



# ***THE PILGRIMAGE***

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas  
February 2019

---

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

---

## **The Lord's little flock does not fear being few in number**

Whether they are going up or going down, we all can become a little too fixated on numbers: the number of Pilgrim's baptized and communicant members, the number of people in Sunday Adult Bible Class and Sunday School, the number of people in the Sunday Divine Services and Communing, and the number of people in Midweek Bible Study. We have to report such statistics to the District and Synod annually, and we should and do care about each of the individuals whom the numbers represent, of course, but there can be too much emphasis on the individuals as an aggregate.

For example, we recently did not have Midweek Bible Study meet because there was only going to be a total of three of us involved, two present in person in the Conference Room/Library and one more present electronically on the phone. Of course, Jesus's own words assure us that where even only two or three are gathered in His Name, He is there among them (Matthew 18:20). Too often we give in to the temptation to think that two or three are too few and that 20 or 30, 200 or 300, or 2,000 or 3,000 are inherently better.

Perhaps somewhat ironically, the part of Jesus's teaching that we were going to consider in that Midweek Bible Class that night itself addressed concern about numbers. As the Divinely-inspired St. Luke reports (Luke 13:22-30), as Jesus went on His way through towns and villages teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem, someone, perhaps having observed the larger crowd listening to Jesus but the smaller crowd seriously following Him, asked Jesus whether those who are saved would be *few*. Rather than answering directly the person's perhaps idly-curious or speculative question about others, Jesus commanded both the person asking and the others listening themselves to strive agonizingly to enter through the narrow door, for, Jesus said, *many* will seek to enter and not be able, finding themselves outside on the Last Day, having wrongly thought that they were saved when, in fact, they were not saved. The Divinely-inspired St. Matthew's account of an apparently-similar statement on the lips of the Lord more explicitly

*Article continues on following page.*

states that those who enter by the wide and easy way to destruction are *many* and those who find the narrow and affliction-fraught way to life are *few* (Matthew 7:13-14). On another occasion, St. Luke records Jesus's asking, perhaps rhetorically yet no less seriously because of how few they will be, whether the Son of Man when He comes will even find on the earth those who believe.

We as a congregation and as individuals take seriously our responsibility, expressed in our current mission statement, both to receive the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and to share that salvation through word and deed with those in our midst, in our community, and throughout the world. With that salvation shared, if people receive God's salvation, God alone gets the glory, and, if people reject God's salvation, they alone get the blame. We are God's instruments for sharing that salvation, but we neither get the glory for how many might be saved nor the blame for how many might be lost. The book of Acts, for example, repeatedly indicates that God adds to His Church the number of those being saved (Acts 2:42, 47, *et cetera*), and so the Lutheran Confessions, to which we all subscribe by our individual membership in Pilgrim, rightly confess that, through the Office of the Holy Ministry's work with God's Word and Sacrament, the Holy Spirit is given, Who works faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel that we have a gracious God, not by our own merits but by the merit of Christ, when we believe this (Augsburg Confession, Article V, paragraphs 2-3).

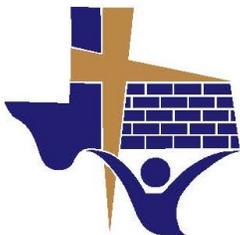
Having said not to be anxious about *lives or bodies*, our Lord also told His "little flock" not to fear, presumably about *anything*, no doubt including what we might think as *too few in His Church* (Luke 12:32). Twentieth-century Hymn-writer and composer Heinz Werner Zimmerman set that verse to music, and his text was later expanded by his collaborator Marjorie Ann Jillson (see *Lutheran Service Book* 735). Jillson, who struggled with thyroid illness for a great part of her life, may have been inspired by the present's holding greater promise for her better health, but the Lord's word and her expansion can mean more for us. Truly we in God's little flock can have no fear, be of good cheer, praise the Lord, and lift thankful hearts to God, for He has chosen to give us the Kingdom, He keeps us in His love forever, He stoops down to heal us and uplift and restore us, and He stays close beside us and in all things works with us. Indeed! Have no fear, little flock, about being too few in number or anything else! For, God gives you His Kingdom!

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

- 1 Luke 2:29-32  
Exodus 1-3
- 2 Psalm 59  
Exodus 4-6
- 3 Psalm 60  
Exodus 7-9
- 4 Psalm 61  
Exodus 10-12
- 5 Psalm 62  
Exodus 13-15
- 6 Psalm 63  
Exodus 16-18
- 7 Psalm 64  
Exodus 19-21
- 8 Psalm 65  
Exodus 22-24
- 9 Psalm 66  
Exodus 25-27
- 10 Psalm 67  
Exodus 28-30
- 11 Psalm 68  
Exodus 31-33
- 12 Psalm 69  
Exodus 34-36
- 13 Psalm 70  
Exodus 37-38
- 14 Psalm 71  
Exodus 39-40
- 15 Psalm 72  
Leviticus 1-3
- 16 Psalm 73  
Leviticus 4-6
- 17 Psalm 74  
Leviticus 7-9
- 18 Psalm 75  
Leviticus 10-12
- 19 Psalm 76  
Leviticus 13-15
- 20 Psalm 77  
Leviticus 16-18
- 21 Psalm 78  
Leviticus 19-21
- 22 Psalm 79  
Leviticus 22-24
- 23 Psalm 80  
Leviticus 25-27
- 24 Psalm 81  
Numbers 1-3
- 25 Psalm 82  
Numbers 4-6
- 26 Psalm 83  
Numbers 7-9
- 27 Psalm 84  
Numbers 10-12
- 28 Luke 2:29-32  
Numbers 13-15

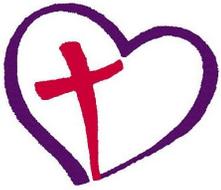
**FEBRUARY 2019**



**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>	2.375%	2.40%	2.750%	2.78%
Three Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.625%	2.65%	2.750%	2.78%
Five Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.875%	2.91%	2.750%	2.78%
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 SIP 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.



# FEBRUARY 2019

## 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
Elder On Duty – George B. Heil  Cleaning Volunteers – <i>Adopt a room!</i>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  10:00 AM Willows
<b>3</b> FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service  Brandy Ellis (B)	<b>4</b> 5:30 PM Quilting, 6:30 PM LWML Supper and Bible Study	<b>5</b> Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship Lunch	<b>6</b> Noon-1 PM Rotary meets in Parish Hall  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>7</b> Pastor Galler gone to the Study Group in Plano	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service 4:00 PM Ordination in Fairfield	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	<b>13</b> Noon-1 PM Rotary meets in Parish Hall  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Meeting in Gun Barrel City	<b>15</b>  Rotary Flags go out	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Rotary Flags picked up  Heaven Chiasson (B)	<b>20</b> Noon-1 PM Rotary meets in Parish Hall  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>21</b>  6:00-7:30 PM CAPA  Jeromy McMurray (B)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Special Voters' Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Noon-1 PM Rotary meets in Parish Hall  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>28</b>		

***“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)***

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

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



**Pilgrim Lutheran Church**

713 Florey Street  
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

[www.pilgrimlc.org](http://www.pilgrimlc.org)



Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor

[pastor@pilgrimlc.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimlc.org)

903-984-4333

Pastor Galler is the editor of **The Pilgrimage**. Volunteers assist with distributing editions. Everyone is welcome to contribute articles at any time, and a regular assistant editor is desired to return the newsletter to its previous more-expansive form. All copyright holders of excerpted or reproduced materials are hereby acknowledged, and such materials are used in good faith under fair use provisions.