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Following Jesus - Totally Committed



As [Jesus and the disciples] were walking along the road, a man said to [Jesus], "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

- Luke 9:57-58

God does not exist, whether you believe or not makes no difference. In the end you die. If God does exist, then following him brings an eternity of infinite happiness. Look at the pay outs. Isn't it reasonable to bet that God does exist?

That's a version of Pascal's Wager (Blaise Pascal, 1623-62, *Pensées*). Although it might be useful in getting skeptics to rethink their unbelief, it fails to convey what it means to believe in God and follow him.

Is faith a rational calculation we make, carefully weighing the odds? Of course not! Is following Jesus simply an easy way to hedge our bets on eternity? In no way!

Yet, do we treat following him as if it were an insurance policy that hedges our bet in case we suffer losses? Maybe we calculate that reading a five-minute daily devotion doesn't take too much time, so why not do it? Maybe we figure attending church

on Sunday can't hurt, just in case we need Jesus during the week.

Jesus crushes that sinful mindset with his words in Luke chapter 9. Following him is total commitment.

"But isn't forgiveness free? Didn't Jesus do everything for me, fully paying for all my sins with his death on the cross? Isn't eternal life a free gift given by God's grace alone, unmerited by me?" Yes, yes, and yes! This is the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But this good news radically changes you and me from the inside out. God's free forgiveness in Jesus leads us to fight against sinful ways, even though our old self tries to convince us it's worth the risk. Following Jesus is total commitment.

Since Jesus died for us and rose again, we live for him. Don't limit Jesus to a five-minute devotion or an hour on Sunday morning. Live for him every moment of every day. How? As you gratefully use your abilities to serve him in love by carrying out the responsibilities he gives you at home and work, in society and the church. Following Jesus is total commitment.

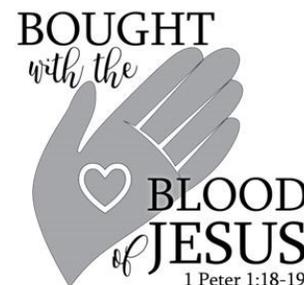
We follow Jesus, not wondering what our odds of making it to heaven might be. Rather, we follow with the sure conviction that eternal life is ours because of God's unconditional promise, sealed by Jesus' resurrection.

So follow Jesus, totally committed, because he is totally committed to you.

Pilgrim Panther News'n Notes

School Calendar Reminders

- ◆ Our teachers' inservice days are set for July 31st and August 1st. We look forward to two excellent days of professional growth as well as reviewing duties and responsibilities, all of which will help to facilitate another outstanding year of learning and growing by our students.
- ◆ Grab the pails and rags and head on over to school for our School Clean-Up Day. The date is Saturday, August 11th, from 7:00-11:00 am. There will be windows to wash and walls and desks to wipe down as we prepare for the first day of school. If possible, also bring a rake to help smooth out the sand on our playground. Even if you can only stay an hour, please come! Thanks
- ◆ Our Back-to-School Night is fast approaching! Parents, choose a night - Monday, August 6th or Tuesday, August 7th. This is our night of final registration, a night for sharing lots of pertinent information, and a "let's get acquainted" night as we welcome our new families. Start time is 6:30 pm.
- ◆ Sunday, August 12th, will be a busy morning here at Pilgrim as we welcome and install our new teachers, Scott and Ellen Stevenson in our 9:30 am service. This will also be our Opening Service, followed by a School Kick-Off Brunch in the Fellowship Hall. It will be nice to see everyone again after a hot, busy summer!
- ◆ Believe it or not, the first day of school is right around the corner. We look forward to seeing all our students on Wednesday, August 15th, at 8:15 am. Parents, it's OK to come into the classrooms early if you like since it's the first day and there's lots of stuff to drop off. See you then!
- ◆ Wednesday, August 22nd, is another important date for our school families. At 6:00 pm, parents with aspiring athletes are asked to meet in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Sports Parents' Meeting. Immediately following at 6:30 pm, will be our Fall PTO Meeting. PTO officers this year are Martha Eiland (President), Michelle Bayer (Vice-President), Ben Kucenski (Treasurer), and Kim Drexler (Secretary).



Thanks to all who helped with this year's Vacation Bible School: teachers, adult and teen helpers, and monetary and snack contributors. We were blessed with strong numbers - over 80 boys and girls each day! God is good!

- Principal Jim Wade

LWMS 2018 Fall Retreat

“Stand Firm” will be Pastor Eric Hartzell’s message at the LWMS 2018 Fall Women’s Retreat on October 5–7 at Lions Camp Tatiyee in Lakeside, AZ. Pastor Timothy Patoka will address “Communicating Christ’s Cross to Generation Z.” The registration fee for the full weekend is \$145. Special teen registration is \$105 (teens between 13 and 19 are encouraged to attend). Single day cost (including lunch) is \$30. Full weekend registrations include two nights lodging and five meals. Call the church office at (480) 830-1723 or visit the Grand Canyon website at www.grandcanyonlwms.org or www.arizonalionscamp.org/site-rentals/ for more information. Deadline for registration is September 21.



Ride Needed

We are seeking someone to help in giving a ride on Sundays for an elderly woman who lives in the area of the Power and University crossroads. If you may want to consider helping out, please speak with the Pastors.

Tour

You are invited to join a 10 day tour to Greece...“In the Footsteps of Paul”. The tour, **May 27 - June 5, 2019**, includes a 3 day Mediterranean Cruise. Places of special interest include Philippi, Corinth, Ephesus, Athens, Meteora, and Santorini. There is also an optional 3 day extension to Rome. For details, contact retired pastor Eugene Kock at pastorkock@yahoo.com.

Treasurer’s Update - Church Income Report

Church Income - Week of 7/22/18		
Last Week	Month (4 weeks)	Fiscal Year to Date
Budgeted: \$6981.14	\$27,924.56	\$27,924.56
Offerings: <u>\$2,937.79</u>	<u>\$26,109.05</u>	<u>\$26,109.05</u>
Difference: (\$4,043.35)	(\$1,815.51)	(\$1,815.51)
Church & School Expenses		
Budgeted: \$12,445.00	\$49,780.00	\$49,780.00
Offerings: \$2,937.79	\$26,109.05	\$26,109.05
School: <u>\$159.36</u>	<u>\$7,301.44</u>	<u>\$7,301.44</u>
Difference: (\$9,347.85)	(\$16,369.51))	(\$16,369.51)

Pilgrim's Digital Sign

On Monday, July 9, Pilgrim sustained storm damage related to high winds and lightening, producing a power outage lasting for four and one-half hours and causing electrical damage to our alarm system and digital sign. One of the alarm key pads was damaged and replaced and we are estimating at least \$4000 damage to the digital sign. Pilgrim is currently working with its insurance adjuster to determine coverage but will at a minimum, be responsible for the \$500 deductible. Christy Signs, who installed the sign in 2010, will be providing us with an estimate to repair the damage.



Let's Do Lunch



Enjoy lunch out with your Pilgrim family on Sunday August 26 following the morning service, at about 11am. We will go to Wild Berry Diner at 4805 E. Main Street in Mesa on the southeast corner of Main and 48th Street. They serve breakfast all day long with a variety of other lunch options. Watch for flyers and look for the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Women's Retreat 2018—Deer Valley Lutheran Church

Ever wonder how you fit into God's Family? The ladies at Deer Valley Lutheran Church invite you to join them for a day of spiritual refreshment, fellowship, and fun. Through an interactive Bible study format, we will look at how God has placed each of us exactly where He wants us to be to fulfill his purposes. Plus, we will discuss ways we can use our spiritual gifts to encourage each other to find each of our places in God's Family Quilt.



God's Family Quilt
Saturday, September 22, 2018
9am - 2pm

Registration begins @ 8:30am (Breakfast & Lunch will be provided)
Tickets are \$8 per person (due at the door, cash or checks accepted)

A free will offering, blankets, booties, & other baby items will be collected on the day of the event to go along with our "quilting" theme for the day. Email questions to retreat@deervalley.org

Pilgrim LWMS

LWMS meetings will be on hold through the summer months. Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 17. Hope to see you then.

Monthly Property Workday/School Clean-Up

Please note that the August monthly property workday will be held on Saturday, August 11th, beginning at 7:00 am. This will also be the School clean-up day. Various projects and "odd jobs" will be tackled under the direction of the Property Board and Faculty. Come when you can, stay as long as you wish, and help maintain our Lord's property here at Pilgrim!

Asleep in Jesus

We received news that our brother in Christ, Brad Ackland, was taken to heaven by the Lord. An obituary has been posted in the church narthex. May the Lord comfort his family and all who mourn with the promise of the resurrection to eternal life in Christ!

In Our Prayers

We pray for the family of Mitchel Salzwedel, who was a teacher at Pilgrim from 1984 to 1995. Mitch passed away suddenly on July 15 at the age of 57. We pray that the Lord comforts his wife, Terri, and his entire family, with the promise of the Lord, "Whoever lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:26). If you wish to send condolences, an address is posted in the church narthex.

Monday "30 Minute Chapel"

Pilgrim's "30 Minute Chapel" is a shortened service that will be held from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall each Monday. This will help to save on our A/C costs during the hot summer months, as well as provide an opportunity for Worship for those who were out of town over the weekend. In addition, the service will be more informal, so that it will be more inviting to those who are wanting to learn about God's Word and Pilgrim but because of their lack of church background, feel overwhelmed and intimidated by the thought of attending a usual Sunday service. For more information, speak with the Pastors.

Stewardship-Evangelism Committee

We are seeking any interested men or women who would like to serve on this Pilgrim Committee, which helps to organize and plan outreach and inreach activities and functions of various kinds. For more information, please speak with the Pastors.

August Sunday Adult Bible Study

You don't want to miss Pastor Buchaw discussing Jesus' Parables and "I Am" statements during Pilgrim's Adult Bible Study each Sunday in August at 8:00 am during our Word of God Hour. Join us for coffee and lively scripture discussion.

Church Officers

On Sunday, July 9th, we installed the elected church officers who will serve in our new fiscal year (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). President: Mr. Paul Tomamichel, Recording Secretary: Mr. Ron Schoenwetter, Treasurer: Mr. Kirk Gibb, Elder: Mr. Ron Grant (Chair), Property Board: Mr. Steven Drexler (Chair), Mr. Robert Milbourn, Mr. Allen Myers, School Board: Mr. Michael Saucerman (Chair), Mr. Marty Bayer, Mr. Eric Beckman, Mr. Andrew Zwick, Stewardship: Mr. Michael Hanson (Chair), Youth: Mr. Gabe Galvan (Chair). We thank our Lord for providing these men, both past and present, who are willing to give of their time and energy to further the kingdom of God among us!

Counseling Program

The Member Assistance Program (MAP) is a video-assisted distance counseling service through Christian Family Solutions (WLCFS) using licensed WELS affiliated counselors. It's a customized and comprehensive way for churches, schools and organizations to assist in meeting the emotional and psychological needs of their members and students. Currently this service is offered free of charge our Pilgrim members. If you are interested in using this service, please speak with the pastors. Special gifts and memorials toward the MAP Fund are always welcome.



New Book From NPH

"THERE'S A PRAYER FOR THAT" is a new book from Northwestern Publishing House containing over 450 Scripture-based prayers for the people and situations in your life. Whether you are thinking about your family and friends, your future, or your faith, this book will guide you in prayer. To order contact NPH at www.nph.net or call order services at 800-622-6022. Please use stock number BU0600760 when you call.

Information Needed

We are looking for any contact information (address, phone number, email) for the following individuals: Andrea Kramer, Karl Kramer, Doug Schucker. If you have anything to share, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Arizona Lutheran Academy Update

6036 South 27th Avenue (27th Avenue south of Southern)
Phoenix, Arizona 85041
www.ALAcoyotes.org
602-268-8686



2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

The theme for this new school year is “Bought with the Blood of Jesus” and is based on 1 Peter 1:18-19. The school year will begin with an opening service in the ALA gym on Monday, August 13, at 9am. Visitors are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

The ALA office hours are 7:30am to 3:30pm on school days. Before the school year begins on August 13, the ALA office will still be open for summer office hours, Monday through Friday, 9am to 1pm.

NEW ALA STAFF

We are pleased to welcome to the ALA family Mr. Adam Wiechmann, who will be teaching physical science classes this year. Adam, his wife, and three children arrived late in July and are busy getting all of their transitional things done, and Adam has jumped into the role of football coach. We are grateful that God has completed our staff!

We are also pleased to welcome Mr. Steven Pieper who is working as our Assistant to the Building and Grounds coordinator. Steve began working here in early July.

JUNIOR COYOTE VOLLEYBALL CLUB

ALA's Saturday volleyball club for girls in grades 4-8 will be held again this year. All levels of volleyball experience are welcome. Saturday sessions begin August 18 and run 8:30 to 10:30am through September (none on Labor Day weekend). Participants may choose to attend four, five, or all six Saturdays. To register, go to ALAcoyotes.org.

ALA SCRIP PROGRAM

Order Scrip from ALA by contacting John Mueller (Mueller@ALAcoyotes.org or 602-268-8686 x13). The deadlines for ordering are noon on August 15 & 31. ALA no longer mails Scrip cards, so your order must be picked up at ALA. You can also order as a ScripNow eCard for immediate use. More information is available at Shop-withScrip.com. Thank you for supporting ALA by using Scrip!

DATES TO REMEMBER

View the entire monthly calendar at www.ALAcoyotes.org/calendar.

August 11	Freshman Boot Camp at ALA, 9am-12:15pm New Student Orientation Day, 12:30-4pm
August 13	Opening Service, 9am First day of classes for 2018-19
August 15 & 31	Scrip order deadline, contact John Mueller
August 18 & 25	Junior Coyote Volleyball Club at ALA, 8:30-10:30am
August 28	First home volleyball matches, 4, 5 & 6pm vs. Northwest Christian (freshmen) and Phoenix Christian (JV and Varsity)
August 31	First home football game, 7pm vs. Tonopah Valley

Word of God Hour

Adult Bible Study

Sundays — 8:00 am

You Don't Want to Miss These!

Coming to a Fellowship Hall Near You!



August 5, 12, 19, 26

Jesus' Parables and I Am Statements

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Jesus' Parables And I Am Statements

October 7, 14, 21, 28

Sharing God's Word

Sin, Death, Savior, Life