



THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas
November 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's sacrifice for us leads to our giving thanks to Him

Rather than preach so-called “stewardship sermons” as the congregation ends or begins its fiscal year, I try to preach and teach about stewardship as the Sunday lectionary series and our Adult Bible Class and Midweek Bible Study give opportunities throughout the year and pray and ultimately trust the Holy Spirit thereby to move us to greater stewardship, not as a result of my beating people up with the law about how they should give to support the work of the Church, but as a result of God’s freely forgiving our sins through His Gospel’s Word and Sacraments, for the sake of Jesus’s offering Himself as a sacrifice for us and for our salvation.

That said, the end of the congregation’s current fiscal year and the budgeting process preceding the beginning of its next future fiscal year seem to call for some comments about our stewardship of all that God has entrusted to our use. Admittedly, people’s giving to the Lord through His Church is an intensely personal and so delicate matter that ideally would not be subject to the further emotional pressure of a congregation’s finances, and, since I do not know what any individual is giving, I am not directing anything I say at any one individual in particular, although if something the Holy Spirit leads me to say applies to a particular individual, I certainly pray he or she will take that to heart and consider Who is ultimately speaking in that case.

First and foremost, we consider that God our Father, in His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, gives us His children the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation—spiritual gifts the value of which are beyond our ability to estimate—not to mention all the other inestimable material blessings we also receive from Him. Our giving back to Him properly flows out of our thanksgiving to Him for all of those gifts, not out of any legalistic compulsion or budgetary need.

Perhaps second, the Church’s mission of delivering through the Means of Grace the forgiveness of sins that Christ won for us on the cross, and thereby being the means by which God creates faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel, is for the salvation

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of their souls, not merely for increasing the total number of people in the pews or offerings in the plate, although those are certainly blessings that God may or may not see fit to give us as we faithfully go about the work of His Kingdom in this place.

Third then, as we receive people’s proportionate sacrificial first-fruit unrestricted offerings to the Lord, we in turn proportionately and sacrificially give of those offerings as our first-fruit offerings to the Church at large, for supporting our Church Body and mission work that we have chosen to support. In that regard, we should not assume that all of the offerings that Pilgrim receives are really intended only for Pilgrim, nor should we risk people’s reducing what they give to Pilgrim by the amount that we might force them to themselves send to support such work directly. If, for example, we want people to give 10% to Pilgrim, then Pilgrim arguably ought to in turn give 10% to the Church at large.

Fourth, as for percentages and dollar amounts, different individuals are different—in spiritual maturity, in income situations, in expense situations, and the like. God certainly knows best what each of us is able to give, and ultimately our giving is between Him and us, although His Church in this place obviously is affected by and has a vested interest in our giving. As a congregation, we could certainly plan better if we knew for certain what the annual total of unrestricted plate offerings would be, but even those congregations that try to have everyone’s pledge must still deal with incomplete numbers and changes in lives over the course of a year.

Fifth and finally, we give thanks to God for all of His people that He has gathered around His Word and Sacrament in this place, regardless of what percentage and dollar amount any might give. Our Financial Secretary has reported at least some of our givers’ increasing their giving in response to the challenges of our present finances, and she rightly calls for us to be consistent in our giving, whether we attend a particular Sunday or not (automated “bill” payment from a bank account certainly is one way to be so consistent). We should be here consistently because we always need the forgiveness of sins offered here and, so blessed, we always want to make our offerings. While Pilgrim needs our offerings whether or not we each individually attend on any given Sunday, more to the spiritual point, whether or not we each individually attend on any given Sunday, we each continue to be blessed by God in ways that warrant our thank offerings.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*



INVESTMENT	FIXED RATE		FLOATING RATE	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One-Year Note	2.125%	2.14%	1.875%	1.89%
Three-Year Note	2.250%	2.27%	1.750%	1.76%
Five-Year Note	2.500%	2.52%	1.625%	1.63%
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%

DAILY BIBLE READING	
1	Exodus 15:1-18 Hosea 8-10
2	Psalms 122 Hosea 11-14
3	Psalms 123 Joel
4	Psalms 124 Amos 1-5
5	Psalms 125 Amos 6-9
6	Psalms 126 Obadiah, Jonah
7	Psalms 127 Micah 1-3
8	Psalms 128 Micah 4-7
9	Psalms 129 Nahum
10	Psalms 130 Habakkuk
11	Psalms 131 Zephaniah
12	Psalms 132 Haggai
13	Psalms 133 Zechariah 1-5
14	Psalms 134 Zechariah 6-10
15	Psalms 135 Zechariah 11-14
16	Psalms 136 Malachi
17	Psalms 137 Matthew 1-2
18	Psalms 138 Matthew 3-4
19	Psalms 139 Matthew 5-6
20	Psalms 140 Matthew 7-8
21	Psalms 141 Matthew 9-10
22	Psalms 142 Matthew 11-12
23	Psalms 143 Matthew 13-14
24	Psalms 144 Matthew 15-16
25	Psalms 145 Matthew 17-18
26	Psalms 146 Matthew 19-20
27	Psalms 147 Matthew 21-22
28	Psalms 148 Matthew 23-24
29	Psalms 149-150 Matthew 25-26
30	Exodus 15:1-18 Matthew 27-28



NOVEMBER 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 ALL SAINTS' DAY	2 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
3 ALL SAINTS' DAY (OBSERVED) (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Covered-Dish Meal & Voters' Meeting 3:00-5:00 PM Symposium Emilie Melendrez (B)	4	5 Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship Lunch 5:30 Rotary Board Meeting	6 Noon Rotary Meeting 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Ian West (B)	7 Pastor gone to 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM Plano Study Group	8	9 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
10 22 ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	11 Paul Guinn (B)	12	13 Noon Rotary Meeting B.J. Wilson (B)	14 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Meeting	15 Connie Wilburn (B)	16
Pastor Galler on vacation midday 11/10 to midday 11/19. (An Elder will answer Pilgrim's phone and contact the on-call pastor as needed.)						
17 23 RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins (No Communion)	18	19 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	20 Noon Rotary Meeting 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	21	22	23 Gwen Heil (B)
24 LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	25	26	27	28 THANKSGIVING DAY	29	30 10:00 AM Service at the Willows Float Decorating (TBA)

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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



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www.pilgrimlc.org



Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor

pastor@pilgrimlc.org

903-984-4333

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.