



# ***THE PILGRIMAGE***

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

July 2018

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*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.*

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## **Believing children need not necessarily depart from the faith**

Religious congregations, both in the United States and around the world, for some time have been experiencing what recent surveys have only confirmed, that younger adults are far less likely than older generations to engage in a variety of religious practices, identify with a religion, or even believe in God. (See, for example, <http://www.pewforum.org/2018/06/13/the-age-gap-in-religion-around-the-world/>.) One could say that that trend even goes back to Old Testament times, when, generally speaking, successive generations of the people of Israel were less-faithful than their predecessors.

Pilgrim's annual statistical reports for the past several years have suggested that our demographic mix may have been better than other congregations' mixes, but recent transfers and other losses may mean that the demographic mix in Pilgrim's next year's statistical report may more-closely resemble the national and international trend. Regardless, the fact that there can be overall and individual exceptions to the rule is a good reminder that not every child will necessarily grow up to fall away from the Christian faith.

The thoughtfully combined Versicles of Pilgrim's Sunday School Openings emphasize such things as God's gracious invitation to children (who Jesus indicates in Matthew 18:6 and Mark 9:42 are able to believe in Him), parents' responsibility to teach their children diligently, and God's promise to give the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins through His Word in all of its forms, such as Holy Baptism. Also included in the Versicles is the sometimes troubling (and apparently debated by Bible scholars) Proverbs 22:6, that a child trained up in the way he or she should go will not depart from it when he or she is old.

To be sure, a child who is not so trained is less-likely to believe at all, and one who is so trained is more-likely to continue believing, but one who is so trained can still depart, as he or she gives in to the temptations of the devil, the world and the sinful flesh to depart. Parents,

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pastors, and congregations may have taught as well as they could, but believers still have free will to reject God's gracious invitation. They can refuse to be baptized or renounce their baptisms that are normally necessary for salvation (Mark 16:16; John 3:3, 5). They can refuse to be instructed in the faith (Matthew 28:20). They can give up meeting together as the Body of Christ in Church services (Hebrews 10:25). And, they can refuse to receive the life-giving Body and Blood of Christ that are normally necessary for salvation (John 6:53). Such failures to meet the expectations of church membership are grounds for excommunication, which in some cases merely expresses the reality of separation that already exists.

One's having one's name on a congregation's membership list alone neither makes one a member nor does it mean that one is saved. Nor should one think that one is saved by "faith" in one's heart that neither outwardly confesses belief by church membership nor faithfully seeks and receives God's forgiveness through Word and Sacrament. Such are the kinds of warnings we must speak to young and old who are in the process of falling or who have fallen away.

No one takes any joy or other kind of satisfaction in such warnings, including the warning that is excommunication, but such warnings nevertheless remain the Church's solemn duty. There is pain for still-believing parents, pastors, and congregations, not to mention for our Lord Jesus Christ! But, parents, pastors, congregations, and the Lord are not to be blamed for the lack of practice, identity, and belief of those who are straying or who have strayed. Those who are straying or who have strayed alone bear the responsibility.

The reportedly increasing neglect of religious practice diminishes religious identification and ultimately leads to the lack of repentance and unbelief that damns eternally. Make no mistake about it: Outside of the Church there is no salvation. By such things as the last resort of excommunication, the Church faithfully warns and calls to repentance those who are straying or have strayed, and, if and when they repent and believe, the Church faithfully receives them back into Her fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, through faith in Whom all who repent and believe receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by grace for His sake.

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

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## *HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!*

05 – Carl Gardner  
11 – Cayden Hinson  
11 – Paul Hooge  
12 – Marci Landry  
13 – Zylan Ellis  
15 – Luke Land  
18 – David Navaille

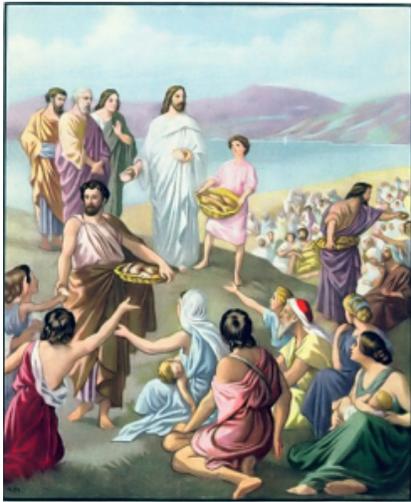


## *BLESSED ANNIVERSARIES!*

01 – Spencer and Sarah Land  
04 – George C. and Kristen Heil  
28 – David and Marci Landry

## July gives us “another” Good Shepherd Sunday of a sort

The Church affectionately usually calls the Fourth Sunday after Easter “Good Shepherd Sunday”, largely due to its Gospel Readings from John 10, in which Jesus refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14). The Readings are especially appropriate for the Easter Season because the Shepherd is said to be “good” not only because He lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11, 15, 17) but also because He takes His life back up again (John 10:17, 18). Yet, the Fourth Sunday after Easter with its Gospel Readings from John 10 every year are not the only times Jesus as our Good Shepherd is in view, or at least not the only time the Lord as our Shepherd is in view through our three-year lectionary series.



<https://childrenschurch.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/scan0055.jpg>

The Gospel Reading for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost this year (Mark 6:30-44), which we hear this month, also presents the Lord Jesus as a Shepherd, specifically the Shepherd Who has compassion on His people and so teaches and miraculously feeds them. While all three of the other Gospel accounts include Jesus’s feeding of more than 5,000 men, not to mention women and children (Matthew 14:13-21; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13—of which other accounts only Matthew’s account is also used in our three-year series of Readings), the Holy Spirit almost seems to have inspired St. Mark to narrate the miracle more with Psalm 23’s pastoral imagery in mind. While all four Gospel accounts report Jesus’s preparing a more-than-satisfying meal right before the people’s eyes (Psalm 23:5), St. Mark uniquely reports both Jesus’s having compassion on the people because they were like sheep without a shepherd (Psalm 23:1) and Jesus’s commanding them to sit on the green grass, a vivid detail

perhaps from Peter’s own eyewitness memory (Psalm 23:2). Of course, as we experience not only on July 22<sup>nd</sup> but also on all the Sundays of this and every month, even without our sitting on green grass, the Lord Jesus our Good Shepherd continues to have compassion on His people and so teach and miraculously feed us in the Divine Service, where bread and wine are taken and blessed, and with them the Body and Blood of Christ are distributed, more than satisfying us with the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

All of July’s Sundays after Pentecost, their dates and Gospel Readings (according to *Lutheran Service Book* three-year Series B) are listed below.

- Sixth Sunday (07/01): Jesus heals and raises from the dead (Mark 5:21-43)
- Seventh Sunday (07/08): Jesus is denied honor and sends others (Mark 6:1-13)
- Eighth Sunday (07/15): Jesus’s fame reaches King Herod (Mark 6:14-29)
- Ninth Sunday (07/22): Jesus shepherds and feeds His followers (Mark 6:30-44)
- Tenth Sunday (07/29): Jesus shows His power by walking on water (Mark 6:45-56)

You may note that this month the lectionary series provides us the entire continuous reading from Mark 5:21 to Mark 6:56 without exception or omission.

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

*Pastor Galler*

## JULY EVENTS

**PASTOR'S VACATION** (the last week the Elders authorized him to carry over from 2017) begins after the Divine Service on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and continues through midday July 10<sup>th</sup>. (An elder will answer the Church phone and contact the on-call pastor as needed.)

**LWML DISTRICT CONVENTION IN WACO** Thursday July 5<sup>th</sup> through Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 8<sup>TH</sup>** will be a lay-led Matins service (no Communion).

**ELDERS** will meet on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. (The reading assignment is the "Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope", paragraphs 60-82 on the Power and Jurisdiction of Bishops, pp.302-305..)

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

**OFFICER AND COUNCIL REPORTS** due by July 15<sup>th</sup> to Holly Treadway in order for her to prepare the Council Packet.

**20<sup>TH</sup> COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE**: Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please help recruit donors and donate, if you are eligible.

**PILGRIM'S CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet Sunday, July 22<sup>th</sup>, after the Divine Service at a time and location to be announced.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for the August *Pilgrimage* will be due Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCE**: Pastor and others will be gone July 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> in Kansas.

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

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY MEAL** will be Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Plan to bring food to share for a scrumptious meal immediately following the Divine Service and lots of time to visit afterwards, including wishing the Watts family farewell, since this will be their last Sunday in East Texas. (These "quarterly" Fifth Sunday Meals take the place of what were regular meals before the Voters' Meetings on their old quarterly schedule.)

**PASTOR'S VACATION** (the first two weeks of his five for 2018) begins after the Divine Service on July 30<sup>th</sup> and continues through August 17<sup>th</sup>. (An elder will answer the Church phone and contact the on-call pastor as needed.)

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

1	Deut. 32:1-4 1 Sam. 28-31
2	Psalm 28 2 Sam. 1-3
3	Psalm 29 2 Sam. 4-6
4	Psalm 30 2 Sam. 7-9
5	Psalm 31 2 Sam. 10-12
6	Psalm 32 2 Sam. 13-15
7	Psalm 33 2 Sam. 16-18
8	Psalm 34 2 Sam. 19-21
9	Psalm 35 2 Sam. 22-24
10	Psalm 36 1 Kings 1-2
11	Psalm 37 1 Kings 3-6
12	Psalm 38 1 Kings 7-8
13	Psalm 39 1 Kings 9-11
14	Psalm 40 1 Kings 12-14
15	Psalm 41 1 Kings 15-17
16	Psalm 42 1 Kings 18-20
17	Psalm 43 1 Kings 21-22
18	Psalm 44 2 Kings 1-3
19	Psalm 45 2 Kings 4-6
20	Psalm 46 2 Kings 7-9
21	Psalm 47 2 Kings 10-12
22	Psalm 48 2 Kings 13-15
23	Psalm 49 2 Kings 16-18
24	Psalm 50 2 Kings 19-22
25	Psalm 51 2 Kings 23-25
26	Psalm 52 1 Chron. 1-5
27	Psalm 53 1 Chron. 6-10
28	Psalm 54 1 Chron. 11-15
29	Psalm 55 1 Chron. 16-20
30	Psalm 56 1 Chron. 21-25
31	Deut. 32:1-4 1 Chron. 26-29

## June Reading prompts July Judges Q&A

We continue to recommend that everyone follow the schedule of daily Bible reading printed on this page and in larger-print half-sheets available in the Narthex (both reproduce by permission the Daily Lectionary from *Lutheran Worship*, pp.295-299). This Daily Lectionary gets you through the whole Bible over the course of one year. Regardless of what plan, if any, you follow, the important thing is being in God’s Word on a daily basis. And, regardless of what you are reading in the Bible, you are welcome to ask me questions about your reading, such as the following questions and answers from June’s reading of such books as Acts and Joshua.

**Q: In Acts, we see very active attempts to build the Church among gentiles, especially by Paul. Before Christ, were the Jews active proselytizers—that is, did they make deliberate efforts to convert neighboring nations to Judaism?**

A: Certainly God always intended one family of believers (think of pre-fall Adam and Eve), but sin divided the family (think of post-fall Cain and Seth). In the Old Testament, the Jews were expected to be a light to the gentiles/nations, whom prophecy depicted coming to believe. Somewhat in contrast to other foreigners who lived among the Israelites, converts were to be circumcised and welcomed to the Passover, though the rabbis apparently had two different classes of proselytes, full converts and those “of the gate”, sometimes called “God-fearers”. As you might expect, the Jewish mission to non-Jews changed considerably during the Jews’ dispersion! In the New Testament, proselytes to Judaism are explicitly mentioned in Matthew 23:15 (which suggests the Pharisees made tremendous effort to win one such convert), and in Acts 2:11 (where the people from all over are either ethnic Jews or converts); 6:5 (where one of the deacons is a convert); and 13:43 (where converts are among those reached by Paul and Barnabas in a synagogue). While the Lord Jesus Himself primarily concentrated on “converting” the Jews to Christianity (for example, Matthew 15:24), He later sent His disciples to all the gentiles/nations (for example, Matthew 10:6 compared to 28:19-20). Paul and his coworkers especially reached out to the Jews first, including proselytes and other God-fearers, and to Gentiles later, without requiring either their circumcision or their keeping of the Jewish ceremonial law (Acts 13:14; 14:1; 17:10; 17:17; 18:4; etc.). And, we should note both that circumcision was succeeded by Baptism as the entrance rite to the Kingdom of God and that meals such as Passover were succeeded by the Sacrament of the Altar.

**Q: Joshua 9 describes how the Gibeonites tricked the Israelites and thus avoided being wiped out or driven out of their land. Do we know anything of their history thereafter, whether they remained there as servants, integrated slowly into the Israelite people, or left at some point, for example?**

A: Apparently those from not only the town of Gibeon in Benjamin’s territory but a

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confederation of towns north of Jerusalem, the Gibeonites (also called “Hivites” in 9:7 and 11:19) successfully deceived Joshua and the leaders of the assembly arguably because Joshua and the leaders of the assembly did not consult the Lord before going against His explicit command (see, for examples, Exodus 23:32; 34:12; Numbers 33:55-56; and Deuteronomy 7:2), but nevertheless the Israelites were, albeit somewhat reluctantly, faithful to their oath (even fighting on the Gibeonites’ behalf in the very next chapter). The Gibeonites appear to have feigned respect to Israel’s God over the other gods of the other people, but the Israelites’ anger at not being able to destroy the Gibeonites and plunder their cities may have had less to do with religion and more to do with riches. Regardless, the people who simply may have been being polite in v.8 are in vv.23-27 made to do menial service, said to even fulfill the curse that Noah spoke against Ham’s descendants in Genesis 9:25. After that episode, the pool of Gibeon is the location for the events of 2 Samuel 2:12-17, and the Gibeonites are explicitly mentioned and involved when the punishment for some unknown crime Saul had committed against them in violation of the oath made in Joshua’s day was visited, as part of God’s unsearchable judgments (Romans 11:33), upon seven of Saul’s sons (see 2 Samuel 21:1-14). The false prophet Hananiah who opposed Jeremiah was from Gibeon (Jeremiah 28:1), the waters of Gibeon are mentioned again in Jeremiah 41:12, and the men of Gibeon helped rebuild the wall of Jerusalem in Nehemiah 3:7. I am not aware of any Biblical references after that, though there are brief mentions to Gibeon in historical sources outside of the Bible and confirmed for some through archaeological excavations.

Thanks to the Bible readers for those questions! For more Q&A and other reading helps, see my old daily blog on the readings, which is linked off our Pilgrim website at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/daily-bible-reading>. I ask for questions about the Daily Bible Reading at the beginning of our Sunday Adult Bible Class each week and also welcome them at all other times via any other medium you might want to use.

*Pastor Galler*

## **A blessed finish to a blessed day**



On the evening of Tuesday, May 22, 2018, Pilgrim member Remo Gualtieri captured this spectacular image of the sunset reflecting off the cross on Pilgrim’s steeple. Remo, his wife Kathy Hudson, and Pastor Galler had just returned from a day in Houston that involved Remo’s renewing his Australian passport, Pastor Galler’s visiting Pilgrim member Gwen Heil and her daughter Dana, and the three together having a late lunch with relocated Pilgrim-member Paul Guinn. After that lunch, Paul showed the trio around the big Total Wine store where he is working at the present time, enjoying again exercising his beverage knowledge and interacting with the customers.



## Pilgrim offered “Sanctified” Vacation Bible School June 3-7<sup>th</sup>

Using materials from Higher Things, “Sanctified” was Pilgrim Lutheran Church’s 2018 Vacation Bible School overall theme. (The theme corresponds to the annual youth conferences Higher Things offers around the country.) The materials covered the Ten Commandments with each day having a subtheme, a Biblical account (or accounts), and Commandment or Commandments, including the meanings from Martin Luther’s *Small Catechism*.

Sunday had the subtheme “Jesus is Lord and God”, and Doubting Thomas (John 20:24-29) was the Bible story, covering the 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment. Monday’s subtheme was “The Holy Lord delivers His Holy Word”, and the Bible story was Samuel and Eli’s Wicked Sons (1 Samuel 2:12-26), covering the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandments. Tuesday’s subtheme was “Honor and Truth come from the Lord, with the Bible’s account of “Jesus before Pilate” (John 18:33-19:16a), covering the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Commandments. Wednesday’s subtheme was “True love for our neighbor”, and the Bible’s accounts were Joseph and Mary (Matthew 1:18-25) and Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33), covering the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Commandments. Thursday’s subtheme was “True love for our neighbor’s stuff”, with the Bible’s account of Joseph in Potiphar’s House (Genesis 39:1-23), covering the 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments.

The children were grouped into a pre-school group, taught by Jennifer Hooge, and a multi-age-elementary group, which went to several teachers/leaders. There also was an adult class taught by Pastor Galler (see more on the next page). Josey Land led the skits with the cast of Emma Watts (Mrs. Mog), Luke Land (the recruit), Nikki Hinson (various parts), Ross Land (various parts), and Colleen Hooge (various parts). Nikki Hinson and Ross Land led VBS games and had lots of fun. Holly Treadway led crafts and she and Jim Treadway took pictures each day. Thanks to Jeanna Watts, a group photo was printed for a keepsake of VBS 2018 (see the next page). Be sure and see the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for all the fun-filled photos! Emma Watts also did a fabulous job playing the piano during each day’s opening and closing, which was led by Pastor Galler. Catechism was led by Sarah Land. By the end of the week each student was able to say the Ten Commandments (some with a few prompts). Jack Watts was even able to say all the commandments and their meanings! Go Jack!!

We had several non-members with us throughout the week. They were Mikayla and Jenna Jo Haufler who live just a few doors down from PLC; Levi, Samuel and Harrison Case (the Hooges’ cousins) from Our Redeemer, Longview; and Maggie and Taylor Stephens, also from Our Redeemer Longview. Cooper Sampson also brought several friends on different days during the week: Cruz Royce, Lincoln Royce, and Kyler Smith. Each day a different group of PLC members fed the group with delicious foods. A big thank you goes out to those ladies (and gentlemen)! Overall we had a great group of kids, and everyone had a good time! VBS 2018 - Success!

Sarah Land  
Christian Education Program Coordinator



(Above) Attendees of Pilgrims 2018 Vacation Bible School pose together on the last day to commemorate their good times and valuable lessons learned (they were given copies of the picture as keepsakes). Pictured are (front row, left to right) Levi Case, Lucy Watts, Harrison Case, Maggie Stephens, Jack Watts, Jenna Jo Haufler, and Cayden Hinson; (row two) Taylor Stephens, Samuel Case, and Seth Adams; (row three) Anna Hooqe, Cooper Sampson, and Mikayla Haufler; (back row) Jack Watts, Luke Land, and Emma Watts. *Photo: Holly Treadway.* (Thanks to Holly and Jim, many more VBS pictures are on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Parish Hall.)

## **Jesus’s justification leads to our sanctification**

God in human flesh, our Lord Jesus Christ alone justifies us (or “makes us righteous”) by His death on the cross for our sins. We and our works have nothing to do with our salvation: God gives us the faith that receives God’s grace for Jesus’s sake. But, we do have a role to play in what we call our sanctification (or “being made holy”), which is evident from the good works (or fruits of faith”) that to some extent God and we work together.

While we never find this justification without its resulting sanctification, we do make a formal, logical distinction between them. The distinction is taught in Holy Scripture and explained using philosophy properly in service of theology. A chapter of my doctoral dissertation examined this distinction, and the distinction will be the topic of my breakout (small group) session at the Higher Things conference in Kansas this month. The title of the session is “Justification and Sanctification: Are they really distinct? If so, how so? And, who cares?”

In short, we care because the distinction between justification and sanctification preserves both the teaching of salvation only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and the necessity of good works’ following salvation, as a cause follows an effect. For, as Martin Luther rightly said, we are saved by faith alone, but faith is never alone.

*Pastor Galler*



Fireworks illuminate the crosses outside Cross Church in the Pinnacle Hills part of Rogers, Arkansas, on July 1, 2012.  
*Photo © Philing Phrames.*

## Freedom in Christ is not freedom from duty

*“For freedom Christ has set us free;  
 stand firm therefore,  
 and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery”  
 (Galatians 5:1).*

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties: the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what we believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age has devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness: a license to do what we want, when we want.

This license is a submission, again, to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are

slaves to our desires, slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our sinful desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity.

In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and church.

God calls and enables us to believe in His Word and gladly to hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts that He gives to us into His service. God calls parents to provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord. And, God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. And, God calls pastors to preach and teach the law and the Gospel for the forgiveness of sins, and He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

*LCMS Stewardship Ministry*

May ev’ry mountain height, / Each vale and forest green,  
 Shine in Your Word’s pure light, / And its rich fruits be seen!  
 May ev’ry tongue / Be tuned to praise  
 And join to raise / A grateful song.

—Francis Scott Key, *Lutheran Service Book* 966:3

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

Following a request from Pilgrim’s Board of Elders dating to August of 2014, reaffirmed in June of 2018 as to its publication and format, I am reporting the following figures for 2018 through June 17<sup>th</sup> (24 of 52 weeks):

Undesignated Plate Offerings received:	<b>\$54,641.19</b>
Undesignated Plate Offerings projected:	\$60,000.00 (for deficit budget)
Actual accrued expenses:	<b>\$62,866.77</b>
Projected expenses per budget:	\$65,769.59

(24/52 of the total for the year under the austerity budget)

You may note that, as of this report, actual accrued expenses are more than \$8,000 over undesignated plate offerings received, though only about \$5,000 in savings has been used to date (leaving the savings totaling more than \$18,000). The austerity budget adopted for this year projected a total deficit of -\$27,879.88, but, by current projections, we are now on pace to realize an actual deficit of **-\$20,434**, which amounts to a “burn rate” of \$1,703 per month (an average for each month of the entire year), by which expenses are projected to exceed income (that \$1,703/month represents a little more than 1% of the total \$158,000 budget divided over 12 months). Not that such action is recommended, but, since the question has been asked, we could continue at the current rate for another 11 months before the savings would be depleted. My Second Quarter report to the Council will have more details.

*Tyler Watts  
Treasurer*

## Members’ CEF investments earn Pilgrim more rebates

As of the report dated April, Pilgrim’s latest rebate on its interest paid to the Texas District Church Extension Fund (CEF) as part of the loan for the Parish Hall amounted to \$26.59, thanks to Pilgrim members’ \$55,874 in supporting investments of the congregation’s outstanding loan balance of \$319,103, for a supporting investment level of 18%. At the current level of supporting investments, we are earning a rebate of 0.10%, but, if the percentage were 25%, we could earn a rebate of 0.25%! Do you have additional funds you want to invest with CEF? Check out the July 2018 rate slip below, visit [www.TexasCEF.org](http://www.TexasCEF.org), or see Pilgrim’s trained CEF representative Sarah Land with your questions or for more information.



**July 2018**

INVESTMENT	FIXED RATE		FLOATING RATE	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note	2.250%	2.27%	2.375%	2.40%
Three Year Note	2.500%	2.52%	2.750%	2.78%
Five Year Note	2.750%	2.78%	2.875%	2.91%
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%

**INVESTMENTS FOR CONGREGATIONS**

Congregation Savings	1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund Savings	2.875%	2.91%

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

**Texas District Church Extension Fund** 1-888-951-1233 [TexasCEF.org](http://TexasCEF.org) [facebook.com/texascef](https://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

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 AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

SEASONABLE WEATHER: drought conditions here and fires elsewhere

PEACE AND UNITY IN THE WORLD AND COUNTRY

THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES:

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's son, moving to San Diego, assigned to Bonham Ricard)

Nick Modisette (George and Jeanette Heil's nephew, sailing with the Navy in the Pacific)

THOSE WHO SERVE IN POLICE, FIRE, AND CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENTS

THOSE WHO TRAVEL:

Brady Gage

Pastor Galler (to Arkansas and Austin 7/1-7/9)

Remo Gualtieri and Kathy Hudson (vacationing in Australia 6/21-7/28)

Hinson and Land Families (weddings and vacations out west)

Carolyn Holcombe and Family

David Navaille

Charles Rittenberry

Edgar and Barbara Wuthrich

THOSE WHO MOURN: Family and friends of Mozelle Barton (Connie Wilburn's friend)

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, back at Arbor Grace on Henderson Blvd. in Kilgore)

THOSE WHO NEED HEALING:

Linda Davis (Paul Guinn's friend, now undergoing radiation for breast cancer)

Carolyn Holcombe (our organist, continuing to recover from 02/13 hand surgery)

Walt Hooge (Paul's father, waiting list for dementia unit as Parkinson's progresses)

Jim Hunt (Holly Treadway's cousin, recovering from kidney transplant)

Cathy Jennings (Remo and Kathy's friend, doing better on chemotherapy pill)

David Landry (our member, better and worse days with Ankylosing Spondylitis)

*Prayer list continues on next page.*

*Prayer list continues from previous page.*

Emily Melendrez (recovering from 4/24 wrist surgery, in-home therapy now underway)  
Ruby Modisette (Jeanette Heil's mother, recovering from kidney and other issues)  
Don Nicol (our member, dealing with heart and lung issues)  
Charlene Phillips (Olene Herricks' friend, on hospice care)  
Bob Rodger (David Navaille's friend, waiting for a kidney)  
Nellie Shubert (Arcele's brother Chuck's sister-in-law, at Autumn Leaves in Henderson)  
David Smith (our member, back at home with a number of ongoing issues)  
Ty Thigpen (Debbie Smith's third cousin, diagnosed with juvenile diabetes)  
Spencer Thompson (Connie's friend, receiving radiation treatments for lung cancer)  
Tracy Tippitt (Arcele Wilburn's niece, recovering from a recent shoulder surgery)  
Jim Treadway (at Christus Trinity Mother Frances Rehab Hosp after fall/head injury)  
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)  
Arcele Wilburn (our member, getting over crud, waiting for July 5<sup>th</sup> new sleep test)  
Harold Wilburn (Arcele's brother-in-law, dementia, now able to do less for himself)  
Wendy Wright (Connie's friend, having trouble recovering from gall bladder surgery)

THOSE IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

EXPECTANT MOTHERS:

Dana Freeman (our member, officially due July 14)

FAMILIES IN CRISIS OR NEED AND ALL FAMILIES:

Adams Family (Bianca's change in educational plans)

Maria Gualtieri (Remo's sister, waiting for an update on a new job)

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)

Thomas Family (Olene's neighbor's family, Robin has kidney and other problems)

Watts Family (smooth closings on houses and transition to Michigan this summer)

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## AUGUST EVENTS

**PASTOR'S VACATION** (the first two weeks of his five for 2018) begins after the Divine Service on July 30<sup>th</sup> and continues through August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SUNDAYS, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup>** will be lay-led Matins services (no Communion).

**LETOURNEAU CHURCH FAIR:** Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for the September *Pilgrimage* will be due Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ELDERS** will likely meet on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. (The reading assignment will be announced closer to the meeting.)

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** will likely meet on Wednesdays August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (not on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 15<sup>th</sup> due to Pastor's vacation).

**KILGORE COLLEGE BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT:** watch the Sunday bulletins for details.

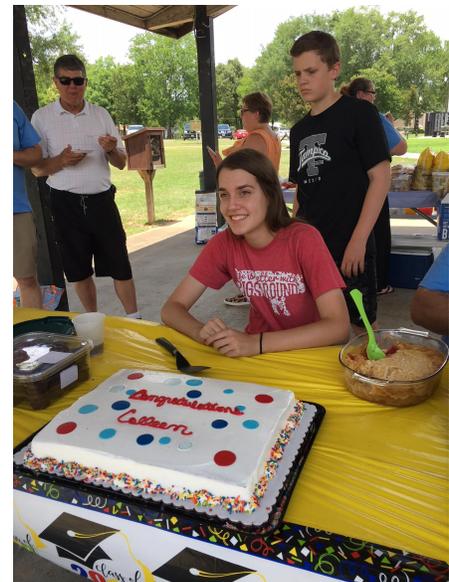
**LWML** does not have quilting or meetings during the summer months.

## June photos feature a full rainbow and successful picnic



(Left) Two pictures were necessary for Pastor Galler to capture a full rainbow that spanned part of Kilgore near Walmart on the evening of Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. In Genesis 9:8-17, God gives the rainbow to Noah and his descendants, including us, as a sign that never again would He have a flood destroy the earth. (How the photos got flipped is a mystery.)

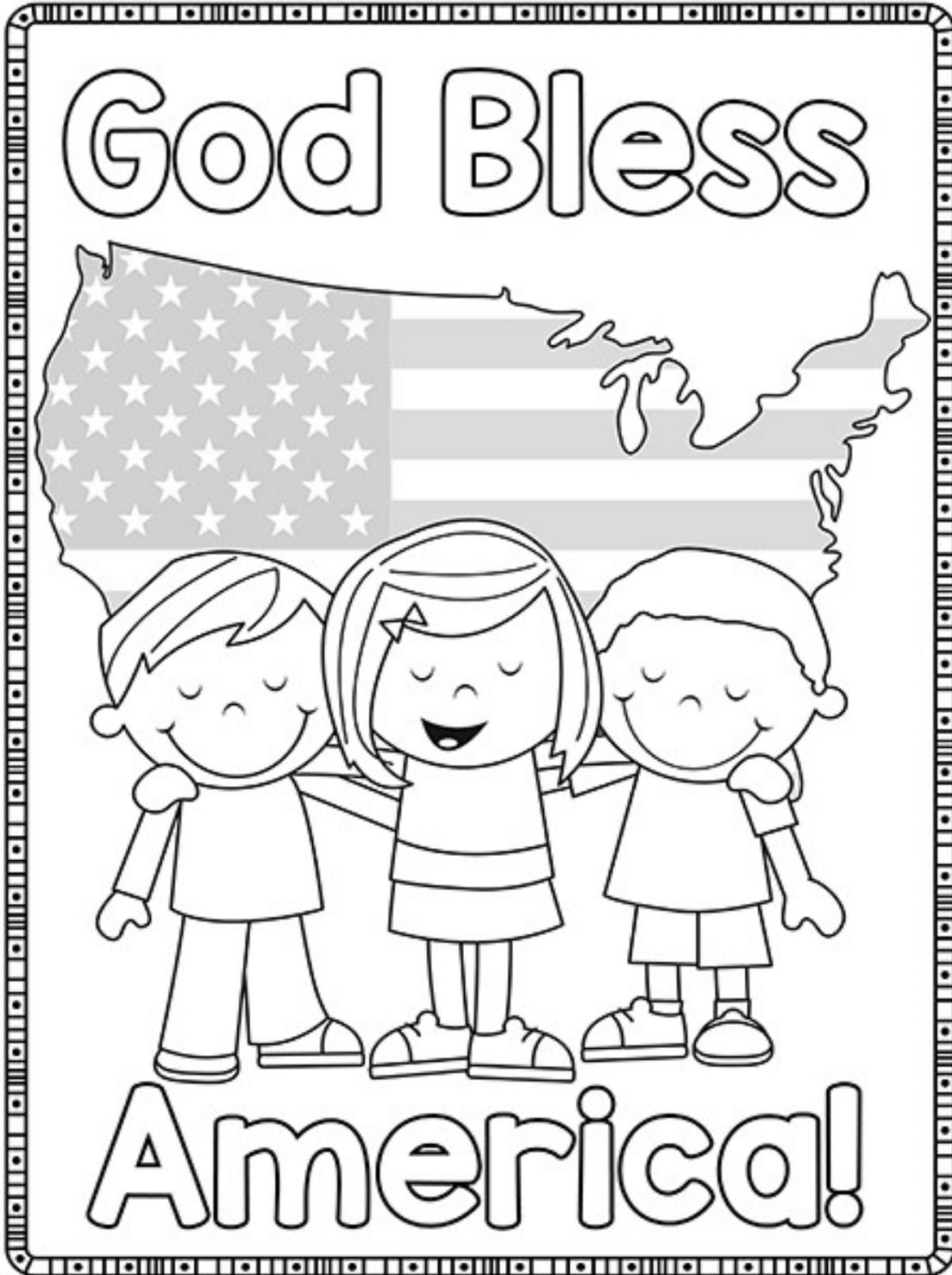
(Near right) Edgar Wuthrich grills up a delicious lunch for all in attendance at the annual Pilgrim picnic on June 10<sup>th</sup>. (Far right) Pilgrim's 2018 high school graduate Colleen Hooze poses with the cake that was part of the celebration of her graduation at the picnic, while her younger brother Matthew Hooze waits for his turn to get a piece. In the background, assistant cook Brady Gage talks to Steven Sampson, as Angela Sampson and Jeanna Watts watch the children playing around the pavillion. *Photos: Jim and Holly Treadway.*



(Far left) Soon-to-be-members Jon and Carolyn Barry, visit with Pastor Galler, while their children (Ethan, Audrey, and Kellen) played with/or visited with other children. (Near left) While waiting for the food, Sharon Sampson and Gwen Rittenberry visit under the nice pavillion at Harris Park *Photos: Jim and Holly Treadway.*

## KIDS' PAGE

July 4<sup>th</sup> is Independence Day, a day on which we celebrate the United States' independence from England. We are blessed to live in this country that generally has religious freedom. Children may like to color the image below and pray for their country and its leaders.



[www.ChristianPreschoolPrintables.com](http://www.ChristianPreschoolPrintables.com)

Images (c) Kari Bolt, Hidesy's Clipart & Marcelline Affard



# JULY 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
<b>1</b> 6 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>2</b>  M/M Spencer Land (A)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> M/M George C. Heil (A)	<b>6</b>  Carl Gardner(B)	<b>7</b>
Pastor leaves after the Divine Service 7/1 for vacation July 1-10 (an elder will answer the Church Phone and contact the on-call Pastor as needed)				LWML Texas District Convention in Waco July 5-8		
<b>8</b> 7 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Lay-led Matins (no communion)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  6:00 PM Elders	<b>11</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>12</b>  Cayden Hinson (B) Paul Hooge (B)	<b>13</b>  Marci Landry (B)	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM Willows  Reports for Council due tomorrow  Zylan Ellis (B)
Pastor on vacation July 1-10 (an elder will answer the Church Phone)						
<b>15</b> 8 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>16</b>  Luke Land (B)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Pastors' Meeting (Lufkin)  David Navaille (B)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> Quarterly Blood Drive 8:00AM to 12:30 PM 10:00 AM Willows <i>Pilgrimage</i> articles due tomorrow
<b>22</b> 9 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service (with New Officer Installation) 12:30 PM Council Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  M/M David Landry (A)
Pastor and others at Higher Things Conference in Kansas July 24-27						
<b>29</b> 10 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Fifth Sunday Meal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Communion Assistant – Paul Hooge  Acolyte – Cooper Sampson  Cleaning Volunteers – <span style="background-color: yellow;">Your name here ???</span>			
Pastor leaves after the Divine Service 7/29 for vacation						

**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.