

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

Join us...

...for a dedication concert and reception for our new John Paul Buzard Pipe Organ at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday, September 8, 2017**. Guest organist will be Todd Wilson, world-renowned organist and professor at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Please email your RSVP by **August 15** to Richard & Carol Dahoney at richarddahoney@att.net or sign up on the sheet on the credenza. Please note, there will not be a nursery.



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**

A rabbi, a priest and a Lutheran pastor walk into a bar. The bartender turns and says "Hey, what is this? A joke?" Not a very good one, huh? But nevertheless, an attempt at humor.

I was never really the class clown in school, but in my adult life I've tried not to take myself very seriously. I've tried to inject humor wherever I can (just ask my fellow choir members). Humor makes me feel good and, I hope, it makes others feel good too.

Humor is something that God created. We wouldn't enjoy a sense of humor if God didn't have one first. His sense of humor is even better than ours, just look at some of His creations: a duck-billed platypus, a giraffe, a kangaroo, any U.S. politician. He would have to have had been in a particularly snarky mood when He created some of these things.

The Bible also has humor in it, if you know where to look. In Ecclesiastes, we are told there is, "A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." God's joy can be seen in Zephaniah, "He will take great delight in you...he will rejoice over you with singing." In Genesis, Abraham and Sarah have a good laugh with God when He told them they would have a son at their advanced age.

Jesus says in Luke 6, "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh," and, "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven." I don't know about you, but I doubt that I could leap for joy without laughing! And you know Jesus and His disciples had to have many laughs as they traveled, taught and dined together. Wherever there are 13 guys, there HAS to be humor!

Martin Luther also is known for his humor. He said, "If you're not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go there." He also mocked the rumors of his death by writing in a letter about his funeral: "I, Doctor Martinus, acknowledge that I am totally in accordance with the devil, the Pope and all my enemies. For they would like to be joyful about my death, and I would totally love to grant them such joy and would have liked



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to have died in Schmalkalden, but God has not yet wanted to confirm such a pleasure."

Humor and laughter make us feel good like the old adage says, "Laughter is the best medicine." God shares his gift of humor with us so that we can get through the tough times of being human and revel the promises of His kingdom.

So, remember, you know you might be a Lutheran if:

- you only serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color for the season.
- when someone mentions red and green (in terms of Christmas), you immediately think of a battle over hymnals.
- a midlife crisis means switching from the old hymnbook to the new one.
- you have an uncontrollable urge to sit in the back of any room.
- You're watching "Star Wars" in the theatre and when they say, "May the force be with you," the theatre replies, "and also with you."
- your idea of an affirmation is "This is most certainly true."
- you laugh out loud while reading this list, and relive your childhood at the same time.

In His Service,

Kelly Brown

Pilgrim Elder

Please welcome the following new members into our Pilgrim Family:

Tammie Horkay

Joan Campbell

Kevin & Carolyn Schiferl

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

FROM THE PASTOR

“Are you still without understanding?”

The readings from the Gospel according to St. Matthew are not kind to the disciples in the month of August.

- First, the disciples urge Jesus to send the crowds away to get something to eat. Instead, Jesus feeds 5,000 with five loaves and two fish.
- Second, they are terrified in the boat on the water, and when Peter attempts to walk on the water to Jesus he is frightened by the wind and sinks.
- Third, Peter asks Jesus to explain a parable and Jesus replies, “Are you still without understanding?”

Finally, on the last Sunday of August, Peter confesses Jesus to be the Messiah and Jesus calls him blessed. And then, to Peter and these deeply dense disciples Jesus gives the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

I confess to feeling a bit like the disciples – overwhelmed by expectations, afraid of failure, and slow to understand. Don’t we all feel that way, especially during these dog days of August? But in each of the stories above, it is Jesus who comes to the rescue – miraculously feeding the crowd, calming waves and wind and fears, and giving wisdom, understanding and ministry.

So, to each of us, Jesus says, “Take heart. I am with you.” We face each day confident in Jesus’ care and concern for each of us and for Pilgrim. And we keep hearing and heeding the call to feed the hungry, be strong and courageous, forgive as we have been forgiven, and learn from Jesus, who is gentle and humble of heart.

Peace,

Rudy



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PILGRIM...

VBS THANK YOUS

VBS just wouldn't work without our dedicated volunteers! Special thanks this year goes to Barb Lamb for all her behind-the-scenes work leading up to VBS, and for all her coordination efforts the week of. We also are grateful for the efforts of: Gail Powell, Sarah Schubert, Marcia Runkel, Jolene Worth, Anne Powell, Jody Konow, Jenny Pitts, Carrie Sailor, Sharon Rexing, Trinity & Malik Dorn, Molly Cleary, James Schubert, Will & Jack Kelleher, Sierra Roach, Ella Konow, Addie Clark, Elizabeth Rexing, Maximus Shurr, Pastor Rudy, Annalea Robeson, and Matt Worth.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE EVENTS

- **PLEASE NOTE...WE WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE CONNER PRAIRIE CONCERT – THE BEATLES – ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 12:** There will not be an organized Congregational Life evening under the stars at Conner Prairie. We had hoped to attend the Music of the Beatles Concert on **August 12** with tables, but plans did not work out. There is a sign up sheet on the credenza for those who might be interested in attending and those who can attend can make plans to meet there. Apologies for the confusion.
- **OCTOBERFEST/OLD FASHIONED BASEBALL GAME—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7:** Vintage baseball returns to Pilgrim Lutheran Church on **October 7!** We still have a few details to work out, but will likely follow the same format as last year: an afternoon game with dinner to follow. Contact John Williams at hockey_john@att.net if you would like to take part in this year's game!



SUPER SENIORS AUGUST LUNCHEON



Come and enjoy fellowship with other seniors **Tuesday, August 15** at **noon**. Lunch will be provided. After lunch we will adjourn to the choir loft where Sarah Williams will share her incredible talent with us by giving us a demonstration on how she and our new organ create all its many and varied sounds that make the beautiful music we are now hearing each Sunday. She will then lead us in a hymn sing of some of our favorite hymns. Unfortunately, the list is longer than we will have time for but hopefully we will have another opportunity to “Make a Joyful Noise”. and get to sing more of these favorites. Please sign up on the sheet on the credenza under the TV by **Sunday, August 13**. We encourage you to invite friends. If you would like to attend but need transportation, please note the sign-up sheet with your telephone number and we will call and make arrangements to pick you up.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Congratulations to John and Taylor (Weissenhofer) Roeder who were united in marriage Saturday, July 22. John is the son of Mike and Lee Ann Roeder. As they are one in Christ, may God's many rich blessings flow to and through them!

SERVIFE HIRING TWO NEW POSITIONS

- **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** ServLife International is looking for a 20 hours/week detail-oriented, task-driven administrative assistant. This position will handle processing checks, sponsorship and donor activity, and general office tasks. Full description and apply here: <https://servlife.org/administrative-assistant/>

- **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:** ServLife International is looking for a 10 hours/week detail-oriented, diversely-talented, extremely competent Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. This position will assist the Executive Director with administrative and practical daily tasks. Full description and apply here: <https://servlife.org/executive-assistant-job-description/>

HOLY CONVERSATIONS ON SAME GENDER MARRIAGE

One conversation remains in our series of same-gender marriage workshops led by our elders and Pastor Mueller. This will take place at **9:15 a.m. on Sunday, August 6**. If you already have attended one of our conversations, you are, of course, welcome to attend; but you do not need to attend if you already have participated in a previous workshop. We look forward to your participation and feedback.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY: SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GENNESARET FREE CLINICS

"God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday" will be **September 24**, a day of service opportunities where our congregation will participate in activities that benefit our surrounding community and deepen our connection to the world around us. As preparation for "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday," we need your help to collect items to prepare "hygiene kits" for our local Gennesaret Free Clinics. Our goal is to collect enough items to create 200 kits! Items needed include:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush (singles)
- Dental floss
- Soap bars
- Shampoo
- Razors (disposable singles)
- Deodorant

All items should be travel size (i.e. small) and can be purchased at local Walmart, Target or similar stores. Donated items can be deposited in the specially marked collection bin in the church lobby located under the donuts table near the monitor screen. All donations must be received by Sunday, September 17, 2017. Then, join us on Sunday, September 24 after 10:45 a.m. worship to help assemble kits in quart-sized zip-lock bags. Questions? Contact Dan Murphy, Mark Tisdale or Carol Dahoney.

AUGUST MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

8 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

AUGUST 6, 2017

Kathy Bloom	ELDER	Kelly Brown
TBD	ACOLYTE	Nolan Elser
TBD	GREETERS	Elser/Baumgarn Family
Denny Licht	LAY ASSISTANT	Gloria Worth
Steve Bloom	A/V COVERAGE	Mark Tisdale

AUGUST 13, 2017

Kathy Bloom	ELDER	Gwen Knipstein
TBD	ACOLYTE	Harrison Hawkins-Wilding
TBD	GREETERS	Longmire & Hawkins-Wilding families
Karin Veatch	LAY ASSISTANT	Emma Williams
N/A	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Jim Williams
N/A	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	John Williams
Steve Bloom	A/V COVERAGE	Mark Tisdale

AUGUST 20, 2017

Jim Durst	ELDER	Tim Guedel
Kyle Fedorcha	ACOLYTE	Tony Guedel
Fedorcha Family	GREETERS	Guedel Family
Mike Przybylski	LAY ASSISTANT	Noel Shilling
Jim Durst	A/V COVERAGE	Mark Tisdale

AUGUST 27, 2017

Jim Durst	ELDER	Kelly Brown
TBD	ACOLYTE	Aaron Donley
TBD	GREETERS	Donley Family
Frank Bates	LAY ASSISTANT	Tammy Donley
Jim Durst	A/V COVERAGE	Mark Tisdale

Dorothy Van Hove	ALTAR GUILD	Dorothy Van Hove
Joan Snyder	CHANCEL VOLUNTEER	Maxine Lempke Marge Ellsworth
Bill bowen	USHERS	Donna Follstad, Jason Follstad Bob Nowakowski
	COFFEE SET UP/CLEAN UP	

WEDNESDAYS, 7 p.m.

AUGUST 2, 2017

ELDER
TBD
CANTOR
Sherilyn Kindig
LAY ASSISTANT
John Shilling

AUGUST 9, 2017

ELDER
Bob Schumacher
CANTOR
Sherilyn Kindig
LAY ASSISTANT
Eileen Hintz

AUGUST 16, 2017

ELDER
Bob Schumacher
CANTOR
Sherilyn Kindig
LAY ASSISTANT
Susie Pike

AUGUST 23, 2017

ELDER
Bob Schumacher
CANTOR
Sherilyn Kindig
LAY ASSISTANT
Susie Pike

AUGUST 30, 2017

ELDER
TBD
CANTOR
Sherilyn Kindig
LAY ASSISTANT
Eileen Hintz

AUGUST 2017 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:30a Large Print 11:30a Large Print lunch meeting 1:15p Staff meeting 4p Oboe lesson-Katrina Brown 7p Board of Elders 7:30p Poetry Plus	2 11:30a piano lesson 12p Piano lesson-Yon 2:30p CCPL Mobile Library 6p Jazzercise 7p Evening Prayer w/Holy Communion	3 9:30a Large Print 11a Piano lesson-Yon 12p Piano lesson 6p Jazzercise	4 4p Piano Lesson	5 8a Jazzercise 9:30a Piano Lesson-Yon 1p Pike Family Reunion
6 8a Worship & Holy Communion 9:15a Same Gender Marriage Conversation 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion	7 3:30p Piano Lesson 6p Jazzercise	8 9:30a Large Print 1:15p Staff Meeting 4p Oboe lesson-Katrina Brown	9 11:30a Piano lesson 12p Piano lesson-Yon 6p Jazzercise 7p Evening Prayer w/Holy Communion 7:30p Combo Group	10 9:30a Large Print 11a Piano lesson-Yon 12p Piano lesson 6p Jazzercise	11 4p Piano Lesson	12 8:30a Jazzercise 9:30a Piano lesson 12p United Church of God
13 8a Worship & Holy Communion 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion	14 3:30p Piano lesson 6p Jazzercise	15 9:30a Large Print 12p Super Senior Luncheon 1:15p Staff meeting 4p Oboe lesson-Katrina Brown 7p Board of Directors	16 11:30a Piano lesson 12p Piano lesson-Yon 6p Jazzercise 7p Evening Prayer w/Holy Communion 7:30p Congregational Life	17 9:30a Large Print 11a Piano lesson-Yon 12p Piano lesson 6p Jazzercise	18 4p Piano lesson	19 8:30a Jazzercise 9:30a Piano lesson-Yon 11a Bowen Family event
20 8a Worship & Holy Communion 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion	21 3:30p Piano lesson 6p Jazzercise 7p Evangelism & Communication	22 9:30a Large Print 1:15p Staff meeting 4p Oboe lesson-Katrina Brown 7p Elder training	23 11a Preschool teacher meeting/lunch 11:30a Piano lesson 12p Piano lesson-Yon 6p Jazzercise 7p Evening Prayer w/Holy Communion	24 9:30a Large Print 11a Piano lesson-Yon 12p Piano lesson 6p Jazzercise	25 4p Piano lesson	26 8:30a Jazzercise 9:30a Piano lesson-Yon 12p United Church of God
27 8a Worship & Holy Communion 10:45a Worship & Holy Communion w/Holy Baptism	28 3:30p Piano lesson 6p Jazzercise 7p Preschool Parent Orientation	29 9:30a Large Print 1:15p Staff meeting 4p Oboe lesson-Katrina Brown	30 9a Preschool Meet-the-Teacher 11:30a Piano lesson 12p Piano lesson-Yon 6p Jazzercise 7p Evening Prayer w/Holy Communion	31 9a Preschool 9:30A Large Print 11a Piano lesson-Yon 12 Piano lesson 6p Jazzercise		



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

	2	Gene & Dorothy Van Hove (59 years)
Melody Berg Nolan Kreigh	3	Allison & Samuel Jackson (4 years)
Melissa Baum John Keneipp	4	
Nathan Bloom Joan Snyder	5	
Zoey Watson	6	
Pete Shonle	7	Paul & Allie Schumacher (62 years)
Mary Jane Newby	12	Gunther & Dorothea Schadow (24 years)
Mikey Moehl David Speer	14	
Ryan Watson	15	
	16	
Amanda Donley Vanessa Kuechler	17	Jennifer & Mike Pitts (20 years)
Grace Clark	18	Dan & Marla Murphy (38 years)
	19	
Maren Bloom Tammy Donley	20	George & Lorraine Ransford (67 years)
	22	
William Day Beth Kuechler	24	
	27	Don & Mary Louise Goodrich (57 years) Rich & Gwen Knipstein (51 years)
Raeley Shilling Valerie Watson	28	
Marilyn Kelsey Callie Worth	29	
Carol Dahoney Jody Konow	30	
Duane Pierson George Sailer	31	

I-K Lutheran

Where God is doing new things

August 2017

[This month's article from Bishop Gafkjen is adapted from the third and final part of his verbal report to the 2017 Synod Assembly.]

We believe that by our own understanding or strength we cannot believe in Jesus Christ our Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called us through the gospel, enlightened us with his gifts, made us holy, and kept us in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith...



As summer's end appears on the horizon, for many of us our attention turns toward the return to more regular and rigorous school, church, and work schedules. Leaders of faith communities are planning fall programming in hope of providing transforming encounters with God. At the same time, many members and friends of those same faith communities are beginning to think about a return to more regular participation in the life of their congregation in hope of growing in faith and service. In whatever way we find ourselves turning our attention toward fall, perhaps Martin Luther's explanation to the third article of the Apostolic Creed might be helpful to keep in mind.

After all, the various forms of transformation we seek – deep, life-giving change in our faith communities, in our own lives, and in the world – are the work of the Spirit. Transformation most often begins with a renewal of our own hearts, our own conversion. I know, “conversion” is not a word we Lutherans use very often. But, recall the very first of the 95 Theses Martin posted 500 years ago.

Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in saying “Repent,” wanted the entire life of the faithful to be one of repentance.

The transformation of the Spirit begins with repentance, which is itself a reflection of the conversion the Spirit works in our own hearts, as individuals and as communities of faith. God's gracious Spirit turns us away from what is self-centered or inwardly turned, and turns us outward, as individuals and as faith communities, toward God, toward the other, toward those who have been excluded or lost or denigrated or harmed or who are desperate for a word of hope.

In that way, we are converted, again and again. We are transformed to serve God and love neighbor, entrusting ourselves and our world to the promise of new, abundant, and lasting life, the joy on the other side that compelled Jesus himself to endure the cross [see Hebrews 12:1-2].

Okay, here it comes, Isaiah 43:19: “I am about to do a new thing, even now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness, waters in the desert.”

Why does God promise this? Why does God's Spirit transform us? Why is God continually doing new things and converting us by daily calling us back to the death and resurrection of baptism? Isaiah 43:20 provides an answer: So that “the people whom I formed for myself...might declare my praise.”

We are transformed in the power of the Spirit **to declare God's praise**. The transformation we seek certainly brings us wholeness, healing, and hope. But it doesn't end there. The transformation of the Spirit is not tinkering for tinkering's sake. It's not so any of us can get our way. It's not even so we or our institutions or communities will survive.

God's Spirit works God's way in us so that God will have effective witnesses to God's goodness and

grace in this troubled, often not-so-good, graceless world. God needs a people to declare God's praise in a world that so often forgets or denies there is a God to praise. That people would be us.

What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning...Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure. [Philippians 2:12-13, The Message]

+Bishop Bill Gafkjen

Dear IK Synod Leaders:

I am writing to invite you to participate in the ELCA Welcoming Congregations Network of AMMPARO



(Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). The network was initiated by the Southwest California Synod in response to a declaration of a joint commitment to migrant ministry signed by the ELCA bishops of the companion synods with the church in El Salvador and has now expanded to other ELCA synods. Now this network is being developed here in our Indiana- Kentucky Mission Territory.

Welcoming Congregations make a commitment to:

- welcome and minister to migrant guests and identify a contact person in the congregation who speaks enough Spanish for basic communication;
- attend occasional meetings of the Welcoming Congregations Network in your synod for mutual support, fellowship and training;
- participate in conference calls for updates on the current situation of migration of children and families and receive policy updates; and
- advocate for public policy that will positively impact the current immigration crisis – including working in partnership with the ELCA Washington Office and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service on immigration reform.

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation does not require a commitment by the whole congregation but

rather a commitment by the pastor and a small team of members. Welcoming Congregations are not offering shelter or employment but merely are willing to be a church home for migrant children and families in the same way that congregations of several generations ago welcomed Lutheran migrants from Europe and helped them navigate life in their new home.

Joining the Welcoming Congregations Network provides congregations with a concrete and feasible strategy for connecting local and global mission while increasing their witness and capacity for ministry to the immigrant community. It is also a powerful way to respond to God's call in Matthew 25 – to welcome our Lord Jesus as he comes to us in the stranger.

The ELCA AMMPARO website and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service also offer a wide variety of biblical and practical educational resources on immigration, including information on immigration policy and reform efforts. Information on the legal right of congregations to minister to and with undocumented individuals and families is available upon request.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider participating in this effort. If you discern that your congregation is called to be a WELCOMING CONGREGATION, please contact me at nnyland@iksynod.org

Blessings,

Pastor Nancy Nyland

Director for Evangelical Mission

Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA