



# ***THE PILGRIMAGE***

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

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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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## **God reconciles us to Himself; we reconcile with one another**

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the human authors of Holy Scripture describe in a number of different ways what God has accomplished for us through the crucifixion of His subsequently resurrected Son, Jesus Christ. One of those different ways is describing what God has done as “reconciliation”: His restoring to a right relationship with Himself all people, who previously were at odds with or otherwise estranged from Him on account of their sinful natures and all of their sin. (Note that a number of related Greek verbs and nouns used in the New Testament are translated by the same verbs and nouns in English versions.)

Especially St. Paul writes of God’s saving people in terms of reconciliation, which sometimes overlaps with the related ideas of atonement, appeasing God’s righteous wrath over sin, and such. As St. Paul describes, God Himself acted (unilaterally!) to reconcile us to Himself, while we were still sinners (Romans 5:10-11; confer the preceding Romans 5:6-9, as well as the following Romans 11:15; Ephesians 2:16; and Colossians 1:19-23). As we turn away from our sin and trust God to forgive our sin for Jesus’s sake, we passively receive that reconciliation as a free gift, and we as a result rejoice!

What God did *objectively for all people* in Christ on the cross God does *subjectively for each repenting and believing individual* through His ministry of reconciliation, as St. Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. In that passage, after detailing reconciliation in terms of God’s not counting sin against people and His imputing to them Christ’s righteousness, St. Paul, one of those ministers of reconciliation, on behalf of Christ implores not only (if perhaps at all) the recipients of his letter but (certainly at least) all (other) people to “be reconciled” to God. The command is passive: we might say, people can keep reconciliation with God from happening, but they cannot themselves make it happen (God first enables us, even our asking to receive a gift).

As a further result of God’s reconciling Himself to us through the ministry of reconciliation, we also reconcile with one another, and that same ministry of reconciliation also

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has a role to play in that reconciliation, if necessary. Such person-to-person reconciliation may be needed in any of our vocational relationships, whether as children with our parents or siblings, as spouses with our spouse (for example, 1 Corinthians 7:11) or parents with our own children, as Christians with our brothers and sisters in Christ, as students or employees with our fellow students or employees, and so forth. After Jesus had described the Father’s will to seek and find even 1 of 100 sheep that has gone astray, Jesus in Matthew 18:15-20 lays out what are sometimes called the steps of Christian to Christian reconciliation: (1) a direct approach by the aggrieved party; if necessary, (2) another direct approach with one or two witnesses; and, if necessary, (3) the involvement of the Church, that is, the minister of reconciliation and ultimately the people (confer Matthew 16:19 and John 20:21-23).

Clearly in such reconciliation with one another we are not passive but active. We can and do wish and pray for such reconciliation, but we must also work at it, ultimately at least trying to sit down face to face and not working exclusively via snail-mail, e-mail, phone, text, or any other medium, as God took on human flesh in order to redeem us and did not download, post on His wall, tweet from heaven, send a message via Instagram or Snapchat, or any such thing. Consequences for not forgiving brothers and sisters in Christ from the heart Jesus laid out in a parable (Matthew 18:21-35), itself closely connected to the language of the Lord’s Prayer, in which we ask God to forgive us (or, presumably, not forgive us) “as” we forgive (or not forgive) those who trespass against us (Matthew 6:12; confer Luke 11:4).

Notably, Jesus said such reconciliation should take place before approaching the Lord’s altar (Matthew 5:23-24). Such reconciliation is a two-sided process that overcomes hostility on both sides. Sadly, not every congregation, not even every congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is concerned about such reconciliation and necessarily helps bring it about through the faithful practice of closed communion (if other congregations not only *say they do* but also *actually do* practice closed communion). In the end, we can force neither individuals to reconcile with us nor sister congregations to assist in such reconciliation. In such cases, we seek God’s forgiveness for our failures in regards to such reconciliation and let His forgiveness assuage our consciences with His comfort, peace, and joy.

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING	
1	1 Sam. 2:1-10 Titus, Philemon
2	Psalms 121 Hebrews 1-4
3	Psalms 122 Hebrews 5-7
4	Psalms 123 Hebrews 8-10
5	Psalms 124 Heb. 11-13
6	Psalms 125 James 1-3
7	Psalms 126 James 4-5
8	Psalms 127 1 Peter 1-2
9	Psalms 128 1 Peter 3-5
10	Psalms 129 2 Peter
11	Psalms 130 1 John 1-3
12	Psalms 131 1 John 4-5
13	Psalms 132 2 John, 3 John, Jude
14	Psalms 133 John 1-2
15	Psalms 134 John 3-4
16	Psalms 135 John 5-6
17	Psalms 136 John 7-8
18	Psalms 137 John 9-10
19	Psalms 138 John 11-12
20	Psalms 139 John 13-14
21	Psalms 140 John 15-16
22	Psalms 141 John 17-18
23	Psalms 142 John 19
24	Psalms 143 John 20-21
25	Psalms 144 Acts 1-2
26	Psalms 145 Acts 3-4
27	Psalms 146 Acts 5-6
28	Psalms 147 Acts 7-8
29	Psalms 148 Acts 9-10
30	Psalms 149 Acts 11-12
31	1 Samuel 2:1-10 Acts 13-14



**MAY 2019**

**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%	2.500%	2.52%
Three Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.500%	2.52%	2.375%	2.40%
Five Year Note <sup>1</sup>	2.750%	2.78%	2.375%	2.40%
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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# MAY 2019

Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
[www.pilgrimlc.org](http://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 – Carl Gardner  Cleaning Volunteers – <i>Adopt a room!</i>			<b>1</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>2</b> Pastor Galler gone to the Study Group in Plano	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
<b>5</b> THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service  Pastor Galler (B)	<b>6</b> 5:30 PM Quilting, 6:30 PM LWML Supper and Bible Study	<b>7</b> Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship Lunch  6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study  M/M Charles Rittenberry (A)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
<b>12</b> FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
Pastor Galler on vacation beginning afternoon of May 12. An Elder will answer the Church phone and contact the on-call pastor as needed.						
<b>19</b> FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins Service	<b>20</b> Edgar Wuthrich (B)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
Pastor Galler on vacation. An Elder will answer the Church phone and contact the on-call pastor as needed.						
<b>26</b> SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>30</b> THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD  7:00 PM Divine Service	<b>31</b>	
Pastor on vacation through morning of May 28.						

“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

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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.