

# The Pilgrim's Progress



The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church & School

January 2019

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## FOLLOW THE SIGNS



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

**Matthew 2:1-2**

"Lord, give me a sign!" Often this request accompanies our prayers. "Give me a sign that you're listening. Give me a sign that you care about me. Give me a sign which inspires my trust in you." There is only one minor complication. Even if the Lord does provide a sign, we may not always understand it or pay attention to it.

Take the Magi who came from the east. They saw the star. They investigated what it meant. Still, when they arrived in Jerusalem, they had to ask the question, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Their experience led them to realize a sign can only take one so far.

This is why the Lord has provided his Word of Truth. Not only does it offer much needed signs, it also provides the direction which says, "Look here!" This is what eventually brought the Magi to Bethlehem to see the Savior God had provided for all people. It also led them to worship him as their Lord and Savior.

We need to learn from their experience. While it would be nice to request and receive a sign, the Lord gives us something even more reliable. In his Word we have his unbroken promise of a Savior. In his Word we have the faithful fulfillment of that promise in the birth of the Savior. In the same Word we have the comfort and peace of sins forgiven through the death and resurrection of that Savior.

Still the Lord doesn't leave us without signs which reveal Jesus is that Savior. He leads us to the stable and the manger to see the birth of Jesus. He leads us through the hills and valleys of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria to witness the miraculous ministry of Jesus. He even leads us to the cross on Calvary and the empty tomb to view the undeserved love secured by Jesus.

How blessed we are to have God's precious Word which tells us about Jesus. How blessed we are to have the clear signs which direct us to Jesus. This is why we pray: "Lord, focus my eyes to see the great things you have done; open my ears to hear the truth you have recorded; fill my heart with faith to follow every sign you have provided."

### Prayer:

O gracious Lord, give me the faith I need to trust your holy Word. There not only do I see my Savior and the great things he has done for me, I also see the great signs and wonders which lead me to put my trust in him. Amen.

## Pilgrim Panther News'n Notes



### A BUSY MONTH OF DECEMBER

- † The PTO-sponsored Holiday Gift Shop was again a huge success as our children were afforded the opportunity to do some serious Christmas shopping for their families – right here at school! Many thanks to all who donated gifts and helped the kids shop and wrap.
- † The season of Advent means extra singing for our Cherub and Junior Choirs. The half-hour Advent services planned by our pastors were perfect opportunities for our young singers to help prepare people's hearts for their newborn Savior as well as to enjoy a special object lesson in the front of church. It was awesome to have almost 100% of our children present to sing.
- † Our children's Christmas program, entitled *Saints and Angel Hosts Rejoice*, was well-received by a large, appreciative audience of parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, and church members. Through recitation and song, the children brought the true reason for the season to the forefront in a beautiful and meaningful way. Students and teachers, a job well done!
- † Grades 3 through 8 were privileged to be out-and-about in the community sharing the joy of Christmas. Their Christmas caroling took them to Good Shepherd Lutheran Retirement Center and the downtown Mesa post office. How neat it is to see our children share their faith in a public setting.
- † Grades 5 through 8 have been enjoying their unit on tennis. Once a week they head over to Freestone Park to learn tennis skills and etiquette. Needless to say, these upper graders love the opportunity to recreate off campus.
- † All of our classrooms have been participating in a food drive for the needy through St. Mary's Food Bank. In addition, Pilgrim parents have been helping with special gifts for some of our girls and boys via the Christmas Giving Tree. Thanks to all who have participated in these labors of love!

**Our teachers and staff wish all of our Pilgrim families God's blessings for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!**

- Principal Jim Wade

## School Recruitment News

A December to Remember....During the season of giving, the school embarked on their first ever Christmas Giving Tree! What began as a slow trickling of colorful presents soon ended in an abundance of wonderful gifts. Even after every tag on the tree was taken, Pilgrim's generous congregation and school families, continued to ask for ways to help. So, in addition to gifts, monies for sports fees were paid so that all children are able to participate in our upcoming activities. Thank you all for helping make Christmas brighter for our school children! And, as one year ends, a new one begins and with welcoming at least FOUR new students to Pilgrim in January. God continues to Bless us!

## Sunday School Update

Our Sunday School is gradually growing. We have also acquired a new second through fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Theresea Winsor who will co-teach with Mrs. Tomamichel. Lessons for January are The Birth of John, Foretold (January 6), movie day (January 13), Mary Visits Elizabeth (January 20), and The Birth of John (January 27). The children really enjoyed making their Christmas trees at our December class. If you as parents have any special craft ideas that you would like to see the children do, please let Ms. Pat know. We are always open to new ideas.



## WELS Christian Aid and Relief

A grant request has been approved by WELS CAR for the medical expenses of Mrs. Kristen Wade. To date Pilgrim has graciously given \$2,806.00 toward our \$5,000 challenge goal, which WELS CAR is generously matching. Please mark your gift accordingly; you may also give online.

## Financial Report

<b>Overall Church Offerings - Week of December 16, 2018</b>					
<b><u>Last Week</u></b>		<b><u>Month (3 Weeks)</u></b>		<b><u>Fiscal Year to Date (25 Weeks)</u></b>	
Budgeted:	\$6,981.13	Budgeted:	\$20,943.39	Budgeted:	\$174,528.25
Offerings:	\$7,044.87	Offerings:	\$19,339.32	Offerings:	\$149,572.12
Difference:	<b>\$63.74</b>	Difference:	<b>(\$1,604.07)</b>	Difference:	<b>(\$24,956.13)</b>
<b>Overall Church &amp; School - Week of December 16, 2018</b>					
<b><u>Last Week</u></b>		<b><u>Month (3 Weeks)</u></b>		<b><u>Fiscal Year to Date (25 Weeks)</u></b>	
Budgeted:	\$12,445.00	Budgeted:	\$37,335.00	Budgeted:	\$311,125.00
Offerings:	\$7,044.87	Offerings:	\$19,339.32	Offerings:	\$149,572.12
School:	\$5,308.09	School:	\$25,458.04	School:	\$114,656.77
Difference:	<b>(\$92.04)</b>	Difference:	<b>\$7,462.36</b>	Difference:	<b>(\$46,896.11)</b>

## Women's Ministries and LWMS News



### Advent by Candlelight

Twinkling lights, elegantly decorated tables, fabulous desserts, carols, special music and an inspired program about the Advent Wreath all helped to make our first Advent by Candlelight a lovely and magical evening. Lots of people worked hard to make it happen. Whether you were a part of its planning, decorating, greeting, hosting, performing, reading, or attending, you were an important part of the evening. It greatly enriched our Advent celebration and we look forward to doing it again next year.

### LWMS Bake Sale

The Pilgrim LWMS ladies would like to thank everyone that contributed baked items or donations to our sale and also those that purchased all of the delicious breads, cookies, cup cakes and other assorted culinary delights. Proceeds from the sale totaled \$500 that will be used to support missions locally and abroad.

### LWMS January Meeting

LWMS will meet on **Monday January 28 at 1:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. 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!

### WELS Home and World Missions

WELS Home and World Missions conducts outreach in the United States and 23 foreign countries. Every two years, three or four missionaries are selected for particular LWMS support. At our Congregational Christmas party last week, Christmas cards were available for Pilgrim members to sign. We now have twenty cards, five for each missionary family, with personal notes and words of encouragement to send to each of our four missionaries. Thank you to everyone who participated!



### Script Gift Cards

Want to help a student out with their tuition costs? Would you like to earn some extra tax deduction dollars? If so, consider purchasing Scrip cards to many of your favorite retailers and restaurants. What is Scrip? Scrip is essentially another name for a gift card. Purchase a card for Walmart for \$25.00 at face value and Walmart donates a percentage back to the school. Why is this important and valuable? Because with the 6% increase in school tuition costs this year, every bit helps! So, let's help each other out and try using a gift card to purchase your every day items with the Scrip cards. For any questions, please see Laura LaStrange, Laura Hanson, or Kirk Gibb.

## Financial Peace University



Still paying the credit card off from Christmas? Still have those student loans hanging around, although you've been out of college for eight years? Wishing you still didn't have to make a monthly auto loan payment? Getting sick and tired of paying those medical bill debts? Well, what if you didn't have any of these bills to pay anymore and you could start using your money for fun, like for vacations, or being able to give more to your children or grandchildren or your church, or simply just didn't have the stress anymore about these debts? What if you could say to yourselves, "We're debt FREE!", and you can start to change your family tree?

As Proverbs 22:6-8 says, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender. Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken." This is possible and it starts on **January 18, at 6 pm**. A new Financial Peace University class is starting up on this night and if you had answered yes to any of the above questions, this is for you. Maybe you are already debt free and that is great! Then, do you know any family or friends that may not be as fortunate as you are? Tell them about this, as this class is open to all. If this is for you or someone else that may need this, be sure to give them this web address as this is the direct discount for membership link: <https://fpu.com/1076347>. For those of you that aren't sure that this may be for you, and are curious to find out if this could be, then attend the first class for FREE. We'll see you on January 18!

## "30 Minute" Chapel

Our Monday "30 Minute" Chapel services resume on Monday, January 7, 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.

## Offering Envelopes for 2019

Offering envelopes for 2019 are located in the narthex. Please pick up your box if you have not 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. Included are "Plan for Giving" brochures; extras are available to take home for those who give electronically.

## "Undecorating Party"

Please consider lending a hand after the second service on **Sunday, January 6**, as we pack away our Christmas decorations for another year. Many hands make the work light!

## Security Cameras For The Pilgrim Campus

The Technology Committee and our congregation president have now met with three security camera companies and our congregation president will be presenting their bids at the church council meeting on Tuesday, January 15. If approved, security cameras will be placed strategically around the perimeter of our campus and will be monitored in the church office. Cameras will be set to activate with motion and digital recordings can be used to identify images of intruders causing vandalism damage to our buildings. We also hope the cameras will be a deterrent to vandals and provide another layer of security for our church and school.



Don't forget to take a look at the Pilgrim website and especially the "What's New At Pilgrim" page for a quick look at upcoming services and events.

## Let's Do Lunch At Yen Ching



It's not Superbowl Sunday so you can join us for lunch out with your Pilgrim Family on Sunday January 20 after the second service (noon). We will go to Yen Ching at 126 S. Power Road (just south of Main Street) on the west side. Parking is in the rear. They've been in Mesa since 1988 serving traditional Chinese foods including combination meals at reasonable prices. Look for the sign up sheet in the narthex.

## Monthly Property Workday

The January monthly property workday will be held on **Saturday, January 12**, 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!

## Congregational Open Forum Meeting

Our next Congregational Open Forum Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 20, at 9:20 am**, during the Word of God Hour in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend to hear what is happening at Pilgrim.

## Congregational Voters' Assembly Meeting

Our next Voters' Assembly Meeting will be held **Sunday, January 27 at 12:00 pm**.

## January Sunday Bible Topics

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

January 6	What Ever Happened to Tolerance?
January 13	With So Many Churches Who Knows Who Is Right?
January 20	Congregation Forum
January 27	There Are Hypocrites in Church

## 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 teaching for Mr. Jim Wade. The event will be commemorated in the 8 and 10:30 am services with fellowship and a meal between services. Congratulations Mr. Wade.

## Pilgrim Adult Information Class Choose From Morning or Evening Class



Another Adult Information Class will be starting on **Monday, January 14 at 6:30 pm** with Pastor Winterstein and **Tuesday, January 15 at 9:30 am** with Pastor Bushaw. The course will last for five weeks. All non-members are welcome as well, to learn more about what we at Pilgrim believe and teach. If you are a member of Pilgrim and would like a nice refresher on the chief points of doctrine, feel free to sit in and bring along an unchurched friend. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have questions about the Adult Information Course, please speak to Pastor Winterstein or Pastor Bushaw.

## Christmas Thanks

Pastor and Karen Bushaw and Pastor and Wendy Winterstein wish to thank you for all of your gifts this Christmas season. We pray that the Lord grant you a blessed new year!

## ALA Bulletin & Newsletter Information

### January 2019



#### NEW INSTRUCTOR NEXT YEAR

Mr. Matthew Groth, currently serving at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Saginaw, Michigan, has accepted our call to serve as an instructor in the area of technology and STEM at ALA. He and his family will move here in the summer of 2019. Mr. Groth will replace Mrs. Virginia Steinmetz, who has announced her retirement at the close of this school year.

#### JR. COYOTE BASKETBALL

ALA's Jr. Coyote Basketball program for grades 4-8 takes place on select Saturdays in January and February. Participants can attend some Saturdays or all four Saturdays. Learn more and register at [ALAcoyotes.org](http://ALAcoyotes.org).

#### LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

In the third week of January, ALA and our Lutheran elementary schools in Arizona will be celebrating our heritage and unity during Lutheran Schools Week.

#### GRANDPARENTS DAY AT ALA

Looking ahead, ALA will host Grandparents Day on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 9am to noon. Grandparents of ALA students are invited to attend. If you have an ALA grandchild, mark it on your calendar now!

#### SAVE THE DATE—GALA 2019

##### OFF BROADWAY GALA

March 30, 2019—5pm at Arizona Lutheran Academy

Join us for an evening of New York and Broadway-inspired appetizers, dinner, and dessert, with silent and live auctions, entertainment, and an evening of fun while raising funds for ALA campus improvements. Learn about sponsor opportunities, explore creative donation ideas, and purchase tickets to attend at [ALAcoyotes.org/GALA](http://ALAcoyotes.org/GALA).

#### ENROLLMENT SEASON

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 January 16, 2019, at our Admissions Night. Your child can also shadow that day. Register for both at [ALAcoyotes.org/admissions](http://ALAcoyotes.org/admissions). If you have questions, contact Michelle Meyer at [Admissions@ALAcoyotes.org](mailto:Admissions@ALAcoyotes.org).

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

January 5, 12, 26	Jr. Coyote Basketball, 8am-12pm
January 7	School resumes; semester two begins
January 13	ALA Sunday at Grace, Casa Grande
January 16	ALA Admissions Night, 6pm
January 22-25	Lutheran Schools Week
January 27	ALA Sunday at King of Kings, Apache Junction
January 28	Tuition Assistance Workshop, 6pm