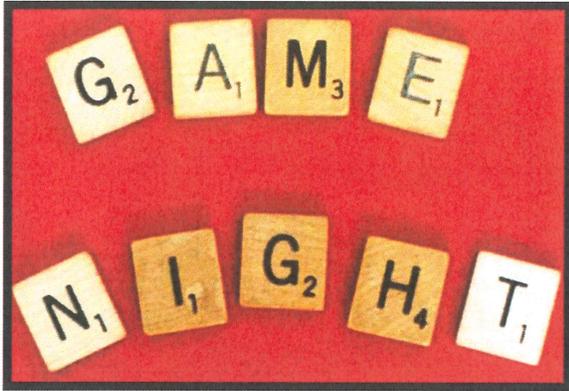


Thanks to Jeanette Paetznick's connections, the Kilgore High School Highsteppers entertain the residents at Kilgore Health and Rehab during the LWML Society's birthday party for the residents on December 16, 2015. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*

You can help Kilgore's Helping Hands

For the month of February, Helping Hands of Kilgore is requesting canned fruit, creamy peanut butter, and toilet paper. A container for your donations is located in Pilgrim's Narthex. If you want to donate money above and beyond your regular church offering, you can send your check or money order to Helping Hands of Kilgore, PO Box 1576, Kilgore, TX 75662.





Long-awaited Game Night scheduled for February 5th

Bring your game face and your games at 6 p.m. to the Wuthriches' house at 204 Remington Trail, Longview, 75604. We will begin with pots of soup available for supper, if you come straight from work, and quickly jump to GAMES! We have Yahtzee, Uno, SkipBo, dominoes, Chicken Foot dominoes, Rook, Phase 10, Five

Crowns, and Quiddler, as well as games for younger children, but you are *very* welcome to bring your own games.

We have had a few game nights before AT the church when we had our Parish Hall, playing Bible Pictionary, as well as regular board games, but this time we will try having the game night in a home, since the Parish Hall isn't available. We have a kitchen bar, dining table, and 2 card tables, as well as a child-sized table/chair set, so we should be able to accommodate a good crowd.

I plan to prepare Rice Krispie Treats, but you are welcome to bring any other snacks or desserts if you choose. The emphasis is on GAMES, but Lutherans don't live by games alone!

Our address is Google friendly, but a general description is that we are in NW Longview, in the Spring Hill school district, off George Richey Road, which connects Pine Tree Road and Gilmer Road (Hwy 300). Call me at 903-720-3525, if you need more information or get lost.

The Social Committee at PLC tries to plan a monthly activity for our church family to be together outside of church services, and is always looking for inspiration from you. Please send your children's game schedules to secretary@pilgrimlc.org, as well as information about school concerts, school plays, etc., to allow us to consider attending activities of our youth during 2016, and/or let Tif Sampson, Elaine Navaille, Kathy Hudson, Betty Miller, or me know your ideas for future activities.

Barbara Wuthrich

Email brings funny church-kids stories

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" one's Father and Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

God grants progress on New Parish Hall

(Right) Specified officers and board and committee members participate in the closing of the loan for the new Parish Hall on January 8, 2016, in Kilgore. From left are Steven Sampson, David Navaille, Edgar Wuthrich, the title company representative, Brady Gage, Danny Sampson, Kathy Hudson, and Remo Gualtieri. (Thanks go to the title company staff member who took the picture.)



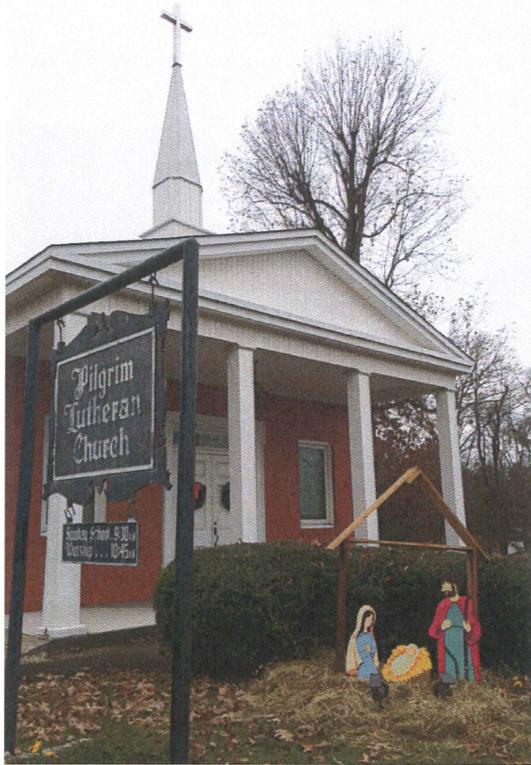
(Above) A crew and equipment from Roll'n M Construction level the pad for the new Parish Hall the week of January 10th.
Photo: Gayle Gardner.



(Left) Concrete workers pour a portion of the new sidewalk and ramp to the Office Area from Florey Street on Tuesday, January 19th. Photo: Jayson Galler.

Pilgrim celebrates and proclaims Christmas in many ways

From activities in Advent through the Twelve Days of Christmas, Pilgrim members and their family and friends celebrated and proclaimed the birth of Jesus for the salvation of the world. (Below left) The new manger scene from the Kilgore Christmas Parade float found a home on the corner of Broadway and Florey, illuminated at night with solar lights. (Below right) One of many “elves”, Dan West carefully cuts out a figure for the parade float as designed



by Steven and Angela Sampson, co-chairs of the Mission and Evangelism Committee, as the group worked on November 28th in Remo and Kathy’s shop. The December 1st parade theme was “Christmas in Toyland”, but Pilgrim’s float emphasized Jesus as the reason for the season by having toys bow to Jesus in the manger. (Bottom) A Jack-in-the-Box, a Toy Soldier, Princess, and a Bear can be seen before the Stable at the front of the float, and the message is clear on the back. Picture in between are



members who rode the float. In the front from the left are Cooper Sampson, Tifaney Sampson, Elaine Navaille, Danny Sampson, Kathy Hudson, Barbara Wuthrich, and Sharon Sampson. In the back from the left are J.D. Sampson, Steven Sampson, Pastor Galler, and Remo Gualtieri. (Not seen are the photographer for all three photos, Angela Sampson, and the float’s driver Edgar Wuthrich.) The committee thanks



everyone who made the float successful, and we all pray that God worked through their efforts.

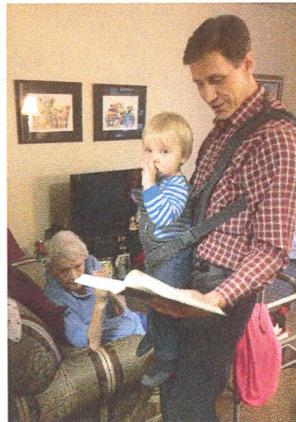
The next Christmas activity was the December 6th Congregational Christmas Party hosted by the Watts Family at their home in Waskom. (Top row left) Jennifer Hooge, Pastor's Mother Caryl Galler, Jeanna Watts, Angela Sampson, and Sharon Sampson enjoy conversation with their sweets. (Top row right) Edgar Wuthrich, Danny Sampson, Steven Sampson, and Pastor Galler talk football after dinner. (Middle row left) Tyler Watts, Jeanna Watts, Mark Watts, Jennifer Hooge, Colleen Hooge, Paul Hooge, and Larry Reif smile for the camera in the kitchen. (Middle row right) Cooper Sampson, Emma Watts, and Jack Watts check out the desserts. (Not seen are Matthew and Anna Hooge and photographer Barbara Wuthrich.)

On December 13th, a group of Pilgrim members caroled at three Kilgore nursing facilities. (Bottom row left) Tyler and Mark Watts cheer a resident of Arabella of Kilgore. (Bottom row right) The carolers pose for a group picture. From left are Elaine Navaille, Pastor Galler, Tifaney Sampson, Emma Watts, Jeanna Watts, Tyler Watts,



Mark Watts, Jack Watts, J.D. Sampson, Sharon Sampson, Brady Gage, and Barbara Wuthrich. (Thanks to the Arabella staff member who took the picture.)

All in all, we had a joyous season and shared the peace of Christ with many, both inside and outside of our congregational family.



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

Our Savior, Centerville; Trinity, Fairfield; First, Lufkin; and Bethlehem, Palestine
Our member Rev. Michael Monterastelli, serving elsewhere as needed

OUR PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Increasing our people's faithful stewardship of God's gifts
Filling the open Financial Secretary position
Safe and speedy construction of the new Parish Hall

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.)

THOSE IN POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

THOSE WHO TRAVEL:

Brady Gage
Jerome and Sallye Key
David Navaille
Edgar and Barbara Wuthrich

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)
Ruth Bluemlein (Sharon Sampson's first cousin, hospice care for cancer)
Candace Davis (George & Jeanette Heil's friend, working through chemotherapy)
Kimberly Dietz (Shannon's partner's sister, infections and regeneration issues)
Landon Hawkins (baby known to Watts Family, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome)
Kathy Jennings (Remo and Kathy's friend, suffering from cancer)
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)

Prayer list continues on the next page.

Prayer list continues from the previous page.

- Emmett Koen IV (our member, doing therapy on a shoulder)
- 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 (on antibiotics for respiratory difficulty)
- Gordon Reed (Rotarian, recovering from 01/14 prostate surgery, new health concern)
- Danny Sampson (at home recovering from successful shoulder surgery 1/27)
- Ronnie Sanchez (Elaine Navaille's cousin, undergoing second round of chemotherapy)
- Charles Strong (the Walkers' friend, having heart issues, may need a pacemaker)
- Leroy Thomas (fluid on knee drained 01/17, now at Arbor Grace)
- 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)

ALL MOTHERS EXPECTING CHILDREN, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

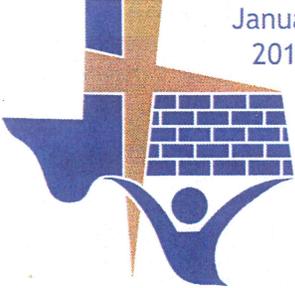
- Dana Renae Freeman (our member, due in July)
- Jeanna Watts (our member, due in April)

FAMILIES IN CRISIS OR NEED AND ALL FAMILIES

- Miller Family (Jeanna's brother Jasper, in need of God's guidance and direction)
- Myers Family (Indiana friends of the Watts, son Jordan imprisoned in North Carolina)
- Smith Family (various needs extended throughout Kansas, Texas, and Alabama)
- Thomas Family (Leroy's sons and grandchildren)

Your Church Extension Fund investments can help PLC

At any time you may invest your money with the Texas District Lutheran Church Extension Fund (CEF), which has loaned 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%. One member figures that Pilgrim could easily save a the equivalent of a mortgage payment each year. The Stewardship Board is seeking someone to be a designated CEF representative for the congregation, as the designated representative can regularly obtain updated information about the congregation's level of supporting investment and potential interest rebate. If you would like to be the designated representative, talk to a member of the Stewardship Board.



January
2016

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Fixed Rate</u> ^Δ		<u>Floating Rate</u> ^Δ	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note+	1.000%	1.75%	0.500%	0.50%
Three Year Note+	1.750%	1.76%	1.250%	1.26%
Five Year Note+	2.250%	2.27%	1.750%	1.76%
Flex Savings			0.500%	0.50%
<u>Accounts For Congregations</u>				
Congregation Savings			1.000%	1.00%
Building Fund Savings			2.250%	2.27%

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

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.

MARCH EVENTS

JUNIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS is currently scheduled for Tuesdays March 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th at 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays March 5th, 12th, and 19th at 11:00 a.m., both in Pastor's Study.

QUILTING BEE will be held on Tuesday, March 1st, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

LWML will meet Tuesday, March 1st, at 6:00 p.m. (location and meal arrangements TBA).

LENTEN VESPERS SERVICES Wednesdays, March 2nd, 9th, and 16th at 7:00 p.m.



Time to
Spring Ahead

SENIOR YOUTH CATECHESIS is currently scheduled for Thursdays March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 31st (if needed) at 4:00 p.m. (location TBA).

ELDERS will meet on Tuesday, March 8th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (reading assignment TBA).

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME: Spring your clock one hour forward before coming to Sunday School and Adult Bible Class on Sunday, March 13th.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY: We are tentatively planning the annual work day inside and out for Saturday, March 19th, beginning at 9:00 a.m., weather permitting (rain date is March 26th).

MAUNDY THURSDAY DIVINE SERVICE: Thursday, March 24th, at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY DIVINE SERVICE: Friday, March 25th, at 7:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY ACTIVITIES: We expect to have "Sonrise" Matins at 7:30 a.m., an Easter Breakfast of some sort from 8:15-9:00 a.m., an Egg Hunt at 9:15 a.m., Sunday School and Adult Bible Class from 9:30-10:30, and Divine Service at 10:45 a.m.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for April are due Easter Sunday, March 27th. Please submit your contributions for *your* newsletter by that time.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY will resume after Easter on Wednesday, March 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING: Give your ideas to Tifaney Sampson.

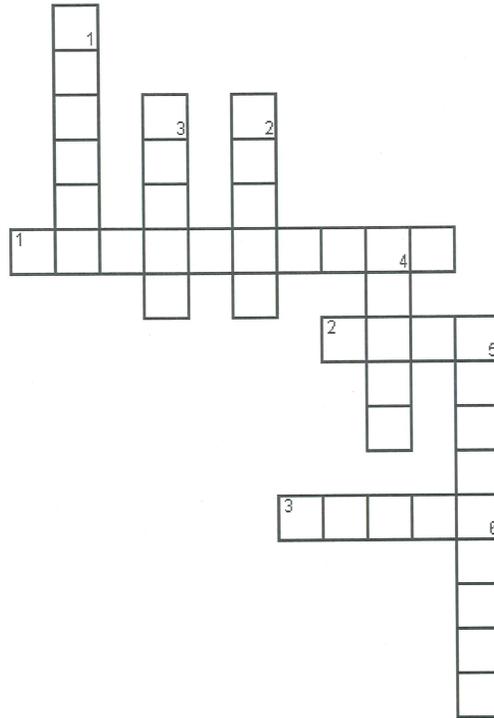
Pilgrim's to-date plate offerings reported

Following a request from Pilgrim's Board of Elders, Pilgrim's Treasurer reports the following figures for the period from January 1st through January 24th:

Undesignated Plate Offerings received:	\$10,149.44
Undesignated Plate Offerings projected:	\$10,794.62
Budgeted expenses projected:	\$11,366.94 (4/52 of the total for the year)

KIDS' PAGE

Lutheran Lenten Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Sorrow for our sins and trust that God forgives them for Jesus's sake.
2. Where Jesus rose from.
3. What Jesus gives us with wine.

Down

1. The liturgical color for Lent.
2. The number of days of Lent.
3. A sign of what we deserve because of our sin.
4. What Jesus died on for our sins.
5. What Jesus gives us His body with.
6. He tempted Jesus in the wilderness.

Created by Pastor Galler and Barbara Wuthrich at <http://edtools.mankindforward.com>.



FEBRUARY 2016

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
	1	2 Noon Minister's Fellowship Meeting 4:00 Jr. Catechesis 5:00 LWML Mtg. 6:00 Quilting (note the change)	3 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Brandy Ellis (B)	4 4:00-5:00 PM Youth Catechesis	5 6 PM Game Night at the Wuthriches'	6 Annual Circuit #14 Retreat, "Render Unto Caesar", 9-3 in Palestine
7 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (W) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	8 1:00-6:00 PM Cleaning Ladies	9 4:00 PM Junior Youth Catechesis 6PM Elders	10 7 PM Ash Wednesday Divine Service (with optional imposition of ashes)	11 4:00-5:00 PM Youth Catechesis	12	13 11:00 AM Junior Youth Catechesis
14 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Jerome Key (B)	15 Carolyn Morton (B)	16 4:00 PM Junior Youth Catechesis	17 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	18 Circuit Pastors meet in Athens 4:00-5:00 PM Youth. Catechesis. Danny Sampson(B)	19 Heaven Chiasson (B)	20 11:00 AM Junior Youth Catechesis Newsletter articles due tomorrow
21 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service J.D. Sampson (B)	22	23 4:00 PM Junior Youth Catechesis 5:30 Pastor prays at Kilgore City Council	24 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	25 4:00-5:00 PM Youth Catechesis	26	27 11:00 AM Junior Youth Catechesis
28 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service (LWML Loose Change Sunday)	Communion Assistant – John Walker Acolyte – Matthew Hooge 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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Pastor Galler and Barbara Wuthrich are the editors of **The Pilgrimage**. Barbara Wuthrich also assists with producing and distributing editions. Everyone is welcome to contribute articles at any time. All copyright holders of excerpted or reproduced materials are hereby acknowledged, and such materials are used in good faith under fair use provisions.