



***Jesus says: “Unless you turn
and become like children,
you will never enter
the Kingdom of Heaven.”***

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Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU HERE! We are pleased that you have come to receive God's gift of forgiveness. Pentecost and the Sundays after Pentecost emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word and Sacraments in growing the Church, so we especially invite you to join us in our Bible Classes, as well as in all of our other activities. If you have no church home, you are cordially invited to consider making Pilgrim Lutheran Church your church home!

AS YOU ARRIVE, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

ORDER OF SERVICE: To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back. The Δ symbol before a hymn stanza indicates that it especially gives glory to the Triune God; we stand before singing the stanza and, in most cases, conclude the stanza by singing "Amen.", if an "Amen" is not already included.

HOLY COMMUNION: At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

INDIVIDUAL CUPS: The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2026 SEPTEMBER 06

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE (*Lutheran Service Book*, pp.151-166.)

+ + + IN THE NAME OF JESUS + + +

Catechesis	Section 3: Table of Duties (Of Civil Government)	328
Confession and Absolution (right column)		151

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Entrance Hymn:	"All Glory Be to God Alone"	948
Kyrie		152-153
Hymn of Praise:	"Gloria in Excelsis"	154
Salutation and Collect of the Day		156
Old Testament (& Response): Ezekiel 33:7-9		156
Psalm: Psalm 32:1-7 (antiphon: v. 1)		32
(Chant the Psalm responsively: the congregation sings the indented and bold portions. The indicated antiphon is sung both before the Psalm and after the <i>Gloria Patri</i> . See LSB xxvi for how the text and the tone correspond.)		
Epistle (& Response): Romans 13:1-10		156
Alleluia and Verse (Common)		156
Holy Gospel (& Responses): Matthew 18:1-20		157
Hymn of the Day:	"My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker"	820
Sermon		
Apostles' Creed		159
Prayer of the Church, Offering, & Offertory		159-160
 ... Lord, in your mercy,  hear our prayer. (Offerings placed in the Box in the Narthex before the Service are brought forward here.)		

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Proper Preface, Sanctus, Prayer of Thanksgiving, (right column)	160-163
Lord's Prayer, The Words of Our Lord, Pax Domini, & Agnus Dei	
Distribution (& Distribution Hymns):	164
"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"	622
"The Law of God Is Good and Wise"	579
"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"	843
Post-Communion Canticle	"Thank the Lord" 164
Post-Communion Collect & Benediction	166
Closing Hymn:	"There Is a Time for Everything" 762

+ + + TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY + + +

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 06, 2026

BEFORE THE SERVICE: As you greet and visit one another, please be sensitive to others who may wish an opportunity for silence to pray and otherwise to prepare for worship.

OFFERING BOX: Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box in the Narthex before or after services. Envelopes are available on the side of the Box for your use, such as if you would like your cash offering to be recorded, tracked, and receipted in a report back to you.

PEW CUSHIONS: If you would like to use a cushion either for your seat or for your seat and back, cushions for your use are available in the Usher's Closet off the north side of the Narthex.

PEW SLIPS: *Visitors*, please register your attendance both by completing a slip from rack on the back of the pews and placing them in the Offering Box in the Narthex and by signing the Guest Register at the door. *Members*, please complete a slip only if your contact information has changed or you have a new or updated prayer-list request. (The Usher tracks church attendance and communion participation.)

GROWING IN WORSHIP: Parents, please make use of the bulletins available in the Narthex for children aged 5-10, including the bulletins' activities for the whole week!

LARGER-PRINT/FLOW-THROUGH BINDERS are available in the Narthex for those who have trouble seeing the smaller-print of the hymnal, those with other special needs who cannot follow the liturgy in the hymnal or handle its weight, and those who are visiting Pilgrim who are not already familiar with liturgical services and/or our hymnal. If you need or otherwise want to use a flow-through and can help minimize paper and copying expenses, a PDF of the flow-through binder's contents is available in the upper-right corner of Pilgrim's homepage, www.pilgrimlc.org, to open on or to download to your electronic device.

PRAYER REQUEST: If you have a special petition for the Prayers of the Church, please notify the Usher, Elder on Duty, or Pastor before the service.

IF A NEED SHOULD ARISE, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Restrooms are available in the Parish Hall (non-ADA Restrooms are available in the Office Area, one with a change table), and there is a Cry Room (also with a change table) off the south side of the Narthex. Let the Usher or Elder-on-Duty know if you need assistance or supplies.

Announcements continue from the front of this insert.

LAST WEEK: There were 0 students but 1 teacher prepared for Sunday School; 12 people were present in-person for Adult Bible Class, and 2 devices were connected via Jitsi; 32 people were present in-person for the Sunday Divine Service (25 communed), and 9 devices streamed the Service live via YouTube; 1 catechumen was present in-person for the Tuesday afternoon youth class; 3 people were present in-person for Midweek Bible Study, and 1 device was connected via Jitsi; 2 catechumens (and 1 observer) connected via Jitsi for Thursday-afternoon catechesis; and 3 people were present in-person for Thursday-evening catechesis.

THANKS: to all those caring for the inside and outside of Pilgrim's facilities; to all those helping with the video and audio for classes and services; to Rev. Adler for the use of his chasubles; and to Ellen Menconi for her Church Office work.

SERVING TODAY: The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Carl Gardner, Elder on Duty; and Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

LIFE THOUGHTS: A child, maybe even one just recently born, served Jesus as an object lesson of who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 18:1-20). They should not be caused to sin or to fall from faith, nor should they be despised. Yet, even sins against them can be forgiven those who are sorry for them and trust God to forgive them for Jesus's sake, forgiveness that comes through His Church.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: "Pay to all what is owed them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed" (Romans 13:1-10). Part of the Divinely-inspired St. Paul's rationale is that the governing authorities are God's ministers. If the governing authorities are God's ministers, how much more are the churchly authorities God's ministers? How much more should we freely give of that with which God has blessed us in order to support the work of those ministers of God among us?

AS YOU DEPART, please be mindful of those who are ushered out behind you, who may have difficulty standing and waiting, and so who may need an open path to the door and to get to their cars quickly. If you stop to talk to someone in the Sanctuary, please keep the aisle as clear as possible, and please delay lengthier conversations with the pastor until after he has greeted everyone. Thank you for your consideration!

Announcements continue on the inside of this insert.

AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX are hardcopies of Pastor Galler's recent newspaper columns (including his 09/05 column titled, "A good education needs Biblical accounts taught objectively"); *Portals of Prayer* for October-November 2026; the September 2026 edition of Pilgrim's monthly newsletter, *The Pilgrimage*; the latest Church Directory (dated 2026/08/27 and printed on ivory paper); the larger-print schedule of Daily Bible Reading for August and September; Pilgrim's Constitution, Bylaws, and updated Standing Rules; Issue #16 (Autumn 2025) of *Christian Culture: A printed Magazine for Lutherans* from Luther Classical College; and Pilgrim's Funeral Planning Worksheet for completing, discussing with Pastor Galler, and filing in the Church Office.

"THE 15-2 FOLK" will gather today, after the Divine Service, in the Great Room of the Parish Hall, for heavy snacking and Cribbage playing. All are welcome to stay for the heavy snacking, even if not staying for the Cribbage playing! If you do not know how to play Cribbage, they will teach you! You can stay also to observe the games or just to visit with those playing them.

2027 BUDGET PIECES are "due" to Pilgrim's Treasurer Debbie Shockley today, so that she can put the draft budget together and it can be distributed by next Sunday and then discussed when the Church Council meets as the Budget Committee Sunday, September 27, after the Divine Service.

PASTOR'S VACATION: Pastor Galler's third week of his five weeks of 2026 vacation begins after the Divine Service today and continues through midday Tuesday, September 15. An Elder will monitor the Church Phone and contact the on-call pastor if needed. Catechesis and Midweek Bible Study will not be held while Pastor Galler is away, but Divine Service will be offered on September 13.

RIGHT TO LIFE EAST TEXAS is having a booth at the annual Gregg County Fair in Longview through this Saturday. If you want to volunteer to help at the booth, please call Pat Smith at 903-240-1635 in order to schedule a time slot. They say that they will tell you what to do while at the booth.

HELP NEEDED: Pilgrim urgently needs a Financial Secretary, a Facilities Coordinator, and an Inreach Coordinator, and we also could use another Elder and a Vice-President. If you are willing to take on such responsibility on a temporary interim or regular term basis, please speak with Acting-President Remo Gualtieri or Pastor Galler. Thank you for prayerfully considering the congregation's needs as you serve God and neighbor!

Announcements continue on the back of this insert.

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NEXT SUNDAY: 9:15 a.m. Refreshments; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class ("Scriptural Proof of the Divinity of Jesus"); and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service.

Readings: Gen 50:15-21; Ps 103:1-12; Ro 14:1-12; and Mt 18:21-35.

Hymns: LSB 606, 501, 641, 758, 843, and 685.

Prepare yourself for worship in advance by praying about, reading over, and meditating on the appointed Scripture Readings and Hymns.

"SCRIPTURAL PROOF OF THE DIVINITY OF JESUS": If someone challenged you with the opinion that Jesus was just a good man who never claimed to be God, how would you respond? In Adult Bible Class next Sunday, Pastor Adler will teach about the "Scriptural Proof of the Divinity of Jesus", giving us an abundance of Biblical texts to disprove the notion that Jesus was just a man. We will discover how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament Scriptures' promise of the God coming to His people. Then we will see how the New Testament portrays Jesus's Divine identity using words that the Old Testament had used only for God. Finally, we will learn how the roles of God in the Old Testament are attributed to Jesus in the New Testament. Join us, won't you?

PILGRIM'S MARY/MARTHA SOCIETY will gather next on Sunday, September 20, after the Divine Service, in order to share lunch and to continue its study of the Women of the Bible, focusing on Dinah, who was defiled (Genesis 34:1-31). All women are invited and welcome to attend!

HOW ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE PILGRIM IN 2027? Pilgrim's nomination process for next year is underway. Please pray about your serving the congregation in an official capacity during 2027, and then please speak to Acting-President Remo Gualtieri, Elders' Chair Carl Gardner, or Pastor Galler about how you would like to serve. How should God keep Pilgrim's doors open if no one is willing to fill necessary positions?

ELECTRONIC OFFERINGS: Although Pilgrim does not pay to receive online offerings, some Pilgrim members make use of services such as a "bill pay" through their financial institutions, EFT/ACH (Electronic Funds Transfer/Automatic Clearing House transactions) from their employers, and Zelle (www.zellepay.com). If you need help setting up such an electronic offering, contact Pilgrim Treasurer Debbie Shockley, either by emailing treasurer@pilgrimlc.org or calling or texting 903-922-8209.

HELPING HANDS: Use the bin below the Guest Register in the Narthex in order to contribute to Kilgore's food pantry that we help support.