



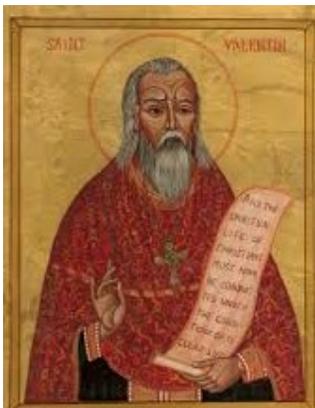
THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas
February 2020

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.

A February focus on a love greater than St. Valentine's

The changeover of the seasonal aisles at Walmart is interesting to watch. If I remember correctly they went straight from merchandise for Christmas to merchandise for Valentine's Day, there apparently are not any marketable holidays in between. Valentine's Day is interesting, too. What began as a religious remembrance of one or more martyrs of the Church has become a day connected to all sorts of "love", some of it quite far afield from what the Bible calls love.



Reportedly at least two Italian men named Valentinus lived in the third century, died giving witness to their faith, and were buried in Rome. One was a priest who supposedly defied the emperor, Claudius, and married couples so that the husbands would not have to go to war. Before his beheading on February 14, 269, some say he sent a farewell love message to his jailer's daughter, whose blindness he had cured, and signed it "Your Valentine". More than 200 years later the date was made a feast day by Pope Gelasius, whom some historians think was trying to substitute a Christian observance for the pagan fertility festival of Lupercalia, which was dedicated to the Roman god Juno. Centuries later still, St. Valentine was adopted as the official saint of lovers, even as his day was thought to be the beginning of the onset of Spring and the mating season for birds, at least perhaps in Rome.

The early accounts of the lives of the saints named Valentine reportedly did not contain a word about romance. Scholars say the earliest evidence of people doing something special and romantic on February 14 is a much later fourteenth-century poem called "Parliament of Fowls" by Chaucer, which mentions birds choosing their mates on St. Valentine's Day, though Chaucer may have been thinking not of February 14 but of May 3, a day celebrating a different St. Valentine and when not "love birds" but literal birds were more likely to mate in England.

Article continues on following page.

St. Valentine was not only the patron saint of lovers, love, courting/engaged couples, and happy marriages but also of epilepsy, fainting, greetings, plague, travelers, young people, and beekeepers (for whom he was supposed to ensure the sweetness of the honey). Although he is still recognized as a saint, St. Valentine's Day was removed from the Roman Catholic Church calendar in 1969, along with dozens of other saints' days, due to a lack of agreement on both his real story and why he had been put on the official list of the saints in the first place.

Often instead of romance and romantic love our hearts are full of sinful lust. Jesus says that out of the heart, and so out of the mouth, come such things as adultery and sexual immorality (Matthew 15:18-19). Adultery is just one form of sexual immorality, and our modern age has perpetuated others and "invented" still others: sexual relationships before and otherwise outside of marriage, homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality, sexting, and other uses of our otherwise wonderful electronic devices to give greater access to pornography and so for us to lead sexually impure and indecent lives in what we think, say, and do. Of course our sins are not limited to those against the Sixth Commandment, though our sins against the Sixth Commandment are distinct in their own way (1 Corinthians 6:12-20). For all our sin we deserve temporal and eternal death, but God loves us and saves us, for no merit in us.

By Divine-inspiration St. John writes that God showed His love among us by sending His one and only Son into the world as an atoning sacrifice for our sins, in order that we might live through Him (1 John 4:9-10). As we love God in response to His self-sacrificial love for us, we also love one another, not necessarily in an erotic way but in that same self-sacrificial way (1 John 4:19-21). Such love of one another includes speaking the truth of God's law and Gospel in love (Ephesians 4:15) and suffering all, even a martyr's death.

Walmart aisles may go straight from merchandise for Valentine's Day to merchandise for Easter. The penitential season of Lent that prepares us for our celebration of Easter and that begins with Ash Wednesday, February 26, hardly provides a marketable holiday. Nevertheless we so prepare with the optional Imposition of Ashes and a Divine Service that night and with five Midweek Lenten Vespers services on the Wednesdays that follow through March and into April. Set apart the season as holy and listen again to all that the Lord Jesus Christ lovingly suffered for you, this year as recorded by St. Matthew, with sermons centered on his unique Passion contributions.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Luke 2:29-32
Exodus 1-3
- 2 Psalm 59
Exodus 4-6
- 3 Psalm 60
Exodus 7-9
- 4 Psalm 61
Exodus 10-12
- 5 Psalm 62
Exodus 13-15
- 6 Psalm 63
Exodus 16-18
- 7 Psalm 64
Exodus 19-21
- 8 Psalm 65
Exodus 22-24
- 9 Psalm 66
Exodus 25-27
- 10 Psalm 67
Exodus 28-30
- 11 Psalm 68
Exodus 31-33
- 12 Psalm 69
Exodus 34-36
- 13 Psalm 70
Exodus 37-38
- 14 Psalm 71
Exodus 39-40
- 15 Psalm 72
Leviticus 1-3
- 16 Psalm 73
Leviticus 4-6
- 17 Psalm 74
Leviticus 7-9
- 18 Psalm 75
Leviticus 10-12
- 19 Psalm 76
Leviticus 13-15
- 20 Psalm 77
Leviticus 16-18
- 21 Psalm 78
Leviticus 19-21
- 22 Psalm 79
Leviticus 22-24
- 23 Psalm 80
Leviticus 25-27
- 24 Psalm 81
Numbers 1-3
- 25 Psalm 82
Numbers 4-6
- 26 Psalm 83
Numbers 7-9
- 27 Psalm 84
Numbers 10-12
- 28 Luke 2:29-32
Numbers 13-15

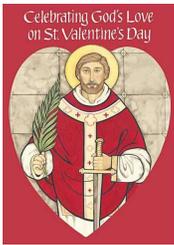
FEBRUARY 2020



Texas District Church Extension Fund
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Investment	Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note ¹	2.125%	2.14%	1.625%	1.63%
Three Year Note ¹	2.250%	2.27%	1.750%	1.76%
Five Year Note ¹	2.500%	2.52%	1.750%	1.76%
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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FEBRUARY 2020

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: George B. Heil (Back-up: Remo Gualtieri)						1 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
2 THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Youth Catechesis	3 Brandy Ellis (B)	4 Noon Kilgore Ministerial Fellowship Lunch	5 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	6 Pastor Galler gone to Plano for Study Group	7 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Men's Retreat at Camp Shiloh, Pittsburg</div>	8
9 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Youth Catechesis	10 5:30 PM Rotary Board Meeting 6:00 PM Pilgrim Ladies' Meeting	11 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	12 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	13 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Pastors' Meeting (location TBA)	14 ST. VALENTINE, MARTYR	15 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
16 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins' Service Youth Catechesis	17	18	19 Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Heaven Chiasson (B)	20	21 Jeromy McMurray (B)	22
23 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Youth Catechesis	24 ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE	25	26 ASH WEDNESDAY Noon Rotary Mtg. 7:00 PM Divine Service	27	28	29 10:00 AM Service at the Willows

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:10-11 ESV)

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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Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor

pastor@pilgrimlc.org

903-984-4333

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