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## THE LAMB OF GOD!



**The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"**

**- John 1:29**

By calling Jesus "the Lamb of God" John the Baptist pointed the people to one of their familiar festival—the Passover which commemorated God's deliverance of his people from their bondage in the land of Egypt.

The LORD commissioned Moses and his brother Aaron to speak repeatedly to Egypt's ruler informing him that the true God said: "Let my people go!" Nine times God sent a debilitating plague, but the ruler refused. In response to his stubbornness, God sent one last plague.

"At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn of Egypt." (Exodus 12:29) However, the Israelites were spared because they did what God had commanded: they sacrificed the

very best male lamb from their flock and spread its blood over the outer doorframe of their homes. When the LORD saw the blood of the unblemished lamb, he "passed over" the house and spared the firstborn. Immediately Egypt's ruler released God's people. By the blood of the sacrificial lamb the people were freed from slavery.

So when John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and proclaimed that he is "the Lamb of God," he identified Jesus as the long-awaited Savior. Jesus is God's Lamb by whose blood people are freed from the slavery of sin and death.

Jesus—the Lamb of God—loved us so much to offer his sinless life into death on a cross to secure our pardon before God the Father and flood our troubled souls with the peace that God gives us through Jesus. Let that truth flood your soul with the mercy we all desperately need and confident assurance we all urgently desire.

### **A Prayer at the Beginning of Lent:**

Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion. With your Spirit me endow for such meditation. Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish of your suffering, pain and death, that I may not perish. Amen.

## Pilgrim Panther News'n Notes

### Growing Pains

Each of the past few years our school has added an average of 10 new students to our roster. Quite an astounding blessing! With most of our current students committed to return next school year, we conceivably could clear the 90-student mark. While this is indeed exciting news, it also comes with challenges:

- Since potentially our 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade class could be very large next year, we are exploring the financial impact of increasing staff once again.
- As more students join our ranks, incrementally the number of special-needs children also grows. At what point do we consider incorporating a part-time SPED teacher, which is the norm in more and more schools today?
- Space-wise, we're already overflowing into the Fellowship Hall. To create another classroom, we're looking at putting up a wall partition in our largest classroom/splitting it into two. It won't be long and we'll be forced to talk about constructing several new classrooms.

God never promised that maintaining a Christian day school would be an easy task, but He did promise to bless the faithful labors of love put forth by our church and school leaders and supporters as we strive to be the best school we can be – to the eternal benefit of our precious young people and the glory and honor of His name.

### Panther Winter Sports

Congratulations to our girls' and boys' "B" basketball teams and their coaches for a successful wrap-up to their seasons at the Black Canyon Lutheran Athletic League Tournament held at ALA several weekends ago. Under the direction of Mrs. Kim Drexler, our girls won 3 out of 4 games played and showed real grit and determination in the process. Our boys' team, under the guidance of Mrs. Scott Stevenson, likewise netted 3 wins against only 1 loss by playing some of their finest basketball of the season when it counted most. Way to go, Panthers!

### Pilgrim Lutheran School's Mission Statement

Every five years when the WELSSA accreditation team comes to town, our school's very important Mission Statement gets tweaked a bit. Last year our Mission Statement was simplified to read as follows: "*Pilgrim Lutheran School exists to serve the families of our congregation and community by providing their children with excellent, Christ-centered education.*" It is our prayer each day as we open our school doors and welcome in children, that this mission statement might be at the heart and core of all we think, do and say. To be sure, God's children are certainly worth it!

### Heartfelt "Thanks"

I wish to extend a sincere "thank you" for all your cards, gifts, and well-wishes at my 40-year teaching anniversary several weeks back. Thanks especially to our pastors, staff, and choir members who planned what for me was a special and memorable day. I indeed count it a privilege to serve the families of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School.

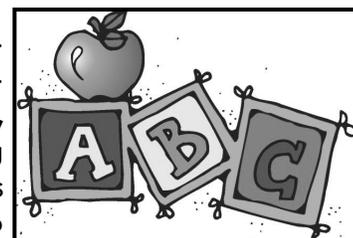
**With gratitude, Mr. James Wade' Principal**





## School Recruitment News

February is typically a slow month for the school as far as inquiries are concerned. With only four months left in the school year, most families are settled into their school routines and not looking to make a change. However, fortunately, this has not been the case for Pilgrim. Not only are we getting preschool calls for next school year, but have had several calls from parents wanting to start their grade school age children in March. We continue to be Blessed with interest in both preschool and grade school and our re-enrollment numbers look strong going into the 2019-20 school year.



## 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 (or 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](http://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.

## 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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

## Financial Report

| <b>Overall Church Offerings - Week of February 17, 2019</b>    |                            |                               |                            |  |                             |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <b><u>Last Week</u></b>  |                            | <b><u>Month (3 Weeks)</u></b> |                            | <b><u>Fiscal Year to Date (34 Weeks)</u></b> |                             |
| Budgeted:  | \$6,981.13                 | Budgeted:                     | \$20,943.39                | Budgeted:                                    | \$237,358.42                |
| Offerings:   | \$7,115.51                 | Offerings:                    | \$20,885.35                | Offerings:                                   | \$229,207.75                |
| Difference:  | <b><u>\$134.38</u></b>     | Difference:                   | <b><u>(\$58.04)</u></b>    | Difference:                                  | <b><u>(\$8,150.67)</u></b>  |
| <b>Overall Church &amp; School - Week of February 17, 2019</b> |                            |                               |                            |  |                             |
| <b><u>Last Week</u></b>  |                            | <b><u>Month (3 Weeks)</u></b> |                            | <b><u>Fiscal Year to Date (34 Weeks)</u></b> |                             |
| Budgeted:  | \$12,445.00                | Budgeted:                     | \$37,335.00                | Budgeted:                                    | \$423,130.00                |
| Offerings:   | \$7,115.51                 | Offerings:                    | \$20,885.35                | Offerings:                                   | \$229,207.75                |
| School:  | \$3,563.30                 | School:                       | \$8,189.97                 | School:                                      | \$144,533.48                |
| Difference:  | <b><u>(\$1,766.19)</u></b> | Difference:                   | <b><u>(\$8,259.68)</u></b> | Difference:                                  | <b><u>(\$49,388.77)</u></b> |

**Pilgrim Lenten/Easter Services —"Three Words of Truth"**

| Date                     | Worship Topic                | Service Time                               |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| April 3                  | What Is Truth?               | 3:30 and 6:00 pm                           |
| April 10                 | Take Him Away!               | 3:30 and 6:00 pm                           |
| April 14—Palm Sunday     | Save Us Now!                 | 8:00 and 10:30 am                          |
| April 18—Maundy Thursday | Take and Eat; Take and Drink | 3:30 and 6:00 pm                           |
| April 19—Good Friday     | It Is Finished!              | 3:30 and 6:00 pm                           |
| April 21—Easter          | He Has Risen                 | 6:00 am Sunrise<br>8:00 and 10:30 Festival |

This year we will once again have Lent Suppers in between our mid-week worship services from 4:30-5:45 pm.

**The Cross In My Pocket by Karen Bushaw**

On Ash Wednesday, March 6, and the following Sunday, March 10, we will be handing out a "cross for your pocket." Everyone young and old will receive one to put in your pocket as a reminder that you are a Christian no matter where you may be and to remind you of the price Christ paid for us. After the distribution on the above dates there will be a basket in the narthex for you to "Take One – Share One." Please feel free to share them with anyone whom you would like to share the message of Jesus Christ. A big thank you to the few who helped make them! The following poem will be included with each cross.

**THE CROSS IN MY POCKET**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>I carry a cross in my pocket<br/>A simple reminder to me<br/>Of the fact that I am a Christian<br/>No matter where I may be.</p> <p>This little cross is not magic<br/>Nor is it a good luck charm<br/>It isn't meant to protect me<br/>From every physical harm.</p> | <p>It's not for identification<br/>For all the world to see<br/>It's simply an understanding<br/>Between my Savior and me.</p> <p>When I put my hand in my pocket<br/>To bring out a coin or a key<br/>The Cross is there to remind me<br/>Of the price He paid for me.</p> |
|--|---|

**"30 Minute" Chapel Resumes May 6**

During the Lenten and Easter season months of March and April, there will be no Monday "30 Minute" Chapel services. The Monday night services will resume on **Monday, May 6**.

## Security Cameras For The Pilgrim Campus



Pilgrim's council president, Paul Tomamichel, Pastor Winterstein and the Technology Committee, have selected a vendor, Tel Tech Networks, for our security camera installation project. Ten cameras will be installed around the campus perimeter with our goals of making the Pilgrim campus safer for our children, staff and church members and deterring vandals. Tel Tech has identified specific locations for the cameras and will be starting the installation of cables and cameras sometime in March. If you would like additional information about the project, contact the Pastor or Paul.

## Let's Do Lunch At Olive Garden



**Sunday, March 24**, we will find our Italian roots in the land of endless soup, salad, and breadsticks: Olive Garden. *Mama Mia* is it gonna be good! Join their E-club membership online -- which might just get you a nice coupon to use for this Lunch Out with your Pilgrim Family. We will go to the Olive Garden at 6201 E Southern Ave., Mesa, about noon, right after the second service. You'll be sorry if you eat a big breakfast that day! Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

## Monthly Property Workday and Spring Work and Fellowship Day

The March monthly property workday will be held on **Saturday, March 23**, beginning at 8:00 am and in addition, our Fall Work and Fellowship Day was such a success, that a special Spring Work and Fellowship Day will be held on **Sunday, March 31**. Wear your work clothes to church. A task list will be available indicating the jobs that need to be accomplished and more details will be coming soon. Let's "Make Pilgrim Shine! - Again!"

## ChrisTeen Car Wash

The ChrisTeens are having a car wash on **Sunday, March 17**, beginning after the first service in the church parking lot. The proceeds from the wash will help the teens with the costs to attend the Summer WELS District youth rally. For those that would like to have your vehicle washed, a donation towards the rally is appreciated but not necessary. Be sure to let your friends know about this. The teens thank all of you for your help and support!



## Arizona Lutheran Academy—A Capella Choir At Pilgrim



The Arizona Lutheran Academy A Capella Choir will be at Pilgrim to sing for both services on Sunday, March 24. Breakfast will be served to the choir and if you would like to provide food items, please use the sign up sheet in the narthex. Come and enjoy their music.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church - Voters' Meeting Minutes for Sunday, January 27, 2019

Meeting called to order by President Paul Tomamichel at 12:03 p.m.

Prayer by Pastor Winterstein.

- Pastor's Report-See Power Point Slides. -317 Communicants. -Scott Stevenson motioned to accept Membership Transactions as written. Jim Wade seconded motion. Motion passed.
- Worship-See Power Point. Youth-See Power Point.
- School-Enrollment is 82 -PTO Yard Sale is February 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Looking for any help.
- Chick Fil A Fundraiser in the near future. -Mr. Wade's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in the Ministry is Sunday, February 3 between services.
- Property Board-See Power Point -Handout of proposed projects to be accomplished this year. Planned Giving Committee and Council recommended moving monies from the Pilgrim Legacy Fund to cover certain repairs. -Ron Grant motioned to use \$8000 for completion of copper siding. Scott Stevenson seconded motion. Motion passed.
- Gabe Galvan motioned to use \$2800 to replenish the AC Fund (money that had been borrowed for portables removal). Ron Grant seconded motion. Motion passed.
- Mark Klatt motioned to add \$6000 to monies already collected for security camera system. Scott Stevenson seconded motion. Motion passed. -Monies can/will be available from Legacy Fund to be withdrawn when/if needed for Income Stabilization Fund.
- Treasurer's Report-See Handouts
- Mark Klatt motioned to ratify Paul Tomamichel, Gabe Galvan and Mike Hanson as our Nominating Committee. Jim Wade seconded motion. Motion passed.
- Chuck King has agreed to write a first draft for new Planned Giving Committee bylaws. This will clarify bylaws on Legacy Fund. Further discussion at April Voters' Meeting.
- Meeting Adjourned at 1:25 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

## Box Tops for Education



It's that time of the year again where we're ramping up on obtaining as many Box Tops for Education as we can collect. The spring submission deadline is quickly approaching on Monday, April 1. The goal is to collect \$1000.00 worth of Box Tops for this school year and we are nearly half way there already. The current value earned so far is \$439.40.

Any amount of Box Tops collected will help purchase new bleachers for the sports field.

## Fundraising Monies Earned

Thank you to all of you who have brought various items that have earned the following. Aluminum Cans - \$166.00, Amazon Smile - \$124.03, Box Tops - \$438.40, Fry's VIP Card - \$350.73, Coca-Cola Codes - \$41.94, Paper & Cardboard - \$54.50, Scrip Rebates - \$1803.68, Store Receipts - \$129.42, ACSTO - \$38,582.79, and Thrivent Choice - \$4475.00. Thank you again and keep bringing in your stuff! Any questions about any of these, speak to Kirk Gibb.

## ALA Bulletin & Newsletter Information

### March 2019

JOIN US FOR THE ALA GALA!

[ALAcoyotes.org/gala](http://ALAcoyotes.org/gala)



You're invited to attend the Arizona Lutheran Academy's Off Broadway Gala on Saturday, March 30, 2019. The evening will include dinner, show tunes, and a silent and live auction to support ALA students by raising needed funds for two new or almost-new 12-passenger vans. Visit [ALAcoyotes.org/gala](http://ALAcoyotes.org/gala) to purchase tickets or learn more.

### SPRING SACRED CONCERT

The ALA Spring Concert will take place in the ALA gymnasium on Thursday, March 7, at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this free concert of sacred music of the season.

### ENROLLING NEW STUDENTS AT ALA

If you have a child ready for high school, learn more about ALA and the enrollment process on Tuesday, March 5 or Thursday, March 21, 2019, at our Admissions Nights. Your child can also shadow either day. Register for both online at [ALAcoyotes.org/admissions](http://ALAcoyotes.org/admissions). If you have questions, contact Michelle Meyer at [Admissions@ALAcoyotes.org](mailto:Admissions@ALAcoyotes.org).

### STUDENT TEACHERS AT ALA

ALA's student teachers from Martin Luther College will be arriving this month and will stay into May. Joshua Enstad, from New Ulm, Minnesota, will work with Mr. Gray and Mr. Wiechmann in life science. Joel Westenberg, from Marshfield, Wisconsin, will work with Mr. Peter and Mr. Rosenbaum in social studies. We look forward to welcoming these two young men to Arizona and to ALA!

### ALA STAFF UPDATES

**Mr. Justin Ohm**, called by the ALA Board of Directors in mid-January, has declined our call to teach in the area of social studies.

Early in January, **Ms. Andrea Oppermann**, our Fine Arts Director, received a call to be the music instructor at Michigan Lutheran High School in St. Joseph, Michigan. She has announced that she will stay at ALA, teaching all choirs, bands, and videography.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

View the entire monthly calendar at [ALAcoyotes.org/calendar](http://ALAcoyotes.org/calendar).

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March 2     | Wiffle Ball Tournament at ALA                        |
| March 5     | ALA Shadow Day, 8am-3pm<br>ALA Admissions Night, 6pm |
| March 7     | Spring Sacred Concert, 7pm                           |
| March 11-15 | ALA Spring Break                                     |
| March 21    | ALA Shadow Day, 8am-3pm<br>ALA Admissions Night, 6pm |
| March 24    | ALA Sunday at Pilgrim, Mesa                          |
| March 28    | Student Service Day                                  |