

# The Pilgrim's Progress



The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church & School

September 2018

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## God's House



**And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." The Sovereign LORD declares - he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."**

**- Isaiah 25:6-8**

Meditate a moment on God's declaration: "I will gather still others." Do you realize that by God's grace through faith, you are a fulfillment of these words? Think of all the amazing stories in the Bible you wish you could have been a part of. This one in Isaiah - it includes you!

Imagine yourself sitting in the house of God. Now reflect on why you are here. You have a phenomenal story, don't you? Consider where you came from. There is no darker place than "dead in sin," is there? But here you are. Recall your prodigal paths, each one illustrating how lost in sin you were. Still, here you are, in God's house. You realize you should be on the outside looking in. "Foreigner" describes you well, doesn't it?

But here you sit in God's house, bound to him, loving his saving name, giving him the glory he deserves, clinging to his promises, praying with fellow believers. Why? The Sovereign LORD has gathered you here. That word "sovereign" says a lot about your Lord.

And it says a lot about your life, about the Lord's gracious rule that has brought you into his presence. Do some more reflecting. Think of where you've been, the company you've kept, the rebellion of your life. You know there are times you could have died because of your foolishness. You would cringe at the thought of detailing these disgraces in an autobiography for all the world to read, but your God knows your story intimately. Yet here you are, sitting in the Lord's house. Again, why? You sit here because of God's grace. You sit here because the saving waters of baptism have made you alive in Christ. You sit here because "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

You sit here because while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you and saved you from God's wrath. This isn't just your story. It is the story of countless others from all nations, all whom the Lord has gathered by grace.

The next time you go to church, remind yourself, "I get to sit here in the house of God because of his astonishing grace." And may your heart stir with delight as you recall his promise, fulfilled in you: "I will give them joy in my house of prayer."

## Pilgrim Panther News'n Notes

### Growing Enrollment

✠ By God's grace, Pilgrim Lutheran School began its 47<sup>th</sup> year on August 15<sup>th</sup> with an enrollment of 77 students. With three more student enrollments pending, we hope to reach the 80 mark soon, which is pretty remarkable considering where we were just 3 years ago. Our admissions director, Mrs. Laura LaStrange, indicates that despite the fact that school is already underway, the phone just keeps right on ringing with school inquiries. To echo the sentiments of the popular contemporary Christian song: "Our God is an AWESOME God!"



### Staff Update

✠ New teacher additions include Mr. Scott Stevenson (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>/athletic director) and Mrs. Ellen Stevenson (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> part-time/piano). Mrs. Laura Folsom has taken on a new assignment as our other part-time 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and Mr. James Wade is now teaching just 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in addition to continuing to serve as principal. Mrs. Cheryl Tomamichel is again overseeing our before-school care program while Mrs. Bonnie Snook assumes the responsibility for after-school care. We are grateful for the blessing of a dedicated and loving staff!

### Space Issues

✠ With a growing enrollment, of course, classroom space becomes a commodity. A part-time classroom has been set up in the fellowship hall for our upper graders, and discussion has ensued with regards to possible expansion in the near future. With the old portable units ready to be demolished in early fall, we certainly have ample space on our campus to expand. To be sure, these "growing pains" will be topics for discussion by our Board of Education and Church Council in the days ahead.

### Other News Tidbits

✠ Pilgrim parents are being surveyed regarding the possibility of moving to school uniforms next year.

✠ Pilgrim this year will serve as the host school for the Arizona-California District Teachers' Conference, which includes schools from northern California all the way over to New Mexico. The dates are November 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>.

**"Thank You" to all the families who helped tidy up our classrooms and beautify our campus at our school workday!**

- 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](http://www.grandcanyonlwms.org) or [www.arizonalionscamp.org/site-rentals/](http://www.arizonalionscamp.org/site-rentals/) for more information. Deadline for registration is September 21.



## New Video Sermons On Pilgrim Website

If you can’t make it to church on Sundays, don’t miss a single sermon. Our Pilgrim website ([www.pilgrimmesa.com](http://www.pilgrimmesa.com)) now features a video of each Sunday sermon. You can access the sermons by going to the Pilgrim home page and clicking on the blue box “click here” in the middle of the screen. At the video sermon page, scroll down and click on the sermon topic and click again on the arrow in the middle of the picture that opens. We hope you enjoy this new feature and use it to hear the Word of God to strengthen your faith.



## Portable Demolition Project

With the help from Mr. Michael Saucerman, we have secured a company to come and tear down the portable. This campus improvement project is a requirement of our WELSSA School Accreditation process, and the prayer is to have this accomplished before Pilgrim hosts the AZ/CA District Techers Conference on November 1 & 2. The total project cost will be about \$6,000 and already \$2,000 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 Pastor Winterstein. Thank you!

## Treasurer’s Update

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.

## Financial Report

### Financial Report – Week of 8/19/18

	Last Week	Month (3 weeks)	Fiscal Year to Date (8 weeks)
Budgeted:	\$6,981.14	\$20,943.42	\$55,849.12
Offerings:	<u>\$5,861.79</u>	<u>\$15,831.93</u>	<u>\$48,842.48</u>
Difference:	(\$1,119.35)	(\$5,111.49)	(\$7,006.64)
<b>Church &amp; School Expenses</b>			
Budgeted:	\$12,445.00	\$37,335.00	\$99,560.00
Offerings:	\$5,861.79	\$15,831.93	\$48,842.48

## Pilgrim's Digital Sign Update

Since storm damage related to high winds and lightening damaged Pilgrim's digital sign in early July, we have been working with Christy Signs who has completed the repair. The cost of the repair has been covered by our insurance carrier and a donation to cover the deductible so our sign is once again lighting up University Avenue and our campus.



## Let's Do Lunch



Everyone is invited to lunch at the Blue Adobe Grill following the second service on **Sunday, September, 16**. The Blue Adobe is located at 144 Country Club Dr. in Mesa on the west side of Country Club just north of Main street. With its emphasis on unique chili peppers from New Mexico along with other distinctive spices from that region, their food is not-too-hot but never bland. Some breakfast items are served until 12:30 and New Mexican entrees served all day. Watch for flyers and a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

Romans 12:11

... brought to you by Pilgrim's Helping Hands

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## Women's Retreat 2018—Deer Valley Lutheran Church

Ever wonder how you fit into God's Family? The ladies at Deer Valley Lutheran Church invite you to join them for a day of spiritual refreshment, fellowship, and fun on Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 9am - 2pm. Through an interactive Bible study format, we will look at how God has placed each of us exactly where He wants us to be to fulfill his purposes. Plus, we will discuss ways we can use our spiritual gifts to encourage each other to find each of our places in God's Family Quilt. Registration begins @ 8:30am (breakfast & lunch will be provided) and tickets are \$8 per person. A free will offering, blankets, booties, & other baby items will be collected on the day of the event to go along with our "quilting" theme for the day. Email questions to [retreat@deervalley.org](mailto:retreat@deervalley.org).



## Caregiver/Room

A member lady with nursing experience is seeking an opportunity where she could offer care and household services in exchange for a small room and board. If you would be interested please contact the pastors, or call Susan at 480-925-0442.

## Pilgrim LWMS

*What does LWMS stand for?*

*Who are the LWMS ladies?*

*What happens at their meetings?*

*What is BAM?*

*Why should I come?*



These questions and more will be answered at Pilgrim's first LWMS meeting of 2018/19 on **Monday, September 17 at 1 pm** in Fellowship Hall. We'll be hammering out plans and nailing down dates for the coming year as we look for new ways to serve the carpenter's Son. We would love to have you come and join us.

## Monthly Property Workday

Please note that the September monthly property workday will be held on **Saturday, September 22**, beginning at 7:00 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!

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

The next Adult Information Course is scheduled to begin **Monday, September 10 at 6:30 pm** with Pastor Winterstein and **Tuesday, September 11 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.

## Monday "30 Minute Chapel"

Pilgrim's "30 Minute Chapel" is a shortened service that will be held from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall each Monday. This will help to save on our A/C costs during the hot summer months, as well as provide an opportunity for Worship for those who were out of town over the weekend. In addition, the service will be more informal, so that it will be 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 and intimidated by the thought of attending a usual Sunday service. For more information, speak with the Pastors.

## Asleep In Jesus

A Memorial Service for Clarence Nelson was held at Pilgrim on Saturday, August 18th. May the Lord comfort his wife Joann, his family, and all who mourn with his precious promise, "I am the Resurrection and the Life!" (John 11:25).

## Fall Worship Service Schedule Switch

Please take note that our Summer Worship Schedule will run through Labor Day weekend. The last Sunday for the 9:00 am Service will be September 2. On **September 9**, we will resume the two-service Sunday schedule of 8:00 am and 10:30 am, with Fellowship and Refreshments beginning at 9:00 am, and the Word of God Hour beginning at 9:20 am.



## September Sunday Adult Bible Study

You don't want to miss Pastor Winterstein discussing Jesus' Parables and "I Am" statements during Pilgrim's Adult Bible Study each Sunday in September during our Word of God Hour. Join us for coffee and lively scripture discussion.

## School Recruitment News

We are so pleased to report our school year 2018-19 started out with over 75 students! Additionally, we are expecting another handful of preschoolers just waiting to turn three, who will start in January 2019 if not sooner. With 15 new students, lots of new faces are walking our school campus including four sets of twins!! Our new children have been welcomed to Pilgrim with open arms and kind hearts. We are so Blessed!

## Counseling Program

The Member Assistance Program (MAP) is a video-assisted distance counseling service through Christian Family Solutions (WLCFS) using licensed WELS affiliated counselors. It's a customized and comprehensive way for churches, schools and organizations to assist in meeting the emotional and psychological needs of their members and students. Currently this service is offered free of charge our Pilgrim members. If you are interested in using this service, please speak with the pastors. Special gifts and memorials toward the MAP Fund are always welcome.



## Adult Choir Begins



The first Adult Choir practice will begin on **Wednesday, September 12 at 7:00 pm**. Choir practice will once again be held on Wednesday evenings this year. This way the choir can practice after the Advent and Lent Midweek services. Anyone is welcome to join us in praising the Lord with song. Our Choir Director will be our School Principal, Mr. Jim Wade.

## Coming To A Church Near You: "Rally Sunday", September 9



Please wear red! We "rally together" as we move into a new fall season of Bible study, various programs, and worship opportunities. Red is the color for the Holy Spirit. We ask him to fill our hearts with zeal and excitement as we serve the Lord together in these Bible studies, programs, and worship opportunities. Our new theme for the year is "Lengthen the Cords and Strengthen the Stakes," based on Isaiah 54:2. To hear more about our theme, be sure to join us **Sunday, Sept. 9**. Remember, this is the day we go back to two services at 8 and 10:30 am.

## Meditations

The next series of Meditations are on the table in the narthex, for the period of September 2 through December 1, 2018. Please take one for yourself or share one as a witnessing tool with a friend.

## Baptized Into Christ

On August 18, Eden Crneckiy, daughter of Jerry & Sherryl Crneckiy, received the washing of Holy Baptism. May God keep her in her baptismal grace all the days of her life!

## Upcoming Meetings

Please take note that the next Congregational Open Forum meeting will be held **Sunday, September 23**, during the normal Word of God Hour, and the next Voters' Assembly will be held **Sunday, September 30 at Noon**.

## Apacheland Bus Trips

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Surprise) is planning to host 2 bus trips for the 125<sup>th</sup> 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 Spevacek, (623) 910-2462, [kirbyspavacek@gmail.com](mailto:kirbyspavacek@gmail.com).

## Kids for Christ Sunday School

This season's Kids For Christ Sunday School teachers will be installed **Sunday, September 9** on Rally Sunday. Hoping we will grow in our Sunday School numbers, the grades will be divided as follows to begin the new Sunday School year:

PreK – 1 <sup>st</sup>	-	Cindy Schoenwetter Pat Coats
2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	-	Cheryl Tomamichel & Sue Beaty
5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	-	Debbie Myers & Laura Hanson

## Wooden Cross and Communion Ware

The wooden cross and communion ware for our 30 Minute Chapel service have been donated by Pete Crocenzi, a friend of Pastor Bushaw in memory of Phyllis Crocenzi, wife, mom, and nanna.

## ALA Bulletin & Newsletter Information

### September 2018



#### 41<sup>st</sup> SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

Our 41<sup>st</sup> school year began on Monday, August 13, with our opening worship service and the installation of Mr. Adam Wiechmann. Our enrollment stands at 187 students, including 49 freshmen and 10 transfer students. We have a grand total of 34 housing students with 13 of them international students from Taiwan, Japan, Germany, Vietnam, S. Korea, China, and Ethiopia. We thank God for the privilege of ministering to all of these teens and their families!

#### JUNIOR COYOTE VOLLEYBALL CLUB

ALA's Saturday volleyball club for girls in grades 4-8 is being held again this year. All levels of volleyball experience are welcome. Saturday sessions began August 18 and run 8:30 to 10:30am through September (none on Labor Day weekend). There is still time to register for a few Saturdays. To register, go to [ALAcoyotes.org/club](http://ALAcoyotes.org/club).

#### FEDERATION DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The September FDA meeting will take place at ALA on Sunday, September 23, at 3pm.

#### HOMECOMING WEEK

ALA's annual Homecoming Week is the week of October 7-13. Watch for more information in the coming weeks!

#### CLASS REUNIONS

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

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

September 3	No School – Labor Day
September 8, 15, 22, 29	Junior Coyote Volleyball Club
September 14 & 28	Scrip ordering deadlines at noon
September 23	Federation Delegate Assembly meeting, 3pm
September 30	ALA Sunday at Deer Valley Lutheran Church
September 30	Parent/Teacher Conferences at ALA, 4-7pm
October 2	Volleyball Pink Out Night
October 5	Football Pink Out Night
October 7	Fall Concert at ALA, 4pm
October 7-13	Homecoming Week at ALA

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#### ARIZONA LUTHERAN ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

Arizona Lutheran Academy is committed to serving its federation and community by

- providing an exceptional education,
- preserving a Christ-focused school culture,
- promoting spiritual growth and Christian service, and
- preparing life-long disciples of Jesus Christ.