



# Pilgrim's Progress Weekly

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 2155 N. Oakland Ave., Decatur, Illinois 62526  
"Where the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God"



Home of



217.877.2444

## Worship Service and Bible Study Times:

Sunday Service at 8 and 10:45 A.M.

Sunday Bible Study Hour for All Ages 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday Service Year-Round 7 P.M.

[September-April Wednesdays]

Adult Bible Study 6 & 9:30 A.M. and Midweek

School Gr 1-8 4:15 P.M.

**PASTORS:** Brock Abbott  
William Abbott

### Staff

Patti Newlin, Office Manager

Kay Tolly, Youth Director

Judy Tish, Secretary

Lucas Abbott, Custodian

e-mail: [plc@pilgrimlutherandecatur.org](mailto:plc@pilgrimlutherandecatur.org)

website: [www.pilgrimlutherandecatur.org](http://www.pilgrimlutherandecatur.org) and

[www.unitedlutheranmission.org](http://www.unitedlutheranmission.org) and

[www.waltherseminary.org](http://www.waltherseminary.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Patti Newlin

**Newsletter Deadline:** 9 A.M. Wednesday

**Worship Folder Deadline:** 9 A.M. Tuesday.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs: 7 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Fri: 7 a.m. to noon

## ULMA Mission Congregation

Listed is the name and address of the mission congregation, along with the mission pastor, of our United Lutheran Mission Association.

Christ the Rock Lutheran Church 799 Pine Ave Carlsbad CA 92008 10:15 a.m. worship Tamarack (North)&College Blvds.  
Rev William Mack (cell 920-203-2544)

## MAY 12, 2019

### SUNDAY 5/12

8:00 Worship/Communion

9:00 WSOY Broadcast

9:30 Bible Study All Ages

10:45 Worship/Communion

### MONDAY 5/13

### TUESDAY 5/14

### WEDNESDAY 5/15

7:00 Midweek Worship/Communion

### THURSDAY 5/16

8:00 Quilting

10:30 Shut-in Service

### FRIDAY 5/17

1:00 Wedding Rehearsal

### SATURDAY 5/18

4:30 Byard/Lueck Wedding

### SUNDAY 5/19

8:00 Worship/Communion

9:30 Bible study for all ages.

10:45 Worship/Communion

12:00 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

## ATTENDANCE

5/5 Sunday Services: 332

5/5 Sunday Bible Classes: 156

Adults 123; High School 5; Children 20

5/10 Wednesday Worship: 27

## OUR RESPONSE TO CALVARY 5/5

General: 17,686.20

Loose/Christian Sharing: 100

Walther Theological Seminary: 130

Flowers: 70

Sunday School: 6

Loose: 10

CDs: 47

Donuts: 74

ULMA: 10,081

Higher Things: 305

Total: 28,509.20



**MITE OFFERINGS** go to missions Pilgrim Lutheran supports. May mites will be used for United Lutheran Mission Association (ULMA). You can

pick up a mite offering box on the table in the narthex, in front of the Guild bulletin board. Pilgrim members, women AND men are encouraged to use a mite offering box to collect their coins. When your mite offering box is full, place it in the decorative box on the table and take an empty mite offering box home. Thank-you!

**VISITORS...**Gloria Beckett; Brian Cassell; Brittaney Walters; Elizabeth Simminger; Gail Morris; Dean Blancett; Don & Phyllis McCullen; Judy Sancier



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\$600

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## HELP NEEDED PLEASE...

Nursery sitters Wednesday nights for worship. Also... **We need more Sunday for all times on Sunday mornings.** Contact Kay Tolly if you can help. Thank you.

## GRADUATES

Brianna Cassell - May 19 - Mt. Zion High School

Gus Greenwood - Graduation with Master's Degree at U of I

Alex Ruwe - May 12 - U of I

## MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

5/12 Jerry Ellis; Debra Perkins; Charlotte Schum

5/13 Tim Block; Vicky Byard; Cheryl Friend; Richard Rotz

5/14 Brenda Hardy  
**W** Gary & Bev Winchester 52 yrs

5/15 Landon Thompson

5/16 Violet Bean

5/17 Doris Teela  
**W** Mike & Robin Williams 33 yrs

5/18 Kyle Phillips

5/19 RaeAnn Campbell; Ron McCoy

5/20 **W** Tim & Lesley Ellison 24 yrs

5/21 Norma Cooper

5/22 Amy Carlen  
**W** R.D. & Shirley McMillen 4 yrs

5/24 **W** Eugene & Linda Snyder 56 yrs

5/25 Scarlett Moore

5/26 Jeff Bomball

5/27 Kim Letterly; Debbie Ripple; Davis Wegmann; Lynette White

5/28 Carly Ellis

5/29 Josh McQuality

5/30 Ruth Ann Thompson

5/31 Parker Kilzer; Lois Ruwe; Brenda Workman

## SERVING THE LORD

**Acolyte** Sun 5/19 Nathan Ripple

10:45 Greg Collingwood

**Coffee Servers** Sun 5/19 Jim & Linda Snow

**Communion Set-Up/Clean-up** 5/19 Jennifer Gensler; Don & Jo-Anne Mast; Gary & Mary Ann Driskell

**Trustees** 5/19-5/25 Larry Wolf; Ray Beals; Brad Roberts; Brett Stenger, Pete Williams

**Communion Assistants** 5/19 Gary Quandt  
10:45 Greg Collingwood

**Financial Secretaries** Sun 5/19 John Mickler; Ellis V. Buth; Dain Friend; Paul Zeck

**Greeters** 5/19 Betty Potrafka; Paulette Browne  
10:45 Richard & Sarah Guhl

**Nursery** Sun 5/19 8:00 Chad Ruwe;

9:30 Lindsey Rotz; 10:45 Karalee Misner

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5/16 10:30am Shut-In Service  
5/19 12:00 noon Sunday School Teachers' Meeting  
5/20 6:30pm Council Meeting  
5/29 2:00pm Alaska Trip Meeting  
5/31 9:00am VBS Set Up  
6/2 12:00 noon VBS Set Up  
6/3-7 Vacation Bible School Week  
Jesus Saves the World  
Change of time: 9:30 to Noon  
For 4 yr olds through those going into 6<sup>th</sup> grade

## YOUTH GROUPS ACTIVITY

PKC Grades 1-6/Families & PYC Grades 7-12  
Sign up for activities on the PKC or PYC bulletin boards or call 877-2430 to leave a message or email [kaytolly@pilgrimlutherandecatur.org](mailto:kaytolly@pilgrimlutherandecatur.org) or call or text 358-4401. A parent or adult must attend PKC (Gr 1-6) activities with their children and everyone in the family is welcome to attend.

6/3-7 VBS. **PKC** mark your calendar and invite all of your friends. [**PYC** sign up to help at VBS!]

### Coming up this summer:

**PKC** Summer Camp Days [**PYC** volunteer to help with one or many.]

Family Camp Weekend in August or September.

St. Louis Ball Game

7/16-19 **We will be attending in Mequon, Wisconsin. WHY HIGHER THINGS?**

We live in a culture of blurry religious distinctions and do-it yourself spirituality, Youth, especially, need solid ground that will nurture lasting Christian faith. Rather than treating youth as an adolescent subculture and confusing them with religious experiences that cannot be replicated at home, Higher Things believes in challenging youth to learn the pure doctrine of the Christian faith, By teaching them the same message that they hear at home, youth grow in the fullness of the Christian faith as they come to appreciate historic liturgical practice and its unique focus on God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation for us delivered in Word and Sacrament.

## How can you help?

We are signed up and ready to go and **we would appreciate your support.** We do not do any fund-raising at Pilgrim so it's important that we are able to send our youth and parents to these conferences.

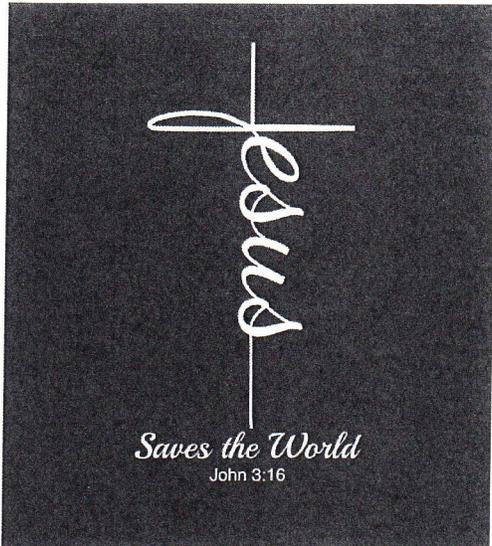
If you can help in any way with a donation it would be greatly appreciated. The Conference cost is \$375 per person which includes housing, meals, t-shirt, entertainment and conference/worship materials for three nights. We will also be using Peoria Charters bus this year. **Please let Kay Tolly know if you donate so we can write Thank-you cards while we are at the conference and in order to keep track of our costs. Please make out any checks to Pilgrim Lutheran Church and put "Higher Things" in the memo portion.** We are blessed to have 28 of our Pilgrim youth and parents/chaperones attending this year.

## The Theme for 2019: Concordia

"The Word of the Lord endures forever," (1 Peter 1:25)

"Concordia." It literally means "with one heart" in Latin. The Church is united around the confession of Jesus as our Lord and Savior like a congregation singing together in many different parts but singing the same song together in perfect harmony.

Concordia isn't just a feeling that we are one. It's not only something that we strive to have. We don't sacrifice what we believe in order to be united. True Concord is always centered around the confession of Christ and Him crucified! God speaks. We receive His words into our ears. He gives our tongues the words to say to Him and to those around us. We repeat, together, His Words back to Him. We sing them, we confess them, all agreeing together, "with one heart and voice" our confession of Jesus! In a world where youth are tempted to compromise, Higher Things is excited to plan our 2019 Conferences centered on the theme of the Church and Unity.



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COME OUT & SUPPORT OUR TEAM  
 Softball Schedule for  
 Pilgrim Men's Team

Check this site for updates on games before  
 attending,  
<http://www.teamsideline.com/sites/decatgur/home>

Date	Time	Rotary Park Diamond #
5/6	6:00 PM	# 1
	7:00 PM	# 1
5/13	6:00 PM	# 2
	7:00 PM	# 2
5/ 20	6:00 PM	# 2
	7:00 PM	# 2
5/27	8:00 PM	# 1
	9:00 PM	# 1
6/3	6:00 PM	# 1
	7:00 PM	# 1
6/10	6:00 PM	# 1
	7:00 PM	# 1
6/17	6:00 PM	# 2
	7:00 PM	# 2

## CHRISTIAN KIDS MUST SLAY WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING, NOT PET THEM!

POSTED BY MARSHA WEST · 18 APRIL 2019 · IN OPINION · AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE, BIBLE, CONTEND FOR THE FAITH, EDUCATION, FAMILY, LIBERALISM, PROGRESSIVISM, WEST MARSHA · BOOKMARK PERMALINK



(Marsha West – Christian Research Network) Here’s a sobering fact the Church must come to grips with: Even children who are “churched” are woefully unprepared to “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 1:3) This is a frontline issue, yet Church leaders and parents just don’t “get” how important it is to teach the younger generation to defend their faith.

The Apostle Paul faced this issue head on in the early church. In a letter to Timothy, he warned: “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” (2 Tim 4:3-4) All the Apostles dealt with false teaching, Gnosticism in particular, and for this reason they wanted to insure correct doctrine was taught.

What exactly is Church doctrine? Doctrine establishes a set of core principles that must be upheld by followers of Jesus Christ. Doctrine describes and teaches God’s will for His people.

You ask, “Why should anyone care if churches teach doctrine these days? I mean, this is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century contemporary Church!” Churches that fail to get the Word of God firmly implanted in the minds of youngsters are doing them a great disservice.

Today many people claiming to be Christians out right reject the basic essentials of the faith. To the progressive mind agreeing with everything Jesus taught is unnecessary. They couldn’t be more wrong. In fact, taking this view is absolute nonsense. Those who reject Christ’s teaching do not belong to Him, they’re counterfeit Christians. In 1 John, the Apostle lays out what will naturally come about once a person is saved. He explains the fruit that should spring forth in the life of a Christian.

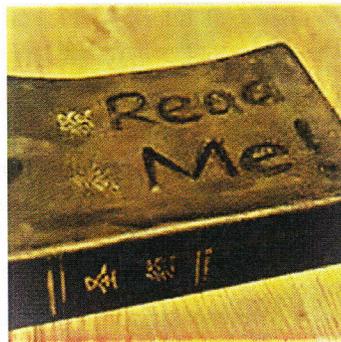
My point is that “Progressive Christianity” is to be rejected. Why? Because progressivism encourages freedom from all restraint in both speech and action while Christianity does just the opposite. First John makes that clear. What John teaches is that believers must show *restraint* in both speech and action. Liberalism’s self-centered worldview, its materialism, decadence, and moral depravity make it incompatible with historic, orthodox, *biblical* Christianity.

It is clear by what is going on in the visible Church that Christian parents are either ignorant of the Bible’s teaching on morality, or they know perfectly well what God says and they choose to allow their children to imitate ungodly behavior. So it isn’t surprising that unbelievers label Christians hypocrites. Christians cannot profess a belief in Jesus Christ and live like the devil. Jesus had no use for hypocrites and called them out publicly: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness.” (Matthew 23:27) Ouch!

Our government is in shambles. The Church is a dead mess. Parents are living for themselves, not for their children — and children are suffering because they lack parental guidance. Many youngsters go it alone in their daily dealings with “the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life.” (1 John 2:16)

Proverbs 22:6 offers this message for parents: “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

Sadly, even kids who’ve been raised in a “Christian home,” that go to church on Sunday and attend Sunday school, don’t have both feet firmly planted in a biblical worldview. Instead their feet are planted in quicksand and they’re sinking fast! The reason youngsters are sinking is primarily the fault of parents. The fact of the matter is, a lot of parents aren’t preparing their kids for a life of service to God. Some people feel that the lack of a biblical worldview in our youth is the fault of the Church, and that does play a part. But as I said, dad’s and moms can take most of the blame.



Youngsters attending government-run schools have no protection against liberal wolves, whose aim is to pound their secular worldview into student's receptive minds. And yet these same parents wouldn't allow their precious little ones to ride a bike without a helmet or jump on a skateboard without protective padding. And they make darn sure their kids are buckled up before heading out on the road.

We're not living in the 50's. It would be nice if we could go back to when the family meant something, and people showed some moral restraint. But we can't. If you pay attention to the news then you know that we're living in a war zone, battling the world, the flesh and the devil. Because of this, Christian families must be armed for the battle for the hearts and minds of America's children! ([Ephesians 6:10-20](#)) Not to be redundant, but I must reemphasize that Christian kids who attend public schools are at the mercy of agenda-driven liberal educators. Youngster's impressionable minds are being bombarded with virulent anti-Christian propaganda. Facts are hard to ignore. Studies show that somewhere around 70 percent of college faculty admit that they're liberal. So, it's not surprising that two-thirds of "born again" Christians become committed liberals and leave the Church by the time they graduate from college.

Progressives have impacted society in ways no one who remembers the 1950's would have thought possible. Their goal is to see America go the way of Western Europe. They want to remove any vestige of religion, especially the Christian religion, from the public square. Progressives make no secret of their disdain for conservative values. They especially loathe biblical Christianity. In fact, they oppose everything Bible believing Christians stand for. Live and let live is not in a liberal's vocabulary. Their goal is to completely shut down the opposition. Fairness has gone out the window. If you're a registered Democrat, brethren, then you support the Democratic National Committee's platform. What does the DNC promote? Abortion on demand, a radical LGBTQ+ agenda (which includes "gay Christianity" and men who pretend to be women using women's restrooms), curbing of the First Amendment, abolishing the Second Amendment, redistribution of wealth, welfare state, open borders (lawbreaking and the destruction of America's sovereignty), giving illegals the right to vote, euthanasia, drug legalization, squelching freedom of speech (especially on college campuses), and the right of Americans to worship God freely. Pretty much anything conservatives are for, Democrats oppose. And God help anyone who has the temerity to disagree with their godless worldview.

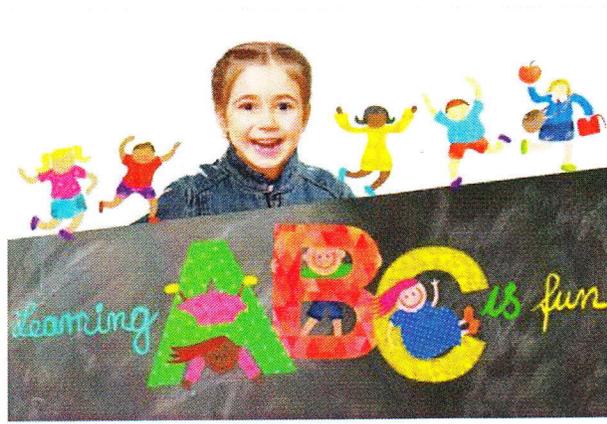
Progressives have their fingers in every pie. In case you haven't noticed, they're bony digits have gotten control of public education, the "free press," plus every aspect of recreation and entertainment — name 10 Republican Hollywood celebs. Even worse, if you place Christian before each of the following; media, colleges, seminaries and churches, you must know they are teaming with [Progressive \(Social Justice\) "Christians"](#) (SJC).



A Bible believing Christian's worldview should not mirror the debauchery coming from Hollywood. On the contrary. The worldview of those who profess Christ should come from His Book. The Bible teaches those who claim to love Him how He expects us to live out our lives while on this planet. God has expectations! His Word, the Bible, is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. ([Psalm 119:105](#)) If it hasn't been a lamp and a light for you, then you cannot possibly know what God's will is for your life. Furthermore, you couldn't possibly know what truth is. Absolute moral truth does exist, brethren, and it's clearly laid out in the pages of Scripture.

Before I move on, I must remind my brothers and sisters in Christ that your daily marching orders must come from your King, not from a pack of SJC wolves in sheep's clothing — and certainly not from the morally bankrupt, unprincipled Hollywood elite who'd like nothing more than to completely obliterate biblical Christianity! The number of people who say they believe in Jesus Christ but don't bother to crack open a Bible and never darken the doorway of a church is stupefying. They couldn't care less what the Lord Jesus taught about how His followers must conduct their lives. "If you love me you will keep my commandments." ([John 14:15](#)) Who said that? King Jesus! Your King *commands* obedience!

There should be a noticeable difference between a child raised in a Christian environment and a child raised in a secular environment. But often there is no difference. Mainly because a lot of Christian parents think training a child in the way he should go is to be left to Sunday school teachers, youth pastors, even the child's grandparents. Sadly, some parents simply take the path of the least resistance and adopt the "no backbone" approach to parenting.



Children have excellent minds, an enormous potential for learning, and they soak up information like a sponge. Most of them really do want to learn new things! A lot of children want to learn what's in the Bible – they love when adults read Bible stories to them. Unfortunately, many parents are under the misconception that their kids aren't interested in stories such as Jonah and the whale, Daniel in the lion's den, even the best selling book [The Pilgrim's Progress](#). Which brings me to this question: if kids aren't taught the Bible how will they know about God and His ways? Those who know little about the Bible have no understanding of who God is and no understanding of who they are. Moreover, they don't have the slightest idea what it means to be a Christian, let alone what a Christian worldview is. I cannot stress enough that the Bible is the framework for how followers of Jesus are to live. The scriptures instruct God's people how to please Him.

In closing, here's another important consideration. How are believers to identify error when it rears its ugly head? Unfortunately, over my many years I have observed a large number of professing Christians who are unable to identify false teaching and the wolves who promote it. In [2 Corinthians 10:5](#) we are commanded to “destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

Dads and moms, are you equipped to destroy arguments raised against the knowledge of God? Can you “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints?” because if you're unable to give a defense of your faith and explain what you believe and why you believe it, your children won't be able to either. Christian kids must slay wolves in sheep's clothing, not pet them!

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