



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.

MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

Estates and callings: being served and serving

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Recently someone in our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class pointed out that present at the time were two former journalists, members of what is sometimes called the Fourth Estate. I was one of the two former journalists referred to, but I never really knew from where the expression “Fourth Estate” as referring to journalists came, until I did a little research after that person’s comment. Scottish writer Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) reportedly attributes the term to Irish orator Edmund Burke when the British House of Commons opened up to reporters in 1787. For Burke the other three Estates of the Realm would have been the clergy, nobles, and commoners. In the United States, the other three Estates are sometimes held to be the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government. (More recently, the term “Fifth Estate” apparently has been used to refer to those the internet is said to enable to hold the other four Estates accountable.)

Traditional Lutheran theology sees the three Estates a little differently, and those three Estates have been somewhat on my mind of late because of presentations I heard in January at the North Texas Confessional Lutherans Free Conference on the theme “Who needs marriage?” and in February at the Circuit #14 Pastor-Lay Leadership Retreat on the theme “Family Vocation”. (See more about both conferences on our website: www.pilgrimlc.org/news.) While, no presentation at either gathering laid out a full picture of the three Estates, in short the three Estates are family, government, and church (the order and resulting numbering may at times differ).

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther in his *Large Catechism*, one of the confessional writings to which faithful Lutherans subscribe, unfolds the view that the Fourth Commandment regarding the honoring of father, mother, and other authority is the origin not only of the Estates of family and government but also of the entire teaching about vocation, for Luther his theology of the Christian life, as it were. More than just an individual’s “job”, one’s vocations are one’s various callings in which God works through us to love and serve our various neighbors. For example, through a man’s vocation as husband, God loves and serves the man’s closest neighbor, his wife. Through a woman’s vocation as mother, God loves and serves her next-closest neighbor, her children, and so forth.

Sadly, the first man and woman sinned and so messed up God’s intention for our callings, but His plan of salvation restores them. The Rev. Dr. Luther’s *Small Catechism*, in the

subsection on The Office of the Keys' teaching about private confession, even suggests we identify the sins we might need to confess by considering our vocations ("station" or "place in life") as "father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker" (see, for example, page 304 in *Lutheran Worship*). That reference essentially points to the *Small Catechism's* "Table of Duties" (see Section 3 on pages 33-38 of Concordia Publishing House's 1991 edition of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*). The Rev. Dr. Luther's "Table of Duties" has precedents in similar listings in St. Paul's letters (see, for examples, Ephesians 5:21-6:9; Colossians 3:18-4:1; and 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2), where such fulfilling of one's vocations is the fruit of faith that believes in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and so characterizes the life of the believer.

God first and foremost serves us with the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In fact, we come to church for that Divine Service. Our seeking and receiving the forgiveness of sins from God in His Word and Sacrament is the highest worship of the Gospel. Yet, God does not Himself serve us directly, but He serves us through the Office of the Holy Ministry, through the vocation of pastor. All we do is receive, as newborns receive from their parents. Still, our being served by God does lead us in turn to serve others, as newborns themselves usually grow up to be parents. We serve others and thereby love and serve God, concealed, as it were, in the others.

Our serving others is primarily centered in our vocations such as spouse and parent, but there is also a place for us to serve others in connection with the life of our congregation. Pilgrim's existence for more than 60 years is at least in part a witness to God's working through both those elected to serve and those who otherwise volunteered to serve in various congregational roles, especially during the nearly 20-year vacancy. Of course, having a full-time, resident pastor again does not eliminate the need for such service now. In some ways, having both a full-time, resident pastor again and a congregation growing by God's grace increases the need for such service. More than ever, our congregation needs its various boards and committees to actually be up and running, meeting and functioning, just as we need volunteers for special service in other positions, such as Vacation Bible School director. When one is serving in his or her given role, others can better focus on their roles.

However much we need such service in connection with the life of our congregation (and we do), such service in connection with the life of our congregation is not any more God-pleasing than our service to God in our neighbors in our other vocations. Not only did the Reformers in the 16th-century object to the Roman Catholic elevation of the callings of monk and nun over those of spouse and parent, but we, today, similarly must believe, teach, and confess that, for example, the callings of elder and cleaning volunteer are not to be elevated over the callings of husband and mother. Both service in connection with the life of a congregation and participation in a congregation's programs can be abused in such a way that the callings having God's more-obvious institution in the Bible are sinfully neglected, as if, from a human perspective, to be more-obviously serving God.

Not as a former member of the Fourth Estate of journalism but as a pastor in the Estate of the Church, I invite and encourage you to pray as I do that God would fill the positions of our congregation with upright, honest, and sincere men and women, who have the welfare of their congregation at heart and are able to help me in my office with their counsel and deeds, that He would unite their hearts with me in love for His Truth, and that He would give them the spirit of prayer for me and for this congregation, so that we may in unity and harmony be His instruments for building His kingdom in this place.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

Special services sermons: “Learn from Jesus Christ to pray”

If we were to think about our Lord Jesus praying during His Passion, His praying in the Garden of Gethsemane would probably come to our minds first, if not alone. His praying there is recorded in all three of the so-called “synoptic” Gospel accounts (Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; and Luke 22:40-46). Well did journalist and lecturer James Montgomery write the following:



Go to dark Gethsemane, / All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see. / Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; / Learn from Jesus Christ to pray. (*Lutheran Worship* 110:1)

Of course, there is much more to learn than prayer, and the hymn observes that as it goes on to “Follow to the judgment hall”, climb “Calv’ry’s mournful mountain”, and “Early hasten to the tomb”. Yet, in such places we also find Jesus praying or doing or saying other things that shed light on prayer, especially on the Lord’s Prayer.

In its Midweek Lenten Vespers and other associated special services of 2013, Pilgrim is considering the Lord’s Prayer—its introduction, seven petitions, and conclusion—in light of the words and deeds of our Lord during His passion and resurrection. Though some services have already passed, the full schedule is as follows:

- Ash Wednesday (2/13): “Our Father Who art in heaven”
- Midweek I (2/20): “Hallowed be Thy Name”
- Midweek II (2/27): “Thy kingdom come”
- Midweek III (3/6): “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”
- Midweek IV (3/13): “Give us this day our daily bread”
- Midweek V (3/20): “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”
- Maundy Thursday (3/28): “Lead us not into temptation”
- Good Friday (3/29): “Deliver us from evil”
- The Resurrection of Our Lord (3/31 Matins): “For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen”

You are invited to attend any and all of those services. You can also read more about Lent, hear Pastor Galler speak about Ash Wednesday at the Kilgore Rotary Club, and hear or read any sermons you have missed, all on our website at www.pilgrimlc.org.

Image from <http://www.theblazingcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/306-Jesus-in-the-Garden-of-Gethsemane-q75-500x341.jpg>

*HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY*

Mr and Mrs George B Heil
March 19



*HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!*

Olene Herricks
March 5
Cooper Sampson
March 13

LWML REPORT

Barbara Wuthrich volunteered to head up the Sampson-Sweeden wedding shower. It is slated for March 3rd at 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. They are registered at Target, Macy's, Bed, Bath, and Beyond, and Amazon.com. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

The group has been working on naming specific needs of our congregation where someone could volunteer for a specific job. For instance when someone dies, a person is called and arranges food. The following are suggestions:

1. Food for sick and shut-ins – call members to supply food, etc.
2. Flower person – ask members to sign up on the flower chart and to take care of the flowers.
3. Funeral person – call others to arrange food for a meal.
4. Potluck person – call others to remind them or have a “theme” meal or help decorate the Parish Hall.
5. Paper products – call others to help supply our needs and make sure we have enough on hand.
6. Altar Guild – form a group to prepare the altar by changing paraments, repairing and putting up banners, and etc.
7. Cradle Roll – give information to parents of newborns about every 3 months. Angela Sampson has volunteered for this job. Thanks!

Anyone wishing to volunteering or have any other suggestions, please notify any LWML member or just come to our next meeting on March 11th, we would love to have you.

Keep Your Gospel Light Shining,
Sharon Sampson – President

NEW MEMBER

Tifaney Sweeden was confirmed on December 9, 2012, and welcomed socially with a reception on January 27, 2013, in conjunction with the quarterly Voters' Meeting, where she also became a voting member. Tifaney works as a nurse at the East Texas Medical Center in Tyler and is engaged to J.D. Sampson; they will be married at Pilgrim on March 20, 2013.



A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

DANNY SAMPSON, J D SAMPSON, SHARON SAMPSON, TIFANEY SWEEDEN, AND JOHN AND VICKI WALKER for volunteering to teach God's children in Sunday School. **ALL WHO HAVE** provided food, paper products, and clean up for the Lenten meals in February.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

CIRCUIT 14 RETREAT

The retreat entitled “Vocation of the Family” was held Saturday February 2, 2013, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine, TX. Pilgrim was represented by Pastor, Danny and Sharon Sampson, J. D. Sampson, and Steven Sampson. The program was led by Dr. Gene Veith and his daughter, Deaconess Mary Moerbe. Dr. Veith did a remarkable job of relating the family unit with the calling or vocation each of us have at different times in our lives. We are first called to be children and have a responsibility to obey and help our parents, then to be a sibling to brothers or sisters, and, as we grow older, perhaps we are also called to be a husband to a wife or a wife to a husband and maybe even or a father or a mother to a child or children, with all the responsibilities that go with that call from God.

In each station that God calls us to within the family comes the charge to treat those we encounter in that call as our neighbors and to remember that Jesus told us to “love our neighbors as ourselves”. Even though everyone is our neighbor and we should treat them as such, these calls or vocations within the family are especially important because God has placed each of us in them and there we encounter those who are our closest neighbors.

I would encourage everyone to try to attend the Circuit Retreat next year. Bethlehem does a great job of hosting the event, especially with the ladies of the LWML’s providing plenty of snacks, coffee, and a wonderful noon meal. It is also uplifting to see and interact with our brothers and sisters from around this circuit.

God’s Blessings,
Danny Sampson

MARCH EVENTS

SPECIAL VOTERS’ MEETING will follow the worship service March 3rd.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS Sunday, March 10th, at 12:00 a.m.

ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING The Valparaiso Chorale tour is at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Shreveport on Sunday, March 10th, at 7:00 p.m. Should we go together?

LENTEN MEAL before each midweek Lenten Vespers Service at 6:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSAL after each Lenten meal and before the service (about 6:30 p.m.).

LENTEN VESPERS SERVICES Wednesday, March 6th, 13th, and 20th, at 7:00 p.m.

LWML Monday, March 11th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

ELDERS Tuesday, March 12th, in the Parish Hall.

CLEAN-UP DAY Saturday, March 16th at 9:00 p.m. at church

SAMPSON-SWEEDEN WEDDING Wednesday, March 20th, at 10:00 a.m.

CIRCUIT PASTORS’ CONFERENCE Thursday, March 21st at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE Thursday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE Friday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m.

SONRISE MATINS SERVICE Sunday, March 31st at 8:00 p.m..

EASTER BREAKFAST Sunday, March 31st right after the Sunrise Service.

EASTER EGG HUNT Sunday, March 31st at 9:45 a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICE Sunday, March 31st at 10:45 a.m.

March's Daily Bible Reading

1	Isaiah 64:1-9 Numb. 16-18
2	Psalm 85 Numb. 19-21
3	Psalm 86 Numb. 22-24
4	Psalm 87 Numb. 25-27
5	Psalm 88 Numb. 28-30
6	Psalm 89 Numb. 31-33
7	Psalm 90 Numb. 34-36
8	Psalm 91 Deut. 1-3
9	Psalm 92 Deut. 4-6
10	Psalm 93 Deut. 7-9
11	Psalm 94 Deut. 10-12
12	Psalm 95 Deut. 13-15
13	Psalm 96 Deut. 16-18
14	Psalm 97 Deut. 19-21
15	Psalm 98 Deut. 22-24
16	Psalm 99 Deut. 25-27
17	Psalm 100 Deut. 28-30
18	Psalm 101 Deut. 31-34
19	Psalm 102 Luke 1
20	Psalm 103 Luke 2-3
21	Psalm 104 Luke 4-5
22	Psalm 105 Luke 6-7
23	Psalm 106 Luke 8-9
24	Psalm 107 Luke 10-11
25	Psalm 108 Luke 12-13
26	Psalm 109 Luke 14-15
27	Psalm 110 Luke 16-17
28	Psalm 111 Luke 18-19
29	Psalm 112 Luke 20-21
30	Psalm 113 Luke 22
31	Isaiah 64:1-9 Luke 23-24

The seasonal canticle for March is part of Isaiah's praise and prayer for divine deliverance. Though it was likely that at that time the gracious presence of God had been withdrawn from Israel, this lamentation recalls God's history of righteously dealing with His faithful people; it confesses the people's sin, including that of neglecting God, and it pleads for God's mercy. There is an implied summons for all to join in the praise and prayer.

In the beginning of March we continue the book of Numbers that we began in February, which book continues the historical narrative of the Old Testament, with the census lists in chapters 1 and 26 giving the book its name. The chapters we read in March pick up the story with the people of Israel at Kadesh, beginning with their rebellion. There are various pictures of Jesus in Numbers, especially the one lifted up on the pole (21:4-9), and Numbers includes a very strong prophecy of Jesus, the Messiah (24:17). See how Jesus in St. John's Gospel account explains His fulfillment of the prophecy of the "lifting up" episode (John 3:14-15; 8:28). An interesting aspect of the strong prophecy of Jesus is that God spoke it through the lips of a pagan prophet, whose donkey God also enabled to speak!

The eighth of March we begin the final book of the Pentateuch, Deuteronomy. The book of Deuteronomy presents Moses' farewell sermon to the people of Israel as they stand in Moab at the Jordan River preparing to enter the Promised Land. The sermon is part of God and the people's renewing the covenant, and thus it repeats much of the law given earlier. In this sense, Deuteronomy is a repetition or copy of the law, as its name suggests. Pay special attention to the similarities between Moses and Jesus, and likewise note in chapter 18 Moses' direct prophecy of Jesus, "The Prophet" raised up from among His brothers, and notice how in the New Testament some apply that passage to Jesus (for example, John 7:40).

The latter third of March we read from St. Luke's Gospel account, what may be a welcome New Testament break after reading through the entire Pentateuch in the preceding two months. Luke helps us see the completeness and universal availability of God's grace and the table fellowship that believing sinners have with Jesus. St. Luke's account includes more detail about Jesus' birth than the other Gospel accounts, and it is thought that perhaps the Holy Spirit used the Virgin Mary herself as one of St. Luke's sources for those details. The reading of the latter chapters of the Gospel coincides by design with the annual observance of Holy Week.

We know from Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24 that a doctor named Luke was a friend and coworker of St. Paul's, and early Christian writings identify Luke as the author of both the Gospel account that bears his name and its companion volume, the book of Acts (note its "we" portions: Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16). Born a Gentile and serving as a doctor, Luke was likely well-educated, skills the Holy Spirit put to good use.

Permit a word about the four different accounts of the one Gospel of Jesus Christ. While there are various theories about the origins of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the simplest explanation is that the Holy Spirit inspired four different men to write four different accounts.

OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINI-SERIES ENTITLED “THE BIBLE”: The Bible is an epic five-week, 10-hour television mini-series premiering March 3, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. CST on the History Channel, from the Emmy Award winning husband and wife team of Mark Burnett and Roma Downey. For two hours each Sunday night millions of viewers are expected to see the Bible come to life in a way never seen before. The final episode of the series will air on Easter Sunday and will feature the death and resurrection of Jesus. Keep your Bibles handy to see if they follow the true account!

CIRCUIT 14 PASTORS’ CONFERENCE: Pilgrim will host the event, on Thursday, March 21st, with Shannon Gage in charge of providing the morning refreshments and the noon meal. Anyone who can help, either by providing food, paper products or serving, please call Shannon. All are welcome to attend the Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.

HELPING HANDS OF KILGORE: See the bulletin for items requested in March. 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. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with those less fortunate.

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS: There is a sign-up sheet on the wall in the Parish hall next to the thermostat if you would like to take a turn providing refreshments.

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.

EASTER LILIES AND FLOWER CHART: Everyone is invited to bring lilies for the altar on Easter morning in honor of our Risen Savior. A sign-up chart is located in the Narthex if you would like to provide flowers for the altar at any other point during the year.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We need a volunteer to head up VBS this year. Please contact Danny Sampson as soon as possible. The starter box of “goodies” has already arrived!

APRIL EVENTS

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY resumes Wednesday, April 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.

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

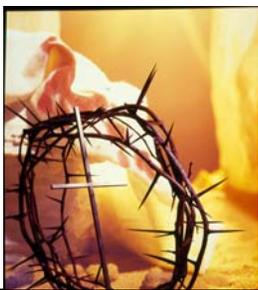
ELDERS Tuesday, April 9th, in the Parish Hall.

VOTERS’ MEETING FOLLOWING POTLUCK Sunday, April 21st, in the Parish Hall.

ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING Rangerette Revels, Kilgore Chamber Taste, Trade & Music, or other suggestions?

SAVE THE DATE!

The LWML Spring Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th, in Gun Barrel City. Remember, we are hosting the Fall Rally on Saturday, October 5th. Attending the workshop would help us in preparing for that date.



MARCH 2013

Pilgrim Lutheran Church (903-984-4333)

Pastor's Regular Study Hours
 Tuesday 5:00–8:00 PM
 Wednesday–Saturday 9:00–12:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Special Voters' Meeting after Service 12:30 PM Adult Instruction 3:00 PM Sampson-Sweeden Wedding Shower	4 6:30 PM Pastor at Rotary Board Mtg.	5 Noon Ministerial Alliance lunch 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study Olene Herricks (B)	6 Pastor speaks at St. Luke's soup luncheon 6:00 PM Meal 6:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM Vespers	7 Pastor gone to North Texas Confessional Lutherans Study Group in Plano	1 <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 8	2 <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 9
10 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins 12:30 AM Adult Instruction 7:00 PM Valparaiso Chorale Tour	11 6:00 PM LWML Meeting	12 5:30 PM Pastor prays at City Council Mtg. 7:00 PM Elders	13 6:00 PM MEAL 6:30 PM CHOIR 7:00 PM Vespers Cooper Sampson (B)	14 7:00 AM Small Church Pastors' Breakfast	15	16 9:00 AM Clean up Day at church
17 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service 12:30 AM Adult Instruction	18	19 M/M George B Heil (A)	20 10:00 AM Wedding Sampson-Sweeden 6:00 PM Meal 6:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM Vespers	21 9:30 AM Special Divine Service 10:30 AM Circuit 14 Pastors' Conference 12:30 AM Lunch	22	23 Alternate Clean-up Day at church Newsletter articles due tomorrow
24 PALM SUNDAY (R) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins 12:30 AM Adult Instruction	25	26 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study	27	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY (W) 7:00 PM Divine Service	29 GOOD FRIDAY (B) 7:00 PM Vespers	30
31 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (W) 8:00 AM Sunrise Service 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast 9:30 AM SS & Bible Class 9:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt 10:45 AM Divine Service						