

## **THE PILGRIM HERALD**

July 2017

### **PILGRIM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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West Bend, WI 53090

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## ***JULY: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM—THE FIRST FREEDOM***

The ingenious design of American governance is its pledge to protect the liberty of all its citizens while respecting their equality before the law. The government protects a citizen's freedom to seek the truth about God, to worship according to their conscience, to live out their faith in the public square. So also, citizens are free to enter into contracts and to form associations according to their own values.

While the government must treat everyone equally, people in the private sector are free to make responsible distinctions—including ones based on good-faith moral convictions—in their economic endeavors. Government should not impose burdens on sincere religious beliefs unless it can prove that it must—or, as the law puts it, that the burden imposed on those beliefs is the least restrictive means of advancing a compelling government interest.

Granted, those who make decisions based on moral and religious views may well pay a price in the market, perhaps losing customers and qualified employees, yet such choices should remain lawful. They entail the freedom to choose whom to associate with, when, and on what terms, as well as the freedom to choose whom to do business with and for what good and services. Governmental mandates that impinge on these freedoms should be imposed only for compelling reasons.

The faith-guided owners of the family business see their professional work as an extension of that very faith. Thus, a wedding photographer, for example, doesn't just provide a business service but uses her God given talents to tell the story of a particular couple and their relationships. Helping to celebrate a same-sex relation-

ship as a marriage affirms that relationship, and it's unreasonable to coerce religious believers to do that.

The government should not be determining who is right or wrong about baking cakes or taking photographs for same-sex weddings. You don't have to share the beliefs of the owners of a particular bakery, flower shop, or farmer's stand, to recognize that they ought to be free to run their business in accordance with their values—without fear of reprisal from the government. And the first reason why is this. Religious freedom is the first freedom of citizens.

The Founding Father of the United States established a political society unlike any other in all of human history. Here we would not merely “tolerate” the religious practice of minorities but would protect the right of all people to liberty of conscience and the free exercise of religion. The Founders recognizes that religious liberty is God-given *natural* right, not the creation of government. States must respect and protect this right, never undermine or attack it. George Washington, in a letter dated August 21, 1790, to the Hebrew congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, perhaps said it best:

“The citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged liberal policy—a policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of the one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only

that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.”

In America, religious liberty is not the result of mere “toleration” but an inherent natural right. A hallmark of true religious liberty is that it is extended to persons of all faiths, even if their beliefs seem unfounded, flawed, implausible, or downright silly. *The foundation of religious freedom, however, is not skepticism, relativism, or indifferentism about theological questions.* It is the objective value of the religious quest—seeking to understand the truth about ultimate questions and conforming one’s life to that truth with integrity.

It is a fulfillment of human nature to think about the existence of God and what He might demand of us and to aspire to live in accordance with our conclusions. Throughout human history people have sought the truth about ultimate—and divine—reality and have shaped their lives accordingly. Religious freedom respects the right of all persons to pursue these ends. It is not a concession of the government to its subjects but a natural right that the government recognizes, protects, and is limited by. We are to render to Caesar what is Caesar, but to God what is God’s, because Caesar is not God. Religion is outside of the jurisdiction of Caesar, who must acknowledge that men’s consciences are bound by a higher law.

This view of religious liberty has found its place in our civil law. As James Madison, wrote in his *Memorial and Remonstrance*, “The Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man.” It is an “arrogant pretension” to believe that “the Civil Magistrate is a competent Judge of Religious Truth.” The First Amendment to the Constitution has been understood to embody this vision of religious liberty

for much of our history.

The right to religious liberty is the result of a prior *duty* to seek out the truth about God and the cosmos. In that same address, *Memorial and Remonstrance*, Madison explains:

“What is here a right towards men, is a duty towards the Creator. It is the duty of every man to render to the Creator such homage and such only as he believes to be acceptable to him. This duty is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society.”

At the time of its founding, the government of the United States was virtually unique in protecting the space for its citizens to fulfill this duty according to their own best judgement. As Professor Michael McConnell of Stanford Law School explains,

“In the liberal tradition, the government’s role is not to make theological judgements but to protect the right of the people to pursue their own understandings of the truth, within the limits of the common good. That is the difference between “the full and free exercise of religion” (Madison’s formulation) and mere “toleration.” Toleration presuppose a “dominate group” within a particular opinion about religious (that it is “false,” or as at least unwarranted”), who decide not to “eradicate” beliefs they regard as “wrong, mistaken, or undesirable.”

I know you’re thinking it. I am too. So, before you and I draw various conclusions from this, we must note that *religious liberty is not unlimited*. The State can rightly limit it when justice and the

common good so require. In such cases, the limitation of religious liberty is an incidental but unavoidable (and thus justified) effect of the government's action to secure justice. This principle is the basis of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and the various state versions of the same statute. These laws require that regulations which curb religious expression serve a compelling government interest and do so by the least restrictive means possible.

As a matter of natural law, the right to religious liberty is based on the moral truth that sincere religious activity, freely undertaken, is valuable in itself—it is a basic component of human well-being—and should be allowed to flourish. In other words, people realize the good of religion even if they make mistake about religious truth. Assuming that one's religious act is sincere (and not, say, merely an attempt to satisfy social expectations), even imperfect expressions of religion are valuable.

Religious liberty is important because the search for truth about ultimate things and the effort to live according to that truth are valuable *only* if they are *freely undertaken*. The state, therefore, should protect religious freedom. The quest for religious truth, adherence to religious faith and morals, and the pursuit of a relationship with the divine must be free from coercion.

In the Bonds of Christ,  
Pastor Raffa

## Church Council June 12, 2017 Minutes

The Pilgrim Church Council June 12, 2017 meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President, Jerome Sommers. Others attending were Fred Leffin, Tanner Schmidt, Jim Behrens, Ron Virchow, Jr., Mary Lehtimaki, Judy Frank, Suzanne Stadelmayer, and Pastor Fisher.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as printed.

### Elders Report

The Elders are looking alternatives for the eternal flame.

Attempting to contact inactive members.

### Trustee Report

Getting estimates for carpeting in both parsonages. Carpet is 18 years old at the Raffas and 22 years old at the Fishers.

Inspection has been completed for the sprinkler system.

Some painting was done at the Fisher parsonage.

### Board of Education

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 14 – 18.

### Treasurers Report

Current Financial statement was presented. Expenses are paid to date.

### Pastor's Report

Sheboygan Lutheran Memorial Church will have a new pastor soon.

Soon we will be able to live stream Pilgrim church services, making them available around the world in real time.

Pastor Fisher has served at Pilgrim for 23 years as of June 12.

Pastor Fisher is scheduled to have knee surgery on August 21 and will be on disability for a period of time after.

### October Elections

Jerry Sommers discussed the list of positions up for election at the October 2017

Voters Meeting. Positions up for

election include Chairman, Treasurer, Elder (5 positions), Trustee, Board of Education, Church Council Representative, Endowment Fund Committee (5 positions).



Literature, painting, music — the most basic lesson that all art teaches us is to stop, look and listen to life on this planet, including our own lives, as a vastly richer, deeper, more mysterious business than most of the time it ever occurs to us to suspect as we bumble along from day to day on automatic pilot. ...

When Jesus [says] that the greatest command of all is to love God and to love our neighbor, he too is asking us to pay attention. If we are to love God, we must first stop, look and listen for him in what is happening around us and inside us. If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors. With our imagination as well as our eyes, that is to say like artists, we must see not just their faces but the life behind and within their faces. Here it is love that is the frame we see them in.

—Frederick Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark*

#### Elders Update:

Howard Glassel has moved and now has a new phone number. 262-353-3744.

Board of Elders Meeting Minutes, Pilgrim Ev.  
Lutheran Church  
6/5/2017

The meeting began with prayer by Pr. Raffa at 6:36. Present at the meeting were Pr. Raffa, Brian, Tanner, Dennis, Gary, and John. Absent were Pr. Fisher, Howie, and Ron.

Schedules were made through September 10th. The next meeting will be on September 5th, being the day after Labor Day.

The eternal flame was briefly discussed. The elders are still pondering what (if anything) to do about the light, as batteries are somewhat expensive.

Progress is being made on the website.

Progress is also being made on the directory.

Pr. Fisher and Jim Behrens will be departing on June 29th for Strasbourg. They will return on July 18th.

Pr. Fisher will be having his knee replaced late August and will thus be out of commission while he recovers.

Regarding communion and Matins: Pr. Raffa's research has found that there is no historic precedence for the service of the Sacrament being combined with a minor office, for the minor offices were intended precisely for the divine service. We are still waiting on information from Pr. Fisher's sources before anything can be definitively decided. We will note, however, that as excellent as Matins is, it is categorically less precious to Christian life than the Lord's Supper. Therefore, either the two can be combined or Matins will not occur within normal Sunday services; the Eucharist will not be withheld.

Rooted in Christ has begun and is going well so far. Notably, this takes place at 12:30 on Sunday,

though in Pr. Fisher's assorted absences this summer it will fill the bible study slot at 9:15. The pastors and elders continue to comb through some inactive members (absent for upwards of 3 years or so) to reestablish contact with them. If we fail to find any trace, the names will be duly submitted to the voters' meetings in the future. There is no great urgency, however. This process naturally must after all be evangelical in nature.

Our book study was postponed owing to the time.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Pastor Raffa at 8:02.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tanner Schmidt

**The Thursday Morning Bible Class** will resume on Thursday, September 14 with the Gospel of Luke.

**Beginning September 26 at 9:00 am**, and then every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, we will begin a study of Rev. Matt Harrison book, "Christ Have Mercy: How to Put Your Faith in Action." Any questions, please see Pastor Raffa.

#### **\*\* Important\*\***

"A Mighty Fortress".

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 14 - August 18th, from 6-8 pm. Registration Deadline is July 16th. Please prayerfully consider registering your family for this joyous occasion. We will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's starting of the Reformation.

### **Ladies Guild/LWML**

Thank you to all who supported our Zone 7 Spring Rally. 28 people attended. Our Presenter, Abby Janssen, was appreciated by all. Several of our members attended the Heart to Heart event at Freistadt. In the worship service, the Pastors said prayers in the language of their country flowed by a meaningful sermon and hymns. The different ethnic groups did a presentation of typical clothing worn. Examples of their music and games were played. A buffet lunch was served and consisted of food made by each of the different groups.

We have also been busy voting for the proposed mission grants that our Delegates from Zone 7 will vote for at the National Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico which was held June 22 - 25, 2017.

Our group enjoyed Christian fellowship at the Main Street Café in May. We also enjoyed our annual picnic in June. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 19. We always give thanks to God for all of you. May He grant us a blessed summer.

*Sympathy  
Understand*

**Sympathy and Prayers** to Shirley Jahn and family on the death of Tom. Tom died on June 20, 2017.



*Welcome*

### **Welcome to Pilgrim:**

We welcome Mr. Patrick Schiefelbein to the family at Pilgrim. He joins us from Our Father's Lutheran Church in Greenfield.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH in Germantown is offering preschool classes. Please see the bulletin Board in the Cry room for more information.



The Pilgrim Food Pantry is in desperate need of the following items:

Coffee, instant and ground.

Toilet paper

Paper towels,

Kleenex

Peanut butter

Jam, please no grape

Not as desperately needed but still nice to have

Laundry detergent

Fabric softener,

Plastic storage bags sandwich, quart & gallon

Garbage bags.

Liquid cleaners

Spray cleaners

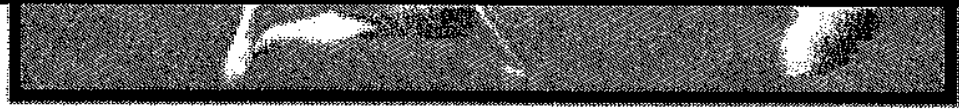
Toilet bowl cleaners

Canned vegetable

Thank you for your support.



## **Dodging the Heat: Dodgeball**



**Saturday, July 15. 1-4:30 pm**

Fifth grade through High Schoolers, come join the youth group on Saturday, July 15th for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and water. Dodgeball will begin promptly at 1:20 pm in the area right behind the main parking lot at church. However, we will be meeting in the New Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm to go over rules and create our teams. Please bring a towel and comfortable shoes for this event.

Have questions regarding this event? Contact us at [pilgrinslutheranyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrinslutheranyouthgroup@gmail.com)



**Date:** Saturday, July 15

**Time:** 1:00- 4:30 pm

**Location:** Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Light Snacks will be provided.  
*However, it's strongly recommend  
you eat lunch before you come.*

**Important Notes:**

Please bring a towel and comfortable  
shoes to wear.

Please check **Remind** for weather  
delays or cancelations.

Haven't joined Remind? Please use the  
following link (<http://bit.ly/YGRemind>) to  
access permission form. Permission slip  
must be turned in before *any* students  
and/or parents can be added to our group.



- 2- Sandy Schultz
- 3- Jennifer Schreiner
- 4- June Fry
- 5- Genna Zenda  
Cheyanne Daley
- 6- Janey Heckendorf  
Ronald Virchow Jr.  
Timothy Grosskreuz
- 7- Sarah Neuman
- 8- Rebecca Fisher  
Kyle Hodge  
Lynda Reetz  
John Valles  
Beth Guterman (Vickerman)  
Matthew Schreiner
- 11- Merlin Waechter
- 12- John Heger
- 13- Pamela Zenda
- 14- Glen Schnabel  
Nicole Neumann  
Katie Hausmann  
Molly Hausmann  
Lori Schulz
- 15- Lisa Knuth
- 16- Bonnie Mowery
- 17- Darlyn Dalton  
Nicole Schreiner
- 18- Carol Neuman
- 20- Samuel Johnson
- 21- Steven Chapman  
Matthew Thames  
Matthias Raffa
- 22- Amy Goetzke  
Conrad Eifert

- 24- Diane Swanson  
Laurie Lotz  
Jodi Selzler  
Lindsey Veselka
- 25- Kristopher Kirkland
- 26- Brian Meinburg  
Kathy Sullivan  
Justin Basterash  
Glen Schnabel Jr.  
Samuel Boehlke  
Samantha Veselka  
Sean Theusch
- 28- Sondra Kirkland
- 29- Sarah Swanson  
Tammy Veselka  
Lisa Jensen  
Leighann Haas
- 30- Kenneth Frank, Jr.  
Audrey Hilgendor
- 31- Sarah Kosterman  
Rachel Raffa  
JoAnn Weaver



- 12- Gary & Carol Jenovai
- 14- David & Rebecca Boehlke
- 17- Kevin & Laura Hoffman
- 24- Jeff & Darlyn Dalton
- 25- Michael & Michelle Krueger
- 27- Justin and Beth Gutermann
- 28- John & Betty Held

## **IN OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS**

**All servicemen** at home and deployed, especially Isaac Wirtz (son of Rev. Nick Wirtz) who is stationed in Baghdad.

reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call on You for help. Give strength and confidence to Your [son/daughter] in [his/her] time of great need that [he/she] may know that You are near and that You uphold [him/her] with Your everlasting arms. Grant that, resting on Your protection, [he/she] may fear no evil, for You are with [him/her] to comfort and deliver [him/her]; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**For our Seminaries**, especially the Ethiopian Lutheran Church and Seminary

O God, through Your Holy Spirit You illuminate the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom You call to the work of pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon this seminary for the instruction and formation of those who are to serve in the sacred ministry of Your Church. Bless those who teach and those who learn that they may apply themselves with ready diligence to the knowledge of Your Word, which alone is able to make us wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and

**Join Friends of Concordia** and travel to the Fireside Theater in Fort Atkinson for the next show JULY 29, 2017 CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES. The church basement kitchen is often the heart and soul of any church. In CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES we meet the pastor, three cooks and one daughter who run the kitchen and care for the congregation. As in any kitchen, problems arise. Watch as the four women stave off potential disasters, have loads of music and fun, share and debate recipes, instruct the young, and keep the pastor on a steady course. This musical comedy, is funny, heart-warming, down to earth, and will bring back memories of people you know and love. Reservation information regarding cost, pickup locations and times are available by calling Sandy Vick in the Advancement office (262) 243-4333. Make reservations this week, seats are going fast. Fireside Gift Cards are accepted for payment. Bring a friend!



### **6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL "A CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE"**

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, N7074 County Road V, Horicon (Town of Hubbard) invites you, our fellow patriots, citizens, neighbors, and friends, to join us on Tuesday, July 4, 2015 for a worship celebration of thanksgiving and praise to God for the freedoms with which we "the people of the United States" are blessed.

On Tuesday, July 4, 2017, at 9am, the 241<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America, we, the members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (County V) invite you, our fellow patriots, citizens, neighbors, and friends, to kick off your 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration by joining us for the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual "A Christian Celebration of American Independence."** Together, in an hour of worship, prayer, praise, and patriotic observance we want to give thanks and praise to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon our great nation and the many freedoms He has granted us. The Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr., CAPT, CHC, USN (ret), and the Fourth Vice-President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), will be our guest preacher for this celebration this year. Chaplain Wohlrabe had a distinguished career as a full-time U.S. Navy Chaplain, a parish pastor (both before and after his years on Active Duty), a respected scholar, and an officer of the LCMS.

A freewill offering, in memory of our local service members who sacrificed themselves in Iraq and Afghanistan in the cause of freedom, will be received and sent to the Fisher House – Wisconsin to assist in its completion and mission to serve the needs of our veterans and their families as they recover from the wounds of war.

Again, we cordially invite you to attend this **"A Christian Celebration of American Independence"** on Tuesday, July 4 at 9am at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, County V, Horicon. It will be a good way to begin the day's activities and help to keep our celebrations, parades, and fireworks, in perspective. We are looking forward to seeing you. God bless you and God bless the United States of America

## **Pilgrim Lutheran Church Voters Meeting**

June 25, 2017

Our President Jerome Sommer called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Pastor Fisher opened with a reading from the book "Celebrating the Saints" and ended with a prayer.

Attendance for the June 25th voters meeting was 25.

Minutes from the last meeting {endowment meeting} posted in Herald. January 24 voters meeting has a correction as far as the tuition for the Raffa family was only for this year. Minutes have been corrected and accepted.

No New Members

Reports.

Elders Report given by Tanner Schmidt

Money has been given for a Processional Cross and Elders are looking for the Congregation's thoughts on it.

Discussing the different things we could do about the eternal light in the Sanctuary. Hang it on the wall, go electric, eliminate it, etc.

Every week communion has been working good except no time to fit in Matins. Discussion maybe to join them every few weeks together in a service.

Trustees report given by David Boehlke

Keep up on building repairs along with liability concerns all with in balancing the budget.

Other concerns due to age and condition which sooner or later will need to be addressed, are the heating and air conditioning/ professional preventative maintenance and safety checks.

Main {south} parking lot need to be repaired or replaced.

Church Nave {main Part} roof replacement.

The Trustees thought it important that the congregation recognize that the facility and equipment are aging and that substantial expenses are on the horizon.

Some matters that have been addressed already are parsonage 1 furnace/boiler

Plumbing issues with toilets in the Church/ They would like to add that a lot of this work is being done by members in house.

Recently we've changed to a new insurance co., saving our Church money with comparable coverage.

Maintenance to lawn and lawn equipment.

Sidewalks in from of Church were getting dangerous in some squares needed to be repaired per the city.

The Church was found in violation of a fire building code. Kitchen's exhaust fire suppression system was found with an expired inspectors tag. System has now been inspected and certified. The fire hose in hallway by office has been removed by the fire department, we have the sprinkler system now.

Elevator Lift has been inspected and certified also.

Pastor's Report given by Pastor Fisher

He has 2 new couples he is confirming. If anyone has been wondering who the young couple

with all the children –Pastor Sorenson and family who has now been called to Ohio. Thank you for all your support to them while they were with us. Keep pastor Fisher in your prayers. He will ne having knee replacement in August. Pastor would also like to thank all who have supported him in his upcoming trip. Explained about the beautiful Luther’s Seal that Dave Fel-lenzen, Gary Erdmann’s daughter and Jeff Barger have worked on to refinish, matte and frame for our wall, donated by pastor Wildauer from Togo, Africa. Located on the wall in the Kitchen greeting area.

Pastor’s Report given by Pastor Raffa

Thursday Bible class is studying the Gospel of Luke. Sunday 12:30 Bible is studying, Rooted in Christ. He would like to express some concern on the lack of students signed up for VBS this year. Deadline is July 16 to sign up.

### **Unfinished Business**

The Directory still being worked on .

### **New Business**

Election for the next meeting of the following positions.

President

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

At least 3 Elders

Trustee

Board of Education

Council

Endowment Committee requires 5 people.

Our Website had been worked on by Brittany

Virchow/Jon Hokana,/Amanda Voelzke . They are even working on live streaming for our Church service to all around the world. Brittany is also leading the activities for our Youth Group, which also includes Biblical Study with Pastor Raffa.

Tanner Schmidt motioned to adjourn the meeting and many seconded it.

Pastor Raffa closed with prayer.

Sincerely submitted by,

*Nancy Rosenthal*

Nancy Rosenthal, Pilgrim Lutheran Church Secretary.

NR/ss

# Puzzle!

Read the Old Testament book of Ruth, which is a great love story. Then search for the words below, which are all from that book.

BAWONNIWSLSZDRV  
DEBOTBAOMHXQAIR  
XWTQYRLMCXGGVOP  
NAAHARVESTEBIZB  
POVMLSLADNASDNB  
OGVNZERFIRILSBF  
NANOMUHVLMMKSEJ  
LGOIMDLEOCFGHIJ  
CLLLHLYAMBHLOYA  
EEHIFSN AETFRBOD  
SAAKFBEGUGPWEP S  
NNMWXEVRR AARMJ  
EIGDJUDAHJEEWSG  
ANXPEMZISTWKVHO  
WGLHVI ZNUCITVHK

Barley, Bethlehem, Boaz, David, Elimelech, Gleaning, Grain, Harvest, Jesse, Judah, Kilion, Kinsman, Mahlon, Mara, Moab, Naomi, Obed, Orpah, Ruth, Sandals, Threshing, Vinegar, Winnow

Answers to puzzle will be found in the August Pilgrim Herald

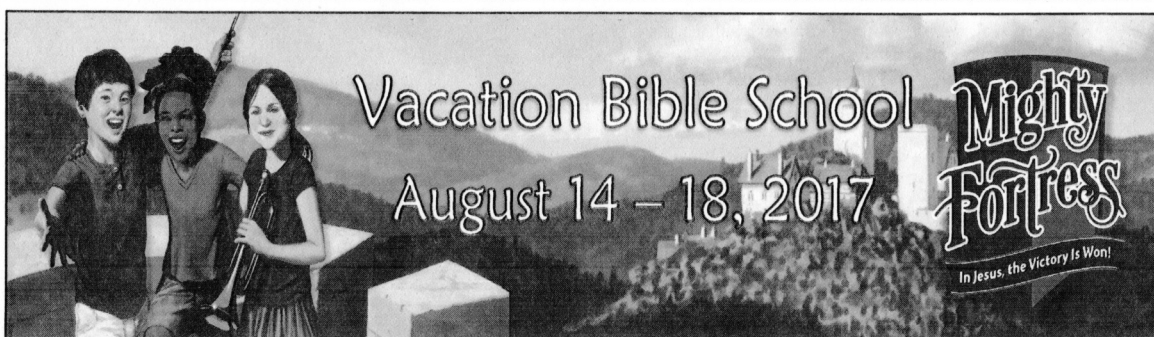


## A pilgrim's progress

In *A Million Steps*, Kurt Koontz describes his month-long pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago ("Way of St. James"), a 490-mile route from southern France through northern Spain. Since the ninth century, millions have undertaken this challenging trek.

As Koontz hiked downhill one morning, he was awed by a gorgeous sunrise. "The path was so steep," he writes, "that I could descend a bit and relive the sunrise over and over. I took a gazillion photos and must have looked back at least 40 times." Yet the experience made Koontz realize that "going forward is difficult when you are always looking backward." We can't dwell on the past so completely that our progress and growth are impeded.

Jesus says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62, NRSV). As we walk the path of faith, may we give thanks for God's past gifts while focusing on Jesus, who leads us ever forward.

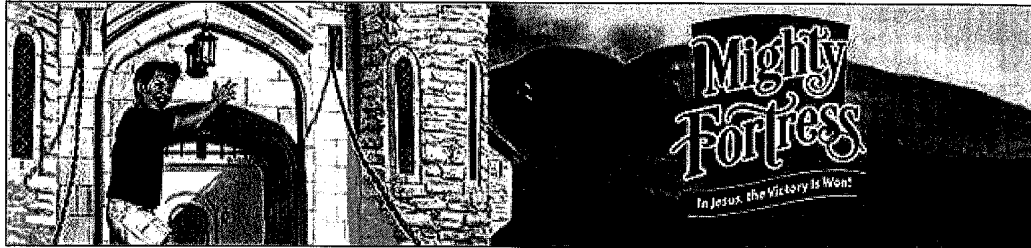


**VBS 2017 is a victory celebration!** In *Mighty Fortress* VBS, your children learn that in Jesus, the victory is won! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts about God, our Mighty Fortress, and the victory Jesus has won for us.

Registration is open for ages 6-12 who will attend VBS from Monday, August 14 to Friday, August 18, 5:30 pm to 8:00 p.m. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and *more*. Plus, you'll learn in Jesus, the victory is won! Can't wait to see you there! You may register online at <https://vbsmate.com/PilgrimLCMSWestBend>, fill out the registration form in this newsletter, or pick up a registration form in the narthex. If you have any questions, call Julie Raffa at 262-388-8287 or email her at [raffafamily@gmail.com](mailto:raffafamily@gmail.com).

**Help us make VBS a success!** We need volunteers to help with decorating, music, crafts, snacks, games, and storytelling skits. We are using Concordia Publishing House's *Mighty Fortress* VBS curriculum this year; they provide everything needed to make VBS fun and easy for volunteers. If you are able to help one day or all five days, please contact Julie Raffa at 262-388-8287 or [raffafamily@gmail.com](mailto:raffafamily@gmail.com). It will be a lot of fun! Join Us!





## Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church – Vacation Bible School 2017

### Student Registration Form

Online Registration available at <https://vbsmate.com/PilgrimLCMSWestBend>

#### Parent Information

First Name

Last Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Phone Number

#### Student Information

First Name

Last Name

Age (as of 8/1/17)

Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Home Church, City, State (If Applicable)

Home Pastor's Name (If Applicable)

Are you baptized? ☐ Yes ☐ No

#### Medical Information:

Allergies

Medical Issues or Special Needs

#### Photo Release:

- ☐ I hereby grant the above-named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

Signature

Date

#### Emergency Contact

Contact First Name

Contact Last Name

Phone Number

Alternate Pickup First Name

Alternate Pickup Last Name

Alternate Pickup Phone Number

#### By signing this form you've agreed to the following:

**Medical Release:** I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child (named above) in the event of injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

**Permission to Attend:** I give permission for my child (named above) to attend the Vacation Bible School (VBS) listed above. I understand that the information I give for this registration will only be used by the VBS hosting church.

# Friendship Snack Mix



Life is more interesting when you have a diverse "mix" of friends. Show your variety of buddies how much they mean to you by making this snack for (or with!) them.

## What you need:

- 1 cup fish-shaped crackers
- 1 cup chocolate Chex
- 1 cup mini pretzels
- 1 cup peanut butter crackers
- ½ cup mini M&M's
- Large bowl
- Snack-sized zippered baggies
- Permanent markers
- Foam stickers

## What you do:

1. Mix all the food in the bowl.
2. Write a personalized message on each baggie. Decorate with stickers.
3. Measure some snack mix into each baggie. Seal them shut.
4. Share this snack with your friends!



# Friends in the Lord

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." It's important to choose friends who help us be more like Jesus. How many words can you make from the word *friendship*?

F R I E N D S H I P

2-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

3-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

4-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

5-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

Words with 6 or more letters: \_\_\_\_\_

Answers include: in, is, hi, he, hip, end, sip, dip, nip, pie, sit, hid, ship, send, ride, dine, find, fine, drip, shed, dish, fish, rind, npc, hide, tried, pride, siren, fresh, ferns, friend, fishes, diners, rinsed, shine, finish, shiner, insider, hinders, inspired, refinish, finished.