



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.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2012

In autumn, observe death but anticipate life

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Here in East Texas I imagine that, at least to some extent, all are welcoming autumn's cooler temperatures! Of course, in ways other than degrees of coolness, autumn in Texas is not the same as autumn in places such as New England. Some leaves around here may change colors, but here the fall foliage is not as prominent as there, where the TV weathermen forecast peak color viewing. From when I lived in New England, I have bittersweet memories of long walks and runs on rural roads with colorful canopies. Despite the beauty of the autumn leaves, autumn anywhere in the northern hemisphere—with its fewer daylight hours and other evidence of gloom and death—can be a depressing time for some people.

Facing any kind of death can be depressing—our own death, or the deaths of friends and loved ones. And, we all experience and grieve losses of various other kinds in our lives, too, such as the endings of friendships or more-significant relationships, layoffs from work or the termination of our employment, and the theft or destruction of our possessions. (Even completing celebrations such as the recent 60th anniversary of our congregation can bring a let-down of a sort.) Unless we are in the precise situation of the person experiencing the grief or depression, we can only *imagine* what the person is going through, if we can even imagine what the person is going through *at all*.

There is One who knows well what each of us is experiencing and going through, better than we ourselves know what we are experiencing and going through! Our All-knowing God not only knows what we are going through but in His wisdom He permits us to suffer the various losses we experience. We may not be able to know His precise purpose in any particular experience, but He in His Word reveals to us that for us who are called according to His purpose all things work together for the good of conforming us to the image of His Son so that He may be the firstborn among many brothers (Romans 8:28-30). As that Son, Jesus Christ, suffered to save us from our sins by grace through faith in Him and then was glorified, so our path is through suffering to glory. He gives us food for this path or way (the Lord's Supper) and thereby strengthens and sustains us to endure all He permits us to face.

In autumn, as in other times of the year, the calendar's seasons somewhat correspond to the seasons of the Church Year. The signs of death and decreasing light of autumn coincide with the end of the Church Year's emphasis on the end of all things and our Lord's coming return to judge the living and the dead before our beginning our eternity with Him. Similarly, the

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celebration of our Lord's birth occurs around the day of the year with the fewest daylight hours, and the celebrations of His death and resurrection for us take place as the days lengthen in spring.

As we know both that autumn gives way to winter and that winter gives way to spring and summer, so we should remember and be cheered the similar rhythm and changes of seasons in our individual and collective lives: sufferings are followed by glory, and temporal death gives way to eternal life. (See the Bible's use of "seasonal" analogies in such passages as Genesis 1:14; Leviticus 26:4; Job 5:26; Ecclesiastes 3:1; Jeremiah 5:24; Matthew 24:32; Acts 1:7; 14:17; and 1 Thessalonians 5:1.)

No matter the season, we together proclaim the Gospel (2 Timothy 4:2), and, in due season, there is a harvest from the good works God works through us (Galatians 6:9). We bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). We let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly, addressing, teaching, and admonishing one another in all wisdom; singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; making melody to the Lord with our hearts; giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16-17).

As I was reflecting on this topic for this article for this newsletter, there was one hymn in particular that was echoing through my mind: *Warum solt' ich mich denn grämen?* by notable Lutheran hymn-writer Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676). That German hymn's English translations have been variously titled "Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me" (*The Lutheran Hymnal* #523; *Lutheran Service Book* #756) and "When I Suffer Pains and Losses" (*Lutheran Worship* #423). The chart I was given of the hymns that the congregation can reportedly sing does not include the hymn, but perhaps in time we will sing it together. Gerhardt originally wrote twelve stanzas, but most English hymnals give only a fraction of them. The following stanza is particularly on point:

God gives me my days of gladness,
And I will / Trust Him still / When He sends me sadness.
God is good; / His love attends me
Day by day, / Come what may, / Guides me and defends me. (*Lutheran Service Book* 756:3)

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD." (Rev. 14:3) It has pleased almighty God to summon out of this vale of tears to our eternal home the soul of Sarah Lowery, who departed this life on September 17, 2012, at the age of 82; her mortal remains were committed to the ground September 21, 2012, the service having been held at Memory Park Cemetery in Longview, TX. She was the wife of our former pastor, Rev Joseph C. Lowery; mother of our member Debbie Smith, and grandmother and great-grandmother to other members of our congregation. She will be greatly missed, but we rejoice that she is with the Lord.

THANK YOU Steven and Angela, for cleaning the buildings in September and for preparing the altar. **Brandi Ellis and the Wilburns** are privileged to care for the altar and clean the church buildings for the month of October.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all those who have contributed many and long hours to making our 60th Anniversary a joyous and God-pleasing occasion.

OCTOBER EVENTS

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

LWML FALL RALLY Saturday, October 6th, in Corsicana.

LWML SUNDAY will be observed October 7th.

LWML Monday, October 8th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

ELDERS Tuesday, October 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the office building.

BABY SHOWER Saturday, October 13th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall for Mrs. Ticia Smith.

LUTHERAN WORSHIP CONFERENCE Monday & Tuesday, October 15th & 16th in Plano.

ST LUKE'S PUMPKIN PATCH AND FALL MARKET Saturday, October 20th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE Tuesday, October 30th at 7:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran church in Longview.

OCTOBER POTLUCK AND VOTERS' MEETING is scheduled for November 11, 2012.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mr and Mrs John Walker

October 14

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Barbara Wuthrich

George C. Heil

Beth Nicol

Sarah P. Key

David Erickson

David Smith

October 6

October 8

October 9

October 13

October 25

October 25



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE: The Fall Rally will be in Corsicana on Saturday, October 6th, starting at 8:30 a.m. concluding at 2:30 p.m. Plan to meet at 6:15 a.m. and the "bus" will be leaving at 6:30 a.m. (that is in the morning) from the church. Please call Sharon Sampson to reserve your seat.

LWML SUNDAY will be observed October 7th during our regular church serve. Officers will be installed, so ladies wear your purple. Everyone please remember to bring your Mite boxes, and let's fill up the giant Mite box in the Narthex. (We will accept paper money or checks also.)

BABY SHOWER: A shower for Matthew and Ticia Smith will be held Saturday, October 13, in the Parish Hall starting at 2:00 p.m. They are expecting their first child on Thanksgiving Day. All ladies of the congregation are invited to come and join in this celebration of new life.

LUTHERAN WORSHIP CONFERENCE will be October 15th and 16th in Plano. This conference is devoted to teaching practical skills to musicians (full and part-time), pastors, and interested laypeople as they explore ways to apply the rich treasures of Lutheran hymnody and liturgy in their local congregations. For more information go to www.lol-plano.org/worshipconference.htm.

PUMPKIN PATCH AND FALL MARKET: We have reserved a booth to promote Pilgrim Lutheran Church by selling bread at St. Luke's Fall Market Saturday, October 20th. 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! Stickers will again be available to label items. If you would like to decorate your items, remember to wrap in clear cellophane so the purchasers can see what they are buying. We will also hand out church brochures. We will need volunteers to transport the bread from Pilgrim to St. Luke's and to sell the bread at our booth. Please either leave your baked items at the church before 9:00 a.m. or bring them to St Luke's the day of the sale. Sharon Sampson (903-983-3979) is coordinating our efforts.

REFORMATION SERVICE will be Tuesday, October 30th, at 7:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Longview. It will be a joint celebration with Pilgrim. Pastor Bragdon will conduct the service and Pastor Galler will preach the sermon. Come help celebrate the nailing of the 95 Theses what many regard as the beginning of the Reformation and the Lutheran church.

OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Don and Beth Nicol were received as new members by profession of faith on September 2, 2012. Please welcome them into our church family. Their address is 159 Stone Brook Dr. Henderson, TX 75654. Their phone number is 903-812-1669.

CHURCH DIRECTORY CHANGE: Jeanette Paetzick's new phone number is 903-981-3354. Julia Chiasson's new address is 4206 Webb St. Longview, TX 75605-2811. A new directory will be forthcoming (some day).

PASTOR ON VACATION: On October 14th after the morning church service Pastor will leave on vacation and will be back in his study on October 23rd at 5:00 p.m. In case of an emergency, call the church phone; an Elder will answer and contact the Pastor on call as needed.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: As we finish up all the remodeling there are several people to thank for all the tireless help in bringing a whole new look to our house of worship. First, thanks go to Steven and Angela Sampson, Connie Wilburn, and Carl Gardner whom all served on the committee. Second to Paul Guinn who helped so much with acoustics. Thanks to all the members that helped with the clean up and those who made special monetary contributions. Such contributions are still welcome. The final dollar figures will be presented at the November Voters' meeting. As we finish with the odds and ends, I think everyone will be well-pleased with the new look at Pilgrim.

*To God be the glory!
Danny Sampson, Chairman*

HELPING HANDS OF KILGORE: October items needed are toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, cooking oil, crackers, and mac and cheese. Items needed for the Thanksgiving baskets are cranberry sauce, gravy packets or jars, canned green beans, stuffing mix, pie fillings and crust, and instant or canned potatoes. 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.

THE PORTALS OF PRAYER for the next quarter have arrived and are in the Narthex. If you haven't already done so, please be sure to take home a copy.

CONTACT INFORMATION: We need help in contacting the following members to properly exercise spiritual care: Sarah McPherson, Chris Shanley and Aaron Vicaire. If you have any information, please notify the church office or email to pilgrimsecretary@hotmail.com. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

PRAYER CHAIN: Are you a part of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church Prayer Chain? Do you want to be? Are you getting notifications the way you want to get them (that is, by email or by phone)? Let Pastor Galler know.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

FISH FRY The Rotary Club of Kilgore is sponsoring a fish fry on November 3rd, 5:00-8:00 PM. It will be held at the First Baptist Church.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE will be November 21st at 7:00 PM with Divine Service with communion.

Martin Luther recalls the Reformation

“... when in the year 1517 indulgences were sold (I wanted to say promoted) in these regions for most shameful gain—I was then a preacher, a young doctor of theology, so to speak—and I began to dissuade the people and to urge them not to listen to the clamors of the indulgence hawkers; they had better things to do. I certainly thought that in this case I should have a protector in the pope, on whose trustworthiness I then leaned strongly, for in his decrees he most clearly damned the immoderation of the quaestors, as he called the indulgence preachers.

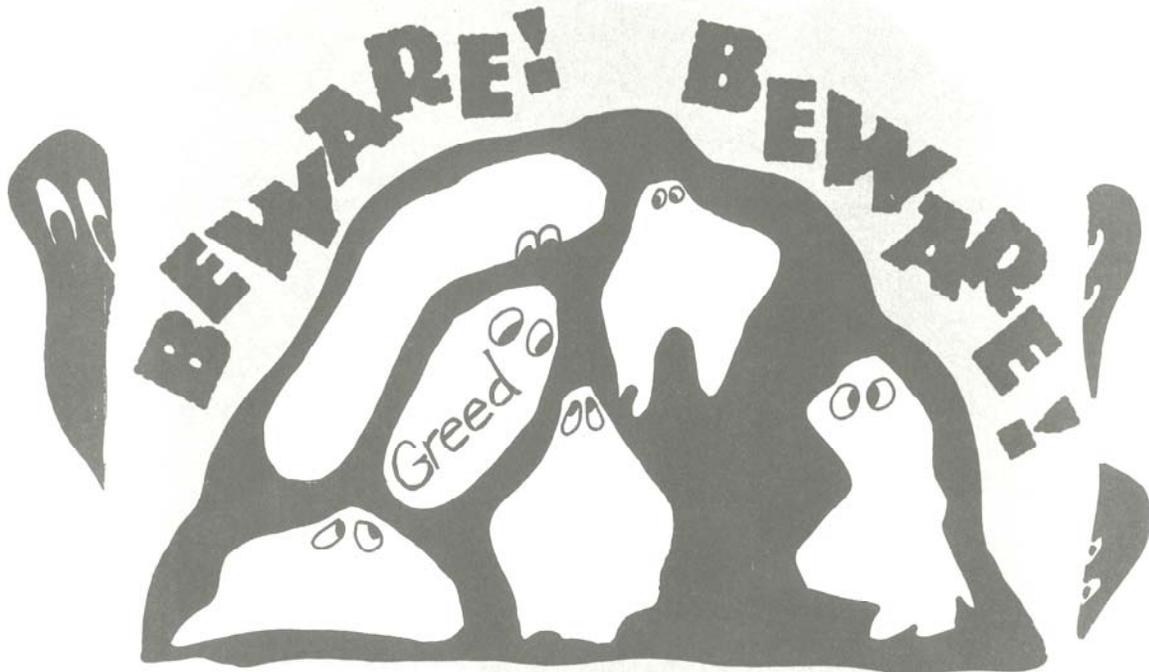
“Soon afterward I wrote two letters, one to Albrecht, the archbishop of Mainz, who got half of the money from the indulgences, the pope the other half—something I did not know at the time—the other to the ordinary (as they call them) Jerome, the bishop of Brandenburg. I begged them to stop the shameless blasphemy of the quaestors. But the poor little brother was despised. Despised, I published the *Theses* and at the same time a German *Sermon on Indulgences*, short thereafter also the *Explanations*, in which, to the pope's honor, I developed the idea that indulgences should indeed not be condemned, but that good works of love should be preferred to them.”

-- Martin Luther's 1545 "Preface to the Latin Writings" (AE 34:329-330)

For Thinkers Only ...

Sometimes our hearts are like deep, dark caves. All kinds of bad feelings and habits hide there, like goblins in the night. Now and then, they get out and bother us. Read these Bible verses to find out what goblins might be hiding inside you. Write a name on each figure you see in the cave.

Ephesians 4:31 Ephesians 5:4 Colossians 3:8,9 I John 3:15



Use a black crayon to color them all away. Press hard with the crayon so that you won't be able to see the names of the figures of these bad goblins any more. That's just how Jesus takes our sins away and forgets them when we ask Him to. Pray and ask him to help you keep these bad habits and feelings out of your heart.

Now read I John 1:9 and write here what God says He will do when you ask Him to.



Cleaning Volunteers:
Ellis and Wilburns

OCTOBER 2012

Pilgrim Lutheran Church (903-984-4333)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Noon Ministerial Alliance Lunch 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study	3 9:00-11:50 AM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	4	5	6 8:30 AM-2:30 PM LWML Fall Rally Barbara Wuthrich
					9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	
7 14 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service w/ Com. LWML Sunday Observed	8 2:00-5:00 PM Pastor in his study 6:00 PM LWML Meeting George C Heil(B)	9 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Elders Meeting Beth Nicol (B)	10 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	11 7:00 AM Small Church Pastors Breakfast	12 HOLY CROSS DAY	13 2:00 PM Baby Shower for Mrs. Ticia Smith Sarah Key (B)
			9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study			
14 15 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins M/M John Walker (A)	15	16	17 No Midweek Bible Study	18	19 ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST	20 10:00 AM-3:00 PM Fall Market at St Luke's Newsletter articles due tomorrow
	Lutheran Worship Conference in Plano					
Pastor Galler on vacation – In case of emergency, call the church phone, an Elder will answer and contact the Pastor on call as needed.						
21 16 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service w/ Com. Rev Frank Starr – Guest Pastor	22	23 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study	24 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	25 David Erickson (B) David Smith (B)	26	27
Pastor Galler on vacation – an Elder will answer the church phone			9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study			
28 17 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	29	30 2:00-5:00PM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Joint Reformation Service at Our Redeemer	31 REFORMATION DAY 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Pastor in his study			

