



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

Reformation of teaching and practice may be difficult

On September 29, 2019, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, I had the privilege and pleasure of attending a Divine Service with former members of Pilgrim at Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit, a 137-year-old congregation that at one time was the largest parish in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Today the congregation is much smaller, “a fragile but lively inner-city congregation,” as its website describes it, with “parishioners from various ethnic, religious and socio-economic background”. Despite the population it serves, Zion uses ancient practices that might seem foreign even to people born and raised in the Lutheran Church and its more-usual demographic groups. For example, most women at Zion had coverings of one kind or another on their heads; the aroma of incense filled the Sanctuary throughout the service; there were a variety of additional elements added to the liturgy from pp.15 and following of *The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941); and participants knelt and bowed in various ways and at a number of different times over the course of the Divine Service.

Some of Zion’s practices were foreign even to me, who perhaps has had a broader liturgical experience than many people at Pilgrim, to whom some of Zion’s (if not Pilgrim’s own) practices might seem too Roman Catholic. Of course, just because something is used by Roman Catholics does not necessarily mean that Lutherans and others cannot use them, too. For, as LCMS founder C.F.W. Walther once wrote (such as in a 1853 article in *Der Lutheraner*, a predecessor to *The Lutheran Witness*), if we gave up everything Roman Catholics use, we would have to give up responsive speaking and chanting of the liturgy and Creeds, chanting and reading Holy Scripture, singing many hymns, and using candles, paraments, vestments, and the like, not to mention the Gospel and its Sacraments, namely Baptism, Absolution, and Communion.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther and the other Lutheran reformers had a very conservative principle of liturgical reform: they removing only what could not be restored to an original form that served the Gospel or be properly understood in keeping with the Gospel. Having been led to

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rediscover the Gospel, those reformers restored rites and rituals so that they were in keeping with, and themselves confessed, the truth of God’s Word.

An Old Testament Reading once used for the Festival of the Reformation, such as that Festival we will observe with a Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. on October 31 this year, was 2 Chronicles 29:12-19, the account of a literal cleaning-out of the house of the Lord under King Hezekiah, undoing the faithless “reforms” of King Ahaz. The people then may well have had some difficulty adjusting to the faithful teaching and restored temple worship under Hezekiah that followed, even as we now may well have some difficulty adjusting to faithful teaching and worship.

I remember from earlier in my life my difficulty adjusting to teaching and practices that were more faithful to God’s Word and the Lutheran Confessions based on God’s Word than teaching and practices I had previously received and experienced. As God worked through His Word, including testing the Confessions teaching and practices against that Word, He led me to better understand and accept the changes that I needed to undergo. God works likewise in all those who are willing so to grow in understanding and change.

One of those things that I had previously judged to be “too Roman Catholic” was private confession/individual absolution. In seminary and since I have come to appreciate both the great comfort this Sacrament provides as a pastor applies the Gospel of the free forgiveness of sins for the sake of Jesus’s death to a penitent individual and that this form of confession/absolution is arguably the only form of confession/absolution that the Lutheran reformers on the basis of Holy Scripture considered to be a Sacrament.

Some previously and presently connected in various ways with Pilgrim have had and may continue to have difficulty with the exclusive practice of individual absolution, however not all may have studied the matter as others have, nor have all also personally tried private confession and so experienced the comfort and joy of the individual absolution that accompanies it.

I invite all those with questions about private confession and individual absolution or any other teaching or practice to ask me their questions and to keep an open mind willing to be led by the Holy Spirit as they receive their answers. As the saying goes, we remember that the Church on earth is, and we in it are, always in need of Reformation. May God so grant it, difficult or not!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Jonah 2:2-9
Jer. 32-34
- 2 Ps. 114
Jer. 35-37
- 3 Ps. 115
Jer. 38-40
- 4 Ps. 116
Jer. 41-43
- 5 Ps. 117
Jer. 44-47
- 6 Ps. 118
Jer. 48-50
- 7 Ps. 119:1-8
Jer. 51-52
- 8 Ps. 119:9-16
Lam. 1-2
- 9 Ps. 119:17-24
Lam. 3-5
- 10 Ps. 119:25-32
Ezekiel 1-3
- 11 Ps. 119:33-40
Ezekiel 4-6
- 12 Ps. 119:41-48
Ezekiel 7-9
- 13 Ps. 119:49-56
Ezekiel 10-12
- 14 Ps. 119:57-64
Ezekiel 13-15
- 15 Ps. 119:65-72
Ezekiel 16-18
- 16 Ps. 119:73-80
Ezekiel 19-21
- 17 Ps. 119:81-88
Ezekiel 22-24
- 18 Ps. 119:89-96
Ezekiel 25-27
- 19 Ps. 119:97-104
Ezekiel 28-30
- 20 Ps. 119:105-112
Ezekiel 31-33
- 21 Ps. 119:113-120
Ezekiel 34-36
- 22 Ps. 119:121-128
Ezekiel 37-39
- 23 Ps. 119:129-136
Ezekiel 40-42
- 24 Ps. 119:137-144
Ezekiel 43-45
- 25 Ps. 119:145-152
Ezekiel 46-48
- 26 Ps. 119:153-160
Daniel 1-3
- 27 Ps. 119:161-168
Daniel 4-6
- 28 Ps. 119:169-176
Daniel 7-9
- 29 Ps. 120
Daniel 10-12
- 30 Ps. 121
Hosea 1-4
- 31 Jonah 2:2-9
Hosea 5-7

OCTOBER 2019



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Investment	Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note ¹	2.125%	2.14%	1.875%	1.89%
Three Year Note ¹	2.250%	2.27%	1.750%	1.76%
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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			2.500%	2.53%

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OCTOBER

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
George B. Heil, Elder on Duty Cleaning Volunteers – Adopt a room or a task!		1 Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship Lunch 5:30 Rotary Board Meeting	2 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	3 Pastor Galler gone to Plano for Study Group	4	5 8:00 AM-12:30 PM Blood Drive 1-9 PM Octoberfest
6 17 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Quarterly Reports to Holly Treadway	7	8 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting George C. Heil (B)	9 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	10	11	12 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
13 18 TH SUNDAY AFTER OF PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Regular Council Meeting	14	15	16 Noon Rotary Mtg.	17 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Circuit #14 Meeting in Crockett	18	19 10:00 AM-2:00 PM St. Luke's Bread Booth Elaine Navaille (B)
Pastor Galler on vacation. An Elder will answer the Church phone and contact the on-call pastor as needed.						
20 19 TH SUNDAY AFTER OF PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins Service Shannon Gage (B)	21	22	23 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	24	25 Lindie Melendrez (B)	26 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
Pastor Galler on vacation.		27 20 TH SUNDAY AFTER OF PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class	28	29	30 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	31 REFORMATION DAY 7:00 PM Divine Service
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="margin: 0;">Coming November 3: All Saints' Day (observed), including a Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, Meal, Voters' Meeting, and Symposium.</p> </div>						

“Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; / Curb those who by deceit or sword
 Would wrest the kingdom from your Son / And bring to naught all He has done.” (LSB 655:1)

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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.