

75  
years

Pilgrim's Progress

2017

February



Transfiguration



# From the Desk of Pastor Erv

## Greetings, in the Name of the LORD!

Over the last seven decades, Billy Graham has written 32 books which are an extension of his continued ministry and burden to reach as many people as possible with the Good News of the Gospel. In "Peace with God," Mr. Graham outlines ten guidelines for Christian living. This classic volume by Billy Graham points to the fact that God is the only way to find authentic personal peace in a world in crisis.

Whether we are playing a game, driving a car, or baking a cake, there are certain rules that must be followed for our safety as well as our success.

The Bible teaches that the Christian life is one of constant growth. When you were ~~born again~~ (baptized), you were ~~born~~ (baptized) into God's family. It is God's purpose that you will grow into full stature and become mature in Christ. It would be against the law of God and nature if you were to remain a baby and thus become a spiritual dwarf. In 2 Peter 3:18, the Bible says that we are to grow. It implies steady development, constant enlargement, increasing wisdom.

For one to grow properly certain rules must be observed for good spiritual health.

1. *Read your Bible daily.* Do not be content to skim through a chapter merely to satisfy your conscience. Hide the Word of God in your heart. It comforts,

guides, corrects, encourages – all we need is there.

2. *Learn the secret of prayer.* Prayer is communicating. Every prayer that you pray will be answered. Sometimes that answer may be "Yes" and sometimes "No," and sometimes it is "Wait," but nevertheless it will be answered.

3. *Rely constantly on the Holy Spirit.* We know that the Holy Spirit prays for us (Romans 8), and what a comfort that should be to the weakest of us. Stand aside and let Him take over all the choices and decisions of your life.

4. *Attend church regularly.* The visible church is Christ's organization upon earth. Christians need one another, we need to gather together to worship God and nothing can take the place of church attendance.

5. *Be a witnessing Christian.* We witness in two ways: by life and by word – and the two, where possible, should go hand in hand.

6. *Let love be the ruling principle of your life.* Jesus said to those who followed Him, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have

love one to another" (John 13:25). The greatest demonstration of the fact that we are Christians is that we love one another.

7. *Be an obedient Christian.* Let Christ have first place in all the choices of your life.

8. *Learn how to meet temptation.* Temptation is not sin. It is *yielding* that is sin. Let Christ through the Holy Spirit do the fighting for you.

9. *Be a wholesome Christian.* Our lives and appearance should commend the Gospel and make it attractive to others.

10. *Live above your circumstances.* Don't let your circumstances get you down. Learn to live graciously within them, realizing the Lord Himself is with you.

In HIS Service

Pastor Erv



**JANUARY VOTERS MEETING MINUTES** – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and was opened with Prayer led by Pastor Hutter. The minutes were presented. Correction to the minutes: Dow donated the styrofoam used in the planters. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended, seconded, and carried. The Financial Secretary's report and Treasurer's report were presented. A motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded, and carried. OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business. ELDER'S REPORT: There are two new members. Elder for Saturdays will be Kim Mielens and for Sundays it will be Mark Anthony. A roster of all elders and their contact information is being compiled and will be in the office. TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Everything is running smoothly. Bill Cataline will be working on the lighted exit signs. A wish list of items for the church has been started and is available in the office. A roster of all trustees and their contact information is being compiled and will be in the office. BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: New women's bible study starts next week. The preschool still has three openings in the three-year-old program. Vacation Bible School topics are being explored. The Sunday school is reaching out to all confirmed youth for help with the Sunday school classes. Ruth Manke has implemented a program to explore the books in our church library. Dawn Hutter is working on the activity bags for the children that are to be used during the church services. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee: There has been a planning session for the new directory. Melissa Sofian is the new coordinator. PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Hutter presented a 2016 summary report. He addressed the need for a process to identify visitors and welcome them. Discussion was held about having coffee hours after church. There is a new Bible study on Wednesday nights at 6:30. The topic for study is Exodus. A men's network is being formed and will meet once a month. NEW BUSINESS: Laurie Morley thanked everyone who donated items to the veterans from our Veteran's Giving Tree. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and carried. The meeting was closed with prayer led by Pastor Hutter at 8:00 p.m.

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## **PILGRIMS SERVING IN FEBRUARY**

### **Elders:**

Sat – Kim Mielens

Sun – Mark Anthony

**Altar Guild:** Alice Kryszak & Dolores Mast

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** – Your 2016 contribution statements have been placed in your church mailbox. Call the church office for any errors or corrections. Also, for those of you, who haven't picked up your 2017 contribution envelopes; please do so as soon as possible.

**PILGRIM'S WEB SITE** – Our website may be viewed at [www.plce.org](http://www.plce.org). The site contains valuable and extensive church information for you to access at any time. While visiting, please take a few moments to sign up to receive email notifications.

**PRAYER CORNER** – The Prayer Network will be handing out paper hearts the weekend before Valentine's Day. Please put someone's name on it that you would like to pray for. Attach to your refrigerator as a daily reminder to pray for that person.

**MISSION ENVELOPE** – In your envelopes for 2017 there is an envelope marked "Special Mission." This envelope is designated for our Adopt-A-Student Mission. Whenever you use this envelope that money goes to help our student at the Seminary. The latest letter from him is posted on the bulletin board for you to read.

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – Enrollment will open for the Preschool Program on February 13. The cost for Three Year olds is \$90 per month and for Four Year olds is \$110 per month. There is a \$25 enrollment fee to be paid at time of application. Call the church office, 893-7224 for more information.

**MOM-TO-MOM SALE** – Our annual Mom-to-Mom sale is on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Applications for table rental can be picked up in the church office. We are also holding a bake sale. We are asking for donations of cookies, bars, cupcakes, candy, fudge, and brownies. They would be greatly appreciated. Baked goods can be brought in on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from noon to 8 p.m. or on Saturday morning before 9 a.m. We will need several volunteers to help with set-up on Thursday evening and for takedown and cleanup on Saturday after 2 p.m. Please call the church office, 893-7224, if you would be able to help out.

**2016 FINAL ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTIONS . . . . .**

<u>SAT</u>	<u>SUN</u>	<u>OTHER</u> 12/21=13*	<u>H.C.</u>	<u>GEN FUND</u>	<u>IMP FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
12/24=122	12/25=44		118	\$ 1,100.00 <u>3,820.00</u>	\$ 0.00 <u>10.00</u>	\$1,100.00 <u>3,830.00</u>
				\$ 4,920.00	\$10.00	\$4,930.00

\*Midweek Advent

SPECIAL GIFTS: Advent, \$40.00; Christmas Eve, \$1,504.00; Christmas Day, \$1,300.00; Adopt-a-Student, \$35.00; Security System, \$10.00; Roof Repair, \$120.00

**2017 ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTIONS . . . . .**

<u>SAT</u>	<u>SUN</u>	<u>H.C.</u>	<u>GEN FUND</u>	<u>IMP FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>+ OR -</u>
12/31=34	1/01=46	69	1,626.21	35.00	1,661.21	- 1145
1/07=26	1/08=50	62	2,520.13	15.00	2,535.13	- 270
1/14=24	1/15=52	68	2,856.21	0.00	2,856.21	+ 50
1/21=35	1/22=83		<u>1,971.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,971.00</u>	<u>- 835</u>
			\$ 8,973.55	\$ 50.00	\$ 9,023.55	- 2200

SPECIAL GIFTS: Christmas Eve, \$10.00; Christmas Day, \$15.00; New Year's Eve, \$130.00; Tai Chi Donation, \$10.00; Adopt a Student, \$11.00; Duke Memorial, \$125.00; Jankens Memorial, \$10.00; Security System, \$10.00

**OUR STEWARDSHIP TO THE LORD AND TO PILGRIM**

PILGRIM'S 2017 BUDGET	-	\$145,900.00
BUDGET THROUGH JANUARY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	-	11,223.08
CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH JANUARY 22 <sup>nd</sup>	-	9,023.55
CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER BUDGET NEEDS	-	\$ 2,200.00

**PASTORAL ACTS –**

**Baptisms –** **Liviana Brielle Scharich Joyner**, daughter of Mark Joyner and Maggie Scharich, was baptized on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Liviana's sponsors are RC and Jennifer Derocher and Sarah Schaefer.

**Grady Robert McKee**, son of Karrie McKee, was baptized on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Grady's sponsors are James and Jennifer Dahn.

**WELLSPRING LUTHERAN SERVICES/CHILD & FAMILY AUXILIARY** – The Bay Chapter will meet on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bay City at 7 pm. Speaker to be announced.

**LWML BREAKFAST PRAYER SERVICE** – St. John-Amelith Lutheran Church is hosting the LWML Bay Area Zone Breakfast Prayer Service on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins at 9 am. Cost is \$5.00. The theme is celebrating 75 years of Commending Christ From One Generation to Another. Please RSVP to Mary Setzer, 893-7224 by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**PIE CRUST MAKING** – The Good Samaritan Rescue Mission is having their annual pie sale soon. We will be volunteering to make the pie crusts on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We need 6 – 8 helpers. If you are able to work all or part of a shift please contact Mary Setzer, 893-7224, in the church office as soon as possible.

**SWISS STEAK DINNER** – Trinity-St. James Lutheran Church, 119 E Munger Road, Munger, is hosting their annual Swiss Steak Dinner, Country Store, and Bake Sale on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am to 2 pm or until sold out. Donation: Adults \$11, Children 6-12 \$6, and 5 and under free. Take-outs also available.



**PULLED PORK DINNER** – Valley Lutheran High School’s Parent Organization will be having their annual Pulled Pork Dinner on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 1:30 pm. The dinner includes beans, coleslaw, chips, and a dessert. One sandwich with the fixings is \$8, 2 sandwiches are \$10.00. Individual sandwiches are \$3.

**MANAGING DIFFICULT BEHAVIORS** – Golden Horizons will be hosting a free dementia class “Managing Difficult Behaviors” on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 12 noon or Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 9 pm at Golden Horizons Adult Day Care Center, 1001 Marsac Street, Bay City. The classes are free, but registration is required. Call 989-892-6644 to register. Program is funded by the Region VII Area Agency on Aging and the Alzheimer’s Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation. They also host the Bay County Alzheimer’s/Dementia Caregiver Support Group, which meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for informal discussion, education and emotional support.



**Lent Schedule 2017**

**“Letters to the Seven Churches of Revelation”**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Sermon Title</b>
Ash Wednesday	Mar. 1	Revelation 2:1-7	Letter to Ephesus
Invocavit Wednesday	Mar. 8	Revelation 2:8-11	Letter to Smyrna
Remincere Wednesday	Mar. 15	Revelation 2:12-17	Letter to Pergamum
Oculi Wednesday	Mar. 22	Revelation 2:18-29	Letter to Thyatira
Laetare Wednesday	Mar. 29	Revelation 3:1-6	Letter to Sardis
Judica Wednesday	Apr. 5	Revelation 3:7-13	Letter to Philadelphia
Maundy Thursday	Apr. 13	Revelation 3:14-22	Letter to Laodicea
Good Friday	Apr. 14	2 Corinthians 5:14-21	A New Creation

**Ash Wednesday and all Lenten Wednesday Services at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm**  
**Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services at 7:00 pm**  
**Vigil of Easter Service—Saturday, April 15 at 7:00 pm**  
**Easter Service—Sunday, April 16 at 10:30 am**



### **FROM THE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND:**

#### **Seven Ways to Remember Your Favorite Ministry or Charity**

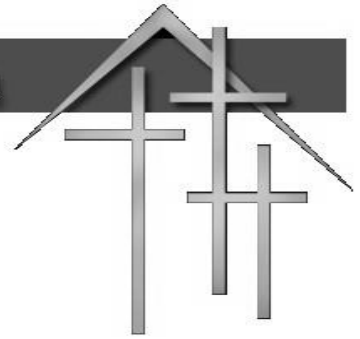
Have you ever considered including those ministries most important to you in your Estate Plan? There are many ways to remember ministries in your plan, only a few of which involve any expense or professional fees. You may wish to consider one of the following options:

1. Amend an existing Insurance Policy to add Your Favorite Ministry or Charity as an additional beneficiary, or simply purchase a new one for their benefit.
2. Visit your personnel office and ask to amend your group life insurance policy or retirement plan to add Your Favorite Ministry or Charity as one of your beneficiaries.
3. Instruct your lawyer to prepare a simple, inexpensive codicil to your existing Will or Revocable Living Trust, creating a bequest for your favorite ministry or charity.
4. If you are over 65 and disappointed with the income you are receiving from your long-term stocks or your certificates of deposit, consider the benefits of placing some of your assets in the Charitable Gift Annuity. Most likely, your lifetime income would increase. In addition, you would avoid capital gain taxes and receive a current income tax deduction for a portion of the gift. After your death, the remaining principal would be given to the ministry or charity that you designate.
5. Deed your house to your favorite ministry or charity and continue to live in it. Your income tax savings from the gift may cover the legal costs.
6. Leave written or verbal instructions for your surviving spouse to include your favorite ministry or charity when redrawing his or her will.
7. If you have a sizable estate, you may consider a Charitable Remainder Trust that will pay a lifetime annual income to both of you, provide an income stream for a period of years to your children or grandchildren, before providing a significant gift to your favorite ministry or charity. The Charitable Trust will create a current charitable tax deduction for you.

There are many ways to benefit your favorite ministry or charity through planned gifts, some of which will provide you with positive benefits during your lifetime, reduce the amount of taxes that may be paid, and support the institutions that are most important to you.

**LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** – A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend allows married couples to celebrate their special relationship – and provides them with unique insights and tools to improve their communication for the long haul. It's a whole Weekend away from chores, jobs, and kids to celebrate their love, learn a delightful new method of communication, and reap joyful rewards for them, their family and their faith journey. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend is March 10 – 12, 2017 at the Comfort Inn, Birch Run, Michigan. Apply now at [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) or contact Albert and Sally Chan at [Sallyalme@yahoo.com](mailto:Sallyalme@yahoo.com) or 517-540-0781 for more information. Weekends fill fast – don't miss out!

**MOST MINISTRIES** – Mission Opportunities Short Term (aka MOST Ministries) is a short-term Christian mission sending agency located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. For the past 27 years, we have had the privilege of sending over 5000 individuals to 49 different countries and meeting the physical and spiritual needs of over 200,000 people through our various team projects. Eye Doctors needed to join three MOST ministries Eyeglass Mission Teams. Are you an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist who is seeking to make a difference in the lives of people who cannot afford eye care? If so, MOST Ministries has a pressing need for an eye doctor to join each of the following eyeglass teams heading to Nicaragua this summer. Team 1707 – June 24 – July 1; Team 1708 – August 4 – 12; and Team 1714 – June 16 – 24. There is a \$500 Scholarship available to defray the cost of each team. Please contact Debby Suchyta for more information at [dsuchyta@mostministries.org](mailto:dsuchyta@mostministries.org) or 734-994-7909.



# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 <sup>30</sup> - Bible Class	2	3	4 7 <sup>00</sup> -Holy Communion
5 Transfiguration 9 <sup>00</sup> - Bible Class Sunday School 10 <sup>30</sup> -Holy Communion 11 <sup>30</sup> - Confirmation	6	7 9 <sup>30</sup> - Quilting 6 <sup>30</sup> - Choir Practice	8 Prayer Network, e-mail or call in 6 <sup>30</sup> - Bible Class	9	10	11 7 <sup>00</sup> -Worship
12 Septuagesima 9 <sup>00</sup> - Bible Class Sunday School 10 <sup>30</sup> - Worship 11 <sup>30</sup> - Confirmation 6 <sup>30</sup> -Elders	13 6 <sup>30</sup> -Trustees 7 <sup>00</sup> - Voter's 8 <sup>00</sup> - Anniversary Committee Meeting	14 9 <sup>30</sup> - Quilting 6 <sup>30</sup> - Choir Practice	15 6 <sup>30</sup> - Bible Class	16 10 <sup>00</sup> - Pineview 11 <sup>00</sup> - Keenagers	17	18 7 <sup>00</sup> -Holy Communion
19 Sexagesima 9 <sup>00</sup> - Bible Class Sunday School 10 <sup>30</sup> -Holy Communion 11 <sup>30</sup> - Confirmation	20	21 9 <sup>30</sup> - Quilting 6 <sup>30</sup> - Choir Practice 7 <sup>30</sup> -Boy Scout District	22 6 <sup>30</sup> - Bible Class	23 7 <sup>00</sup> - Men's Network	24	25 7 <sup>00</sup> -Worship
FOOD PANTRY WEEK						
26 Quinquagesima 9 <sup>00</sup> - Bible Class Sunday School 10 <sup>30</sup> - Worship 11 <sup>30</sup> - Confirmation	27	28 9 <sup>30</sup> - Quilting 6 <sup>30</sup> - Choir Practice	Notes:			



# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Trevor Martin	<b>2</b> Landyn Brunett	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Phyllis Mohr	<b>9</b> Gracie Fogel  James Schaub	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Mary Griebe	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Jacob Schaefer	<b>18</b> Andrew Painter
<b>19</b> Lesley Bodrie  Wendy Dominowski  Lee Schroeder	<b>20</b> Kendra Howard  Holly Odette  Duane Sprague	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Rebecca Manzella  Jeff Smith  Peggy VanTol	<b>23</b> Tim Bleau  Mandy Stasick	<b>24</b> Linda Feinauer  Irene Kot	<b>25</b> Arlene Duke  Betty Shook
<b>26</b> Daniel Johnson	<b>27</b> Karol Hages	<b>28</b> Jill Benchley  Andreas Hutter	<b>Notes:</b>			