

Pilgrim's Progress

A monthly publication.
Volume, No. 2

February 2018

Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey



Lent is the journey we make as we travel with Christ from the Mount of Transfiguration to Jerusalem, where He will face the cross and the grave for our sake. This year's theme focuses upon the

journey, though perhaps not in the way we usually walk it. Our overall theme is "Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey" a series written by Rev. Jeffery Pulse, a Professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

The beginning of our journey is exile in the wilderness of sin and death. From the first sin in the first garden, we have been exiled into the wilderness where we have wandered without any ability to find our way out. But every journey also has a destination. Our return from exile brings us into the promised land, the perfect place, the new garden, the courts of heaven—the ultimate destination which was established for us by Jesus' death and resurrection.

There is great joy in the journey as we see where our returning brings us; but there is also a somber attitude when we consider what Christ faced on account of our sin. Each leg of our Lenten journey begins in the Old Testament and continues into the New Testament, pointing us to the joy that is ours on account of Christ Jesus. Through midweek Lenten sermons, we will have the opportunity to contemplate the reality of our earthly journey, but with eyes always fixed on its destination—the empty tomb and the open gates of everlasting life—and with an underlying reality of joy as we hear proclaimed again that we do not walk this way

alone! Christ goes with us all the way, even as we follow in His footsteps.

Additionally, we will walk this Lenten Journey with four other congregations: Berea, Beautiful Savior, Mount Calvary, and St. Paul. Their pastors will visit us and I will visit their congregations, as well. The schedule of preachers for our 11:00am and 7:00pm Lenten services will be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Theme</u>
2.14 Ash Wed.	Pastor Rusnak	<i>Heart to Heart: Sackcloth and Ashes to Robes of Righteousness</i>
2.21	Pastor Mueller	<i>Mountain to Mountain: Mount Moriah to Mount Zion</i>
2.28	Pastor Raabe	<i>Tree to Tree: The Tree of Life to the Cross</i>
3.7	Pastor Paape	<i>Out of Egypt: Through the Water</i>
3.14	Pastor Czaplewski	<i>Garden to Garden: Eden to Heaven</i>
3.21	Pastor Rusnak	<i>Death to Resurrection: The Wilderness to the Promised Land</i>

Our Lenten Journey will continue into Holy Week:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day and Time</u>	<u>Theme</u>
3.29	Maundy Thursday 11:00am and 7:00pm	<i>Meal to Meal: the Passover to the Lords Supper</i>
3.30	Good Friday 1:00pm and 7:00pm	<i>Sin-Bearer to Sin-Bearer: The Day of Atonement to the Atonement</i>
4.1	Easter Sunday 9:00am	<i>Welcome Home</i>

May our risen Lord be with us on this Lenten Journey as He brings us, once again, from exile to our home with Him.

Pastor Rusnak



From the Secretary's Desk

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Friday 8:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Bulletin deadline

Wednesday at noon

Pilgrim Progress deadline

Noon on the 15th of the month



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| Jim and Judith Fink | 2/8 |
| Bob and Liz Stempkowski | 2/16 |
| Bryant and Nicole Moritz | 2/20 |

Contacts

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Pilgrim LWML

As one might recall, the theme for this Pilgrim LWML year is **HOPE TO HOME**. No matter what we face, cope with, experience in this life, we live in the **HOPE** we have through our faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, looking forward to the promise of our **heavenly HOME** with Him in eternity. Sometimes this can be a struggle as the cares and challenges of this world seem to overpower us.

On **February 9th at 7 pm**, the regular meeting of Pilgrim LWML will give an opportunity to **share Bible passages and hymn verses** that speak of **HOPE**. All who attend are asked to bring a favorite verse to share as we seek to encourage and uplift each other. All Pilgrim women are invited to come to enjoy the fellowship and growing opportunity.

As God’s instruments here on earth, we continue to share His love through the Gospel message that comes through the **Mite Mission Grants**. Take a peek at the new emphasis report on the LWML bulletin board. The **February emphasis** from LWML is **Lutheran Children’s Books for Families Worldwide**. Watch for an update from the SWD Mission Grants to be posted soon. **Mite donations** can be made in the large mite box in the narthex. An **ingathering** of high protein foods for the **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOOD PANTRY** is also continuing.

Four women recently returned from a retreat that focused on the opportunity we may have to share our faith with others as we see Gospel parallels in the world around us. We look forward to the **district convention in June in Waukesha**. Pilgrim will send two delegates, have others help as ushers and perhaps even be able to send some young women representatives. Watch for further updates and happenings.

LWML-SWD 2016-2018 Mite Grants

1. **Church Without Walls-Deaf Ministry ***
2. **Church Worker Student Grant**
3. **Veterans Helping Veterans in CU System**
4. **Refuge House Renovation**
5. **Financial Assistance to CTS Food Co-op**
6. **Widow's Milk Mission Society, India**
7. Free at Last Ministry to Women
8. "Telling the Story" DVD Series for Shut-Ins
9. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Food Bank
10. Teaching Children as Christ Taught Us
11. CLET Togo, Africa Seminary Dorms



Adam Kosbab	2/1
Rose Luther	2/7
Zach Felber	2/8
Bryant Moritz	2/11
Ben Zawacki	2/14
James Rusnak	2/14
Amy Brodhead	2/15
Dave Luther	2/21
Jon Sweeney	2/21
Austin Felber	2/24
Tiffany Christiansen	2/24
Joanne Lindgren	2/27

LWML 2017-2019 Mite Grants

1. Providing Food and the Gospel to Starving Children
2. **Mercy House for Women and Children**
3. Christ for Veterans and Their Families
4. Tanzanian Sewing Center
5. **Current Missionary Need**
6. Lutheran Children's Books for Families Worldwide
7. Christian Hope Through Mass Media in Egypt
8. NOLA 4H: Hearts for the Hungry, Homeless and Hurting
9. Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund
10. Christian Eldercare Home in Haiti
11. Training Lutheran Middle Eastern Missionaries
12. Completion of Lukonda Lutheran School Buildings, Uganda
13. Equipping Youth to Witness for Life – Y4Life
14. Laborers of Love
15. Sharing Jesus with People with Disabilities
16. Education Loan Repayment Assistance Grants
17. Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team
18. Restoration Programs for Native Hawaiians
19. RECONNECT to the Body of Christ Circuit 28
20. Prison and Jail Ministry Synod-wide Conference in 2018
21. Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips
22. Raising Pastors and Deaconesses

Sewing for Veterans

On January 24th the second Greenhouse, a type of assisted nursing facility, was opened on the VA grounds. Our group dropped off ten quilts and one quilt to hang in the kitchen.

We are now working on the next ten quilts to be distributed when the third home opens sometime this summer.

Our goal is after the quilts are done is to make Christmas stockings for each veteran and a table runner for each house.

Thank you to all who have kept this project in your prayers and allowing the group to meet at Pilgrim.

Diane

*bolded equals paid