



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.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2012

Give thanks to God for our year of being pilgrims together

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Recently I saw again some pictures from my November 13, 2011, installation as pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and the meal and such that followed it. The pictures reminded me of the Thanksgiving-themed decorations and their subtle play on the word “pilgrim”, as referring both to those who travelled on the Mayflower and to the name of our congregation with its colonial-style church building (a word play I also noted a few days after my installation in my Thanksgiving Eve sermon, which sermon, if you wish, you can read or hear via our website at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons/2011-11-23/at-jesus-feet-giving-thanks>).

The year that I already have been in East Texas seems to have gone by very quickly to me. Does the year seem to have gone by very quickly to you, too? With the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, God surely has blessed us together as pastor and people. Of course, He has blessed us in many other ways, too, including with the remodeling this summer of our sanctuary and with our recent 60th Anniversary celebration. As during last November, so during this November, there are plenty of things for which we give thanks to God, not just on our day of National Thanksgiving but always! And, I thank you for your support, in so many ways during the past year, of both me and of our work together in this place.

Several times during the past year, people have asked me why the congregation is called “Pilgrim” Lutheran Church. At those times, I could not say for sure why the congregation’s founders chose that name. And, even after working on the congregation’s historical narrative (see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/our-history>), I cannot say for sure what the congregation’s founders were thinking (sadly, there are no longer any of them around to ask). But, I have made an educated guess and offered what I think is a Biblically-sound rationale.

As I noted with reference to the hymn “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng” (*Lutheran Worship* #455) back in December 2011 in my first newsletter column (see <http://pilgrimlc-kilgore-tx-media.s3.amazonaws.com/newsletters/Pilgrim%20Lutheran%20Newsletter%202011.12.pdf>), we are temporary residents on earth, making our way through life in this world to life in the next. We are not shaped by 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). The old General Prayer of *The Lutheran Hymnal*’s order of Morning Service without Communion referred to us as “strangers and pilgrims” (page 13). Different Greek words are used in the New Testament to refer to “strangers” living among a group of people, and those Greek words are sometimes translated into

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English with the word “pilgrim” (for example, the King James Version so translates *parerchomai* in Hebrews 11:13 and *parepidemos* in 1 Peter 2:11).

The Latin word *peregrinus*—which means “pilgrim; foreigner, stranger, alien”—gives us the English word “pilgrim”. The English word’s first meaning is a person on a journey, a foreigner, alien, stranger, but that meaning is now primarily limited to literary and poetical use. The English word’s second meaning is a person who makes usually a long journey as an act of religious devotion or respect. Then comes the word’s third meaning, the figurative meaning going back to the early 13th century, of a person travelling through life, especially towards heaven, as usually in translations of or allusions to Hebrews 11:13, noted above. The English word’s fourth meaning in the United States with the sense of the English Puritans who founded the colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620 comes about because the colony’s second governor, William Bradford, in a 1630 writing used the word with its third meaning to refer to the settlers. (Other regional meanings are those of the American West, as John Wayne’s movie characters used it, with the sense of “newcomer” or “stranger” and of New Zealand’s referring to British colonists who first settled Canterbury, New Zealand, in 1850, with allusions to pilgrims travelling to Canterbury, England, as in Chaucer’s 14th-century *The Canterbury Tales*.)

With those various senses of the word in mind, we can also note that there are other hymns in our hymnal in addition to #455 that make reference to “pilgrim” (63:3, 218:3, 220:1, 433:5, 450:3), “pilgrimage” (277:6, 487:2, 515:2), and “pilgrims” (102:4, 335:3, 381:1, 383:1-3, 384:1-3). One of those to which I especially want to direct your attention on this theme is 381:1, where the line is “Pilgrims here, our home above” (a seeming theological improvement from the older translation “bodies here, our souls above”). Our current plan is to have that phrase stenciled on the top of our new reredos, the decorative panel behind the altar. That phrase will serve to make the connection between the name of our congregation and our heavenly goal and to remind us all that we are shaped by the things that determine our life to come.

In addition to our as Christians being strangers and pilgrims on earth, we as Lutherans are also strangers and pilgrims in East Texas in general and in Kilgore in particular. As we enter our second year of being pastor and people, pilgrims together, in this place, may God all the more use us to attract other sinners like us to the saving truth of His Gospel of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ, so that they may join us on our pilgrimage. Pilgrim, Kilgore, has a pastor and a newly-remodeled sanctuary, why not invite your family, coworkers, and neighbors now?

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

NOVEMBER EVENTS

NOVEMBER POTLUCK AND VOTERS’ MEETING Sunday, November 11th, 2012.

LWML Monday, November 12th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

ELDERS Tuesday, November 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the office building.

EAST TEXAS PIPE ORGAN FESTIVAL November 12-15, 2012 (our Once-A-Month Social Gathering is the 7:30 p.m. recital on November 12 at First Presbyterian, Kilgore)

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

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE Wednesday, November 21st, at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS FLOAT will be assembled Saturday, November 24th.

CHRISTMAS PARADE Tuesday, November 27th, at 6:30 p.m.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mr and Mrs Paul Kuehn

November 25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Cindy Harantcavage	November 1
Sallye Key	November 8
Paul Guinn	November 11
Connie Wilburn	November 15
Ashley Gill	November 22
Lee Eilers	November 23
Gwen Heil	November 23



OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU Brandi Ellis and the Wilburns, for cleaning the buildings in October and for preparing the altar. **Carl and Gayle Gardner** are privileged to care for the altar and clean the church buildings for the month of November.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE: The Fall Rally was in Corsicana on Saturday, October 6th. Pastor Galler and Sharon Sampson attended. The theme was "Armor of God." The Bible study was a video of the Bible study written by Donna Pyle entitled "Armor of God" and presented by Vice President of Christian Life of the LWML Texas District, Diann Higgins. Pastor was first to complete the crossword puzzle and won a plant, which he graciously gave to the person who came in second. Sharon won the decoration at her table, which was a cute homemade pumpkin. Kilgore had a good showing! The lunch was very delicious with lots of different salads and of course lots of good desserts. At the business meeting Sherri Mashburn was elected president. She is the wife of Pastor Mashburn of Corsicana, who will now be our Zone Pastoral Counselor. Also, Paulette Rose consented to serve another term as secretary. Our Spring Workshop will be May 4th, 2013 in Gun Barrel City, and the Fall Rally we will host here at Pilgrim on October 5th, 2013. So, mark your calendars and save the dates!

PUMPKIN PATCH AND FALL MARKET was a success again this year! Thank you to all who baked, sold, set-up and cleaned-up. Several people even requested items that we sold last year. So keep up the good work.

NOVEMBER POTLUCK AND VOTERS' MEETING: Our end of the third quarter potluck will be held immediately following the church service on Sunday, November 11th. All are invited to bring their favorite dish and enjoy the fellowship.

2013 OFFICERS AND BOARDS: The following is the slate of officers for the 2013 term:

President – Edgar Wuthrich	Treasurer – Connie Wilburn
Vice President – Paul Guinn	Financial Secretary – Sharon Sampson
Elders for a 2-year term –	Recording Secretary – Barbara Wuthrich
Steven Sampson, Danny Sampson,	Sunday School Superintendent –
and Johnny Walker;	Danny Sampson
Elders with 1 year remaining –	Stewardship – not filled at this time
George Heil, J.D. Sampson, and	Social Ministry – Barbara Wuthrich
Carl Gardner	Evangelism – Steven Sampson and
Trustees – George Heil, Matthew Smith,	Angela Sampson.
Brady Gage, and Edgar Wuthrich	

The nominating committee will present a full slate of officers at the November Voters' Meeting on November 11th, 2012. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, but those nominated will have to be present to give their consent or have given their consent in advance in writing.

CHRISTMAS FLOAT AND PARADE: A Pilgrim Lutheran Church float will again be entered in this year's Christmas parade in Kilgore. The theme is "Santa's dash for the snow hill." Any and all ideas are welcome. Put on your thinking caps, and see if we can turn this into a spiritual connection. We will assemble the float on November 24th. Watch for more information in the November bulletins.

HELPING HANDS OF KILGORE: November items needed for the Thanksgiving baskets are turkeys and chickens, cranberry sauce, gravy packets or jars, chicken broth, boxed stuffing mix, pumpkin pie fillings and crust, sweet potatoes, and instant mashed 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 this quarter 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 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.

UPCOMING NEWSLETTER AND CALENDARS: Due to the busyness of the holidays, in the past we have produced one newsletter for December and January. Please get your items for both months in by the December 18th deadline for the one newsletter and its two calendars.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY will be December 2nd at 5:00 PM (place to be determined).

MIDWEEK ADVENT VESPERS SERVICES will be December 5th, 12th, and 19th at 7:00 PM.

A meal will be served before each service, beginning at 6:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS/FESTIVAL CHOIR will rehearse between the meals and Advent services.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be December 24th at 6:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE will be December 25th at 10:45 AM.

We are free to vote our consciences before or on November 6

Various popular perceptions of the relationship between church and state in American society can confuse Christians and non-Christians. Much of the even apparently-Christian content circulating via the internet can be misleading, even if it is well-intentioned. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s new “Religious Liberty: Free to be Faithful” education and awareness campaign (see www.lcms.org/freetobefaitful) also seems to be well-intentioned, if not a little off the mark, for example failing both to emphasize the Gospel and to recognize that the Church began and thrives under state persecution). While not all are new concerns, all have immediate relevance for us in light of Election Day this month, Tuesday, November 6. (See my related Minister’s Moment, with its exhortation to “pray and vote, but do not despair”, at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Ministers-Moment-09222012.jpg>.)

The relationship between church and state was a matter of some concern at the time of the Lutheran Reformation in the sixteenth century. For example, the Augsburg Confession of 1530, one of the Lutheran confessional writings contained in *The Book of Concord* of 1580, says the following in Article XVI (the 1959 Tappert edition’s translation of the German, pp.37-38):

It is taught among us that all government in the world and all established rule and laws were instituted and ordained by God for the sake of good order, and that Christians may without sin occupy civil offices or serve as princes and judges, render decisions and pass sentence according to imperial and other existing laws, punish evildoers with the sword, engage in just wars, serve as soldiers, buy and sell, take required oaths, possess property, be married, etc.

Condemned here are the Anabaptists who teach that none of the things indicated above is Christian.

Also condemned are those who teach that Christian perfection requires the forsaking of house and home, wife and child, and the renunciation of such activities as are mentioned above. Actually, true perfection consists alone of proper fear of God and real faith in God, for the Gospel does not teach an outward and temporal but an inward and eternal mode of existence and righteousness of the heart. The Gospel does not overthrow civil authority, the state, and marriage but requires that all these be kept as true orders of God and that everyone, each according to his own calling, manifest Christian love and genuine good works in his station in life. Accordingly Christians are obliged to be subject to civil authority and obey its commands and laws in all that can be done without sin. But when commands of the civil authority cannot be obeyed without sin, we must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

Thus the Lutherans then held the middle position against both an over-involvement and an under-involvement of the Church in state affairs. We do well to do the same today.

While I am not advocating any one candidate or party, I am legally encouraging you to know where the candidates stand on the issues, especially moral issues and those related to religious liberty, and then to vote your conscience, if you have not already voted, as I have.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

THANKSGIVING PSALMS PUZZLE

<http://akidsheart.com/bible/PsalmsofThanksp.htm>



Across

Down

2. Unto you, O God, do we give thanks, unto you do we give thanks: for that your name is near your wondrous ____ declare. Ps 75:1

6. Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His _____. Ps 30:4

8. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a _____ noise unto Him with psalms.

10. Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the _____ unto our God. Ps 147:7

12. Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His _____ endures for ever. Ps 106:1

14. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be _____ unto Him, and bless His name. Ps 100:4

16. I will praise the name of God with a song, and will _____ Him with thanksgiving. Ps 69:30

17. O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His _____ among the people. Ps 105:1

21. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto your _____, O most High. Ps 92:1

22. O give thanks unto the _____ of gods: for His mercy endures for ever. Ps 136:2

23. O give thanks unto the God of _____: for His mercy endures for ever. Ps 136:26

24. That I may publish with the _____ of thanksgiving, and tell of all your wondrous works. Ps 26:7

25. Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the _____ of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. Ps 122:4

26. I will give thanks in the great _____: I will praise you among much people. Ps 35:18

1. So we your _____ and sheep of your pasture will give you thanks for ever: we will show forth your praise to all generations. Ps 79:13

3. And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with _____. Ps 107:22

4. At _____ I will rise to give thanks unto you because of your righteous judgments. Ps 119:62

5. Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the _____, and sing praises unto your name. Ps 18:49

7. I will offer to you the _____ of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. Ps 116:17

9. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; and give thanks at the _____ of His holiness. Ps 97:12

11. Offer unto God _____; and pay your vows unto the most High. Ps 50:14

13. Save us, O Lord out God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto your holy name, and to _____ in your praise. Ps 106:47

15. O give thanks to the _____ of lords: for His mercy endures for ever. Ps 136:3

18. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy _____ for ever. Ps 107:1

19. To the end that my glory may sing praises to you, and not be _____. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto you for ever. Ps 30:12

20. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto your name: the upright shall dwell in your _____. Ps 140:13

22. For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the _____ who shall give thee thanks? Ps 6:5



Cleaning Volunteers:
Carl and Gayle Gardner

NOVEMBER 2012

Pilgrim Lutheran Church (903-984-4333)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 ALL SAINTS' DAY Pastor gone to North Texas Confessional Lutherans Study Group in Plano Cindy Harantcavage (B)	2 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Pastor in his study	3 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM Pastor in his study
4 23 RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service w/ Com.	5 6:30 PM Pastor at Rotary Board Mtg.	6 7:00 PM Ministerial Alliance Breakfast 5:00 PM Adult Catechism 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study	7 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	8 7:00 AM Small Church Pastors Breakfast Sallye Key (B)	9 5:00 PM Adult Catechism	10 9:00 AM -5:00 PM Henderson Syrup Festival
			9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study			
11 24 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins with Pot Luck and Voters' Meeting following Paul Guinn (B)	12 6:00 PM LWML Meeting 7:30 PM East Texas Pipe Organ Festival	13 7:00 PM Elders Meeting	14 9:00-11:50 AM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	15 Circuit Pastors' Conference in Palestine Connie Wilburn (B)	16 ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	17 Newsletter articles due tomorrow
18 25 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service w/ Com.	19	20 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study	21 9:00-11:50 AM Pastor in his study 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service	22 THANKSGIVING DAY Ashlea Gill (B)	23 1:00-4:00 PM Pastor in his study Gwen Heil (B) Lee Eilers (B)	24 9:00-12:00 AM Pastor in his study Christmas Float Assembly
25 LAST SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR (G) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service M/M Paul Kuehn (A)	26	27 2:00-5:00PM Pastor in his study 6:30 PM Kilgore Christmas Parade	28 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	29	30	
			9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study			