



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

There is much to thank God for at Pilgrim!

Especially if we think it is so, we *can* and *should* thank and praise God that His Gospel is purely preached and His Sacraments are rightly administered at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Kilgore, Texas! That pure preaching and right administration are not ultimately our doing but His: the Holy Spirit's working through faithful pastors, lay leaders, and people, past and present (and, we pray, future). So, we *do* thank and praise *God* for the opportunities that we have regularly to receive His forgiveness of sins in Word and Sacrament by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, to be in His Word through Sunday Adult Bible Class (and Sunday School for our children) and Midweek Bible Study (not to mention the personal Daily Bible Reading that we encourage and support), and to socialize with one another at various congregational functions and activities, including our efforts to share God's free gift of salvation with others.

The purely preached Gospel and the rightly administered Sacraments—as presented by the Divinely-inspired and so inerrant Word of God and, on that basis, believed, taught, and confessed by the Lutheran Confessions, to which we all subscribe by our membership in the congregation—are the chief measure that we need ultimately to be concerned about, for the purely preached Gospel and the rightly administered Sacraments are the visible or revealed marks identifying where the Church is, and so also where Christ is with His forgiveness of sins, and so also life and salvation. Who all is in the Church is to some extent invisible or hidden from us, though not to God, since the determinative faith in the heart is not always perfectly expressed by one's confession of lips and other deeds, including congregational membership.

We all may well prefer to have more people present for Divine Service, Bible classes and studies, social activities, outreach events, and the like, not to mention having more of all of those activities, but the quantity of neither the people attending them nor of the activities themselves are the measure Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions direct us to consider. Rather, we must carefully examine our own expectations to see whether they are in line with those of

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Scripture and the Confessions. For example, St. Paul says that pastors are primarily to be faithful to God, not to try to please people in other ways (1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Galatians 1:10).

We may know from our own or others' experience with modern medicine how, if a diagnosis is wrong, then a prescribed course of treatment is likely to be wrong and may even end up making matters worse. The same principle is true with congregational life: if we let false human expectations, instead of God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions, identify and diagnose a problem and dictate a course of action, then we are likely to make things worse in the ways that matter most.

Although always welcome at Pilgrim, if people do not like God's Word of law and Gospel preached and otherwise applied as it should be, and if they do not like Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Altar administered as Scripture and the Confessions say they should be, then they may well reject them here and go elsewhere, perhaps even dividing families. As sad as such outcomes are, such outcomes are as Scripture tells us they will be (for example, 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Matthew 10:34-37).

In keeping with Scripture and the Confessions (for example, 2 Timothy 4:1-2, 5), Pilgrim's Board of Elders and I as Pilgrim's called pastor are resolved to continue with Pilgrim's pure preaching of the Gospel and right administration of the Sacraments. Especially as Lent begins this month, we remember that when we sin in any way, we can repent and be forgiven here. Truly, there is much to thank God for at Pilgrim!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

In Memoriam

After the February *Pilgrimage* had already been printed and distributed the end of January, God summoned out of this world to our eternal home the soul of our member Don Nicol. Don was born into this world January 26, 1940, was given new birth by water and the Word on August 4, 1940, was confirmed on October 7, 1956, and became a member of Pilgrim by Profession of Faith September 2, 2012. His earthly life ended January 31, 2019, and, after a funeral at Pilgrim, his earthly remains were given Christian burial on February 7, 2019. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord (Revelation 14:13-14)!

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Isaiah 64:1-9
Numb. 16-18
- 2 Psalm 85
Numb. 19-21
- 3 Psalm 86
Numb. 22-24
- 4 Psalm 87
Numb. 25-27
- 5 Psalm 88
Numb. 28-30
- 6 Psalm 89
Numb. 31-33
- 7 Psalm 90
Numb. 34-36
- 8 Psalm 91
Deut. 1-3
- 9 Psalm 92
Deut. 4-6
- 10 Psalm 93
Deut. 7-9
- 11 Psalm 94
Deut. 10-12
- 12 Psalm 95
Deut. 13-15
- 13 Psalm 96
Deut. 16-18
- 14 Psalm 97
Deut. 19-21
- 15 Psalm 98
Deut. 22-24
- 16 Psalm 99
Deut. 25-27
- 17 Psalm 100
Deut. 28-30
- 18 Psalm 101
Deut. 31-34
- 19 Psalm 102
Luke 1
- 20 Psalm 103
Luke 2-3
- 21 Psalm 104
Luke 4-5
- 22 Psalm 105
Luke 6-7
- 23 Psalm 106
Luke 8-9
- 24 Psalm 107
Luke 10-11
- 25 Psalm 108
Luke 12-13
- 26 Psalm 109
Luke 14-15
- 27 Psalm 110
Luke 16-17
- 28 Psalm 111
Luke 18-19
- 29 Psalm 112
Luke 20-21
- 30 Psalm 113
Luke 22
- 31 Isaiah 64:1-9
Luke 23-24

MARCH 2019



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Investment	Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note ¹	2.375%	2.40%	2.625%	2.65%
Three Year Note ¹	2.500%	2.52%	2.625%	2.65%
Five Year Note ¹	2.750%	2.78%	2.625%	2.65%
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%

Accounts For Congregations

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

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MARCH 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
3 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	4 5:30 PM Quilting, 6:30 PM LWML Supper and Bible Study	5 Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship Lunch Olene Herricks (B)	6 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM Divine Service	7 Pastor Galler gone to the Study Group in Plano	1 8	2 10:00 AM Willows Ross Land (B) 9 Daylight Saving Time begins tonight
10 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Phoenix Murrill (B) M/M Jeromy McMurray (A)	11	12 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	13 Noon-1 PM Pastor Galler at St. Luke's 7:00 PM Vespers Cooper Sampson (B)	14	15 Ansleigh Heil (B)	16 Brady Gage (B)
Right to Life of East Texas Annual Garage Sale (donations received, set-up, sale, and clean-up—information in the Church Office)						
17 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	18	19 M/M George B. Heil (A)	20 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers	21 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Meeting in Crockett	22	23
24 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Erickson/Scheuermann (A)	25	26 Tina McMurray (B)	27 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers	28 Charles Rittenberry (B)	29	30
31 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	Elder On Duty – Carl Gardner Cleaning Volunteers – <i>Adopt a room!</i>					

“Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” (Joel 2:13)

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



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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.