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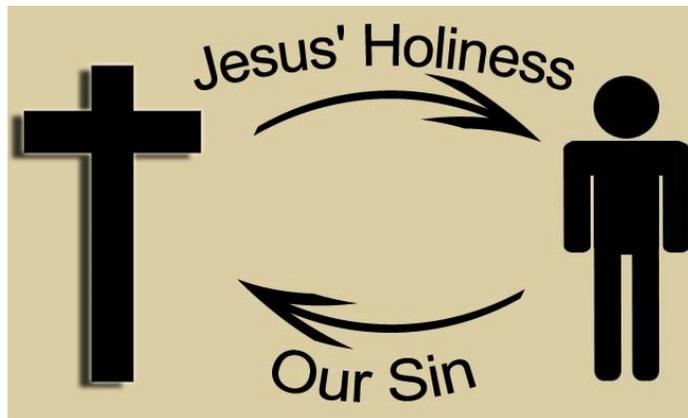
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God Is Just



"[Our God] is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

- Deuteronomy 32:4

A characteristic of God that he revealed about himself in the Bible is that he is just. But instead of embracing the fact that God is just, we often paint an imbalanced picture of God. We read and know that God is love. God loves the whole world. God loves each of us. We tend to focus so much on the fact that God is love that we sometimes forget or ignore the truth that God is also holy and just.

It is much more comfortable for us to try to put God on trial instead of being under scrutiny ourselves. How fair, holy, just, and loving are we? How would the people around us answer that? Should we ask God? Our verdict comes back. Our sin makes us guilty of being far less than perfect, loving, and just.

Since God is just, he needs to carry out his sentence for sin. Because God is love, he did not want the punishment of eternal death to fall on sinners—on you and me. And so, as the Bible teaches, God sent his Son to be the complete sacrifice for sin “to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:26).

God is just. He carried out the sentence of death for sin, but the one who bore the suffering and death was Jesus. Jesus died for the sins of each and every person. Because of Jesus' innocent sufferings and death, God is just by not charging us with the guilt of sin. God is the justifier. Through Jesus he declares us not guilty.

God is just. We hate that fact when we see our sins and know what we deserve. But we love God's justice when we see Jesus' cross and empty tomb. God is just. In Christ we are forgiven.

Prayer:

Dear God, you are holy and just in who you are and all you do. Thank you for punishing Jesus in my place and giving me forgiveness and peace through him. Grow my faith so that your love and holiness increase in my heart and life. Amen.

Pilgrim Panther News'n Notes

We're Thankful

WELSSA Accreditation – To all who served on one of our accreditation subcommittees, we say “Muchas gracias!” Examining and validating educational standards can be tedious work, but together, we did it. A huge shout-out also goes to all who labored so diligently to beautify our campus in preparation for the site team visit.

PTO Parents – With some rather time-consuming PTO events taking place the past few months, lots of hands were needed to achieve success. “Thanks,” parents, for donating your time, talents, and treasure to help make our school a better place!

Pilgrim Members – One Sunday after church, a member approached me and simply said, “Mr. Wade, always remember we’re praying for you and the school.” To say that meant a lot is an understatement. Please know, Pilgrim members, that your prayers and support for Christian education are truly appreciated!

Teacher Calls – God answered our prayer for another male teacher/athletic director/future principal in the person of Mr. Scott Stevenson from Kewaskum, WI. At the time of this writing, his wife Ellen is also holding a call to be a half-time 3rd-4th grade teacher. The Stevenson’s will be relocating to Mesa in early July. Isn’t it wonderful to know that God knows our every need and always provides?

March: Looking Ahead

March 2-3 – Black Canyon Lutheran Athletic League Basketball Tournament

March 7 – Cherub Choir Sings for 4:00 PM Lenten Service

March 9 – End of 3rd Quarter/Early Dismissal

March 9 – Jr. Choir Performs at 11:30 AM at Orangewood Shadows

March 12-16 – Spring Break

March 20 – Report Cards

March 21 – Jr. Choir Sings for 4:00 PM Lenten Service

March 25 – Cherub & Jr. Choirs Sing for 10:30 AM Palm Sunday Service

March 29 – Jr. Choir Sings for 4:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

March 30 – Good Friday – No School



The teachers and staff of Pilgrim wish you God’s blessings for a truly blessed Easter celebration!

Let's Do Lunch

Everyone is invited to a no-host lunch at Moreno's Mexican restaurant on the S/E corner of Power and Main on **Sunday March 18** right after the second service. Enjoy a variety of seafood entrees, charbroiled steak (Tampequena), traditional Mexican favorites, and delightful desserts (Arroz con leche, flan, churros). Please sign up in the narthex by Wednesday March 14 if you would like to join us. Flyers are posted in the usual locations. Do join us!

Easter Flowers

If you would like to purchase Easter Flowers for the altar please take one of the labeled envelopes in the narthex. Put your check or money in the envelope and turn it in to one of the Pastors, Pat Coats or put it in the collection plate. Make all checks payable to Pat Coats. The cost of the flowers this year will be \$10 each.

Our ChrisTeens Need Your Help!

Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to donate various food items for the Easter Breakfast. In addition the Christeens are in need of wrapped candy donations (no chocolate since it melts) for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. There is a box in the narthex for the candy. If you are bringing food for the breakfast, please have your generous donation in to the Fellowship Hall on or before, **Friday, March 30th**. If you are bringing candy, please bring them on or before 9am on **Sunday, March 25th**. If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Myers, Gabe Galvan or Luke Winterstein.

Easter Basket Silent Auction

The Christeens are doing a silent auction to help raise funds for their summer trip! If you would like to help them and want to donate some items here are the themes we are working on: family movie night, bath and body, Easter (of course...), Sports fan, and Family Game Night. If you have any items that fit those themes and will fit in an Easter basket, there will be a collection box in the fellowship hall. We ask that all donations be in the box no later than Saturday morning before Easter, **March 31st!!** Thank you! And don't forget to participate in the auction!! If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Myers, Gabe Galvan or Luke Winterstein.

Sponsor A ChrisTeen

This summer hundreds of WELS teens from around the country will be heading out to Bowling Green, OH for their yearly International Youth Rally. Currently, there are three teens and one chaperon from Pilgrim that will be heading out to Ohio. The cost of the trip is \$345 per person that goes out to the rally. There is enough in the ChrisTeens' special fund account to cover the total expense of \$1380.00; however, there's not quite enough in the account to cover travel expenses. Please speak to Gabe Galvan or the Pastors to see how you may be able to help sponsor some of a ChrisTeens' expenses. Also, please keep bringing in your aluminum cans to Pilgrim. Recently Gabe took the cans to the recycling place and earned \$51.00. Thank you!

New Boom Boxes for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

The technology committee has recently purchased two CD Boom Boxes that will be used in the sanctuary to play music for select church services, weddings, funerals and other programs that require CD music. The second Boom Box will be used in the Fellowship Hall to provide CD music for programs and events. Both will replace the need for using the computer CD player that is not always compatible with compact disks. In addition, two cables have been purchased that plug the Boom Box into the sound systems in both the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.



Technology needs are ongoing at Pilgrim so please remember our technology fund where donations can be made on-line at www.pilgrimmesa.com. The committee truly appreciates the donations from our members that have been earmarked for our technology equipment.

Teacher Calls

In the Voters' meeting on Sunday, Feb. 4th, Pilgrim issued one-year calls for the next school year to teachers: Martha Eiland (PreSchool 3-year-olds), Ellen Stevenson (1/2 time in Grades 3&4), and Roxanne Sternaman (1/2 time in Grades 3&4). Please keep these faithful teachers of Christ's lambs in your prayers.

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2018, to direct any remaining 2017 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.

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 2017 Arizona State Tax Return. In fact, up until April 17, you may make a donation and credit it to your 2017 tax year. You can help support Lutheran education and receive a credit on your Arizona state income taxes (up to \$1,089 per person and \$2,177 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, Principal Wade, or one of the Pastors.

Annual Pilgrim Family Campout - Save the Date

We are starting to organize the annual Pilgrim Family Campout. Date is **June 15-17**. Location is a group site at Woods Canyon Lake, approximately 35 miles east of Payson. See Pat King for questions or comments. 480 241-2181 or patw1@cox.net.

Monthly Property Workday

Please note that the March monthly property workday will be held on Saturday, March 24th, 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!

Lifeline Screening

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; Carotid Artery (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), Peripheral Arterial Disease (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a Heart Rhythm Screening (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an Osteoporosis Risk Assessment for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment!

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Voter's Meeting Sunday

February 4, 2018

Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Paul Tomamichel.

Prayer by Pastor Winterstein.

Reading of minutes (Voter's Meeting 1/7/18). Steve Drexler motioned to accept minutes. Mark Klatt seconded motion. Motion passed.

Wendell Wager motioned to accept Pastor's Report. Steve Drexler seconded motion. Motion passed.

Steve Drexler motioned to accept page 2 of Pastor's Report. Mike Roach seconded motion. Motion passed.

Discussion on Congregational Counseling.

Jim Wade motioned to accept Nominating Committee. Steve Drexler seconded motion. Motion passed.

Worship-See Power Point.

Stewardship/Evangelism-See Power Point.

Youth-See Power Point.

School-Mike Hanson motioned to extend a one year half-time Divine Call to Ellen Stevenson for school year 2018/19. Chuck King seconded motion. Motion passed.

Steve Drexler motioned to extend a one year half-time Divine Call to Roxanne Sternaman for school year 2018/19. Mike Roach seconded motion. Motion passed.

Steve Drexler motioned to extend a one year Provisional Call to Martha Eiland for school year 2018/19. Mike Roach seconded motion. Motion passed.

Mike Roach motioned to accept school Mission, Vision and Objectives. Steve Drexler seconded motion. Motion passed.

Fiscal Report

Called worker salary discussion.

Discussion of Divine Calls (Ellen Stevenson, Roxanne Sternaman, Laura Folsom).

Discussion Special Funds.

Financial Peace University 2/18/18.

Gabe Galvan motioned to accept Financial Report. Chuck King seconded motion. Motion passed.

Property/Projects-See Power Point.

Adjournment-Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Arizona Lutheran Academy Update

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



SPRING CONCERT

The annual ALA Spring Sacred Concert will be held on Sunday, March 4, at 4pm in the ALA gymnasium.

SEVENTH ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

Arizona Lutheran Academy is hosting its 7th annual Benefit Gala on March 24, 2018. This year's gala theme, *Global Adventure*, will celebrate the rich diversity of God's children at ALA. The goal for this event is to support ALA students in two ways. The event will help provide tuition assistance for students at ALA and also raise funds for campus improvements. You are all invited! Visit ALAcoyotes.org/gala to purchase tickets to attend.

WIFFLE BALL TOURNAMENT

The ALA baseball team will host its annual Wiffle Ball tournament on **Saturday, March 3**, from 8am to noon on the grassy areas of ALA's campus. Players of ALL ages can form a team with a maximum of seven players. You can register at ALAcoyotes.org as a full team (bring the family!) or as a single player. Either way, you'll have loads of Wiffle fun! Proceeds will benefit ALA's baseball team.

CONNECT WITH ALA

Student Shadow Days: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 | 7:50am to 3pm & Wednesday, March 27, 2018 | 7:50am to 3pm

Arizona Lutheran Academy invites students to participate in an ALA Student Shadow Date. Students will connect with an ALA student, attend actual classes and chapel, meet teachers, make new friends and experience first-hand what being part of ALA is really like.

ALA Admissions Nights: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 | 6pm & Wednesday, March 27, 2018 | 6pm

Families are invited to campus to attend an ALA Admissions Night. During this evening event, you will have the opportunity to see the campus and classrooms in one of our student-led tours. You will hear from and talk with our administration and members of the faculty to answer any questions and discover how you and your teens can connect at Arizona Lutheran! ALA Application for Enrollment information will also be provided during these events.

Contact Admissions Coordinator Michelle Meyer for more information. (Admissions@ALAcoyotes.org or 602-268-8686 x40) Sign up for both the shadow day and admissions event at ALAcoyotes.org/visit.

Tuition Assistance Workshop for Parents: Thursday, March 27, 2018 | 6pm in the ALA Media Center

This workshop is for parents of current/ future students at ALA or our Lutheran Elementary Schools.

Parents, do you know all the options that exist for tuition assistance? Find out if there is more you can do to receive tuition help! ACSTO representatives will be at the workshop to answer questions. Register at ALAcoyotes.org/TAW.