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## A SHOOT FROM A STUMP



A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. ... In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

Isaiah 11:1-3,10

Have you ever heard of “nurse logs”? They are dead tree trunks, like stumps. Yet, those dead trees are still thriving. The decaying surface of the dead tree creates a perfect growing medium for a tiny seed, for a shoot. The decaying tree becomes nursemaid, a nurse-tree, to the new tree generation.

Out of the stump of Jesse, a shoot, a Branch came up; it was the baby Jesus. Like a tiny shoot, his beginnings were humble. A little twig from a small town. Born in a stable with only shepherds and livestock to greet him. Born helpless and de-

pendent on others. But despite the humble beginnings, this Branch was special.

Jesus, the living shoot, comes up out of the dead stump bringing life out of death. By his perfect life and his death on the cross, Jesus saves us from eternal death! By taking our sins on himself, he freed us from guilt and gave us his perfection! Jesus' death is our death. His life is our life. His righteousness is our righteousness.

Does your life feel like a stump? Have you been cut down by the axe of adversity? Have the problems of this life chopped you down at the knees? All is not lost. There is hope in the Root of Jesse. There is hope in Jesus. He offers you his life. He offers you his perfection. He offers you everything! He offers you peace and rest which you'll find nowhere else. Put your hope in Jesus. Trust in him for everything! It will be glorious. You have God's Word on that!

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### Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, Righteous Branch, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts through the power of your Word so we can enjoy your perfect rest. Amen.

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## **Pilgrim Panther News'n Notes**

### **Student Charity during the Holidays**

- Our children's 1<sup>st</sup> semester mission offerings are being sent to Foundation Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO. Foundation is a fledgling mission church that currently meets in a school auditorium. Interestingly enough, its pastor is Rev. Steven Prahl, brother of Mrs. Stevenson. Please continue to include this upstart ministry in your prayers!
- Our students are also participating in a pre-Thanksgiving food drive through St. Mary's, with a classroom competition to see who can collect the most canned food items. Isn't it great that we can have a little fun while helping others in need?
- The Junior Choir will be out in the community sharing the Christmas message through caroling in upcoming weeks. In addition to singing at the downtown Mesa Post Office, we'll be visiting one or two area nursing homes.



### **December Singing Schedule**

- Wednesday, December 5, 3:30 PM – Cherub Choir (Advent)
- Wednesday, December 12, 3:30 PM – Junior Choir (Advent)
- Friday, December 14, 9:00 AM – Entire School (Children's Christmas Service)
- Sunday, December 16, 5:00 PM – Entire School (Children's Christmas Service)

### **Traditional Children's Christmas Service**

- WHO: PreK through Grade 8 children of our Christian day school  
WHAT: Recitations, narrations and Christmas carols under the theme *Saints & Angel Hosts Rejoice*  
WHERE: Pilgrim Lutheran Church sanctuary  
WHEN: See above  
WHY: Because what could be better than hearing the joyful Christmas message through the mouths of children!

### **Wish List**

It's that time to the year to publish a school "wish list." Listed below are a number of items that are not included in our school budget. If you would like to contribute toward the acquisition of these items, your gifts of love would be greatly appreciated!

With gratitude,  
Teachers & Students

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Electric pencil sharpeners (3 classrooms) | \$35 each |
| 2. Portable frisbee golf course              | \$400     |
| 3. Playground freestanding play accessories  | \$900     |
| 4. Bleachers                                 | \$850     |
| 5. Door upgrades (indoor & outdoor)          | \$2,000   |
| 6. Literature novel units                    | \$25 each |

- Principal Jim Wade

## Christmas Programs, Services and Events at Pilgrim!



### LWMS Bake Sale



The Pilgrim Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) will be holding their once a year bake sale **Sunday, December 9** between and after services. They would appreciate your donations of Christmas items and baked goods for this event. Monies raised will help support our LWMS assigned missionaries and other mission projects. The church kitchen will be open from 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday, December 8 and at 7:00 am before the 8:00 am service on Sunday, December 9 in order to leave donated items. Thanks so much for supporting your Pilgrim LWMS.

### Caroling To The Shut-Ins



Join us on **Sunday, December 9** after the second service for the annual caroling to the shut-ins. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and divide into groups and carpool from the church. Festive attire is welcome. All ages are welcome to come and share the Christmas gospel in song!

### ALA Christmas Concert

Arizona Lutheran Academy invites you to its annual Christmas Concert in the ALA gymnasium on **Friday, December 14 at 7:00 pm**. The ALA bands and choirs will perform music of the Christmas season. All are invited. ALA is located at 6036 South 27th Avenue.

### Congregational Christmas Party/Potluck

Pilgrim will hold its Congregational Christmas Party on **Sunday December 16** in between our services during our Word of God Hour in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served. Please sign up in the narthex and indicate any food item that you would like to bring. See you there!



### Upcoming Pilgrim Special Worship Services

Come and share the worship gifts of the season with Pilgrim during December. Please be sure to add the following dates to your worship calendar.

Midweek Advent Services	Wednesday, December 5, 12 and 19 at 3:30 and 6:00 pm
Friday, December 14	Children's Christmas Service 9:00 am
Sunday, December 16	Children's Christmas Service 5:00 pm
Monday, December 24	Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 and 7:00 pm
Tuesday, December 25	Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am
Monday, December 31	New Year's Eve Remembrance Service 6:00 pm

## Children's Christmas Services

Join our Pilgrim School children on either Friday, December 14, at 9:00 am or Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 pm to hear the children present the words and music of Christmas. Following the children's performance, there will be a Pie Social sponsored by the Pilgrim School PTO.

## Christmas Scrip Promotion

Just in time for the upcoming holidays! Individuals who accumulate the most Scrip sales (minimum \$400) between November 1 and December 20, will receive a \$100 Scrip gift card of your choice! You can spend it anyway you would like! And, who couldn't use a little extra money right before Christmas. In addition, if \$5,000 in total Scrip sales is reached during this time period, the entire school will be awarded with a Pizza Party. Please see your Scrip representatives today to get a jump on your Holiday shopping needs. You can take advantage of the rebate benefits while helping to lower tuition costs. Everyone wins with Scrip!

## Special Music For Christmas

 If you are interested in providing special music for the Advent/Christmas season, such as solos, instrumental music, etc., please contact our Adult Choir Director, Mr. Jim Wade, or the Pastors.

## ChrisTeens Gift Wrapping

The week of December 9-15, the ChrisTeens will be wrapping Christmas gifts for anyone in the congregation. Sundays you can drop off or pick up from 8am-4pm. On Monday - Fridays you can drop off or pick up from 3 pm-5pm. No wrapping will be done on Saturdays.

## Poinsettias

The 2018 Advent season is here, and soon to follow is Christmas. It is time to place your order for poinsettias to decorate the Church altar. If you wish to order a poinsettia please pick up an envelope in the narthex, put your name on it and any special requests you may have. Make your check payable to Pat Coats and give it to her or put it in the offering plate. Thanks for helping us beautify our altar for Christmas again this year. The cost this year will be \$9.

## Special Worship Service Music—Branches Band

On **Sunday, December 30**, special music will be provided in our worship service by Branches Band who has served over 450 WELS and ELS congregations by offering Christian concerts, assisting with worship, and developing music resources for today's church leaders and worship teams. For more information, visit the Branches Band website, [www.branchesband.com](http://www.branchesband.com), or visit them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/branchesband](http://www.facebook.com/branchesband). Come and enjoy the music!

## New Year's Eve Remembrance Service

A New Year's Eve Remembrance Service will be held on Monday, December 31 at 6:00 pm. Sign up in the narthex to have a candle lit in remembrance of a loved one on New Year's Eve. The sign-up states: "In Remembrance Of" or "By". You may simply say "Loved Ones" or list someone individually. We will prepare your card in advance and have it ready for you. You may either have an assistant light the candle for you or you may light the candle yourself. The candles will be at the front of the church. Ask Pastor Bushaw if you have questions.



**LWMS January Meeting**

LWMS will meet on **Monday January 28 at 1:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no December meeting. We invite all Pilgrim ladies to our meetings where we share God's Word, plan events, discuss mission news and dine on a delectable dessert. Join us!

**Aluminum Cans**

The ChrisTeens are collecting aluminum cans for their AZ-CA Rally for next summer. To help defray the costs of this trip, please remember to bring in your aluminum cans and deposit them in the blue recycle barrels outside of the kitchen door. Total money raised from the cans that you have brought is \$56. The teens thank you for your thoughtful contribution.

**School Recruitment News**

The typical slow month of November did not bring grey skies or rain and was anything but typical for the school. Instead through God's Grace, we were Blessed to have 3 new students start. In addition, we received paperwork for a preschooler to start in January, and had a preschool parent tour the school. With these 3 new students, our official enrollment stands at 79 with at least 3 more preschoolers verbally committed to start in January.

So, at this time of year, we have so much to be thankful for and we continue to receive God's Blessings when least expected.

**Helping Hands for the Holidays**

Helping Hands will be working overtime in December. Your service as a greeter or helping with Fellowship Hour is always appreciated and with extra services and events in December you might be called upon to serve more frequently than usual. Thank you for all your help.

**Financial Report**

<u>Overall Church Offerings - Week of November 18, 2018</u>						
<u>Church Income</u>						
<u>Last Week</u>		<u>Month (3 Weeks)</u>		<u>Fiscal Year to Date (21 Weeks)</u>		
Budgeted:	\$6,981.13	Budgeted:	\$20,943.39	Budgeted:	\$146,603.73	
Offerings:	\$4,705.39	Offerings:	\$22,914.27	Offerings:	\$118,209.04	
Difference:	<b>(\$2,275.74)</b>	Difference:	<b>\$1,970.88</b>	Difference:	<b>(\$28,394.69)</b>	
<u>Church and School Expenses</u>						
<u>Last Week</u>		<u>Month (3 Weeks)</u>		<u>Fiscal Year to Date (21 Weeks)</u>		
Budgeted:	\$12,445.00	Budgeted:	\$37,335.00	Budgeted:	\$261,345.00	
Offerings:	\$4,705.39	Offerings:	\$22,914.27	Offerings:	\$118,209.04	Goal: \$370,000.00 (\$251,790.96)
School:	\$669.54	School:	\$13,818.64	School:	\$87,719.76	Goal: \$290,000.00 (\$202,280.24)
Difference:	<b>(\$7,070.07)</b>	Difference:	<b>(\$602.09)</b>	Difference:	<b>(\$55,416.20)</b>	

## Security Cameras For The Pilgrim Campus

The Technology Committee is currently seeking bids on outdoor security cameras for the Pilgrim campus. We met with TelTech Networks on November 12 to determine cost and optimal positioning of the cameras and are currently waiting for a bid from the company. The cameras not only provide recorded images of vandalism damage to our buildings but also act as a deterrent.



For the Christmas season, by clicking on the option “**Christmas At Pilgrim**” on the Pilgrim website home page, you will see our special Christmas events in one convenient location including dates, times and places. So, please take a minute to check out the great information at [www.pilgrimmesa.com](http://www.pilgrimmesa.com). The committee would like to thank the congregation for its support and wishes our members a blessed Christmas.

## Let's Do Lunch

Because of the busy Christmas season with our activities as well as Advent and Christmas services, we will resume our “Let's Do Lunch” outings in January. Bon Appetit!

## Pilgrim Church and School Christmas Wish List

Pilgrim has put together a Christmas wish list for its unbudgeted needs. Donations can be made to the church or school directly or by using the “Donation” button on the Pilgrim website and selecting Pilgrim “Christmas Wish List” and typing in the item for which you are donating. Pilgrim thanks you for prayerfully considering its needs. Items wished for are:



- 10 Chromebooks for our Students                      Approximately \$225 apiece
- Stoles For The Pastors with Chains                      Red and other colors
- Security Cameras for our Campus
- Plastic Picnic Tables for our School
- Leaf Rakes, Square Head Shovel, Bypass Loppers (28-32 inches)
- Push Lawnmower for our Campus
- Softball Backstop

## ADVENT SOUP SUPPER

On **Wednesday, December 5 at 4:15 pm** between **Advent Services at 3:30 and 6:00 pm**, the Stewardship/Evangelism Committee will welcome Advent with an Advent Supper. The supper provided will be potato soup and tortilla soup. The committee is asking the congregation to contribute the supplies for the supper. A sign-up sheet in the narthex has been provided with the supplies needed. Donation deadline is Thursday, November 29. This will be the only midweek supper during the Advent Season.



## December Sunday Bible Topics

Pastor Bushaw will be presenting the following Advent/Christmas topics during our Sunday morning Word of God hour. Join him for some stimulating Bible study.

December 2	What Is Adiaphora?
December 9	The Prince of Peace
December 16	Congregation Christmas Party
December 23	The Virgin's Son
December 30	Some Things I Can't Forgive

## Fruits Of Faith



As Christmas approaches, we are given the opportunity to share our gratitude by helping others. Pilgrim will be collecting food for St. Mary's Food bank from **December 1 through December 31**. There will be collection boxes available in the narthex, fellowship hall, and school. Please prayerfully consider how you can help support those who are less fortunate during this season of giving.

## "30 Minute" Chapel

Please take note that during the month of December, there will be no "30 Minute" Chapel service on Mondays, as there are mid-week opportunities to worship during the Advent and Christmas season. Our last Chapel before the December break will be Monday, November 26. The Chapel will then resume on Monday, January 7.

## Season Of Giving

A special letter has been sent to members of Pilgrim regarding our "Season of Giving" special offering request. Donations will support Pilgrim's Gospel ministry and reach out to those walking in the darkness of unbelief. May God bless your "Season of Giving" offering.

## Pilgrim's Electronic Giving Donation Options

Visit Pilgrim's web site at [www.pilgrimmesa.com](http://www.pilgrimmesa.com) on your computer, tablet or phone and click on the green "Online Giving" button in the right column of the home page that will take you to an explanation of Pilgrim's online giving choices. Click on the red "Donate Now" button and you will find the many donation options. Then follow the screen instructions to make either a one time or recurring donation.

## Offering Envelopes For 2019

Offering envelopes for next year (2019) are located in the narthex. Please pick up your box if you haven't done so already. If for some reason your name was omitted by mistake, or if you would like to sign up for offering envelopes, please use the signup sheet located near the envelopes.

## Arizona Lutheran Academy News—December 2018

### 50 IN FIFTY



Our 50 in Fifty campaign ran from September 12 to October 31, 2018. During that time, God blessed us with over \$52,000 in gifts, surpassing our goal of \$50,000! With the double blessing of the \$50,000 match, your support means that over \$102,000 is now available for financial assistance to our students and families for the 2019-20 school year. Thank you for showing your love and support for ALA students. To God be the glory!



### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas Concert will take place at 7pm on Friday, December 14, 2018, in the ALA gymnasium. All are welcome to attend this free concert of sacred music of the season. Make this concert a part of your Christmas celebration this year!

### FALL ATHLETIC PROGRAM UPDATES

Cross Country – In November, both the boys and girls cross country teams competed at the State Sectionals meet. One of our lady runners finished in the top 2/3 of all runners at State.

Volleyball – Our ladies finished a hard-fought season with a loss to Trivium Prep in four sets in round one of the State 2A Tournament.

Football – Our Coyotes beat Chandler Prep (55-7) to advance to the State 2A quarter-finals. We played Round Valley at the dome on November 9 but fell short in that game, finishing our season.

### GRANDPARENTS DAY AT ALA

Looking ahead, ALA will host Grandparents Day on Wednesday, February 7, 2019, 9am to noon. Grandparents of ALA students are invited to attend. If you have an ALA grandchild, mark it on your calendar now!

### ENROLLMENT SEASON

The enrollment season for 2019-2020 has begun. At the November Admissions Night, we had our first crop of incoming freshmen begin the enrollment process. The next opportunity to learn more about ALA and the enrollment process is set for January 16, 2019. If you have a child ready for high school next year, start exploring at [ALAcoyotes.org/admissions](http://ALAcoyotes.org/admissions).

### 2019 GALA

Arizona Lutheran Academy is planning for the 8th Annual Benefit Gala, which will raise needed funds for campus improvements. This year's event, *Off Broadway*, will take place on March 30, 2019, and will include an array of food, drinks, and a silent and live auction. You are all invited! More information can be found at [ALAcoyotes.org/gala](http://ALAcoyotes.org/gala).

**DATES TO REMEMBER** - View the entire monthly calendar at [www.ALAcoyotes.org/calendar](http://www.ALAcoyotes.org/calendar).

December 2	ALA Sunday at Our Shepherd, Cornville
December 7	No School
December 14	ALA Christmas Concert at ALA
December 19-21	Semester one exams
December 21	Christmas break begins after last exam
January 7	School resumes; semester two begins