

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

BROADWAY AT FLOREY

KILGORE, TEXAS



March 2017
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.

Good news for weary pilgrims

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Maybe because I myself at times seem to fit the description and resulting behaviors, I seem to have noticed more people describing themselves as tired out. Whether we are a younger person dealing with schoolwork or an adult dealing with work-work, at times work never seems to end. And then there are things to do with our church and other volunteer commitments and our homes and families (hopefully not in that order).

By most measures, we are a smaller congregation numerically, and even though our smaller size means some degree of less work, the basic things that are done at larger congregations are also done here, only the larger congregations have more people to do them! Even if you do not hear me say it what might be regarded as enough times, I do appreciate all those who volunteer their time and talents for the regular tasks done around the congregation; those who serve as officers and board and committee chairs and members; those who are in such capacity or otherwise helping complete the building project; those who are working tirelessly on the new constitution, bylaws, and standing rules; and those who visit or otherwise help out the sick and the shut-in. A few people fall into more than one or two of those categories! Of course, I also know the circumstances of others who might like to help but for various reasons cannot. While the gift of God's forgiveness of sins ideally brings forth fruits of repentance and faith according to our vocations such as offering time, talent, and treasure, not everyone's circumstances allow such offerings to the same extent as others. The primary measure of an individual's faithfulness is regular reception of God's gift of forgiveness in Word and Sacrament.

On the topic of visiting the sick and shut-in, such visits are the privilege of both the pastor and the congregation's members, and I am pleased that, unlike some congregations, we have a balance of at least some of both. I try to visit our sick and shut-in members as often as they want me there, weekly in some cases and every-other week in other cases. And, we have some members who visit and otherwise aid those in need of company, food, shuttle service, and other things. To be sure, only a congregation's pastor can deliver a homily, proclaim individual Holy Absolution, and consecrate the Sacrament of the Altar, but everyone else is eligible to do everything else. And, in so much as we do or do not visit the least of these our brothers and sisters, we have or have not visited Christ Himself (Matthew 25:31-46).

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One does not have to be sick and shut-in to be tired out or otherwise feel the effects of age and the decline of one's body, however. Such effects of age and decline can be especially frustrating when we have been people who previously have accomplished and done things with greater energy and sharper focus. Yes, we begin to age from the moment of conception, but there is a point at which such aging is no longer desirable! (Several years ago on his birthday I told my nephew 21 might be the last age he wanted to be!) Sickness, decline, and eventual death remind us of sin in general and our own sin in particular (not that any particular sickness is necessarily punishment for any particular sin).

To the extent that we realize our own sin, we do not need more law, which some religious traditions put layer upon layer upon their people, but we need God's Gospel of the forgiveness of sins, which I pray always predominates in my preaching and teaching. We might especially note now what we will hear again in the weeks of Lent to come as Jesus in His final word from the cross says, "It is finished!" (John 19:30. The one Greek word *tetelestai* says neither Who has done the finishing nor what has been finished, but the context makes clear that God in the person of the man Jesus has done the finishing and that our redemption is what has been finished. The Greek word is said to have been written on the invoices of the day with the meaning "paid in full", but perhaps more important for our purposes here is the idea that there is nothing more we need to do, at least not in regards to our redemption.

Which is not to say that there are not still things that we need to do! As has been said, no one gets out of the Church Militant alive! Weary or not, there is much for us pilgrims still to do in regards to our families and homes; church; and work and society at large. As St. Paul by Divine inspiration encouraged the Galatians I encourage you: "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially those of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:9-10 ESV.)

Jesus invites to Himself all who are weary and burdened in order for them to receive rest for their souls (Matthew 11:28-30, especially NIV). That immediate rest in the forgiveness of sins is already the possession of, and the ultimate rest of eternity awaits, all who repent and believe in Jesus. Baptized into Him and feasting on Him, we can endure whatever God in His wisdom permits us to face, including sickness, decline, and eventual death of the body as we await the finished fullness of His rest in the eternity of heaven.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

02 – Ross Land
5 – Olene Herricks
13 – Cooper Sampson
15 – Ansleigh Heil
16 – Brady Gage
27 – Grace Morton



BLESSED ANNIVERSARY

19 – George & Jeanette Heil

Lent 2017: Scenes of the Lord's Passion

Does the reality of Jesus's dying on the cross for us condemn us or forgive us? The Holy Spirit may use that reality to do both. That Jesus died for our sins may help us realize we are sinners, but first and foremost Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Not only Jesus's death, not only His whole Passion, but all that He ever did, from the moment of His miraculous conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and all that He still does today is for us. Nevertheless, as Pilgrim Lutheran Church observes the 40-day season of Lent, we are giving special attention to different scenes of our Lord's Passion for us. The Lenten season of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance begins with Ash Wednesday, March 1st, and continues through Holy Saturday, April 15th.

We observe Ash Wednesday, with its emphasis on repentance, in a special Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. The imposition of ashes is offered for all those who wish to receive them. Ashes are a rich Biblical symbol of judgment and condemnation of sin, frailty, our total dependence upon God for life, humiliation, repentance, cleansing, and renewal. We were created from dust and, on account of sin, return to dust, and so we repent in dust and ashes. The ashes also remind us of our need for cleansing, scrubbing, and purifying, and the season of Lent provides such a time for renewal.

The 40-day season of Lent is based in part on special 40-day periods known from the Bible, such as Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness after His baptism resisting the devil's temptation (for example, Matthew 4:2, part of the Gospel Reading for The First Sunday in Lent). Lent is often said to be a time to reflect on baptism, a time for rebirth and renewal, for the discipline of learning and growing in faith, and for repentance and prayer. (The purple paraments in part symbolize penitence and self-discipline.) More than anything, however, Lent prepares us for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations of the mystery of our redemption by the death and resurrection of the God-man Jesus Christ.

Although not strictly-speaking a part of Lent, the following are the Sundays in Lent in March of 2017 and their Gospel Readings (appointed by *Lutheran Service Book's* three-year lectionary series A, which largely uses the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, though less evidently this season).

- First Sunday (3/5): Jesus resists the devil's three-fold temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)
- Second Sunday (3/12): Jesus tells Nicodemus about the need for Baptism (John 3:1-17)
- Third Sunday (3/19): Jesus gives a Samaritan woman living water (John 4:5-26)
- Fourth Sunday (3/26): Jesus is the Light of the World (John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39)

The final two Sundays in Lent occur in April this year.

Many grew up with midweek Lenten services that focused on our Lord's Passion and so prefer that the Passion narrative be read and meditated on during such midweek services, despite other newer-to-us emphases. This year Pilgrim's Midweek Lenten Vespers services will include praying penitential psalms and hearing the narrative from a different "scene" of the Lord's Passion and a sermon on the same. The following are the Midweek Lenten services in March 2017.

- Midweek I (3/8): The Lord's Supper – Satan's Role
- Midweek II (3/15): Gethsemane – Judas's Betrayal
- Midweek III (3/22): The Palace of the High Priest – Peter's Denial
- Midweek IV (3/29): The Praetorium – An out-of-this-world Kingdom

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The Lenten Vespers services are at 7:00 p.m. on the days indicated. A light supper precedes them at 6:00 p.m.

All are invited and welcome to participate in person in these and any of our activities! You can also read and hear the sermons at Pilgrim from any and every season of the Church Year online at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons>.

Pastor Galler

MARCH EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY is March 1st. We will offer the imposition of ashes in a special Divine Service at 7:00 p.m.

YOUTH CATECHESIS takes place every Saturday in March at 11:00 a.m. (despite its omission from March 25th on some versions of the March calendar).

QUILTING BEE is Monday, March 6th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

LWML MEETING AND SUPPER is Monday, March 6th, at 6:30 p.m. after Quilting.

SOUP 'N' SERMON: Pastor Galler leads the session Wednesday, March 8th, at Noon at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Kilgore. All are welcome.

LIGHT SUPPERS will be served starting at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday before the Midweek Lenten Vespers Services. The women of Pilgrim's LWML Society with other women in the congregation will serve these meals in the Church Office and Conference Room/Library, like we did with the chili supper after the Christmas parade.

MIDWEEK LENTEN VESPERS are Wednesdays March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th at 7:00 p.m.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME: Spring your clock forward one hour before coming to Sunday School and Adult Bible Class on Sunday, March 12th.

ELDERS meet Tuesday, March 14th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. (Come having read and being prepared to discuss SA III:iv, p.278.)

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the April *Pilgrimage* are due Sunday, March 19th.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY is on hiatus for Lent but will resume after Easter on Wednesday, April 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY will probably not be held until Saturday, April 8th, closer to Easter (with a Rain Date of Saturday, April 15th).

The Gospel

“... God is surpassingly rich in His grace: First, through the spoken word, by which the forgiveness of sin (the peculiar function of the Gospel) is preached to the whole world; second, through Baptism; third, through the holy Sacrament of the Altar, and fourth, through the power of keys and also through the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren, Matthew 18:20, ‘Where two are gathered,’ etc.”

Martin Luther, Smalcald Articles III:iv

1	Isaiah 64:1-9
	Numb. 16-18
2	Psalm 85
	Numb. 19-21
3	Psalm 86
	Numb. 22-24
4	Psalm 87
	Numb. 25-27
5	Psalm 88
	Numb. 28-30
6	Psalm 89
	Numb. 31-33
7	Psalm 90
	Numb. 34-36
8	Psalm 91
	Deut. 1-3
9	Psalm 92
	Deut. 4-6
10	Psalm 93
	Deut. 7-9
11	Psalm 94
	Deut. 10-12
12	Psalm 95
	Deut. 13-15
13	Psalm 96
	Deut. 16-18
14	Psalm 97
	Deut. 19-21
15	Psalm 98
	Deut. 22-24
16	Psalm 99
	Deut. 25-27
17	Psalm 100
	Deut. 28-30
18	Psalm 101
	Deut. 31-34
19	Psalm 102
	Luke 1
20	Psalm 103
	Luke 2-3
21	Psalm 104
	Luke 4-5
22	Psalm 105
	Luke 6-7
23	Psalm 106
	Luke 8-9
24	Psalm 107
	Luke 10-11
25	Psalm 108
	Luke 12-13
26	Psalm 109
	Luke 14-15
27	Psalm 110
	Luke 16-17
28	Psalm 111
	Luke 18-19
29	Psalm 112
	Luke 20-21
30	Psalm 113
	Luke 22
31	Isaiah 64:1-9
	Luke 23-24

Daily Bible Reading generates six more Q&A

Maybe as part of your Lenten discipline you can add time to read a Biblical canticle or Psalm and a few chapters of a Biblical book every day. If you keep that up through and after Lent, you will get through the whole Bible in one year and God will bless you along the way! Some people connected with Pilgrim are so in God’s Word on a daily basis, following the Daily Lectionary from our former hymnal, *Lutheran Worship* (pp.295-299), which schedule for March is reprinted at left and in larger-print available in the Narthex. I am always glad to answer questions from the Daily Reading, such as the following from the Reading assigned in January and February.

Q: Genesis 38 is strange reading: it feels disconnected, because one minute we are reading about Joseph, then we aren’t, and then we are again. Is there a reason for the break in Joseph’s life story?

A: Following the “signpost” in Genesis itself (see Genesis 37:2), Genesis 37:2-50:26, including chapter 38, is actually the account of Jacob, although admittedly it is largely about Joseph! One of Jacob’s twelve sons, Judah arguably was responsible for his younger brother Joseph’s being sold into slavery in Egypt (Genesis 37:25-28), when Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn son, had planned to return Joseph to Jacob (Genesis 37:21:22). The events from Judah’s life in chapter 38 can be said to illustrate the danger that God’s people faced living among pagan people, but the events also show Judah’s moral failure, which did not keep him from nevertheless being the patriarch of David’s royal line and so also of our Lord Jesus Christ, perhaps because they were a turning point in his life (see Genesis 44:30-34), not that the ends ever justify the means, perhaps unless they are God’s ends and means.

Q: Were there guns in biblical times? Or, is Exodus 19:13 talking about another weapon?

A: Well, since Wikipedia says “The first devices identified as guns appeared in China around CE 1000”, I think another weapon is surely being indicated! Where the English Standard Version simply says “shot”, the King James Version, American Standard Version, and New American Standard Bible all translate “shot through”, but the New International Version in this case helpfully paraphrases “shot with arrows”. The Hebrew verb can be used of “shooting” or “pouring”, as in “watering”, but other uses and the general context here together mean a bow with arrows is the weapon in view.

Q: The Laws of the Covenant in Exodus 22-24 seem more important than, or at least as important as, the Ten Commandments. Why were they not also written on the stone tablets?

A: I suppose to be absolutely sure, you would have to ask God that question! If He had wanted to, He surely could have written them all with His finger, instead of having Moses record them, but that is not what He chose to do.

God’s personally writing only the moral law of the Ten Commandments arguably corresponds to its enduring permanence, while the civil and ceremonial laws that tell how the people were to

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live out that moral law in time came to an “end”—the civil law when the people ceased to be a theocracy and the ceremonial law when it was fulfilled for us and all people in Jesus Christ.

Q: Did they only build one Tabernacle as described in Exodus 25-27? Was it mobile? If so, it must have been a logistical nightmare!

A: As far as we know, there was only one Tabernacle ever constructed, which not only lasted for the 40 years wandering in the wilderness but also for the whole period of Joshua, the Judges, Eli and Samuel and the kingships of Saul and David in the Promised Land, where the Tabernacle was mostly fixed in one place, until the Temple was built under Solomon. Better than United Parcel Service (UPS), which promotes itself based on its handling of logistics, God appointed different clans of the Levites to handle the various tasks involved with moving the Tabernacle and its furnishings (see Numbers 3).

Q: Can you please explain “the ministering women” mentioned in Exodus 38:8?

A: The cross-references in one of my study Bible refer to Deuteronomy 23:17 and 1 Kings 14:24, which both mention cult prostitutes, and apparently Eli’s sons were treating the women who served at the entrance of the tent of meeting as prostitutes (1 Samuel 2:22). But, Exodus 38:8 and 1 Samuel 2:22 are apparently the only places in the whole Old Testament that mentions such women, so commentators are largely left to speculate about the God-pleasing tasks they performed (in the New Testament, see also Anna in Luke 2:36-38?). Although the Hebrew verb is used elsewhere of the service of the Levites (and we only know women are in view from the feminine form of the Hebrew participle), we should be clear that these women did not do the work of the Levites or the priests, whose service was restricted to men, and only certain men at that, much as the Office of the Holy Ministry today is filled only by well-qualified men. They certainly could have offered sacrifices of praise and prayer to God and in some way served groups of other women.

Q: I am sure it is buried somewhere in Leviticus 1-3, but can you explain plainly when they burnt the whole animal and when they ate part of the sacrifice for the Lord?

A: Leviticus 1-7 gives the most-detailed description of the sacrificial system, including five types of offerings. The whole burnt offering was completely burned, but only portions of the grain offering (what the King James Version, for example, called the “meat offering”) was burned, with the rest going to the priests. In the case of the peace offering (what the New International Version, for example, called the “fellowship offering”), some of the internal organs were burned, the priest received the breast and the right thigh, and the person making the offering was given much of the meat to have a meal in celebration. In the case of the sin offering, what was burned and consumed depended on who sinned (for whom the offering was made): if a priest or the congregation sinned, then none of the sacrifice was eaten, but, if a non-priestly person sinned, then the priest was allowed to eat some of the meat. Finally, guilt offerings were mostly concerned with restitution but could also involve sin offerings. The ultimate sacrifice, of course, far superior to that of the Old Testament system, was made by Jesus Christ, once and for all (Hebrews 7:27). Also worth noting is that the needs of the priests were met by offerings (Numbers 18:20-24), and the needs of the Levites were met by the tithe on the rest of the tribes (Numbers 18:24-32), just as the voluntary thank offerings of God’s people today meet the needs of their pastors and the operating expenses of their congregation and the Church at large.

Everyone’s questions about the Bible are always welcome; just ask me however you like!

Pastor Galler

Circuit #14 Retreat focused on Aging and Dying IN Christ



Rev. Dr. Weiss

The Circuit 14 Pastor and Lay Retreat was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine, Texas, on February 4, 2017. The presentation was given by the Rev. Dr. Robert Weiss, Professor Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Is aging and dying natural? Most everyone would say yes. If we live long enough we will experience a chronic illness, maybe lose a spouse, have some mental or physical limitation, or lose a friend or family member. Any of these life changing events can lead to fear and isolation in the older adult.

So, yes, aging in a negative sense is a natural part of living due to our sinful nature. We begin to age as soon as we are conceived. Aging IN Christ is the process of aging in body and soul. Worshipping in the Church, we are all gathered together and united in the Body of Christ and so we are never alone. Isaiah 46:4 says: “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you: I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” What a wonderful verse to remember!

As the Body of Christ, we experience a biological death but not a spiritual death. We are a new creation IN Christ. Second Corinthians 4:16 says, “therefore we do not lose heart, though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” Our spiritual aging is renewed when we hear the Word of God, partake of Jesus’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, and remember our Baptism into Christ.

When one’s life is nearing an end, we and our family may experience immense tension. Dr. Weiss described this tension as follows:

1. encountering our own mortality
2. separation from our family whose love wants us to stay here so they can care for us or whose love wants us to be with Jesus.

To alleviate this tension Dr. Weiss recommends:

1. Having a Durable Power of Attorney
2. Consulting an ethics committee for any medical questions, as each case is unique
3. Bearing each others’ burdens, in short loving your neighbor
4. Sticking to your vocation (in other words, don’t play doctor). In Christian love, we should pray for and offer comfort to our neighbor.

As a nurse, I have seen this tension. Families are torn about what should or should not be done.

Dr. Weiss gave three insightful statements in this regard:

1. Not life at all cost in medicine. We worship the Creator, not the created life.
2. Life is not our God; it is a gift of God.
3. Refusal of treatment is not the refusal of life.

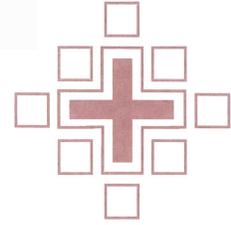
We are always to care for the life IN Christ, which makes abortions and physician assisted suicide wrong because the intent is to kill, not care.

Aging and Dying IN Christ means that we are never alone in our earthly struggles and that through faith we trust God to deliver us from this earthly life to live with Him for all eternity because of what Christ has done for us.

Elaine Navaille

Divine Service, Setting Four adapts to Lent

Beginning with the Divine Service on March 1st, the First Sunday in Lent, Setting Four will adapt to Lent in two key ways. First, instead of the simple Kyrie on *Lutheran Service Book* 204, we will sing *LSB* 942, an English translation of Martin Luther's German version of a ninth-century Latin Kyrie text and tune. (Some may already know the hymn, as it was *Lutheran Worship* #209 and before that *The Lutheran Hymnal* #6, and we have been "rehearsing" it before Midweek Bible Study for several weeks. But, it will be "new" to others, so we will run through it before the service at least the first week we use it.) Second, instead of the Alleluia with the Appointed Verse, we will have the Appointed Verse alone, as the Alleluia will be put away for Lent. Watch for other adaptations to the Easter Season next month!



Pilgrim's to-date plate offerings reported

Following a request from Pilgrim's Board of Elders, Pilgrim's Treasurer reports the following figures for 2017 through February 12th (7 of 52 weeks):

Undesignated Plate Offerings received:	\$14,654.33
Undesignated Plate Offerings projected:	\$18,440 (for deficit budget)
Accrued expenses:	\$16,098.39
Projected expenses per budget:	\$19,854.62 (7/52 of the total for the year)

The time is always right to invest with CEF

Our investing additional monies with the Texas District Church Extension Fund (CEF) at any time will help Pilgrim in the future, help other congregations in our District, and earn money for us as individuals (see the most-recent rate slip below). At the end of January 2017, Pilgrim had \$46,659 in supporting investments on a loan balance of \$179, 889, which is about 26% and would merit the congregation a 0.25% rebate of its interest when its loan enters into repayment. (The next level down is below 25%, and the next level up is at 50%.) Congregational CEF Representative Sarah Land is always available to answer your questions and give you more information about investing with the Texas District CEF.



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

Investment	Fixed Rate ⁽²⁾		Floating Rate ⁽²⁾	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note ⁽¹⁾	1.250%	1.26%	0.750%	0.75%
Three Year Note ⁽¹⁾	1.750%	1.76%	1.250%	1.26%
Five Year Note ⁽¹⁾	2.000%	2.02%	1.500%	1.51%
Flex Savings			0.500%	0.50%
<u>Accounts For Congregations</u>				
Congregation Savings			1.000%	1.00%
Building Fund Savings			2.000%	2.02%

(1) Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. (2) Rates subject to change. 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.

Update from Safe Harbour Lutheran Church

Editors' Note: The following is adapted, with permission, from the February newsletter of Safe Harbour Lutheran Church, Grand Cayman, a mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which, at the recommendation of our Stewardship Board, Pilgrim began supporting this calendar year with 1% of our unrestricted plate offerings. Safe Harbour's pastor was a former seminary classmate of Pastor Galler's and eventual brother pastor in a Circuit east of Austin.

First of all, thank you very much for all of you as individuals, your various church groups, and your congregations, that are assisting the ministry here in Grand Cayman. I am very very grateful for all of this backing, and each month I am lifted up as I look at those of you who are on my contact list and on my support report. Humanly speaking, your prayers, notes, and financial support are what make everything we do possible.

As you may know, each month we do a mercy/outreach project at the local farmers' market where we give out homemade laundry soap for free. However, that isn't the only thing we give out. We also give out free *Portals of Prayer*, Bibles, and, for the first time, we gave



Nancy Hasskarl (right) poses for a picture with a Caymanian woman and her grand-daughter after they received laundry soap, a youth Bible, and a *Small Catechism* from Safe Harbour's booth at the Farmer's Market. Photo: L. Hasskarl.

away a copy of Luther's *Small Catechism*. In the market the other day a grandmother and her granddaughter approached us. The grandmother took some of the laundry soap we had, and I saw the girl eyeing the youth Bibles we also had available. So, I asked her if she'd like one, and she immediately said yes. As I handed her the Bible, she pointed to the *Catechism* and asked what it was, and so I told her and asked her if she'd also like one of those. She again quickly said yes. As you can tell from the picture she was quite happy to get these. While her grandmother did the rest of her shopping, the girl went over to a nearby bench and began to read the Bible, and we then showed her how to use the *Catechism*.

This was one of the Gospel seeds planted in the Caymans, thanks to people like you. But to continue planting those seeds, we need your help. We are currently facing a large budget shortfall. Would you consider partnering further with us in order for us to continue bringing the Gospel to this island nation? Every gift, no matter how small, helps. You can donate online at www.lcms.org/givenow/hasskarl, or send a check with a memo "Hasskarl Support" to LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. With your help, many more people like that young girl will hear the beautiful Gospel of Jesus Christ in this place of tropical beauty.

Again, thank you very much for all of the backing you have given and are giving to us.

Rev. Leif Hasskarl

"For 'everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved.' [Joel 2:32] How then will they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of Whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who hear the good news!' [Isaiah 52:7] . . . So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Romans 10:13-17 (ESV)

Recent photos prove progress on new Parish Hall



On January 25th, electricians worked to transfer the electricity connection to the new building, and HVAC units were installed early in order to aid in drying the sheetrock mud and eventual paint (during a long wet-spell). Since then, the actual HVAC ceiling vents have been installed into the ceiling grid, electrical switches and plugs have been hard-wired and are working, and electricians are waiting for light fixtures to arrive to install them into the ceiling grid.

Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.



Pilgrim is blessed to have willing workers not only from among our current families and friends but also from our current family visiting most often. Members of the Landry family have worked on a number of our Saturday workdays. Pictured above are the youngest, Devan, and the next oldest, his sister Jasmine, painting the walls in the kitchen on February 4th. Other members of the family were back to give it the second coat on the 11th.

Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.



On February 19th, Carl Gardner and Edgar Wuthrich worked to install the kitchen cabinets that will support the kitchen's triple sink. After much gnashing of teeth, they finally succeeded, but the devil was really trying them! In the weeks to come,

Edgar and Carl will be designing the cabinets/shelves below the new kitchen's serving window the base for the serving countertop. Other hands will be welcome when that particular project enters the construction phase. Watch for details about future workdays in the Sunday bulletins and email blasts. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*



The picture shows only some of the recently-finished work, but the camera missed Tyler and Jeanna Watts, Remo Gualtieri, George B. Heil, and many others, who have been very busy doing such things as hanging cabinets such as these on the kitchen's west wall, and hanging lots of doors. In preparation for the hanging of the doors, Emma Watts pulled from the door hinges tape that had been used for masking, making a softball-size wad in the process. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*

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

Vacancies at Our Savior, Centerville, and Redeemer, Nacogdoches.

Our member Rev. Michael Monterastelli, seeking a call and interim employment.

OUR PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Faithful stewardship of God's gifts

Safe and speedy construction of the new Parish Hall

THOSE UNCONVERTED AND WHO HAVE STRAYED FROM THE FAITH:

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

THOSE DEALING WITH TEMPTATIONS AND SINS RELATED TO SEXUALITY FOR AN END TO THE EVILS OF ABORTION

PEACE AND UNITY IN THE WORLD AND COUNTRY

MEN IN THE SERVICE:

Victor Guinn (Paul Guinn's son, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton)

George C. Heil (at base in Virginia)

Brian Holcombe (Carolyn Holcombe's son stationed in Washington, D.C.)

THOSE IN POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

Sam Morton (Longview Fire Department)

THOSE WHO TRAVEL:

Brady Gage

David Navaille

Edgar Wuthrich

THOSE WHO MOURN: Beth's friend Sherry Harris and family mourning her mother's loss

SHUT-INS:

Bob Abraham (our member, in an Alzheimer Center in Austin)

Gwen Heil (our member, in the Carriage Inn Assisted Living in Katy)

Rev. Harold Wageman (former PLC pastor, under hospice care at Henderson Rehab)

THOSE WHO NEED HEALING:

Steve Atchinson (Betty Miller's grandson, learning how to use his prosthetic hand)

Mozelle Barton (Connie Wilburn's friend, doing well dealing with lung cancer)

Maria Church (Elaine Navaille's coworker, side effects from oral chemo for melanoma)

Kay Crouch (Danny Sampson's shirt-tail relative, still holding her own after surgery)

Don Herrell (Sharon's brother-in-law, still having untreatable difficulty breathing)

Kathy Jennings (Remo and Kathy's friend, making progress against her cancer)

Don Kiser (the Hooge's shirt-tail relative, recovering from heart attack and stents)

Steve Kiser (the Hooge's shirt-tail relative, needs quadruple bypass but unstable)

Sarah Land (at home recovering from thyroid-removal surgery 2/20)

Prayer List continues on following page.

Prayer List continues from preceding page.

David Landry (regular visitor, suffering from worsening Ankylosing Spondylitis)
Carl London (Connie Wilburn's coworker, living day to day with his terminal cancer)
Kelly McClendon (Danny's shirt-tail relative, may be home 3/1 after 2/7 surgery)
Herb Michel (relative of Pastor's friends, may be sent home despite serious infections)
Wayne Miller (receiving healthcare at home, CAT scan scheduled 3/7)
David Navaille (cataract procedure 2/22, should schedule retinal-membrane surgery 3/6)
Beth Nicol (changing doctors as she seeks help with her back)
Don Nicol (on oxygen now at home, lungs and heart seem to be getting worse)
Freda Piazza (Sharon's sister, blood clot to be addressed before repeating knee surgery)
Larry Reif (our member, at his apartment, waiting for knee x-ray results)
Richard Rump (Jennifer Hooge's father, responding to medication after embolism 2/18)
Abby Smith (Jeanna Watts' cousin's wife, waiting for liver-cancer surgery)
David Smith (our member, experiencing dizziness, left eye issues, and fluctuating BP)
Leroy Thomas (our member, presently at Whispering Pines in Longview)
Traci Tippitt (Arcele's niece, finally trying to stand up after 12/03 car accident)
Vincent Vernon (Walkers' brother-in-law, diagnosed with cancer but no treatment)
John P. Walker (John and Vicki's son, 2/16 started 8 weeks of IV antibiotics at home)
Abby Weeks (Brady's brother's granddaughter, diagnosed with hemiplegic migraines)
Pat Welch (Beth Nicol's friend, Parkinson's continues to make her situation worse)
Robert Wiles (Betty Miller's nephew, untreatable cancer, remains on a feeding tube)
Van Willey (Remo and Kathy's friend, diagnosed with stomach cancer 2/14)

THOSE IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Brittany Manglam (Jeanna Watts's best friend, baby girl due 03/30)

FAMILIES IN CRISIS OR NEED AND ALL FAMILIES

Erickson Family (recent college graduate Tiffani continues to seek employment)
Herricks Family (God's guidance for our member Olene and her son Joe)
Landry Family (locating places to live and work, Marci's licensing and employment)
Thomas Family (Leroy's sons and grandchildren)
Watts Family (seeking God's guidance)

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head, and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk." The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But, after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits.

"Lord, help us to realize that when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits."



Submitted by Pilgrim friend Doug Coughlin from the internet

APRIL EVENTS

15th QUARTERLY KILGORE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE will be Saturday, April 1st (no fooling!) from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Blood Center East Texas mobile unit in PLC's parking lot. Please distribute fliers and otherwise recruit donors, and donate, if you are eligible, signing up at www.pilgrimlc.org/blooddrive. Volunteers are also needed to host the drive by putting out signs, greeting donors, offering refreshments, and conducting the drawing.

REPORTS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING are due Sunday, April 2nd, or as soon as possible thereafter so the Voters' Packet can be prepared and out before the rush of Holy Week.

YOUTH CATECHESIS is currently scheduled for Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. in Pastor's Study.

QUILTING BEE will be held on Monday, April 3rd, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

LWML will meet Monday, April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library for a meal, short business meeting, and Bible study.

LENTEN VESPERS SERVICE is on Wednesday, April 5th, at 7:00 p.m.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY: We are planning the annual work day inside and out for Saturday, April 8th, beginning at 9:00 a.m., weather permitting (the rain date is April 15th).

ELDERS will meet on Tuesday, April 11th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

MAUNDY THURSDAY DIVINE SERVICE is April 13th, at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY DIVINE SERVICE is April 14th, at 7:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY ACTIVITIES: On April 16th we will have "Sonrise" Matins at 7:00 a.m. (which could include a "dedication" of the new Parish Hall with Sunday School Classrooms), an Easter breakfast at 8:00 a.m. (either in the new building or at the park), an Egg Hunt at 9:00 a.m. at the park, Sunday School and Adult Bible Class from 9:30-10:30 a.m., and Divine Service at 10:45 a.m.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY will resume after Easter on Wednesday, April 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

CIRCUIT #14 PASTORS' CONFERENCE: Pilgrim hosts the monthly meeting of the LCMS pastors in our area on Thursday, April 20th, beginning with a Divine Service open to all at 9:00 a.m. People are needed to help prepare and serve the welcoming "breakfast" foods and lunch. Please tell Barbara Wuthrich if you can help.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for May are due Sunday, April 23rd. Please submit your contributions for your newsletter by that time, either by email to secretary@pilgrimlc.org, or place a paper copy on the secretary's desk.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING Sunday, April 30th, after Divine Service. With the new building ready by then (?), we will return to the habit of having a Covered-dish Dinner immediately following the Divine Service with the meeting afterwards.

ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING: Give your ideas to Barbara Wuthrich. Once the new building is done, we could have a game night in it!

KIDS' PAGE

JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS

Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

Unscramble each word, then use the marked letters to reveal the secret word.



Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

SOTNE

1	9			

BERAD

13	2			

CTIY

11	14	5	

TPMELE

7	3						

AGNELS

6	10				

WOPSHIR

		15	12	8	4				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

OF

11	12	13	14	15	1

HERE ARE SOME CLUES IN CASE YOU NEED HELP!

1. A small rock. Matthew 4:6 (NIV)
2. Food made from flour and water and baked in loaves . Matthew 4:3 (NIV)
3. A place that is larger than a town or village. Matthew 4:5 (NIV)
4. The main place of worship in Jerusalem. Matthew 4:5 (NIV)
5. Heavenly beings who serve as servants of God. Matthew 4:11 (NIV)
6. To praise and adore the LORD God. Matthew 4:10 (NIV)

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http://www.sermons4kids.com/temptation_of_christ_matt_jumble.htm



MARCH 2017

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 –Paul Hooge Acolyte – Luke Land Cleaning Volunteers – Your Name Here?			1 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Divine Service (with optional imposition of ashes)	2 Pastor gone to N. Texas Confessional Lutheran Study Group in Plano Ross Land (B)	3	4 11:00 AM Youth Catechesis
5 1 ST SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:30-10:30 AM SS and Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Olene Herricks (B)	6 5:30PM LWML Quilting 6:30PM LWML Meeting, Supper, and Bible Study	7	8 Noon Pastor leads "Soup 'n' Sermon at St. Luke's UMC 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	9	10	11 11:00 AM Youth Catechesis Daylight Saving Time begins tonight
12 2 ND SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	13 1:00-6:00 PM Cleaning Ladies Cooper Sampson (B)	14 6:00 PM Elders	15 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers Ansleigh Heil (B)	16 9-1 Circuit 14 Pastors meet in Nacogdoches Brady Gage (B)	17	18 11:00 AM Youth Catechesis <i>Pilgrimage</i> articles due tomorrow
19 3 RD SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service M/M George B. Heil (A)	20	21	22 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	23	24	25 11:00 AM Youth Catechesis
26 4 TH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service LWML Loose Change Sunday	27 Grace Morton (B)	28	29 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	30	31	

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.