

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

IMPORTANT DATES! PLEASE MAKE NOTE

MEET OUR PASTORAL CANDIDATE

On **JANUARY 21, 2018** we will have a pitch-in brunch from 9-10:30 a.m. to meet our pastoral candidate. There are blue sign-up sheets on the credenza under the TV. Please sign up if you plan to attend, and note how many are in your group.

There are also sign up sheets with ways you can add your "helping hands" by providing a food item.

Because of the large expected attendance, we will also need help in setting up, which will be done at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening, January 20. Clean-up will be after the brunch. So that everyone will have an opportunity to participate in a service with the candidate, we are looking for clean-up helpers who will have attended the 8 a.m. service.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

Join us at **NOON** on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 21**, for a special voters' meeting to vote on a candidate for our new pastor. The call committee and the board of directors have unanimously approved the candidate.

The candidate will preach on January 21 at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. A meet-the-candidate brunch and Q&A session will take place between services (see above). It is very important that we have robust attendance this day.

Don't
miss
it!

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***Pilgrim's Progress Editor***Lee Ann Roeder**leeann.roeder@me.com***FROM THE PASTOR**

Happy New Year!! Welcome to the year 2018!!

Wow!! A New Year!!

A new beginning usually raises all kinds of questions, and it is not an exception here at Pilgrim:

- Will we get a new pastor?
- Will all go well on January 21?
- Who will be our Pulpit Supply?
- Will we start talking diligently and purposefully about mission?
- What about that new constitution?
- What is the next program for the Super Seniors?

I'm a big fan of January.

- We are still basking in the light of the Christ Child.
- The days are getting longer.
- It's my birthday month.
- This year I will be retiring (sounds of glee in the background).

There are those who are glad 2017 is over and are quite hopeful about 2018. There are those who could care less and hate the marking of time. And there are some who greet with eager anticipation what is to come. Let me say this about 2017: **I'm glad I got to spend it with you blessed people here at Pilgrim.**

As I write this, it is still Advent 2017. We are remembering that we are Advent people, people who wait. But we wait with hope; perhaps even gladness; always with God. God comes and waits with us wherever we are and whatever year it is, whatever day it is, whatever the hour.

- God comes and sits with us in the darkness and the shadow of death with the light of Christ that the darkness cannot overcome.
- God comes and turns our mourning into dancing and our sorrow into tears of joy.
- God comes and empowers us with true repentance and nourishes us for the bearing of fruit in the world.



ELDER ASSIGNMENTS**ALL-CLA**

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CLE-FOR

Tim Guedel
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FOU-HIA

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HIN-KRAF

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KRAM-MAU

Steve Sullivan
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McC-POW

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PRO-SHE

Bob Schumacher
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VAN-ZIM

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When we move from Advent into the Christmas season we come face to face with the good news – the great joy – the wonder and glory – that God comes to us. Whoever we are. Whatever our place in time. God comes to us. And when God comes, our God comes with grace and mercy, with peace and joy.

May your 2018 be richly blessed with deeds of mercy and love, and may Christ's light burn brightly for you in all the year's dark places.

Peace,
Rudy

FROM THE ELDERS**Repentance: The Joy-Filled Life**

Happy New Year!

Yet another year has passed, and it is January 2018: a new year and another opportunity for new initiatives, new goals, and New Year's resolutions.

What are your goals for 2018? Get back into the gym, get fit, and lose weight? Reduce your blood pressure and blood sugar? Adopt a tighter budget and pay off that debt? Keep a cleaner house? Do a better job teaching the kids about choices and consequences? Finally getting that promotion at work? Attending Church more regularly and increasing your weekly contributions? These are all very important and valuable goals, but what does God want us to do each year, each month, and even every day?

The answer is found in the call of Scripture: "Repent!"

Repentance is the common theme of Jesus Christ and John The Baptist. At the very beginning of His ministry, Jesus said in Mark 1:14-15, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel." In Luke 3:8-14, John proclaimed, "Bear fruit that befits repentance." Repeatedly Jesus tells His disciples and those he heals to repent and follow Him.

But exactly what is repentance? Many Christians think the definition of repentance is what you find in most dictionaries: sincere regret or remorse; contrition; penitence, or feeling sorrow, shame, or guilt for your sins. Growing up in the Roman Catholic Church, I certainly believed this definition! I had to go to the priest regularly and confess all my sins and ask for forgiveness. I had to say the “Act of Contrition” and do penitence, which was usually reciting many “Hail Marys” and “Our Fathers” on my knees after exiting the confession box. And if I had committed any mortal sins, I would have to pay for them in purgatory after my death before being granted admittance to Heaven. Repentance was serious, tough, hard work!

Fortunately, this definition of repentance is incorrect. Repentance is translated from the New Testament Greek word, “Metanoia,” which literally means “after/behind one’s mind,” or, “Perceive afterwards.” More succinctly in English, *metanoia* means “a change of mind that results in a change of action.” Jesus, John, and especially Paul in Acts all are telling us to change our thinking and our lives, have trust and faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, and endeavor to sin no more.

But the catch 22 here is that we are imperfect. We are all poor, miserable sinners, and we cannot by ourselves be perfect and sinless. But Jesus’ death on the cross and His shedding of blood wipes away our sin when we turn to Him in faith and accept God’s grace and free gift of salvation.

This is the essence of repentance: accepting that we are sinful beings, daily asking for forgiveness, and daily receiving God’s grace and forgiveness.

This is also the essence of the Christian reformation. Rather than earning one’s salvation through work, penitence, sacramental processes, and the payment of indulgences, Dr. Martin Luther went back to the scriptures and showed that salvation is a free gift earned by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning work on the cross. Luther taught that the life of a Christian should include daily repentance, and this would lead to a joy-filled life! About 50 years ago, a remarkable little book written by Dr. M. Basilea Schlink, a Lutheran nun at the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary, in Darmstadt, Germany, focused on this important theological truth. I used the title of the book, “Repentance: The Joy-Filled Life,” as the title of this Elder’s Corner.

To be spiritually alive is to live in repentance. You cannot escape your sins and your sinful nature. But you can ask for forgiveness and repent every day and live a joy-filled life. “Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!”

Bob Schumacher

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT PILGRIM...

SACRED THREADS

Sacred Threads will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, at the home of Susan Maul.

HELP "UNDECORATE"

Please do not forget the "Undecorating Party" following the 10:45 service on Sunday, January 7. Many hands make little work. Congregational Life will provide a chili luncheon when everything is tucked away upstairs. Thank you so very much for your willingness.

THANK YOU PITCH-IN FOR PASTOR RUDY

On January 28, 2018 there will be a pitch-in luncheon to say thank you to Pastor Rudy for his very dedicated service to the Pilgrim family over the past year. That will be his last Sunday with us, as he is retiring. White sign-up sheets



are on the credenza under the TV. Like the event on the 21st, please sign up if you plan to attend and note how many are in your group. Congregational Life will provide a ham, and we are asking that you please sign up to bring a food item. Please also indicate if you are able to help set up on Saturday evening, January 27 at 7 p.m., or help with clean-up following the luncheon. Many thanks from Congregational Life for your "helping hands."

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL FOCUSES ON OUR FOREFATHERS IN THE FAITH



A five-week study on the topic of "Our Forefathers in the Faith" begins for all adult Pilgrims on January 28, 2018. Pastor Paul Schumacher, longtime member of Pilgrim and moreover a faithful servant to Pilgrim as he has served in the Interim Pastor capacity for us many, many times, will lead the class. Pastor Paul will begin

the classes with a discussion of St. Augustine (354-430 A.D.) drawing from his books *Confessions* and *City of God*. Continuing on Pastor Paul will focus on Martin Luther, a young Augustinian monk (1483-1546) with his 95 Theses (1517) and The Augsburg Confession (1530) with colleague Philip Melancthon. The last three classes will be devoted to "Our American Experience of Lutheranism," with references to Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) and Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945). Coming to each session will give you a broad view of Lutheran history but even attending several sessions will be enriching if you are unable to attend all five. Please mark your calendars for January 28-February 25.

BENEFACTION FUND

Benefaction Fund grant request forms are available upon request from the church office. Please call (317) 846-2221 or email DebbieCollins@pilgrimindy.org if you would like a copy of them. The grant request deadline is February 15, 2018. NOTE: All grant requests must be sponsored by a member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Please pick up your copy of the new 2017 Pilgrim Lutheran Church Members & Friends Directory in the church lobby. The directories are labeled and alphabetized by household name. Please locate and take home your labeled copy today! Questions? Contact Mark Tisdale at markrtisdale@msn.com.

**2018 FLOWER CHART**

The Flower Chart for 2018 is available in the Narthex for sign-ups. Please note: There are **NO** flowers during the Lenten and Advent seasons. The cost is \$40.50 per vase, and there are two vases.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

2018 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up in the narthex. Please call the church office at (317) 846-2221 if you do not see your name.

**PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH****SUPER SENIORS**

Due to all of the January activities, there will not be a separate Super Seniors activity. We hope to see you at all the other exciting events at Pilgrim this month. Sign-up sheets are on the credenza for them. If you should need transportation during these cold, snowy months, please call Carol Dahoney. Meanwhile, watch for information on our February Super Seniors activity.

Wishing you a blessed 2018!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Christmas is over. All the excitement, all the anticipation, all the wonder and joy is gone. Now what do we do?

In the church we keep going right along to the next special day to remember. What is it? It is the Day and Season of Epiphany. Epiphany is a Greek word and it means "manifestation" or "appearance" to "show forth." In simple terms it is to let others know someone special has arrived. Certainly we know who that someone is, it is Jesus!

The day of Epiphany is January 6. The church recalls the story of the Magi (the coming of the three kings represents for us that all nations are called to worship Jesus and that Jesus came for everyone). The season of Epiphany lasts until the Sunday before Ash Wednesday when we move into the season of Lent. The color during Epiphany is white. White suggests brightness, gladness, joy and light. The symbol for the day of Epiphany is the star for the Magi followed the star to find the Lord Jesus the newborn king. Even the gifts the Magi bring fall into our day of celebration:

- Gold, the best of metals, was a gift fit for a king. Jesus was born to rule with love in the hearts of all his children.
- Frankincense was used in the temple for worship. We see Jesus as our bridge between God and us; he becomes our High Priest in worship.
- Myrrh was used to anoint those whom have died. The gift of myrrh tells us of Jesus' eventual death and resurrection.

So you do have more reasons to celebrate now that Christmas is well past. You can tell the story of the Magi, you can be a "wise girl" or a "wise boy" and "show forth" that you know that Jesus' story does not begin and end on Christmas day. Indeed it a story for all days and all time.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY EPIPHANY TOO!

Mrs. Worth

JANUARY CALENDAR REMINDERS

Sunday, January 14 *Sunday School classes resume; Pilgrim adults are invited to a special Reformation Class hosted and led by Sven Schumacher.*

Sunday, January 21 *No Sunday School*

Sunday, January 28 *Sunday School*

PILGRIM LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL & PARENTS' TIME OUT

December was such a fun and busy month! We made so many awesome Christmas ornaments and decorated our rooms. The gifts the children made for their parents were outstanding! On December 18 our four- and five-year-olds celebrated with a musical Christmas Program in the sanctuary. We followed our programs with a cookie reception in the fellowship hall. The children were cute and the cookies were delicious! Thank you to Mrs. Worth and Mrs. Williams for all their time, patience, and hard work in putting on another fabulous program!

Registration for Fall 2018 is upon us very soon! Pilgrim members are given priority for class assignments and pay no registration fee. If you are a Pilgrim member and are interested, please email Amy Tucker (preschool@pilgrimindy.org) before January 9 to priority register your child. "In house" registration (for those families that are currently enrolled in the program) will be done by simply turning in a registration form by January 19. Open registration (for those who are neither Pilgrim members, nor are currently enrolled in the program) will begin on January 26. Anyone interested in the program needs to pick up registration papers and return them as soon as possible to be assured a spot. Additionally, the registration form will be available online at the preschool's link of the church website: www.pilgrimindy.org. Do you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested? You can pick up a registration form for them!

We are looking forward to having many special guests visit our preschool during January. A dental hygienist will be talking with the 4s classes during their healthy habits week. "Miss Liz the Science Wiz" will also be doing her monthly program with the 4s and 5s. We will watch a fun animal program presented by Take Flight!-Wildlife Education. We will also have a children's librarian come read us Bedtime stories on our annual Pajama Day, which is always fun for the children (and teachers too)!

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



JANUARY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS		
8 a.m.		10:45 a.m.
JANUARY 7, 2017		
Kathy Bloom	ELDER	Gwen Knipstein
Max Shurr	ACOLYTE	Noah Berg
Shurr Family	GREETERS	Berg Family
Mike Przybylski	LAY ASSISTANT	John Williams
Steve Bloom	A/V COVERAGE	Mark Tisdale

JANUARY 14, 2017		
Jim Williams	ELDER	Bob Schumacher
Nate Gordon	ACOLYTE	Kathy Hatfield, Ella Hatfield
Gigowski Family	GREETERS	Hatfield families
Karin Veatch	LAY ASSISTANT	Claire Weems
N/A	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Tim Guedel, Jim Williams
Jim Durst	A/V COVERAGE	Mark Tisdale
N/A	YOUTH USHERS	Ella Konow, Will Pitts
N/A	YOUTH GREETERS	Vivian Kraabel

JANUARY 21, 2017		
Kathy Bloom	ELDER	Tim Guedel
Kyle Fedorcha	ACOLYTE	Caleb Elser
Fedorcha Family	GREETERS	Baumgarn/Elser Family
Denny Licht	LAY ASSISTANT	Noel Shilling
Steve Bloom	A/V COVERAGE	Mark Tisdale

JANUARY 28, 2017		
Bob Schumacher	ELDER	Kelly Brown
Derek Fedorcha	ACOLYTE	Aaron Donley
Fedorcha Family	GREETERS	Donley Family
Frank Bates	LAY ASSISTANT	Tammy Donley
Dave Runkel	A/V COVERAGE	Mark Tisale

Carey Kraabel	ALTAR GUILD	Carey Kraabel
Marcia Runkel	CHANCEL VOLUNTEER	Noel Shilling
Larry Shimer Bob Harshbarger	USHERS	Dave Blase, Rich Knipstein Frank Bates, Greg Rexing Jim Shockey

WEDNESDAYS

JANUARY 3, 2017
ELDER
 Dave Blase
LAY ASSISTANT
 John Shilling

JANUARY 10, 2017
ELDER
 Jim Williams
LAY ASSISTANT
 Frank Bates

JANUARY 17, 2017
ELDER
 Dave Blase
LAY ASSISTANT
 Maureen Jordan

JANUARY 24, 2017
ELDER
 Bob Schumacher
LAY ASSISTANT
 Susie Pike

JANUARY 31, 2017
ELDER
 Dave Blase
LAY ASSISTANT
 John Shilling

JANUARY 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years Day 8:00a-OFFICE CLOSED 3:30p-Piano Lesson 4:00p-Piano - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise	2 1:15p-Staff Meeting 5:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 7:00p-Board of Elders 7:30p-Pearly Pins	3 11:30a-Piano Lesson 12:30p-CCPL Mobile Library 4:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise 7:00p-Evening Prayer With Holy Communion	4 9:15a-MDMA Group 12:00p-Piano Lesson 4:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 6:00p-Handbell Rehearsal 6:00p-Jazzercise 7:00p-Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00a-Piano - Yon 4:00p-Piano Lesson	6 8:30a-Jazzercise 9:30a-Piano Lesson - Yon 12:00p-United Church of God
7 8:00a-Worship and Holy Communion 10:45a-Worship and Holy Communion 12:00p-Un-Decorate the Church and Chill	8 3:30p-Piano Lesson 4:00p-Piano - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise	9 9:00a-Preschool 9:30a-Large Print 10:00a-Sacred Threads @ Susan Maui's 1:15p-Staff Meeting 5:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon	10 9:00a-Preschool 9:15a-Preschool Program - Healthy Habits 11:30a-Piano Lesson 12:30p-CCPL Mobile Library 4:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise 7:00p-Hidden Evening Prayer With Holy Communion	11 9:00a-Preschool 9:15a-MDMA Group 9:30a-Large Print Group 12:00p-Piano Lesson 1:00p-Ladies Bible Study 4:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 6:00p-Handbell Rehearsal 6:00p-Jazzercise 7:00p-Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00a-Preschool 10:00a-Piano - Yon 4:00p-Piano Lesson	13 8:30a-Jazzercise 9:30a-Piano Lesson - Yon 12:00p-United Church of God
14 8:00a-Worship and Holy Communion 9:00a-Youth Bells 9:30a-Sunday School 10:45a-Worship and Holy Communion With Proch Baptism	15 MLK Jr. Day 8:00a-OFFICE CLOSED 4:00p-Piano - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise	16 9:00a-Preschool 9:30a-Large Print 1:15p-Staff Meeting 5:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon	17 9:00a-Preschool 11:30a-Piano Lesson 12:30p-CCPL Mobile Library 4:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise 7:00p-Hidden Evening Prayer With Holy Communion	18 9:00a-Preschool 9:15a-MDMA Group 9:30a-Large Print Group 12:00p-Piano Lesson 1:00p-Ladies Bible Study @ Kathy Hatfields 4:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 6:00p-Handbell Rehearsal 6:00p-Jazzercise 7:00p-Choir Rehearsal	19 9:00a-Preschool 10:00a-Piano - Yon 4:00p-Piano Lesson	20 8:30a-Jazzercise 9:30a-Piano Lesson - Yon 12:00p-United Church of God
21 8:00a-Worship and Holy Communion 9:00a-Candidate Branch Proch-n 10:45a-Worship and Holy Communion 12:15p-Special Water Meeting - Call Candidate	22 9:00a-Preschool 4:00p-Piano - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise	23 9:00a-Preschool 9:30a-Preschool Library Program 9:30a-Large Print 1:15p-Staff Meeting 5:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 5:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon	24 9:00a-Preschool 9:30a-Preschool Library Program 11:30a-Piano Lesson 12:30p-CCPL Mobile Library 4:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise 7:00p-Evening Prayer With Holy Communion	25 9:00a-Preschool 9:15a-MDMA Group 9:30a-Large Print Group 12:00p-Piano Lesson 1:00p-Ladies Bible Study 4:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 6:00p-Handbell Rehearsal 6:00p-Jazzercise 7:00p-Choir Rehearsal	26 9:00a-Preschool 10:00a-Piano - Yon 4:00p-Piano Lesson	27 8:30a-Jazzercise 9:30a-Piano Lesson - Yon 12:00p-United Church of God
28 8:00a-Worship and Holy Communion 9:00a-Youth Bells 9:30a-Sunday School 10:45a-Worship and Holy Communion 12:00p-Thank You Lunch for Pastor Rudy	29 9:00a-Preschool 9:30a-Preschool Animal Program - Owl Man 4:00p-Piano - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise	30 9:00a-Preschool 9:30a-Large Print 1:15p-Staff Meeting 5:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon	31 9:00a-Preschool 11:30a-Piano Lesson 12:30p-CCPL Mobile Library 1:15p-Preschool Band Meeting 4:00p-Piano Lesson - Yon 6:00p-Jazzercise 7:00p-Evening Prayer With Holy Communion			

January

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Marla Murphy	2	Bill & Melanie Gigowski (8 years)
Kyle Fedorcha III	3	
Estelle Jackson		
Ron Peeters		
Shane Hawkins-Wilding	4	
Marci Kreigh		
Ruth Stanley		
Fred Baade	5	
Matt Baum		
Avery Sims	6	
Kregg Sims	8	
Kay Nowakowski	9	
Kristen Kelleher	14	
Jerrie Heyne	16	
Betty Douglass	19	
Melissa Brauer	21	
Annalea Robeson		
Phyllis Swanson		
Ethan Campbell	22	John & Noel Shilling (46 years)
Dorothy Van Hove		
Taylor Hatfield	23	
Thomas Moehl	24	
Allie Schumacher	25	
Doug Lippert	27	
Shawn Pabst	28	
Kurt Roeder		
Josh Kuechler Sr.	29	
Ryan Nobis		
Marge Ellsworth	30	
Seana Jordan		
Julie Williams		