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## CARRYING THE CROSS! THE PATH THAT JESUS TOOK



The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ... Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

- Isaiah 50:5-6,10

The most notorious road in the world is the Via Dolorosa, "the Way of Sorrows." According to tradition, it is the route Jesus took from Pilate's hall to Calvary. You can still walk the Via Dolorosa, though the current route probably isn't accurate. Ever since Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. and again in 135 A.D., no one knows the exact route Jesus followed that Friday. But we do know where the path actually began.

The path began, not in the court of Pilate, but in the halls of heaven. Jesus began his journey when he left his home in heaven to rescue us from sin and death.

This is a path that Jesus didn't have to take. He could have "side-stepped" it. He could have walked away from it. He could have walked the path of glory instead of the road of suffering to Calvary. His own disciples tried to persuade him to do as much. In the Garden of Gethsemane, certainly the devil was making it clear to

Jesus what he would suffer on the cross for people like Judas who would betray him, the disciples who would desert him, the chief priests and elders of the law who would taunt him, and for sinful, rebellious people like you and me. Jesus would suffer hell for people who acted like his enemies. He could have had legions of angels come down from heaven to fight for him. And at any point he could have just called it quits. But he didn't.

Isaiah quotes our Savior: "I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting."

But why? It's not only that Jesus suffered; it's that he suffered willingly. Why? Because this was the only way to wash away your sin; this was the only way heaven could be your home. This amazing, loving, merciful Savior, Jesus Christ, willingly suffered for you.

Isaiah shares his thoughts on this wonderful comfort: "Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God."

Indeed. Trust in the Lord. Rely on your God. The One who loves you so much that he willingly did everything necessary for your salvation will never let you down.

### Prayer:

Dearest Savior, may your willingness to suffer and die for me make me always willing to faithfully follow you. Amen.

## Pilgrim Panther News'n Notes



### Spring Is the Season for.....

- **Lent** – It's always a treat to hear our children sing in church for our Wednesday afternoon Lenten services. The Junior Choir (grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) will be singing three times, plus Maundy Thursday, and the Cherub Choir (grades PreK-2<sup>nd</sup>) will sing twice. Our entire school will be singing loud hosannas in the late service on Palm Sunday. We thank God for the gift of music inasmuch as it makes our worship of our Savior so much more meaningful!
- **Track** – Pilgrim's young athletes will be participating in three track meets this spring, two at Arizona Lutheran Academy and one at South Mountain High School. To prepare for the season, the students do conditioning drills each day at morning recess, then proceed at the noon recess to practice their favorite events, whether it be sprints, distance runs, relays, high jump, long jump, shotput, or softball throw. It's truly fun and rewarding to see the individual progress each child makes throughout the season. Go, Panthers!
- **Entertainment Night** – Mark down Friday, April 26th, at 6:30 PM on your calendar for Pilgrim's annual Entertainment Night. Last year it was our younger students who took to the stage, so this year it's the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders turn. Since many of these middle schoolers have stage experience from their participation in Drama Club, we are expecting some first rate performances as they take to the stage in a series of humorous skits in a program entitled "Laugh 'til Your Insides Hurt." This is a great event to invite a friend. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see a full house.

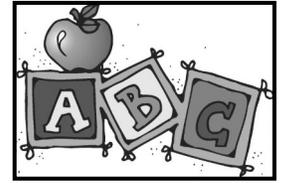
### Thanks for Your Support

We know that the WELS has a rich tradition for establishing and maintaining Christian day schools in their congregations. Pilgrim is no exception. Since 1971, thanks to the vision, leadership, and support of Pilgrim's members, Pilgrim Lutheran School has been sharing the love of Jesus with countless precious souls age 3 to 14 every single school day. For all who support Christian education in our midst – whether it be through offerings, special gifts, physical labor, or your prayers – we simply say, "Thank you for loving your Lord and His children with such generosity!"

**With Christian education in mind,  
Mr. James Wade, Principal**



## School Recruitment News



March blew in with a flurry of school inquiries! And, we were blessed with a new student, whose family are also Pilgrim members, who started in Mrs. Eiland's preschool. The preschool 3 class now has 11 students, all boys with one lone girl. Pilgrim's preschool continues to attract the most inquiries with our 2019-20 prospect list showing 18 students total in both preschool 3 & 4. We are Blessed to report our growth spurt continues with a current enrollment at 82. And, with God's help, we will continue that upward trend going into the new 2019-20 school year.

## AZ Tuition Tax Credit



Even in the New Year, it is not too late to make a donation to the Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO) which may also be claimed as a tax credit on your 2018 Arizona State Tax Return. In fact, up until April 15 (or prior to filing your taxes), you may make a donation and credit it to your 2018 tax year. If you calculate a dollar amount of tax liability due on your AZ Tax Form, this can be donated to Pilgrim School students. You can help support Lutheran education and receive a credit on your Arizona state income taxes (up to \$1,107 per person and \$2,213 per married couple filing jointly). Donations may be made online at [www.acsto.org](http://www.acsto.org) or by using the form in the ACSTO brochure. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs. Laura LaStrange or Principal Wade.

## Pilgrim Family Campout



**SAVE THE DATE!** We are starting to organize the annual Pilgrim Family Campout which will be held Friday through Sunday, **June 14-16** at the group site at Woods Canyon Lake, approximately 35 miles east of Payson. Please contact Pat King for questions or information at 480 241-2181 or [patw1@cox.net](mailto:patw1@cox.net).

## Financial Report

<b>Overall Church Offerings - Week of March 24, 2019</b>					
<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Month (3 Weeks)</b>		<b>Fiscal Year to Date (38 Weeks)</b>		
Budgeted: \$6,981.13	Budgeted: \$27,924.52	Budgeted: \$272,264.07			
Offerings: \$7,457.39	Offerings: \$28,186.05	Offerings: \$262,246.75			
Difference: <u>\$476.26</u>	Difference: <u>\$261.53</u>	Difference: <u>(\$10,017.32)</u>			
<b>Overall Church &amp; School - Week of March 24, 2019</b>					
<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Month (3 Weeks)</b>		<b>Fiscal Year to Date (38 Weeks)</b>		
Budgeted: \$12,445.00	Budgeted: \$49,780.00	Budgeted: \$485,355.00			
Offerings: \$7,457.39	Offerings: \$28,186.05	Offerings: \$262,246.75			
School: \$3,072.47	School: \$32,266.09	School: \$196,335.57			
Difference: <u>(\$1,915.14)</u>	Difference: <u>\$10,672.14</u>	Difference: <u>(\$26,772.68)</u>			

## Pilgrim Lenten/Easter Services —"Three Words of Truth"

Date	Worship Topic	Service Time
April 3	What Is Truth?	3:30 and 6:00 pm
April 10	Take Him Away!	3:30 and 6:00 pm
April 14—Palm Sunday	Save Us Now!	8:00 and 10:30 am
April 18—Maundy Thursday	Take and Eat; Take and Drink	3:30 and 6:00 pm
April 19—Good Friday	It Is Finished!	3:30 and 6:00 pm
April 21—Easter	He Has Risen	6:00 am Sunrise 8:00 and 10:30 Festival

Lent Suppers will be offered in between our mid-week worship services from 4:30-5:45 pm.

## The Cross In My Pocket

A "cross for your pocket" is still available in the narthex for anyone who would like one to put in your pocket as a reminder that you are a Christian no matter where you may be and to remind you of the price Christ paid for us. Please feel free to share them with anyone whom you would like to share the message of Jesus Christ.



## Lent Folders

Once again this year we are making available our special Lent Offering Folders. You may pick one up in the church entryway. There is a slot for an offering for each of the 40 days of Lent (the Sundays are not counted in Lent) from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday. A \$1 offering is listed for each day, but of course you may freely give as much or as little as you want, or even for a partial season of Lent. "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that thought he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

## Lent Service Greeters

Do you attend the 6 o'clock Wednesday Lent, Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services? If so, Helping Hands is still looking for greeters. Please contact Ginger Fleishans at [gfleishans@icloud.com](mailto:gfleishans@icloud.com) if you might be able to help us out at any of these services during Lent.

## Special Music For Lent and Easter



If you are interested in providing special music for services during the season of Lent through Easter Sunday, such as solos, instrumental music, etc., please contact our Adult Choir Director, Mr. Jim Wade, or the Pastors.

## Pilgrim Campus Security Cameras - Update



Tel-Tech, our security camera installation company, made their final review of the campus March, 21 to determine final camera locations, cabling needs and the location of the main server. Tel-Tech will begin the installation project on Wednesday, April 3 and the project is expected to take two to three days. We are excited to provide this additional security for our school, staff and church members. If you would like additional information about the project, contact the Pastor or council president, Paul Tomamichel.

## Let's Do Lunch At Crackers & Co.



Remember going to Crackers & Co. last April? Everyone raved about it and said they'd like to come again. We're going to do just that – almost – but at a different Crackers location on **Sunday, April 28 at Noon**. The one we went to last year no longer accepts group reservations but the one near Country Club and US 60 does. The menu is the same and some people say they like this location even better. Watch the directions because it can be a little tricky but you'll be happy once you get there. Directions: The general location is west (directly behind) Home Depot on Country Club and US 60. The restaurant is on the S/W corner of W. Iron Ave. and S. Vineyard. Specifically, go south on Country Club and take the first street south of US 60. Turn right (west) on to Iron Avenue. You're almost there – just turn into the parking lot from either Iron Ave. or Vineyard. Come for the soup... add a fabulous muffin... and stay for the yummy dessert. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex.

## Upcoming Meetings

Our next Congregational Open Forum Meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 7**, at 9:20 am, during the normal Word of God Hour, in the Fellowship Hall. Our next Voters' Meeting will be held **Sunday, April 14**, at Noon.

## Counseling Program

The Member Assistance Program (MAP) is a video-assisted distance counseling service through Christian Family Solutions (WLCFS) using licensed WELS affiliated counselors. Currently this service is offered free of charge to our Pilgrim members. If you are interested in using this service, please speak with the Pastors. At this time our MAP Fund is in need of more gifts, so please consider a special gift or memorial.

## Asleep In Jesus

On Wednesday, February 27, the Lord called home to his eternal rest the soul of our brother in faith, Russell Slade. A Christian Funeral Service was held at Pilgrim on March 5. May the Lord comfort Russell's wife Romelle, and his entire family, and us all with his resurrection promise: "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

## "30 Minute" Chapel Resumes May 6

During the Lenten and Easter season months of March and April, there will be no Monday "30 Minute" Chapel services. The Monday night services will resume on **Monday, May 6**.

## Tax Advisor Resource Kit

These kits from ACSTO are to help promote the AZ Tuition Tax Credit Program with a CPA/tax preparer you feel would be an advocate in promoting the Tax Credit program with his or her clients. If you know of such a CPA, then take this packet to them, so that they will have everything they need at their fingertips to ensure that any of their clients who are interested in donating their state liability tax to Pilgrim School or a Pilgrim student, will be able to do so. The packets are available in the church entryway or in Mrs. LaStrange's office. Thank You

## Financial Peace University

Pilgrim hosted a Financial Peace University class over the last nine weeks. There were four class members and they successfully graduated and are well on their way to becoming debt free and having financial peace! Congratulations to these four graduates as over the last few weeks they had collectively paid off \$1500 in debt and each of them has successfully completed baby step 1, which is to save \$1000 in a beginner's emergency fund!

The coordinators at Pilgrim for the University classes are considering a possible summer session, assuming there would be enough interest. Please speak to Mike Hanson or Kirk Gibb if you would be interested in attending and what start date you would like. For more information about Financial Peace University, visit [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com).

## Pilgrim Member and Non-Member Tuition Assistance Funds



Two separate accounts have been created to help both our Pilgrim member and non-member families who are struggling with tuition challenges. These funds ensure children are able to stay at Pilgrim where God's Word is taught daily and his Blessings abound everywhere. Many of our school children come from single parent households and/or difficult circumstances where just paying the rent is a struggle. Without Pilgrim, some of our most vulnerable children would not be able to stay in our loving stable environment where everything is taught in the Light of God's Word. If you are so moved, please consider a donation to these funds. They are tax-deductible and will be included on your annual giving statement. Simply indicate on your check whether or not you would like your donation to go to Pilgrim's Member or Non-Member Tuition Assistance Funds. These fund choices are also available at our Pilgrim donation website ([pilgrimmesa.com](http://pilgrimmesa.com)). Thank you for all those who have donated in the past!

## “Rooted” Event

“Rooted” is a WELS Phoenix Valley fellowship group of people in their 20s/30s. Their purpose is to connect WELS Lutherans and their friends from across the Valley through a variety of formal and informal events. The home base is Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Tempe, AZ, but they are looking to expand and include others from across the Phoenix Valley. A special weekend of activities is planned for **Saturday, March 30 and Sunday, March 31**, including volleyball, Bible study, pizza and game night, and hiking in Sedona. The Rooted Group from Colorado is also planning to attend. Please see the explanation sheets on the bulletin board, or visit the Facebook page at Rooted: WELS Phoenix Valley Fellowship to RSVP and get all of the details. Or contact Christina Crabtree at 480-313-7474 to learn more.

## **ALA Bulletin & Newsletter Information**

### **April 2019**



#### **CLASS OF 2023 MIXER**

Our incoming freshman class members will get to know each other at the Class Mixer to be held on Friday, April 12, at 5:30pm on the ALA campus. All eighth grade students who have applied to ALA are invited to attend this event full of fun and food! The winner of the \$1000 Future Coyote Scholarship will be announced at the Mixer. Go to [ALAcoyotes.org/enrollment](http://ALAcoyotes.org/enrollment) for further information.

#### **CLASS OF 2023 COURSE SELECTION**

Our class of 2023 (next year's freshmen) will choose their freshman courses after the Class Mixer on Friday, April 12, beginning at 7pm. Parents should also attend this session. If this time does not work for you, please contact Michelle Meyer at [Admissions@ALAcoyotes.org](mailto:Admissions@ALAcoyotes.org).

#### **ALA GOLF CLASSIC**

The 26th Annual ALA Golf Classic will be held on April 27, 2019, at the beautiful Legacy Resort with a 1:30pm shotgun start. The Golf Classic is a fundraiser for the ALA Athletic Department, and the goal is to raise \$20,000 to benefit ALA's student-athletes. The tournament will be 4-person scramble including golf, cart, dinner, gifts & prizes. Cost is \$90/golfer or \$340/foursome. Find more information and registration options at [ALAcoyotes.org/golf](http://ALAcoyotes.org/golf).

#### **PRESENTING DISNEY'S "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL: ON STAGE"**

The smash hit movie comes to life on our stage! Disney's "High School Musical: On Stage" will be presented at ALA on May 3 & 4 at 7pm and May 5 at 3pm. Disney's "High School Musical: On Stage" is fun for the whole family!

#### **ALA STAFF UPDATES**

The ALA Board of Directors recently extended a call to Miss Katherine (Kate) Kogler to teach in our social studies department. This position will replace Mr. Ben Edmundson who has accepted a call to teach in Menasha, Wisconsin. Please remember Kate in your prayers as she makes her decision.

Ms. Andrea Oppermann, music and videography teacher at ALA for the past six years, has received and accepted a call to serve at Shoreland Lutheran High School in Somers, Wisconsin. She has served ALA faithfully for six years and will complete this school year before moving to her new position this summer. The ALA Board of Directors will make plans soon to fill her position.

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

View the entire monthly calendar at [ALAcoyotes.org/calendar](http://ALAcoyotes.org/calendar).

April 2	Lutheran Elementary School track meet at ALA, 3:00pm
April 6	Lutheran Elementary School spelling bee at ALA, 10:00am
April 9	Tuition Assistance Workshop, 6pm
April 27	ALA Golf Classic at Legacy Golf Course, 1:30pm
May 3 & 4	Musical Performances, 7pm
May 5	Musical Performance, 3pm