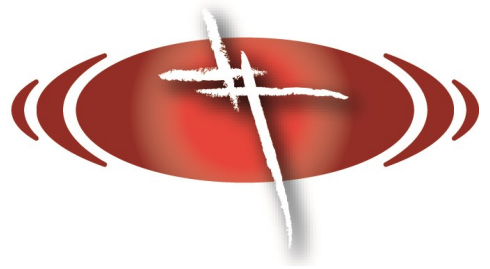


PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

www.pilgrimindy.org



December, 2014

Volume 60 Number 7



Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Dinners:
December 3, 10, and 17—6:00 p.m.

Followed by

Advent Evening Prayer Service—7:00 p.m.

Kids in Christ Rehearsal
December 22 at 5:45 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE—December 24, 2014

Family Christmas Eve Worship and Holy Communion 4:00 p.m.

Music for the Holy Night—9:00 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship and Holy Communion 9:30p.m.

(No Services on December 25)

Hanging of the Greens! We need your help on **Sunday, December 7th**, after the 10:45 a.m. service. The Congregational Life Committee is hosting a pizza party after decorating the church. Many hands make light work, and we have lots of work to do hanging garland, decorating trees, and setting up our various Christmas decorations.



Pilgrim WELCA Cookie Walk

It is once again time for the annual Pilgrim WELCA Cookie Walk. This year the date is Saturday, December 13th from 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We are asking all church families to participate by donating one batch of Christmas cookies (3-4 dozen). You may also donate more if you wish. We would like homemade cookies (not store bought) and please no chocolate chip cookies. Nuts in the cookies are acceptable for this project, but please label as such. Cover the cookies. You may bring cookies to the church kitchen beginning Monday, December 8th or anytime the week before the Cookie Walk or the day of the event. Monetary donations will be accepted in lieu of cookie donations. If you would like to help set up for the event, we will gather in the kitchen at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 13th. Funds raised will be used to support the women's activities at Pilgrim and the Women of the ELCA. And most of all please come and purchase your Christmas cookies from our Pilgrim families on Saturday, December 13th. We always have a tremendous variety. What a fun event!



Voter's Meeting

Sunday, December 21st
9:30 a.m.

We will be in electing new officers.

IN THIS ISSUE:

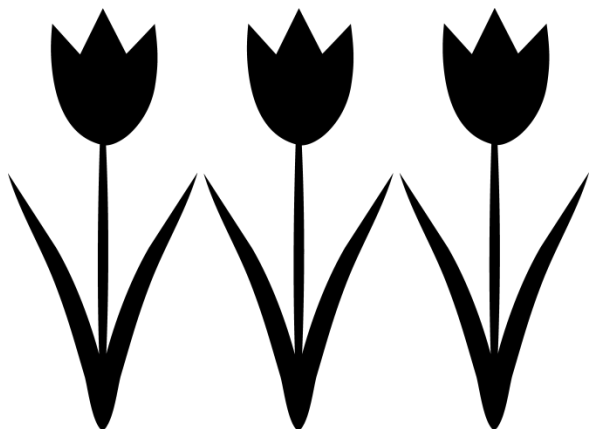
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Dear Pilgrim members and friends,

I write this a week before our national Day of Thanksgiving, so it's timely for me to say "thank you" again for celebrating with me and my family on the occasion of my fortieth anniversary of ordination! The lunch and program in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 22nd, was special and memorable (you can tell that since I'm still talking about it!), even if Darrell Pike as Master of Ceremonies had a little fun with me (no harm, no foul, and, yes, it was expected – I know Darrell well enough to know that he was going to make that event entertaining!).

the pastor's page

This, by the way, is gratitude with specificity: I can now tell you what I'm going to do with the generous and thoughtful gift which I received (Darrell said that day that "the check was 'in the mail;,' yes, I did receive it!). As you likely know, I love to travel, so Pat and I have booked a spring, 2015, ten-day "Tulips and Windmills" Viking River Cruise in Netherlands and Belgium – and I can hardly wait!



Here's the plan: on Easter Sunday – April 5th – Pat and I will be coming to church that morning with packed suitcases, passports, and plane tickets/boarding passes, because we'll be leaving immediately after 10:45 a.m. worship to go to the airport to catch an early afternoon flight to O'Hare/Chicago. We then have an overnight flight to Heathrow/London (I hope I can sleep on the flight; I've had problems with that in the past); and from there on to

Amsterdam, transferring to our ship late afternoon/early evening on April 6th.

The first two days of our trip we're touring in Amsterdam, and then it's on to Hoorn, Arnhem, and Kinderdijk (think windmills).



The Belgium-part of this trip comes in the middle: Antwerp, Ghent, and Bruges (days 5, 6, and 7), and then it's back to Netherlands: Bruinisse, Rotterdam, and back to Amsterdam and Keukenhof Gardens (think tulips; days 8, 9, and 10). Our return flights are the reverse of those mentioned above: Amsterdam to London; London to Chicago; Chicago to Indianapolis. If you would like to see an "itinerary summary," let me know – I can print it for you, or e-mail it to you!

This will be my (and Pat's) first journey to the "Low Countries," though they've always been of interest to me, as I've enjoyed reading in history about the great King of the Franks, Charlemagne (reign, 768-814 A. D.), and the strength of his rule was in the Low Countries, even though he chose to make Aachen, Germany, his capital. This will be an "art trip" – Van Gogh, Rubens, Michelangelo; and a "food trip" – Edam cheese, Belgian chocolate, and more!

If I'm writing this much about it before I go, what's it going to be like when we return?

Sincerely, in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Alan Goertemiller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Goertemiller
Pastor



Pilgrim Lutheran Preschool and Parents Time Out



Oh, how busy we were in November! Many of us learned about coming to America on the Mayflower and then how it might have been to live as pioneers – without the modern conveniences. It was difficult for many to imagine walking to school instead of coming in mom’s mini-van or SUV!

We talked a lot about the things for which we are thankful. Our things to be thankful for ranged from yogurt, to Mom & Dad and our families! We are all very thankful for Gloria Worth who comes each month (for each individual class) to give us a story from the Bible. This month was a story from the New Testament to teach us about being grateful for what God gives us. The story was about Jesus and the healing of the ten lepers...and only one of the healed bothered to thank him.



During the month of December, we will all focus on the birth of Christ—with art projects, songs and stories!



Our Christmas programs will be on Monday, December 15 and Tuesday, December 16—both at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The program will be followed with a cookie reception in the fellowship hall on Monday and in the Narthex on Tuesday. Sarah Williams and Gloria Worth have teamed together to be our music teachers again this year.

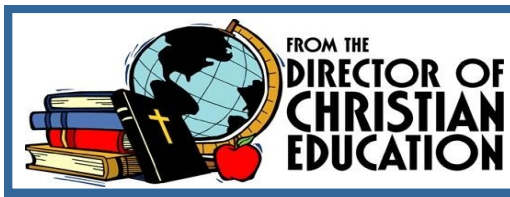
Registration for Fall 2015 is just around the corner! It is so exciting to think of starting another year in our beautiful building! Our ‘Parents Time Out’ is for children who are twelve months old by September 1. ‘Preschool’ is for ages two through five. ‘In house’ registration (for those families who are currently enrolled in the program, but are not Pilgrim members) takes place during the first weeks after Christmas Vacation (Due January 17). Pilgrim members are given priority and pay no registration fee. If you are a Pilgrim member, please call Pat (846-6132--or email: patg@pilgrimindy.org) **before January 6** to priority register your child. For Open registration (those folks who are not currently in the program and not Pilgrim members), we will take registration forms through January 23. Starting on January 26, all of the open registration names will be placed in a ‘bowl’ and drawn out to fill the remaining openings and to build a waiting list. Please do not forget to call or even better – email: patg@pilgrimindy.org to insure your priority registration **before** January 6.

Thanks again to all of you who support our ministry to our young children and their families in our congregation and our community. Please continue to keep us all in your prayers.

In His service,
Pat Goertemiller

From the mouth of babes: (hearing the story of Jesus’ birth)
I know this story...I’ve seen the movie.





Christmas Eve Family Service and Program - December 24 at 4:00pm!

The children in grades 1-6 are working very hard to learn several new Christmas Carols, songs and hymns in preparation for our annual Children's Christmas program. We accomplish this with rehearsals on Sunday morning during the Sunday school opening and on Kids in Christ night. All children in grades 1-6 may participate if they are in attendance at either choir rehearsals. This year Gail, Annalea and Gloria have used the old French Carol *The Friendly Beasts* as our theme.

Children that are 3 years of age or in pre-K and Kindergarten will sing the prelude. These children will limit their rehearsals to Sunday mornings. So please be sure your children are in class for the three Sundays in December!!!



Confirmation Retreat Wrap-Up

In November our Confirmation Students attended Lutheran Hills Camp in Brown County for the annual retreat. We had 12 students, 2 peer mentors (Joey Peeters and Vanessa Kuechler), Pastor Al, Mrs. G., Annalea Robeson and Gloria Worth participate in the weekend long retreat. The study was dedicated to the Sacraments and the Liturgy. Of course we often wander into very lively discussions about life and its meaning!

The students wrote a Baptism Haiku during the Saturday morning workshop. Their poetry follows:

Sins Gone

By: Eli Konow

My sins are forgot
I've been accepted into church
The best gift for me

Baptism

By: Kayla Nelsen

You have been baptized
And washed away from sin
You have been baptized

Baptism

By: Vivian Kraabel

A child of God
Baptized with spirit and hope
Washed free of my sin

Baptism

By: Nathan Wade

Me a child of God
Baptism is the day about water
Me a child of God

God Baptizes You

By: Will Pitts

God baptizes you
Baptized in his holiness
God baptizes you

The Creek

By: Jack Kelleher

The creek is cool
It nourishes all things small
It is the water of life

Baptized

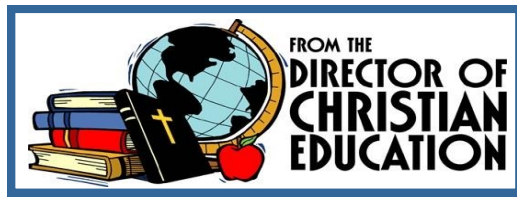
By: Josh Longmire

I have been baptized
God has washed my sins away
I have been baptized

Baptism

By: Cooper Sims

Family, friends watch
Cleanse your son with water today
As you are baptized



Baptism

By: Alex Wade

On this pretty day
My sins are forgiven
And then washed away

Cleansing By: Charlie Harriman

Sins are forgiven
Washed away in baptism
Forgotten and cleansed

Baptism of Me By: Anna Johnsey

Baptism of me
Word of the Lord, word of God
Me, God's family

Child of God By: Molly Watson

The water falls down
Your sins are forgiven forever
As a child of God

Holy Baptism

By: Vanessa Kuechler

Blessed in the waters
His eternal love stays true
He forgives our sin

Baptism By: Pastor Al

Sinful and hopeless
Broken in spirit and lost
Yet washed clean—made new



Looking Ahead:

Were you able to attend Pastor Al's study on Martin Luther this fall? Well if so you likely heard about how much Luther valued music. In January Sarah Williams will add to Pastor Al's Decades of Luther study by teaching a three week class on The Music of Luther. Sarah begins this study on Sunday, January 11. Please put this on your calendar. Begin 2015 with this informative and soul enriching class.



From the Elders

By: Doug Lippert

It happened again today.

I repeatedly lifted my hand from the steering wheel in the way I do when the person in front of me isn't traveling the speed limit. The speed limit is 45 miles per hour on the section of Shelborne Road I travel most often and when someone impedes my progress by going 35 I become impatient. "All I ask is that people go the speed limit!" I heard myself say, despite promises to myself in the past that I'd be better about slow drivers.

Then there was last Sunday, in the Houston airport. The work trip that began with a 4:00 a.m. alarm on Thursday, July 10 would not end until sometime late in the evening of Sunday, July 13th (or early on the 14th, I couldn't recall). All I knew is that I was cranky, that my back hurt and that I was, well, impatient.

With Southwest Airlines, seating on the airplane is open; there is no assigned seating. Instead, passengers queue prior to entering the jet way in numerical order the choose any open seat when they get aboard. Because I travel so much, I usually have a relatively low number, which means that I am able to enter the plane earlier than most, stow my bag and settle into my seat.

On this particular flight, the second flight of the day for me, I was assigned number 19. There was a woman in front of me who was assigned number 22. (As well as her husband who was number 21.) When I am at my best, I don't make an issue of things like this but, before I could stop myself, I told the woman that she belonged behind me. As soon as I said it, I felt foolish, chagrined and—frankly—ashamed. "I'm better than this," I told myself after they had stepped behind me.

In reality, I wasn't "better" than that. I had allowed an incredibly human emotion to overtake my sensibility and said something I shouldn't have said.

The epistle of James, right off the bat, reminds us to consider it "nothing but joy" when we face trials of any kind. He doesn't tell us to consider it "nothing but joy" only when we're at our best, but "whenever." I think this includes line jumpers and slow drivers, not to mention other annoyances, let alone real trouble.

Charlotte has coined a phrase that we like to use and which always puts things in perspective for us. That phrase is "first world troubles." Truth be told, as alluded to earlier, my "troubles" tend to be annoyances, nothing more. Working out a challenging work and personal schedule around getting the car to the mechanic, folding the laundry that's in the dryer, getting Claire to skate and euphonium lessons and what we're going to have for dinner is, most definitely, a first-world challenge.

The trip I mentioned above found me in McAllen, Texas for two days. Astute observers of the news will note that McAllen is where the United States Border Patrol takes those people who cross the Rio Grande at Reynosa, Mexico (about 12 miles from McAllen) for processing. While I was in McAllen, Texas Governor Rick Perry and conservative talk show host Sean Hannity were in town, drawing attention to the current crisis. It was strange, indeed, to be at "ground zero" for this issue that divides our country along party and ideological lines.

The answer is simple, but not necessarily easy: Confess, pray and let the word become so embedded within oneself that one does, in fact, become “better than this” when the time arises and we’re not at our best. “Ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given to (me).” It seems to follow, then that, with God’s help, I can be generous and ungrudging, even when I’m not at my best.

One of the greatest privileges I have had is to serve as an elder at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Praying for those families assigned to me is one of my greatest joys. Yet, I remain solidly human and subject to the same challenges that annoy everyone in a modern (first world) society. Thank you for the privilege of serving you and please know that, should you find yourself going 35 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone you can expect the red Saturn Vue behind you to back off and give thanks to God for the extra time in the car.

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!
To God alone the glory!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Missions We Support

Wittenberg University (Martin Luther Scholarship): Pilgrim budgeted \$540 to the Wittenberg University Martin Luther Scholarship Fund. The Martin Luther Scholar Award is one example of Wittenberg’s commitment to recognize outstanding young Lutheran scholars and to provide them with the quality education they merit. For more about Wittenberg University and its scholarship programs, see www.wittenberg.edu.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Indianapolis:

Lamb of God Lutheran Church is a mission church under development by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), in collaboration with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. The developer is Rev. Dr. James M. Capers, who, along with his wife, Barbara, bring many years of experience at the corporate and local levels of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. See the following website for more information: www.lambofgod5565@sbcglobal.net. Pilgrim has budgeted \$1490 for 2013 to Lamb of God Lutheran Church.

Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis: The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis is an organization of over 100 local churches that has been in existence for 100 years. The Church Federation offers fifteen different programs that range from: leading community prayers, sponsoring and providing leadership to benevolent operations for those in need, to generating children’s programs. Pastor Al Goertemiller is the past president of the organization. Pilgrim has budgeted \$572.13 to support the organization during 2014. See the Church Federation’s website: www.indyfaith.org/.



POINSETTIAS SIGN-UP

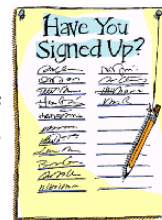
Help beautify our church and chancel for Christmas by providing poinsettia plants for Christmas Eve. The cost is \$10.00 each; the plants may be taken after Christmas Eve worship to be given as gifts, or to decorate your own home. Sign up on the table in the narthex. Deadline is December 14th!

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP FOR ALL PILGRIMS!

Do I have your attention? On Sunday, December 14th at 9:30 a.m. please come to the Fellowship Hall. There you will find tables covered with fleece yardage laid out with fringe already cut for your convenience. All you have to do is tie the fringe and help us create beautiful fleece blankets for families in need. We are inviting all Pilgrims to come and help us with this mission project. We are grateful to our Sacred Threads group for taking their last two sessions to prepare the fleece for tying! Questions? Contact Gloria Worth: gloriaworth@pilgrimindy.org.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET???

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2015 is now available and on the table in the narthex. Please note that there are no flowers during the Lenten and Advent seasons. Cost is \$21.00 per vase, there are two vases.



Thank you to everyone who came on November 18th to clean the kitchen! The job is so much easier in a beautiful room with so many cabinets and closed doors! All the help was so much appreciated.



Our Bible Study!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A Women's Bible Study is meeting the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 1:00 p.m. at the church. If you are interested in studying about people in the Bible who have experienced a transformation, this study is for you!

Participants subscribe to the Gather Magazine. The contact number to receive a subscription is 1-800-328-4648. Please call Kathy Hatfield for any questions.

SACRED THREADS

The next meeting for "Sacred Threads" will be at the church on December 2nd 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All are invited!



CHANCEL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER

Looking for volunteers to fill vacancies for Chancel Volunteers after the 8:00 a.m. service for the January, February and March. This involves washing the communion ware after the early service. If you are interested, please contact Pat Hanson at 965-5291.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Sunday				Wednesday 7p.m.
<u>December 7</u>	<u>8:00a.m</u>	<u>10:45a.m.</u>	-	<u>December 3</u>
Elder	D. Lippert	G. Knipstein	Elder	K. Bloom
Acolyte	C. Simms	K. Nelsen	Lay Assistant	
Lay Assistant	M. Przbylski	T. Donley		
Nursery Worship	N/A	H. Zetzl		
Nursery SS	K. Kelleher			
Care Team				
<u>December 14</u>	-	-	-	<u>December 10</u>
Elder	D. Runkel	L. Peeters	Elder	S. Pike
Acolyte	A. Johnsey	E. Konow	Lay Assistant	
Lay Assistant	T. Johnsey	N. Shilling		
Nursery Worship	N/A	M. Ulreich		
Nursery SS	H. Moehl			
Care Team				
<u>December 21</u>	-	-	-	<u>December 17</u>
Elder	D. Runkel	D. Lippert	Elder	L. Fischer
Acolyte	J. Kelleher	C. Weems	Lay Assistant	
Lay Assistant	D. Licht	C. Martin & B. Geraghty		
Nursery Worship	N/A	Garard Family		
Nursery SS	C. Kraabel			
Care Team				
<u>December 28</u>	-	-	-	<u>December 24</u>
Elder	D. Lippert	D. Lippert	Elder	D. Runkel – 4:00 D. Lippert – 9:30
Acolyte	E. Veatch	C. Weems	Lay Assistant	TBD – 4:00 TBD – 9:30
Lay Assistant	K. Veatch	E Williams		
Nursery Worship	N/A	M. Murphy		
Nursery SS	H. Moehl			
	8:00am	10:45am		
Chancel Volunteers	J. Synder	K. Hatfield		
Altar Guild	M. Runkel			
Coffee Set-up	B. Bowen			
Coffee Clean-up		S. Hurford		
Ushers	B. Bowen, V. Sauer	M. Hurford, F. Baade, D. Newby, J. & R. Williams		

DECEMBER



12/8	Jim & Leslie Durst	38 years
12/15	Dick & Carol Dahoney	52 years
12/23	Kelly & Katrina Brown	29 years
12/26	Lynn & Fran Willis	48 years
12/28	Kevin & Erica Harriman	23 years



WHAT CAN
WE GIVE
HIM?



12/1	Carol Hatfield
12/2	Patricia Wiehe
12/4	Makani Dorn Jenny Pitts
12/6	Peggy Forst
12/7	Heather Moehl
12/11	Marcia Runkel
12/13	Mary Ellen Sullivan Alex Wade Nathan Wade Kyle Clemens
12/14	Jo Leshner
12/16	Noel Shilling Kristin Wagenhauser
12/17	Libby Lehr
12/18	Anna Nelsen Ben Worth Matt Worth
12/22	Frida Bardonner Jason Follstad Brady Johnsey
12/24	Anna Zetzl
12/26	Gianni Dorn Bristol Pabst Charles Harshbarger Richard Knipstein Elias Konow
12/29	Darrell Pike
12/30	Sherilyn Kindig
12/31	Ian Watson

DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool	2 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 9:30a Braille 10:00a Sacred Threads 4:30 Jazzercise 6:00p CYT Class 6:00p Board of Elders 7:00 Poetry Plus	3 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 9:15a MOMS 2:00p Women's Bible Study 5:45 Kids in Christ 6:00p Advent Dinner 7:00p Advent Evening Prayer	4 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 12:00p Nominating Committee 4:30 Jazzercise 6:00p Handbell Practice 7:00p Choir Practice	5 9:00a Preschool	6
7 8:00a Worship and Holy Communion 9:00a Youth Bell Practice 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship and Holy Communion 12:00p Hanging of the Greens	8 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool	9 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 9:30a Braille 4:30 Jazzercise 6:00p CYT Class	10 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 9:15a MOMS 5:45 Kids in Christ 6:00p Advent Dinner 7:00p Advent Evening Prayer	11 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 4:30 Jazzercise 6:00p Handbell Practice 7:00p Choir Practice	12 9:00a Preschool	13 9:30a WELCA Cookie Walk
14 8:00a Worship and Holy Communion 9:00a Youth Bell Practice 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship and Holy Communion	15 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 11:30a Preschool Christmas Program	16 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 9:30a Braille 11:30a Preschool Christmas Program 4:30 Jazzercise 6:00p CYT Class 7:00p Board of Directors Meeting	17 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 9:15a MOMS 5:45 Kids in Christ 6:00p Advent Dinner 7:00p Advent Evening Prayer	18 8:45a Exercise 9:00a Preschool 4:30 Jazzercise 6:00p Handbell Practice 7:00p Choir Practice	19 No Preschool	20
21 8:00a Worship and Holy Communion 9:00a Youth Bell Practice 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Voter's Meeting 10:45a Worship and Holy Communion	22 No Preschool 5:45p Kid's in Christ Final Rehearsal	23 No Preschool 9:30a Braille 4:30 Jazzercise	24 No Preschool Christmas Eve 4:00p Family Christmas Service 9:00p Music for Holy Night 9:30p Candlelight Service	25 No Preschool Christmas Day Office Closed	26 No Preschool	27
28 8:00a Worship and Holy Communion 9:00a Youth Bell Practice 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship and Holy Communion	29 No Preschool	30 No Preschool 9:30a Braille 4:30 Jazzercise	31 No Preschool			



gathering in to Christ,
sending out to serve

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Alan Goertemiller
Education Director	Gloria Worth
Preschool Director	Pat Goertemiller
Youth Director's	Jenny Pitts
	Gail Powell
Cantor to the Congregation	Sarah Gran Williams
Director of Music for Children & Youth	Gail Powell
Assistant Treasurer	Donna Drew
Office Manager	Debbie Collins
Nursery Attendant	Annie Harriman
Set-up & Custodial Assistant	Matt Worth
Maintenance	Mark Wylie
Handbells Director	Kevin Donley

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Worship: 7:00 p.m.
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Monday—Friday
Church Office: (317) 846-2221
Church Fax: (317) 846-3590
Preschool Office: (317) 846-6132
E-mail: pilgrim@pilgrimindy.org
www.pilgrimindy.org



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Pilgrim's Progress
Pilgrim Lutheran Church
3650 West 106th Street
Carmel, IN 46032

Mission Statement:

*We are a caring Community
 Called together in ministry by the Holy Spirit
 Through the Gospel and the Sacraments to:
 Believe in Jesus Christ as Savior,
 Worship the Triune God,
 and
 Serve God by
 Proclaiming the Gospel,
 Joyfully Celebrating our God-given gifts,
 and
 Loving and Serving our neighbors
 With Jesus as our example.*

**KEEP
CHRIST IN
CHRISTMAS**