

# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

BROADWAY AT FLOREY

KILGORE, TEXAS



February 2017  
*THE 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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## **Our world and congregation may change, but God does not**

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Even before I was installed at Pilgrim more than five years ago, the Board of Elders at the time surprised me by offering immediately to change whatever I wanted to change. For my part, I was not really interested in immediately changing anything. Rather, I wanted the conduct of the Divine Service and congregational life as much as possible to continue on as it had been for at least one year before we changed anything of substance and then to proceed very slowly and deliberately, and for the most part we did exactly that.

Before the first year was out, we did remodel the Sanctuary, but we only did so then in order for its rededication to coincide with the congregation's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After more than one year, we changed settings of the Divine Service within *Lutheran Worship* (and since then we have continued to change Settings on an annual basis, which included introducing what *Lutheran Service Book* calls Setting Two and Setting Four, which we knew would be unfamiliar to some people). Also in that second year, we reintroduced the Chalice, after an absence caused by theft, for those who wished to commune from the common cup. After more than two years, we switched to *Lutheran Service Book* and to the English Standard Version, the latter of which the congregation had already been using *de facto* with purchased bulletin inserts and Sunday School material. At the same time we began offering the Sacrament of the Altar pretty much every Sunday. And, most recently, we ceased offering corporate "absolution" as part of the preparatory rite before the Divine Service to better encourage people to receive individual absolution, arguably the only kind of absolution that the Lutheran Confessions understand from Holy Scripture. While I do not think that we have changed too many major things too quickly, I understand, of course, that others may think differently, especially if there had been no real change for the preceding 20-year vacancy and if people were not prepared for all of the little things that inevitably change with a different pastor.

Over that same period of time, new faces came into the congregation, and familiar faces left in one fashion or another. Similarly, oil and gas prices were up and down, which contributed to other changes in our communities and the world around us and to various stresses in our lives. Yet, to a great extent, such is the nature of our lives in this world. I am reminded of the line in the 1982 song "New World Man" off the Canadian rock-band Rush's album "Signals", "He's not concerned with yesterday / He knows constant change is here today".

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Such constant change all around us truly can be quite wearisome! Amid such manifold “changes and chances” of this passing world, three different Collects of the Church direct us to fix our hearts “where true joys are found” and to find our rest in God and in His changeless peace (Collect #L45 and #171, which are not found in the pew edition of *LSB*, and Collect #416, found on *LSB* 257). That God does not change (Psalm 102:26-27) notably serves both to warn the wicked of God’s unchangeable wrath (Mark 9:48) and to comfort the pious with God’s never-departing grace (Isaiah 54:10). People who like to think that God’s law has changed over time (for example, homosexuality may have been wrong *then*, but it is okay *now*) do not realize that by creating uncertainty about God’s Word they undermine their own assurance of salvation (for example, if we cannot be sure about God’s law, how can we be sure about His Gospel?).

As long as God grants that I faithfully pastor this congregation, I will do my best to see that the congregation does not change in regards to faithfully preaching God’s unchanging law and Gospel and administering His unchanging Sacraments. More-substantive and less-substantive changes both that the Board of Elders and I have initiated in the past, including our recent change regarding corporate “absolution”, and that we may initiate in the future have been and will be to increase our faithfulness to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Rest assured, we have no intention of changing such things as the historic liturgy and hymnody for the purported purpose of attracting more members (a purpose some would say empirically fails). As we are faithful, God will grant numerical growth if and as He sees fit.

“Digital Man”, another Rush song off that same 1982 album, ironically remarks “Constant change is here to stay”, and at least in this lifetime that is true. God willing, our local economy will continue to improve. God willing, we will soon have a new Parish Hall with Sunday School Classrooms and so should be able to expand our programs for our members and the community. God willing, we will soon have a streamlined and more flexible congregational structure under a new Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules, thanks to lots of work by a few individuals, especially in the past few weeks. God willing, more new faces will come to Pilgrim than familiar faces will go from Pilgrim. Our world and some things about our congregation may change, but God does not. His unchanging law in this lifetime will continue to indict us of our sin, and His unchanging Gospel will continue to forgive all those who repent and believe, for the sake of Jesus’s death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, and Scripture also says that He is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

“Change and decay in all around I see; / O Thou Who changes not, abide with me.”

*(LSB 878:4 lines 3-4)*

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

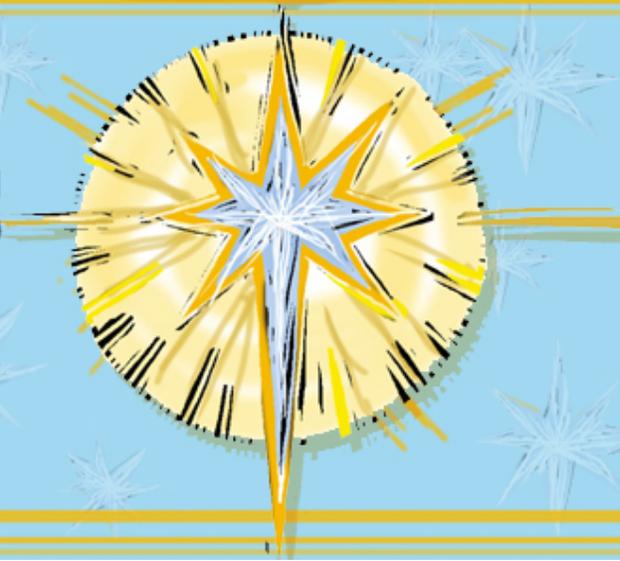
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## *HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!*

03 – Brandy Ellis  
14 – Jerome Key  
15 – Carolyn Morton  
18 – Danny Sampson  
19 – Heaven Chiasson



# Epiphany 2017: Miraculous means reveal the Incarnate God



In a series of ten fictional books starting with *Joshua* (1983), author and retired Roman Catholic priest Joseph F. Girzone imagined Jesus Christ's returning to earth and living as a carpenter in at least one small town, where He transformed people's lives with random acts of kindness. Although the premise of the book goes against what the Bible teaches of Jesus's final return in glory, among other things, it touches on the question about how one might have recognized Jesus as the Son of God in human flesh when He was first on the earth and living as at least the legal Son of a carpenter. Since there was nothing about His normal appearance to attract us to Him (Isaiah 53:2), Divine revelation and His words and deeds were the only way for people to know then, even as they are the only way for us to know now. Indeed, as we hear in the season of Epiphany (which means a "showing forth" or "revealing"), Divine revelation and Jesus's own words and miraculous deeds revealed Him as God in human flesh then and reveal Him as God in human flesh now. For us, Divine revelation in Holy Scripture tells of the past words and deeds, and Scripture with visible means—water in Holy Baptism, the pastor's words and actions in Holy Absolution, and bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar—are His means of working miraculous deeds in our time, such as bringing us to repent and believe that His death on the cross saves us from our sins.

The following are the remaining 2017 "green" Sundays in the Season of Epiphany and their Gospel Readings (appointed by *Lutheran Service Book's* three-year lectionary series A, which largely uses the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew).

- Fifth Sunday (2/05): Jesus preaches about the greatest righteousness (Matthew 5:13-20)
- Sixth Sunday (2/12): Jesus clarifies understanding about God's law (Matthew 5:21-37)
- Seventh Sunday (2/19): Jesus preaches about true perfection (Matthew 5:38-48)

Perhaps the only time there really was something about Jesus's appearance that showed Him to be God in human flesh was His Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9). In keeping with Lutheran practice dating back to the Reformation, the last Sunday in Epiphany is always celebrated as The Transfiguration of our Lord (February 26th, this year).

You are always welcome at Pilgrim in person, but you are also welcome to read and hear online the sermons at Pilgrim from the Season of Epiphany at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons>.

*Pastor Galler*

*The image was adapted by Carla Adsit using an uncredited image found at <http://www.trinity-mt.org/images/stories/Church%20Year/epiphany.jpg>.*

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** is every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. We continue with our study of how “Salvation History is Our Story”. All are welcome to be present in person or to listen later online at [www.pilgrimlc.org](http://www.pilgrimlc.org).

**WORK DAYS:** Plan to come to work on the new Parish Hall with Sunday School Classrooms every Saturday that you can beginning at 9:00 a.m. We may be able to paint as early as February 4<sup>th</sup>, but there is also plenty of other work to do going forward, including installing the cabinets and laying the flooring. Many hands make light work!

**“AGING AND DYING WELL IN CHRIST JESUS”** is the theme for the Annual Circuit #14 Retreat, Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine. The Rev. Dr. Weise, Professor Emeritus, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, has titled the day’s four sessions as follows: “Aging IN Christ: A Life of Fruitful Labor and Service”, “Dying Well IN Christ Jesus: The Tension”, “Physician-Assisted Suicide: Not A Picking and Choosing”, and “Always to Care and Take Care: Bearing the Burden”. He anticipates using case studies to introduce each theme and addressing practical questions that clergy and laity alike face as they deal with family-members’ and their own aging and deaths. Registration is \$20 per person and includes abundant refreshments and a delightful and hearty lunch. You can register at the door beginning about 8:30 a.m.

**HIGHER THINGS “WE CONFESS” unCONFERENCE:** College students and young adults can participate online in an evening of confessing the faith, apologetics, and hearing how to bring the Gospel to people with a number of different worldviews. For more information and to register, go to [www.higherthings.org/we-confess-2017](http://www.higherthings.org/we-confess-2017).

**ONCE-A-MONTH SOCIAL GATHERING:** We are tentatively planning either a Super Bowl Party Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Watts’ home OR a Game Night on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Wuthriches. Watch the bulletin, email, and Facebook for details.

**QUILTING BEE** is Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

**LWML MEETING AND SUPPER** is after Quilting, Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

**SPECIAL ELDERS MEETING** for considering the proposed Constitution and Bylaws will be Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

**YOUTH CATECHESIS** is Saturdays February 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in Pastor’s Study (not February 4<sup>th</sup>, due to the Circuit Retreat).

**SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING** for considering the proposed Constitution and Bylaws will be Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, after the Divine Service.

**“THE ARTICLE” OF JUSTIFICATION** is the theme of the 2017 Steadfast Lutherans Conference to be held February 17-18 at Zion Lutheran Church in Tomball, TX. Registration includes meals and childcare but is limited to only 250 participants. For more information and to register, go to [www.steadfastlutherans.org/2017conf](http://www.steadfastlutherans.org/2017conf).

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for the March *Pilgrimage* are due Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ELDERS** Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.(date of meeting changed, due to the regular date falling on Valentine’s Day).

|    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Luke 2:29-32    |
|    | Exodus 1-3      |
| 2  | Psalm 59        |
|    | Exodus 4-6      |
| 3  | Psalm 60        |
|    | Exodus 7-9      |
| 4  | Psalm 61        |
|    | Exodus 10-12    |
| 5  | Psalm 62        |
|    | Exodus 13-15    |
| 6  | Psalm 63        |
|    | Exodus 16-18    |
| 7  | Psalm 64        |
|    | Exodus 19-21    |
| 8  | Psalm 65        |
|    | Exodus 22-24    |
| 9  | Psalm 66        |
|    | Exodus 25-27    |
| 10 | Psalm 67        |
|    | Exodus 28-30    |
| 11 | Psalm 68        |
|    | Exodus 31-33    |
| 12 | Psalm 69        |
|    | Exodus 34-36    |
| 13 | Psalm 70        |
|    | Exodus 37-38    |
| 14 | Psalm 71        |
|    | Exodus 39-40    |
| 15 | Psalm 72        |
|    | Leviticus 1-3   |
| 16 | Psalm 73        |
|    | Leviticus 4-6   |
| 17 | Psalm 74        |
|    | Leviticus 7-9   |
| 18 | Psalm 75        |
|    | Leviticus 10-12 |
| 19 | Psalm 76        |
|    | Leviticus 13-15 |
| 20 | Psalm 77        |
|    | Leviticus 16-18 |
| 21 | Psalm 78        |
|    | Leviticus 19-21 |
| 22 | Psalm 79        |
|    | Leviticus 22-24 |
| 23 | Psalm 80        |
|    | Leviticus 25-27 |
| 24 | Psalm 81        |
|    | Numbers 1-3     |
| 25 | Psalm 82        |
|    | Numbers 4-6     |
| 26 | Psalm 83        |
|    | Numbers 7-9     |
| 27 | Psalm 84        |
|    | Numbers 10-12   |
| 28 | Luke 2:29-32    |
|    | Numbers 13-15   |

## Daily Bible Reading prompts nine new Q&A

As I continue to encourage everyone connected with Pilgrim to be in God’s Word on a daily basis by following the Daily Lectionary from our former hymnal, *Lutheran Worship* (pp.295-299), reprinted at left and available in larger-print copies in the Narthex, I am especially pleased that more people are doing so. As a result of such reading God’s Word daily, a number of questions were asked via email about January’s reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark and Genesis, which questions I answer below for everyone’s benefit.

**Q: Regarding Mark 10:1-12, is there ever any time when divorce is acceptable, such as with an abusive relationship, etc.?**

A: Your “law” question is very much like that of the Pharisees in Mark 10:1-12, and I will suggest that the short answer regarding God’s intent for marriage is Jesus’s answer to them in that passage, which quotes Genesis 1:27 and 2:24. That said, the problem as Jesus describes it is not so much with the separation of divorce as with the joining of the usually-following “remarriage”. In Mark 10:1-12 and Luke 16:18, Jesus clearly says any and all such “remarriage” after divorce is adultery, and St. Paul seems to teach the same thing in 1 Corinthians 7; the less-clear Matthew 5:31-32 and 19:1-12 should be understood in light of those more-clear passages, not the other way around. Yet, in 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, the Divinely-inspired St. Paul seems to expect that there will be times when husbands and wives will separate from one another, surely including the kind of cases you mentioned where one spouse is verbally or physically abusive to the other, but note well that the options are to remain “unmarried” or else be reconciled to the original spouse. The Good News, is that God provides the grace needed to live “unmarried” as circumstances may dictate (see Matthew 19:10-12; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24; and 2 Corinthians 12:1-10).

**Q: Regarding Mark 10:18, why does Jesus, Who is God and man, say to the man “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone”?**

A: To be absolutely sure why Jesus said that, of course, you would have to ask Jesus Himself! Our Synod’s more-recent self-study Bible suggests Jesus “changes the focus from the man’s words to who God is” (*TLSB*, 1678). I might suggest that Jesus is trying to lead the man to recognize that He is God, Who is good. Other commentators suggest similar things, including distinguishing between the “law” question the man asked about what *he could do* to inherit (essentially “earn”) eternal life and the “Gospel” answer that

Jesus gives about the nature of God, *Who alone gives* salvation as a gracious gift.

**Q: Regarding Mark 10:23, all blessings, spiritual and material, come from God, so why can we not enjoy them to enter heaven? Am I reading this verse correctly or is Jesus trying to make a different point?**

A: To be sure, Jesus does *not* say that those who have wealth *cannot* enter the Kingdom of God. Rather, Jesus says that those who have wealth enter the Kingdom of God *with difficulty*. Money

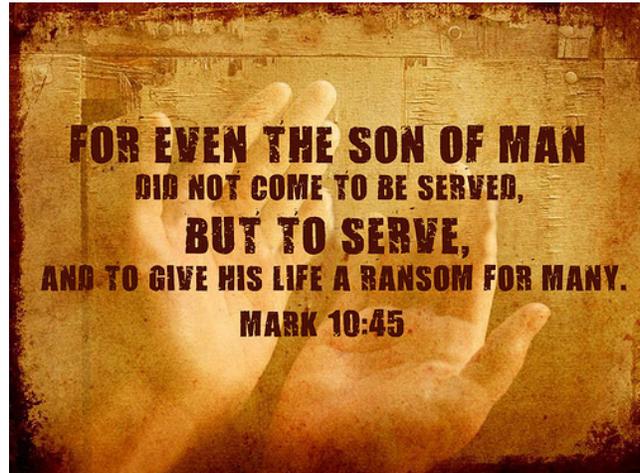
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itself is *not* the root of all evil, but *the love of money* is (1 Timothy 6:10). We want to have the right regard for money and possessions that is less than our right regard for God and His Church, and we want to let that right regard for God and His Church direct how we use our money and possessions (see, for example, the various teachings in Luke 16).

**Q: Regarding Mark 10:35-45, what makes the sons of Zebedee think that they should be able to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus?**

A: A short answer is that James and John at that point were full of presumptive pride! While there were Biblical precedents for Jesus's royal ancestors' putting people in such positions of honor on either side of their thrones, Jesus's rule on earth was one not of such glory but of the cross, where the Father granted thieves to be on Jesus's right and left (for example, Mark 15:27). Jesus had dealt harshly with such pride among the Pharisees, but He deals with James and John gently, contrasting being served with serving. Jesus came to serve by giving His life as a ransom for all, and we His followers should strive likewise to serve, living in His forgiveness for all the times we will fail.



**Q: Regarding Mark 11:24, should I only be praying for spiritual blessings from God? Am I praying incorrectly when I pray for things that are physical things?**

A: We can and should pray for spiritual blessings in full confidence, knowing that God wants to give them to us, for He has so revealed to us that will. We can and should pray for material blessings according to God's will, which will He has not revealed to us in each and every specific case. The Holy Spirit can use even the teaching about prayer both as law showing us our failure to pray as we are commanded and as Gospel that assures us God not only promises to answer our prayer but knows what we need and gives it to us even without our prayer (see, for example, the Small Catechism's explanation of the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer).

**Q: Are there modern day "scribes" as described in Mark 12:38-40? I think they exist at a certain university.**

A: I am not exactly sure at which university you think such scribes may exist, but, to the extent that anyone sees their position as leading to others' serving them instead of their serving others, then Jesus's indictment of the scribes of His day applies to him or her. Our Synod's more-recent self-study Bible suggests, "Clergy especially need to listen to Jesus at this point," and no doubt there is truth in that statement. At the same time, however, Jesus's indictment of the scribes for vainly wearing long robes, sitting prominently in the synagogue, etc., does not in and of itself rule out the use of any and all vestments or seats known as "sedilla" in the Divine Service and Chancel.

**Q: Please explain Mark 16:17-18. I am pretty sure that I still cannot just drink poison without dying.**

A: I would not bet that you can just drink poison without dying! Jesus is describing miraculous

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signs pointing to Christ that accompanied the apostles and others as they preached the law and Gospel by His authority and in accordance with His will in a time before the New Testament was recorded and widely accepted, proving its truth and power (see, for example, Acts 28:1-6, and note how even that sign was subject to sinful misinterpretation). The Scriptures do not indicate that God will give all Christians in every time and place the kind of special miraculous gifts Jesus describes, but the Holy Spirit gives such blessings according to His good pleasure. In our time, the New Testament message has its own credibility, and God uses the Sacraments as the only miraculous signs we arguably need.

**Q: In Genesis 12:10-20, when Pharaoh took Sarah from Abraham as one of his wives, was that marriage binding or consummated? Or did God show his displeasure before it had gotten to that point?**



A: I think we would say that God showed his displeasure by way of the “great plagues” before there was a binding or consummated union between Pharaoh and Sarai (how exactly Pharaoh figured the matter out we are not told). Following earlier commentators, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther points to a royal custom of both keeping maidens under guard and anointing them with myrrh and other perfumes for perhaps as long as a year before they were brought to the bed of the king (see AE 2:304-305). Perhaps that practice also proved the maidens were not pregnant before they came into the king’s house! Regardless, despite Abram’s lack of faith, God seems to have preserved Sarai and used the whole incident to humble Abram and to bless His chosen Messianic line.

**Q: Why was the land transaction for the burial of Sarah recorded in Genesis 23 so important?**

A: At a minimum, Abraham’s purchasing a burial plot in the Promised Land confesses his faith that God will fulfill His promises to Abraham regarding that Land, especially since at the time the plot was purchased was not yet in his possession. (The formal negotiations according to the custom of the day are quite interesting, too.) Other patriarchs and matriarchs similarly confessed their faith, as Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, and Jacob also were buried there. In our time when so many cremate loved ones’ remains and in some cases then also scatter their ashes, we should note well Abraham’s concern for his wife’s remains and regard his burying them as a confession also of his sure and certain hope that God would resurrect her body on the Last Day and reunite them for eternal life. Under normal circumstances, we do best to follow Abraham’s example by burying our own and loved ones’ remains.

Everyone’s questions about the Bible are always welcome, whether or not you are even following the reading schedule we are reproducing. Ask me in the format best for you! And, check out the other resources available to you online at [www.pilgrimlc.org/daily-bible-reading](http://www.pilgrimlc.org/daily-bible-reading).

*Pastor Galler*

*Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (LSB #148, p.308)*

## DECEMBER-JANUARY PHOTO ALBUM



Pilgrim's November 29, 2016, Kilgore Christmas Parade float proclaimed Jesus as the sweetest gift at Christmas and earned an honorable mention in the non-profit category. Riders were (left to right) Angela Sampson, Barbara Wuthrich, Emma Watts, Steven Sampson, Sharon Sampson, Cooper Sampson, Danny Sampson, Jeanna Watts, and Pastor Galler. All and others gathered back at Pilgrim afterwards for a scrumptious chili supper. *Photo: Edgar Wuthrich.*



Pilgrim's annual congregational Christmas Party was December 4, 2016, at the Watts' home in Waskom. Pilgrim's LWML Society as usual supplied the meat dishes, and everyone else brought their holiday favorites. The celebration included Jack Watts' actual birthday. Gathering around the cake are (left to right) Sharon Sampson, David Navaille, Danny Sampson, Elaine Navaille, Jack Watts, Pastor Galler, Lucy Watts, Jeanna Watts, Tyler Watts, Barbara Wuthrich, and Emma Watts. *Photo: Edgar Wuthrich.*



(Above) After a quick lunch together on December 11, 2016, Pilgrim members caroled at three local nursing homes, wrapping up at Kilgore Health and Rehab. The group was (left to right) Sharon Sampson, Colleen Hooge, Paul Hooge, Jennifer Hooge, Anna Hooge, Rev. Michael Monterastelli, Pastor Galler, Matthew Hooge, Barbara Wuthrich, Elaine Navaille, and Brady Gage.

(Right) Pilgrim's Sunday School children performed their annual Christmas Program, centered on Luke 2:1-21's account of Jesus's birth, before the Divine Service on Sunday, December 18, 2016: (left to right) Cooper Sampson, Emma Watts, Anna Hooge, Luke Land, Jack Watts, Zylan Ellis, Clay Ellis, and Ian West. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*



## DECEMBER-JANUARY PHOTO ALBUM (continued)



After the final Midweek Advent Vespers service on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, Pilgrim members trimmed the tree and placed other greens in the Sanctuary in preparation for Christmas Eve. Shown are (left to right) Elaine Navaille, Sharon Sampson, Angela Sampson, Brady Gage, Steven Sampson, Cooper Sampson, and Danny Sampson. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*



(Above right) Christmas morning Pilgrim's tree was in all its glory with ornaments including traditional chrismons, some dating decades back, when they were first made by the ladies of the congregation. Thanks to Gayle Gardner for repairing ornaments in need this year. *Photo: J. Galler.*



(Left) Pilgrim co-sponsored its 14<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Kilgore Community Blood Drive with the Kilgore Rotary Club on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Carter BloodCare Phlebotomist Spicey Clark checks the flow of Rotarian Terry Booker's blood. Pilgrim donors were Shannon Gage, Ross Land, and Jeanna and Tyler Watts. The drive did pick up some new donors from the community, but did not reach its goal of 25 or more units in order to give away the \$300 in cash prizes donated by Citizens Bank of Kilgore. In all, the drive did collect 13 units from 12 donors, and those blood products can save the lives of 35 people in need of transfusions. The next quarterly drive is scheduled for April 1, no fooling! *Photo: Chelsea Katz, Kilgore News Herald.*

## Two months see lots of progress on new Parish Hall



By December 2, 2016, the roof and exterior sheeting of Pilgrim's new Parish Hall with Sunday School Classrooms was largely completed.  
*Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*



By December 5, 2016, interior framing had begun. Sunday School rooms are visible in the background and plumbing for the bathrooms in the foreground.  
*Photo: J. Galler.*

On Saturday, January 14, 2017, Pilgrim turned out to do some of their share of the work on the new building and around the existing property. (Near right) Edgar Wuthrich, George B. Heil, and Carl Gardner wrestle with the door to the HVAC closet in the great room. (Far right) Spencer and Sarah Land, who came prepared to paint, shifted to raking leaves, since the mudding and texturing on the walls were not yet dry enough. Capital Improvements Committee Chair Steven Sampson worked so fast the camera didn't catch him.  
*Photos: Barbara Wuthrich.*



Accustomed to working as a team, Tyler and Jeanna Watts tackled the trim-work for the bi-fold doors of the storage closet in the largest Sunday School room in the southwest corner of the new building.  
*Photo Barbara Wuthrich.*



Having freed their parents to work by entertaining themselves and watching their siblings, some of Pilgrim's children smile for the camera: Jack Watts, Luke Land, Lucy Watts, Mark Watts, and Emma Watts.  
*Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*

# Please pray as our congregation has been requested to pray



*The following are the petitions requested of our congregation that we usually include in the Prayer of the Church in the Divine Service, as well as encourage our members to make in their own personal prayers. If you are not presently receiving prayer updates by email or phone call and desire to do so, please let Pastor Galler know (likewise let Pastor Galler know if you are receiving them and wish not to receive them). If you initially made one of the requests below, please regularly keep Pastor Galler updated as to the status of the request so that he can update the congregation. Thank you!*

## CHRISTIANS BEING PERSECUTED WORLDWIDE LCMS, DISTRICT, AND CIRCUIT, PASTORS AND PEOPLE

Vacancies at Our Savior, Centerville, and Redeemer, Nacogdoches.

Our member Rev. Michael Monterastelli, seeking a call and interim employment.

## OUR PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Faithful stewardship of God's gifts

Safe and speedy construction of the new Parish Hall

## THOSE UNCONVERTED AND WHO HAVE STRAYED FROM THE FAITH:

Elizabeth & Ava Nicol (Don and Beth's niece and grand-niece)

## THOSE STRUGGLING WITH TEMPTATIONS AND SINS RELATED TO SEXUALITY FOR AN END TO THE EVILS OF ABORTION

## PEACE AND UNITY IN THE COUNTRY AND WORLD

## MEN IN THE SERVICE:

Victor Guinn (Paul Guinn's son, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton)

George C. Heil (at base in Virginia)

Brian Holcombe (Carolyn Holcombe's son stationed in Washington, D.C.)

## THOSE IN POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

Sam Morton (Longview Fire Department)

## THOSE WHO TRAVEL:

Brady Gage

David Navaille

Edgar and Barbara Wuthrich

## THOSE WHO MOURN: Family and friends of Clyde Sampson and Rev. Victor Willmann

## SHUT-INS:

Bob Abraham (our member, in an Alzheimer Center in Austin)

Gwen Heil (our member, in the Carriage Inn Assisted Living in Katy)

Rev. Harold Wageman (former PLC pastor, at Henderson Rehab)

## THOSE WHO NEED HEALING:

Steve Atchinson (Betty Miller's grandson, waiting for prosthetic hand)

Moselle Barton (Connie Wilburn's friend, suffering from lung cancer)

Maria Church (Elaine Navaille's coworker, radiation for spinal melanoma)

Kay Crouch (Danny Sampson's shirt-tail relative, holding her own after surgery)

Sherry Harris (Beth Nicol's friend, waiting for blood test results to determine treatment)

Don Herrell (Sharon Sampson's brother-in-law, having untreatable difficulty breathing)

Carolyn Holcombe (suffering from an infection and other health concerns)

Kathy Jennings (Remo and Kathy's friend, making progress against her cancer)

Joshua Joyner (Paul Guinn's Cub Scout's older brother, ICU at Dallas Children's)

*Prayer list continues on the following page.*

*Prayer list continues from the preceding page.*

Laura Key (Jerome's step-mother, continuing to decline in nursing home)  
Sally Key (still having difficulty getting around after 3/29 car accident)  
Carl London (Connie Wilburn's coworker, cancer has returned, couple of years to live)  
Kari Medlin (Angela Sampson's friend, being monitored for possible appendectomy)  
Herb Michel (relative of Pastor's friends, behavioral concerns complicating recovery)  
Maureen Michel (Pastor's friend, GI polyps removed but pelvic mass remains)  
Betty Miller (our member, getting over bronchitis)  
Wayne Miller (out of the hospital and receiving healthcare at home)  
David Navaille (upcoming eye surgery)  
Beth Nicol (upcoming scans for consideration of shots in her lower back)  
Don Nicol (at home, changed medication to avoid side-effects on vision)  
Freda Piazza (Sharon Sampson's sister, ongoing complications from knee surgery)  
Larry Reif (our member, at his apartment, ulcer is healed but will need knee surgery)  
Abby Smith (Jeanna Watts' cousin's wife, chemotherapy for liver cancer before surgery)  
David Smith (our member, experiencing a number of issues so he is largely bed-bound)  
Debbie Smith (our member, building strength and endurance after 11/15 knee surgery)  
Traci Tippitt (Arcele's niece, now at rehab facility for recovery from 12/03 car accident)  
Vincent Vernon (Walkers' brother-in-law, diagnosed with cancer but no treatment)  
John P. Walker (John and Vicki's son, hospitalized at Good Shepherd in Longview)  
Chelsea Watts (Tyler's sister-in-law, receiving a chemo-pump for her appendix cancer)  
Abby Weeks (Brady's brother's granddaughter, diagnosed with hemiplegic migranes)  
Pat Welch (Beth Nicol's friend, suffering from Parkinson's, now in a wheelchair)  
Jean West (Dan West's mother, being treated for inflammation before bone-spur surgery)  
Carter Wilbanks (shirttail friend of the Sampsons, suffered setbacks and possible seizure)  
Robert Wiles (Betty Miller's nephew, untreatable cancer, remains on a feeding tube)  
Van Willey (Remo and Kathy's friend, out of immediate threat but exploring options)

#### THOSE IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

#### EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Brittany Manglam (Jeanna Watts's best friend, baby girl due 03/30)

#### FAMILIES IN CRISIS OR NEED AND ALL FAMILIES

Erickson Family (recent college graduate Tiffani continues to seek employment)  
Heil Family (Julia and her daughters, George C's family, and Bryn and Christine)  
Herricks Family (God's guidance for our member Olene and her son Joe)  
Maskey Family (Remo's sister and brother-in-law in need of reconciliation)  
Thomas Family (Leroy's sons and grandchildren)  
Watts Family (seeking God's guidance)

Come, my soul, with ev'ry care, / Jesus loves to answer prayer;  
He Himself has bid thee pray, / Therefore will not turn away.

Thou art coming to a King, / Large petitions with thee bring;  
For His grace and pow'r are such / None can ever ask too much.

Lord, Thy rest to me impart, / Take possession of my heart;  
There Thy blood-bought right maintain / And without a rival reign.

While I am a pilgrim here, / Let Thy love my spirit cheer;  
As my guide, my guard, my friend, / Lead me to my journey's end.

—John Newton (*Lutheran Service Book* 779:1, 2, 4, and 5)

## MARCH EVENTS

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will offer the imposition of ashes in a special Divine Service at 7:00 p.m.

**MIDWEEK LENTEN VESPERS SERVICES** will be Wednesdays, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPERS** will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Wednesday before the Midweek Lenten Vespers Services. The women of Pilgrim’s LWML Society with other women in the congregation will serve these meals in the Church Office and Conference Room/Library, like we did with the chili supper after the Christmas parade.

**QUILTING BEE** is Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

**LWML MEETING AND SUPPER** is Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. after Quilting.

**YOUTH CATECHESIS** Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME:** Spring your clock one hour forward before coming to Sunday School and Adult Bible Class on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

**ELDERS** Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

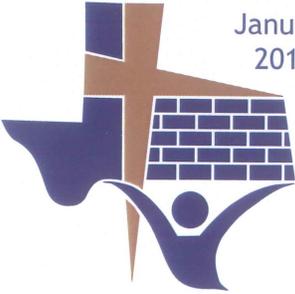
**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for April are due Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** is on hiatus for Lent but will resume after Easter on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY** will probably not be held until Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, closer to Easter (with a Rain Date of Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>).

## Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas offers summer camps

Registration is underway for Camp Lonestar’s 2017 summer camps, where children (5+) and youth (to 18) will explore the Bible study theme “Love Lives”. Programs run from June 4<sup>th</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup> at the camp near LaGrange, TX, with one program for those aged 8-18 also offered June 11-16 at Camp Shiloh near Pittsburg. For more information, see the brochure on the bulletin board in the Narthex or check out [www.lomt.com](http://www.lomt.com).



January  
2017

| Investment                        | Fixed Rate <sup>(2)</sup> |       | Floating Rate <sup>(2)</sup> |       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
|                                   | Rate                      | APY   | Rate                         | APY   |
| One Year Note <sup>(1)</sup>      | 1.250%                    | 1.26% | 0.750%                       | 0.75% |
| Three Year Note <sup>(1)</sup>    | 1.750%                    | 1.76% | 1.250%                       | 1.26% |
| Five Year Note <sup>(1)</sup>     | 2.000%                    | 2.02% | 1.625%                       | 1.63% |
| Flex Savings                      |                           |       | 0.500%                       | 0.50% |
| <u>Accounts For Congregations</u> |                           |       |                              |       |
| Congregation Savings              |                           |       | 1.000%                       | 1.00% |
| Building Fund Savings             |                           |       | 2.000%                       | 2.02% |

All individual Texas District CEF investments (FLEX, fixed and floating rate notes) may be included in a person’s IRA portfolio, through our custodian GoldStar Trust Company. [www.texascef.org/ira.html](http://www.texascef.org/ira.html)  
<sup>(1)</sup> Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. <sup>(2)</sup> Rates subject to change. Rates reviewed monthly. Texas District Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, CEF investments are not SIPC- or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by CEF’s Offering Circular.

**Texas District Church Extension Fund**  
 1-888-951-1233 [www.TexasCEF.org](http://www.TexasCEF.org)  
[www.facebook.com/texascef](https://www.facebook.com/texascef)

## KIDS' PAGE

*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us  
and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)*





# FEBRUARY 2017

## Pilgrim Lutheran Church

www.pilgrimlc.org  
903-984-4333

*Pastor's Regular Study Hours*  
 Tuesday 5:00–8:00 PM  
 Wednesday–Friday 9:00 AM–Noon  
 Saturday Noon–3:00 PM

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                           | SATURDAY   |
|---|--|---|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Communion Assistant – Remo Gualtieri<br><br>Acolyte – John Morton<br><br>Cleaning Volunteers – <span style="background-color: yellow;">Your Name Here?</span> |  |   | <b>1</b><br><br>7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study                            | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br><br>Brandy Ellis (B) | <b>4</b><br>9:00 AM-3:00 PM<br>Circuit #14 Retreat (Palestine)   |
| <b>5</b><br>5 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY(G)<br>9:30-10:30 AM SS and Bible Class<br>10:45 AM Divine Service   | <b>6</b><br><br>5:30 PM Quilting<br>6:30PM LWML Mtg. | <b>7</b><br>Noon Ministerial Lunch<br>5:30 Pastor prays at Kilgore City Council<br>6:00 PM Special Elders Meeting | <b>8</b><br><br>7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study                            | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>                        | <b>11</b><br>11:00 AM Youth Catechesis   |
| <b>12</b><br>6 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY(G)<br>9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class<br>10:45 AM Divine Service<br>Special Voters' Meeting                 | <b>13</b><br><br>1:00-6:00 PM<br>Cleaning Ladies     | <b>14</b><br><br>Jerome Key (B)   | <b>15</b><br><br>7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study<br><br>Carolyn Morton (B) | <b>16</b><br>9:00 AM – 1:00 PM<br>Circuit Pastors meet in Tyler | <b>17</b>                        | <b>18</b><br>11:00 AM Youth Catechesis<br><i>Pilgrimage</i> articles due tomorrow<br><br>Danny Sampson (B) |
| <b>19</b><br>7 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY(G)<br>9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class<br>10:45 AM Divine Service<br><br>Heaven Chiasson(B)                  | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b><br><br>6:00 PM Elders Meeting   | <b>22</b><br><br>7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study                           | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b>                        | <b>25</b><br>11:00 AM Youth Catechesis   |
| <b>26</b><br>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (W)<br>9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class<br>10:45 AM Divine Service<br>LWML Loose Change Sunday                         | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>   |  |   |                                  |  |

**Pilgrim Lutheran Church**  
713 Florey Street  
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

**The Pilgrimage** is a monthly newsletter for the members and friends of



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903-984-4333

Pastor Galler and Barbara Wuthrich are the editors of **The Pilgrimage**. Barbara Wuthrich also assists with producing and distributing editions. Everyone is welcome to contribute articles at any time. All copyright holders of excerpted or reproduced materials are hereby acknowledged, and such materials are used in good faith under fair use provisions.