



THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas
March 2018

We glorify God by receiving the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and sharing that salvation through word and deed with those in our midst, in our community, and throughout the world.

The Christian Faith: Smorgasboard or Set Menu?

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

I do not normally listen to contemporary Christian radio, but recently I happened to be in someone else's vehicle when such a station was on, and I heard the announcer refer to the Bible as God the Father's directions to His children to live successful lives. Is that really what the Bible is? If that is the case, perhaps there is more truth than I want to admit in the new CBS-TV situation comedy titled "Living Biblically", which premieres Monday, February 26, at 8:30 p.m. CST (one of the executive producers is Johnny Galecki, who plays Leonard on "The Big Bang Theory"). In the show, a man decides to live by the letter of the Old Testament ceremonial and civil law. An online review of the show from the trade publication *Variety* says, "Believe it or not, there is something quite charming about the sitcom." The same review also calls the show "hilariously inaccurate", and, while we might agree on the description "inaccurate", we probably would not be talking about the same inaccuracies, nor would we probably think that they were that funny.

A LifeSiteNews blog post, for example, points out how the character on the show "is every negative stereotype falsely associated with Christians, particularly judgmentalism, violence, and an eagerness to condemn others." The post identifies the show's "main problem" as its treating the ceremonial and civil laws given to the people of Israel when they were their own nation under their own king as if they were the timeless and universal moral laws of the Ten Commandments, specifically "in order to mock the entire Bible as foolish, laughable, and impossible." With such an identification of "living Biblically" as *following the law* that primarily shows us our sins, the show may not even get to *proclaiming the Gospel* of the forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus Christ, what I, with Jesus Himself (for example, John 5:39), would say the Bible is really about.

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The Bible is clear at least on everything that needs to be known for salvation, though there may be some things the Bible says that not everyone will or needs to understand and agree on. That lack of clarity on our part cannot become the basis for relativism, however. In his book *On Being a Christian: A Personal Confession* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1996), Dr. Henry Hamann writes, “I am a Lutheran because I am a Christian”, and he unpacks that statement’s four assertions: “(1) that the Christian faith is clearly revealed, (2) that it can be grasped and understood, (3) that it can be accurately stated, taught, and confessed, and (4) that this has been done in traditional Lutheranism.” Hamann recognizes that serious members of other religious traditions should think exactly the same way about their views and says he only respects “those who take seriously their own view of Christianity and that of Christians who disagree with them”. He says aptly, “The big enemy of true Christian faith is compromise, toleration, the spirit that we *all* are right—as if the important thing is not to be Lutheran but to be Christian without any denominational confession whatever.” (See especially pp.11-12.)

How many of us agree with Dr. Hamann? Do we take seriously the confession we made, when we were Confirmed or joined the Church, of the faithfulness and truth of the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures? Or, do we think of the teachings of the Bible believed, taught, and confessed by Lutherans from the sixteenth century on, not to mention the true Church before them, as some sort of smorgasboard or buffet or cafeteria line from which one can pick and choose?

Recently I came across Pew Research Center data of 459 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod members surveyed of whom reportedly only 80% are absolutely certain of their belief in God, only 44% say there are clear standards for what is right and wrong, as many as 11% say the Bible is not the word of God, as many as 56% say homosexuality should be accepted, as many as 45% strongly favor same-sex marriage, and only 45% say humans always existed in their present form, as opposed to evolving (the survey’s margin of error is +/- 6 percentage points). Maybe we should be glad the survey apparently did not ask whether Jesus Christ was true God and true man, Who was born, crucified, and rose again to save us from our sins, only by grace through faith in Him, apart from our own works. I shudder to think what the results of those survey questions might have been!

True Biblical living is living each and every day, not only in Lent but always, with sorrow over our sin and trust in God to forgive our sin for Jesus’s sake. Such trust is certain of God’s existence and takes seriously the Bible as His Word and holds it to be true and clear not only about such things as the immorality of homosexuality (and so also same-sex “marriage”) and about the origin of the universe and human life (Hebrews 11:3!) but also about everything it teaches. Those truly living Biblically do not pick and choose what to believe, teach, and confess, but believe, teach, and confess it all, as a set menu where the Host has picked the items for them, to the salvation of their bodies and souls and to the glory of His Holy Name!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

Happy Anniversary!

19 – George B. and Jeanette Heil



Lent 2018: Snapshots of Repentance



The entirety of March 2018 falls in the season of Lent, during which season we prepare by repentance for our celebration of *Easter*. To that end, in our special midweek services this Lent, we are considering “snapshots of repentance”, examples, in this case, from the Old Testament, of both repentance and forgiveness of sins, examples that are not only *instructive* but also *comforting* for us today. The following are those that occur in March.

- Lent III (03/07): Jonah (Jonah 1:1-16)
- Lent IV (03/14): Daniel (Daniel 9:1-23)
- Lent V (03/21): Ezra (Ezra 9:1-10:17)
- Maundy Thursday (03/29): Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:1-35:19)
- Good Friday (03/30): High Priest (Leviticus 16:1-34)

The 40-day season of Lent is based in part on special 40-day periods known from the Bible, such as Jesus’s 40 days in the wilderness after His baptism resisting the devil’s temptation (for example, Mark 1:12-13, part of the Gospel Reading for The First Sunday in Lent). Lent is often said to be a time to reflect on baptism, a time for rebirth and renewal, for the discipline of learning and growing in faith, and for repentance and prayer. (The purple paraments used during Lent in part symbolize penitence and self-discipline.) More than anything, however, Lent prepares us for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations of the mystery of our redemption by the death and resurrection of the God-man Jesus Christ.

In our special Midweek Lenten Vespers services at 7:00 p.m., between Lenten and Evening hymns, we also sing and pray penitential Psalms, hear Readings related to repentance, continue the sermon series “Snapshots of Repentance”, and pray the Litany, especially suited to Lent, given its penitential character. Thanks to volunteers under the direction of our Inreach Coordinator, the Midweek Vespers will be preceded by a light supper served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The last week of Lent is Holy Week, during which we offer a Maundy Thursday Divine Service on March 29, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. and a Good Friday Divine Service on March 30, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. The Maundy Thursday Divine Service notably includes a treasured form of

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confessional examination and ends with the Stripping of the Altar, and the Good Friday Divine Service includes the historic Bidding Prayer, Procession of the Cross, Reproaches, and Adoration of Christ.

Although not strictly-speaking a part of Lent, the following are March 2018's Sundays in Lent and their Gospel Readings (appointed by *Lutheran Service Book's* three-year lectionary series B, which largely uses the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, though less evidently this season).

- Third Sunday (03/04): Jesus prophesies of His death and resurrection (John 2:13-22)
- Fourth Sunday (03/11): Jesus brings salvation and judgment (John 3:14-21)
- Fifth Sunday (03/18): Jesus serves by giving His life as a ransom for all (Mark 10:35-45)
- Sixth Sunday (03/25): Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem to die (Mark 11:1-11)

You may want to mark April 01 on your calendars (no fooling!) for our Easter services: "Sonrise" Matins at 7:00 a.m. and Divine Service at 10:45 a.m. In between will be an Easter Breakfast, an Egg Hunt, and the Education Hour with Sunday School and Adult Bible Class.

All are invited and welcome to any of our activities in person or to read and hear the sermons at Pilgrim from any and every season of the Church Year online at www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons.

Pastor Galler

The image of Job repenting used in the slider graphic and the banner on the top of this page was found uncredited online and was adapted for our use by Paul Guinn, whom we hereby thank.

Betty Miller moves back to Michigan

Betty Miller, who became a member of Pilgrim on November 29, 2009, moved back to Midland, Michigan where her daughter Deborah and extended family live. Moving to Michigan was a plan formulated by Betty and her family soon after her husband Wayne departed this earth in December, but the departure date was moved ahead abruptly by her daughter's concern for Betty's being alone. Although the bulletin was already printed before we learned of Betty's hasty departure date, Pastor Galler was prepared to bid Farewell and Godspeed to Betty at the end of the Divine Service on February 18th, but her health did not allow her to attend church that day. If you choose to send a card or letter to her some time, her new address is as follows:



c/o Debbie Atchinson
2833 Monroe Rd
Midland, MI 48642-7251
Home phone: 989-835-9980

When here our pathways part, / We suffer bitter pain;
Yet one in Christ and one in heart, / We hope to meet again.

—LSB 649:4

MARCH EVENTS

LWML QUILTING BEE is Monday, March 5th at 5:30 p.m. in Room 4 of the Parish Hall.

LWML MEETING/ SUPPER/ BIBLE STUDY is Monday, March 5th at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room/Library.

LIGHT SUPPERS will be served starting at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday before the Midweek Lenten Vespers Services. (The kitchen will close at 6:30 so that “cooks” may clean up before Vespers.) Sign-up in the Narthex to help with a meal.

MIDWEEK LENTEN VESPERS are Wednesdays March 7th, 14th, and 21st at 7:00 p.m. Pastor’s Midweek Sermon Series for Lent is “Snapshots of Repentance”.

SPECIAL SATURDAY VESPERS on March 10th at 1:00 P.M. will include the wedding of Jeromy McMurray and Tina Stephens. The members of Pilgrim are invited to attend the service and celebrate their marriage in the reception following in the Parish Hall.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME: Spring your clock forward one hour on Saturday night before coming to Sunday School and Adult Bible Class and the Divine Service on Sunday, March 11th.

ELDERS will meet on Tuesday, March 13th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. (The reading assignment transitions to the Treatise, pp.286-294.)

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY is scheduled for Saturday March, 17th, beginning at 9:00 a.m., weather permitting. Watch for other details in the bulletin. (The rain date is March 31st.)

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the April *Pilgrimage* will be due Sunday, March 18th.

SAVE THE DATE of Saturday, March 24th, for another possible special service at Pilgrim with another possible wedding.

PALM SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICE on March 25th will begin at 10:45 a.m. outside (weather permitting) and proceed into the Sanctuary.

MAUNDY THURSDAY DIVINE SERVICE is March 29th, at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY DIVINE SERVICE is March 30th, at 7:00 p.m.

SPRING WORKDAY ALTERNATE DATE is March 31st, in case of rain on March 17th



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

- 01 – Devin Landry
- 02 – Ross Land
- 05 – Olene Herricks
- 10 – Phoenix Murrill
- 13 – Cooper Sampson
- 15 – Ansleigh Heil
- 16 – Brady Gage
- 21 – Tina McMurray
- 27 – Grace Morton

February photos show work, fun, and more



On Monday, February 5th, members of Pilgrim's LWML Society worked on their first quilt in a while, since their room was finally organized well enough and Edgar Wuthrich had helped create a large enough surface. (Above left) Gwen Rittenberry, Jeanna Watts, and Tina Stephens use LWML-purple napkins as guides for the running stitches. (Above right) Sharon Sampson, Jeanette Paetznick, Debbie Smith, and Kathy Hudson do the same.

(Far right) Sunday School Children of all ages added their personal crosses to the new second banner for Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent, created by Elaine Navaille and Barbara Wuthrich. The small white crosses indicate that they are personally recreated through Jesus's death on the cross. Elaine had read about the idea of individuals painting their own crosses, and, although we did not request congregation's involvement in the first banner with the black crosses (near right), we included the youth in the second banner which was finalized in time for this Ash Wednesday, February 14th.



(Right) On Wednesday, February 21st, we had our first Midweek Lenten Meal for 2018, and, although the rainy weather may have kept some from participating in the meal, those who came in time enjoyed their supper of spaghetti. Pictured are Carl Gardner, Jeanna Watts (cook and hostess), and Cooper and Angela Sampson, visiting at the serving counter. More brave souls than those pictured made the wet drive to attend the Midweek Lenten Vespers Service, at which attendance totaled 25. Services will be held February 28th, March 7th, 14th, and 21st, and you can volunteer to help with the meal by signing up in the Narthex.

Photos: Barbara Wuthrich.



1	Isaiah 64:1-9
	Numb. 16-18
2	Psalm 85
	Numb. 19-21
3	Psalm 86
	Numb. 22-24
4	Psalm 87
	Numb. 25-27
5	Psalm 88
	Numb. 28-30
6	Psalm 89
	Numb. 31-33
7	Psalm 90
	Numb. 34-36
8	Psalm 91
	Deut. 1-3
9	Psalm 92
	Deut. 4-6
10	Psalm 93
	Deut. 7-9
11	Psalm 94
	Deut. 10-12
12	Psalm 95
	Deut. 13-15
13	Psalm 96
	Deut. 16-18
14	Psalm 97
	Deut. 19-21
15	Psalm 98
	Deut. 22-24
16	Psalm 99
	Deut. 25-27
17	Psalm 100
	Deut. 28-30
18	Psalm 101
	Deut. 31-34
19	Psalm 102
	Luke 1
20	Psalm 103
	Luke 2-3
21	Psalm 104
	Luke 4-5
22	Psalm 105
	Luke 6-7
23	Psalm 106
	Luke 8-9
24	Psalm 107
	Luke 10-11
25	Psalm 108
	Luke 12-13
26	Psalm 109
	Luke 14-15
27	Psalm 110
	Luke 16-17
28	Psalm 111
	Luke 18-19
29	Psalm 112
	Luke 20-21
30	Psalm 113
	Luke 22
31	Isaiah 64:1-9
	Luke 23-24

Daily Bible Reading generates more Q&A

Maybe as part of your Lenten discipline you can add time to read a Biblical canticle or Psalm and a few chapters of a Biblical book every day. If you keep that up through and after Lent, you will get through the whole Bible in one year and God will bless you along the way! Some people connected with Pilgrim are so in God’s Word on a daily basis, following the Daily Lectionary from our former hymnal, *Lutheran Worship* (pp.295-299), which schedule for March is reprinted at left and in larger-print available in the Narthex. I am always glad to answer questions from the assigned or any other Daily Reading, such as the following.

Q: In Mark 12:17, we hear Jesus’s famous “Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” Did the Romans consider Jesus a political threat? Here and elsewhere, Jesus’s teachings call for living harmoniously with worldly authorities, but He clearly caused quite an uproar that I’m sure the Romans wouldn’t have liked.

A: In Mark 12:17 (and its parallel passages in Matthew 22:15-22 and Luke 20:20-26), Jesus does teach, as St. Paul does in Romans 13:1-7 (which almost seems to be commentary on Jesus’s teaching), that we, His followers, should submit to worldly authorities, provided, of course that they do not tell us to do something contrary to God’s commands (see how the disciples respond to the Jewish leaders in Acts 4:19 and 5:29). Other than by advocating a different religious system than what the Romans advocated (and gave evidence to on their coins), Jesus hardly was a political threat to the Romans, although at least Pontius Pilate perceived the Jews as enough of a threat to his personal political career to accede to their demand to have Jesus crucified. What amounted to “not guilty” verdicts from Herod and Pilate in Jesus’s case, as well as from other worldly authorities in St. Paul’s case, also suggest that Christianity itself was not perceived as a *political* threat, though later officials, prior to the legalization of Christianity, saw *religious* problems with those who were martyred (although admittedly the two were intertwined at the time), and, for all practical purposes, we are increasingly returning to that pre-Christian era in how worldly authorities regard as rebellious faithful Christians now. May God keep us faithful unto death that we may receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10)!

Q: Jesus confirms the resurrection in Mark 12:18-27 to the Sadducees, who did not believe in the afterlife, heaven or hell. Even modern Judaism, as I understand, does not accept the existence of hell. Is there no Old Testament basis for our binary concept of heaven and hell? Is Jesus teaching something entirely new here and in Mark 9:42-8, where he explicitly juxtaposes the Kingdom of God with “the unquenchable fire”?

A: That teaching about the resurrection is important enough to also be found in Matthew 22:23-33 and Luke 20:27-38. The Sadducees held to less of the Old Testament, but Jesus noticeably uses passages from the part that they did hold as He tries to convince them that people whose

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bodies were dead remained alive (specifically, He used Exodus 3:1-6, 15). Although some Bible “scholars” argue otherwise, with Jesus I would say that, even though different words might be used at times with different senses, our concepts of heaven and hell are consistently taught in both the Old and the New Testament (even if the revelation about them increased more over time), but clearly not everyone agrees. The bodies of all the dead may rest in the



grave, but their souls are immediately in the place where they will be for eternity, reunited with their bodies after the Last Day. At a minimum there is a Scriptural—if not also a logical—necessity to believe in both heaven *and* hell, though, modern Judaism aside, even many so-called Christian denominations do not profess belief in both. And, furthermore, we must be careful of casting stones, for even though the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod confesses belief in both heaven and hell, the Pew Research Center found that only 88% of LCMS members it surveyed professed belief in heaven and only 75% professed belief in hell (+/- 6 percentage points). May God forgive our failures to faithfully confess the truth of His word!

Q: In reading passages such as Exodus 22:28 and Numbers 15:30 in the NIV, I came across the topic of “blasphemy” and wondered if you could help me understand more about it.

A: Funny, but my quick search of the ESV for English words related to “blasphemy” did not bring up those two verses but rather six others in the Old Testament, behind which were four different Hebrew words, used a combined total of some 119 times, though not always with a sense related to blasphemy. Relevant ideas common to those four Hebrew words are cursing, reviling, making light, treating with contempt, and bringing dishonor. When God and His elect, Whom someone previously may have been favorably disposed to or been serving, come to be treated negatively through such things as disobedience, rebellion, rejection, and unbelief, then that is blasphemy. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Greek words behind our English word “blasphemy” translate most of those four Hebrew words at one time or another. What is called blasphemy in these cases are such things as disputing His saving power, desecrating His Name, violating His glory by deriding Him and those things that are His, or depreciating God in human arrogance. In the New Testament, those same Greek words consistently relate to violating the power and majesty of God by disregarding His Name, Word, and messengers. We can appreciate to some extent that the Jews thought Jesus’s claiming to be God was blasphemy, but we know better that true blasphemy is not recognizing those claims as legitimate! Ultimately, blasphemy that persists cannot be forgiven (Matthew 12:31-33; Mark 3:28-30; Luke 12:10) because the blasphemer rejects the very means of receiving forgiveness. With the First Petition of the Lord’s Prayer in mind, we pray, “Protect us from this, heavenly Father!”

Everyone’s questions about the Bible are always welcome! I usually call for questions on the Daily Reading at the beginning of Adult Bible Class each Sunday, but you can just ask however and whenever you like!

Pastor Galler

God is speaking by His Spirit, / Speaking to our hearts again,
In the ageless Word declaring / His own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations / One sure faith yet standing fast;
God abides, His Word unchanging; / God the first, and God the last.

—LSB 583:3

Good trees bear the good fruit of first-fruit offerings

Hudson Taylor, a nineteenth-century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or, to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Doctrine (that is, teaching) matters. And, doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And, the Scriptures matter because they are from where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture, so that our work is what God wants done, and so that we do this work in His way.



A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught and receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it.

God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned, “on the mount of the Lord it will be provided” (Genesis 22:14). The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return. Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him.

When budgetary concerns pop up, our natural reaction is to point fingers. But, remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance.

Budgetary concerns should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts are taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And, God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless to Him” (2 Chronicles 16:9 ESV).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season (Psalm 145:15). He has not left you as orphans (John 14:18), but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember these truths, letting them dwell in you richly. And, you will then be rich toward others.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, / May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life undending/ Heaven’s love and joy and peace.

—LSB 691:4

Special donations sought for Easter lilies

Easter lilies are being pre-ordered from our local New Generation Farms. (Additional plants may be purchased closer to the date.) Prices are \$7.50 for a 6” pot with a single plant (+ \$0.50/pot cover) or \$22.50 for a 10” pot with three plants (+ \$1.50 pot cover). If you are interested in donating above your regular offering in order to pay for these, please indicate your designation on your check or envelope. Also, please contact the office if you would be willing to pick these up and deliver them to the church in time for the Easter morning services.



Pilgrim’s year-to-date plate offerings and expenses reported

Following a request from Pilgrim’s Board of Elders, Pilgrim’s Treasurer reports the following figures for 2018 through February 22st (7 of 52 weeks):

Undesignated Plate Offerings received:	\$16,033.34
Undesignated Plate Offerings projected:	\$17,500.00 (for deficit budgets)
Actual accrued expenses:	\$19,150.08
Projected expenses per budget:	\$21,253.06

(7/52 of the total for the year under the austerity budget)

*Tyler Watts
Treasurer*

More CEF investments can increase Pilgrim’s rebate

Our investing more with the Texas District Church Extension Fund can increase Pilgrim’s rebate of interest on the loan for our Parish Hall. As of the end of January 2018, Pilgrim’s supporting investments totaled \$60,354, or 19% of our loan balance of \$320,808. At that percentage, we are earning a rebate of 0.10%, but if the percentage were 25%, we could earn a rebate of 0.25%! Can we come up with another \$19,848 in investments to more than double our rebate? Do you have additional funds you want to invest with CEF? Check out the March 2018 rates below and see Pilgrim’s trained CEF rep Sarah Land with your questions or for more information.



March
2018

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Fixed Rate</u> ⁽²⁾		<u>Floating Rate</u> ⁽²⁾	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note ⁽¹⁾	2.000%	2.02%	1.875%	1.89%
Three Year Note ⁽¹⁾	2.250%	2.27%	2.250%	2.27%
Five Year Note ⁽¹⁾	2.500%	2.52%	2.500%	2.52%
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%
<u>Accounts For Congregations</u>				
Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund Savings			2.500%	2.53%

All individual Texas District CEF investments (FLEX, fixed and floating rate notes) may be included in a person’s IRA portfolio, through our custodian GoldStar Trust Company. www.texascef.org/ira.html
(1) Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. (2) Rates subject to change. Rates reviewed monthly. Texas District Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, CEF investments are not SIPC- or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by CEF’s Offering Circular.

Texas Church Extension Fund
 1-888-951-1233 www.TexasCEF.org
www.facebook.com/texascef

Please pray as our congregation has been requested to pray



The following are the petitions requested of our congregation that we usually include in the Prayer of the Church in the Divine Service, as well as encourage our members to make in their own personal prayers. If you are not presently receiving prayer updates by email or phone call and desire to do so, please let Pastor Galler know (likewise let Pastor Galler know if you are receiving them and wish not to receive them). If you initially made one of the requests below, please regularly keep Pastor Galler updated as to the status of the request so that he can update the congregation. Thank you!

**CHRISTIANS BEING PERSECUTED WORLDWIDE
LCMS, DISTRICT, AND CIRCUIT, PASTORS AND PEOPLE**

Vacancies at Our Savior, Centerville, and St. Peter, Gun Barrel City

OUR PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Faithful stewardship of God's gifts

**THOSE UNCONVERTED AND WHO HAVE STRAYED FROM THE FAITH
THOSE DEALING WITH TEMPTATIONS AND SINS RELATED TO SEXUALITY
FOR AN END TO THE EVILS OF ABORTION
PEACE AND UNITY IN THE WORLD AND COUNTRY**

MEN IN THE SERVICE:

Victor Guinn (Paul Guinn's son, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton)
George C. Heil (our member, at Naval base in Virginia)
Brian Holcombe (Carolyn Holcombe's son assigned to a base in Japan)
Nick Modisette (George and Jeanette Heil's nephew, sailing with the Navy in the Pacific)

THOSE IN POLICE, FIRE, AND CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENTS

THOSE WHO TRAVEL:

Brady Gage
David Navaille
Charles Rittenberry
Edgar Wuthrich

SHUT-IN/HOMEBOUND:

Gwen Heil (our member, in the Carriage Inn Assisted Living in Katy)
Don Nicol (our member, at home in Henderson, not really able to come to church)
Leroy Thomas (our member, at Arbor Grace, formerly Kilgore Health and Rehab)

THOSE WHO NEED HEALING:

Steve Atchinson (Betty Miller's grandson, still learning how to use his prosthetic hand)
Mozelle Barton (Connie Wilburn's friend, still has a long way to go fighting her cancer)
Linda Davis (Paul Guinn's friend, chemotherapy for breast cancer resumes in March)
Sandra Davis (George B.'s coworker Misty Hill's mother, lung cancer chemo starts 2/26)
Betty Gage (Brady's stepmother, still not back to work after 12/14 shoulder surgery)
Marty Griffin (Shannon's niece's father-in-law, chemo for bone cancer is complete)
Carolyn Holcombe (our organist, seeing doctor 2/23 after hand surgery 02/13)
Vernell Hooge (Paul's mother, heart catheterization 2/1, new medicine for 3 months)
Kathy Jennings (Remo and Kathy's friend, still has ups and downs)
Jo Johnsey (Sallye Key's mother, condition reportedly worsening)
Jerome Key (our member, apparently scheduled for additional testing)
Sallye Key (our member, re-broken ribs)

Prayer list continues on the following page.

Prayer list continues from the preceding page.

David Landry (our member, better and worse days with Ankylosing Spondylitis)
Dennis Martin (Navailles' friend, recovering in a hospital from a broken pelvis)
Bill Nix (Sampsons' neighbor, hospitalized in Tyler after stroke and hemorrhage)
Nellie Shubert (Arcele's brother Chuck's sister-in-law, at the Willows)
David Smith (our member, rehab at Genesis Claremont, pending kidney transplant)
Ronnie Stover (Angela's friend Sherri Lilly's friend, cancer and blood clots)
Donny Joe Thomas (Arcele's neighbor and friend, heart catheterization week of 2/25)
Spencer Thompson (Connie's friend, 2/22 scan showed improvement in lung cancer)
Tracy Tippitt (Arcele Wilburn's niece, dealing with a blood clot in her leg)
Mark Tucker (Sarah's brother-in-law, could not continue chemo, may have surgery)
Harold Wilburn (Arcele's brother-in-law, dementia seems about the same right now)
Robert Wiles (Betty Miller's nephew, untreatable cancer, remains on a feeding tube)
Wendy Wright (Connie's friend, having trouble recovering from gall bladder surgery)

THOSE IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

EXPECTANT MOTHERS:

Dana Freeman (our member, due in July)
Amelia Jackson (Watts Family relative, due July 15)

FAMILIES IN CRISIS OR NEED AND ALL FAMILIES:

Adams Family (Bianca's heavy load at school)
Herricks Family (God's guidance for our member Olene and her son Joe)
Key Family (right regard for God's Means of Grace)
Landry Family (ongoing home and employment transitions)
Mayhall Family (Sarah Land's sister's family, struggling with her divorce)
Watts Family (Tyler's job search and related decisions for the family)

Lutherans for Life needs our help

Lutherans for Life recently made a special appeal to our congregation for financial support.

You may not be aware that Lutherans for Life is the only nationwide ministry providing Gospel-centered life education, training, counseling, and materials from a Lutheran perspective to congregations, pastors, church leaders, and lay members. (Pilgrim, for example, regularly publishes in its Sunday Bulletin Lutherans for Life's "Life Thoughts", life-centered reflections on that Sunday's Readings appointed by the three-year lectionary series.) Lutherans for Life makes a difference, as the organization hears countless stories about how their work maintains a Biblical view of sexual purity, helps decide against having an abortion, provides comfort after a past abortion, and deals compassionately with end-of-life issues.

More than 95% of Lutherans for Life income comes from gifts; the organization has no tuition, fees, insurance reimbursement, or subsidies that it can rely on. (Thrivent Financial eliminated its funding of the organization in 2014 and will not restore it to Lutherans for Life.) You can make a gift online at www.lutheransforlife.org or by mailing it to the following address: Lutherans for Life, 1101 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201



APRIL EVENTS

EASTER SUNDAY ACTIVITIES APRIL 1st (No fooling!): 7:00 a.m. “Son-rise” Matins; 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Parish Hall (cooked by men of the congregation); 9:00 Easter Egg Hunt; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class; and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service .

LWML QUILTING BEE is Monday, April 2nd at 5:30 p.m. in Room 4 of the Parish Hall.

LWML MEETING/ SUPPER/ BIBLE STUDY is Monday, April 2nd at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room/Library.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY resumes Wednesday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library and continues each Wednesday throughout the month with our “Salvation History is our Story”, which will pick up the events of Jesus’s ministry where we left off in February.

COUNCIL REPORTS ARE DUE Sunday, April 8th, so they can be assembled and studied before the meeting on April 15th.

ELDERS will likely meet on Tuesday, April 10th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. (The reading assignment will be announced closer to the meeting.)

REGULAR QUARTERLY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING on Sunday, April 15th, at 12:30 p.m. in the Great Room.

PILGRIM’S NEIGHBORHOOD “SPRING THING” is Saturday, April 21st. See the article below and watch for more details in the bulletins and April *Pilgrimage*.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the May *Pilgrimage* may be due Sunday, April 22nd.

19th QUARTERLY BLOOD DRIVE: 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 28th, in the Parish Hall.

5th SUNDAY MEAL will be Sunday, April 29th. Plan to bring food to share for a scrumptious meal immediately following the Divine Service and lots of time to visit afterwards.



“Spring Thing” plans in the works

Pilgrim’s outreach events have tended to be concentrated in the fall, and so there has been a desire to do some-“thing” in Spring. Pilgrim’s Church Council has approved Outreach Coordinator Dylan Landry’s preliminary plans for a “Spring Thing” on April 21st, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Pilgrim’s North Lawn. The neighborhood would be invited to come for lunch, and Pilgrim’s youth may conduct a car wash to raise funds for their travel to Higher Things this summer. Cards or small pamphlets would be available for people to have a better idea of what goes on inside Pilgrim, too.

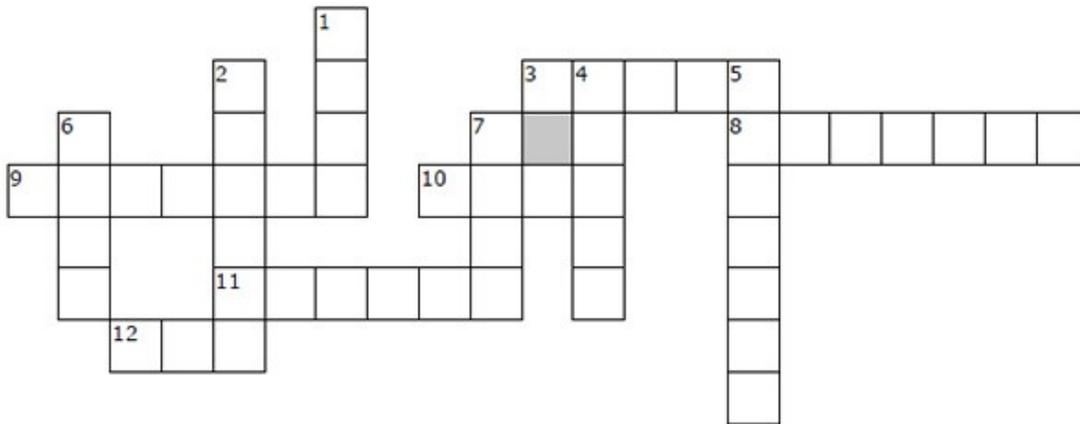
Outreach Coordinator Dylan Landry is looking for people to give of their time, talents, and treasures to conduct this event: from publicizing it in the community, preparing and serving the food, conducting the car wash, and everything else. If you are willing to help, call or text Dylan at 903-619-0152, or shoot him an email at djlandry.spark@gmail.com.

KIDS' PAGE

The activity below is reprinted from www.sermons4kids.com/palm_sunday_crossword.htm.

The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
Luke 19:38 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. The Son of God
8. A word used for praise and adoration which means "save us"
9. A small town
10. A young animal of the horse family; especially one under one year
11. To stretch out over a large area
12. To secure with a piece of rope

DOWN

1. What a person is called
2. To express admiration or approval of something or someone
4. To go into a place
5. Said something in a loud voice; called out; yelled
6. A male ruler of a country
7. A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals; a street or highway

VILLAGE	JESUS	SHOUTED	ENTER
COLT	SPREAD	PRAISE	NAME
TIE	ROAD	HOSANNA	KING



MARCH 2018

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

www.pilgrimlc.org
903-984-4333

Pastor's Regular Study Hours
 Tuesday 5:00–8:00 PM
 Wednesday–Friday 9:00 AM–Noon
 Saturday Noon–3:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Communion Assistant – Paul Hooge Acolyte – Cooper Sampson Cleaning Volunteers – Your Name Here?				1 Devin Landry (B)	2 Ross Land (B)	3 11:00 Willows
4 3 RD SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Pre-marital Catechesis	5 5:30PM Quilting) 6:30PM LWML Meeting/Supper/ Bible Study Olene Herricks (B)	6	7 5:30 PM Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	8	9	10 1:00 Vespers with Stephens/McMurray Wedding DST begins overnight
11 4 TH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Pre-marital Catechesis	12	13 6:00 PM Elders Cooper Sampson (B)	14 5:30 PM Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	15 9:00-1:00 Circuit 14 Pastors meet in Athens Ansleigh Heil (B)	16 Brady Gage (B)	17 9:00 AM Spring Workday <i>Pilgrimage</i> articles due tomorrow
18 5 TH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Pre-marital Catechesis	19 M/M George B. Heil (A)	20	21 5:30 PM Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers Tina McMurray (B)	22	23	24
25 PALM SUNDAY (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Pre-marital Catechesis	26	27 Grace Morton (B)	28	29 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Divine Service	30 7:00 PM Good Friday Divine Service	31 9:00 AM Spring Workday (Rain Date)

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

The Pilgrimage is a monthly newsletter for the members and friends of



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Pastor Galler and Barbara Wuthrich are the editors of **The Pilgrimage**. Barbara Wuthrich also assists with producing and distributing editions. Everyone is welcome to contribute articles at any time. All copyright holders of excerpted or reproduced materials are hereby acknowledged, and such materials are used in good faith under fair use provisions.