



THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas
June 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.

Observable growth and the Kingdom of God

The arborist who recently spoke to the Kilgore Rotary Club told how long-leaf pine used to grow in East Texas, sometimes remaining for a long time as a small plant that on the surface did not appear to be growing much if at all, while out of sight below the ground actually putting down many and deep roots. The arborist's description reminded me of the parable we will hear this month in the Divine Service from Mark 4:26-34, in which Jesus says the Kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, not knowing how the seed sprouts and grows while he sleeps and rises. Other Bible passages certainly give us some information about how the Kingdom of God grows, but Jesus's points about the growth's occurring out of sight and without the man's effort remain.

To be sure, not all spiritual growth is visible and so quantifiable, and, even in the case of visible and quantifiable indicators of growth, there is no promise that such growth will take place at all times in every earthly instance of the Kingdom. In other words, periods of growth and decline are normal in this fallen world. For example, when one considers Pilgrim's nearly 66-year history, one cannot miss the ups and downs in the number of members, for various reasons, long before I was called to serve the congregation, as well as since. (My quarterly reports for the Council and Voters provide current numbers and the reasons for the changes since the previous quarterly report. And, note that refusal to properly deflate numbers that do not reflect the actual count of faithful members misleads both the faithful and unfaithful members.)

When such numerical indicators of growth are not to our satisfaction, there is an immediate temptation to think that there is something wrong with the congregation, the pastor and/or the people, the way the congregation worships, the message it is proclaiming, etc. And, oddly, there is not as much of a "temptation" to think that there is something wrong with the people who are falling away from the congregation and/or those who are otherwise rejecting the law and Gospel of Christ crucified that the congregation proclaims and His free forgiveness of sins that the congregation delivers in the context of the historic liturgy and hymns. Members'

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lives should change positively as a result of such forgiveness, but they do so imperfectly, either to the glory of God or to the blame of the member.

We do well to be concerned about the spiritual welfare of those who leave us for reasons other than God's taking them to heaven or their moving out of our area, but we do best to be concerned about their spiritual welfare long before it gets to the point of members' leaving. The Elders and I generally are responsible for expressing that concern, but there certainly always also are opportunities for everyone to express their concern for and care to their brothers and sisters in Christ each and every time they miss them in a Divine Service, Bible Class or Study, or other activity. And, if membership declines too far, some concern about the long-term survival or viability of the congregation may also be appropriate.

When members fall away or otherwise leave without giving any reasons, there is very little opportunity for a congregation to "learn" from the experience. When members fall away or otherwise leave and give invalid reasons for doing so, the experience may properly reinforce for the congregation the lesson that people do fall away and reject not only congregations but ultimately God Himself, as we recently discussed in Midweek Bible Study (Matthew 10:40; Mark 9:37; Luke 9:48; 10:16). When members fall away or otherwise leave and raise valid concerns, even if they do not warrant such a departure, a congregation rightly addresses those concerns as they warrant. However, the time for people in a congregation really to be concerned is if people are leaving a congregation because they think the teaching and practice are wrong and *if the teaching and practice actually are wrong*. The truth of God's Word in teaching and practice is most important!

If the Gospel is being preached purely and the Sacraments are being administered rightly, then members of a congregation should not be unnecessarily concerned. Measurable or immeasurable, God will work faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel (Augsburg Confession V:1-2), as He has done in the past, is doing now, and promises to do until faith becomes sight. Yet, even with that promise of God, there is no guarantee of a congregation's "critical mass". Individual earthly instances of the Kingdom of God will come and go, as Pilgrim itself came and as our former daughter congregation Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Henderson, and one-time joint-parish partner Christ Lutheran Church, Jacksonville went. Yet, even then, the gates of hell have not prevailed against Christ's Church (Matthew 16:18). God rightly receives all the glory for any growth in and preservation of His Church, and people are rightly blamed for any declines.

As we will hear in a Divine Service later this summer (John 6:60-69), our Lord Jesus Christ Himself experienced an arguable drop from more than 5,000 followers down to 12 (talk about negative growth!). The majority grumbled about the truth that Jesus was teaching, but Jesus did not, as one of my now-sainted seminary professors wrote, go running after them with the "breathless pestering and pandering" of a salesman. Instead, "sadly but serenely", Jesus asked the Twelve whether they also wanted to go away, and Simon Peter, presumably for the group, answered, "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

May God make Peter's confession our confession. May God direct all aspects of our work together in His Kingdom in this place and time, including motivating our stewardship of the resources He has entrusted to us sufficiently to support the congregation's work. And, despite periods of positive and negative growth, may God bolster our confidence in Him and in His and His Kingdom's ultimate victory over their and our enemies!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*



Before and after the events of the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41), the Lord Jesus Christ worked wonders that not only added souls to His Church but also ultimately were and are for you! For example, when Jesus calmed a storm that His disciples thought was threatening them (Mark 4:35-41), He not only showed Himself to be true God, Who rules over wind and wave, but also showed how He uses His power to safeguard those He cares about, as He continues to do for those who repent and believe in Him in the storms of their lives even today. But, the biggest wonder Jesus worked entailed His humbling Himself and not using His divine powers but permitting Himself to be crucified and die for the sins of the whole world. Now, Jesus powerfully works such wonders as bringing people to repentance and faith by His Holy Spirit working through the humble means of His read and preached Word and that Word combined with water in Holy Baptism, with a pastor's touch in individual Holy Absolution, and with bread that is His Body and wine that is His Blood in the Sacrament of the Altar. Jesus works these wonders for you, so that you can have the forgiveness of sins and the peace and joy that forgiveness brings, both now and for eternity.

That miracle of Jesus's stilling the storm is one of several miracles that we would normally hear this year in the Season of Sundays after Pentecost, the non-festival half of the Church Year, in contrast to the festival half of the Church Year that ended with the Easter Season. However, this Church Year what would have been the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, with its reading about Jesus's stilling the storm, gives way to the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, a principal feast of Christ, which is normally observed, with its Gospel Reading about the birth of John and his father Zechariah's prophecy about him (Luke 1:57-80), when it occurs on a Sunday. For the rest of the Sundays after Pentecost, the dates and Gospel Readings (according to *Lutheran Service Book Series B*, largely using the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark) are listed below.

- Second Sunday (06/03): Jesus heals on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6)
- Third Sunday (06/10): Jesus's true family consists of believers (Mark 3:20-35)
- Fourth Sunday (06/17): Jesus's Kingdom grows like a seed (Mark 4:26-34)

A special midweek observance this month is the Commemoration of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession. A special service is planned for June 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Our

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Redeemer Lutheran Church (1300 Judson Road, Longview), when the Gospel Reading is part of Jesus's teaching about our remaining in Him as branches of the true Vine (John 15:1-11).

Depending on what day you might come this month, you might find green or white colored cloths on the pastor and furniture in the church. Green is the usual color for the regular Sundays of the season, bringing to mind the life and growth evident in foliage and fruit. White is the usual color for the Nativity of John the Baptist and the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, bringing to mind joy and glad celebrations, light and purity, and the innocence that is ours by Holy Baptism through which we receive Christ's righteousness.

Regardless of the season or day, everyone is always invited and welcome in person at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and you usually can read and hear any of the sermons preached at Pilgrim online at www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons.

The image depicting Jesus's stilling of the storm incorporated into the slider graphic and the banner graphic at the top of this page, American classical realist Stephen Gejertson's 1997 oil on canvas titled "Peace be Still", was found on line at <https://www.artrenewal.org/Artwork/Index/2236>.

JUNE EVENTS

PILGRIM'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be Sunday, June 3rd, through Thursday, June 7th, with a light supper at 5:00 p.m. and sessions from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registrants and volunteers are still welcome. See Christian Education Coordinator Sarah Land.

CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC will be Sunday, June 10th, after the Divine Service. This year Colleen Hooge is our only high school graduate. The picnic is scheduled for Harris Park. and a sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex.

ELDERS are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, June 12th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. (The reading assignment is The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope: Marks of the Antichrist, paragraphs 39-59, pp.300-302.)

"PREMARITAL" CATECHESIS will be conducted as participants are available in June on Wednesdays starting at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY will meet on Wednesdays June 13th, 20th, and 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library continuing our study "Salvation History is our Story" (not on June 6th due to Vacation Bible School.)

TEXAS DISTRICT CONVENTION in Irving, June 14th-17th. Pastor Galler and George B. Heil will attend at least one day, which will include the Circuit #14 Caucus.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the July *Pilgrimage* will be due Sunday, June 24th.

INSTALLATION of Rev. Keith Bowman expected in Centerville on Sunday, June 24th.

PRESENTATION OF AUGSBURG CONFESSION joint Divine Service on Monday, June 25th, at 7:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1300 Judson Road, Longview.

EAST TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL runs June 28th-July 29th. We have gone to plays together in the past. See additional information in bulletins and on bulletin boards in the Narthex.

LWML does not have quilting or meetings during the summer months.

1	Isaiah 12:1-6
	Acts 15-16
2	Psalm 150
	Acts 17-18
3	Psalm 1
	Acts 19-20
4	Psalm 2
	Acts 21-22
5	Psalm 3
	Acts 23-24
6	Psalm 4
	Acts 25-26
7	Psalm 5
	Acts 27-28
8	Psalm 6
	Joshua 1-5
9	Psalm 7
	Joshua 6-8
10	Psalm 8
	Joshua 9-11
11	Psalm 9
	Joshua 12-16
12	Psalm 10
	Joshua 17-21
13	Psalm 11
	Joshua 22-24
14	Psalm 12
	Judges 1-3
15	Psalm 13
	Judges 4-6
16	Psalm 14
	Judges 7-9
17	Psalm 15
	Judges 10-12
18	Psalm 16
	Judges 13-15
19	Psalm 17
	Judges 16-18
20	Psalm 18
	Judges 19-21
21	Psalm 19
	Ruth
22	Psalm 20
	1 Samuel 1-3
23	Psalm 21
	1 Samuel 4-6
24	Psalm 22
	1 Samuel 7-9
25	Psalm 23
	1 Sam. 10-12
26	Psalm 24
	1 Sam. 13-15
27	Psalm 25
	1 Sam. 16-18
28	Psalm 26
	1 Sam. 19-21
29	Psalm 27
	1 Sam. 22-24
30	Isaiah 12:1-6
	1 Sam. 25-27

Daily Bible reading raises three John Q&A

We continue to encourage everyone to be in God’s Word on a daily basis (whether or not they use the Daily Lectionary from *Lutheran Worship* reproduced at left and available in larger-print in the Narthex). The following questions were submitted for answers in this month’s *Pilgrimage*.

Q: In John 11:16, Thomas sounds like a grumpy teenager when he says to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” What does Thomas mean by this?

A: Verses earlier (John 10:31, 39), the Jews were seeking to stone Jesus, which the disciples point out to Jesus in John 11:8, and so the disciples think that Jesus’s desire for them to return to Judea (vv.7, 15) in order for Him to raise Lazarus from the dead (v.11) means certain death for Jesus, if not for them all. Whether Thomas spoke sarcastically, from courageous devotion, or from pessimistic unbelief (expecting to die as Lazarus had) is debated.

Q: Since John 11:51 says that Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, was prophesy an adjunct responsibility of the high priest? Or, am I just reading this verse completely incorrectly?

A: While prophesy may not be a *per se* adjunct responsibility of the high priest, in this case, anyway, God in a sense compelled Caiaphas (like Balam in Numbers 23:12?) to speak words more true than he intended or knew (confer John 18:14). Despite abuses of the priestly office even long before Jesus’s time, God bore with the successors of Moses (confer Matthew 23:2) and worked at least some good through the priestly office (though not for Judas in Matthew 37:3-5), until it met its fulfillment in Jesus, Who perfectly offered Himself on the cross and even now intercedes for us and distributes His forgiveness of sins through His apostles’ successors (John 20:21-23).

Q: In John 12:20-26, some Greeks seek Jesus and procure a response from Him. The response, however, seems completely unrelated to their act of seeking Him. Do Jesus’s words in verses 23-26 actually relate to His disciples informing Him about the Greeks, and, if not, why would John include verses 20-22? The lack of direct response seems very unlike Jesus.

A: To be sure, the Holy Spirit’s working through St. John the Evangelist has provided a reliable record of this event of likely Greek-speaking Gentiles’ wishing to see Jesus by contacting disciples possibly of Greek background or of previous acquaintance, which event for John seems only to have occasioned not only Jesus’s words in verses 23-26 but also His words in verses 27-36a (note the repeated references to the time: “the hour has [finally!] come” in v.23, “now” in vv.27 and 31, “when” in v.32, and “while” in vv.35 and 36). Whether or not the Greeks were present for the

statements or ever got to meet with Jesus is unclear (see v.36b), but Jesus seems to say directly that His imminent crucifixion and all that it entails before and after it is a means of His drawing people out of every nation to Himself (v.32), or, as He also put it, bearing much fruit (v.24).

Again, all are encouraged to read the Bible daily and to ask their own questions!

Pastor Galler

Pilgrim offers Vacation Bible School June 3-7, 2018

Pilgrim Lutheran Church is offering Vacation Bible School (VBS) to its members and to the community Sunday, June 3, through Thursday, June 7. Each day a light supper is served starting at 5:00 p.m., and sessions run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Three-year-olds through 6th-graders are welcome, as well as adults (7th-graders and up can help or attend the adult class). Registration forms are available online or from the Church Office and can be submitted to the church office (please indicate any food allergies).

As God the Father leads us to repent of our sin and trust Him to forgive our sin for the sake of His Son, the God-man Jesus Christ, Who was crucified and rose again for us, the Holy Spirit working through His Means of Grace (preaching, Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper) leads us to bring forth the fruits of faith described by the Ten Commandments. Each day, Pilgrim's VBS will both teach God's law that shows us our sin and proclaim the Gospel that sanctifies, or makes us holy, both forgiving our sin and bringing forth those fruits of faith according to our callings in life. Opening and closing worship, music, skits, lessons, crafts, games, and snacks all center on the Sanctified theme.

The following are the more-specific themes and primary Scripture passages for each day.

- Sunday: Jesus is Lord and God (John 20:24-29)
- Monday: The Holy Lord Delivers His Holy Word (1 Samuel 2:12-26)
- Tuesday: Honor and Truth Come from the Lord (John 18:33-19:16a)
- Wednesday: True Love for our Neighbor (Matthew 1:18-25; Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Thursday: True Love for Our Neighbor's Stuff (Genesis 39:1-23)

As with previous years VBS materials, the "Sanctified" VBS materials were produced under the auspices of Higher Things, a registered service organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

For more information about Pilgrim's 2018 VBS, please contact Christian Education Coordinator Sarah Land or the Church Office at 903-984-4333.



In Memoriam

Since the last issue of *The Pilgrimage*, one member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church was, as we say, transferred to the Church Triumphant. Joe Daniel Sampson, Jr., who was born into this world on February 18, 1950, baptized in June of 1961, confirmed by Rev. Harold Wageman at Pilgrim on February 7, 1971, entered into eternal life on April 28, 2018. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord (Revelation 14:13-14)!

LWML E.T. Zone Spring Event held at Pilgrim

“You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows” (Psalm 23:5b)

On Saturday, May 5th, Pilgrim’s LWML Society hosted the East Texas Zone’s annual Spring Event. Immediately after registration, the ladies went to the East Texas Oil Museum, a field trip planned to coordinate with the Psalm 23:5b theme verse centering on oil and overflowing cups. We rather brazenly flipped back and forth between the oil in the Psalm, oil in the oilfields of Kilgore, and oil on our chef salad at lunch. Zone President Sharon Sampson, as a member of the Pilgrim Society, had “run with the plans” for this event, but unfortunately was unable to attend. The rest of the ladies “carried the ball” with most of her plans, but she was greatly missed by all.



(Above left) Ladies of Pilgrim’s LWML Society hosted the LWML East Texas Zone Event in our Parish Hall. Pictured are Jeanette Paetznick, Barbara Wuthrich, Angela Sampson, Tina McMurray, Jeanna Watts, and Elaine Navaille serving the chef salad luncheon, which was served with oil and vinegar dressing, in keeping with the theme. (Above right) The most popular part of the day may have been the chocolate fountain which was used to cover strawberries and angel food cake squares. Among those enjoying here is LWML TX District President Debbie Curry (second from left) and former long-time Pilgrim member Judy Weiss (second from right). Current member Angela Sampson (far right) ran the chocolate “derrick and well”.

Photos: J. Galler and Barbara Wuthrich.



(Above left) Jeanna Watts delivered the closing devotion from Judy Gordon’s book *Green Pastures*. (Above right) Rev. Seth Davidson, our LWML E.T. Zone Pastoral Counselor from Athens, led the Bible study over the verses from the full 23rd Psalm, emphasizing the theme verse, 5b. If you look closely you will see another part of the theme displayed in coffee cups of various colors as part of the centerpieces, and paper oil derricks of matching colors, created by Emma Watts, surrounding the vases of mint and lavender, from Debby Smith’s garden, completing them. (Coffee cups were also exchanged by prayer partners.

Photos: Barbara Wuthrich.

MAY PHOTO ALBUM/SCRAPBOOK



Long-time Pilgrim member and leader Danny Sampson's temporal and eternal life were celebrated in a Funeral Service on May 1st. (Above left) Pictured are friends and relatives gathering for Danny's Committal Service at the Danville Cemetery. In the foreground is Ron Clower of Longview Pipes and Drums, who played "Oh Danny Boy" as a tribute to Danny's childhood nickname. (Above right) Pastor Galler and Rev. Frank Starr, who both participated in Danny's services, pose for a quick photo. *Photos: Barbara Wuthrich*

(Right) On Sunday, May 13th (Mothers' Day), Emma Watts played the Closing Hymn "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" for the congregation, which that Sunday included her grandparents Jeffrey and Janet Miller, visiting from Michigan. Pilgrim has now been blessed by Emma's musical talents at least three times, with more to come, as she plans to accompany the music for VBS and play another hymn in July. Pilgrim has also been blessed by the musical talents of her parents, Tyler and Jeanna Watts, who have played their trombones more times than we can be sure we are remembering to count.

Photo: Barbara Wuthrich



Special to the News-Journal

Mississippi State University

Josey Land, of Longview, received an Outstanding Teacher Intern award from the Mississippi State University College of Education. Land, a special education major, is the daughter of Spencer and Sarah Land of Longview.

The awards are given to teacher interns who go above and beyond expectations. Teacher interns are nominated by their classroom mentor teachers for this award and receive this recognition based on their resourcefulness, initiative and effectiveness throughout their teaching internship at Mississippi State University during the Spring 2018 semester. Teacher interns receiving the awards were selected because of outstanding teaching performance, professionalism, and demonstration of a high level of commitment to the teaching profession.

(Left) Our member Josey Land was recognized with an award reported in an article in the *Longview News Journal* (05/30/18), which we copied here. She also was recently hired by the Gladewater ISD, and will spend the summer preparing for her first teaching position. Josey will be using her many God-given talents, and God certainly will blessing all those she will reach. We are glad to have her back at Pilgrim more regularly, already planning to help out by leading the skits for Vacation Bible School.



Are your head, heart, and purse all converted?

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” That statement is attributed to Luther, though it is yet to be located in the vast collections of his writings. Regardless, that statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34).

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let me explain why I put them in that order.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf, in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through His read and preached Word and through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper.

And so, He doesn’t just do it for us, but He also gives it to us, makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. Thus, the conversion of the mind leads to the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:24). “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the Gospel is purely preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If your treasure is not invested in the Kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance—a conversion of the heart—and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven, but it is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are, actually, to live — think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) — a new life in Him.

And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

*Rev. Jason Braaten
Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, IL
For LCMS Stewardship Ministry*

LWML Texas District Convention gathers items

A box has been placed under the LWML bulletin board in the Narthex for the following items that are being gathered now in order to be taken to the LWML Texas District Convention in Waco, July 5-8, 2018, for distribution to three different charitable organizations:



Option House: twin-size bed-sheet sets, pillows, snack foods, and Walmart and McDonald's gift cards (\$5, \$10, and \$15).

Care Net: baby bath soap, baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby wipes, diapers (larger sizes), and feminine hygiene products.

Tri-Cities Food Pantry: peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, cereal, cracker sandwiches, canned and packaged meat.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Your gifts will be collected by us in the July 1st Divine Service, and we will carry these to the Convention as our Love Offering.

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 May 26th (20 of 52 weeks):

Undesignated Plate Offerings received:	\$46,327.86
Undesignated Plate Offerings projected:	\$50,000.00 (for deficit budget)
Actual accrued expenses:	\$54,747.05
Projected expenses per budget:	\$60,723.03

(20/52 of the total for the year under the austerity budget)

*Tyler Watts
Treasurer*



June 2018

INVESTMENT	FIXED RATE		FLOATING RATE	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note	2.250%	2.27%	2.250%	2.27%
Three Year Note	2.375%	2.40%	2.625%	2.65%
Five Year Note	2.750%	2.78%	2.750%	2.78%
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%

INVESTMENTS FOR CONGREGATIONS

Congregation Savings	1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund Savings	2.750%	2.78%

**For more specifics on terms, see the Offering Circular on our website.*

Texas District Church Extension Fund 1-888-951-1233 TexasCEF.org 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 St. Peter, Gun Barrel City, and Trinity, Tyler

Rev. Keith Bowman's transition to Our Savior, Centerville (installation expected 6/24)

OUR PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

June 3rd Special Council Meeting and June 3-7 Vacation Bible School

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 AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

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 moving to San Diego this month)

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

Arlene Kuehn (travelling in Europe)

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)

Leroy Thomas (our member, at Arbor Grace, formerly Kilgore Health and Rehab)

THOSE WHO NEED HEALING:

Bob (David Navaille's friend, experiencing a health issue)

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, radiation and chemo continue)

Marty Griffin (Shannon's niece's father-in-law, chemo for bone cancer is complete)

Dulcie Gualtieri (Remo's mother, undergoing radiation treatments)

Carolyn Holcombe (our organist, seeing doctor 2/23 after hand surgery 02/13)

Vernell Hooge (Paul's mother, received pacemaker and defibrillator 05/07)

Walt Hooge (Paul's father, had battery replaced in brain stimulator 05/21)

Prayer list continues on next page.

Prayer list continues from previous page.

Kathy Jennings (Remo and Kathy's friend, still has ups and downs)
David Landry (our member, better and worse days with Ankylosing Spondylitis)
Arielle Lindo (Bianca Adams' niece, diagnosed with Leukemia)
Dennis Martin (Navailles' friend, recovering in a hospital from a broken pelvis)
Ed Martin (Marci Landry's father, atrial fibrillation and not cooperating with treatment)
Sandy McBride (Emma Watts' friend Emma McBride's aunt with health issues)
Emily Melendrez (recovering from 4/24 wrist surgery)
Don Nicol (our member, dealing with heart and lung issues)
Charlene Phillips (Olene Herricks' friend, on hospice care)
Nellie Shubert (Arcele's brother Chuck's sister-in-law, at Autumn Leaves in Henderson)
David Smith (our member, to be moved from Longview Regional to Genesis Claremont)
Ronnie Stover (Angela's friend Sherri Lilly's friend, better on experimental medicine)
Ty Thigpen (Debbie Smith's third cousin, diagnosed with juvenile diabetes)
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)
Michele Trotter (Don Nicol's daughter Shawna's friend, cervical cancer surgery 05/18)
Mark Tucker (Sarah's brother-in-law, recovering from surgery to remove his bladder)
Harold Wilburn (Arcele's brother-in-law, dementia seems about the same right now)
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, on bed rest until delivery, due July 15)

FAMILIES IN CRISIS OR NEED AND ALL FAMILIES:

Adams Family (Bianca's change in educational plans)
Herricks Family (God's guidance for our member Olene and her son Joe)
Landry Family (ongoing home and employment transitions)
Mayhall Family (Sarah Land's sister's family, struggling with her divorce)
Watts Family (smooth closings on houses and transition to Michigan this summer)

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

- 07 – Sharon Sampson
- 07 – Dan West
- 11 – Gwen Rittenberry
- 12 – Josey Land
- 14 – Debbie Smith
- 17 – Jeanette Heil
- 19 – Seth Adams
- 19 – Matthew Hooge
- 19 – Cher Key
- 21 – Dana Freeman
- 23 – David Landry
- 29 – Gwendolyn Freeman
- 30 – Spencer Land



JULY EVENTS

PASTOR'S VACATION begins after he preaches on July 1st, and continues through noon July 10th. (An elder will answer the Church phone and contact the on-call pastor as needed.)

LWML DISTRICT CONVENTION IN WACO Thursday July 5th through Sunday July 8th. Tiffani Erickson, Elaine Navaille, Sharon Sampson, and Barbara Wuthrich will attend in their respective responsibilities. Tiffani is the East Texas Zone Young Women Representative, Elaine is the Alternate Voting Delegate for Pilgrim's Society, Sharon is a member of the Leader Development Committee, and Barbara is the Voting Delegate for Pilgrim's Society. We pray for their safe travel and enjoyable and productive time.

SUNDAY, JULY 8TH will be a lay-lead Matins service (no Communion).

OFFICER AND COUNCIL REPORTS due by July 8th to Holly to prepare the Council Packet.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY will likely meet on Wednesdays July 11th and 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library continuing our study "Salvation History is our Story" (not on July 4th due to the Independence Day holiday, and not on July 25th because of Pastor's being gone to the Higher Things Conference in Kansas.)

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

PILGRIM'S CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Sunday, July 15th at 12:30 p.m.

20TH COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE: Saturday, July 21st, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the July *Pilgrimage* will be due Sunday, July 22nd.

EAST TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL runs through July 29th. We have gone to plays together in the past. See additional information in bulletins and on bulletin boards in the Narthex.

5TH SUNDAY MEAL will be Sunday, June 29th. Plan to bring food to share for a scrumptious meal immediately following the Divine Service and lots of time to visit afterwards. (These "quarterly" Fifth Sunday Meals take the place of what were regular meals before the old quarterly Voters' Meetings.)

LWML does not have quilting or meetings during the summer months.



BLESSED ANNIVERSARIES!

- 13 – Steven and Angela Sampson
- 15 – David and Debbie Smith
- 26 – Paul and Jennifer Hooge

*O grant them here in peace to live,
In purity and love,
And after this life to receive
The crown of life above.*

—F. Samuel Janzow
LSB 859:6

KIDS' PAGE

June 24th is the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptizer, as narrated in Luke 1:57-80. Parents may choose to read the Biblical account to their children, who can color the picture below.



The Birth of John the Baptist

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JUNE 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 – Remo Gualtieri Acolyte – Luke Land Cleaning Volunteers – Your Name Here?					1	2
3 2 ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Special Council Meeting	4	5	6	7 Sharon Sampson (B) Dan West (B)	8	9
VBS with 5:00 PM Light Supper and 6:00-8:00 PM Sessions						
10 3 RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Church Picnic at Harris Park	11 Gwen Rittenberry (B)	12 6:00 PM Elders Josey Land (B)	13 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study M/M Steven Sampson (A)	14 TX District Convention in Irving (14-16 th) Debbie Smith (B)	15 M/M David Smith (A)	16
17 3 RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Jeanette Heil (B)	18	19 Seth Adams (B) Matthew Hooge (B) Cher Key (B)	20 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	21 Dana Freeman (B)	22	23 <i>Pilgrimage</i> articles due tomorrow David Landry (B)
24 NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	25 7:00 PM Joint Presentation of the Augsburg Confession Service at ORLC Longview	26 M/M Paul Hooge (A)	27 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	28 East Texas Shakespeare Festival Begins (runs through 7/29)	29 Gwendolyn Freeman (B)	30 Spencer Land (B)

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
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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.