

**THE PILGRIM HERALD**

September 2017

**PILGRIM EV. LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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## ***SEPTEMBER: PASTORAL CATECHESIS OF THE YOUNG***

*Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."  
[John 21:17]*

"These are the ones who will take our place someday" the old pastor said to the young pastor, as he looked out among his congregation, among those little lambs standing before the altar of God to confess the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic faith. The change of calendar, the sands that fall through the hourglass, all improvement and all deterioration will in large part be shaped by the youth of our day. Now if the youth were of some kind of silly putty that that could be easily molded into a God-fearing, respectable, and virtuous society, then perhaps we would have some hope. But that is not the way things are.

The youth of our day can be educated, catechized, instructed in ways of the Lord, and taught human goodness and love, this, by the generation that is aged among them. The generation that is on its way out, teachers in all facets, has a great responsibility to the generation that is being born in its dimming eyes. Yet sadly, young boys and girls all have their own individual will and this is often at odds with their fathers and mothers. Furthermore, each generation has its own motivation and so often sails the sea of life without fully understanding the treacherous voyage that that are about to undertake. It is of tragic proportions that old age does not understand youth, and youth does not understand old age.

The first fruits of our reaping, of our immediate future, meet here together with much sin. The thought of the current generation being entrusted with the furtherance of a religious, civil, and moral society is of great concern and worry. For old age, youth is

seldom the hope of the future. Nor can it be—least of all in these turbulent days. The world has in many respects come unglued. Sin legalized. Evil unpunished. Death seen as a friendly exit to suffering. The list of woes could go for miles. And with the young, catechized by such madness, we have little reason to hope.

But regardless of the apparent impending doom, the youth must remain a focal point for the faithful working of the pastor. He should be in the midst of the children right at the beginning. But he does this without any inflated hope. Rather, his focus is on the words which Jesus uttered to Peter, "Feed my sheep." The pastor is to have no part in the corruption of the youth. He simply cannot do whatever he wants with the youth. He has the duty and charge to rear the youth in the discipline and admonition of the Lord. He uses the Gospel seed, spreads it at the proper time with a wise and loving hand, and waters and nourishes the seed with holy care. He prays unceasingly for its growth. His heart is turned toward the youth. Yet the increase is in the hand of the Lord alone. We have little answers or solutions for the problem of growth, but the pastor is responsible for being faithful in how he works.

The pastor is to seek young children everywhere: in the family, in Sunday School, in his catechesis classes, in the church. He seeks the children before they are born as He blesses the pregnant mothers. He cares for the newborn children by calling the parents' attention to their sacred duties toward them and by praying for the unborn. He teaches the new parents spiritual care for the newborn. He teaches them to pray with and for

their children. He blesses the babies. He gets to know all the little children and takes care that he, as their under-shepherd, will be known to them from early on.

With the command of his office the pastor will fight against every temptation and protects the lambs of Jesus against the wolves with every appropriate weapon. That includes the teaching of Holy Scripture, the catechism, hymns, and prayers. These tools impress upon them the seal of Jesus. And this instruction will be understood as catechesis, as the preparation and the context in which the young will receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Church and home will be shown to the children as forming an intimate relationship with one another. All the days of one's youth is to be a preparation for the Sacrament of the Altar. The pastor endeavors to awaken in all children the understanding and goal and center of all catechesis: faith in Jesus, faith in the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of all sins. His entire intention serves the purpose of educating parishioners and penitents, to be saints of God by receiving regularly the gifts of God.

And yet nothing is more certain than the fact that just a few weeks after confirmation spent in ordinary worldly surroundings are sufficient to destroy any fruit of an entire course of pastoral catechesis. But as often as one has this experience, a faithful pastor will press on diligently, seeking the sheep of Jesus as if none of them would ever be lost. Only here does he seek to do the faithful and right thing—everything else he leaves in God's hands.

In the Bonds of Christ,  
*Pastor Raffa*



We extend our best wishes to Pastor Raffa and family on his 10th Anniversary in the Ministry here at Pilgrim . Pastor Raffa was ordained on August 26, 2007. Blessing to you on your Ministry here and wishes for many more to come.

The Members of Pilgrim.



**Our Pastor's  
Anniversary**



Welcome

We welcome to the Pilgrim Family, Mr. and Mrs. James & Nancy Audley from Faith Lutheran Church in Plano Texas. Let us all make them feel welcome in their new Church home.

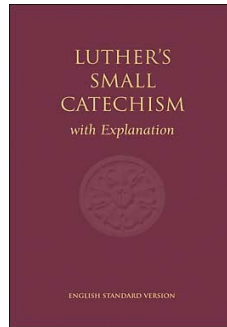


### LADIES GUILD/LWML

We will meet **at noon on Tuesday, September 19.** We welcome back all of our members and look forward to meeting new members. To celebrate this new season, a light lunch will be provided... just bring yourself. We will be pleased to have Jane Rockrohr lead us in our LWML devotion. All ladies of the congregation are invited. See you soon!

### QUILTING

Pilgrim Quilters group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. 9 am - 3 pm. We are looking for several people to help us out, not only people who can sew, but people who can help us assemble the quilts. If you are only available for an hour or two to help out, that is o.k., too. Please stop by and take a look at what we do, or talk with Sarah in the Church office for more information.



**CATECHISM** starts on Wednesday, September 6th at 4:00 pm for 5th - 8th grade. Please do not forget to register your Catechism student. Registration forms are available in the Cry room on the table closest to the Sanctuary. Please return completed form to the office.. Forms need to be returned by September 3rd. Students need to bring a folder, paper, either a spiral notebook or loose leaf, a pencil or pen. Pencil with functioning erasers is preferred. to write with and of course the Luther's Small Catechism, the current edition is required, and a Bible.

The Parents meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6th at 5:30 pm. All Parents are required to attend this brief meeting.



## Sunday School

Our teachers are busy getting ready for the 2017-2018 Sunday School year which begins Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> promptly at 9:15 a.m. for all children age 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We meet in the “Music Room” (lower level). We look forward to seeing everyone.

We feel music is an important part of our Sunday School program. We will learn new hymns as well as sing story-related and fun Sunday School songs.

We celebrate birthdays on a weekly basis during our music time. Students and teachers place pennies (one for each year of their life) into our birthday bank. Last year our birthday bank collected a total of \$5.04, which will be used for a special project at a later date.

We will again be using the *Growing in Christ* Sunday School curriculum. In our classrooms the Bible Story is read and told. The Key Point of the story is brought out and applied to the students' lives. The Law/Gospel dynamic in the text is highlighted and applied to the students' lives. The story details are reviewed. Connections are made to the catechism, liturgy, and hymns of the Church.

Stories for September are found in the Old Testament. They include: The Wisdom of Solomon (1 Kings 3), Solomon Builds the Temple (1 Kings 5-6), God Provides for Elijah (1 Kings 17).

We are only asking parents of new students to complete registration forms this year.

We do need to have current information (address and phone numbers) available for each student. Have you moved in the last year? Has your phone number changed? Do we have current contact information should your child become ill during the hour that they are with us each week? Registration forms are available (just ask) or contact Sunday School Superintendent Diane Swanson.

We are always in need of substitute teachers. There are occasions when teachers need to be away. Please contact Diane Swanson immediately if you are interested in helping us.

Attendance is important. Our teachers spend a great deal of time preparing lessons each week. If you know you will be away, we appreciate the “heads up”.

### I teach Sunday school. What's your superpower?"

—Unknown



When you have a sense of calling — whether it's to be a musician, soloist, artist, in one of the technical fields or a plumber — there is something deep and enriching when you realize it isn't just a casual choice; it's a divine calling. [That's] not limited to vocational Christian service, by any means.

—Charles R. Swindoll



GLOW IN THE DARK  
CAPTURE  
THE  
FLAG



Youth, come join us on Saturday, September 16  
for an evening of fun and fellowship!



Capture the Flag will begin promptly at 7:00 pm in the area right behind the main parking lot at church. However, we will be holding a short bible study and game debriefing in the New Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm.

*Have questions regarding this event?* Contact us at [pilgrimlutheranyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimlutheranyouthgroup@gmail.com) or ask your question in our Remind group!

**Date:** Saturday, September 16

**Time:** 6:30- 9:00 pm

**Location:** New Fellowship Hall

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Please eat dinner before you  
come!

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**Important Notes:**

Dress Smart!-Dress for the  
weather and wear tennis shoes.

*Please check Remind for weather delays  
or cancellations.*

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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.



- 1- Diane Behrens  
Rebecca Virchow  
Brian Skrentny
- 2- Connie Hackbarth  
Angie Skrentny
- 3- Jeffrey Held  
Haley Densow
- 4- Nathan Farrington
- 5- Mark Baker
- 7- Ben Olson  
Jolene Gundrum
- 8- David Pajewski
- 9- Norma Benz  
Christian Dahl  
Alex Chapman  
Kathy Parker
- 10- David Zenda  
Daniel Neuman
- 12- James Krubsack  
Patrick Schiefelbein
- 14- James Spaeth  
Tyler Smith
- 15- Connie Gliniecki  
Marilyn Roell  
Madysin Fettig  
Verlaine Gronowski
- 16- Amy Heinen  
Braedon Brehm
- 17- Mary Schwittau  
Susan Hepner  
Nicole Olson
- 19- Jennifer Strohmeier
- 20- Cindy Schreiner
- 21- Scott Sullivan  
Joyce Virchow
- 22- Pat Knuth

- Jonathan Thames  
Phyllis Laabs-Darkow
- 23- Jeff Dalton, Sr.
- 24- Cathy Pollow
- 25- Caroline Kreis
- 26- Christopher Held  
Jody Svien  
Samantha Chapman  
Lexie Steiner
- 27- Sandra Thames
- 28- Joshua Farmier
- 29- Eric Johanen  
Aaron Becker
- 30- Aaron Olson  
Yvonne Rosenthal  
Sarah Spalda  
Tyler Densow  
Abigail Voll



- 2- Steve & Cindy Wiedmeyer  
Carl & Becky Steiner, Jr.
- 6- Chris & Beth Gatzow
- 8- Robert & Theresa Barenwald
- 10 Richard & Dorreen Dembski
- 11 Keefe & Lindsey Olig
- 15- Jim & Diane Behrens
- 18- Jeff & Betty Schneeweis  
Ronald & Joyce Virchow
- 19- Dan & Lori Schulz
- 21- Jeff & Patricia Otten
- 23- Ronald & Cheryl Virchow
- 25- Scott & Amy Goetzke  
Mark & Natalie Baker
- 30 - Paul & Ruth Kohler

## IN OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

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

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

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

*Note: After much consideration, we have decided to add a page in the newsletter that lists all of those struggling with health issues. (Not published on the website). Each month we will also have various petitions that you can pray at home for various needs all people in Christ, and especially those within our immediate church family here at Pilgrim. In the bulletin we will list those sick and infirm on the basis of need and emergency. In the event that you would like to have your name or your loved one's name removed from the prayer list, please let us know.*



Family in Christ,

By now many of you might have heard of the recent attacks in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (<http://www.france24.com/en/20170814-suspected-jihadists-attack-restaurant-burkina-faso>). My family arrived in this capital city last Wednesday afternoon having just concluded our Home Service in the States. We were hoping to leave for Togo this Monday morning, but due to an oversight in obtaining documented permission to drive in the country, we were not able to leave. This may have been a good thing as the events of Sunday night unfolded.

Simply put, my family is safe and sound, as are the other missionaries in the area ([Rev. Gary and Steph Schulte](#), [Rev. Fred Reinhardt](#), [Rev. Ryan McDermott Family](#), and [Miss Molly Christensen](#)). Ouagadougou is a very spread out capital city of 2.2 million people, of which we were a fair distance away from the events which took place. The vast majority of residents here are grief stricken that this would happen. We will keep them in our prayers and invite you to join us in doing so. Pray also for the army and police who do a great job with the resources they have to protect and serve the people.

Tomorrow morning, Tuesday, as many of you are sleeping, my family will begin the last leg of our journey to Dapaong, Togo, roughly a 6 hour trip. It might be a little longer, but we earnestly seek your prayers. Pray for our travels, safety along the road, and a joyful homecoming. Many people are anticipating our return and we are excited to settle in for the beginning of the academic year. I've been working on a formal newsletter in hopes of sending that out today, but the situation as it is, this email will suffice. If you have further questions of what is going on or of

our situation, please do not hesitate to ask me or direct others directly to me.

I will leave you with this little piece which I just posted on Facebook a short bit ago. Perhaps in the midst of the many events occurring in the States, this will be your prayer as well:

Thank you for all of your prayers and checking in with us. For those who do not know because of the limited coverage of American news sources, there was an attack in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso last night. 18 killed, many wounded. The local police and military handled it well. We are safe, secure, a fair distance from that location, and soon to head to our home.

We mourn with the many here who are shaken up and wondering why. It was an opportunity to express mutual concern, thankfulness to those serving in the capacity "to protect and to serve," and pray with those willing to receive prayer.

This morning, we followed the advice of Luther (I believe) who says, "When you aren't sure what to pray, pray the Litany."

"From all sin, from all error, from all evil;  
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;  
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;  
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:  
Good Lord, deliver us."

Christ's peace be yours in abundance,

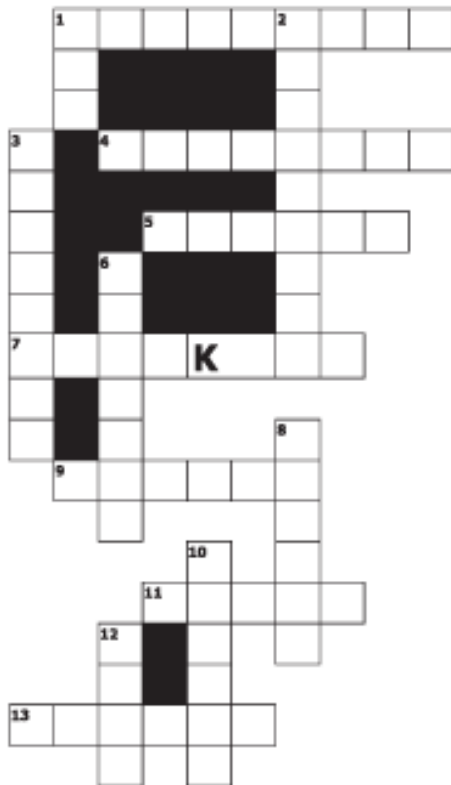
Rev. Micah Wildauer & Family



In this scene from “Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World,” Martin Luther, played by Padraic Delaney, faces Emperor Charles V in the trial known as the Diet of Worms. **The film is set to air nationally on PBS Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. Central time.**

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete this crossword about women in the Bible.



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. (across) Cousin of Mary (Luke 1:36)                                  | 7. Mother of Esau (Genesis 25:21, 25)               |
| 1. (down) Mother of Abel (Genesis 4:1-2)                                | 8. The wife Jacob loved (Genesis 29:20)             |
| 2. Mother of Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24)                                   | 9. Sister of Mary (John 11:1)                       |
| 3. Moses' wife (Exodus 2:21)  | 10. Sewed clothes (Acts 9:39)                       |
| 4. Lied about her giving to the church (Acts 5:1)                       | 11. Hoses's wife (Hoses 1:3)                        |
| 5. Saved her people from destruction in Persia (also a Bible book name) | 12. Sat at Jesus' feet in conversation (Luke 10:39) |
| 6. A Judge in Israel (Judges 4)   | 13. Sister of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 15:20)        |

Answers: 1. (across) Elizabeth, 1. (down) Eve, 2. Bathsheba, 3. Zipporah, 4. Sapphira, 5. Esther, 6. Deborah, 7. Rebekah, 8. Rachel, 9. Martha, 10. Dorcas, 11. Gomer, 12. Mary, 13. Miriam



## God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

## Why God watches

An English bishop recalled a childhood visit to an elderly woman, who showed him a framed text that read "Thou God seest me."

The woman told him, "When you're older, people will tell you that God is always watching you to see when you do wrong, in order to punish you. I don't want you to think of it that way.

Instead, take the text home and remember all your life that God loves you so much he can't take his eyes off you."



This is the blessed life — not anxious to see far in front, nor eager to choose the path, but quietly following behind the Shepherd, one step at a time. The Shepherd was always out in front of the sheep. He was down in front. Any attack upon them had to take him into account.

Now God is down in front. He is in the tomorrows. It is tomorrow that fills [people] with dread. God is there already. All the tomorrows of our life have to pass him before they can get to us.

—F.B. Meyer

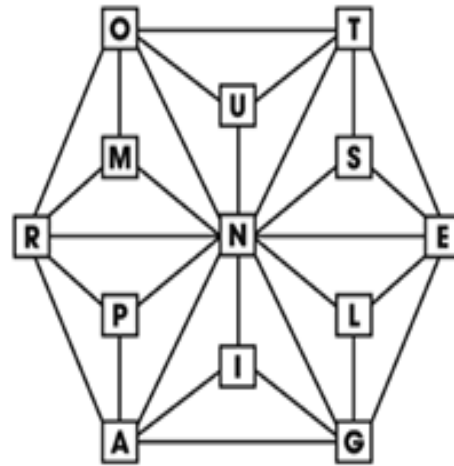
#### Love's lesson

A new school year promises new adventures, challenges and friends — as well as new classes, homework and lessons. But the most important (and simplest) lesson we can learn is summed up by 19th-century hymn writer Jane Eliza Leeson:

Savior, teach me day by day  
love's sweet lesson to obey,  
sweeter lesson cannot be,  
loving him who first loved me.

# Puzzle!

Try to spell as many words as possible. Start anywhere and move along the connecting lines. Don't skip letters; for example, you can't form *must* because to get from *m* to *u* you'd need to skip either *o* or *n*. You may return to use the same letter twice, as when you form *noun*, but you can't use the same letter twice in a row.



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

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

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

Answers include: 4-letter words: gain, pain, lens, more, page, nuts, nest, sent, rant, paint, 5-letter words: giant, pain, tents, notes, stone, stout, motor, mount, longer words: morning, routes, giants, mounts, promote, ragging.

# APPLE SNACKS



These healthy chips make a yummy back-to-school snack.

### What you need:

- 4 apples, cored and cut into 1/8" rings
- Large bowl
- Spoon
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Baking sheets (sprayed)

### What you do:

1. Place apple slices in the bowl. Add cinnamon and sugar. Stir so apples are coated evenly with the mixture.
2. Place apple slices on the sprayed baking sheets in a single layer.
3. Bake at 200 degrees for two to three hours, until chips are dry but still slightly soft.



# APPLE OF HIS EYE

Start each school day by remembering God's loving care for you.

*Directions: Starting at the K by the stem and going clockwise, circle each word. Then place the words in the blanks to complete Psalm 17:8.*



" \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_"  
 \_\_\_\_\_

PSALM 17:8, NIV

Answer: "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 17:8, NIV