



## Pilgrim Lutheran Church

BROADWAY AT FLOREY KILGORE, TEXAS

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*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.*

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JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

### **Breaking the ice in the Body of Christ**

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

I will admit it: I was a preschool dropout, and I sometimes wonder if my occasional lack of social skills goes back to that fact. Preschool can be an especially important time of social development, especially for children who did not get out of their homes much and so did not have to meet and interact much with others. Perhaps that lack of background and/or my preference for introversion has kept me from being a big fan of icebreakers and team-builders, though I had to participate in and lead a lot of them, especially as a Resident Assistant (RA) in my undergraduate university's residence hall (both in RA training and in carrying out my duties on my floor and in our hall). Perhaps my consequent aversion to icebreakers and team-builders prevents me from perceiving what at times may be a legitimate need for them.

In the nearly 20 months that I have been pastor here, God has seen fit to bring to Pilgrim more than 25 new members—nearly one-third of our total baptized membership today. We thank and praise Him for His adding to His Church in this place the number of those being saved (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 11:24). He always does His part, and we always need to do ours in order to incorporate the new members into the day to day life of the congregation. ("Incorporate" is a good word, literally bringing them into the body; "assimilate" always brings to my mind the evil Borg of *Star Trek the Next Generation*.) Both existing and new members may need to step out of their comfort zones to get to know one another and develop relationships for the future. Even in a smaller congregation such as ours—and with or without an influx of new members—there is always a risk of cliques.

Some distinctions between people are necessary, such as that difference between believers and unbelievers, but divisions between believers themselves are not only unnecessary but, in fact, harmful (1 Corinthians 11:18-19). No matter our length of time in a given congregation or even the Christian faith, we are all baptized into one body and drink of one Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13), and we discern the Body of Christ that is the Church, even as we discern His body and blood in the bread and wine of the Sacrament of the Altar (1 Corinthians 11:29, a warning that flows out of precisely the kind of divisions that St. Paul by divine inspiration wrote in v.18 should not be happening).

"Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12 ESV). Regardless of and because of their uniqueness and strengths and weaknesses, individual members are each indispensable to the body as a whole. Together we care for one another, suffer when one suffers, and rejoice when one rejoices (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

*Article continues on next page.*

That figure of speech, relating the Body of Christ that is the Church with its members to a human body with its members, is one that we all somewhat readily should be able to understand, and it is used somewhat frequently in the New Testament: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 1:23; 4:4, 12, 16; 5:23, 30; Colossians 1:18; 2:19; 3:15. Recently as part of our elders study I was asked about the Old Testament's use of that figure of speech; initially I answered that I did not think the Old Testament used it, and, after some additional reading, I think that my initial answer was correct (the concept of "body" is said to have not yet been developed in Hebrew thought or language). Although God promised Abraham that a company of nations and kings would come from his own body (Genesis 35:11 ESV, though "loins" may be a better translation there; confer Hebrews 7:9-10), the figure of speech of the Church as the Body of Christ seems to come more from Greek and Roman authors who were concerned about the unity of the "body politic".

To our individual fallen bodies our God comes in the human flesh of the God-man Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. Saved by His death on the cross and His rising from the grave, we are no longer only individuals but more importantly parts of a greater whole that itself grows and reaches out to the fallen world around us. He Who gave His body for the world and now is the Head of us His body still seeks the world through us. We live wholly by Him and are united with Him and with one another, all members equally. We are brought together in this unity and see this unity most-concretely in the Sacrament of the Altar, with His body and blood (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).

Pilgrim for a long time has been, is today, and God-willing will remain a close-knit congregation. In the future let us be more "intentional" about both breaking the ice between old and new members and building relationships of familiarity and trust between the same. For example, someone has already suggested a sort of church-family game night in the Parish Hall as one of our Once-A-Month Social Outings, and I think that idea has much to commend it. Though the social that month would not be "out" *per se*, it would be less expensive for people to participate in and perhaps provide more of an opportunity for people to interact than sitting down the row from one another at a baseball game or show (not that those kind of events cannot be a part of the mix of events over the course of a year). See elsewhere in this newsletter where we have such a Family Pizza and Game Night scheduled at the church for August 16 at 6:00 p.m.

As we continue by God's grace to grow together, up, and out as a congregation, may God grant us together His unity and cohesion that reaches out in love and service to others.

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Mr and Mrs Spencer Land – July 1

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Carl Gardner – July 5

Zylan Ellis - July 13

Luke Land - July 15

David Navaille – July 18

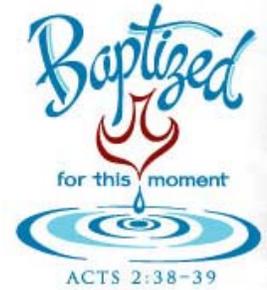
Betty Miller – July 25



## 65<sup>th</sup> Regular LCMS Convention has Pilgrim connections

The 65<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is being held July 20-25 in St. Louis, Missouri, and our members and business from our congregation will be there. Steven Sampson was elected lay-delegate from our Circuit #14 (he will be accompanied by his wife Angela), and a resolution that may go before the Convention largely reflects an overture Pilgrim's voters sent on last year. Another overture, which Steven and I were involved with at the Texas District Convention last summer, was also sent on to the Convention.

The Convention, meeting most recently once every three years, serves a number of purposes but chiefly is the Synod's principal legislative assembly. The Convention theme this year is "Baptized for this moment" and is based on Acts 2:38-39: "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.'" Four different Convention essayists will speak to delegates on aspects of that theme: "Baptized for Witness", "Baptized for Mercy", "Baptized for Life Together", and "Baptized for This Moment".



As delegates to last year's Texas District Convention, Steven Sampson and I voted electronically for LCMS President the end of June, well before the Convention begins—a change of voters and timing from previous years. At the Convention itself, Steven and Circuit #14's Pastoral-delegate, The Rev. David R. Bergman, on our behalf will vote on a number of matters brought to the floor of the Convention. Out of more than 250 overtures from districts and congregations such as ours, seven Floor Committees have already produced more than 115 resolutions for consideration (not all will make it before the Convention, however). The Floor Committees will meet again in closed and open sessions on the days right before the Convention.

Pilgrim's overture "To update the content of the Synod's 1991 *An Explanation of the Small Catechism*" is Overture 3-25 and is referred to by Resolution 3-13 "To Update Synod's Catechetical Materials". In addition to some other less-significant changes, Floor Committee #3 added to our overture some language regarding adult catechetical materials and then significantly removed language we had included regarding the approval process for any revisions. Steven and I have sent a letter to Floor Committee #3 regarding its changes to our Overture and the other one in which we have an interest.

The Texas District Convention's Resolution 02-06-12 "To Improve Availability of Information in the Call Process" was not sent by the District to the Synod in time for advance consideration by Floor Committee #3, but the matters of congregations' calling pastors and pastors without calls was brought forward in time by others. Most notably, Floor Committee #3's Resolution 3-10 calls for a task force to study the call process for returning missionaries and military chaplains and others without calls, though it is more concerned with the pastors than information available to congregations.

Information about the Convention is online. The main webpage for the Convention is at <http://www.lcms.org/convention> (reports, overtures, and resolutions are already there, and the whole Convention reportedly will be streamed there live); official Convention news can be found at <http://blogs.lcms.org/reporter>. We expect Steven to report to us when he returns, too!

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

## Two High-School Graduates Were Honored at our Church Picnic

George C. Heil and Sam Morton were honored on June 9<sup>th</sup> with a graduation picnic. George graduated from Kilgore High School and Sam from homeschooling. The congregation either wore casual clothes to church or changed after the Matins service, and then everyone headed to the park. Rain right as the service was ending and the picnic starting did not dampen the festivities too much. Everyone brought delicious side dishes, and As the afternoon went on, some visited under the shelter, and others took their life in their hands in a competitive game of wiffle ball. What a great picnic, as the pictures show!



Pilgrim's LWML society provided a beautiful cake for the occasion decorated with a hat and diploma and the words, "God's Blessings on your Graduation".



Edgar Wuthrich, Steven Sampson, and J. D. Sampson had fun while using the park's large grills to cook hamburgers and hot dogs provided by our LWML society.



Tifaney Sampson watches to see whether a big burger will fit in the small mouth of her nephew Cooper Sampson.



Emmett V finally warmed up to Pastor Galler at the picnic.

## JULY EVENTS

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. "The Theology and Practice of Prayer".

**LWML** Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**ELDERS** Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. (Prepare chapter 6 of the study.)

**ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL OUTING** Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. at the Texas Shakespeare Festival "Comedy of Errors", afterwards, dessert and discussion at Pastor's place (3321 Danville Drive, APT 304, Kilgore).

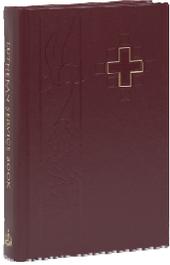
**LCMS 65<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR CONVENTION** Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> in St Louis, MO.

**VOTERS' MEETING FOLLOWING POTLUCK** Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, in the Parish Hall

**VACATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION** Pastor will leave East Texas for a period of time, which includes vacation and continuing education, from July 27<sup>th</sup> through August 13<sup>th</sup>.

**GUEST SPEAKER** Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Willmann will teach Adult Bible class and conduct our Matins service.

## Pilgrim to vote on *Lutheran Service Book* this month



At their meeting July 21<sup>st</sup>, Pilgrim voters are expected to decide whether or not to adopt for use in worship *Lutheran Service Book* (*LSB*), the hymnal put out in 2006 by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Commission on Worship in conjunction with Concordia Publishing House. The vote scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> is the result of a decision Pilgrim voters made at their April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Even before then, copies of *LSB* were available for examination, as the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study has been answering the questions “Why do Lutherans worship the way they do?” and “What about the ‘new’ hymnal?”

The Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study especially has been comparing the liturgical section of *LSB* with the corresponding sections of its predecessors—*The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941), *Lutheran Worship* (1982) and *Hymnal Supplement ’98* (1998)—and the assessments of *LSB* offered by class participants have been positive. Class participants have especially appreciated *LSB*’s giving Scripture references for the elements of the liturgy and its continuous numbering of psalms (1-150), pages of liturgy (151-330), and hymns (331-966).

While those in the class have noted some differences between the liturgies we are currently using out of *Lutheran Worship* (*LW*) and their equivalents in *LSB*, they have also realized that they are largely the same and that theoretically we could move into *LSB* today and the average worshipper would notice little to no difference. Class participants have lamented some *LSB* formatting decisions, such as the size and boldness of such things as “Stand” and “Or”, but they also have appreciated new liturgies that *LSB* offers. (Admittedly, there are liturgies in *LW* that also would be “new” to our congregation, and, regrettably, *LSB* does not include the music for The Litany, one liturgical element in *LW* that we have been learning.)

In the weeks remaining before the July 21<sup>st</sup> vote, the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study will continue to look at *LSB*, especially its hymns, said to reflect the breadth of the Church and to be drawn from every time and place. Even after the vote, the class will continue its current topic, though shifting somewhat from the question “What about the ‘new’ hymnal?” more to the question “Why do Lutherans worship the way they do?” All are welcome to listen to audio from the class online (<http://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/worship-and-lsb>) and borrow copies of *LSB*, *LW*, and *TLH* from the Parish Hall, if necessary, to follow along. If listening online is not an option, compact disc (CD) recordings of the class are available by request.

If our congregation decides to adopt *LSB* for use in worship, funds for additional pew copies and other supporting materials may need to be donated and the items purchased. Furthermore, additional time to prepare for the transition may also be desirable, so the earliest the hymnal actually would be in the pews and used in worship might be the First Sunday in Advent, December 1, 2013. If the congregation decides not to adopt *LSB* for use in worship, we will continue to use *LW*, perhaps seeking out used copies in better condition than ours.

That we are using a form of the historic Christian liturgy as we receive in the Divine Service God’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation matters most, not which synodically-approved hymnal we are using for that liturgy. A decision whether or not to change hymnals alone should hardly prompt anyone to change congregations. Let us all pray God both to direct the deliberations and the vote on this matter on July 21<sup>st</sup> and to preserve the unity of our Pilgrim congregation regardless of the vote’s outcome.

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Jayson S. Galler*

## July gives us four more Sundays after Pentecost

The month of July gives us our second full month of Sundays after Pentecost. You may recall that these Sundays are part of the half of the Church Year that focuses more on the teaching and deeds of Jesus Christ as they grow the Church, though all Jesus said and did is a part of His overall work of dying on the cross and rising from the grave to save us from our sins, of course. The colored cloths, or paraments, that adorn the furniture in the church, or the chancel furnishings, this month remain green, to bring to mind the life and growth evident in foliage and fruit. The growth evident in the Church is the result of God creating faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel.

The liturgical and calendar dates follow (according to *Lutheran Service Book's* 3-year Series C), along with descriptions and citations of the appointed Gospel Readings, which generally take us through chapter 10 and into chapter 11 of St. Luke's divinely-inspired Gospel account.

- Seventh Sunday (07/07): Jesus sends out seventy-two others (Luke 10:1-20)
- Eighth Sunday (07/14): Jesus teaches about a good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- Ninth Sunday (07/21): Jesus is welcomed by Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
- Tenth Sunday (07/28): Jesus teaches about prayer (Luke 11:1-13)



Want to see what the *Lutheran Service Book's* 3-year lectionary omitted from Luke chapter 10? Check out verses 21-24!

You may read and hear sermons preached at Pilgrim any time of the Church Year at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons>.

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## THANK YOU

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

To Steven and Angela Sampson for coordinating the T-shirts and hoodies orders.

To all who helped with VBS.

## AUGUST EVENTS

**GUEST SPEAKER** Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup> Pastor Frank Starr will teach Adult Bible Class and conduct services.

**PASTOR'S SCHEDULE** Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m., he will return from his vacation and continuing education course.

**LWML** Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**ELDERS** Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY CHURCH FAIR** Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:30 p.m.

**ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL OUTING** Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., Family, Pizza and Game night at church. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend this fun event!

## Pilgrim completes 2013 VBS “From Above”

We praise God for our successful VBS last month and offer a great big thank you to all who contributed in any way, including donating supplies and money! Sarah and Josie Land did a great job as co-directors over the whole program. Our specific leaders (in schedule order) were as follows: Pastor Galler, who led the opening and closing devotions with Danny and Sharon Sampson’s helping with skits and Sharon Sampson’s helping with music; Arcele Wilburn, who fed us delicious food each night with her daughters Brandi and Connie’s help; Barbara Wuthrich, who taught the Bible stories with the help of a wonderful skit cast consisting of Grace Morton, Hannah Morton, Sallye Key, and Josie Land; Danny Sampson, who taught the Catechism; Pastor Galler, who also taught the adult class; Tim Jeffers and Steven Sampson, who co-led play time; and Angela Sampson, who guided the children through their craft projects with the help of George Heil. We pray that, from the seeds planted, God will bring forth fruits of faith in the lives of these children!

The average attendance for the children was 8, with as many as 11 children enrolled and 30 different adults taking part in some capacity. This year’s material was a new endeavor for us and the Higher Things producers. There were no videos, cutesy songs, or premade crafts, but it all worked, by God’s grace! Some thought the children were more involved and engaged with every aspect of the school. To God be the Glory!



The 2013 VBS children prepare for their long-awaited watermelon-seed spitting contest as they pose for a group picture. From left to right, they are Zylan Ellis, Sanyia Hopkins, Cooper Sampson, Clay Ellis, Luke Land, Emma Morton, Kylee Vineyard, Ben Morton, John Morton, and Mikaela Haufler. For more cute VBS pictures, see the bulletin board in the hallway of the Parish Hall, and see the bulletin board in the main Parish Hall for posters of each day’s theme.

## July's Daily Bible Reading

1	Deut. 32:1-4 1 Sam. 28-31
2	Psalm 28 2 Sam. 1-3
3	Psalm 29 2 Sam. 4-6
4	Psalm 30 2 Sam. 7-9
5	Psalm 31 2 Sam. 10-12
6	Psalm 32 2 Sam. 13-15
7	Psalm 33 2 Sam. 16-18
8	Psalm 34 2 Sam. 19-21
9	Psalm 35 2 Sam. 22-24
10	Psalm 36 1 Kings 1-2
11	Psalm 37 1 Kings 3-6
12	Psalm 38 1 Kings 7-8
13	Psalm 39 1 Kings 9-11
14	Psalm 40 1 Kings 12-14
15	Psalm 41 1 Kings 15-17
16	Psalm 42 1 Kings 18-20
17	Psalm 43 1 Kings 21-22
18	Psalm 44 2 Kings 1-3
19	Psalm 45 2 Kings 4-6
20	Psalm 46 2 Kings 7-9
21	Psalm 47 2 Kings 10-12
22	Psalm 48 2 Kings 13-15
23	Psalm 49 2 Kings 16-18
24	Psalm 50 2 Kings 19-22
25	Psalm 51 2 Kings 23-25
26	Psalm 52 1 Chron. 1-5
27	Psalm 53 1 Chron. 6-10
28	Psalm 54 1 Chron. 11-15
29	Psalm 55 1 Chron. 16-20
30	Psalm 56 1 Chron. 21-25
31	Deut. 32:1-4 1 Chron. 26-29

The seasonal canticle for July is from the song Moses sang to the people of Israel after his final sermon. He sang it from beginning to end, but we read only the first four verses! Notice God's righteousness and how His doctrine is referred to as rain.

Through the 25th of July, we continue reading "The Former Prophets", picking up the historical narrative at Saul's demise. As we finish 1 Samuel and read all of 2 Samuel, we cover David's kingship. Reading through 1 and 2 Kings covers all the kings after David until the people went into exile.

King David is one of the most important "types" of Jesus in the Old Testament. He rules with justice, wisdom, integrity, courage, and compassion. Though he was not perfect, he was a living prophecy of Jesus. God promised David that a king from his line would rule righteously forever. God fulfilled that promise in Jesus, the Son of David, Who sits on the throne of David and surpasses His ancestor.

After David, Solomon ruled. This wise king also foreshadows Jesus, but, again, Jesus is greater than Solomon. Solomon built the Temple David wanted to build, and his dedication tells us a lot about our coming to worship where God's Name is today. The kingdom expanded then, even as God's kingdom expands today.

From such happy thoughts about the expansion of the kingdom, we next read of the division of the kingdom and the more than less-faithful "Kings" who followed in each of the book by that name's two parts. Israel, the northern kingdom, turned away from God faster and further than did Judah, the southern kingdom. (At times this narrative can be hard to follow, as it dates kings in one kingdom by referring to kings in the other.) Ultimately, despite work of prophets such as Elijah, the leaders and people of both kingdoms were exiled for their unfaithfulness, similar to the exile we deserve from God's presence on account of our sin. Their prophesied deliverance and return points to our salvation by grace through faith.

The books we read this month have unknown authors and have multiplied since their origin. The title of 1 and 2 Samuel has virtually nothing to do with Samuel as a potential author and virtually everything to do with Samuel's role in the books, and the books were originally one book with various titles. Similarly, 1 and 2 Kings were one book and do not identify its human author, who remains unknown but tradition says was Jeremiah.

On the 26th of July, we begin the first of two books that were also one book in the Hebrew Old Testament canon and came at its end: Chronicles, one of the Old Testament "Writings". The anonymous author, known as the Chronicler, drew on a number of sources, some in the canon and others that no longer survive. 1 Chronicles begins with a summary of the genealogies from creation to David's reign, and, beginning with chapter 10, the book

details David's reign through to Solomon's succession. We again see God's grace in the promise to David and the leading up to Jesus, Whose family line goes back to the tribe of Judah. We also see God's grace in the election of the Levites to serve God as priests, even as He today gives His forgiveness through pastors.



# JULY 2013

## Pilgrim Lutheran Church

www.pilgrimlc.org  
(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>  M/M Spencer Land (A)	<b>2</b> THE VISITATION	<b>3</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Carl Gardner (B)	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>8</b>  6:00 PM LWML Meeting	<b>9</b> 2:00-5:00 PM Cleaning Ladies 5:30 PM Pastor prays at Kilgore City Council Meeting 6:00 PM Elders	<b>10</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>11</b> Small Church Pastors' Breakfast	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Zylan Ellis (B)
<b>14</b> EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins	<b>15</b>  Luke Land (B)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>18</b>  David Navaille (B)	<b>19</b> Shakespeare Festival "Comedy of Errors" at 7:30 p.m	<b>20</b> Newsletter articles due tomorrow <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">LCMS Convention</div>
<b>21</b> NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>22</b> ST. MARY MAGDALENE	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> ST JAMES THE ELDER, APOSTLE Betty Miller (B)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Pastor on vacation</div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">LCMS 65<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention, St Louis MO</div>						
<b>28</b> TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15-9:30 Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins Rev Frank Starr – Guest Pastor	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Pastor Galler on vacation – an Elder will answer the church phone</div>						

