



## 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.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2012

### **Praising God for 60 years of salvation in this house!**

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Since our Pilgrim Lutheran Church here in Kilgore chartered on September 17, 1952, especially this month, we are “Praising God for 60 years of salvation in this house!” That theme was selected for our congregation’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at 4:00 p.m. on September 30<sup>th</sup>, considering the various readings of Holy Scripture appointed for the special Vespers service planned for that day.

The appointed Psalm for the Anniversary of a Congregation, Psalm 84, speaks of God’s house and ours. The appointed First Reading, 1 Kings 8:22-30 gives Solomon’s prayer of dedication at the first temple and speaks of God’s dwelling there, His hearing people’s prayers, and His forgiving them. The appointed Second Reading, Revelation 21:1-5 speaks of God’s eternal dwelling with the people He re-created, and the appointed Third Reading, Luke 19:1-10, tells of Jesus’s coming to eat and stay with sinners and bringing salvation to their house.

The Church as such is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is purely preached and the Sacraments are administered according to the Gospel, but usually people associate a specific building with the gathering of believers in one place and the preaching of the Gospel and administration of the Sacraments there, and Pilgrim is no exception. For nearly all of Pilgrim’s existence the building the congregation built at the corner of Broadway and Florey has been such a building. (Significant remodeling was done in 1974 and is underway now.)

People often say that they do not need to go to a church to worship God, and to some extent they are right. People can worship God anywhere, but how often do those who do not ever come to church actually worship God anywhere? Solomon’s prayer of dedication at the first temple asks whether God will dwell in the temple or even on the earth, and, yet, God has promised to do just that: dwell in the place where He has put His Name. Thus, while God is truly present everywhere (“omnipresent”, we usually say), God is especially present with His Church in its gathering around the Gospel and Sacraments. God is most especially present in the Sacrament of the Altar, where the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are present in, with, and under bread and wine to give us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. In these ways God has blessed, blesses now, and will continue to bless the believers who gather together at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Kilgore.

Furthermore, God has truly blessed the people of East Texas through the Pilgrim congregation. Itself a daughter congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, Pilgrim was a

*Article continues on next page.*

mother congregation in the 1960s to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Longview, and in the 1980s to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Henderson. In addition, Pilgrim was in a dual parish arrangement both with Christ Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, in the 1980s and with Prince of Peace, Henderson, in the 1990s. And, Pilgrim's pastor has at times served as circuit counselor and as vacancy pastor to congregations in the area. (See details on these and other aspects of the congregation's history at [www.pilgrimlc.org/our-history](http://www.pilgrimlc.org/our-history).)

What does God have in store for Pilgrim Lutheran Church in the future? In one sense, only God knows. But, in another sense we know He wants us to continue faithfully preaching the pure Gospel and rightly administering the Sacraments, and we know He will continue to create faith when and where He pleases in those who hear that Gospel, which teaches that we have a gracious God, not by our own merits but by the merit of Christ. God alone grows His Church in that way.

Will there always be Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Kilgore? Again, only God knows. We certainly pray that there will be, but we also know that, if God in His wisdom would permit this congregation to cease to exist as such, then He would continue to provide for His people here in some other way. He rules all for the benefit of His Church as a whole, and that Church prevails against the gates of hell! We have reason to praise Him far greater than the "60 years of salvation in this house", as great of a reason as that is!

So, I hope you will join us for the anniversary Vespers at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 30. Bring your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. Everyone is welcome, and the occasion is a great opportunity for people outside our congregation to see our newly-renovated sanctuary!

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*



Friend of the congregation Seth Hiltzman is designing logo and banner concepts for Pilgrim's 60th anniversary celebration this month. Shown is the working draft as this newsletter went to print.

### SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**LADIES AID** will meet Monday, September 10, in the office building at 6:00 p.m.

**ELDERS** will meet Tuesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**GREGG HOME FOR THE AGED** birthday party will be hosted by Pilgrim Lutheran Church September 20<sup>th</sup>, time to be announced.

**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND REDEDICATION VESPERS** September 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.



**THANK YOU**, George and Gwen Heil, for cleaning the buildings in August and for preparing the altar. **Steven and Angela Sampson** are privileged to care for the altar and clean the church buildings for the month of September.



Carpenters Troy Ferguson and Paul Smith build the new parts of the platform for the pulpit and lectern. The reconfigured chancel will have the communion rail at floor level and accommodate more communicants per table.

## PLEASE PARDON THE MESS!!!

The Capital Improvements project has started and will continue for several more weeks. We have installed all new windows in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall. New ceiling tiles have also been installed in the Sanctuary which has helped the acoustics tremendously. The painter began work on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> and continues as the carpenter finishes each of his projects. When the woodwork and paint are complete, all new flooring will be placed in the Sanctuary and altar areas. Hopefully, by Labor Day everything will be completed. Total bids for the work and what has been paid are as follows:

Sanctuary windows	\$7614.00	Paid	
Parish Hall windows	\$2954.00	Paid	
Ceiling tiles	\$1725.00	Paid	
Painting	\$5750.00	Paid	\$1324.00
Carpenter	\$3000.00	Not Paid	
Flooring	\$8644.00	Paid	\$2000.00

The total cost of all improvements is \$27962.00, of which \$15317.00 has been paid, which leaves \$12645.00 to be paid.

Extra donations earmarked for the improvements through August 22<sup>th</sup> totalled \$3250.00 and will continue to be a stewardship emphasis.

The Lord has blessed us from the beginning of the projects and especially when the painter found active termites in the altar area, allowing us to treat and repair before further damage could be done. As this will cause the carpenter's bill to increase, it is easy to see how the actual cost might be higher than the original bids.

The insurance settlement from the storm loss of the Sunday School building has been drawing interest in CDs, but the original intent was to replace the building or make improvements to the church. It has taken several years, but we are finally doing what the money was intended for.

May God continue to bless our efforts to improve His house of worship and give us a beautiful place to praise and glorify His name.

God's Blessings,  
*Danny Sampson*  
*Chairman, Capital Improvements Committee*



Painter James Freeman prepares the front doors of the sanctuary for their new coat of white paint. James is anxious for the construction work inside to be completed so he can get started on the sanctuary

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY!*



Felicity Gill  
Clay Ellis  
Leland Dean

September 2  
September 14  
September 21

### **LeTOURNEAU CHURCH FAIR**

The fair was held at the Solheim Arena August 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Our church participated by handing out cookies and water bottles, note pads and pens to the new students. In preparation for the day, Shannon Gage coordinated the cookies. A work night entailed folding brochures, wrapping cookies with our church logo, and pre-tying water bottle tags prepared by Angela Sampson. Thank you, everyone, who participated in this effort.

### **HELPING HANDS OF KILGORE**

Our items for September are rice, peanut butter, cereal, oatmeal, and pasta. If you want to make a monetary contribution, send your check or money order to Helping Hands of Kilgore, PO Box 1576, Kilgore, TX 75662. A container for your items is located by the entrance to the church. Helping Hands can also use clean plastic bags and bread wrappers for distributing the items. Remember Helping Hands for produce from your garden. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with those less fortunate.

### **FAMILY FUN DAY AND FALL MARKET**

We have reserved a booth to promote Pilgrim Lutheran Church at St. Luke's Fall Market Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> by selling bread. We had a great response last year from our members who furnished muffins, cornbread, and an assortment of loaf breads. Start thinking about what you want to bake and gather those ingredients! We will also need volunteers to transport the bread from Pilgrim to St. Luke's and some to sell the bread at our booth. Sharon Sampson (903-983-3979) is coordinating our efforts.

### **FALL BIBLE SALE**

Concordia Publishing House is offering discounts of up to 35% off of the company's regular prices on some of the its most popular Bibles, including the new *Lutheran Study Bible*, several copies of which the LWML ladies have purchased for the older children's Sunday School room. Also included in the sale are *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes* and several children's Bibles. If we order ten or more items, the shipping is free! Sign up on the poster in the Narthex on or before September 23, and make your check payable to the church, marked "Fall Bible Sale".

### **ADULT INFORMATION CLASS**

Pastor Galler has begun an adult catechism class for our regular visitor and friend of the congregation, Tifaney Sweeden. The class is accommodating her nursing schedule and so does not have a fixed meeting day and time. As possible, advance notice will be given in the bulletin

and on the church website. Everyone is welcome to attend the class: other visitors and guests, as well as members who want to use it as a "refresher" course. If you plan on attending regularly, you may want to order your own copy of *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* ([www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org), item #531154, \$31.99). Pastor will provide copies of a course syllabus and homework assignments.

### **60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND REDEDICATION VESPERS SERVICE**

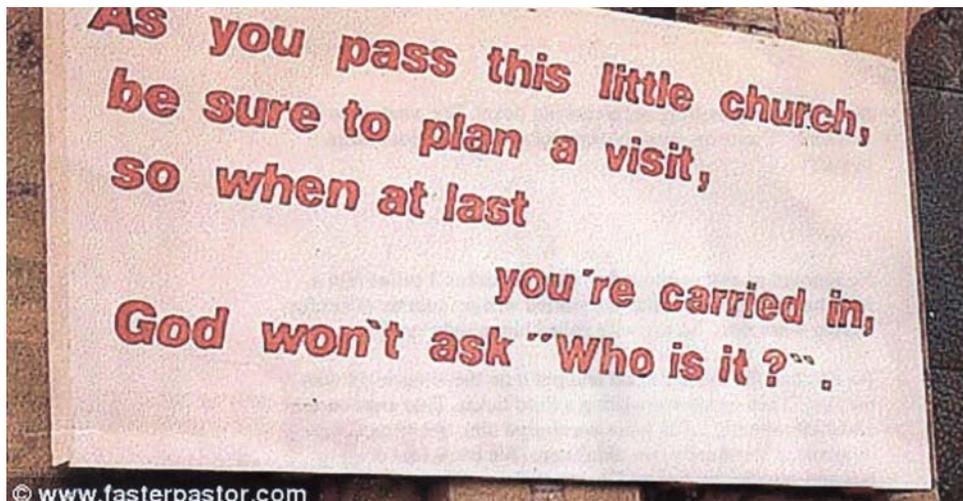
This service will begin at 4:00 p.m. on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We will have a special guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray, 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the Synod. Also participating in the service will be Pastors Harold Wageman, Frank Starr, and Circuit Counselor, David Bergman. Invitations have been mailed to former pastors, Circuit and other congregations. Special music will be featured along with the choir. We will provide finger foods and a special cake to celebrate the occasion. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee invites everyone to participate in making our anniversary a joyful experience. Please contact Barbara Wuthrich, chairman, if you can help.

### **60TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING**

The elders have designated the offering that will be collected at our 60th Anniversary Vespers service be given to the LCMS Veterans of the Cross, a program supported by direct donations to the LCMS Concordia Plan and LCMS World Relief and Human Care, which provide small, periodic stipends for impoverished, aged pastors, teachers, and their families to help pay for necessities such as gas, electricity, and food. The designation is an appropriate way to praise God for the 60 years of salvation He has delivered at Pilgrim through various veterans of the cross.



A **NEW GAME SHOW** is premiering on the Game Show Network on Thursday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m. Jeff Foxworthy is hosting The American Bible Challenge with the contestants playing for charity. We do not know what the criteria will be—what version of the Bible, who will be the deciding authority, etc.; therefore, we are not recommending the program, only making you aware of something that **MIGHT** be worth watching.



# JUST FOR KIDS

DO  
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If you can answer all the questions below with the correct number and add and subtract correctly as you go, you will finish up with the number found in the verse, Revelation 1:12. Try it!

How many times did Simon Peter deny Jesus?  
(Luke 22:61) \_\_\_\_\_

How many books are in the New Testament?  
(Matthew - Revelation) + \_\_\_\_\_

How many sons did Jacob have?  
(Gen. 42:13) - \_\_\_\_\_

For how many pieces of silver did Joseph's  
brothers sell him? (Genesis 37:28) + \_\_\_\_\_

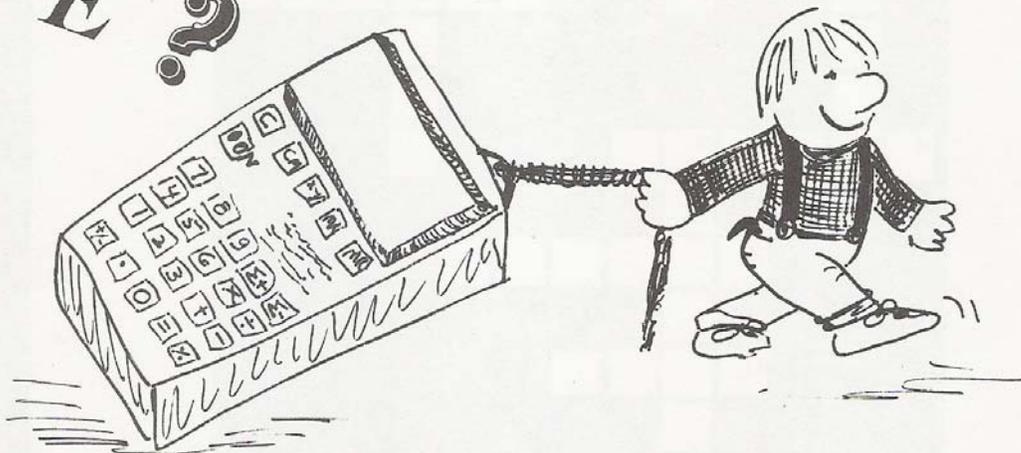
How many commandments did God give us  
through Moses? (Exodus 34:28) - \_\_\_\_\_

How old was Jesus when Joseph and Mary found  
Him teaching in the temple? (Luke 2:42) - \_\_\_\_\_

How many disciples did Jesus have?(Matthew 10:1) - \_\_\_\_\_

How many sons did Noah have? (Genesis 6:10) + \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_





Cleaning Volunteers:  
Steven and Angela Sampson

# SEPTEMBER 2012

## Pilgrim Lutheran Church (903-984-4333)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> 14 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service w/ Com.  Felicity Gill (B)	<b>3</b> <i>Labor Day</i>	<b>4</b> Noon Ministerial Alliance Lunch 2:00-5:00 PM Pastor in his study 6:00 PM Pastor at Rotary Board Mtg.	<b>5</b> 9:00-11:50 AM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>6</b> Pastor gone to North Texas Confessional Lutherans Study Group in Plano	<b>7</b>       <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study</div>	<b>1</b>       <b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 15 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins	<b>10</b> 6:00 PM LWML Meeting	<b>11</b> 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Elders Meeting	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>13</b> <b>Small Church Pastors Breakfast</b>	<b>14</b> HOLY CROSS DAY  Clay Ellis (B)	<b>15</b>       <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study</div>
<b>16</b> 16 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service w/ Com.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study	<b>19</b> 9:00-11:50 AM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>20</b> Circuit Pastor's Conference (?) LWML Birthday Party at Gregg Home (time TBA)	<b>21</b> ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST Leland Dean (B)	<b>22</b> Newsletter articles due tomorrow  <i>First day of Fall</i>
<b>23</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
<b>30</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service w/ Com. 4:00 PM 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vespers (finger food following)						