

The Pilgrim's Progress



The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church & School

February 2019

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MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST



Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Romans 8:35,37

Divide and conquer can be defined as a strategy in which you gain or maintain power by breaking up larger concentrations of power into smaller less powerful pieces. Those smaller pieces can then be overcome one by one until total conquest is achieved. Three or four wolves don't take on a herd of hundreds all at once. They separate one or two from the rest and get their meal that way. It's a tried and true strategy employed in military matters, politics, sociology and even simple mathematics.

It's a strategy also used by the devil, the world and our own sinful nature to conquer us. Trouble comes into our lives. Family members fight with each other, bringing strife and conflict into the home. Hardship strikes. Health suddenly takes a turn for the worse, the medical bills pile up and the prognosis is far from hopeful. Persecution rises up. You're mocked for your faith, belittled, marginalized and shunned. Across the world, believers are marched in front of video cameras before being put to death.

We see the trouble all around us. We feel and experience

it in our own lives. And soon we are caught in a frenzy of fear as the swirling worries and stresses drag us deeper and deeper into despair. At such times how easy it is to forget about God's love for us, or to think that God neither knows nor cares about us. Feeling separated from God's love we are easy prey.

But the apostle Paul reminds us of an indisputable, unchangeable fact no matter how bad things may look. In Christ we are more than conquerors. Jesus, our champion, conquered our sins of worry, fear, and doubt with his perfect life and innocent death on the cross. He conquered death by rising to life again. Against enemies that no one else in human history has overcome, Jesus prevailed. Through faith in Jesus, he gives us that victory. Through faith in Jesus, we are made more than conquerors over our own sin, over death and over the devil himself. Jesus died and rose again for sinners one and all. That love conquers strife and brings peace. That truth comforts and encourages the worried, the fearful, the persecuted and the dying, because no matter what we face he gives us everlasting life in heaven.

So in all circumstances and especially in trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger and even death, remember this: Jesus conquers it all, and in all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us.

Prayer:

Savior Jesus, when I face trouble and hardship, hold your cross and empty tomb before my weary and worried eyes. Remind me that in you I have forgiveness of all my sin and life eternal in heaven. Comfort and encourage me that in you, I am more than a conqueror in all things. Amen.

Pilgrim Panther News'n Notes

Pilgrim Lutheran School Trivia

Did you know that...

- ◆ Our school has been blessed with steady growth to the tune of about 10 additional students each of the past five years? God is good!
- ◆ Our PTO raises between \$4K and \$6K each year to fund special purchases for our students?
- ◆ One of our teachers, Mrs. Laura Folsom, is a graduate of Pilgrim Lutheran School?
- ◆ Another of our teachers, Mrs. Ellen Stevenson, is the daughter of one of our former Synod district presidents, Rev. Herbert Prahl.
- ◆ In its history, Pilgrim has more national champion handwriting contest winners than any elementary school in the state of Arizona. Quite a feat!

Upgrades of Note

- ◆ Our teachers are currently conducting a study of our math curriculum after which we ultimately hope to purchase new textbooks and strengthen our overall math program in grades K-8.
- ◆ In August a survey was conducted of our Pilgrim parents. One positive result (among many)? Home-school communication has improved with the implementation of weekly classroom notes, more frequent e-mails, and periodic texting.
- ◆ The donation of a brand new mobile computer cart and 11 new Chromebooks has helped us greatly in increasing the technology opportunities for our students. Thank you so much to our donor!

Pilgrim Spirit Wear Available

Would you like to proudly advertise our church and school in the greater Mesa area? How about purchasing some Pilgrim spirit wear! The school is presently taking orders for sweatshirts, T-shirts (long and short sleeve), cinch packs, hats, and zip fleece jackets with the school logo on them. Order forms can be found on the table in the church narthex if you are interested. The deadline for ordering is February 1. Please make checks payable to *Pilgrim Lutheran School*. Payment is due at the time of order. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Stevenson.

**Please remember to pray regularly for
the teachers, children, and parents of our school!**

In His Service - *Principal Jim Wade*



Women's Ministries and LWMS News



February is WELS World Mission Month

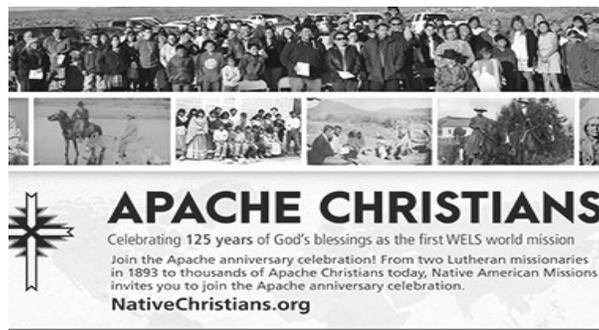
Pilgrim Celebrates Mission Festival Sunday, February 24

Pilgrim will celebrate WELS World Missions this month. LWMS works year around to support the many programs which include 122 congregations in the United States, Canada and West Indies. It also supports hundreds of Campus Ministry programs as well as gospel outreach in 40 foreign countries with the possibility of 14 prospective new mission fields.



Last September our Pilgrim students participated in a Skype Bible Study with third/fourth grade teacher Ellen Stevenson's brother, Pastor Steven Prah, who is currently serving a mission in Peyton, Colorado. Pilgrim students also took home LWMS Mite Boxes at the beginning of January to collect their spare change for the Apache Christian Training School. School projects are planned to heighten missionary awareness throughout February.

Watch for the possibility of missionary art, traditional Native American clothing and food as well as missionary songs. The month-long celebration will culminate on **Sunday, February 24** with guest-missionary Howard Mohlke from the Apache Christian Training School in Fort Apache. He will speak to us during both worship services and Bible Study and we will give him the funds collected by our students during the month of January.



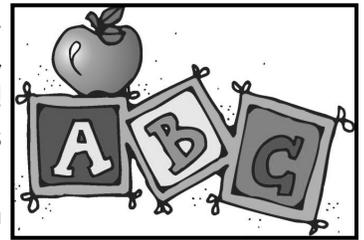
LWMS February Meeting

LWMS will be getting back on its regular schedule this month meeting on Monday, February 25 at 1 o'clock in Fellowship Hall. We invite all Pilgrim ladies to our meetings where we enjoy a brief devotional led by Pastor Winterstein, desert, news of the WELS Home and World Missions program, and our regular business meeting.



School Recruitment News

The Christmas Tree has been taken down, the holiday lights put away, and so begins the lull of a winter that will linger a little longer. But, for the school we jumped into January 2019 with 4 new students! And, although we had one student leave, our current enrollment stands at 81! Praise Be to God! Our school continues to grow steadily and as we enter the 2019-20 school year, we pray for student retention and aim for an enrollment of 90 by the start of school in August. Since most of our students are referred to us by word of mouth, if you know of any one who may be looking for a great Christian school, please be sure to tell them about Pilgrim Lutheran. Our door is always open!



Sunday School Update—Kids For Christ

During the month of February we will be teaching the following lessons:



- “An Angel Visits Joseph”
- “The Presentation of Jesus”
- “The Visit of the Wise Men”.

Debbie Meyers is very creative in coming up with games that the children really enjoy so we will also have a Game Day the second week of the month. We will try to divide the children into even groups between the younger and older children to make all things as fair as possible. Kids for Christ would also like to welcome Laura Hanson and Theresea Winsor to our teaching staff. Laura will be co-teaching with Debbie and Theresea will be co-teaching with Cheryl Tomamichel. Welcome to our Sunday School family.

Financial Report

Overall Church Offerings - Week of January 20, 2019

<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Month (3 Weeks)</u>	<u>Fiscal Year to Date (30 Weeks)</u>
Budgeted: \$6,981.13	Budgeted: \$20,943.39	Budgeted: \$209,433.90
Offerings: \$5,583.12	Offerings: \$22,570.19	Offerings: \$190,926.43
Difference: <u>(\$1,398.01)</u>	Difference: <u>\$1,626.80</u>	Difference: <u>(\$18,507.47)</u>

Overall Church & School - Week of January 20, 2019

<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Month (3 Weeks)</u>	<u>Fiscal Year to Date (30 Weeks)</u>
Budgeted: \$12,445.00	Budgeted: \$37,335.00	Budgeted: \$373,350.00
Offerings: \$5,583.12	Offerings: \$22,570.19	Offerings: \$190,926.43
School: \$1,778.00	School: \$6,488.30	School: \$129,341.28
Difference: <u>(\$5,083.88)</u>	Difference: <u>(\$8,276.51)</u>	Difference: <u>(\$53,082.29)</u>

**Pilgrim Mid-Week Lenten Services Begin In March—"Three Words of Truth"
Services At 3:30 and 6:00 pm**



Date	Topic
March 6 (Ash Wednesday)	Is It I?
March 13	Love One Another
March 20	Watch and Pray
March 27	I Am He

This year we will once again have Lent Suppers in between our mid-week worship services from 4:30—5:45 pm. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to host one of the suppers. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

“30 Minute” Chapel

Our Monday “30 Minute” Chapel services continue on Mondays at 6:00 pm. This is a shortened service that is held in the Fellowship Hall. It provides an opportunity for Worship for those who were out of town over the weekend. In addition, the service is more informal, so that it is 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 by the thought of attending a usual Sunday service. For more information, please call the church office at (480) 830-1723.

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 (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 or by using the form in the ACSTO brochure. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs. Laura LaStrange or Principal Wade.



Choir Microphones For The Pilgrim Campus

Pilgrim's Technology Committee is discussing a variety of upgrades for our buildings and campus including security cameras, wide screens for the sanctuary, and technology equipment for our Fellowship Hall. In addition, the committee is looking at the growing need for improved sound production and is considering the purchase of two choir microphones with boom stands to upgrade the sound quality for our theater and choir performances.



Anyone who would like to donate to the purchase of the choir microphones, can make their donation using the "Online Donation" button on the home page of our website choosing the technology fund or can make them directly to our church office. Don't forget to take a look at the Pilgrim website and especially the "Home Page" which showcases church events and provides quick menu options as a guide to our various pages.

Let's Do Lunch At Nando's



Join fellow Pilgrims for lunch on **Sunday, February 17** right after the second service. Established in 2003, Nando's has been voted Best Mexican Food several times in the past few years and is known for its delicious Sonoran cuisine based on family tried-and-true recipes. We are going to the Mesa location at 6715 E. McDowell Road in the shopping center on the southwest corner of Power and McDowell. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Monthly Property Workday

The February monthly property workday will be held on **Saturday, February 16**, beginning at 8:00 am. Various projects and "odd jobs" will be tackled under the direction of the Property Board. Come when you can, stay as long as you wish, and help maintain our Lord's property here at Pilgrim!

Grandparent's Tea!

Save the date. Grandparent's Tea is just around the corner! On Friday, March 1, from 1:30—3:00 pm, we will celebrate the bringing together of two generations. Grandparent's Tea is a time that we set aside to honor the special relationship between a grandparent and their grandchild. Grandparent's Tea is an event in which we invite our grandparent's/special guest to enjoy an afternoon of songs, skits, and snacks.



From St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance

Thank you so much for your recent donations to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance! We are working hard to alleviate hunger in Arizona, and truly couldn't do it without the support of schools and organizations like Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School. **Your food donations totaled 736 pounds!** This will allow St. Mary's Food Bank to provide enough food for **613 meals** for those in need in our community. Thank you again for partnering St. Mary's Food Bank!

Thrivent Choice

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2019, to direct any remaining 2018 Choice Dollars. Dollars directed to Pilgrim Church and School support our Pilgrim School Scholarship Fund. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

WELS Men's Basketball Tournament

If you would be interested in playing in a men's basketball tournament at ALA on Saturday, March 16, please use the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex or speak with Pastor Winterstein. The deadline to register is Friday, March 1.

PTO Annual Yard Sale

Pilgrim School PTO is holding its annual yard sale on **Friday and Saturday, February 1 and 2 in Pilgrim's Fellowship Hall**. Proceeds from the sale will be used for needed school items. Bring your family and friends and check out all of the bargains. Thanks for supporting our school.



Mr. Jim Wade's 40th Anniversary in Teaching Celebration

Join Pilgrim in celebrating the 40th anniversary in the teaching ministry for Mr. Jim Wade, our Principal and Grades 7 and 8 Teacher. The event will be commemorated in the 8:00 am service on Sunday, February 3, with fellowship and a meal between services. Congratulations and Lord's Blessings, Mr. Wade!

Scrip (Gift) Card Contest

For every \$100 you purchase in Scrip cards from February 1 to February 28, your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 card of your choice! You don't need to purchase the \$100 all at once as there will be a running total of your total purchases for the entire month of February. For an opportunity to earn extra entries, consider purchasing your cards at www.shopwithscrip.com. No minimum is required if you order your cards online but you will need to use the PrestoPay option for the amount to be added to your total and any amount purchased online will be added to your overall total purchased during the month of February. Any questions, please speak to Laura Hanson, Laura LaStrange, or Kirk Gibb.

Box Tops for Education

It's that time of the year again to start bringing in as many Box Tops as you can accumulate. The spring deadline to turn in all of the box tops is April 1. The total amount earned for the previous fall payout was \$439.40 and the goal for this school year is to earn \$1000.00. The money earned from the Box Tops will help the PTO group with their goal of purchasing new bleachers for the sports field. Please bring in whatever you can because every little bit helps and it can add up quickly!



ALA Bulletin & Newsletter Information



February 2019

ENROLLING NEW STUDENTS AT ALA

The enrollment season for 2019-2020 has begun. If you have a child ready for high school, learn more about ALA and the enrollment process on February 19, 2019, at our Admissions Night. Your child can also shadow that day. Register for both online. If you have questions, contact Michelle Meyer at Admissions@ALAcoyotes.org.

EIGHTH ANNUAL GALA

Mark your calendar now for Saturday, March 30, 2019. This is the date for the 8th Annual Gala, *Off Broadway*, taking place at Arizona Lutheran Academy. The goal for this big event is to support ALA students by raising needed funds for two new or almost-new 12-passenger vans.

Ways to participate:

ATTEND. Tickets are available online. *Note:* All alumni who graduated from ALA in years ending in 4 or 9 can attend the 2019 Gala for half-price. Invite your ALA classmates and have a class reunion at the Gala!

DONATE. Auction items are being accepted. If you prefer, you can donate money to go toward the fundraising effort. Look for the donation form online.

SPONSOR. Sponsorships and advertising at the Gala are still available. If you are interested, there is more information online or contact Jen Bode at JBode@ALAcoyotes.org.

STUDENT TEACHERS AT ALA

For the first time in its history, ALA will be hosting student teachers from Martin Luther College. One young man is Joshua Enstad from New Ulm, Minnesota. He will work with Mr. Gray and Mr. Wiechmann in life science. The other young man is Joel Westenberg from Marshfield, Wisconsin, who will work with Mr. Peter and Mr. Rosenbaum in social studies.

ALA STAFF UPDATES

The ALA Board of Directors extended a call to **Mr. Justin Ohm**, currently serving at Crown of Life Lutheran Church and School in West St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Ohm has been called to teach in the area of social studies.

Ms. Andrea Oppermann, our music and videography teacher at ALA for the past six years, has received a call to serve as the music instructor at Michigan Lutheran High School, located in St. Joseph, Michigan.

Mr. Ben Edmundson, one of our social studies teachers and coach accepted a call to teach at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School in Menasha, Wisconsin. Mr. Edmundson will complete this year of teaching and move to Wisconsin in the summer of 2019.

Mr. Matthew Groth has accepted ALA's call as an instructor in the area of technology and STEM. Mr. Groth currently is serving at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Saginaw, Michigan. This position will replace **Mrs. Virginia Steinmetz**, who has announced her retirement at the close of the 2018-2019 school year.

DATES TO REMEMBER—*View the entire monthly calendar at www.ALAcoyotes.org/calendar.*

February 6	Grandparents Day at ALA
February 8	No School – Teacher In-service Day
February 18	No School – Presidents' Day
February 19	ALA Shadow Day, 8am-3pm ALA Admissions Night, 6pm
February 24	ALA Sunday at Our Savior, Sun City ALA FDA meeting, 3pm
February 26	Tuition Assistance Workshop, 6pm