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THE TRUTH ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS



For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Romans 1:17

At the end of October we will once again mark the anniversary of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany protesting the religious teachings of the church in his day. To a certain degree the entire Reformation hinged on one word—righteousness. Luther had been taught that righteousness was something that humans had to offer to God. He was told that the only way for a person to be acceptable to God was to love the Lord above all things and to love others selflessly. But no matter how hard he tried, even devoting himself to the strictest level of obedience as a monk, he always came up short. If God’s standard of righteousness is perfect obedience in thought, word, and deed, which it is (Matthew 5:48), how can anyone count themselves “righteous?”

If you’ve ever tried to get really good at something, then maybe you’ve come to the realization that the better you get, the harder it is to make improvements. For example, if you have the natural gifts and devote

yourself to hours of practicing the piano, you will probably be able to get pretty good—maybe even better than most. But if you want to reach the level of a professional concert pianist, you’d have to devote your entire life to practice, and you still might not reach that level. The closer you get to perfection the amount of practice necessary increases exponentially. That’s kind of like what Luther discovered when he tried to earn God’s righteousness. The harder he tried the more he realized how far away he was.

Luther’s “aha” moment came when God opened his eyes to see that the righteousness we need, is not something that we can give to God, but something that God gives us through faith. This is the good news. We could never offer God the righteousness he demands in his Law. But God’s own Son, Jesus Christ, came to live a perfectly holy and righteous life in our place. He then offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to credit us with his perfect obedience.

This is the truth about righteousness. It’s a truth that led Luther to stand before Emperor and Pope and risk his life. It’s a truth that gives us peace and confidence. We can’t do it, but Christ has. “For in the gospel the righteousness of God has been revealed” and it’s for you!

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.” (Martin Luther)

Pilgrim Panther News'n Notes



New School Year...New Families

✝ God continues to bless us as our enrollment keeps creeping in a positive direction. With three new students enrolling this week, we're currently blessed with 76 precious children to teach and train in our seven classrooms. Four more preschoolers will be starting in the near future after they turn three and/or are potty-trained. We thank Mrs. LaStrange for her dedicated efforts in helping the enrollment process go smoothly for our new families.

Old Portable Classrooms Demo'd – A Kid's Perspective

✝ "Wow, that was awesome!"

"Wish I could drive that crane! It's just like playing a video game!"

"Whoa, down comes another wall!"

Such were some of our students' exuberant reactions as our old portable classrooms, rendered unusable for the past dozen or more years, finally were demolished and removed a couple of weeks ago. How excited the children were to watch as the driver of the huge crane skillfully proceed to knock down each of the four walls and tear up the flooring, then load the debris into a huge truck and drive it away. Quite a spectacle for our children to learn from and enjoy!

✝ Many thanks are in order, including School Board Chairman Michael Saucerman who oversaw the portable removal project and Congregational President Paul Tomamichel who helped keep the project moving forward. A special "shout out" goes to all who gave monetary donations to help pay for the removal. Anyone who still might like to contribute can speak with Mr. Tomamichel.

✝ With the old portables demolished and removed, we'd like to use part of the vacated area to make a fun Big Wheels Race Track for our youngest students. With that in mind, we are hoping to purchase six to eight 16" Big Wheels – typically about \$50 each at Target or Walmart. See Mr. Wade if you'd like to help. Thanks!

Pilgrim to Host Big Conference

✝ On November 1st and 2nd Pilgrim will serve as the host school for the Arizona-California District WELS Teachers' Conference. Between 120 and 150 preschool through 12th-grade teachers from California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona will be in attendance. How can you help? Needed are the following: monetary donations for snacks and beverages, and servers for the Thursday breakfast and lunch and the Friday breakfast. Please speak with one of our teachers if you are able to assist! Thank you.

- Principal Jim Wade

LWMS 2018 Fall Retreat

“Stand Firm” will be Pastor Eric Hartzell’s message at the LWMS 2018 Fall Women’s Retreat on October 5–7 at Lions Camp Tatiyee in Lakeside, AZ. Pastor Timothy Patoka will address “Communicating Christ’s Cross to Generation Z.” The registration fee for the full weekend is \$145. Special teen registration is \$105 (teens between 13 and 19 are encouraged to attend). Single day cost (including lunch) is \$30. Full weekend registrations include two nights lodging and five meals. Call the church office at (480) 830-1723 or visit the Grand Canyon website at www.grandcanyonlwms.org or www.arizonalionscamp.org/site-rentals/ for more information. Deadline for registration is September 21.



New Video Sermons On Pilgrim Website

If you haven’t looked at the new video sermons on our Pilgrim website, take a minute to see both Pastor Winterstein and Pastor Bushaw preach the gospel of our Lord.



Portable Demolition Project



The portable building located behind Pilgrim School was torn down on Tuesday, September 11. This campus improvement project was a requirement of our WELSSA School Accreditation process and will improve the look of our campus. The total project cost is approximately \$6,000, and already almost half of that amount has been donated. If the Lord so moves and blesses you with the ability and willingness to help, please mark your donation as “Portable Project.” If you have any questions, please speak with Paul Tomamichel, Michael Saucerman, or to Pastor Winterstein.

Treasurer’s Update and Financial Report

The council would like to thank each of you that gave a little extra last month to help out with the plumbing issues in the school. The plumbing has been repaired and school began on time. For a quick update of the church and school’s finances, we have been able to keep up with most of the bills and with school starting just a few weeks ago, we are starting to receive school tuition payments and have received just over \$13,000 in ACSTO monies already.

Church Income		Week of 9/16/18			
<u>Last Week</u>		<u>Month (3 Weeks)</u>		<u>Fiscal Year to Date (12 Weeks)</u>	
Budgeted:	\$6,981.14	Budgeted:	\$20,943.42	Budgeted:	\$83,773.68
Offerings:	\$4,588.21	Offerings:	\$14,398.38	Offerings:	\$66,542.42
Difference:	(\$2,392.93)	Difference:	(\$6,545.04)	Difference:	(\$17,231.26)
Church and School Expenses					
<u>Last Week</u>		<u>Month (3 Weeks)</u>		<u>Fiscal Year to Date (12 Weeks)</u>	
Budgeted:	\$12,445.00	Budgeted:	\$37,335.00	Budgeted:	\$149,340.00
Offerings:	\$4,588.21	Offerings:	\$14,398.38	Offerings:	\$66,542.42
School:	\$6,371.28	School:	\$14,634.58	School:	\$47,551.60
Difference:	(\$1,485.51)	Difference:	(\$8,302.04)	Difference:	(\$35,245.98)

Pilgrim Weekly Worship Service Recordings

Each week, Pilgrim volunteers record our Sunday worship service on DVDs so that they can be made available to our shut-ins. Our camera and computer for recording the services are located in the organ loft. The camera, using computer technology, is able to capture a variety of shots including a close up of the pastors at the lectern and pulpit as well as assorted shots of the front and sides of the sanctuary. In addition, each sermon is recorded so that it can be added to our Pilgrim Web Site where by placing your cursor over the "Our Church" menu on the home page and selecting "Pilgrim Video Sermons" from the drop down menu, you can view our list of sermons that can be downloaded for your viewing enjoyment. The Pilgrim Technology Committee is looking for additional volunteers to record the services and training will be provided. Please contact Pastor Winterstein or the church office at (480) 830-1723.



Let's Do Lunch



As the weather gets a bit chillier our thoughts naturally turn to fall favorites like football, Halloween, pumpkin pie, chili, and ... chili? Did someone say, chili? What a coincidence! Let's Do Lunch is scheduled to go to **Chili's Grill and Bar** at Power Road and McKellips on **Sunday October 21**. Soup, salad, sandwiches, Mexican favorites and, of course, chili. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Advent by Candlelight

Our first Advent by Candlelight is (tentatively) scheduled for Sunday, December 2 at 6 pm. It will be an evening for women during which they can set aside all the pressing holiday cares that prevent them from focusing on the reason for the season: the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



It is an evening filled with Scripture readings, narration, prayer, songs of praise and Christian fellowship. Christmas décor, holiday tableware, and favorite desserts create a festive atmosphere. Ladies are encouraged to invite extended family (great-grandmothers to great-grandchildren) to attend. Tables may be adopted for your family to adorn and provide dessert for six to eight. Beverages will be provided by LWMS. Registration is necessary and will be open during the month of October. For more information, go to <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/advent-by-candlelight>.

Pilgrim School Drama Club

The Pilgrim School Drama Club will be presenting "The Snow Queen", an original fairy tale written by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen. The story centers on the struggle between good and evil as experienced by Gerda and her friend, Kai. Performances will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, November 16 and Sunday, November 18**.



Upcoming Meetings

The next Voters' Assembly originally scheduled for Sunday, September 30 will be held on **Sunday, October 7** at noon.

LWMS Provides Gifts To Missions

Pilgrim LWMS has been blessed with the opportunity to support those who serve in WELS home and world mission fields and has been able to provide another \$400 in mission gifts to our "Befriend A Mission" project providing a gift of \$100 each to the following missions:



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pastor Paul Biedenbender, Denver, CO
Hmong Asia Ministry Coordinator Joint Mission Council, Pastor Bounkeo Lor, Kansas City, KS
Grace Hmong Lutheran Church, Pastor Ger Ter Lor, Kansas City, KS
Multi-Language Publications, Pastor Nathan Seiltz, Waukesha, WI

Monthly Property Workday and Fall Work and Fellowship Day

The October monthly property workday will be held on **Saturday, October 20**, beginning at 8:00 am and in addition, a special Fall Work and Fellowship Day will be held on **Sunday, October 28**. Wear your work clothes to church. A "30 minute" task list will be available indicating the jobs that need to be accomplished and a hot dog lunch will be provided. Let's "Make Pilgrim Shine!"

Pilgrim Adult Information Class Choose From Morning or Evening Class

The Adult Information Course is continuing to meet each **Monday at 6:30 pm** with Pastor Winterstein and **Tuesday 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.

ChrisTeens Car Wash

The ChrisTeens are having a car wash on **Sunday, November 4**, beginning after the first service. 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!

New Program For Short-Term Mission Trips

WELS Mission Journeys, the official WELS program for short-term mission trips, provides an opportunity for all WELS members to walk together in the Great Commission. Want to learn more about how you can get involved? Visit wels.net/missionjourneys.



LWMS October Meeting

LWMS resumed its monthly meetings on Monday September 17. As a part of WELS Grand Canyon Circuit West, Pilgrim's LWMS supports four Befriend a Mission (BAM) missionaries with prayers, cards, and gifts. Check out the LWMS Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall for information about how our funds are spent. Located in 58 foreign countries, WELS missionaries plant churches, train leaders, and mentor fellow Lutherans. To learn more about this worthwhile ministry, come to one of our meetings. This month we will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **October 15 at 1:00 pm.**

Trunk or Treat

Pilgrim's Trunk or Treat will be held on **Saturday, October 27 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.** This event is a great way to make the community aware of the presence of our church and school in the neighbor along with providing a great evangelism tool and fellowship. We are looking for a good turnout of decorated trunks. Plan to arrive by 5:00 pm to get set up. Trunk or Treaters are expected to start arriving at 5:30 pm. Signup sheets are available in the narthex and for more information, speak to Pastor Bushaw.



October Sunday Adult Bible Study

You don't want to miss Pastor Bushaw discussing "Sharing God's Word - Sin, Death, Savior, Life" during Pilgrim's Adult Bible Study Word of God Hour beginning Sunday, October 7th. Join us for coffee and lively Scripture discussion.

School Recruitment News

September continued to sizzle with interest in our school. We were Blessed to have at least a weekly phone call from a prospective parent. While preschool continues to have the most interest, we were able to enroll a 3rd and 7th grader. What a Blessing! We also are still anticipating at least 5 new preschoolers for our preschool 3 year old class to start in January 2019. Currently, Mrs. Eiland will have all boys with a class that looks to be close to 11. In addition, we had a wonderful turn out for our ACSTO Workshops that were held on September 13th. Speaking of ACSTO, please prayerfully consider donating to this wonderful cause. So many of our school children would not be able to attend Pilgrim without these tuition tax scholarships. Any amount you are able to donate is so appreciated. Lastly, please watch for the October edition of The Groves. An article regarding the rather unusual amount of twins attending Pilgrim will be highlighted.

Pilgrim Adult Choir

Pilgrim's Adult Choir practice continues on **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.** Anyone is welcome to join us in praising the Lord with song. Our Choir Director is our School Principal, Mr. Jim Wade.

Grow In Grace

The Sunday sermon theme for the month of October will be "Grow In Grace" written by Pastor Bushaw. Don't miss this worship series.

Ministry Fair

Plan to attend Pilgrim's Ministry Fair, **Sunday, October 14** between worship services in the breezeway. Find ways to use your talents to praise your wonderful God. This is a great way to find out more about various groups and activities here at Pilgrim. Each ministry will have information for our congregation to help promote member interest, awareness and participation. No one is too old or too young! For more information, please contact Mike Hanson at (602) 644-1445 or the church office at (480) 830-1723.



Workplace Giving Campaigns

The 2018-2019 charitable workplace giving programs often begin now or in the near future. Many communities and corporations have a "Donor Choice/Option" program in which you may designate a qualified 501-c-3 agency to receive your donation. Pilgrim has benefited from employees participating through their workplace giving program and United Way agencies that allow a donor choice option. If you have questions about your participation in such a program to benefit Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, check your employer guidelines or with your Human Resources director at work.

Financial Peace University

A new Financial Peace University class will be starting on **Thursday, October 11, at 7 pm**. If you are looking to get out of debt or build financial wealth for the future, sign up today at www.daveramsey.com. As Dave Ramsey says, "Live like no one else today, so that later, you can live and give like no one else". There are also a couple of membership kits available for just \$80, compared to the \$129 that are advertised online. If interested, speak to Kirk or Christine Gibb.

Apacheland Bus Trips

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Surprise) is planning to host 2 bus trips for the 125th Apache Anniversary celebration in October. The first trip will be overnight, October 26 and 27. The second trip will be a day trip, October 27. There are registration forms with all the details, including deposit, payment, and cost information, available in the church narthex. Questions: Contact Pastor Kirby Spavacek, (623) 910-2462, kirbyspavacek@gmail.com.

Kids for Christ Sunday School

Kids for Christ Sunday School is in full-swing again. After finishing our awesome summer project, we are ready to begin regular lessons, games and movies. Last week we enjoyed a fun game of Bible Bingo. The first week of October the classes will be separated by age group and learning about Joseph and his brothers. Remember, even if you know this story already, the Holy Spirit has a way of helping you hear it in a new way each time. We will be trying many new and fun things this year and hope to see all member children attend each week. God's blessings to you all. Our October schedule will be 10/7 Joseph and His Brothers, 10/14 Project Day, 10/21 Joseph Feeds Egypt, and 10/28 Joseph Forgives.

ALA Bulletin & Newsletter Information

October 2018

FALL CONCERT

The ALA band and choirs will present a concert on Sunday, October 7, at 4pm in the ALA gymnasium. All are invited to this free concert, the first of the school year.



50 IN FIFTY

We are so incredibly thankful to be able to reach students with the good news of the gospel at ALA each and every day! Can you help us reach more students? Until October 31, we are seeking to raise \$50K for students! (This campaign started on September 12, so it's \$50K in 50 days.) Your gift will go toward tuition assistance and will be awarded directly to an ALA student. All gifts given by October 31—up to \$50,000 total—will be matched by a generous donor! Please prayerfully consider a gift to help an ALA student today. Read more and give at ALAcoyotes.org/50.

FALL 2018 VIDEO UPDATE

Take five minutes to watch [Arizona Lutheran Academy's Fall 2018 Video Update](#). Meet student hosts, Mia and Sammy, and get the scoop on Homecoming and our latest campus projects. Visit ALAcoyotes.org and look for the YouTube link.

HOMECOMING WEEK

Sunday, October 7 – Fall Concert, 4pm in the ALA gym

Friday, October 12

Coyote for a Day (8th grade visit day) starts at 12pm. Our LES 8th graders as well as 8th grade students from other schools will experience an afternoon at ALA. If you know an 8th grade child who might like to attend (and is not a student at one of our Arizona WELS schools), please contact Michelle Meyer at Admissions@ALAcoyotes.org.

Tailgate Supper, 4:30-6:30pm. Enjoy an old-fashioned pulled pork picnic supper before the carnival and football game. Buy tickets online at ALAcoyotes.org/homecoming until Tuesday, October 9. You may also purchase meals at the event for \$1 more, while supplies last, but of course, it is recommended that you pre-purchase! Funds raised at the Tailgate will support the purchase of a Smart TV for the gym lobby (to post announcements, school events, and videos).

Carnival, 6-8:30pm. This event includes kids' activities, inflatables and fun by AZ Bounce Pro near the softball outfield. Purchase wristbands at ALAcoyotes.org/homecoming until Oct. 9 (credit card) or at the main football gate (cash or check only).

Football game vs. Tempe Prep starts at 7pm. Catch the Coyote spirit with cheer and the explosive Coyote Hype Zone! During the game, the 2018 ALA Homecoming king, queen, and court will be announced. Alumni are guests of honor at this game; alumni get in free!

Saturday, October 13 – **Alumni Kickball** event at 9am on the ALA field. All alumni are invited to participate! RSVP on Facebook. For more alumni news or to send ALA an update, go to ALAcoyotes.org/alumni.

CLASS REUNIONS

The classes of 1998 and 2008 are planning reunions on Homecoming Friday, October 12. For contact information, go to ALAcoyotes.org/alumni and look for Coming Events.