

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH
3650 West 106th Street
Carmel, IN 46032
www.pilgrimindy.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School
 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Worship
 7 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Monday-Thursday

8 a.m.-noon
 Friday

Church Office(317) 846-2221

Church FAX(317) 846-3590

Preschool Office(317) 846-6132



@pilgrimindy



Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America



HOW DOES PILGRIM GET NAMES OF PASTORAL CANDIDATES AND HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

The call committee can receive pastoral candidates in three ways:

1. Pastors in the IN/KY synod or other synods can hear about our vacancy or find our MSP and job posting on the ELCA website and request their names to be submitted as a candidate.
2. The bishop and synod staff will nominate and provide candidates to Pilgrim for consideration.
3. Lastly, we ask our Pilgrim congregation to nominate Pastoral candidates.

It is not uncommon in the call process that ultimately the pastor who gets chosen by the Call Committee comes from a referral from a congregation member. I am sure all of you have attended a church over the last few years while visiting family or possibly on a vacation or trip. You might have thought that the pastor you just met could be a good fit for Pilgrim in the future. Well, that future is NOW.

We aren't asking for you to talk to these individuals about our opening, but instead come back to Pilgrim and nominate them as a candidate for our current opening. Debbie in the Pilgrim church office has a nomination form for you to fill out. Or, you can call the church office and give information to Debbie over the phone. We also can send the form to you via email to fill out and return to the church office.

These recommendations will be provided to the Call Committee and then we will forward to the synod for consideration. Please take the time to thoughtfully consider some possible candidates and send them our way. Initially, please submit any potential candidates by April 21.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Chris Konow at Christopher.konow@gmail.com or (317) 414-6251.

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.

**PILGRIM LUTHERAN
CHURCH STAFF**
Interim Pastor

Rudy Mueller

Education Director

Gloria Worth

Preschool Director

Amy Tucker

Youth Directors

Jenny Pitts

Gail Powell

Cantor to the Congregation

Sarah Gran Williams

Director of Music for**Children & Youth**

Gail Powell

Handbell Director

Kevin Donley

Assistant Treasurer

Donna Drew

Office Manager

Debbie Collins

Set-up & Custodial Assistant

Matt Worth

Maintenance

Mark Wylie

FROM THE ELDERS

IT TAKES ALL OF US

The Lenten Season is upon us once again. This is a great time to reflect on our journey with Christ, a time to reflect in His Word and look at where we fit in His Mission and the missions of Pilgrim.

I really like the passage in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. It is Paul's metaphor of the human body that describes how intimately connected each of us are in the church. I have realized this shows how any team or organization relies on the efforts of each participant or contributor to be successful.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
(1 Cor 12:12-13)

This passage reminds us that it takes all of us together to complete the body. We all have talents and gifts given to us through Christ. It takes each of us using our talents and gifts in harmony to help keep our church running smoothly to give Glory to God.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. (1 Cor 12:14)

No matter what our talents or gifts are, none are too small or are any insignificant. Each adds its own special touch to complete our church and experience.

This is a good time of year to analyze our part in the church. Are there activities you have considered being a part of? I believe there is no group or committee that is too large to not accept another set of hands. As my mom always would say, "Many hands make light work." All of us working together add to our experience in the Body of Christ.



ELDER ASSIGNMENTS**ALL-CLA**

Kelly Brown
(765) 481-8950
kelly@k4brown.com

CLE-FOR

Tim Guedel
(317) 243-1819
tommyteeg@yahoo.com

FOU-HIA

Jim Williams
(317) 773-1913
jaawilli@iu.edu

HIN-KRAF

Gwen Knipstein
(317) 402-1162
gknipste@aol.com

KRAM-MAU

Steve Sullivan
(317) 508-7159
sparky69@gotown.net

McC-POW

Kathy Bloom
(317) 879-1614
sbloomindy@sbcglobal.net

PRO-SHE

Bob Schumacher
(317) 828-0217
robertschumacher@yahoo.com

SHIL-URB

Jim Durst
(317) 844-3792
jrdurst@gmail.com

VAN-ZIM

Dave Blase
(317) 253-5003
yblase@sbcglobal.net

As we go on our Lenten Journey this year I encourage each of us to reflect to see if there are any new (or even old) talents and gifts we want to share with our Pilgrim Community.

Tim Guedel

Pilgrim Elder

MIDWEEK LENTEN SCHEDULE

Lenten Service Wednesday, April 5, 7 p.m. (dessert to follow)

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Maundy Thursday, April 13..... 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 14 noon and 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil, April 15 7 p.m.

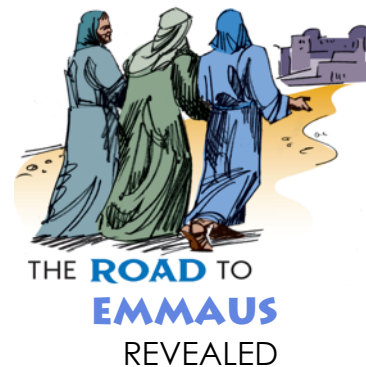
Easter Sunday

Worship, April 16 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Easter Breakfast, April 16..... 9 a.m.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

"The Road to Emmaus-Revealed" taught by Susie Pike continues Sundays through **Palm Sunday, April 9**. The class is finding Jesus in the Old Testament and expositing the writings that Jesus "opened to the disciples concerning Him in Moses and the prophets."

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS...MAY VOTERS MEETING**

The May Voters Meeting has been changed to **Sunday, May 7, at 9:30 a.m.** Please plan to attend as we will consider the Benefaction Fund Grant Review Committee's recommendations. Show your support for our leaders and staff, and your support for our mission and ministry as a congregation by attending!

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings.

The month of April brings us Holy Week and those holy liturgies. It also brings us the joy and celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. Outside winter transitions more fully to spring. In our worship, the tone of our liturgies moves from a time of repentance and grief to a time of forgiveness and unexpected joy. It is good for us to remember ahead of time what these days are all about and what they mean for our life as witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ.



THE GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

The *Manual on the Liturgy* (LBW) reminds us, quoting J Gordon Davies from his book, *Holy Week: A Short History*, that the purpose of Holy Week:

...was to set the facts of the Gospel before the worshippers; but it must be emphasized that this should not be taken to mean that Holy Week is merely an occasion for pious remembrance. It is or should be more than a series of commemorations of past events recalled to mind; it is or should be the means whereby the worshippers participate in the saving events. We should not think of it as a number of ceremonies at which the faithful are present, but as a unified sequence of sacramental acts whereby they commit themselves afresh to Christ and share anew in His death and resurrection.

Unless the Church can learn to identify itself with Christ in His death and resurrection, unless it can, on Palm Sunday, approach His victory through death, die with him on Good Friday, and rise with Him at the culmination of the Paschal Vigil, it cannot accomplish its mission, which is not only to proclaim the good news but to embody it and to make it the pattern of its corporate life, even as Christ Himself not only proclaimed the Gospel but was and is the Gospel.

This long quote underscores what is to happen in the Holy Week liturgies – we are invited to be participants in the drama of Christ’s victory over sin and death. We carry palms and enter “Jerusalem” with Jesus. On Maundy Thursday we begin with words of absolution and the sharing of the peace before entering into the liturgies of the Great Three Days. In the Maundy Thursday Liturgy we share in Jesus’ final meal and his washing of feet. We die with him on Good Friday, taking on the burden of the whole world in the Great Bidding Prayer. We wait in darkness and silence at the Vigil of Easter until the sanctuary rings with alleluias and the greeting of “Christ is risen!” and the meal of our risen Lord is shared.

Our observance, liturgies and worship are an opportunity for God to unite us more closely to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, so that we might live as Christ calls us to live.

- We can embrace our weaknesses knowing we are strengthened by Christ's body and blood.
- We can embrace our own sin knowing that forgiveness is ours in Christ.
- We can embrace our own mortality knowing that our God gives life to the dead.
- We can set aside our fears knowing that Christ walks the road with us.
- We can face the darkness knowing that in Christ we are light.



In our remembrance and celebration of these holy events in the life of Jesus Christ, God makes them more fully ours so our lives may say, "Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again."

Peace,

Rudy

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND PILGRIM...

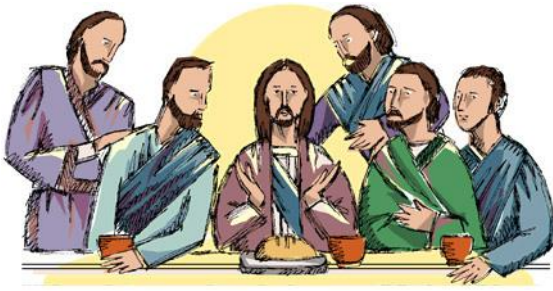
SUPER SENIORS APRIL LUNCHEON

Super Seniors mark your calendars for lunch on **Tuesday, April 18, at noon**. Karin Veatch will discuss financial products often marketed toward seniors, including annuities, reverse mortgages and revocable trusts. It is important to understand the benefits and limitations of these tools. If it sounds too good to be true, it likely is! She also will discuss the importance of titling and beneficiary designations to your overall estate plan. The way assets are titled has very real consequences on what happens upon death. Come with your questions and leave more knowledgeable and empowered. \$5 will be collected to cover our luncheon costs.

Super Seniors



WELCA OUTING TO LAST SUPPER MUSEUM



The WELCA Committee invites members of the congregation and their guests to join us for a tour of the Last Supper Museum in Greensburg, IN. Meet us in the church parking lot at **9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2017**, for the hour-long drive to Greensburg, a town located off I-74 on the way to Cincinnati.

The Last Supper Museum, located at 311 W. Walnut Street in Greensburg, offers a large and diverse collection of Last Supper artwork in the home of the Rev. Charles and Wilma Flory. There are nearly 2,100 pieces in the collection. The mission of The Last Supper Museum is to display its Last Supper collection to the glory of God and provide a unique spiritual experience for all visitors. Through the opportunity of the collection, you can:

- Increase your personal understanding of the last meal Christ shared with his 12 disciples.
- Energize your faith journey with a new awareness of the significance of the Christian Sacrament known as Holy Communion or the Eucharist.
- Enhance your appreciation to the Christian response to Christ's Maundy Thursday command, "Do this in Remembrance of Me."

Following our 10:30 a.m. museum tour, we will have lunch at Storie's Restaurant (109 E. Main Street, Greensburg). We will be ordering off the menu.

Kathy Hatfield needs a count of people who will be going on the trip by **April 23**. There is no charge for the museum (donations accepted). There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex beginning April 2. Please indicate on the sheet if you can drive to Greensburg. For more information, call Kathy at (317) 577-8305.

BENEFACTION GRANT UPDATE

In 2016, Pilgrim awarded a Benefaction grant to the Tree of Lives Kenya ministry to help develop a charity program that could provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare at Nazareth Hospital - a non-profit mission hospital located in Kiambu, Kenya. Historically, Kenyans will often seek medical care at government hospitals where care is substandard and mortality rates very high. The impact of Pilgrim's grant was not realized at the time it was awarded. On December 5, 2016, the doctors in all the public hospitals in Kenya went on strike, and those hospitals simply closed their doors. Here is an excerpt from a recent email from Tree of Lives with an attachment from Nazareth Hospital...

**"...I WILL BLESS YOU...AND
YOU WILL BE A BLESSING."**
GENESIS 12:2

From Vinton Adika, Nazareth Hospital (Kenya), 3/8/17 - *"The government doctors are still on strike. Our last hope was on Kenyan religious who volunteered to*

negotiate with the doctors but that too did not work. Today is the 94th day since they went on strike and common citizens who cannot afford private hospital are suffering and dying. Thanks to Tree of Lives charity support" (Pilgrim Benefaction Grant),

From David Breen, Tree of Lives, 3/9/17 - "The ongoing doctor's strike in Kenya is really putting a burden on Nazareth Hospital's staff and services. Because of Pilgrim's gift in 2016, we continue to fund as many as a dozen patients each month who can't afford healthcare but are in desperate need of medical attention. In February they were able to fund 11 patients, including 6 surgical patients and 5 maternity cases where the mothers all delivered healthy babies. Without your congregation, that doesn't happen! Please pass on our everlasting thanksgiving to your congregation."

Final update: Kenya doctors ended a 100-day strike on March 14, 2017. Thanks be to God!

VBS 2017

VBS dates are set for 2017. Please mark your calendars for fun under the sun for the **week of July 17-21, 2017**. We will have a great week of games, music, crafts, snack, missions and bible stories. Be sure to sign up your children soon; we have limited spaces for about 80 children. Our program remains popular and sign ups come in pretty quickly. If you wish to help, please contact Gloria Worth at gloriaworth@pilgrimindy.org. We are fortunate as always to have our main leadership roles covered but we love to have folks come and help wherever and whenever they are able. We always need camp counselors. Our children who are entering 7th grade and up may sign up to be a group leader, and adults may serve in this capacity as well. Thank you in advance for any and all participation; let's make VBS 2017 one of our best ever!



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS...WHAT DO THE COLORS MEAN?

The colors you see in *Pilgrim's Progress* this month reflect the colors associated with Holy Week, Easter and the Sundays of Easter. Scarlet is associated with Holy Week to represent the color of blood. Sometimes purple is used instead. Gold or white suggest joy in the Resurrection and are used on Easter. White is used on the Sundays of Easter to continue the joy in the Resurrection. (Source: [ELCA website](#))

VBS Enrollment Form

July 17-21, 2017 • 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Name of Parents _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Cell (mom) _____ Cell (dad) _____

In case of an emergency and parents are not available, please contact:

Name _____ Cell _____

Children must be 4 years of age by June 1, 2017, to attend VBS.

All ages up through those children entering 6th grade are welcome to attend.

Students entering 7th grade and higher may volunteer to be camp counselors (Adults, too).

Name	Gender	Age	Grade Entering in fall <i>Preschoolers list birth date; must be 4 by June 1, 2017.</i>	Allergies/ Special Needs
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

We do our best to put children together per parent request but it does not always work out as we set our groups. Please understand if we unable to fulfill your request and trust your child will still have a wonderful experience.

We ask for a supply fee at the time of registration:

\$30 per child for non-members and \$20 per child for Pilgrim Lutheran Church members.

Registration and checks may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to:

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH
3650 West 106th Street
Carmel, IN 46032

Please register no later than **JUNE 30, 2017**.

We need to be sure we have enough supplies to accommodate our campers!

Questions: contact Gloria Worth, Director of Christian Education
(317) 846-2221, ext. 1226, or gloriaworth@pilgrimindy.org.

Thank you!

CHILDREN'S CORNER: What is Lent?



Easter comes to us in April in the very middle of the month. Spring should be well on its way when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. But before we celebrate Easter we are on a journey through Holy Week. Holy Week is a time when we concentrate on the days up to Jesus' death and burial. Holy Week is very special but truly it can feel like a very sad time, too. Knowing that we will recall all these hard times with Jesus may make us want to forget all that and just think about Easter Sunday: our new clothes, and maybe an Easter basket full of chocolate.

But we would miss a special opportunity to grow closer to Jesus if we forget to be sad before we are happy. We can spend time thinking about Jesus' suffering and know that Jesus will always be with us when we face hard times. When you think on Jesus you might close your eyes and be very still. Tell Jesus how you feel and what is troubling you. Ask Jesus questions and tell him about your thoughts. When you are through, think about these words that Jesus said.

"Remember I am with you always and that you are always with me." Then picture the joy of Easter Sunday and what a fun and special day that will be. Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!

A Blessed Easter to All,

Mrs. Worth



EDUCATION CALENDAR

Fridays, April 21 and 28.....	Kids in Christ meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 16	Easter Sunday, no Sunday School Easter Breakfast
Sundays, April 2 and 9.....	Sunday school for all ages. Susie Pike leads adult class.
Sunday, April 23	Pastor Rudy leads the adult class
Sunday, April 30	Pastor Rudy leads the adult class Confirmant/Elder/Mentor Breakfast

PILGRIM LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL & PARENTS' TIME OUT

As always, we have been very busy at Pilgrim Lutheran Preschool! Many of the classes began the month of March talking about weather. Although we usually talk about March coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb, it has been all over the place this winter! We also did many St Patrick's Day activities. We had a lot of fun with leprechauns—just ask any of our students about the footprints around school, or perhaps the gold dust or the leprechaun tricks. There were no leprechauns caught, though several traps were set around the school!

The 4s and 5s classes had a visitor come in and do a science program about gravity. It involved a lot of balloon fun in the fellowship hall! Our biggest event in March was Dad's night, which is a special evening for just the 4s classes. It was a western theme and we all had so much fun! The Dads (or another adult guest) and their child were able to eat dinner at our "Chuck Wagon," pan for "gold," make a kerchief, play cornhole, participate in a cookie walk, and go to our "Barber Shoppe" where the children gave their adult guest a "close shave." We ended the evening with a "hoedown" in the fellowship hall. It was quite a night!

Our summer day camp program will be in operation for five weeks this year. We have a variety of options for attending, beginning May 30 and running through June 30. This program opened to the public on March 27. There is a registration form with additional information at www.pilgrimindy.org/preschool, or you can pick up a form from the preschool. Have questions? Please call the preschool: (317) 846-6132. 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,

Amy Tucker



APRIL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

APRIL 2, 2017

Elder
Acolyte
Greeters
Lay Assistant
Nursery Worship
Nursery Sunday School
A/V Coverage

8 a.m.

Kathy Bloom
Marla Murphy
Murphy Family
Mike Przybylski
N/A

Marcia Runkel

Steve Bloom

10:45 a.m.

Tim Guedel
Tony Guedel
Guedel Family
Frank Bates
Marla Murphy

Mark Tisdale

APRIL 9, 2017

Elder
Acolyte
Greeters
Lay Assistant
Communion Assistant
Communion Assistant
Nursery Worship
Nursery Sunday School
A/V Coverage

Jim Durst
Harrison Hawkins-Wilding
Hawkins-Wilding Family
Denny Licht
N/A
N/A
N/A

Barb Bowen

Jim Durst

Tim Guedel
Tony Guedel/Aaron Donley
Donley Family
Noel Shilling
John Williams
Emma Williams
Jenny Pitts

Mark Tisdale

APRIL 16, 2017

Elder
Acolyte
Greeters
Lay Assistant
Nursery Worship
Nursery Sunday School
A/V Coverage

Jim Durst
Josh & Adam Longmire
Longmire Family
Karin Veatch
N/A

Barb Bowen

Jim Durst

Bob Schumacher
Malik Dorn, Trinity Dorn
Dorn/Hunden Families
John Williams
Sharon Rexing

Mark Tisdale

APRIL 23 2017

Elder
Acolyte
Greeters
Lay Assistant
Nursery Worship
Nursery Sunday School
A/V Coverage

Kathy Bloom
Claire Weems/Zach Johnsey
Weems/Johnsey Families
Trent Johnsey
N/A

Tammy Donley

Steve Bloom

Gwen Knipstein
Will & Jonathan Pitts
Pitts Family
Tammy Donley
Yolande Blase

Mark Tisdale

WEDNESDAYS

APRIL 5, 2017

Elder
Dave Blase
Lay Assistant
Maureen Jordan

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 12, 2017 – 7 p.m.

Elder
Bob Schumacher
Lay Assistant
Dave Runkel
Acolyte
Marla Murphy

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 14, 2017 – noon

Elder
Dave Blase

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 14, 2017 – 7 p.m.

Elder
Kathy Bloom

EASTER VIGIL
APRIL 15, 2017 – 7 p.m.

Elder
Jim Williams
Lay Assistant
John Williams

APRIL 19, 2017

Elder
Jim Williams
Lay Assistant
John Shilling

APRIL 26, 2017

Elder
Kathy Bloom
Lay Assistant
Eileen Hintz

APRIL MINISTRY SCHEDULE (continued)

SUNDAYS

APRIL 30, 2017

**Elder
Acolyte**

Kathy Bloom
Ella Hatfield/Johannes
Schadow

Steve Sullivan
Nolan Elser/Marla Murphy

Greeters

Hatfield/Schadow Families

Elsner Family

Lay Assistant

John Schillig

Susie Pike

Nursery Worship

N/A

Julie Williams

Nursery Sunday School

Karin Veatch

A/V Coverage

Steve Bloom

Mark Tisdale

ALTAR GUILD

Sharon Rexing

CHANCEL VOLUNTEER

Lisa Sims

Phyllis Swanson

USHERS

Bill Bowen

Donna Follstad, Jason
Follstad,

Bob Nowakowski

COFFEE Set Up/Clean Up

Kathy Hatfield

Tammy Donley



APRIL 2017 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8a Worship & Holy Communion 9a Youth Bells 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion	3 6p Jazzercise	4 9:30a Large Print 7p Board of Elders 7:30p Poetry Plus	5 2:30p Carmel Library Bookmobile 7p Midweek Lenten Worship-Vespers 7:30p Combo Group	6 9:15a MOMs 9:30a Large Print 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p Jazzercise 7p Choir rehearsal	7 	1 8a Jazzercise 12p United Church of God 8 8a Jazzercise 10a Easter Brass rehearsal 12p United Church of God
9 PALM SUNDAY 8a Worship & Holy Communion 9a Youth Bells 9:30a Fine Arts Committee 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion 5:30p United Church of God	10 9a Preschool 6p Jazzercise	11 9a Preschool 9:30a Large Print 1:15p United Church of God	12 9a Preschool 2:30p Carmel Library Bookmobile 6p Jazzercise	13 9a Preschool 9:15a MOMs 9:30a Large Print 11:30a Bible Study 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p Jazzercise 6:15p Choir rehearsal 7p Maundy Thursday worship	14 12p Good Friday Noon worship 7p Good Friday worship	15 10a Easter Brass rehearsal 7p Easter Vigil
16 EASTER SUNDAY 8a Worship & Holy Communion 9a Easter Breakfast 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion	17 9a Preschool 10a United Church of God 6p Jazzercise 7p Evangelism/Communications	18 9a Preschool 9:30a Large Print 12p Super Senior Luncheon 7p Board of Directors	19 9a Preschool 2:30p Carmel Library Bookmobile 6p Jazzercise 7p Holden Evening Prayer w/Holy Communion 7:30p Congregational Life	20 9a Preschool 9:15a MOMs 9:30a Large Print 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p Jazzercise	21 9a Preschool 6:30p Kids in Christ	22 8a Jazzercise 12p United Church of God
23 8a Worship & Holy Communion 9a Youth Bells 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion	24 9a Preschool 6p Jazzercise	25 9a Preschool 9:30a Large Print	26 9a Preschool 2:30p Carmel Library Bookmobile 6p Jazzercise 7p Holden Evening Prayer w/Holy Communion	27 9a Preschool 9:15a MOMs 9:30a Large Print 11:30a Bible Study 6p Handbell rehearsal 6p Jazzercise 7p Choir rehearsal	28 9a Preschool 6:30p Kids in Christ	29 8a Jazzercise 9:30a WELCA to Last Supper Museum 12p United Church of God
30 8a Worship & Holy Communion 9a Youth Bells 9:30a Confirmant/Elder/Mentor Breakfast 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion						

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Judy Hunden	1	
Claire Weems	2	
Dick Hughes Emily Lamb Maria Schadow	3	
	4	
Al Goertemiller	5	Steve & Barbara Schroeder (30 years)
Bob Kramer Sharon Kreigh	8	
Creighton Veasley	9	
Broderick Pabst Dorothea Schadow	10	
Walter Griffiths Elam Pierson	13	
Tim Brei Heidi Schroeder	14	
Michael Eddie Mel Kenyon Vance Sauer	15	
Dee Pierson	17	
Melanie Gigowski Allison Jackson	19	
Leslie Durst Josie Hiatt Nick Pierson	20	Jim & Heather Zetzel (21 years)
Todd Kreigh Jeffrey Watkins	23	
Josephine Jackson Linda Wallace	26	
Di Gunnell Susan Hawkins-Wilding Jonathan Pitts Timothy Roeder	28	
Bob Clark Malik Dorn	30	





Victory is ours! Victory is ours! Through God who loves us.

(South African Episcopal Bishop Desmond Tutu)

I am intrigued and inspired by the calendric fact that Easter is longer than Lent.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes with Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday). While we tend to focus on the 40 fasting days of Lent, when the Sundays along the way are included, Lent always includes exactly 46 calendar days.

Easter is not just one day, though we tend to think of it that way. It begins with Easter Sunday, of course, but it doesn't end until Pentecost Sunday, ever and always exactly 50 days later.

50 is, of course, greater than 46. In other words, Easter always wins!

Repentance and fasting are overcome by forgiving grace. Sorrow and suffering are no match for the loving presence of the wounded and risen One. Death will not have the last word. The last and longest word is God's Word proclaiming that Christ is risen and we, too, shall rise. Easter is longer than Lent...always.

The psalmist foreshadowed it:

For God's anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning [Ps 30:5].

The South African bishop Desmond Tutu sang and celebrated it:

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate. Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. Victory is ours! Victory is ours! Through God who loves us. [ELW #721]

This is the promise born in the resurrection of Jesus and it's offered to us as a gift: Easter is longer and stronger than Lent.

I must confess that I am also intrigued by the fact that every year and in every way imaginable hundreds, perhaps thousands, of daily devotional aids are published for the 40 days of Lent and, yet, as far as I can tell, there is very little, if any, production of 50-day devotionals for Easter. It's as if we are more ready and willing to dig daily and devotionally into what we do, like sin or fasting, repentance, and confession, than we are ready and willing to dig deeply, daily, and devotionally into what God does in the death and resurrection of Christ, like rendering new, abundant, and lasting life for the world and for us.

I wonder how this Easter season might be different if we each – individually, in our families, as faith communities – spent the 50 days of Easter in daily devotional reflection on questions like these:

- What differences does the resurrection of Jesus make in my life or in the life and ministry of the faith community of which I am a part?
- What differences does the resurrection of Jesus make in the world around us, especially in those places where new, abundant, or lasting life seems elusive, withheld, or resisted?

Continued ...

Victory is ours! *(cont.)*

- How can I/we lean into the promise of resurrection ourselves and offer it more energetically, prophetically, or pastorally for others?

I suspect that, over these 50 days and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we just might grow even more deeply into our participation in what Walter Brueggemann calls in this Easter prayer “the movement of life”:

You summon us to life in the midst of death, peace in the midst of violence, praise in the midst of despair. Filled once again with your unruly Spirit, may we answer your summons and be part of the movement of life. Amen. [A Way Other Than Our Own]

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

+Bishop Bill Gafkjen

I-K Synod Assembly June 1-3, 2017

Formed, Reformed, Transformed Covington, Kentucky

This year's Synod Assembly will be held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, One West RiverCenter Blvd., Covington, KY.

Registration Fees & Other Information

- The registration fee is \$170.00 (which includes the Thursday banquet evening meal, Friday plated lunch, refreshment breaks, and all materials) per voting member.
- Fee for registered visitors is also \$170.00, which includes the Thursday banquet evening meal, Friday plated lunch, refreshment breaks, and materials.
- By action of the IN-KY Synod Council (SC/2017/7), retired professional leaders on the roster of this synod pay a reduced fee to attend the assembly – \$85.00.
- Fees for interim pastors are to be paid by the congregation(s) being served.
- Any congregation or voting member needing assistance with the registration fee must notify the IN-KY Synod Council Executive Committee of that need in writing by April 15, 2017, (mail to the synod office address, attention: IN-KY Synod Council Exec.

Comm. or email the IN-KY Synod Council Secretary, Judy Bush: jatully@sbcglobal.net

Registration Discount

- Congregations are strongly encouraged to select their voting members early. Registration rates increase to \$200.00 after the **early bird registration deadline, Friday, March 31, 2017.**
- Registration rates increase to \$100.00 for Retired Rostered Ministers after March 31, 2017.

Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations are in addition to and separate from your synod assembly registration. A block of rooms has been reserved at two downtown Covington hotels: The Cincinnati Marriott RiverCenter, 10 West RiverCenter Blvd. and The Embassy Suites Cincinnati RiverCenter, 10 East River Center Blvd. To make a reservation online, go to <https://aws.passkey.com/e/48988760>

Bring Your Family This Year!

Child-care arrangements are being organized by a local volunteer. A minimal fee is requested to help compensate the individuals who will provide the child care at synod assembly. Covington, KY is just across the river from Cincinnati, and this area offers many activities and things for families to do. Check out the Northern Kentucky CVB's website for places your family can visit, shop and eat. <https://www.meetnky.com/>

A Call to Prayer from the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“As the Conference of Bishops, we call our worshipping communities to pray for raising up leaders for this church. We ask that the petitions of every worship service include a plea that new lay leaders, deacons and pastors be identified, invited, encouraged and supported in responding to God's call to ministry.” [adopted March 4, 2017]

Please read this special appeal from Bishop Gafkjen in its entirety at the homepage of our website: www.iksynod.org

