



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

Christians at least try to love and serve their neighbors

Have you seen your neighbor? Is your neighbor well? Does your neighbor need food or drink, a welcome, clothing, or a visit? Through Moses the Lord said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18). Jesus directly and indirectly affirmed the need to keep that commandment (Matthew 5:43; 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:31, 33; Luke 10:27). And, Saints James (James 2:8) and Paul (Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14) likewise used that commandment to summarize the Second Table of the law’s descriptions of our loving and serving God in the persons of our neighbors. Yet, the commandment in any form can be hard for us to hear no matter who speaks it.

Recently both a non-member (but a literal neighbor of Pilgrim) and a member passed from this life to the next, and, whether or not done in the best-possible way, questions were raised about how well the individuals in our congregation and so our congregation as a whole loved and served both people. The short answer is that we all fail individually and collectively to love and serve anyone perfectly, but that failure does not excuse us from trying to love and serve our neighbors and otherwise to deal with the tension that comes from our trying to love and serve them.

For example, the Divinely-inspired St. Paul wrote for us to “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2), but a few verses later he also wrote, “each will have to bear his own load” (Galatians 6:5). God certainly gives people sufficient grace to bear up under whatever He in His wisdom permits them to face (1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9), but how much of their being able to bear up depends on help they might get?

In Matthew 25:31-46’s description of the Son of Man’s Final Judgment as a shepherd’s separating the sheep from the goats, believers’ having visited the sick and having come to those in prison are among their good works present used as evidence of their saving faith in that Son of Man (Matthew 25:36, 38; confer Hebrews 13:3 and Sirach 7:35), while unbelievers’ not having

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visited the sick or imprisoned are among their good works lacking used as evidence of their damning unbelief (Matthew 25:43). Whatever we might think of our personal visiting skills, we should remember that the Word of God that we should bring with us when we come to visit the sick and imprisoned is what really relieves and ultimately ministers to them (Matthew 25:44).

We can and do make all sorts of excuses for our failures—we do not have time to visit them, we do not know the people, they have their own family to look after them, others will visit them, etc.—but in the end those are only excuses. We can and should confess all our sins (and our sinful natures) and seek our neighbor’s and God’s forgiveness for our sins.

For such sins and sicknesses, Jesus bore His cross and thereby also enables us to bear our crosses (Matthew 8:17; John 19:17; Luke 14:27). Only in Him (and for us as we are in Him) is the tension between the law’s unrelenting demand for us to love our neighbor and the Gospel of His perfectly loving His neighbors in our place and of His making up for our failure to do so resolved. When we are sorry for our sin and trust God to forgive our sin for Jesus’s sake, God does just that, He forgives our sin, especially as we receive that forgiveness in Holy Baptism, individual Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

So forgiven by God’s Sacraments received in faith, we at least try to love and serve our neighbor as we should have done in the first place. If we do not have time for an in-person visit or are not comfortable visiting, we might try to become comfortable or at least send a traditional card or make a telephone call to them, or we might send an e-card or other email or text message, or post on their Facebook wall, etc. Neighbors visited in any form should not question the motives of those visiting them nor hold their prior failures against them, especially not themselves communing under such circumstances or otherwise thinking that God will forgive them when they do not forgive others (Matthew 6:12, 14-15; 18:21-35; Mark 11:25; Luke 11:4).

With daily repentance and faith, we live together as God’s people in His forgiveness of sins that we receive from Him and in turn extend to one another. More than finding fault with one another, we especially continually forgive one another for our ongoing failures to love and serve one another as we should, and so forgiven we have unending peace and joy!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 1 Chr. 29:10-13
Job 31-33
- 2 Psalm 86
Job 34-36
- 3 Psalm 87
Job 37-39
- 4 Psalm 88
Job 40-42
- 5 Psalm 89
Proverbs 1-3
- 6 Psalm 90
Proverbs 4-7
- 7 Psalm 91
Proverbs 8-10
- 8 Psalm 92
Proverbs 11-13
- 9 Psalm 93
Proverbs 14-16
- 10 Psalm 94
Proverbs 17-19
- 11 Psalm 95
Proverbs 20-22
- 12 Psalm 96
Proverbs 23-25
- 13 Psalm 97
Proverbs 26-28
- 14 Psalm 98
Proverbs 29-31
- 15 Psalm 99
Ecclesiastes 1-3
- 16 Psalm 100
Ecclesiastes 4-6
- 17 Psalm 101
Ecclesiastes 7-9
- 18 Psalm 102
Ecclesiastes 10-12
- 19 Psalm 103
Song of Solomon 1-4
- 20 Psalm 104
Song of Solomon 5-8
- 21 Psalm 105
Jeremiah 1-3
- 22 Psalm 106
Jeremiah 4-6
- 23 Psalm 107
Jeremiah 7-9
- 24 Psalm 108
Jeremiah 10-12
- 25 Psalm 109
Jeremiah 13-15
- 26 Psalm 110
Jeremiah 16-18
- 27 Psalm 111
Jeremiah 19-22
- 28 Psalm 112
Jeremiah 23-25
- 29 Psalm 113
Jeremiah 26-28
- 30 1 Chr. 29:10-13
Jeremiah 29-31

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		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%		
<small>**Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate</small>						
Accounts For Congregations						
Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%		
Building Fund Savings			2.625%	2.66%		



SEPTEMBER 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
1 12 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	2	3 Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship Lunch 5:30 Rotary Board Meeting	4 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	5 Pastor Galler gone to Plano for Study Group	6	7
8 13 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	9 5:30 PM Quilting, 6:30 PM LWML Supper and Bible Study	10 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	11 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	12	13	14 10:00 AM Service at the Willows Clay Ellis (B)
15 14 TH SUNDAY AFTER OF PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	16	17	18 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	19 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Circuit #14 Meeting in Palestine	20 Jeanette Paetznick (B) M/M Dan West (A)	21 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
22 15 TH SUNDAY AFTER OF PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	23	24	25 Noon Rotary Mtg.	26 Jim Treadway (B)	27	28
Linda Traylor (B)	Pastor Galler on vacation. An Elder will answer the Church phone and contact the on-call pastor as necessary.					
29 ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins (no communion) Fifth-Sunday Meal	30 Beth West (B)	31	Elder On-Duty – Remo Gualtieri Cleaning Volunteers – Adopt a room or a task!			
Pastor Galler concludes his vacation.						

“Lord God, to Thee we give all praise, / With grateful hearts our voices raise;
 That angel hosts thou didst create / Around Thy glorious throne to wait.” (LSB 522:1)

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



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