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A "Freak Storm."

On Wednesday, August 19 about 2:00 in the afternoon I was teaching a group of volunteers who were on their way to China. As usual, I enjoyed getting to know the Friends of China teachers. Their enthusiasm for the task and fresh perspective always revives my spirit. It had been raining steadily that day, and the lights went out suddenly. There were a few ooh's and aah's from my students followed by a brief discussion of our options. Since there was enough light in the room to see, we decided to continue. Then my daughter called from home. "We were just standing here in the living room and there was a big noise and some windows broke and the big tree in the back yard came down. We can't see Ellie. (Ellie is our dog, a Malamute who lives in the backyard) Can you come home?" I found it hard to believe—there hadn't been any lightning or high winds. My students agreed that they wanted to help, so I gave them quick directions to our house and jumped in my car.

The route to our house was blocked by a line of cars that didn't seem to be moving, so I drove around the block. I had to park behind a crushed car since the tree that had destroyed it blocked our street. By the time I got home my daughters were outside with Ellie, but her kennel and doghouse were buried under the branches of our ash tree. Apparently she had been in the doghouse when the tree came down. The treetop rested on the garage roof. On the south side of the house a pile of bricks sat on and around the twisted remains of our central air conditioning compressor. At first I thought that our chimney had fallen, but when I looked up I saw the jagged remains of the neighbor's chimney. My propane barbecue grill, last year's Father's day gift, had been flipped. The patio table was also upside down, but somehow the glass top didn't break. The four chairs that came with the table were crushed under the tree.

People started coming out of houses and into the rain. "Are you alright?" everybody asked. Everybody was, and everybody told their stories. My students arrived, looked around and left when they realized there wasn't much they could do except get in the way. Some of the Pilgrim staff showed up. Greg and James Johnson stayed into the evening along with a couple of neighbors who helped get the tree top off the garage roof.

The meteorologists call it a "freak storm." The conditions weren't right for the formation of a tornado, but one formed anyway. Perhaps the most humbling bit of news was the "FH0" classification of the tornado—the smallest and weakest type. This "small, weak" tornado uprooted huge trees and tore off roofs in our neighborhood.

In the aftermath of the storm, I see many reasons to be thankful: Our family is safe and well. Although Minneapolis lost some beautiful trees and suffered some structural damage, there were no reports of death or serious injury. No damage to the church or school. We have friends and neighbors who are willing and eager to help. Our mortgage company insisted that we have adequate homeowner's insurance.

I'm grateful to all of you who showed concern and offered help and prayers. As humbling as the storm may be, I'm also humbled to know that God has placed us in a caring family of believers. My heart and prayers continue to go out to those in the neighborhood who have suffered greater losses than ours, or who might be in less stable financial situations. As you have opportunity, please look for ways to put your faith into action as you help those who have been affected.

You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even the pagans do that? Be perfect therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

--Jesus (Matthew 5:45-48)

Pastor Pete

Celebrations / Congratulations



PLEASE HELP RESTOCK FOOD SHELF

The food shelf is in need of **food!** Any food items that are useful to families, such as tuna, soup, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables, cereal, etc. are greatly appreciated! Please—no expired items! Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. Proverbs 22:9

Got News??

I am always looking for contents for this newsletter. Pilgrim has such an amazing website thanks to Joe Sorensen that it is easy to forget how nice it is to sit down and read a newsletter. Plus many of us are limited or have no access to the Internet. Just write up, hand in, or E-mail any items to Zoe Herzig – Zherzig@yahoo.com

Thank you for your patience and support in my efforts to bring this to you each month.

*** **Important information** about the News Letter. We are no longer mailing out the monthly News Letter . If you have email we are strongly encouraging you to sign up to receive the Monthly News Letter electronically. If you do not have email you can still pick up your copy which will be located at all the entrance doors of the Church. If you have any questions please free to get in touch with me. To OPT-In to receiving the Newsletter electronically go to the Pilgrim website (<http://www.pilgrimonline.net/>) and click on the link titled Pilgrim Newsletter. This will direct you to the OPT-In form.

September Birthdays

Robert Aske	1	Joshua Brown	22
Jackson Jallah	1	Andrew Ndekwe	22
Elisabeth Robinson	1	Caleb Sorensen	23
Jon Herzig	2	Sharon Emde	24
C.W. "Red" Herzig	3	Paul Ledin	25
Evelyn Melin	3	Dorothy Pawlcyln	25
Dan Steffen	3	Betty Helmen	27
Seth Gostchock	5	Frederick Ribolzi	28
William Nordby	5	Jakayla Davis	29
Adrian Moy	7	Jessica Denn	29
Merle Knutson	11	Carol Christensen	30
Elmer Janisch	12	Nathan Koepsell	30
Samuel Katan	12	Jean Loescher	30
Joseph Schauff	12		
Jennifer Kerber	14		
Nicholas Neumann	15		
Ruby Weaver	17		
Dominic Cambrice	20		
Christiana Hinton	20		
Nancy Schauff	20		

Wedding Anniversaries

Jon & Zoe Herzig	12
Daniel & Sarah Ribolzi	22

Announcements / Thank you notes



Altar Flowers

Many thanks to those who have already beautified our altar this year!!

Altar Flowers are still needed on Sept 27th and October 18 please contact Lila Aske @ 952-544-1072. If you are interested in filling up these dates.

Finance in Focus

On September 18 and 19 Pilgrim will host a WELS school of stewardship. This workshop deals with developing a year-round stewardship culture within a congregation.

The workshop helps pastors and congregational leaders identify factors that influence God-pleasing stewardship and assist in developing plans to apply to their specific congregation. For more information contact Pastor Leyrer or register online at www.wels.net/jump/faithfinance

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first day of Sunday School will be September 13, the Sunday after Labor Day. Please call Barry or Joy Gostchock at 651-207-8387 or email at bgostchock@hotmail.com if you have any questions
Thanks so much!

Welcome Food Shower for our 3 new Pilgrim School teachers and Families!!

Sunday , September 20 at 9:30 am

- Luke, Jennifer, Aaron, and Leah Hartzell
- Andrew, Gina, and Jonah Kruse
- Nicole Chernohorsky

We are so happy to have them in our Pilgrim family and want to support them in a positive way as they start their ministries to us here at Pilgrim. Come and get to know our new teachers, and If you are able to welcome them with food gifts or gift cards to various local stores that would be a great blessing to them

Prison Ministry training

Recently Pastor Pete and Mark Santelman of WELS Prison ministry visited with the chaplain at Hennepin County jail. The chaplain was very receptive and would welcome our volunteers to come into the jail for various types of ministry. Because of this opportunity, WELS Prison ministry will conduct a training day at Pilgrim for anybody who would like to be trained and certified for this type of ministry. If you're at all interested or just have some questions, please contact Pastor Pete. The date for the training is Saturday September 26 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King [God] will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
--Jesus (Matthew 25:39-40)



Upcoming School Events for September

Upcoming events at Pilgrim for the month of September

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR UPCOMING EVENTS
AT PILGRIM LUTHERAN SCHOOL**



- + State Fair September 5 at 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- + Marathon September 12 at 9:30 a.m.
- + Grades K-4 Sing September 20 at 8:30 a.m.
- + Parent Group Kick Off September 23 at 5:30 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HABIT FOR HUMANITY SEPTEMBER 5, 2009

Volunteers are needed to work at the Habit for Humanity booth at the State Fair on Saturday, September 5, 2009. We have secured four 3 1/2 hour shifts, and nine to ten volunteers are needed per shift. We will receive \$500/shift x 4 = \$2,000 for the Pilgrim School Parent Group fund. If you would like to be a volunteer for this event, please contact Dr. Scott Gostchock at 612-825-5375 or Stephani LeFlore at 612-239-6243. Thank you!

TACKLE FOOTBALL AT ST. CROIX

Interested in playing on a tackle football team at St. Croix Lutheran High School this fall? All interested 7th and 8th grade boys should contact Carl Lemke at 651-455-1521, ext. 104.



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

August, 16th, 2009

This letter comes to you from Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in River Falls, Wisconsin.

As some of you may know, the Lord called home our beloved Pastor Paul Michael Schmeling this Memorial Day, May 25, 2009 at the age of 56. His final sermon was a beautiful presentation of the Gospel, typical of his preaching. (watch it at <http://www.vimeo.com/4812749>) As evidenced by this sermon, he was a true champion of the Christian faith and never wavered in his commitment to faithfully present the Word of God.

Pastor Schmeling was the son of Pastor Arlyn and Evelyn Schmeling and was married for 34 years to his wife Beth, raising 2 sons and 2 daughters. Beth served together with him as our preschool teacher the past 7 years. His oldest son Andrew is married with 3 children living in Wilsonville, Oregon. His younger son Benjamin is a Pastor, also married, with 2 children living in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. His oldest daughter Amy is married with 2 children living in Woodbury, Minnesota. And his youngest daughter Cara was just married to a pastor in training.

They were committed to Christian education, and paid to put their 4 children through St.Croix Lutheran High School, then through college, with Ben going on 4 more years to seminary. These generous acts of love left little for retirement. And living in parsonages, they never had the chance to purchase a home as most of us have. Pastor Schmeling expressed on several occasions his plans and efforts to make sure Beth would be financially secure if something were to happen to him and had been working diligently toward that end until the Lord called him home.

It is for this reason we are writing to you. Beth Schmeling currently has a call as our Preschool Teacher. She was very instrumental in founding the Preschool and has a passion for her work teaching the love of Jesus to God's children. She has always insisted her salary be kept to a minimum in order to keep tuition costs low. Since her husband's death, she has expressed a desire to continue in her call, but understands the reality of her situation. Soon a full-time Pastor will move his family into the parsonage and she will need a new home.

Our prayer in this matter is that the Lord provide for Beth, both spiritually and physically in her husband's absence. And as her brothers and sisters in Christ, we will continue to do all we can in both areas. It is our immediate desire to help provide financial security for Beth, continuing the efforts of her loving husband. Our goal is to raise enough money to help with the purchase of a home, which will allow her the freedom to continue serving the Lord in her current call.

To help meet our goal, we are looking for individuals, groups, and organizations to contribute. We pray you will consider helping us with this effort. Contributions of any amount will be gladly accepted. The Lord has richly blessed us all and is now giving us the opportunity to help a fellow Christian. If you have already given to Beth through another avenue, we sincerely thank you.

An account has been set up at **Westconsin Credit Union** in River Falls to hold your contributions. If you have any questions, please contact:

Matthew Rust – Trustee Chairman or Peter Stern - President
mrust@justifiedbyfaith.net president@justifiedbyfaith.net
715-426-5100 715-425-7373

Checks can be made out to: **Beth Schmeling Benefit**

And mailed to the church: **Faith Ev. Lutheran Church**
545 Apollo Road
River Falls, WI 54022

Please do not make checks out to the Church. We thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity, and wish you all God's blessings through our Lord and Savior Jesus.

In His name,

The Members of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

FAMILY FUN TIME

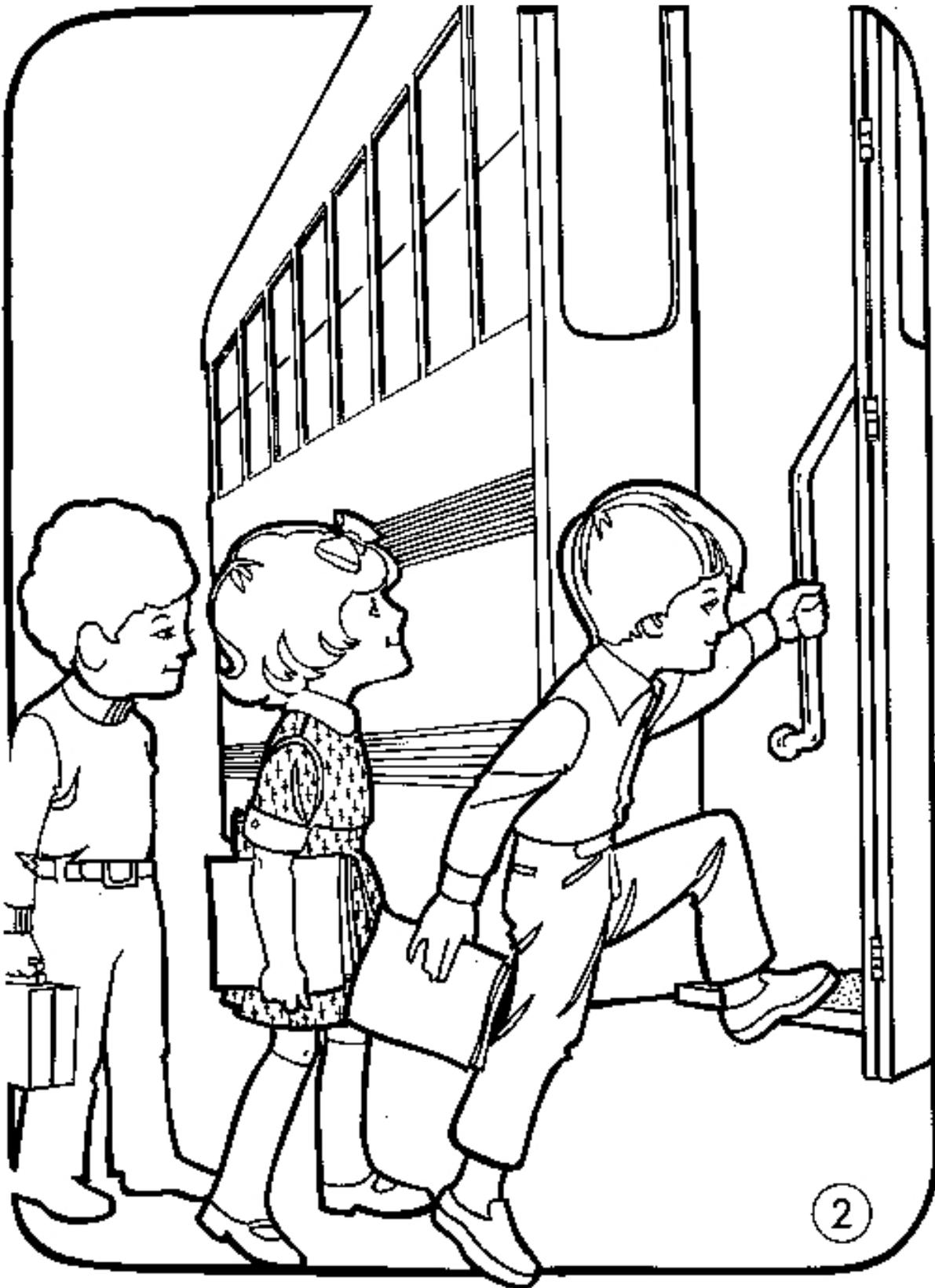
Fall Word Search

W A R T H A N K S G I V I N G
M S U N N E G N A H C Y D N A
Y S O A N D C H I L O L I Y R
B A C K T O S C H O O L B U E
R T T N G N I K A R L O E T T
E E O F R L E E Z A U T U M N
M I B N G N U I F N G H Q T I
M S E M Y A R F E G L T S H W
U E R I E D E A R E L C E O E
S N D I L V T I A O O B R N R
R S R F L O O V R M L R U A O
E K E I O N E N G S P O T E F
T C D T W S E A S O N W C A E
F C U L A R F A L L C N I O B
A H A L L O W E E N L O P R S

AFTER SUMMER
AUTUMN
BACK TO SCHOOL
BEFORE WINTER
BROWN
CHANGE
COLORFUL
COOL
FALLING
HALLOWEEN

LEAVES
NOVEMBER
OCTOBER
ORANGE
PICTURESQUE
RAKING
RED
SEASON
THANKSGIVING
YELLOW

CHILDRENS FUN TIME



I get on the bus in single file.



September 2009

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>School Committee</i> 5:30 p.m.	2 <i>Ladies Guild 12:00</i> <i>Worship Committee</i> 5:45 p.m. <i>Bible Study 6 p.m.</i> <i>Worship 7 p.m.</i>	3 <i>Pastor Shut-in</i> <i>Visits</i>	4 NO SCHOOL	5 <i>Pilgrim at the</i> <i>State Fair</i> 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
6 Worship Services: 8:30 Traditional 9:45 Fellowship 10:30 Contemporary	7 NO SCHOOL LABOR DAY	8 <i>Men's Bible Study</i> 6:30-7:30 a.m. <i>Council 7 p.m.</i>	9 <i>Bible Study 6 p.m.</i> <i>Worship 7 p.m.</i> <i>Parent Meeting</i> 6:30 p.m.	10 <i>Pastor Shut-in</i> <i>Visits</i>	11	12 <i>Women's Bible</i> <i>Study 9 a.m.</i> <i>School Marathon</i> 9:30-11:00 11:30 lunch/Pilgrim
13 Communion Services: 8:30 Traditional 9:45 Fellowship 10:30 Contemporary	14	15 <i>Men's Bible Study</i> 6:30-7:30 a.m.	16 <i>Bible Study 6 p.m.</i> <i>Worship 7 p.m.</i>	17 <i>Pastor Shut-in</i> <i>Visits</i>	18	19
20 Worship Services: 8:30 Traditional 9:45 Fellowship 10:30 Contemporary Welcome New Teachers 9:30	21	22 <i>Men's Bible Study</i> 6:30-7:30 a.m.	23 <i>Parent Group 5:30</i> <i>Bible Study 6 p.m.</i> <i>Worship 7 p.m.</i> <i>Evangelism Meeting</i> 7:30 p.m.	24	25	26 <i>Women's</i> <i>Bible Study</i> 9 a.m.
27 Communion Services: 8:30 Traditional 9:45 Fellowship 10:30 Contemporary	28	29 <i>Men's Bible Study</i> 6:30-7:30 a.m.	30 <i>Prepare and Enrich</i> <i>Bible Study 6 p.m.</i> <i>Worship 7 p.m.</i>			



September 2009

Pilgrim Lutheran School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 NO SCHOOL	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL LABOR DAY	8 8:00 am: School Resumes	9 9:30 am: Monday/Wednesday Preschool Begins	10 9:30 am: Tuesday/Thursday Preschool Begins	11	12 9:30 AM-11:00 AM: Pilgrim School Marathon at Lake Harriet
13	14	15 4:00 pm: Soccer at King of Grace 4:00 pm: Volleyball at King of Grace .	16	17 4:00 pm: Volleyball at Mount Olive Delano	18	19
20 Grades K-4 Sing at 8:30	21	22 4:00 pm: Soccer at Bloomington 4:00 pm: Volleyball at Pilgrim vs. Bloomington	23 5:30 pm: Parent Group Kick Off	24 4:00 pm: Soccer at Pilgrim vs Bethany Academy 4:00 pm: Volleyball at Pilgrim vs. Salem Greenfield	25	26
27	28	29 4:00 pm: Soccer at Good Shepherd 4:00 pm: Volleyball at Pilgrim vs. Good Shepherd	30			