



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

Living the Christian life can raise some questions

There should be no question that all people are conceived and born sinful (Psalm 51:5) and so are silenced by God's holy law and held accountable to Him (Romans 3:19). There should be no question that the Second Person of the Triune God, the God-man Jesus Christ, came into the world to save sinners through His living the perfect life that we fail to live and suffering and dying on the cross for our failure to live it (1 Timothy 1:15). There should be no question that God gives—to those who turn from their sin and trust Him to forgive their sin—forgiveness, life, and salvation through the reading and preaching of His Word and through that Word connected with visible means, namely, Holy Baptism, individual Holy Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Altar. But, living the Christian life that follows can raise questions, including the following.

How far are you willing to go to hear God's Word read and purely preached and to receive individual Holy Absolution and the Sacrament of the Altar rightly administered? There are lots of choices near and far, in some cases including multiple LCMS choices, but not every choice even inside the LCMS offers the pure preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments. How far are you willing to go to get them? In his *Large Catechism*, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther writes that you should be glad to *run* more than one hundred miles *for private confession and individual absolution* (VI:30; confer ¶123, 24, 27, and 34)! And, with modern conveniences of travel, I doubt that Dr. Luther would say that statement was hyperbole. If you do not have to travel that way and that far now, thank God, but be prepared to do so if future circumstances require it.

How regularly or frequently should you make such a trip? People today may think of "regular" church attendance as "once each month" (or any other recurrence at uniform intervals, such as even once each year), but, as perhaps people of past days may have thought, we might say that "more often than not" qualifies as "regular" attendance. In his Preface to the *Small Catechism*, Dr. Luther wrote that he feared that anyone who did not desire to receive the

Article continues on following page.

Sacrament of the Altar at least three or four times a year despises the Sacrament and is no Christian (§22; confer LC V:39-63). The age of Pietism made that four times minimum a maximum, and even people alive today can recall the resulting quarterly offering of the Holy Supper. But, Pilgrim’s Bylaws enshrined that number four as a minimum expectation for communicant membership, and the congregation offers the Holy Supper far more frequently—not quite daily but at least on most Sundays and higher Feast Days—for those who hunger and thirst for it often, as they should (1 Corinthians 11:25). If the congregation were to cut you off from the Sacrament because you were not so regularly receiving it or for other reasons, what would be your response? Unjustified anger at those admonishing you in God’s Name, or repentance and at least its desire to change your life?

What are you willing to give in support of the work of God’s Kingdom in this place and, as Pilgrim’s Bylaws envision, the extension of the Church at large? Yourself (2 Corinthians 8:5)? The things God has given you, such as money (Isaiah 60:9), as a means of exchange? And cheerfully give first-fruits of that money appreciatively for what God has done for you, willingly, regularly and frequently, proportionately according to your means and needs, and sacrificially? Is Pilgrim’s continued faithful ministry worth sacrificing a dinner out? A nicer car? A family vacation? A larger home? A more-secure retirement?

What are you willing to risk in order to share God’s Word of law and Gospel with those whom He places in your lives, whether immediate or extended family, friends, classmates or coworkers, or strangers on the street? Respect? Reputation? Relationships? We should always be ready gently and respectfully to give answer for the hope that we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). For better or for worse, our witness of deeds and words is an everyday occurrence, intended or not. And, there are lots of intended indirect and direct, less-threatening and more-threatening ways to invite people to join you for church or otherwise tell them about the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Some of the foregoing questions and answer considerations may apply to some people more than to others, in the past, right now, and possibly in the future. Regardless of how we might answer them and live out our Christian lives, there should be no question that, as we live each day in repentance and faith, God forgives our sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord!

This Lent and always, the Lord order our days and deeds in His peace!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Isaiah 64:1-9
Numb. 16-18
- 2 Psalm 85
Numb. 19-21
- 3 Psalm 86
Numb. 22-24
- 4 Psalm 87
Numb. 25-27
- 5 Psalm 88
Numb. 28-30
- 6 Psalm 89
Numb. 31-33
- 7 Psalm 90
Numb. 34-36
- 8 Psalm 91
Deut. 1-3
- 9 Psalm 92
Deut. 4-6
- 10 Psalm 93
Deut. 7-9
- 11 Psalm 94
Deut. 10-12
- 12 Psalm 95
Deut. 13-15
- 13 Psalm 96
Deut. 16-18
- 14 Psalm 97
Deut. 19-21
- 15 Psalm 98
Deut. 22-24
- 16 Psalm 99
Deut. 25-27
- 17 Psalm 100
Deut. 28-30
- 18 Psalm 101
Deut. 31-34
- 19 Psalm 102
Luke 1
- 20 Psalm 103
Luke 2-3
- 21 Psalm 104
Luke 4-5
- 22 Psalm 105
Luke 6-7
- 23 Psalm 106
Luke 8-9
- 24 Psalm 107
Luke 10-11
- 25 Psalm 108
Luke 12-13
- 26 Psalm 109
Luke 14-15
- 27 Psalm 110
Luke 16-17
- 28 Psalm 111
Luke 18-19
- 29 Psalm 112
Luke 20-21
- 30 Psalm 113
Luke 22
- 31 Isaiah 64:1-9
Luke 23-24

MARCH 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%
<small>**Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate</small>				
Accounts For Congregations				
Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund Savings			2.500%	2.53%

All individual Texas District CEF investments (FLEX, fixed and floating rate notes) may be included in a person's IRA portfolio, through our custodian, GoldStar Trust Company, www.texascef.org/ira.html (1) Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. (2) Rates subject to change. Rates reviewed monthly. Texas District Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, CEF investments are not SIPC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by CEF's Offering Circular.



MARCH 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
1 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (V) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Youth Catechesis	2	3 Noon KMF Lunch 5:30 PM Rotary Board Meeting 6:00 PM Mary/Martha Society	4 Noon Rotary Mtg. 6:00 PM Light Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	5 Pastor Galler gone to Plano for Study Group Olene Herricks (B)	6	7 DST begins tomorrow (Spring your clocks ahead) Geoff Griffin (B)
8 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (V) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Special Council Meeting	9	10 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting McMurray (A) Phoenix Murrill (B)	11 Noon Rotary Mtg. 6:00 PM Light Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	12 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Meeting (location TBA)	13	14
15 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (V) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Youth Catechesis Ansleigh Heil (B)	16 Brady Gage (B)	17	18 Noon Rotary Mtg. 6:00 PM Light Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	19 G. B. Heil (A)	20	21 10:00 AM Service at the Willows
22 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (V) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Youth Catechesis	23	24 Scheuermann (A)	25 Noon Rotary Mtg. 6:00 PM Light Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	26 Tina McMurray (B)	27	28 10:00 AM Service at the Willows Charles Rittenberry (B)
29 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (V) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Fifth-Sunday Meal	30	31	Elder on Duty: Carl Gardner (Back-up: George B. Heil)			

“... far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”
 (Galatians 6:14 ESV)

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



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