

DATES TO REMEMBER:

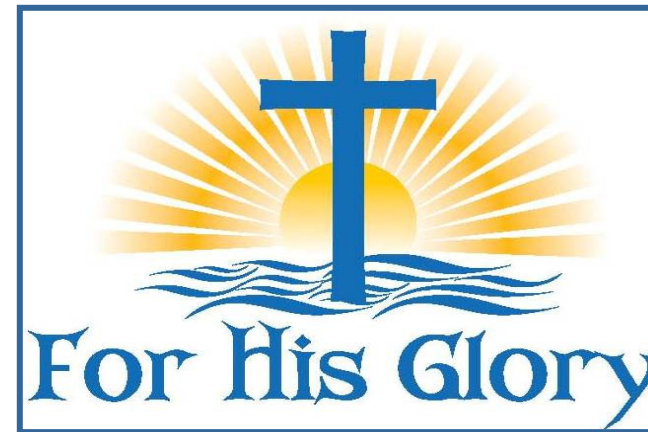
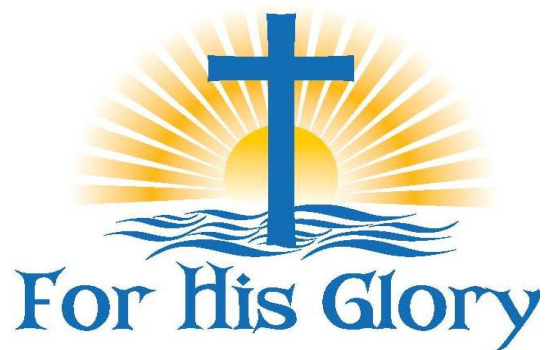
- Jan. 25** Pastor Kieschnick preaches
- Feb. 15** Celebration & Commitment Weekend
[10 a.m. service only followed by a praise & thanksgiving luncheon]
- March 8** First Fruits Sunday

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR A SMALL GROUP?

If you haven't had the chance—now is the time to join a 'For His Glory' small group that will focus on the biblical meaning of stewardship. The study, "Giving Life to the Next Generation," will show us how everything we have is a gift from our Heavenly Father and that God gives us all good things to bring glory to His name and serve others.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church & School
8601 Chimney Rock Rd
Houston, TX 77096

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Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power, He can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Ephesians 3:20

Stewardship Campaign
Newsletter # 4
January 2009

Pilgrim Lutheran
Church & School
8601 Chimney Rock Rd
Houston, TX 77096
713.432.7082

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Preparing For The Future

The other day I was running errands and spotted a homeless man walking across the intersection of Woodway and the 610 Loop. He wasn't actually walking - he was stuck between two traffic lanes. I felt awful for him. All he had were the clothes on his back, a small bag and a sign, describing his dire situation. I felt so selfish because all I have been thinking about the last couple of months was the financial crises that has hit our nation and how it had affected our family. Right then I said a prayer thanking God for all he has provided me: a wonderful husband, two fabulous children, good health, and a lovely home. I also said a prayer of protection and care for that man. I can't imagine someone not having a home or a family with members to love or to be loved.

Pilgrim is our earthy home of worship and it is in dire need of updates and repairs. I believe God is challenging us to fix up His home because just like the "homeless" man under the freeway, there are a lot of "homeless" Christians in this area who want to worship God and be a part of a Christian family, but are not motivated yet. They are "stuck."

Jesus tells us in the bible that after his resurrection He was going to prepare our home in heaven. He wants us to prepare Pilgrim so we may reach out to others and offer them a "home" where they will feel God's Love and will accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

I have been a part of the congregation for at least 10 years, but the last two have been the most significant and the most miraculous. The Holy Spirit has touched our hearts and minds with one purpose and that is to glorify Him. Working together "For His Glory" has brought the congregation together in fellowship and has given us a sense of pride we have never known.

Next Sunday, January 25th will begin a series of special sermons pertaining to our stewardship campaign. I am inviting you to attend and be moved by the Word of God. God has a plan for Pilgrim and we must be willing in faith to serve him "For His Glory". Please pray about your commitment for the next three years and what it will mean to the ministry of the church. I know what it will mean to our Heavenly Father who unselfishly sacrificed His Son so that we may live with Him forever.

For All God's Glory,

Peggy Marin

COMMITMENT & CELEBRATION SUNDAY

February 15, 2009

A very special 10 a.m. service is being planned in February as we make our commitments to the Lord and celebrate Pilgrim's future together. There will be a luncheon catered by Carrabba's restaurant, live music in addition to entertainment from Christian illusionist Ted Schwank, following the commitment worship service. Just a reminder: There will only be one service that weekend—no Saturday 6 p.m. or Sunday 8:15 a.m. service.



Entertaining Christian illusionist Ted Schwank, (known for fire juggling and sharing scripture simultaneously) will perform at the Commitment and Celebration luncheon.

Carrabba's 

'For His Glory' Children & Youth Bible Study

In everything we do, we should do it in His name and 'For His Glory.' An important message for all of God's children, including our young ones. We want to really encourage all K-4th graders to attend the 'For His Glory' bible studies that will focus on the importance of serving and being a cheerful giver, using age appropriate material and crafts. All youth in grades 5th—12th grade will be creating banners for the Commitment and Celebration service and will be spending some time in His word and in meaningful group discussions. This is such an important time in our church, and we encourage your entire family to hear His word and pray together!



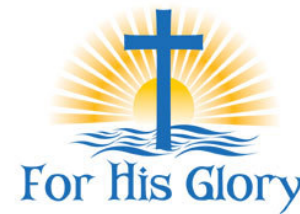
Every Sunday: Jan. 25—Feb. 15

Walking With God

There is a chance many of you may already know Rick Fritz, either by name recognition or maybe you see him every time you are on the church or school campus. He is always around, but chooses most of the time to work quietly behind the scenes. *"I do what I can to enhance the worship experience for the members of our congregation and to assist the Pastors in any way I can, so they can concentrate on preaching His word without having to 'sweat the small stuff'."*

Rick has served faithfully on the Board of Elders for more than 20 years and is on his fourth year as vice chairman of Board of Directors. He says it is through these duties that he discovered servanthood is his true calling from God. *"Service is important to me – whether it is on weekends around worship services or ministering to people during the week,"* said Rick. He says he feels very comfortable with those 'marching orders' and serves the Lord joyfully. But when he was first asked to serve in a leadership position at Pilgrim, he quickly turned to God for guidance. *"You do sometimes get put into positions that are not strong points for you, but trusting in the Lord to show you which direction to go and prayer for guidance really helps too."* **Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.....Colossians 3:23-24.**

Rick says accepting those leadership responsibilities made him realize how much he had grown in the knowledge of His word, and it gave him more confidence to share his faith with others, especially co-workers. *"If God leads you to it, He will lead you through it,"* said Rick. He adds that often his biggest challenge in his walk with God is knowing when to hand over his struggles to Him. *"God has blessed me and my family so much and I am thankful to Him each day that He continues to lead me through the tough times,"* said Rick. He says he wants to use his God-given leadership skills at Pilgrim to guide others to the knowledge and assurance that if we have trust in Him, we can do anything 'For His Glory.'



"Service is important to me..."

ANSWERS TO SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS...

What is our campaign goal?

The campaign leadership team has prayed that God will touch the hearts of Pilgrim's families to make sacrificial gifts that total \$1.8 million above regular giving over the next three years. Statistics show that most churches are able to raise 2.5 times their annual budget. Pilgrim's annual budget is approximately \$700 thousand and that was used to set the goal of \$1.8 million.

What will we spend the money on?

With God's help, anything is possible. The following is a brief summary of the primary goals:

- Update the sanctuary and narthex
- Construct a nursery and meeting rooms
- Pay off existing debt
- Create emergency fund for unexpected repairs
- Complete required repairs and maintenance on existing facility

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN PROGRESS

Every Sunday Through
February 8

All adult Sunday bible classes have come together through February 8 to experience "Matters of the Heart," a special 'For His Glory' bible study. See you there!

Special Guest Preacher - Jan. 24 & 25

Pastor John Kieschnick, 'For His Glory' consultant and retired pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church will be the special guest speaker for all three services this weekend. He will share some of the exciting work that has been going on behind the scenes of the capital campaign at Pilgrim as well as his personal experience with six capital stewardship campaigns.



Leadership Team Initial Gifts Meeting - Jan. 23 & 24

The 'For His Glory' committee will be hosting its Leadership Team Initial Gifts Home Group meetings on Fri., Jan. 23 and Sat. Jan. 24. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office at 713.432.7082 or email kclintongerst@comcast.net.