



# ***THE PILGRIMAGE***

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas  
December 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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## **Transparency and trust are important at Christmas and always**

Children sometimes assume what they will receive for Christmas, and they might even like to know for sure, though knowing would ruin at least some of the surprise and enjoyment of opening their gifts. Parents may be open enough to give children hints about what they might receive, and, for various reasons, parents may even be open enough to tell children what they will not receive. Children ultimately have to believe that their parents will do what the parents know to be best under the circumstances that the children might not even know about or understand. We can say that transparency and trust, buzzwords in discussions of our federal government, are important between human parents and children at Christmas.

Transparency and trust are also important between God our Father and us His children not only at Christmas but always. When God gave the man and the woman the first Gospel promise that a Savior would be born (Genesis 3:15), God could have given them all the details about that birth—not to mention His death on the cross for the sins of all humankind, salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, etc.—for He surely knew those details, but He did not give those details to them at that time. For example, God did not reveal the location of the Savior’s birth in Bethlehem until much later, as we will hear in an Old Testament Reading this month (Micah 5:1-6). And, as we heard in the Gospel Reading on the Last Sunday of the Church Year (Mark 13:24-37) and the sermon based on it, we know that God from eternity has elected (or chosen) some for salvation, but He has not revealed precisely why some and not others. On the topic of election and others, God is not fully transparent, but we trust Him nevertheless.

Transparency and trust are also always important between pastors as spiritual “fathers” (Large Catechism I:158-166) and members of their congregations as their “children” (not that pastors treat congregational members as “children” in negative ways that we might think of). But, not everything is said to everyone. For example, pastors and the elders with whom they work are privy to confidential information that they may not be able to reveal to their entire

*Article continues on following page.*

congregations, at a given time or ever. For that and any number of other reasons, pastors and elders cannot always be fully transparent, but we trust them nevertheless.

As Pilgrim's pastor, I strive to be as transparent as possible. As circumstances warrant and allow, I communicate in a number of ways. I would like for every member and every friend of the congregation to be present in every Sunday Adult Bible Class, every Sunday Divine Service, every Midweek Bible Study, and every other meeting and gathering as appropriate and so receive every communication, but such a desire is unrealistic given people's work, school, and family schedules and commitments. Thus, not every individual is going to receive every communication from me, not only when it comes to teaching and preaching but also when it comes to matters related to the life of the congregation (and even people who receive the monthly newsletters and the Sunday bulletins do not necessarily read and retain all the information in those efforts to communicate). I invite anyone who desires more information about anything to speak to me, and I will communicate to them directly what I can.

People who are more involved in the life of the congregation are likely to know more than other people about some things by virtue of their involvement, but that does not necessarily mean that information is being kept from the others. All are welcome to be as involved as possible and must understand that they will miss things when they are not. Our life together as pastor and people and as brothers and sisters in Christ is best served when we appreciate the transparency that we are able to have and trust one another on the matters that we may be less informed about, whether as a result of the nature of the information or of our own lesser involvement or of failure to attend to the communication that has been attempted. In keeping with the Eighth Commandment, we should put the best-possible construction on all things, explain everything in the kindest-possible way.

Christmas brings an end to children's limited knowledge of their gifts, and the Last Day may well bring an end to our limited knowledge of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 13:11) and our congregational life. For right now, may God grant us all the necessary transparency and trust, as well as a blessed Advent and Christmas-tide. I pray that I will see you for all or at least some of Pilgrim's special services (see the Calendar in this newsletter)!

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

## DECEMBER 2018



Texas District Church Extension Fund  
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Investment	Fixed Rate <sup>2</sup>		Floating Rate <sup>2</sup>	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.375%	2.40%	2.750%	2.78%
Three Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.625%	2.65%	3.000%	3.03%
Five Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.875%	2.91%	3.000%	3.03%
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%

  

Accounts For Congregations			
Congregation Savings		1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund Savings		3.000%	3.04%

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

### DAILY BIBLE READING

1	Luke 1:46-55 Revelation 1-2
2	Psalms 1 Rev. 3-5
3	Psalms 2 Revelation 6-8
4	Psalms 3 Revelation 9-11
5	Psalms 4 Rev. 12-14
6	Psalms 5 Rev. 15-17
7	Psalms 6 Rev. 18-20
8	Psalms 7 Rev. 21-22
9	Psalms 8 Isaiah 1-3
10	Psalms 9 Isaiah 4-6
11	Psalms 10 Isaiah 7-9
12	Psalms 11 Isaiah 10-12
13	Psalms 12 Isaiah 13-15
14	Psalms 13 Isaiah 16-18
15	Psalms 14 Isaiah 19-21
16	Psalms 15 Isaiah 22-24
17	Psalms 16 Isaiah 25-27
18	Psalms 17 Isaiah 28-30
19	Psalms 18 Isaiah 31-33
20	Psalms 19 Isaiah 34-36
21	Psalms 20 Isaiah 37-39
22	Psalms 21 Isaiah 40-42
23	Psalms 22 Isaiah 43-45
24	Psalms 23 Isaiah 46-48
25	Psalms 24 Isaiah 49-51
26	Psalms 25 Isaiah 52-54
27	Psalms 26 Isaiah 55-57
28	Psalms 27 Isaiah 58-60
29	Psalms 28 Isaiah 61-63
30	Psalms 29 Isaiah 64-66
31	Luke 1:46-55 Mark 1



# DECEMBER 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> FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>3</b> (No LWML Quilting, Supper, or Bible Study this month)	<b>4</b> Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship lunch	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer Service	<b>6</b> Pastor Galler gone to the Study Group in Plano	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Willows <hr/> <b>8</b>
<b>9</b> SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:30 PM Pastor prays at Kilgore City Council Meeting 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Toni Erickson (B)
<b>16</b> THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT(B) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service (Children's Program as Catechesis) Andrew Freeman (B)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> M/M John Wilson (A)	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer Service	<b>20</b> (No Circuit #14 Meeting this month) Anna Hooge (B)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE (W) 7:00 PM Candlelight Service of Readings and Hymns	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY (W) 10:00 AM Divine Service	<b>26</b> (No Midweek Bible Study) M/M Wendell Holcombe (A)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service (No Fifth Sunday Meal)	<b>31</b> 7:00 PM Divine Service (Our Redeemer, 1300 Judson Road Longview)	Communion Assistant – Carl Gardner Acolyte – Luke Land Cleaning Volunteers – <span style="background-color: yellow;">Your name here ???</span>				

*“For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.” (Isaiah 9:6a ESV).*

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Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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



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