



## 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 2013 NEWSLETTER

### **Everyone loves a good gift!**

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

On a birthday or wedding anniversary, at Christmas, and at just about any other time, everyone loves a good gift! And, gifts are all the better when they come from a giver of good and perfect gifts (James 1:17). This month I am especially thinking of God's gift of the Holy Spirit, Who could be said to be the gift Who keeps on giving!

After having April 2013 as a full month of the Easter Season, which started the last Sunday in March, we come to the end of the Easter Season May 19, 2013, the Day of Pentecost. On Pentecost Day, we especially mark God's giving of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit to Jesus's twelve apostles (see Luke 24:49 and Acts 2), though we certainly should not think that any believers and the world in general were without the Holy Spirit prior to that time or at any time since.

The Holy Spirit was around already in the beginning (Genesis 1:2), but He was also around long before that. The Holy Spirit is eternal, without beginning or end, for the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. He is true God with the Father and the Son, not just the power or energy of God or the "love" that binds the Father and the Son or anything like that. We know the Holy Spirit is true God because the Bible gives the Holy Spirit divine names, divine characteristics, divine works, and divine honor (which also happen to be the same ways we know that the Son, Jesus, is true God).

Although the works of the Triune God toward us in the world cannot really be divided among the one God's three Persons, we usually think of the Holy Spirit being responsible for making us holy, what we call "sanctification". In its broader sense, sanctification includes bringing us to faith so that we can be redeemed, what we usually call "justification". But, usually, in contrast to justification, we think of the narrower sense of sanctification, directing and empowering believers to lead godly lives.

We do not expect the Holy Spirit to just come upon us the way He came upon the Twelve that Pentecost Day. Rather, we expect the Holy Spirit to work the way God promises He will work: through His means of grace, His Word and His Sacraments—namely, Holy Baptism, individual Holy Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Altar (see, respectively, Romans 10:17; Titus 3:5; John 20:22-23; and Matthew 26:27-28).

Without the Holy Spirit, no one would believe in Jesus Christ. By nature, we are hostile to God (Romans 8:7), unable to understand the things that come from God (1 Corinthians 2:14), and dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). Faith that trusts God to forgive our sins for Jesus's sake is itself a gift of the gift Who is the Holy Spirit, and even that gift of faith keeps on

*News and Announcements continue on the next page.*

giving in the form of the good works it produces in us (Ephesians 2:8-10; think also of the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 and the “more excellent way” of 1 Corinthians 12:31).

The gift of faith that brings the forgiveness of sins (righteousness, or whatever else you might call it) also thereby brings eternal life. Such gifts are not given apart from the Office of the Holy Ministry preaching and administering the Sacraments, which Office is itself a gift (see, for example, Ephesians 4:11 and the Augsburg Confession, Article XXVIII, paragraph 9).

Such gifts are the gifts that matter. In the past, the Holy Spirit also gave some Christians gifts to perform miraculous healings and other signs, attesting to the authority of their words, laying the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20). But, now that their words in the Bible have such authority, we no longer expect the Holy Spirit to give those gifts (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4), though the Holy Spirit certainly remains free to do whatever He likes. (Even if the Holy Spirit were to continue giving such gifts now, we could hardly inventory and organize them.) Sometimes such gifts are called “charismatic” gifts, but the Greek word *charisma* simply means “gift” and often refers to salvation and the eternal life that comes with it (Romans 5:15-16; 6:23).

God certainly wants all people to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit’s gift of faith, and faith’s results of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Ezekiel 33:11; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9), but, sadly, some people resist the Holy Spirit (Matthew 23:37; Acts 7:51). While the Holy Spirit mediated through the means of grace is resistible, the day is coming when those same people who resist Him now will be unable to resist His immediate call to rise from the grave and face His sentence of judgment for not believing (John 5:28-29). Thus, now is the time to repent and to believe and so to be saved (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Join us this month for the remaining Sundays in the Easter Season, for the Day of Pentecost, and for Trinity Sunday. Remember also our special Ascension Vespers Service on May 9th at 7:00 p.m. Waiting for you here is the free and good gift of the Holy Spirit Who keeps on giving!

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*



**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY!**

Mr. and Mrs. Chad Ellis  
May 3



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

Robert Dutschmann - May 5

Pastor Galler - May 5

Steven Sampson - May 19

Edgar Wuthrich - May 20

Joseph Smith - May 20



## LWML REPORT

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League meets on the second Tuesday of each month for snacks (lite supper), a short business meeting, and a Bible study.

We are planning to attend the East Texas Zone Spring Workshop in Gun Barrel City on May 11, at 9:00 a.m. We will leave from the church's parking lot around 7:30 a.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Remember, we are hosting the Fall Rally on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Attending the workshop would help us in prepare for that date. All ladies and young women of the congregation are invited to attend. Going is a great way to spend a Saturday with your sisters in Christ.

*Keep Your Gospel Light Shining,  
Sharon Sampson, Pilgrim LWML President*

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

New ceiling tiles to repair Sunday School room will require two boxes at \$15.00 each.

The entry-way to the Parish Hall is much improved with a paint job.

The Door to under the office building is repaired and a bolt latch installed.

Yard mowing's being done by one person will become burdensome during the summer growing season.

Water seep from what appears to be copper tubing through the exterior wall under the kitchen window has not been identified.

The light fixture above the sanctuary door in the Narthex needs to be replaced with one that can be controlled at the fixture. A pull switch is to be installed.

A missing lens on a ceiling light fixture in the Sanctuary is unresolved.

The light switch in Pastor's office was replaced 3-27-13.

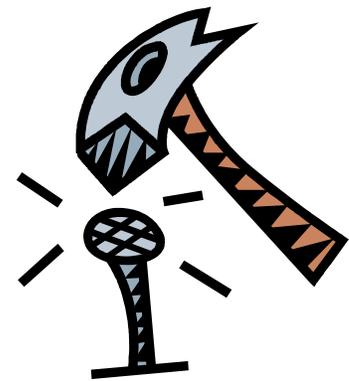
Screw holes in the short pews have been filled.

Storage closets must be monitored to prevent creating a fire hazard.

The trim around the east door of the office building was replaced 3-28-13.

Lot B, Block 4 Riverside Drive, Hillcrest Subdivision, Kilgore, Texas, reported to Insurance 3-29-13 (0.09 acres).

Arrangements have been made to add Sarah Lowery & Lee Eilers to the Memorial Plaque.



*Respectfully submitted,  
George A. Heil, Board of Trustees Chair*

# BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Alleluia! Sunday School attendance has increased 62%! Praise the Lord!

Danny and Sharon Sampson have been able to share the teaching joy with new teachers. Tifaney Sampson volunteered to teach, as have Johnny and Vickie Walker. J. D. Sampson has also filled in when needed. Please remember these teachers and students in your prayers as they study God's word.



Also the Sunday morning adult class has been blessed with an average of 17 in attendance, which is also an increase. To God be the Glory!

The Easter egg hunt was a great success. Little Emmett Koen had lots of fun on his first hunt! Thanks to Arcele Wilburn for her hard work in purchasing the items and stuffing more than 200 eggs.

Sarah and Josie Land have volunteered to be our VBS directors this summer. Please offer your services to them and help in any way you can. A recommendation is for 5-day session in 2013, beginning Sunday, June 23, and ending Thursday, June 27.

*God be with you,  
Danny Sampson  
Sunday School Superintendent and Board of Education Chair*

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## MAY EVENTS

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** Each Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m.

**ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL OUTING** Josie Land's female-lead performance in "Music Man" on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (Pastor recommends going Friday, May 3).

**ASCENSION DAY VESPERS SERVICE** Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

**LWML SPRING WORKSHOP** Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. in Gun Barrel City.

**LWML** Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**ELDERS** Tuesday, May 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

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## THANK YOU

To all who have provided the beautiful flowers for the altar.

To all who gave of their time and talents to provide information for the Voters' Meeting Packets.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WANT A PILGRIM T-SHIRT OR HOODIE?** Orders are being taken for T-shirts (\$18) and hoodies (\$30) of any size or color. For 2X or long-sleeve T-shirts, add \$1. Contact Steven Sampson for more information or to order.

**ACTRESS IS OUR MIDST!** Josie Land will play the female-lead in Heritage Christain School's production of the "Music Man" on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be available soon

**GARBAGE CAN:** The lid for the church's outside garbage can evidently blew away. Someone's helping out with a lid or a can and lid will be greatly appreciated.

**WANT TO BE ABLE TO PLAY THE ORGAN FOR WORSHIP?** We can help! Speak to Pastor Galler or an elder.

**PROCEEDING TO AND FROM COMMUNION:** Generally speaking, you will line up on the side of the aisle opposite from where you are sitting. Regardless of where you are lined up, please proceed all the way to the wall on the pulpit-side (left side) of the communion rail first, and then to the wall on the lectern-side (right side). When returning to your pew, the last should be first and the first last.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:** If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. Thank you!

**DO YOU KNOW CHILDREN WHO LOVE TO SING AND SING WELL?** Help us find children in our Lutheran congregation who would like to participate in the Children's Choir for the 9th Lutheran Hymn Festival at the Meyerson Symphony Center on September 29, 2013.

- Children must be in grade 4 through 8, have an unchanged voice (no baritones), be able to match pitch and sing back melodies they hear, and enjoy singing. They do not have to have a lot of previous experience if they meet the other qualifications.
- There will be two mandatory Saturday morning rehearsals on Aug. 24 and Sept.28 at Zion Lutheran Church in Dallas prior to the Festival.

If you are interested, contact Sam Eatherton, Minister of Music at Zion Lutheran Church, Dallas, at 214-363-1639 x210 or seatherton@ziondallas.org **by Friday, May 24.**

**HELPING HANDS OF KILGORE:** Items needed for May have not yet been given. Watch the bulletin for more details as we receive them. Helping Hands can always use clean plastic bags and bread wrappers for distributing the items. A container for your donations is located in the Narthex. 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 .At the center, they also will be collecting sleeping bags, socks, and backpacks to distribute to the homeless. The annual duck race fundraiser is coming up on Saturday, May 4. If you would be willing to help sell tickets, advertise, or collect prize donations, please let them know. Prayers specifically for the spiritual side of this ministry would be appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of Helping Hands and so sharing the love of Christ with those less fortunate.

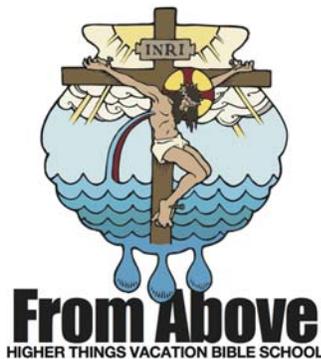
*News and Announcements continue on the next page.*

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

**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.

**FLOWERS:** A sign-up chart is located in the Narthex if you would like to provide flowers for the altar at any point during the year.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Sarah and Josie Land have graciously volunteered to head up VBS this year. We are contemplating using the VBS material from “Higher Things.” The Higher Things material shares the same “Baptized for this Time” theme as the LCMS 2013 Synodical Convention and is less expensive than the material produced by Concordia Publishing House, though we would be copying more on our copier and needing to provide our own craft materials. The dates of VBS this year are Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> through Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup>. Please block out that time to help and invite children and adults you know to attend.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Higher Things annual conference for confirmed youth will be held July 9-12 in West Lafayette, IN, with the theme “From Above 2013”. Registration is \$375. For more information, see <http://test.higherthings.org/conferences/fromabove2013>.

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## JUNE EVENTS

**GRADUATION PARTY** for George C. Heil (date and time yet to be determined).

**LWML** Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**ELDERS** Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, through Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

**ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL OUTING** What’s your pleasure?

## May's Daily Bible Reading

|    |                                      |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | 1 Sam. 2:1-10<br>Titus, Philemon     |
| 2  | Psalm 121<br>Hebrews 1-4             |
| 3  | Psalm 122<br>Hebrews 5-7             |
| 4  | Psalm 123<br>Hebrews 8-10            |
| 5  | Psalm 124<br>Heb. 11-13              |
| 6  | Psalm 125<br>James 1-3               |
| 7  | Psalm 126<br>James 4-5               |
| 8  | Psalm 127<br>1 Peter 1-2             |
| 9  | Psalm 128<br>1 Peter 3-5             |
| 10 | Psalm 129<br>2 Peter                 |
| 11 | Psalm 130<br>1 John 1-3              |
| 12 | Psalm 131<br>1 John 4-5              |
| 13 | Psalm 132<br>2 John, 3 John,<br>Jude |
| 14 | Psalm 133<br>John 1-2                |
| 15 | Psalm 134<br>John 3-4                |
| 16 | Psalm 135<br>John 5-6                |
| 17 | Psalm 136<br>John 7-8                |
| 18 | Psalm 137<br>John 9-10               |
| 19 | Psalm 138<br>John 11-12              |
| 20 | Psalm 139<br>John 13-14              |
| 21 | Psalm 140<br>John 15-16              |
| 22 | Psalm 141<br>John 17-18              |
| 23 | Psalm 142<br>John 19                 |
| 24 | Psalm 143<br>John 20-21              |
| 25 | Psalm 144<br>Acts 1-2                |
| 26 | Psalm 145<br>Acts 3-4                |
| 27 | Psalm 146<br>Acts 5-6                |
| 28 | Psalm 147<br>Acts 7-8                |
| 29 | Psalm 148<br>Acts 9-10               |
| 30 | Psalm 149<br>Acts 11-12              |
| 31 | 1 Samuel 2:1-10<br>Acts 13-14        |

The seasonal canticle for May is Hannah's prayer singing praise and thanksgiving to God, echoed in Mary's song, the Magnificat. Though Hannah speaks of her conceived son, Samuel, who will establish the kingship and usher in a new period of Israel's history, her supreme source of joy is the God Who answered her prayer for a child. We might take special note of v.6 and think of the work of the law and Gospel, respectively bringing us death for our sin and raising us to life by faith in Christ.

On May first, we finish the collection of St. Paul's letters. The letter to Titus, like those to Timothy, is to one of Paul's co-workers and the congregations in his care (note especially the great summaries of grace and Baptism). Philemon is to a believer in Colosse, which believer Paul asks to accept back as a brother the runaway slave, Onesimus.

On May 2-13, we read other New Testament letters. In reading Hebrews, notice especially how the author warns us about the dangers of abandoning the true teaching and sacraments for the sake of escaping persecution, and notice the "roll-call" of the saints or "heroes of the faith" in chapter 11. James, a kinsman of the Lord, exhorts us by describing the life that Christians should live. Peter's two letters give Jewish and Gentile Christians scattered through Asia Minor (1) strong Baptismal teaching and instructions regarding persecution inside and outside the church, and (2) directions for dealing with false teachers and evildoers in the revealed church. The Apostle John has three letters in the New Testament, though, like in his Gospel account, he does not refer to himself by name in them. The first expresses God's grace very clearly and also addresses false teaching. The second and third letters address the issue of discouraging false teaching by not showing hospitality. Jude, another kinsman of the Lord, writes briefly like 2 Peter of the Gospel as the antidote for false teaching.

On May 11, note well Psalm 130. Psalm 130 is one of the seven penitential psalms (the others are Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, and 143). As such, Psalm 130 expresses well our plea to God for the forgiveness He so graciously offers. See Martin Luther's hymnic paraphrase as *LW* #230.

On May 14-24, we read John's Gospel account, written for people to come to believe and to continue believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, so that by believing they might have life in His Name (see 20:31). This account compliments the other "synoptic" Gospel accounts and treats in a circular, escalating fashion the same sub-themes. The other accounts were no doubt known to John, and he, by the Spirit's inspiration, did not cover exactly the same ground, though his ultimate purpose was the same.

The rest of May, our attention is directed to Acts. As noted with March's readings, the book of the Acts of the Apostles is the second New Testament book recorded by St. Luke. Where the earlier book that bears his name tells "about all Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was

given up to heaven" (1:1-2), this book details the spread of the Church from Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth (1:8) after Jesus' ascension. In May we read only through Luke's divinely-inspired narration of St. Paul's first missionary journey (chapter 14).

## KIDS' PAGE

### *A Lord's Prayer Puzzle*

*Given by LCMS World Relief and Human Care Ministries for congregations to reproduce*

**See if you can find the whole Lord's Prayer,  
continuously winding its way through the following word search.**

O A H L L O A N V E L B E D T H H E  
U O D W E H R A A N L T M O R A T P  
R B T E Y W T M E H I H O N A S P O  
F A T H E R I N H A W Y C E E I N W  
S E R T R U O S E L D O M O N T A E  
S A S W E F O U R L G N I K S I M R  
P S S O S O R E O O E T H Y I N O A  
A E E S O H G V U W M A N U L H D N  
S S W E I T I I B E T H Y S E E G D  
T O H W V E V G R D O Y A T V A N T  
R F A D A N D F O A U T D H I V I H  
E A E R B Y L I A D R H S I G E K E  
S P A S S A G A I N S T U S A N F G  
E O N B U W H O T N I N S U E D H L  
R I T A T P M E T A T O T D A L T O  
V I L E D O M O R F O R I N A V S R  
E R U S F R E V I L M T H I N E I Y  
N E M A R E V E K N A R E V E R O F



# MAY 2013

## Pilgrim Lutheran Church

(903-984-4333)

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

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                                     | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                             | SATURDAY   |
|---|---|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
|   |   |  | <b>1</b><br>ST PHILIP & ST<br>JAMES, APOSTLES | <b>2</b><br>Pastor gone to North<br>Texas Confessional<br>Lutherans Study<br>Group in Plano                        | <b>3</b><br><br>M/M Chad Ellis (A) | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>5</b><br>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W)<br>9:15-9:30 Refreshments<br>9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class<br>10:45 AM Divine Service<br>12:30 AM Adult Instruction<br>Pastor Galler (B)<br>Robert Dutschmann (B) | <b>6</b><br>6:30 PM Pastor at<br>Rotary Board Mtg       | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b><br>7:00 PM Midweek<br>Bible Study    | <b>9</b><br>THE ASCENSION OF<br>OUR LORD<br><br>Small Church<br>Pastors' Breakfast<br>7:00 PM Ascension<br>Vespers | <b>10</b>                          | <b>11</b><br>LWML Spring<br>Workshop in Gun<br>Barrel City |
| <b>12</b><br>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W)<br>9:15-9:30 Refreshments<br>9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class<br>10:45 AM Matins<br>12:30 AM Adult Instruction (?)  | <b>13</b><br>6:00 PM LWML<br>Meeting                    | <b>14</b><br>2:00-5:00 PM<br>Cleaning Ladies<br><br>6:00 PM ELDERS         | <b>15</b><br>7:00 PM Midweek<br>Bible Study   | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>                          | <b>18</b><br><br>Newsletter articles<br>due tomorrow       |
| <b>19</b><br>THE DAY OF PENTECOST (R)<br>9:15-9:30 Refreshments<br>9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class<br>10:45 AM Divine Service<br>12:30 AM Adult Instruction<br>Steven Sampson (B)                          | <b>20</b><br><br>Joseph Smith (B)<br>Edgar Wuthrich (B) | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b><br>7:00 PM Midweek<br>Bible Study   | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>                          | <b>25</b>  |
| <b>26</b><br>THE HOLY TRINITY (W)<br>9:15-9:30 Refreshments<br>9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class<br>10:45 AM Matins<br>12:30 AM Adult Instruction (?)  | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b><br>5:30 PM Pastor<br>prays at Kilgore<br>City Council<br>Meeting | <b>29</b><br>7:00 PM Midweek<br>Bible Study   | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b><br>THE VISITATION        |  |