

# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

BROADWAY AT FLOREY

KILGORE, TEXAS



SEPTEMBER 2013 "PILGRIMAGE"

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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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## Christians are at least figuratively athletic competitors

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

I was grateful for the congregation granting me one week of vacation in Austin the end of July followed by one week of Continuing Education in Montana the beginning of August. However, the enjoyment of both weeks was tempered somewhat by my getting sick midway through the first week, and, as I write this one month later, my body is still battling the now-diagnosed bacterial sinus infection. The infection has been all the more frustrating in that it has put me out of my usual exercise routine at the very time I wanted to lose the weight I have gained over the past year and ramp up my conditioning for a half-marathon in San Antonio the end of November. As God permits, I am determined both to be stricter about what I eat and drink and to get back to running and swimming, especially as I reflect on Holy Scripture.

Several appointed Bible readings in our Sunday morning services recently used athletic imagery. For example, on the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we heard Jesus say to "strive" to enter salvation in the Kingdom of God through the narrow door (Luke 13:24 ESV). The Greek verb Luke used is *agonizomai*, which gives us our English word "agonize". (See also my July 29, 2012, Minister's Moment at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Ministers-Moment-2012.07.292.jpg>.) Literally, the Greek verb originally referred to entering a contest in the gymnastic games or otherwise contending with adversaries, but later the word received a transferred meaning of contending or struggling with difficulties and dangers, endeavoring with strenuous zeal, or otherwise striving to obtain something. What Jesus commands us to do He Himself enables us to do. Once God gives us saving faith in Jesus (and so also the forgiveness of our sins), we cooperate with Him in our being made holy, striving with all He gives us, against everything the Devil throws at us, in order to enter the Kingdom.

Similarly, on the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost we heard the divinely-inspired author of Hebrews exhort us to "run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1 ESV). (See also my June 6, 2012, Minister's Moment at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Ministers-Moment-2012.06.09.jpg>.) Part of running "the race that is set before us", as the author of Hebrews indicates, is laying aside "sin which clings so closely". As we turn in sorrow from our sin and trust God to forgive our sin for Jesus's sake, we also should want to do better. More specifically, we should want to stop sinning, especially to stop committing the same sin over and over and over again. We at least should want to do better, even though too often we will fail at doing better and end up again repenting and being forgiven for our failure. Such is life in the forgiveness of sins with daily repentance and faith!

*Article continues on next page.*

So, Christians are at least figuratively athletic competitors, although not everyone is able literally to compete in athletic contests or races. Nevertheless, we all are to be good stewards of our bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Most of us are capable of doing some exercise, and we all should be able to watch what we eat. Usually I try to bring fresh raw vegetables to our church potlucks, not just because I can easily pick up a ready-to-serve tray from Walmart but also because they are good for me and for everyone else! So also fresh fruit is usually served as part of the refreshments before Bible Class—we can properly nourish our bodies as we enjoy one another’s company and nourish our souls. (See also my October 13, 2013, Minister’s Moment at [http://www.pilgrimlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/20121013MinMo\\_big.jpg](http://www.pilgrimlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/20121013MinMo_big.jpg).)

Playing team sports was never one of my things (perhaps if it had been, I might play better with others now?). However, as I have grown older, I have come to enjoy exercise and individual sports. Still, my personal trainer can probably tell that, at the moments when he most challenges me to do something, I may not be all that happy with him, though I usually am later, as I reflect on the benefits of the physical training. The same may well be the case when it comes to us spiritually. St. Paul writes about God’s spiritually “training” him with physical and spiritual afflictions (2 Corinthians 10:7-10). And, as we heard on the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, the author of Hebrews writes how such discipline may be unpleasant at the time but later “yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” (Hebrews 12:11 ESV). We may be physically and/or spiritually trained as individuals, as we are saved as individuals, but we certainly can encourage one another as we undergo such training.

Watching team sports in person or on television, we might see people do such things as pray before a game and point to heaven after scoring or making some other great play. (Check out the Wikipedia.org entry for “Tebowing”!) In post-game interviews, we might even hear athletes give “all glory” to God or Jesus, and we might think highly of those athletes who do. But, for what are they giving God or Jesus “all glory”? As much as even I hate to say it, I do not think God really cares whether The University of Texas at Austin or Texas A&M wins a particular football game or other literal athletic contest. The glory God wants most is for helping us win the figurative athletic contests that result in the salvation of our souls.

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

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## *HAPPY BIRTHDAY!*

Felicity Gill – September 2

Clay Ellis – September 14

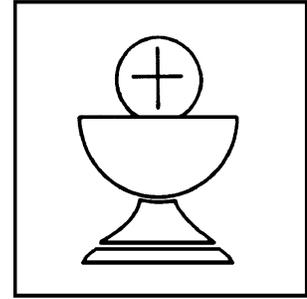
Jeanette Paetznick – September 20

Leland Dean – September 21



## How is your appetite for the Lord's Supper?

*Editors' Note: In Matthew 5:6, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (ESV). Perhaps nowhere else than in the Lord's Supper are that hunger and thirst of body and soul met, as Jesus in bread gives us His body and in wine gives us His blood—body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins and so for the very righteousness we need for eternal life and salvation. In the final three "Christian Questions with Their Answers: Drawn Up by Dr. Martin Luther for Those Who Intend to Go to the Sacrament", Dr. Luther touches on the matter of our appetite or desire for the Lord's Supper. They are reprinted below from Lutheran Worship, pp.306-307. The last answer is particularly striking, but all are consistent with what the Bible and Lutheran Confessions teach elsewhere, as in the Large Catechism on the Lord's Supper, which we studied together a year ago (see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/luthers-large-catechism-on-the-sacrament-of-the-altar>).*



18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?

That I may learn to believe that Christ died for *my* sin out of great love, as before said; and that I may also learn of Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. What should admonish and incite a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

In respect to God, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord should move him, and in respect to himself, the trouble that lies heavy on him, on account of which such command, encouragement, and promise are given.

20. But what shall a person do if he be not sensible of such trouble and feel no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

To such a person no better advice can be given than that, in the first place, he put his hand into his bosom, and feel whether he still have flesh and blood, and that he by all means believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Secondly, that he look around to see whether he is still in the world, and keep in mind that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15 and 16; 1 John 2 and 5. Thirdly, he will certainly have the devil also about him, who with his lying and murdering, day and night, will let him have no peace within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; 2 Timothy 2.

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## THANK YOU

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

To all who made the Family Pizza and Game Night a success.

To all who baked and bagged the cookies, paid for and tagged the water bottles, transported the items and people to and from, and spent their Saturday afternoon sharing their faith with the young people of LeTourneau University.

## Pilgrim greets new LeTourneau students at Church Fair

The Evangelism Committee thanks all the congregation members who baked cookies, bought water, made donations for the water or the USB drives, bagged and tagged cookies, tagged water and/or “worked” the LeTourneau Church Fair. We had a good response, particularly to the water considering it was such a hot day. We passed out water and cookies freely. We reserved the more costly but very well received and informative USB drives for those students more interested in our congregation and/or our beliefs. We spoke to three Lutheran students, some of whom were accompanied by their parents. We pray that the Holy Spirit works in all the students and their parents and the faculty to bring them to the Word and, as He wills, to hear that Word with us here at Pilgrim!



Steven Sampson, Pastor Galler, Kylee Vineyard, Tim Jeffers, and John Walker pose behind Pilgrim’s table at the LeTourneau Church Fair on Saturday, August 24. Photographer Angela Sampson and her mother, Barbara Wuthrich also represented Pilgrim but are not pictured.

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## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**BUDGET COMMITTEE** Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

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

**ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL OUTING** Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Ranger Football game against Tyler. It will be a chance to see the Apache Belles and the Rangerettes perform.

**RALLY/PROMOTION DAY** Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45 p.m. during the worship service.

**LWML** Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**ELDERS** Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**BIRTHDAY PARTY** Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. at Gregg Home in Kilgore.

**YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS** Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in Longview for mini-golf.

**POT LUCH AND BRAINSTORMING** Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, after Matins in the Parish Hall.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

## September has four more “Sundays after Pentecost” and a special “Feast”

The long season of Sundays after Pentecost continues with the first four Sundays of September, though the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels lands on a Sunday this year and, as a principal feast of Christ, takes precedence over the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

You may recall that the Sundays after Pentecost 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. For these Sundays, the colored cloths (paraments) that adorn the furniture in the church (the chancel furnishings) are 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 Feast of St. Michael and All Angels has roots that go back hundreds of years and has been a part of our LCMS calendars, even if not everyone has ever observed it before. In the fifth century, September 29<sup>th</sup> was the date on which a small basilica outside Rome was dedicated in honor of Michael, the first such dedication in Italy, though many churches elsewhere had been dedicated in his honor earlier, particularly in the East. Michael is the only archangel Scripture names. Gabriel is the only other angel Scripture names, though the Old Testament Apocrypha name Raphael and Uriel. Gradually the feast spread and the Church came to regard Michael as representative of all angels, though the part of the Feast’s name referring to the rest was not added to the name until the Anglicans did so around the time of the Reformation.



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 all of Luke chapter 14, part of Luke chapter 15 (vv.11-32, the so-called “Parable of the Prodigal Son”, was heard on the Fourth Sunday of Lent this year), and into Luke chapter 16.

- Fifteenth Sunday (09/01): Jesus heals and teaches about banqueting (Luke 14:1-14)
- Sixteenth Sunday (09/08): Jesus tells how we will bear our own crosses (Luke 14:25-35)
- Seventeenth Sunday (09/15): Jesus teaches two “lost” parables (Luke 15:1-10)
- Eighteenth Sunday (09/22): Jesus tells the Parable of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1-15)
- St. Michael and All Angels (09/29): Children’s angels see God (Matthew 18:1-11)

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

## Members enjoy family game night in August



Edgar Wuthrich tries to win a point for the men's team in the impromptu game of "Bible Pictionary" at the Family, Pizza and Game Night on Friday, August 16. The women ended up only one point behind, but only because Angela Sampson ran out of time with Pastor Galler's most-difficult slip in the game, "The exiles rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem". In all, 22 members and friends enjoyed food and friendly competition in a variety of games at the Once-a-month Social Outing for August. September's event is a Kilgore College Rangers Football Game on September 7 at 7:00 p.m.

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

**PILGRIM'S TITUS FUND:** Thank you for all who have generously contributed, but the fund still needs more help. The Titus Fund provides Pastor Galler money to help, at his discretion, those in need who come to him for help. If you are so moved, please write a check with the notation "Titus Fund" on the memo line and place it in the offering plate.

**HELPING HANDS OF KILGORE:** Items needed for September

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| * Crackers                   | * Soap and Shampoo |
| * Dishwashing Soap           | * Peanut Butter    |
| * Socks (for our bus riders) | * Plastic bags     |
| * Lunchmeat                  | * Canned Fruit     |



A container for your donations is located in Pilgrim's 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. Note that Helping Hands no longer has a clothing closet (Hope's Closet in Kilgore does free clothing assistance, and they did not want to compete with them). Beginning in September, Helping Hands will be using the area that was a clothing room for SNAP/Food Stamp and Medicaid applications. If you know of someone who could use this assistance, send them their. Also, a United Fund of Kilgore fundraiser will be held on September 14, and Helping Hands is looking for some people to bake homemade bread for that. If you or someone you know would like to help in this matter, please call 903-984-1796 or email [kilgorehelpinghands@hotmail.com](mailto:kilgorehelpinghands@hotmail.com).

## September's Daily Bible Reading

1	1 Chr. 29:10-13 Job 31-33
2	Psalm 86 Job 34-36
3	Psalm 87 Job 37-39
4	Psalm 88 Job 40-42
5	Psalm 89 Proverbs 1-3
6	Psalm 90 Proverbs 4-7
7	Psalm 91 Proverbs 8-10
8	Psalm 92 Proverbs 11-13
9	Psalm 93 Proverbs 14-16
10	Psalm 94 Proverbs 17-19
11	Psalm 95 Proverbs 20-22
12	Psalm 96 Proverbs 23-25
13	Psalm 97 Proverbs 26-28
14	Psalm 98 Proverbs 29-31
15	Psalm 99 Ecclesiastes 1-3
16	Psalm 100 Ecclesiastes 4-6
17	Psalm 101 Ecclesiastes 7-9
18	Psalm 102 Ecclesiastes 10-12
19	Psalm 103 Song of Solomon 1-4
20	Psalm 104 Song of Solomon 5-8
21	Psalm 105 Jeremiah 1-3
22	Psalm 106 Jeremiah 4-6
23	Psalm 107 Jeremiah 7-9
24	Psalm 108 Jeremiah 10-12
25	Psalm 109 Jeremiah 13-15
26	Psalm 110 Jeremiah 16-18
27	Psalm 111 Jeremiah 19-22
28	Psalm 112 Jeremiah 23-25
29	Psalm 113 Jeremiah 26-28
30	1 Chr. 29:10-13 Jeremiah 29-31

In September the seasonal canticle is recorded in 1 Chronicles and is from King David's prayer of praise to God at the donation of supplies for the building of the first temple. As David confesses that all things, even his own, come from God, we confess the same truth as we give to God an offering of what He entrusts to our care.

On the first four days of September, we finish reading the book of Job. One of the so-called "wisdom" books, Job gives us a good understanding of God's justice in light of human suffering. At times we feel, as did Job, that God is only wrathful towards us, but grace is always there. God's answer to a somewhat impertinent Job in chapters 38-41 helps us keep the right perspective when we want to ask God those seemingly unanswerable questions.

September 5-14, Proverbs, another wisdom book, is our central focus. Many of these short, pithy and practical sayings are from King Solomon; 1 Kings 3 tells how Solomon prayed to God for wisdom, and 1 Kings 4:32 tells of his ability to speak proverbs. The "wisdom" so often described is the result of reverence (fear) for God. Jesus personifies Wisdom, and we read of His summoning us to His banquet: "Come, eat of My bread, and drink of the wine I have mixed" (Proverbs 9:5 ESV). That statement points to Christ's invitation in His Holy Supper! Note the testimonial to women in 31:10-31.

For four days in the middle of the month, we read Ecclesiastes. King Solomon may also have authored this look at the measure of human beings, though the author's name is not directly given in the book. Human wisdom cannot figure out God's larger purposes or the meaning of our existence: it all seems meaningless, but life centered on God has purpose and meaning.

Next in September we spend two days with another "wisdom" book, Song of Songs (that is, the greatest of songs), also called Song of Solomon (which could be simply a song about Solomon—Solomon's authorship is debated). In this dialog between the beloved and the lover, with comments from friends interspersed, one notes "The subtle delicacy with which [the author] evokes sensuous awareness while avoiding crude titillation". While the book can be taken to endorse marital love in all its beauty, its most edifying use accents God's love for His people, giving us an Old Testament picture of the Church as the Bride of Christ, a figure of speech St. Paul also uses by Divine inspiration in Ephesians 5, with clear references to the role of Baptism ("the washing of water by the Word") making the Church holy.

Lastly in September we begin the book of Jeremiah, one of the longest in the Bible, and one of the so-called "latter prophets". Jeremiah prophesied of God's coming judgment upon the people of Judah and its capital, Jerusalem. Yet, he also foretells of the people's release and return from exile to their land. He prophesies of Christ and His kingdom,

especially in the 23rd and the 31st chapter, which latter chapter finishes off this month's readings. Especially notable in Jeremiah 31 is the promise of the new covenant under which God forgives sins and changes minds and hearts through His Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Jeremiah 1:5 is an important text used in Biblical arguments against abortion.

## Input sought on use of Pilgrim's two new lots

Now that Pilgrim owns the two lots adjacent to the existing church property, everyone's input is being sought on what to do with them, and right now there are two primary ways to give that input.

First, everyone is welcome to submit to the church office names of people or companies that we should contact to see if they are interested in working with us on our project. You may know someone or know someone who knows someone. Please give names and contact information to the church office as soon as possible.

Second, a potluck and brainstorming session is planned for Sunday, September 22, after Matins. Mark your calendar now and be thinking about what you might like to see done with the property and maybe even in a new building. For brainstorming purposes, consider the sky the limit and reserve criticism and judgment for the purpose of generating ideas.

Let us pray God to guide our plans so that what is done best serves His Kingdom in this place!



Rust Excavation in mid-August cleared the newer of the two additional lots adjacent to the existing church property and graded the two lots to the same level. What is currently a city street running alongside the front lot to the back lot is in the foreground of the picture.

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## MILLIONAIRE PIE

*Editors' Note: We like to include in the newsletter recipes that were enjoyed at recent potluck meals. The following is one Olene Herricks submitted for a dessert enjoyed on July 21<sup>st</sup>.*

- 1 8 oz. Cool Whip
- ½ cup coconut
- 18 oz. Eagle Brand Milk
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 1 small can crushed pineapple (drained)
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 2 nine inch prepared graham cracker crusts



Mix the first six ingredients and pour into crusts. If needed, freeze for a later date. 6 inch pie shells make thicker pies. Strawberries may be used for a different version.

## 2013 Synodical Convention Report

Pastor David R. Bergman, Pastoral Delegate, Texas District Circuit 14

The 65th regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod convened at the America's Center convention complex in St. Louis, Missouri, on Saturday, July 20, 2013, under the theme **“Baptized for This Moment.”** At the opening Divine Service of Holy Communion, President Matthew Harrison preached on the convention theme from Acts 2:37-41, reminding the congregation that *“those first-century Jews crucified Christ in your name, in your stead. If you are not a hardboiled sinner just like the rest of us, then you might as well leave right now, because Jesus is not for you. Jesus Himself said, you see, ‘I came not for the righteous who have no need to repent, but for sinners.’ Baptized sinners, that’s what you are... Together we’re in the water, sink or swim. Now let’s get about the business of getting the world wet. It’s all in the water. We’re baptized for this moment.”*



In attendance were almost 1200 pastoral and lay delegates from the thirty-five districts of our Synod, as well as advisory delegates and guests for a total registration of 1500. I thank you for the privilege of representing Circuit 14 as the Pastoral Delegate; our Lay Delegate was Steven Sampson of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Kilgore.

The convention work schedule began on Sunday morning following the service of Matins. Each session was opened with inspirational and devotional worship services from *Lutheran Service Book*, led by various pastors. In addition, each morning session also included an essay on the convention theme.

The convention is the legislative body of our LCMS, which elects officers and acts on resolutions. Formerly the first order of business was the election of Synod President. However, the 2010 convention changed that, putting in place a process through which the President is elected by internet ballot prior to the convention. This makes possible greater participation by the congregations of Synod in this important election. Pastor Harrison was re-elected with 4,262 votes out of 6,432 ballots cast (66.26%).

In voting for Vice-Presidents, First VP Herbert Mueller was re-elected on the first ballot. Other VP's elected: Great Lakes Region: John Wohlrabe of St. Francis, Wisconsin, 2nd VP; Central Region: Daniel Preus of St. Louis, Missouri, 3rd VP; West-Southwest Region: Scott Murray of Houston, Texas, 4th VP; Great Plains Region: Nabil Nour of Armour, South Dakota, [born in Nazareth, Israel] 5th VP; and Robert Kuhn of Oviedo, Florida, 6th VP. Other elections followed for Synod entities, commissions and university regents. Elections took up a lot of time but electronic balloting made it fast and accurate. The election process has blessed us with godly leaders on all levels who are committed to faithfully work together in our beloved Synod.

One of the most joyful times during the convention was the endorsement of Altar and Pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Church of Liberia and the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The convention rejoiced in the growing mutual relationships our Synod shares with other world Lutherans who are looking to our LCMS for support in sound Biblical education for pastors and adopted a resolution to highlight and strengthen the Global Seminary Initiative. Another resolution supports discussion with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS] and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] in our nation.

Convention committee work was categorized according to the theme of *Witness, Mercy and Life Together*. Resolutions addressed the Biblical teaching on sexuality, marriage and the

*Article continues on next page.*

family, proper roles of men and women in the Church, the issue of women in military combat, supervision and evaluation of the SMP [Specific Ministry Pastor] program and the Licensed Lay Deacon program, the ministry of our Lutheran Schools, election procedures for university presidents and the selection of seminary faculty, continuing education for pastors, and urging the completion of a Synod-wide study of “The Theological Statement of Mission for the 21st century. The convention commended the work of LCMS Disaster Response, the Synod’s mercy arm that reaches out with Christ’s love in times of emergency, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services on their 75th anniversary, and the work of Lutheran Social Services.

Other resolutions dealt with numerous by-law changes, including left-over matters remaining from the extensive 2010 restructuring of Synod, adopted principles for evaluating viability of districts, addressed the office of Circuit Counselor (reverting to the older title of “Circuit Visitor”), allowed districts and circuits to explore the use of e-meeting technology, urged responsible internet use by congregations, and commended support for the Wittenberg Project, looking toward the Quincentennial celebration of the Reformation in 2017. Recognizing that we live in a turbulent and difficult time of conflicting religious views, the convention adopted a resolution encouraging participation in the *Koinonia Project*, the synodwide effort launched in 2010 to bring greater harmony to our life together in the Church so that we may make bold, courageous and unified witness to the truth of the Gospel.

Many issues were brought before the convention but not all were addressed by resolution. At all times discussion was timely, thoughtful and respectful. The prevailing mood was one of unity and joy in our ministry together as forgiven sinners **“Baptized for This Moment,”** serving our Savior at our wide-ranging locations and through our various vocations. Pray for God’s blessing that in the coming years we of the LCMS may be kept on the path of faithful service in true unity under the Gospel for our ministry of **“Witness, Mercy, and Life Together!”**

## **2013 Synodical Convention Report**

Steven Sampson, Lay Delegate, Texas District Circuit 14

As the Lay delegate from Texas District Circuit 14, I was honored to attend the 65th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The convention started on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at the America’s Center in St. Louis, Missouri. At the worship service that night, President Matthew Harrison preached a powerful sermon on the convention theme, Baptized for This Moment, reminding us that we are all forgiven sinners gathered together in Christ’s Church.

As the convention progressed, I was reassured by the amicable discussion of opposing ideas. The many resolutions passed sought to strengthen our Synod. I was particularly pleased to see that a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Oversight Committee was established so we can try harder to prevent abuses from taking place. Voting for officers was a tedious task, but it ran smoothly due to the electronic voting devices.

Throughout the Convention, there were several activities planned for the delegates. My wife, Angela Sampson, and I thoroughly enjoyed them. The delegate dinner was quite nice. I also very much enjoyed our trip to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. The grounds were beautiful, and there is such a sense of history there. I recommend the trip if you are ever in the area.

In conclusion, I urge all lay members to prayerfully consider offering their names for nomination to any of the Synod’s conventions. Attending is a moving experience, and seeing the inner workings of the church body gives one a deeper appreciation of who we are. While disagreements do exist in our Synod, the Church is Christ’s, and He will lead it where He wants it.



## East Texas Literacy Council seeks your help

The East Texas Literacy Council needs tutors to help adult clients increase reading, math, writing, and English as a Second Language skills and thereby achieve life-changing personal goals, such as reading to a child, getting a job, helping a child with homework, and communicating in English. Are you willing to share your time and ability with others? Find out more in their Fast Track Tutor Training on Saturday, September 14, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. To register or find out more, call 903-757-9302. Changing someone else's life will change yours, too!

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## OCTOBER EVENTS

**LWML EAST TEXAS ZONE FALL RALLY** Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Pilgrim.

**LWML SUNDAY** October 6<sup>th</sup>, during Divine Service.

**ELDERS** Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**BLOOD DRIVE** Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL OUTING** Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, pizza after church and then bowling at the Kilgore Lanes.

**LWML** Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**FALL FEST/PUMPKIN PATCH** Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

**POT LUCK AND VOTERS' MEETING** Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the service, which will include a Farewell and God-speed to George C. Heil.

**JOINT REFORMATION VESPERS SERVICE** Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. with Our Redeemer here at Pilgrim.

### For the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

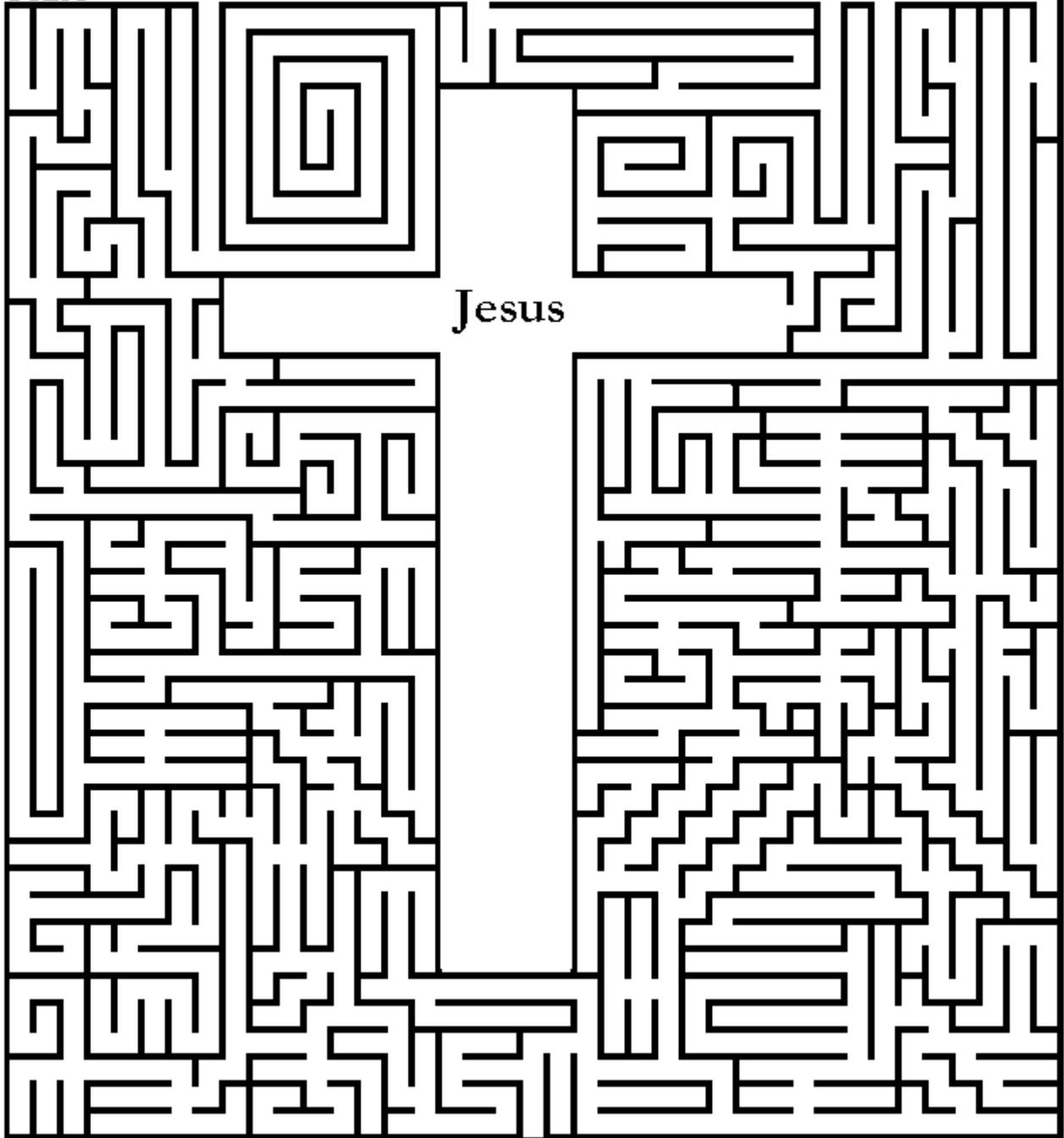
He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.  
You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

(Psalm 91:11-13ESV)

# KIDS' PAGE

In a world of confusion, Jesus is the clear choice.

**Start**



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<http://www.coultervillechristian.com/kidzkorner/funpages.html>



# SEPTEMBER 2012

Pilgrim Lutheran Church (903-984-4333)

Cleaning Volunteers:  
Steven and Angela Sampson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <i>Labor Day</i>	<b>2</b> Noon Ministerial Alliance Lunch 2:00-5:00 PM Pastor in his study 6:00 PM Pastor at Rotary Board Mtg.	<b>3</b> 9:00-11:50 AM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>4</b> Pastor gone to North Texas Confessional Lutherans Study Group in Plano	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
					9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	
<b>7</b> 14 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service w/ Com.	<b>8</b> 6:00 PM LWML Meeting	<b>9</b> 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Elders Meeting	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>11</b> <b>Small Church Pastors Breakfast</b>	<b>12</b> HOLY CROSS DAY Clay Ellis (B)	<b>13</b>
			9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study			
<b>14</b> 15 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study	<b>17</b> 9:00-11:50 AM Pastor in his study 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>18</b> Circuit Pastor's Conference (?) LWML Birthday Party at Gregg Home (time TBA)	<b>19</b> ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST Leland Dean (B)	<b>20</b> Newsletter articles due tomorrow <i>First day of Fall</i>
					9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study	
<b>21</b> 16 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service w/ Com.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5:00-8:00 PM Pastor in his study	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
			9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pastor in his study			
<b>28</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			