

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School
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OCTOBER 2015

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Volunteer Editor

Trajectory (Pastor Kristian Johnson)

¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently. _James 5:16-17

Moses parting the red sea. Jesus performing healings. Peter preaching and seeing 3,000 become baptized in one day. Elijah stopping and starting the rain through prayer.

As people of faith, people and events like these are inspiring but, truth be told, they can be somewhat discouraging in some ways too. How can we ever compare with these great men and women who endured such trials and accomplished such amazing things? How do these stories relate to our own experiences of driving to work, raising our kids, having cookouts with the neighbors?

I love it when James says, “Elijah was a human being just like us...” (James 5:17) There was no movie score music playing in the background, no fancy lighting shining down on the faces of those biblical people as they did such extraordinary things in the power of God’s spirit... they received God’s gift of faith, and they acted upon it.

As we look at our lives, seeing significant breakthroughs in our lives is much less about where we currently are in our walk with Jesus, and much more about where we are headed. It is not our current level of breakthrough that is the most important; **it is our trajectory**; it is where we are heading.

It has been said, “Direction is more important than speed.”

As I look back over my life, one of the things I am most grateful for are the early course corrections and the ongoing challenges from those I trust. My parents, grandparents, Sunday school teachers, youth group friends, hosts in Tanzania and El Salvador, that have led me into a life of mission and discipleship. Discipleship: **listening** to Jesus and **doing** what Jesus is calling us to do, in partnership with others.

Discipleship is essential if we are to dynamically alter the trajectory of our lives. When our lives are full of encouragement and challenge in equal measure, we are ushered into a wonderfully fulfilling and impactful life.

How fast are you growing in your walk with God? How much are you growing in faith, love and maturity? How much fruit are you seeing in your own life and the lives of those around you? If you want more, I invite you to find someone who is more fruitful in following Jesus than you, and set yourself to learn from them. Get into a discipleship group or Bible Study (there are three new ones starting this fall at Pilgrim) where you will regularly be encouraged and challenged by others to respond to scripture and the Lord’s prompting in your life with action.

Then you will find that your trajectory changes – and your life will overflow with peace and fulfillment beyond imagination!



October/November Worship Theme: "Faith is..."

Join Us In Worship Throughout October And November As We Begin A New Preaching Series, "Faith Is", That Will Be Exploring Questions That Are Central To Our Lives And To Our Relationship With God Based On The Book Of Hebrews.

✚ Sunday Theme:

- October 4th "Is God Still Speaking?" (An Exploration Of The Prophets...)
- October 11th "Where Is God Amid So Much Suffering?" (learning From The Ultimate Pioneer)
- October 18th "What About Women Of Faith In The Bible? (Acts 16 And Romans 16)
- October 25th "How Is God At Work Among Our Youth? (Confirmation Sunday)

(**Editor's Note:** October Is Pastor Appreciation Month)



Each Sunday at 10:15 AM, please bring your children to the first floor hallway through the green doors of the narthex. Later, during the offering, we invite parents to come to the first floor hallway to pick up your children so that you can take communion/receive a blessing as a family.

- ▶ 0-2 years old will have the option of being in the nursery.
 - ▶ Children Preschool-5th Grade will be in a developmentally appropriate group, learning bible stories, songs, and doing a craft project.
 - ▶ 6th through 12th Graders will be participating as worshipers, acolytes, readers, assisting ministers, and praise team leaders in the service.
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Hall of Saints Invitation

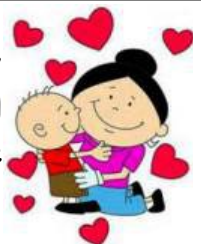
Starting on October 11th, we invite you to bring photographs or printed images of loved ones who have died and who inspired you. We would like to assemble a "Hall of Saints" that will use our worship place to hang the pictures of those loved ones who have passed on to be with the Lord. Please bring your pictures to worship on October 11th, 18th, 25th or November 1st, and we will invite you to place them on a clothesline (attached by a clothespin) that will run along the north and south walls of the sanctuary.



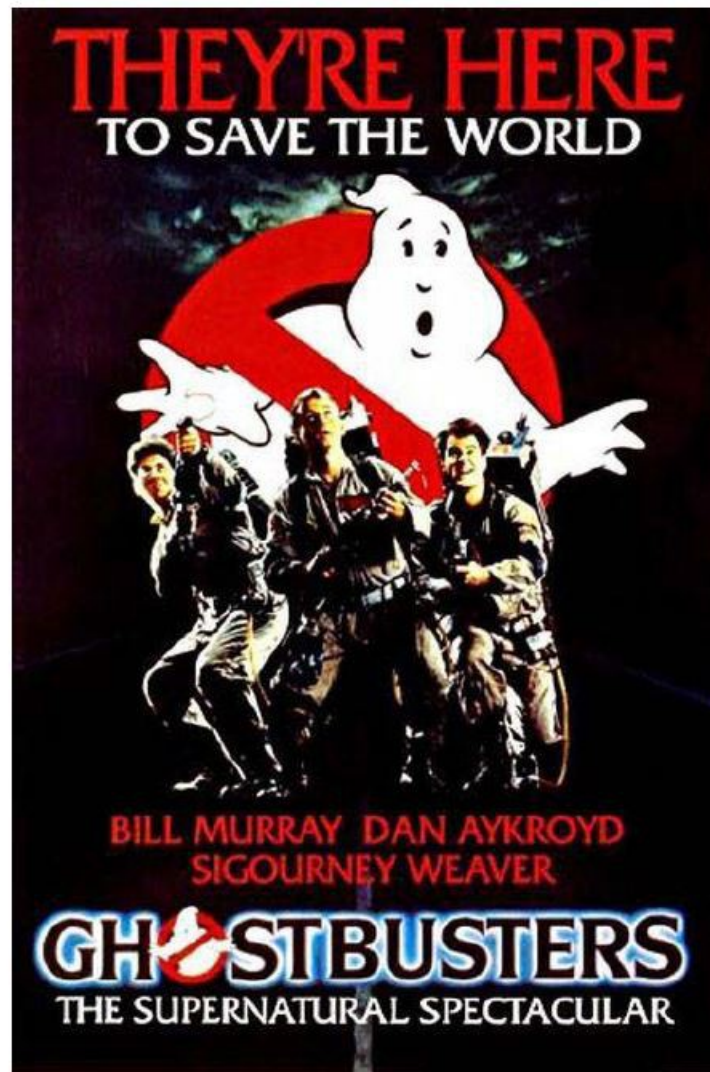
Prayer Time

Prayer time at the parsonage (4332 N Winchester), from 8:30 – 9:30 AM

MOPS is a morning group for moms. MOPS meets the first and third Thursday mornings of the month from 9-11:45 am at the Pilgrim parsonage (4332 N Winchester). Cost is \$10 and includes childcare. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Tarah Dickerson at tdickerson15@hotmail.com.



HALLOWEEN YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT!!!!!!!!!!!!



WHEN: sUn oCt. 25TH @ 4:30-7Pm @ pArSonAge

bRING \$5.00 towards PiZZa & PoP...cAnDy will Be ProVidEd.

HaLloWeEn CoSTumE ConTESt: PrIzzzzzzes...

r.S.V.p. with jOnaThAn VAleNciA (773) 241-2155

Von Steuben German Day Parade



Pilgrim was well represented in the September 12th German Day Parade by families proudly carrying the Pilgrim Banner.



The parade began in North Center and ended in Lincoln Square. One of our Pilgrim students was the Princess of the event!



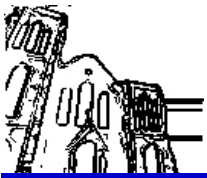
Pilgrim parent (and Illinois Attorney General) Lisa Madigan hands out candy at the German Day parade, as Pilgrim students pass out postcards about our school.



Box Tops For Education (Paula Raabe)

The Box Tops collection program continues at Pilgrim....you can also place your box tops in the container on the table in the narthex of the church or in the container in the school office. Join the effort! All funds raised from the box tops collection will go to fund Pilgrim Kids Care. Questions? Email Paula Raabe at praabe@pilgrimchicago.org ago.org) or check out the program's website: www.bboxtops4education.com





School Subjects

(Principal Christopher Comella)



Thank you to everyone for spreading the good news about Pilgrim! If you want a lawn sign, we have them in the office. We also have car magnets in the office. (If you go to the car wash, make sure you take the magnet off first!) If you have any friends interested in touring Pilgrim, we give tours every Tuesday at 10 AM and our first Open House for prospective parents is Tuesday, October 20. More info about that as we get closer to the date.

If you believe that your child would benefit from additional help with reading and math instruction, Susan Stamm is our new Title I teacher, a federally funded program. She comes to Pilgrim every afternoon. Please contact me or your child's teacher about how to access services. This additional help is free to parents for students in Grades 1-8.

Six interns from the Chicago School of Psychology will be working in Ms. Huelskoetter's classroom, Mrs. Tighe's classroom, and in the Pre-Kindergarten room with Mrs. Bataneant and Mr. Knuth. Each of these interns is working on a master's degree or a doctorate in educational psychology. They will be providing learning assistance support as well as other duties assigned by the supervising teacher. Mrs. Ruby Rivera is working in the Pre-K room; Ms. Katharine Schmidt, Ms. Molly Pierce, and Ms. Azucena Bahena are in Ms. Huelskoetter's room; Ms. Cara Wolf and Ms. Briana Naseer is in Mrs. Tighe's room. If you have any questions about their roles in the classroom, please contact your child's teacher.

Genesis provides Pilgrim with two social work interns. This year's interns are named Choon and Joy. Both are working on their Master's or Doctoral degrees. The mission of Genesis is to support students so that they are successful in the classroom. They can help students with executive functioning skills and with other problems that may arise which get in the way of maximal performance in the classroom. If you would like your child to be involved in this program, please contact me for more information.

Two students from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Marissa and Hans Becklin, are going to be working with Pastor Kristian throughout this school year. They are married and live in Hyde Park. Some of you may have seen them at the PTL Open House and the Block Party. These students, called Ministry in Context (MIC) students, are in the 2nd year of their four-year process of earning a Master's in Divinity degree. They are assigned to Pilgrim seven hours per week, and their role in the school will most likely only be as observers.

Beyond Green is continuing to provide hot lunch for our students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Families can order lunches online at orderlunches.com. An Instructional video to explain how it works can be found at: <http://www.orderlunches.com/how-to-use-orderlunches-video>.

Parents are always welcome in classrooms, and I welcome your feedback and questions. Feel free to contact me (ccomella@pilgrimchicago.org) whenever something arises. If you would like to become involved in events and activities hosted by the Parent Teacher League (PTL), please contact either Anna Lambros or Carrie Goerne. Parents are also welcome to attend weekly chapel services. The students are always happy to see you there!

The first regular PTL meeting was Thursday, September 17. Many thanks go to all the classroom reps who attended and to Ms. Huelskoetter who hosted. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14th at 7 PM.



September 13th, 2015
Outdoor Service and Block Party Memories



Rai\$ing Fund\$

(Anne Barsano)

C H R I S T M A S is coming and soon our Christmas list of gift cards will be available. We will be selling in the school office Monday and Friday, and in the church foyer after the 2nd service - around 11:45 AM. Until then, you can still pick up cards that you might need to use for shopping or for that enjoyable night out. We are now keeping Lou Malnati's cards on hand for that spur of the moment desire for pizza. If we have 200 families purchase \$100 in gift cards/month, we earn \$12,000 for the year! How nice to have that extra money to benefit the school and church!



Contact: Anne Barsano with Raising Funds questions (cbarsano@aol.com or 773-472-6037).

MAGAZINE DRIVE

If you missed the October 6th deadline for turning in your Magazine order to the school office, please remember you may go online www.gaschoolstore.com year-round to place and charge your order: Pilgrim's account number is: 2633014. Subscriptions ordered for Christmas gifts will not start arriving until after Christmas. Pilgrim earns 40% of your orders!



FLEA MARKET

We have been testing the waters since the start of school to see if there is any interest in our having a **Flea Market** on Saturday, November 7th. 9 AM to 4 PM, benefitting **Pilgrim's Tuition Assistance** program. Spaces measuring 8' by 8' would be \$25 and spaces w/table would be \$30. There would also be Pilgrim tables for which we would accept anything but clothes and large furniture. We usually have a concession stand that is run by a church/school group (usually 7th graders) wanting to make some extra \$\$\$. Please let Anne Barsano know by October 2nd if you are interested.



Deadline: Please submit items for the **November** newsletter by **October 15th**. Send to Jeanne Valencia at j3valencia@yahoo.com or put in my church mailbox.

El Salvador Mission Trip Photos



... 37 strong, including 15 youth! It was an awesome group! We installed solar panels systems for five families living in mud houses, helped serve hundreds of meals at the Hope Casa Esperanza Casa Concordia. We helped build a hydroponic pond at Farming Hope, attended to over 500 people through a health and dental ministry, prayed with over 2,000 in a march for peace" —



Building church shelter-Colon



Peace



Lord of Life Shelter - complete



**Solar iministry
Brisas del Valle**



**Yessenia Rivera
Homeland Helpers, Lane Tech**



**"I learned on this trip
you never run out
of love."**



Pilgrim Groups And Committees

CHURCH COUNCIL Oversees the business of the church, but delegates committee work to the committees. They meet the last Tuesday of the month in the School Library at 7:30 PM. Council positions are elected, but anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Contact **Mike Suhajda** 773-878-8163 or mike@accurate-prod.com for info.

DINING GROUP A group for all ages which dines out once a month, usually on the 3rd Sunday, and patronizes restaurants with varied ethnic cuisines. We would love to have you join us!! Contact **Julie Lea** 773-764-3140.

GIRL SCOUTS Pilgrim Church is the home of four troops of Girl Scouts: Cadettes, Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Seniors, and Ambassadors. Contact **Judy Daniel** 773-588-2101.

HOT MEALS Successful outreach program working in teams to prepare and serve Saturday noon meals for area homeless. Each team commits to a three-hour shift (10 AM-1 PM) about four times a year. Interested in helping? Contact **Janet Taylor** 773-777-4052 or jkstay@aol.com.

MOMS IN TOUCH Part of an international organization. All Pilgrim School mothers are invited to join us in the church parlor on Wednesdays, 9-10:30 AM, to pray for our children and school (childcare provided). Call **Cathy Basler** 773-509-0988.

PARISH LIFE BOARD This group meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 7:30 PM, and is responsible for most of the hospitality, assimilation and outreach activities and projects that go on within the church. If you are interested in joining, please talk to **Anne Barsano, Shellie Volkens, or Jim Volkens**.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE Oversees the property of the congregation and coordinates its repair and general upkeep, including church, school, teacherages and parsonage. They meet the first Sunday of the month in the School Office at 9:30 AM (8:30 in the summer). For more information, contact **Jim Volkens** 773-477-4824.

PTL The Parent Teacher League is a very active organization that supports the staff and families of Pilgrim Lutheran School. The PTL hosts many events for the families and staff through the year. Contact PTL President, **Bob Knapp** 773-612-3563 or rkimages@me.com

QUILTERS The group welcomes anyone interested in fellowship and quilting (or other needlecraft). Gatherings are informal and do not adhere to a set schedule. For dates and locations of meetings, please contact **Gail Mendiola** 773-725-8028 or **Chris Wallis** 773-561-5419.

SCHOOL BOARD Oversees our Christian education programs, including Preschool, K-8, Before School Program, After-School Program (PAS) and sports programs, as well as other programs helpful for youth. Board positions and committees are elected, but anyone interested is encouraged to attend. They meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the school Library. For more information, contact **Nancy Liljedahl** 773-271-9290.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 PM in the church annex. Please join us for a friendly support program with helpful hints and discussions of current information regarding personal health. Contacts: **Millie Ostrander** 773-281-5762 or **Anne Barsano** 773-472-6037.

WOMAN'S SOCIETY An organization of women that meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:30 PM. All women are invited to join this group for fellowship and fund raising activities. Contact: **Millie Ostrander** 773-281-5762

WORSHIP COMMITTEE Plans and creates meaningful worship for the needs of the congregation. They coordinate the activities of the choirs, ushers, acolytes, Altar Guild, organist, worship and communion assistants. They are also responsible for the creation, purchase and display of seasonal decorations in the church. They meet as necessary after the late church service in the Parlor. For more information, contact **Chris Wallis** 773-561-5419 or cewallis1949@yahoo.com.



Coffee Hour Teams

SEPTEMBER (After 10:30 Worship)

04 Team 10
11 Team 11
18 Team 12
25 Team 13

