



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.

MAY NEWSLETTER 2012

The Pastor and Church Members are Family

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

I am looking forward to attending two graduation ceremonies for my sister's children soon. My younger niece should graduate from middle school on May 31st, and my nephew should graduate from high school on June 1st. Naturally, they invited their grandparents and me, their only uncle. (So much am I their only uncle that they can and do call me simply "Uncle"—no other name is necessary, just the term for the relationship.) I am also looking forward to attending earlier in May a friend of the congregation's college graduation to which I am also invited, even though I am not "related" in the usual sense of that word.

As Pilgrim's pastor, I would like everyone who is a member or friend of the congregation to think of me as a member of his or her family. Please include me whenever you would include members of your immediate or extended family, though I understand that such an idea may be new to some of you or that many of you may be out of that practice since the congregation has gone so long without a full-time, resident pastor. Thank you to those of you who have already included me in such things as surgeries and birthdays. I want to be present with you to share your sorrows and celebrate your joys, as God and His grace are a part of every aspect of our lives. (Remember, however, that, unlike God, I am not omniscient and will need you to let me know when you are in the hospital or planning family events!)

The idea of the pastor as a member of every Christian's family is somewhat reflected in the practice of calling a pastor "father" (something I get called a great deal, wearing my collar in public, as I do, and being mistaken for a Roman Catholic priest, who admittedly is called "father" more commonly). Calling a pastor "father" is not to take away from the biological or adoptive father being the father of the family or from God's being everyone's Father in the sense that He is for Whom all fatherhood is named (Ephesians 3:15). Rather, calling a pastor "father" reflects the spiritual relationship pastors have to the members of the congregation, regardless of whether or not an individual actually seeks out the pastor privately as a father confessor for the sake of individual absolution.

To be sure, our Lord Jesus, in the context of criticizing the Scribes and Pharisees who liked titles and such, says, "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, Who is in heaven" (Matthew 23:9 ESV). Of course, that prohibition does not stop us from calling the fathers of our families "father", nor did it stop St. Paul from referring to himself as a spiritual

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father to various believers (see, for example, 1 Corinthians 4:15), nor did it stop The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther from writing about preachers as spiritual fathers in his *Large Catechism*, one of the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church to which we subscribe (see LC I:158-166).

There Dr. Luther writes that “those who govern and guide us by the Word of God” are “entitled to honor, even above all others” (“double honor”, he says, apparently alluding to 1 Timothy 5:17). “But,” Luther continues, “they very seldom receive it”. Instead, Luther says too often people fear that they themselves will suffer want if they support their preacher, when, he says, they should trust God to provide for their wants since He has promised to do it and has never lied.

Even as pastors are spiritual “fathers” to their congregations, so the members of the congregations are brothers and sisters in Christ to each other. Our Lord Himself more or less repudiated those thought to be closely related to Him in favor of those who believed in Him, whom He saw as His real relatives (see Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21). Believers likewise are to downplay usual family ties if necessary (Luke 14:26), but they can do so knowing they will be rewarded with new kinship ties (Matthew 19:29-30; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 18:29-30). Those new kinship ties are drawn from the water of Holy Baptism and the blood of the Lord’s Supper (in which case neither the water nor the blood is “thicker” than the other).

Our loving God sent His Son to die and rise for us and so freely forgives our sins by grace through faith in that Son, Jesus. We live together in that forgiveness of sins, forgiving one another and reaching out to and supporting one another as God gives us opportunity. With God, we give special attention to those who are without believing family-members nearby, and so we are the means by which God sets the solitary or lonely in families (Psalm 68:6).

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*



THANK YOU, Paul and Arlene Kuehn for making time in your busy schedules to clean the buildings in April and to prepare the altar. **David and Debbie Smith** are privileged to care for the altar and clean the church buildings for the month of May. You may have noticed a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board above the guest register for cleaning volunteers and that some have signed up for more than one month. Our thanks to those who have signed on. A professional cleaner comes once a month to do the heavy cleaning. Our volunteers take care of maintaining the tidiness of the buildings, setting up communion and putting it all away, ushering, and changing the banners and paraments as needed. If you would like to help, but are not comfortable with all the details, talk to George A. Heil.

May Events

OPEN MEETING OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE will follow the worship service May 6th.

LADIES AID will meet Monday, May 7th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

ELDERS will meet Tuesday, May 8th, at 7:00 p.m.

ONCE-A-MONTH SOCIAL OUTING The Kilgore High School Orchestra performs at the World’s Richest Acre Park downtown Kilgore at 7:00 p.m. on May 10th. Bring a blanket or portable chair and meet at the Crim Theatre at 6:30, if you like, so we can go and sit together.

ASCENSION VESPERS start at 7:00 p.m. May 17th.

GRADUATION RECEPTION for Sarah Key will follow the worship service May 20th.

PILGRIM'S SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY will be in September this year. What suggestions do you have for sprucing up the place? An open meeting of the capital improvements committee will follow the worship service May 6th. Please stay and let your suggestions be heard.



Mr. and Mrs. Chad Ellis

May 3

Pastor Galler
Steven Sampson
Edgar Wuthrich
Joseph Smith

May 5
May 19
May 20
May 20



HELPING HANDS: We are to continue gathering corn bread mix, macaroni and cheese, and add peanut butter to the collection in May. A container for your donations is located by the entrance to the church. Helping Hands can also use large, clean plastic bags for distributing items. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with those less fortunate.

THOSE FOR WHOM WE HAVE PRAYED: Connie Wilburn is back at work with her next consultation regarding her health scheduled for May 1. Arcele Wilburn's brother Chuck Zabrosky still needs to be careful about over-extending himself but is hopeful for his and his wife Dora's recovery. Dora is home and has had all external hardware removed. Arcele also requests prayers for her friend Nell Ham, who had pancreatic cancer previously and now may be suffering from it again. Harold Engebretson is recovering from his broken leg and ensuing surgery at the Autumn Leaves Rehabilitation Center just on the outskirts of the north side of Henderson. He's in room #522 and will probably be there several more weeks. He welcomes visitors!

GRAVESMILL MEMORIAL: Pilgrim is accepting donations through May 6th in Pastor Keith Gravesmill's honor. These funds will go to Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in Austin on our behalf. You may designate part of your offering envelope to "Gravesmill Memorial" or mark a plain envelope that way. Pastor Gravesmill faithfully furnished sermons to our commissioned pastoral assistants for several years. He had apparently had been hospitalized after suffering a stroke before Easter and succumbed shortly thereafter. Flowers were sent to the Memorial Service also on behalf of the congregation, and Danny and Sharon Sampson were in attendance and represented the congregation there.

THE KOINONEO INDEPENDENT MISSION AGENCY (KIMA, see <http://kimamission.org>) needs help to cover the remaining balance of \$831 from an initial \$1,415 in taxes retroactively imposed by the Mexican government on funds brought across from the United States for the 2009 construction of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church in San Pedro. Donations can be designated for "Mexico Taxes/Pastor Isaac" and sent to KIMA, 109 Noel, Waxahachie, TX 75165.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held July 16th through 20th in the evenings. Steven and Angela Sampson are co-directors. Plenty of volunteers are needed: teachers; assistants for

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crafts, refreshments, and games; transportation. In addition to children coming, adults are invited to attend a Bible study. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and family now!

SARAH KEY, youngest daughter of Cher Key, will graduate from high school this year. You are invited to a reception in her honor. Cake and punch will be served following the worship service on May 20.

PAIGE VAN METER, daughter of former member Kalli Van Meter, was selected as a Texas Scholar. She will graduate from Kilgore High School this year.

WELCOME! John and Vicki Walker joined Pilgrim during the worship service April 15th through profession of faith. They live in Henderson with PO Box 286, Henderson 775652 as their mailing address. Their telephone number is 903-836 4407. Vicki's birthday is August 16 and John's is December 18. They married October 14, 1972. John is a physical therapist consultant/evaluator. He is a "floater" serving several nursing homes. They enjoy gardening and Vicki loves to go "antiquing". They have two children, Melissa and John Philip, and two grandchildren Kylee Vinyard and Kelby Walker.

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At the request of several people, the recipe for the following dessert, served during one of the Lenten suppers, is given here.

PANHANDLE YUM-UM

Virginia Wageman's recipe, as served by her granddaughter Cindy Harantcavage

Mix together and press in 9"x13"pan: 1 cup flour, 1 stick oleo, 1 cup pecans.

Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees, cool completely.

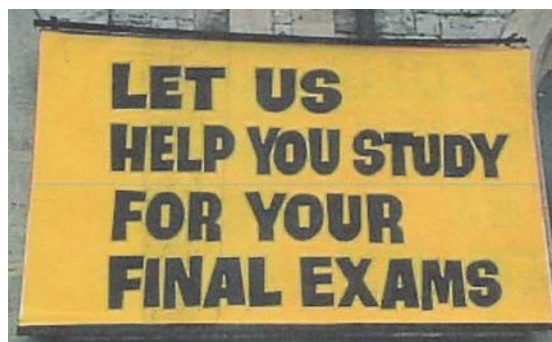
Mix one 8-ounce package cream cheese, 1 cup powdered sugar, 1 cup Cool Whip.

Cream together and spread on cooled crust.

Mix 3 cups milk, 1 small package instant vanilla pudding, and 1 small package instant chocolate pudding. (Or, for a thicker middle of the dessert, use 5 cups milk, 1 large package instant vanilla pudding, and 1 large package instant chocolate pudding.)

Beat until thick. Spread on top of last layer.

Top with remaining **large** Cool Whip and garnish with pecans if desired.



Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:30 a.m.

May 2012

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

CLEANING VOLUNTEERS
Debbie and David Smith

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 St. Philip and St James, Apostles (R) 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pastor in his study	2 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	3 National Day of Prayer M/M Chad Ellis (A) Pastor at Lutheran Study in Plano	4 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	5 Pastor Galler (B)
6 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:30 AM SS& Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship 11:45 AM Capital Improvements meeting	7 C. F. W. Walther, Doctor (W) 6:00 PM Ladies Air Meeting	8 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Elders Meeting	9 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	10 7:00 PM Kilgore HS Orchestra Social Outing	11 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	12
13 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) Mother's Day 9:30 AM SS& Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship w/Comm.	14	15 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pastor in his study	16 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	17 The Ascension of Our Lord (W) 7:00 PM Ascension Vespers	18 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	19 Steven Sampson (B) Pastor in Arkansas for wedding
20 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) Edgar Wutrich (B) Joseph Smith (B) 9:30 AM SS& Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship 11:45 AM Reception for Sarah Key	21	22 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pastor in his study	23 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	24 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	25 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	26 Newsletter articles are due tomorrow.
27 THE DAY OF PENTECOST (R) 9:30 AM SS& Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship w/Comm.	28 Memorial Day (observed)	29 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Pastor in his study	30 9:00 AM - 12:00 ...	31 The Visitation (W) Pastor in Austin for graduations.		

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30