



# ***THE PILGRIMAGE***

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

September 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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## **Perceptions of pastors should not keep us from God's Word**

Perhaps a hazard of many different occupations is being told about people's experiences with other people in the same occupation. For example, a plumber, doctor, or landscaper might hear about people's experiences with, respectively, other plumbers, doctors, or landscapers—perhaps good experiences and compliments, as well as bad experiences and complaints. Likewise, pastors seem to be told people's experiences with other pastors, sometimes good experiences, but more often bad experiences. My recent vacation was no exception, as family members and friends related to me their compliments and complaints about the members of the clergy in their lives.

Of course, the best person to hear the compliments and constructive complaints are the clergy members themselves, so that they can be affirmed in what they are doing well and potentially address what they could be doing better (that practice is also in keeping with what Matthew 18:15-17 teaches about the steps of Christian reconciliation). If talking to the specific clergyman is not possible or practical in specific circumstances, then one might talk to those who have oversight of him, preferably at the congregational level at least first, if not also moving up the ladder of one's church body later as needed. Yet, as long as gossip is not the goal, sometimes a family member or friend who is also a member of the clergy can listen sympathetically and voice helpful advice. The foregoing, as well as the following, is advice I frequently find myself voicing.

While we might choose plumbers, doctors, landscapers, and the like and determine our use of their services in part on our perceptions of their personalities and skills, something more significant is involved when it comes to pastors and the Church. Not the pastors' personalities or skills but the Word of God itself is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). The Word of God creates and sustains the saving relationship of trust in the God

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man Jesus Christ Who died on the cross and rose from the grave to save all people from their sins. Individual pastors' personalities and skills may differ, but the Word of God is a treasure Whose surpassing power works through—and even despite of—the jars of clay (cracked pots or “crackpots”) that might “contain” it (2 Corinthians 4:7).

At no point should we let our negative perceptions of pastors' personalities and skills keep us away from the Word of God, either in Bible classes and studies or in the Divine Service, especially when that Word of God is connected with the visible means of water in Holy Baptism, the rite of individual Absolution, and bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar. We are not like the fourth-century and later heretical followers of Donatus who falsely thought—and others who may still falsely think—that the sacraments' validity depends on the person who administers them. Rather, we recognize that, when Christ's institution of the Sacraments is honored in the regular order of the Church, then a minister's personal unworthiness does not affect the sacraments' validity, since their true minister is Christ (confer Augsburg Confession V:3; Apology of the Augsburg Confession VII/VIII:29, 49). While we must flee false teaching and practice, we may have to endure less-faithful teaching and practice in one place, perhaps even foregoing the Sacraments for a time, if we have no other practical options.

The year that I was at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, for my first year of seminary studies was a time of dark days at that particular Seminary, with a deeply divided faculty and severely-restricted chapel liturgy and hymnody. Students were at least tempted to attend chapel services only when certain professors or pastors were preaching and when certain orders of service were being used. One of my now-sainted professors then rightly told his students, including me, that, no matter how bad we might think a sermon or liturgy might be, the Word of God was still present and deserving of our holding it sacred and gladly hearing and learning it. (If nothing else, he said, we could open up the hymnal and read the Psalms to ourselves.)

Let us all repent and, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, be forgiven of our sins of letting our negative perceptions of pastors' personalities and skills, our feelings about our fellow congregants, and anything other than false teaching and practice keep us away from the teaching and preaching of the Word of God and its administration in its sacramental forms. Let us not come or stay away because the pastor will be absent or present, but let us regularly fill Bible classes/studies and the Divine Service. Let us always remember that we come to God's Word not because we like the pastor or because we think that he teaches well but because by God's Word God gives us the forgiveness of sins that we desperately need for eternal life. In short, let us honor God by receiving His Word that we hear from pastors not as the word of men but as what it really is, the Word of God, which is at work in us who believe (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

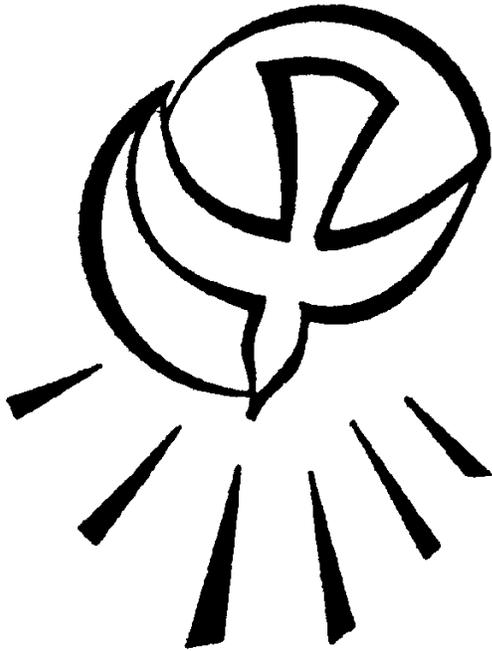
*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

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## *HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!*

02 – Jennifer Hooge  
14 – Clay Ellis  
20 – Jeanette Paetznick  
26 – Jim Treadway





## A September Sunday asks if we are “for” or “against” Jesus

This month we will hear Jesus say in a Gospel Reading that the one who is *not against* Him and the disciples is *for* Him and the disciples (Mark 9:40; confer Luke 9:50). However, elsewhere, presumably later in time, Jesus says something different, that the one who is *not with* Him is *against* Him (Matthew 12:30; Luke 11:23). Although of the four related passages only Mark 9:40 is appointed to be read in our three-year series of Gospel Readings, over my early years of ministry, these seemingly contradictory statements nonetheless were a source of some contention, prompting me to author an article eventually published in *Lutheran Theological Review* XIV (2001-2002), pp.10-16, titled “Matthew 12:30; Mark 9:40; Luke 9:50; 11:23—‘With and For’ or ‘Against’?”, which several of

my pastor friends affectionately called my “Preposition Paper” (if you would like a copy of the article, I can provide you with one). As I note in that paper, the two statements do not contradict each other but complement each other and together teach how to regard those outside the true confession of the faith. Ultimately, there is no middle ground: one is either “with and for” Jesus or “against” Him. Under normal circumstances, individual believers do not exist apart from the Church gathered around the purely preached Gospel and the rightly administered Sacraments and thereby also gathering others.

The following are all of the Sundays this month and their appointed Gospel Readings according to the second (B) year of *Lutheran Service Book’s* three-year lectionary series.

- Fifteenth Sunday (09/02): Jesus tells what does and does not defile (Mark 7:14-23)
- Sixteenth Sunday (09/09): Jesus does all things well (Mark 7:24-37)
- Seventeenth Sunday (09/16): Jesus drives out demons others cannot (Mark 9:14-29)
- Eighteenth Sunday (09/23): Jesus says the first must be last (Mark 9:30-37)
- Nineteenth Sunday (09/30): Jesus speaks of people for or against Him (Mark 9:38-50)

On your own, you may wish to read the section of Mark’s account that is omitted from the this month’s more or less continuous reading of Mark, namely Mark 8:1-9:13. (Mark 8:27-35, with an option to extend the reading to Mark 9:1, is appointed for the Confession of St. Peter, which observance is appointed for January 18; Mark 8:27-38 is appointed for this lectionary year’s Second Sunday in Lent; and Mark 9:2-9 is appointed for Transfiguration in this lectionary year.)

This month continues the non-festival half of the Church Year, which uses green-colored cloths on the pastor (vestments) and furniture in the Sanctuary (paraments), which color brings to mind the life and growth evident in foliage and fruit and reflects the growth in the Church.

Everyone is always invited and welcome in person at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and anyone can read and hear sermons preached at Pilgrim at [www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons](http://www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons).

*Pastor Galler*

## Pilgrim co-hosts 20<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Kilgore Community Blood Drive

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Kilgore Rotary Club, and The Blood Center of East Texas hosted their quarterly blood drive on July 21<sup>st</sup>. There were a total of 18 units collected, which may be used to help some 38 different patients in need of transfusions. We scheduled 19 people to give blood. Of those signed up, 14 were able to give, with 4 of those giving two units of red cells and 4 not being able to donate for various issues. Thank you to those who helped call potential donors, were donors themselves, assisted in facilitating the drive, and lent a hand for clean-up. There was a drawing for \$25 in cash. The next quarterly blood drive is scheduled for October 6th. I will call or email as the date approaches. Again, thank you for your help.

*Tina Stephens McMurray  
Acting Outreach Coordinator*

(Top right) Jeromy McMurray and Jeanna Watts both donate two units of red cells at the blood drive on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

(Bottom right) Tina McMurray not only made sure the blood drive went off without a hitch, but she also took time to donate blood herself. *Photos: Barbara Wuthrich.*



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## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** will be held Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. We are continuing to study Jesus's life and teaching and how it applies to us.

**TEXAS CONFSSIONAL LUTHERANS FREE CONFERENCE:** All are welcome at Grace Lutheran Church in Brenham on September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to hear the Rev. Mark Surburg speak on the theme of "Lutherans, the Law, and Preaching" (no doubt touching on the matters of justification, sanctification, and the "third use" of the law). See Pastor Galler for more information.

**COUNCIL REPORTS, PROPOSED BUDGETS, AND NOMINATIONS** should be to Holly by September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**ELDERS' MEETING** is presently scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on September 11<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room/Library.

**QUARTERLY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** is Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.

**OCTOBER PILGRIMAGE DEADLINE:** Please have your contributions in by Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, or as soon as possible thereafter.

**FIFTH SUNDAY MEAL** September 30<sup>th</sup> after Divine Service.

1	1 Chr. 29:10-13
	Job 31-33
2	Psalms 86
	Job 34-36
3	Psalms 87
	Job 37-39
4	Psalms 88
	Job 40-42
5	Psalms 89
	Proverbs 1-3
6	Psalms 90
	Proverbs 4-7
7	Psalms 91
	Proverbs 8-10
8	Psalms 92
	Proverbs 11-13
9	Psalms 93
	Proverbs 14-16
10	Psalms 94
	Proverbs 17-19
11	Psalms 95
	Proverbs 20-22
12	Psalms 96
	Proverbs 23-25
13	Psalms 97
	Proverbs 26-28
14	Psalms 98
	Proverbs 29-31
15	Psalms 99
	Ecclesiastes 1-3
16	Psalms 100
	Ecclesiastes 4-6
17	Psalms 101
	Ecclesiastes 7-9
18	Psalms 102
	Ecclesiastes 10-12
19	Psalms 103
	Song of Solomon 1-4
20	Psalms 104
	Song of Solomon 5-8
21	Psalms 105
	Jeremiah 1-3
22	Psalms 106
	Jeremiah 4-6
23	Psalms 107
	Jeremiah 7-9
24	Psalms 108
	Jeremiah 10-12
25	Psalms 109
	Jeremiah 13-15
26	Psalms 110
	Jeremiah 16-18
27	Psalms 111
	Jeremiah 19-22
28	Psalms 112
	Jeremiah 23-25
29	Psalms 113
	Jeremiah 26-28
30	1 Chr. 29:10-13
	Jeremiah 29-31

## You can make Daily Bible reading and Q&A about it part of your regular routine

Times that we are getting back into routines, such as Fall, with children back in school and the like, can also be good times to add what may be a new routine, such as our reading a psalm (or other seasonal canticle) and a few chapters of the Bible every day. The schedule of daily Bible reading at left (available in larger print in the Narthex) is from *Lutheran Worship* (reproduced by permission) and recommended for all of us to use, so we can all grow in faith and discuss the reading together, such as in what follows, a question and answer from the reading assigned for June.

### **Q: In Acts 16:18, why does Paul get angry with the servant girl who keeps telling everyone that they are from God?**

A: The Greek word that the ESV translates “greatly annoyed” is used only two times in the whole New Testament, and in this case the sense seems to be “troubled, displeased, offended, pained, to be worked up”. To be sure, the Divinely-inspired author, St. Luke, does not tell us precisely what troubled Paul, nor is Paul’s having been troubled necessarily the cause of his driving out the demonic spirit (the NIV’s “Finally ... so ... that ...” is more paraphrase than translation). While what the slave girl was saying about Paul, Luke, and his other coworkers’ being servants of the Most High God and telling the way of salvation was true, her following them around crying that out may not have always been the best thing as Paul worked in Philippi. Moreover, she was possessed by a demonic spirit and was part of a money-making scheme that was not in keeping with the Second Commandment, which forbids the use of satanic arts, such as calling up such spirits and fortune-telling (as well as our more-likely use of Ouija Boards, Tarot Cards, séances, and horoscopes) . So, Paul may have been troubled about the impact on his work, the possession of the slave girl, the ongoing sin against the Second Commandment, or any combination of those things. In any case, I would not say that he was angry with the slave girl herself, for he addresses the demonic spirit and in the Name of Jesus Christ tells it to leave the girl, bringing her and Paul and his coworkers relief but also ending her owners’ hopes of making money, which is what upset her owners, as the following narrative details.

Remember that everyone is encouraged as part of his or her daily routine to be reading the Bible daily, whether or not he or she follows the particular plan listed here. You can spend a minimal amount of time simply reading or listening to the appointed reading, or you can spend as much time as you like more-closely considering the verses, perhaps using

the resources linked online at [www.pilgrimlc.org/daily-bible-reading](http://www.pilgrimlc.org/daily-bible-reading). Questions about any Bible reading are always welcome. I usually call for them in person at the beginning of Sunday Adult Bible Class, but you are also welcome to ask them via any medium you like at any time, and I will answer them in return!

*Pastor Galler*

## Pilgrim group attends Higher Things in Kansas

Four Pilgrim youth and two chaperones attended the 2018 Higher Things youth conference themed “Sanctified” July 24-27 on the campus of Kansas University in Lawrence, Kansas. Proceeds from the garage sale held in October of 2017 helped cover transportation and lodging expenses en route. Conference days were filled with worship (as many as four services a day), catechesis (a total of four plenary and eight breakout sessions), and fun (each night had several hours of a wide variety of activities). The group was blessed to travel together harmoniously in the Watts’ Suburban with Jeanna Watts driving and Pastor Galler navigating.



Outside of the Student Union where all of the large worship services were held, Emma Watts, Matthew Hooqe, Luke Land, and Devin Landry pose with KU’s Jayhawk mascot known as “Jay”. *Photo: Jeanna Watts.*



(Far left) Pastor Galler, Luke Land, Matthew Hooqe, Devin Landry, and Emma Watts smile for the camera from the front-row where they were seated for the Opening Service and stayed for nearly all of the worship services. (Near left) Waiting for a Plenary Session to start, (right to left) Devin Landry, Emma Watts, Luke Land, and Matthew Hooqe sit in the balcony of the auditorium whose 1,000-person capacity capped conference registration.

*Photos: Jeanna Watts.*

## Relocated members leave forwarding addresses

For a variety of reasons several current and former members have at least temporarily relocated from the area but left US Mail addresses where you can still reach them.

- Paul Guinn: 213024 Volga Drive, Porter, TX 77365-4272
- Jerome Key: 1005 N. Old Troy Road, Union City, TN 38261-8061
- Don Nicol: c/o Shana Sapp, 2551 Eagle Creek Way, Signal Mountain, TN 37377-8535
- Watts Family: 410 Maple Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307-1849

The Church Office hopes to have a new, updated Church Directory out soon.

## 40th Biennial Convention - LWML Texas District July 5-8, 2018 - Waco Convention Center



*"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:38 ESV).*

### Pilgrim members attend LWML Texas Convention



Barbara Wuthrich, Tiffani Erickson and Elaine Navaille pose in front of the stage with the screen showing the convention logo.

Four of our local Society's members—Tiffani Erickson, Elaine Navaille, Sharon Sampson, and Barbara Wuthrich—attended the 40<sup>th</sup> biennial convention of LWML Texas from July 5-8 in the Waco Convention Center. The theme, "Filled to Overflow...serving, sharing, telling", was based on John 7:38 which states, "whoever believes in me as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. The convention objective was that attendees be filled and nourished by the living water and overflow to everyone in the world that we meet through the serving, sharing, and telling of God's marvelous love through Jesus Christ.

The convention opened with a Service of Dedication and Blessing Prayer Walk around the convention center meeting areas, led by District Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. John Heckman, and was followed by the "Meet and Greet" time. Excellent Bible studies were led throughout the convention by Donna Pyle, Rev. John Heckmann, and Rev. Timothy Appel, the District Senior Pastoral Counselor. Our own East Texas "product" Debbie Curry was a gracious hostess throughout the convention in her capacity as LWML Texas District President, and the Rev. Ken Hennings, LCMS Texas District President, served as the Proclaimer for the Friday evening Divine Service. At the final count, there were a total of 684 people registered at the convention.

Voting for mission grants is always a Convention highlight and major part of the convention business. Of the nine grants selected to receive full funding from the \$180,000 goal set for the 2018-2020 Biennium, scholarships for seminarians and DCEs were among the first three, and worthy causes from reaching out to visually-impaired inmates, to autism centers for children, and free childcare and parenting resources to teen parents expanded the plans to share God's love. There was a tie for grants receiving 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> place votes, so they received partial funding. See the full list of grants to be posted soon on the LWML bulletin board in Pilgrim's Narthex, and we thank Pilgrim members for their help in funding these causes through the Loose Change Sundays for LWML Mites.

Rounding out the activities of the convention are always on-site and off-site servant events. Among the on-site activities in the Convention Center were blanket tying, quilt tacking, stamp trimming, and designing greeting cards for LCMS missionaries. Other on-site servant



Sharon Sampson works in the registration booth at the convention to assist the ladies attending the convention. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*

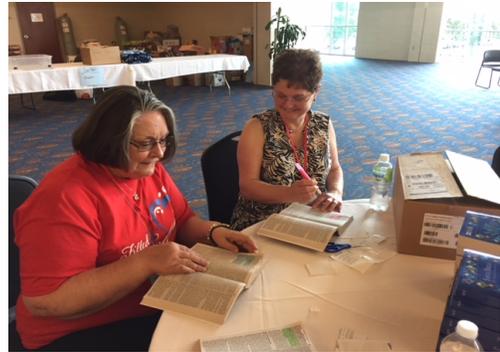
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events included marking salvation verses in Spanish Bibles for Ysleta Mission, assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief, cookie bags for Waco's first responders, packaging meals for Kids Against Hunger, and packing Blessing bags for distribution to the homeless. The off-site activities included nursing home visits, working in thrift stores, and volunteering at Care Net to teach young mothers the value of good meal preparations.

Saturday night entertainment was provided by Wendy Sue Fluegge, a talented Christian songwriter, musician, and worship leader. She also performed for us as a lead in to most sessions, and led singing throughout the convention. A great time was had by all!

*Elaine Navaille  
Pilgrim Society Alternate Convention Delegate*



Elaine Navaille highlights salvation verses in Spanish Bibles for the Ysleta Mission, something she REALLY enjoys doing. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*

## **LWML young women make a difference**

Have you ever wanted to make a difference in your life and the lives of others? Maybe you didn't realize that one person could make a difference; or that you didn't know how and where to start.

I'm at the time in my life where I just bought a house, got my first REAL full-time job, got married, and took on full responsibility of my five fur babies. I stayed busy, and still do, and wasn't really sure what my goal in life was. I didn't have time to sit down and think about it; I was just too busy.

One Sunday morning, I was about to experience an adventure that would change my whole outlook on life.

I was asked, by a member of our church (and a lifelong friend), if I would be a Young Woman Representative for our LWML Texas District. I was so caught off guard by the question and the content, that (instead of asking questions) I immediately said yes. I later realized that I probably should have given it some more thought as to what I was getting myself into, but my husband was there, and I had known my friend my whole life, so I felt like I couldn't say no. I then thought, "What's the worst that can happen? She wouldn't lead me astray, and it IS a church event."

With this in mind, my thoughts swirled on what I could possibly be doing to help represent my church and my District. I had never been too involved in my church or LWML, in fact, I didn't really know what I could DO to make a difference. That all changed the day I got to Waco!

The Convention was a blessing in disguise, and I am so thankful to have been a part of it. Going to an LWML Convention is like nothing else. I recommend anybody go, if nothing else, to experience God's love, the embracing atmosphere, and the ability to help make a difference to those who are struggling on their own.

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LWML President Patti Ross (front row left) poses with LWML Texas District President Debbie Curry (front row center) and the Texas District Young Woman Representatives (YWRs). Note East Texas YWR Tiffani Erickson in the back row, fourth from the right.

*Article continues from preceding page.*

There are times when we take things for granted, and these conventions help pull us back to reality and make us realize that there is always going to be someone who has it worse. When you really experience this up close, it really gets you motivated to help out and to try to change the world. None of us can do it on our own, but with God's help, and the help of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, we CAN and WILL make a world of difference.

I was asked, by current LCMS Texas District President Hennings what I currently do at my church and what do I plan on doing after the convention. I felt bad, and openly admitted, that I wasn't currently DOING anything for my church, and added that I didn't know HOW, or really that I bothered to be TOO involved. I added that this convention is helping me to see the world in a different light and that I plan to help out and become involved in any way I can.

I was given a title as East Texas Zone Young Woman Representative, and this isn't something to be taken lightly. This position is a big responsibility, and I am pumped to do what I can, to show others that I am (or will be) a great representative for our District.

It has been an honor to meet so many wonderful people, work on projects, help others in need, sing, praise, worship, bond, and pray with others. But most of all, it has been amazing to feel God's love radiate through a building and spread that love with others. I couldn't have done this or been able to experience such a wondrous event if it hadn't been for my church. I am so thankful for that little push I need, by God, through my church, to get me here.

God fills us to overflow onto others His mercy, thanks, praise, forgiveness, and, most of all, His love for everyone. He has set the ball in motion, and it is now up to us to take off and use His words to spread to others. As long as we praise Him and bring others along to share this joy, we can always be guaranteed to be Filled to Overflow.

*Tiffani Erickson*  
LWML Texas District East Texas Zone YWR

## Pilgrim installs three new Church Council members

In a Special Voters' Meeting May 20, Pilgrim elected three new Church Council members. Those elected were Ross Land as Treasurer and Bianca Adams and Tina Stephens as Co-Inreach Coordinators. They, along with Vice-President Carl Adams, who had been elected earlier in the year, were installed into their positions during the Divine Service July 22<sup>nd</sup>, although Carl was installed in absentia, since his work schedule did not allow him to be present.

The Church Council met later that day and decided that, until the Voters might confirm the Council's decision or decide otherwise, Bianca Adams would serve as sole Inreach Coordinator, and Tina Stephens would be Acting Outreach Coordinator.

Continuing to serve on the council are President Spencer Land, Recording Secretary Holly Treadway, Financial Secretary Jeanette Heil; Facilities Coordinator Remo Gualtieri, Christian Education Coordinator Sarah Land, and Chairman of Elders Carl Gardner. (Pastor Galler is a non-voting member of the Church Council.) We thank them for their service, even as on July 22<sup>nd</sup> we thanked outgoing Treasurer Tyler Watts and outgoing Inreach Coordinator Jeanna Watts for their service.

## Watts family bid Farewell and Godspeed July 29<sup>th</sup>



(Left) Pastor Galler poses with the members of the Watts family whose last Sunday at Pilgrim was July 29<sup>th</sup>, when they were bid Farewell and Godspeed, before they moved to Michigan later that week. The Watts had been members of Pilgrim since November of 2014, with Mark and Lucy having been baptized and Emma confirmed at Pilgrim.

*Photo: Holly Treadway.* (Right) Also on July 29<sup>th</sup>, Mark Watts almost hugs and says goodbye to his Sunday School teacher, Jennifer Hooge. *Photo: Jeanna Watts.*

## Our gifts to God first come from Him

It is September, and everything is in full swing again: back to school and back to church attendance after vacations and weekends away. And, since everything is back into full swing, it's a perfect time to get back to basics, back to the foundation.

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, Anglican author C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:



Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, “Daddy, give me six pence to buy you a birthday present.” Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is six-pence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (pp.128-129)

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers—stewards—acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deuteronomy 8:17-18), but also all that we are in this life (1 Corinthians 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability.

For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b).

And, from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matthew 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands.

On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours — not as stewards but as sons (Galatians 4:1–7).

Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

*LCMS Stewardship Ministry*

## 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 August 19<sup>th</sup> (33 of 52 weeks):

Undesignated Plate Offerings received:	\$70,928.61
Undesignated Plate Offerings projected:	\$77,844.75 (for deficit budget)
Actual accrued expenses:	\$89,950.09
Projected expenses per budget:	\$90,433.81

(33/52 of the total for the year under the austerity budget)

Ross Land  
Treasurer

## Pilgrim can use more supporting investment with CEF

As of the July report, Pilgrim had \$36,990 in supporting investments with the Texas District Church Extension Fund (CEF) with an outstanding loan balance of \$317,385, for a supporting investment level of 12%, and so a last rebate of \$26.54 applied to the loan balance.

At the current level of supporting investments, we are earning a rebate of 0.10%. However, in recent months the amount of money invested with CEF in Pilgrim's name dropped about \$20,000, and so any additional withdrawals in the future may take the congregation below that 10% level to where there is no rebate on interest. We certainly understand that there are perfectly valid reasons for people to withdraw money from CEF and do with their money as they may need or please to do. We are talking about investments, after all, not contributions! Yet, we all should remember there are also perfectly good reasons to invest with CEF, such as returns better than many bank accounts and certificates, helping our Pilgrim congregation, and helping other congregations expand their facilities as Pilgrim has been blessed to expand its facilities in recent years.

Do you have additional funds you want to invest with CEF? Check out the September 2018 rate slip below, visit [www.TexasCEF.org](http://www.TexasCEF.org), or see Pilgrim's CEF representative Ross Land with your questions or for more information. If we can get our level of supporting investment to 25%, we could earn an interest rebate of 0.25%!

### SEPTEMBER 2018



Texas District Church Extension Fund  
1.888.951.1233 • [texascef.org](http://texascef.org)

Investment	Fixed Rate <sup>2</sup>		Floating Rate <sup>2</sup>	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.250%	2.27%	2.500%	2.52%
Three Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.500%	2.52%	2.750%	2.78%
Five Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.750%	2.78%	2.875%	2.91%
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%

Accounts For Congregations			
Congregation Savings		1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund Savings		2.875%	2.91%

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](http://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.

## The Lord adds Benjamin Scott Freeman to His Church

On Sunday, July 29, the Lord through Pastor Galler baptized at Pilgrim Lutheran Church Benjamin Scott Freeman, who was born July 3 to Eric and Dana Renae Freeman. Benjamin's siblings—Maddie, Andrew, and Gwendolyn—were present to watch, along with other children from the congregation. Sponsors were Steven and Angela Sampson, who are also Andrew's sponsors. We continue to pray that the Lord blesses Benjamin, his whole family, and the whole Pilgrim congregation. *Photo: Holly Treadway.*



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## OCTOBER EVENTS

**LWML QUILTING/MEETING/SUPPER/BIBLE STUDY** will likely resume on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** should be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room/Library.

**21<sup>st</sup> QUARTERLY KILGORE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE** is scheduled for Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**LWML EAST TEXAS ZONE FALL EVENT:** “Our Rest in a Changing World” is the theme for the “event” Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine. (See the flyer on the LWML bulletin board in the Narthex for more details.)

**LWML SUNDAY** will be observed at Pilgrim on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**ELDERS MEETING** should start at 6:00 p.m. October 9<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room/Library.

**CITY OF KILGORE OKTOBERFEST** is downtown from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. October 13<sup>th</sup>, and Pilgrim is considering having a booth.

**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST FALL FEST** will be held Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pilgrim may have its usual bread booth.

**NOVEMBER PILGRIMAGE DEADLINE:** Please have your contributions in by Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, or as soon as possible thereafter.

**FIFTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN KILGORE:** “Why church?” is the theme for this year's gathering at the Devall Student Center Ballroom from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**JOINT REFORMATION DAY DIVINE SERVICE** will be held this year at Pilgrim at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## 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:

Sunday School as Rally Day activities are held 8/26

Outreach effort at Kilgore College 8/28

Faithful stewardship of God's gifts

THOSE UNCONVERTED AND WHO HAVE STRAYED FROM THE FAITH  
THOSE DEALING WITH TEMPTATIONS AND SINS RELATED TO SEXUALITY  
THOSE IN DESPAIR, THAT THEY MIGHT REMAIN MINDFUL OF GOD'S LOVE FOR  
THEM IN CHRIST

FOR AN END TO THE EVILS OF ABORTION AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

SEASONABLE WEATHER: drought conditions here and fires and flooding 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, assigned to the Bonham Ricard out of San Diego)

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

David Navaille

Charles Rittenberry

Sharon Sampson

Edgar Wuthrich

THOSE WHO TEACH, LEARN, AND SUPPORT THEM

THOSE WHO MOURN: Family and friends of Gina Rhinehart (Beth's friend Rhoda's mother)

SHUT-IN/HOMEBOUND:

Gwen Heil (our member, in the Carriage Inn Assisted Living in Katy)

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)

Sue Davis (David Navaille's friend, having cancer-removal surgery)

Tiffani Erickson and Frank Schuermann (recovering from a stomach bug)

Charlotte Herrell (Sharon Sampson's sister, cancer now in lungs, still on hospice care)

David Holcombe (our organist's son, cyst surgery 7/17, complications afterwards)

*The Prayer List continues on the following page.*

*The Prayer List continues from the preceding page.*

Walt Hooge (Paul's father, now in dementia unit as Parkinson's continues to progress)  
Jim Hunt (Holly Treadway's cousin, recovering from kidney transplant)  
Cathy Jennings (Remo and Kathy's friend, doing better on chemotherapy pill)  
Stacey Kelley (Holly's friend Karen's daughter, brain aneurysm surgery week of 8/20)  
David Landry (our member, better and worse days with Ankylosing Spondylitis)  
Emily Melendrez (recovering from 4/24 wrist surgery, in-home therapy now underway)  
Geneva Modisette (Jeanette Heil's aunt, rehabbing after heart attack and stroke)  
John Connor Newman (visitors John and B.J. Wilson's grandson, knee surgery 8/22)  
Don Nicol (our member, dealing with heart and lung issues)  
Julie Patton (Olene Herricks' friend, 8/6 cancer surgery)  
Charlene Phillips (Olene Herricks' friend, on hospice care)  
Mike Powell (Navailles' friend, recovering from hip surgery)  
Cynthia Robbins (Jeanette Heil's sister, recovering after heart attack and stent)  
Bob Roger (David Navaille's friend, on the kidney transplant list)  
Nellie Shubert (Arcele's brother Chuck's sister-in-law, at Autumn Leaves in Henderson)  
David Smith (our member, at home, now also diagnosed with Parkinson's)  
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 (recovering at home after fall/head injury, expecting outpatient therapy)  
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)  
Joenette Whisenant (Debbie Smith's aunt)  
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

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)  
Thomas Family (Olene's neighbor's family, Robin has kidney and other problems)  
Watts Family (smooth closing on Waskom house 9/7 and transitions in Michigan)



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## *BLESSED ANNIVERSARIES!*

06 – Carl and Bianca Adams

20 – Dan and Beth West

## KIDS' PAGE

As school starts back up, let us pray God to bless the schools of the Church and all colleges, universities, and centers of research and those who teach, learn, and work in them, that He might grant His wisdom in such measure that people may serve honorably in Church and state and our common life may be conformed to the ways of His truth (*Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book #166, p.443.*)

# BACK TO SCHOOL FUN WORDS

There are a lot of fun things about going back to school! Using the word list below, circle all of the words that are hidden in the puzzle.



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

FRIENDS	LUNCH TIME	SHARING	STORIES
LAUGHING	PLAYING	SINGING	
LEARNING	RECESS	SPORTS	



# SEPTEMBER 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>2</b> 15 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service  Jennifer Hooge (B)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship Lunch	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>6</b> Pastor gone to Plano for Study Group  M/M Carl Adams (A)	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Willows  <b>8</b> Reports, Budgets, Nominations due tomorrow
<b>9</b> 16 <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>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 PM Elders	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Clay Ellis (B)	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Kilgore SAFFE Day Downtown Kilgore
<b>16</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Council Meeting 12:30 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit 14 Pastors' Meeting (Palestine)  Jeanette Paetznick (B) M/M Dan West (A)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> October <i>Pilgrimage</i> articles due tomorrow
<b>23</b> 18 <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>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study  Jim Treadway (B)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 19 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Meal 4:00 Installation at First Presbyterian	Communion Assistant –Steven Sampson  Acolyte – Luke Land  Cleaning Volunteers – Steven and Angela Sampson					

**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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903-984-4333

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.