



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.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2012

February brings Lent, “the holy springtime of the soul”

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

For some reason, as I have been contemplating February and its beginning of the season of Lent, a specific line from The Bangles’ 1987 cover of Simon & Garfunkel’s 1966 hit “A Hazy Shade of Winter” has been running through my head. The song at one point declares, “It’s the springtime of my life”, though admittedly the song is not clear whether the statement at that point is true or just pretend. Now, lest you think that your new pastor damaged his brain in a fall while skiing in Colorado, let me explain why my connecting that line with February and Lent is not completely out in left field.

Our English word “lent” goes back to the visible lengthening of days that comes with springtime, though the Church’s season of Lent is hardly what we might think of as a festival of springtime. Purely secular observances with bunnies and eggs, even at the end of Lent, are more akin to a festival for the pagan dawn-goddess Eostre than to the sacred festival of The Resurrection of our Lord.

Yet, the Church has brought the seasons of nature into harmony with the seasons of the Church Year. In the case of the Lent and Easter seasons, the Church coordinates spring’s rebirth of nature with new life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For, only because of His death and resurrection for us do we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life by grace through faith in Him.

Through nearly two millennia, the Church has made various uses of the season of Lent, including using it as a time for those who were going to be baptized to fast and otherwise be prepared for Holy Baptism. Today, as we know it, the Church’s season of Lent is primarily a season of penitential preparation for the annual celebration of the events around the death and resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ, the central events of our Christian faith.

Here at Pilgrim, our observance of Lent begins with the imposition of ashes in the Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. on February 22, Ash Wednesday. Everyone is, of course, invited to come forward and receive ashes as a sign of both humiliation and repentance, of God’s judgment and condemnation and of our frailty and total dependence on God.

Ashes also can suggest cleansing and renewal, however, as ashes were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap, ashes are still sometimes used as a source for a component of homemade soap, and ashes were a necessary part of the Old Testament's formula for water used in ceremonial cleansing (see Numbers 19).

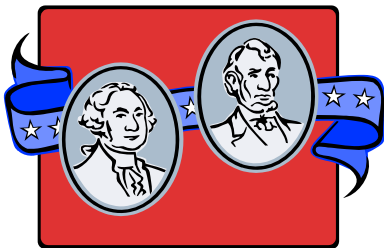
The following Wednesday in February and each of the Wednesdays that follow through the month of March, we will have a Midweek Vespers service at 7:00 p.m., featuring penitential Psalms and favorite Lenten hymns and centered around the reading of the Passion of Our Lord as drawn from the four Gospel accounts. You are invited for those, as well (not even to mention yet the services of Holy Week coming up in April)!

Together we can use February with its start of the season of Lent as a time of preparing for the annual celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection and thus a time of spiritual planting and growth, what at least one author calls "the holy springtime of the soul". We may not see such growth with our human eyes, but with the eyes of faith we can be sure that the growth is more than pretend. (So, maybe The Bangles' lyrics were not as far off as you might have thought initially?)

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH



Mid-week Bible Studies start at 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays now through the beginning of Lent (2/1 through 2/15).

The Vienna Boys Choir will be performing in the Turner Auditorium at Steven F. Austin University in Nacogdoches on February 3. The performance starts at 7:30 p.m. and will end at 9:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$17.50 to \$35.00. A group from Pilgrim is planning

to go, and you are welcome to join them, if tickets are still available. Speak to either Sherry Paetznick or Pastor Galler.

Circuit 14 Pastor/Lay Gathering will be at Bethlehem, Palestine from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. February 11. All are welcome to attend. (Additional details below.)

Ladies Aid meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 9th.

Elders meet at 7:00 p.m. February 14th in the Parish Hall.

Ash Wednesday with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will start at 7:00 p.m. February 22nd.

Lenten Vespers begin at 7:00 p.m. February 29th and will continue each Wednesday through March 28th.



PASTORAL VISITS: NOW IS THE TIME for you to find a time for Pastor Galler to come to visit with you and your family. Some of his better times include Sunday afternoons and evenings; Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons; and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons and evenings. If you do not call him first, he will be calling you, so please find a time that works for you and lock it in with him (903-984-4333 or pastor@pilgrimlc.org).

CHURCH AND STATE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: On the basis of the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions, The Rev. Dr. Laurence White of Our Savior, Houston, will discuss “Being Lutheran in the Present Political Environment” from 9:00-3:00 on Saturday, February 11, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine (coffee and registration begins at 8:30). The event is sponsored by Circuit 14 and open to all. Registration is \$15 and includes snacks and lunch (make checks payable to Bethlehem).

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Paul Kuehn	February 2
Brandylin Ellis	February 3
Jerome Key	February 14
Danny Sampson	February 18
Heaven Chiasson	February 19
Joe Daniel Sampson Jr.	February 21



PASTOR GALLER AVAILABLE IN HIS STUDY: normally Tuesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Drop by for a visit or for Individual Confession and Absolution (see *Lutheran Worship* pp.310-311). If these times do not work for you, set up an appointment at another time either by phone (903-984-4333) or by email (pastor@pilgrimlc.org).

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES: If you have not already picked up your 2012 Offering Envelopes, please do so today. If you don't see envelopes for you, Sharon Sampson will be happy to get you a box! Please also remember to use the “Initial Offering” and other envelopes at the front of the box for envelope expenses (\$2.50), Portals of Prayer (\$3.50), and *The Lutheran Witness* (\$11.00). You can write one check for \$17.00 or for more (e.g., \$20.00), if you would like to help cover the costs for others.



HELPING HANDS: Our food items are **peanut butter** (once again) and **crackers**. Canned vegetables, fruits, soups, and chili are always welcome as is produce from your garden. A container for your donations is located by the entrance to the church. Remember to bring clean grocery-size plastic bags and bread wrappers that Helping Hands can use to sack up items for distribution. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with those less fortunate.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORMS: In an effort to get our church records up to date and as complete as possible, we will be asking every family to complete a new Membership Information Form. Please watch for the forms to be available in the Narthex, take them home with you to complete them, and return them to the church as soon as possible.

TEN MINUTES WITH GOD: One of your elders would like to remind you about Rev. Dr. Schutz's encouragement each day to spend 2 minutes praying to God, 2 minutes reading His Word (such as with *Portals of Prayer*), 2 minutes reflecting on that Word (maybe by journaling), and 4 minutes praying for your needs and the needs of others (get on the congregation's prayer chain if you are not already).

THANK YOU

In our delight for having a full-time pastor again, it seems to be the right time to thank God for the people who shared their time, talents, and money to keep His Word available to everyone who entered our doors. These include but are **not limited to** the following:

- The Palestine and Henderson congregations who shared their pastors with us in a dual parish, vacancy pastors, interim pastors, part-time pastors, visiting pastors, and Pastor Lowery who set a District record for the longest time serving as a part-time interim pastor
- The two commissioned pastoral assistants from Our Redeemer who brought a sermon to us for many months
- The men of Pilgrim who trained as commissioned pastoral assistants to serve Pilgrim (and a few circuit congregations who also needed assistance) and the two pastors who wrote the sermons that were delivered by the CPAs.
- The trustees who saw to repairing buildings and equipment.
- The elders and others who visited the sick and brought help to those who needed it
- The LWML that kept social gatherings and the card ministry going
- Teachers who brought the Word of God any time there was someone to hear it
- Officers and volunteers who tried to keep up with administrative details
- Everyone who brought a child to Sunday School, a guest to Bible Class, or a visitor to a worship service

Our part in God's work here at Pilgrim is by no means done, of course, just because we now have a full-time, resident pastor. May God enable each and every one of us to continue to serve Him in our vocations by reaching out with the light and forgiveness of Christ to our relatives, friends, and neighbors lost in a world of darkness and sin.

February 2012

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLEANING VOLUNTEERS Danny and Sharon Sampson			1 7:00 PM Mid-Week Bible Studies	2 THE PRESEN- TATION OF OUR LORD (W) Paul Kuehn (B)	3 Brandylin Ellis (B) 7:30 PM Vienna Boys Choir Performance	4
5 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (G) 9:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship	6	7	8 7:00 PM Mid-Week Bible Studies	9 5:30 PM Ladies' Aid Meeting	10 9:00 AM Circuit 1 Pastor in his study (w/exceptions)	11 9:00 AM Circuit 1 Pastor/Lay Gathering
12 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (G) 9:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship w/Comm.	13	14 Jerome Key (B) 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Elders' Meeting	15 7:00 PM Mid-Week Bible Studies	16	17	18 MARTIN LUTHER, DOCTOR AND CONFESSOR (W) Danny Sampson (B) Articles for the newsletter are due tomorrow.
19 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (W) Heaven Chiasson (B) 9:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship	20	21 J. D. Sampson (B)	22 7:00 PM Ash Wednes- day (Bk/P) w/ Comm.	23	24 ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE (R)	25
26 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship w/Comm.	27	28	29 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study (w/exceptions)		
9:00 AM - 12:00 ...						