



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

BROADWAY AT FLOREY

KILGORE, TEXAS

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.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2011

Greetings to Rejoicing Advent Pilgrims

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

I thank God for your joy in receiving me as your new pastor! Your joy was so striking to me; I am sure it was the reason that, as I was settling into my new home and my study at the church, I found bits of “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng” (*Lutheran Worship* #455) running through my head. And, for a number of days I sang the whole hymn as part of my daily devotion at church.

Edward H. Plumptre wrote the hymn’s text for an 1865 choir festival, but, like any good hymn, the sentiments are never out of date. Suitable not only for liturgical processions and recessionals but also for our way through life, the hymn calls us to “Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, / The psalms of ancient days”, to pour out joy “With all the angel choirs, / With all the saints on earth”, and to throng onward behind Christ’s cross “With hymn and chant and song”.

One place for such praise is our well-named Pilgrim Lutheran Church here in Kilgore. Our church is well-named, for we, like Abraham and all those who have gone before us in the faith, are, as the old General Prayer of *The Lutheran Hymnal*’s Order of Morning Service without Communion put it, “strangers and pilgrims”, temporary residents, on earth. We are not to be shaped by the things that determine life here but by the things that determine our life to come (see Genesis 23:4; 1 Peter 1:1; 2:11; Hebrews 11:13).

We are journeying through this sinful, earthly life to the next holy, heavenly life together now as pastor and people. That relationship brings expectations of both parties. For example, you can expect me to be present for you both with God’s law that condemns our sin and with God’s Gospel that, on account of God’s grace for Christ’s sake, forgives the sin of those who repent and believe. I will expect you to make regular use of the Means of Grace, that is, of preaching and the sacraments. For more expectations of both parties, see the Diploma of Vocation and its Supplement that you all issued me in the call—there is a copy of each document hanging on the wall in my study at church.

By way of that call, God called me here through you. I will endeavor both to be faithful to God’s Word and our Lutheran Confessions and to love and care for all of you. I ask that you love and trust me. I will pray for you and ask that you pray for me, for only by God’s mercy and grace do we live at all, let alone shine His light into the darkness of world around us and attract others to join us on our pilgrim journey.

Our journey as new pastor and people here at Pilgrim in Kilgore begins in earnest, appropriately enough, at the beginning of a new church year. This Advent, we remember our Savior's three comings: in the past born of the Virgin Mary, in the present through Word and Sacrament, and in the future as King to lead us home. To join with our Advent hope and eager expectation, again Plumtre's hymn text calls for rejoicing:

At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

PASTORAL VISITS: No, he is not looking for a dinner invitation or checking to see how clean your house is, but Pastor Galler wants to come visit all the members of the congregation to get to know you better. He knows your schedule is busy this time of year, as his is busy, too, but if you or someone you know would like or needs a visit sooner rather than later, please let him know (903-984-4333). Also know that he cares about everyone, and, if you do not call him first, he will get to you eventually.

THANK YOU to all who were involved in Pastor Galler's installation, an undertaking that had the participation of everyone who was physically able to help—those who wrote and addressed the invitations; those who cooked; those who designed and made the banner; who designed, typed, folded and assembled bulletins; and those who attended. People were decorating the parish hall—inside and out—and others were picking trash off our property and even across the street!

CHRISTMAS FLOAT: Thank you to all who participated in planning, provisioning, and working to ensure Pilgrim's participation in the Kilgore Christmas Parade.

DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE was done by the children following the first Wednesday Advent service November 30. Be sure to bring your children to the Wednesday night Advent services.



DECEMBER EVENTS



CHRISTMAS PARTY will start at 5:00 p.m. at 204 Remington Trail, Longview, on December 5th.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES will start at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday December 7, 14, and 21.
ELDERS will meet Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the office building.

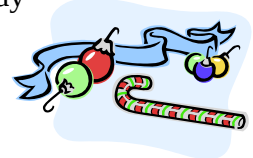
NURSING HOME BIRTHDAY PARTY starts at 2:30 p.m. on December 21 at Kilgore Manor. Present plans call for Caroline Holcombe and Sherry Paetznick to provide the entertainment. When we know how many cakes are needed, the request for cakes will be in the bulletin.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE will start at 7:00 p.m. December 24.

MAKE PLANS NOW to come to the Pilgrim Christmas Party Sunday, December 4th, starting at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Barbara and Edgar Wuthrich, 204 Remington Trail in Longview. Ladies Aid is providing a meat and cheese tray for sandwiches. Guests are asked to bring their favorite goodies. Bring guests and family for a good time with good food!

Directions from Longview: From George Richey Road (between Gilmer Road and Pine Tree Road), turn into Hills and Trails Addition across from New Beginnings Baptist Church and you are on Remington Trail. 204 Remington Trail is on the left, just past Bridgers Hill Road.

CHRISTMAS SACKS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN: The Sunday School department is planning to have goodies for the children at the Christmas Eve Program. If you would like to help by furnishing candy, fruit, money, etc.; it would be appreciated.



POINSETTIAS: If you plan to share your plants with us during the Christmas season, please be sure you have your name on it. You may bring your plants into the kitchen or place them on the altar yourself.

THANK YOU, Carl and Gayle Gardner, for taking time out of your busy schedules to clean the buildings in November and prepare the altar. **Olene Herricks** and **the Heil's** are privileged to care for the altar and clean the church buildings for the month of December.

Happy Birthday!



Malaisa Smith	December 3
Toni Erickson	December 15
Mac Lee	December 16
Barry Conway	December 17
Bryn Andrew Heil	December 25
Arlene Kuehn	January 1
Sarah McPherson	January 10
Matthew Smith	January 11
Ralph Hollander	January 16

Happy Anniversary!



Sgt. and Mrs. Jeffrey Gill	December 14
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Miller	December 22
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gardner	January 5
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Sampson	January 18
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Key	January 22
Mr. and Mrs. Mac Lee	January 27

HELPING HANDS is requesting **items for a Christmas dinner: stuffing mix, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, etc.** Helping Hands can also use large, clean plastic bags and bread wrappers to distribute donations. A container for your goods and bags is located by the entrance to the church. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with those less fortunate.

DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE CANCELED POSTAGE STAMPS! During this time of more mail than usual, save the envelopes! Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) uses the money received from selling canceled postage stamps to support certain mission service projects. As long as these stamps are left on the envelope or wrapping and trimmed with a 1/4" margin all around, they can be sold to collectors. If you want to recycle your postage stamps, we will be glad to do the trimming. Just bring your stamps to the Parish Hall. The stamp box is on the bookcase across from the Parish Hall rest rooms.

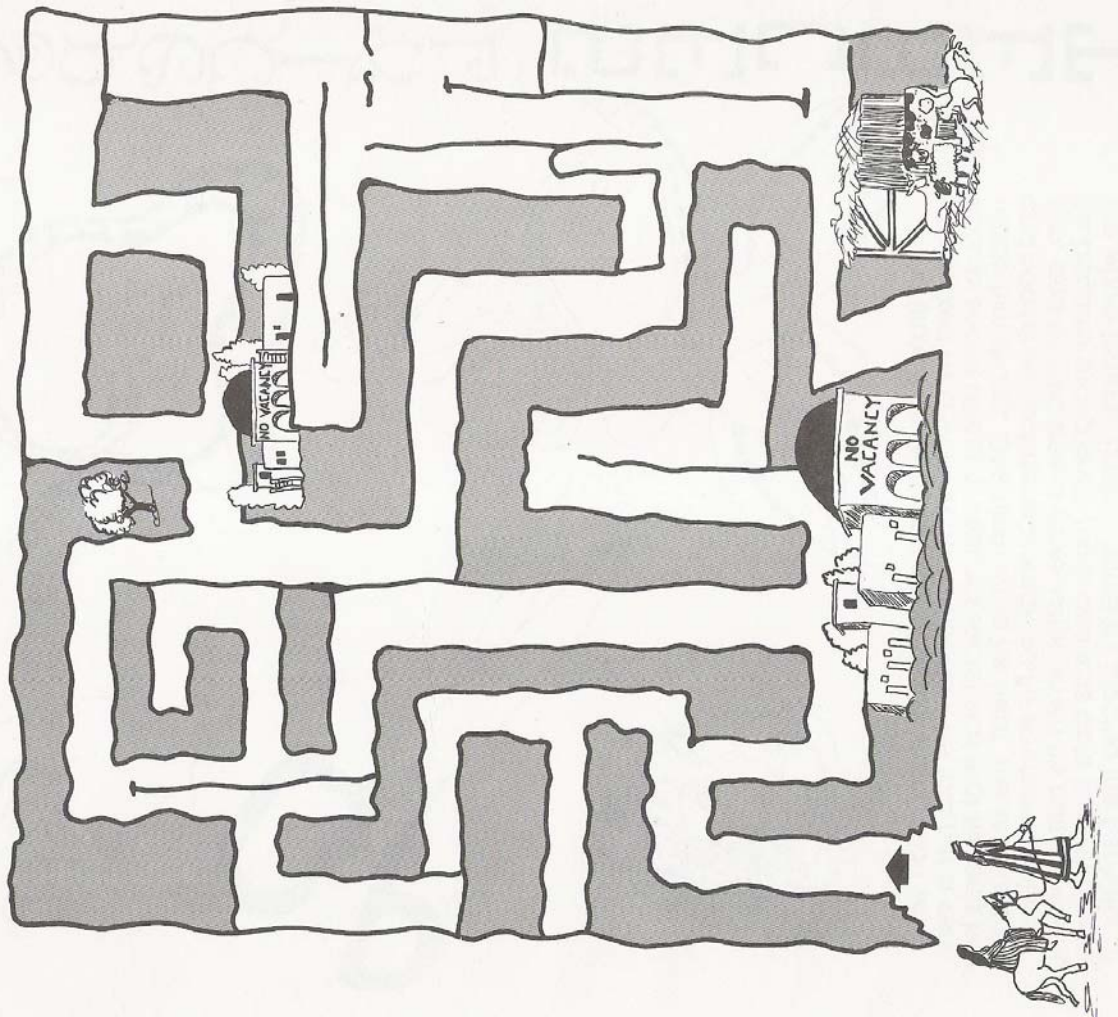


LOOKING AHEAD

VOTERS WILL MEET in January and we will have a potluck dinner. Watch the January calendar and bulletins for more information. At this time no newsletter is planned for January.

Just for Kids

Mary and Joseph have just arrived in Bethlehem. They are tired, and Mary is going to have a baby. They have been told there are no rooms at any of the inns. Help them find some place to stay.



December 2011

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLEANING VOLUNTEERS Herrick's and Heil's				1	2	3 Malissa Smith (B)
4 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (P/B) 9:30 AM Bible & SS 10:45 AM Worship 5:00 PM Christmas Party	5	6	7 7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Services	8	9	10
11 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (P/B) 9:30 AM Bible & SS 10:45 AM Worship w/Comm.	12	13 7:00 PM Elders' Meeting	14 M/M J. Gill (A) 7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Services	15 Toni Erickson (B)	16	17 Barry Conway (B) Mac Lee (B)
18 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (P/B) 9:30 AM Bible & SS 10:45 AM Worship	19	20	21 St. Thomas, Apostle (R) 2:30 PM Nursing Home Birthday Party 7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Services	22 M/M W. Miller	23	24 7:00 PM Candlelight Service
25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (W) Bryn Heil (B) 9:30 AM Bible & SS 10:45 AM Worship w/Comm.	26 St. Stephen, The First Martyr (R)	27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (W)	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (R)	29	30	31 New Year's Eve (W) Eve of the Name of Jesus