



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

August 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.

God gives His gift of “Concordia”

Our member Phoenix Murrill and I were privileged to join former Pilgrim members Emma and Jeanna Watts, whose current congregation in Michigan did not send anyone else, in attending one of the 2019 annual Higher Things Youth Conferences, in particular, the Conference at Concordia University-Nebraska in Seward, Nebraska, June 24-27. The theme for that Conference, as for the other four, also subsequently held at Concordia University campuses of the Missouri Synod around the country, was “Concordia”.

One of the things participants heard from the various presenters, including from me in the break-out session that I led, was that God gives His gift of Concordia, perhaps best understood as a group of believers’ unity of one heart in teaching and practice that results from the Holy Spirit working through God’s Word. “Concordia” is not only the name of the Missouri Synod’s University System and other schools, but “Concordia” is also a name for *The Book of Concord*, the Lutheran Confessions to which all genuine Lutherans subscribe as true and correct expositions of the Word of God. Those Confessions include, among others such as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther’s *Small Catechism*, the Formula of Concord, in the forms of both its shorter “Epitome” and longer “Solid Declaration”, which Formula was worked out as the pattern of sound doctrine and the whole *Book of Concord* adopted in the wake of the earthly death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther.



Jeanna Watts, Emma Watts, Phoenix Murrill, and Pastor Galler pose next to the Concordia University-Nebraska sign in Seward, Nebraska, near the end of their time there over June 24-27 for one of the 2019 annual Higher Things Youth Conferences.

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As we were reminded by a recent Gospel Reading (Luke 10:25-37), we are to love the Lord our God not only with our whole heart but also with all our soul, strength and mind (confer Deuteronomy 6:5). By nature, of course, we reject a right relationship with God, His law and Gospel, and unity with our fellow human beings. But, working through His Word and Sacraments, God brings about repentance and faith and so the forgiveness of our sins by grace through faith for Christ's sake, acceptance of His law and Gospel, and Christian and God-pleasing concord with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

God gives Concordia as a gift, but, in some sense, we also have to work at it with our heart, lips, and hands, for our benefit and for the benefit of others. A little false doctrine can fatally poison our spiritual life, and obscuring the correct doctrine from others can keep them from even having spiritual life.

We pray that, with the blessing of Almighty God, the Concordia Conferences this summer moved all those who attended closer to Christian and God-pleasing concord, expressed in both teaching and practice. The approximately 450 youth at the Seward Conference, for example, joined together multiple times each day for liturgical services at St. John Lutheran Church, and there is almost nothing else quite like hearing hundreds of teenagers' singing liturgy and hymns, at times even without accompaniment and in harmony. We may not have hundreds of faithful Lutheran teenagers here at Pilgrim, but there are hundreds of them out there, to be sure. God always leaves Himself the witness of a faithful remnant.



The Concordia logo had Christ as the Church's foundation at the center of our one heart unity.

Some of the sermons, presentations to the whole group, and presentations to smaller groups required discernment, and, while that fact is sad, perhaps it is not surprising given all of our natures as saints and sinners. Young and old, we all must discern truth and error in our daily lives, too, and nothing else equips us to discern truth and error than the Holy Spirit's working through the Word and Sacraments as we regularly receive them in faithful teaching and preaching and right administration.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Habak 3:2-19
2 Chron. 1-3
- 2 Psalm 57
2 Chron. 4-6
- 3 Psalm 58
2 Chron. 7-9
- 4 Psalm 59
2 Chron. 10-12
- 5 Psalm 60
2 Chron. 13-15
- 6 Psalm 61
2 Chron. 16-18
- 7 Psalm 62
2 Chron. 19-21
- 8 Psalm 63
2 Chron. 22-24
- 9 Psalm 64
2 Chron. 25-27
- 10 Psalm 65
2 Chron. 28-30
- 11 Psalm 66
2 Chron. 31-33
- 12 Psalm 67
2 Chron. 34-36
- 13 Psalm 68
Ezra 1-5
- 14 Psalm 69
Ezra 6-10
- 15 Psalm 70
Nehemiah 1-3
- 16 Psalm 71
Nehemiah 4-6
- 17 Psalm 72
Nehemiah 7-9
- 18 Psalm 73
Nehemiah 10-13
- 19 Psalm 74
Esther 1-3
- 20 Psalm 75
Esther 4-6
- 21 Psalm 76
Esther 7-10
- 22 Psalm 77
Job 1-3
- 23 Psalm 78
Job 4-6
- 24 Psalm 79
Job 7-9
- 25 Psalm 80
Job 10-12
- 26 Psalm 81
Job 13-15
- 27 Psalm 82
Job 16-18
- 28 Psalm 83
Job 19-21
- 29 Psalm 84
Job 22-24
- 30 Psalm 85
Job 25-27
- 31 Habak 3:2-19
Job 28-30

AUGUST 2019



Texas District Church Extension Fund
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Investment	Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note ¹	2.250%	2.27%	2.000%	2.02%
Three Year Note ¹	2.375%	2.40%	1.875%	1.89%
Five Year Note ¹	2.625%	2.65%	1.875%	1.89%
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%
Rainy Day Fund**			1.250%	1.26%
**Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate				
Accounts For Congregations				
Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund Savings			2.625%	2.66%



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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 – Jeromy McMurray Cleaning Volunteers – Adopt a room or a task!				1	2	3
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Pastor continues his vacation </div>		
4 8 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins (No Communion)	5	6	7 Noon Rotary 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	8	9 George B. Heil (B)	10
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Pastor wraps up his vacation </div>		Arcele Wilburn (B)				
11 9 TH SUNDAY AFTER OF PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	12	13 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	14 Noon Rotary 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	15 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Circuit #14 Meeting in Athens	16	17 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
18 10 TH SUNDAY AFTER OF PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	19	20	21 11:00-1:00 ETBU Church Day Noon Rotary 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	22 Holly Treadway (B)	23 Gayle Gardner (B)	24 9:00-10:45 AM LeTourneau Church Fair Aurianna Chiasson (B)
25 11 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	26 Beth West (B)	27 Kilgore College Party in the Plaza	28 Noon Rotary 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	29	30	31 10:00 AM Service at the Willows

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

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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.