



THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas
March 2024

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.

Jesus paid and the Father accepted the price of your soul

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

What is the value of a human life? Slavery is illegal, so there is not exactly an open market for supply and demand forces to work to come to a price. Philosophically and judicially we might say that life is priceless, but in our secular society estimates must be made for various reasons, and those estimates can range from \$50,000/year of a quality life up to nearly \$8 million.

Recently, in the Gospel Reading for the Second Sunday in Lent (Mark 8:27-38 ESV), we heard Jesus ask a question similar to the question asking the value of a human life, “What can a man give in return for his soul?” In that passage, Jesus does not answer the question explicitly, but the Psalm verse to which He seems to be referring does have an answer of a sort: “Truly no man can ransom another or give to God the price of His life, for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice, that he should live on forever and never see the pit” (Psalm 49:7-9 ESV).

Truly, as we hear in the Gospel Reading for Fifth Sunday in Lent (Mark 10:32-45), Jesus came to serve by giving His “one” life as a ransom for “many” people, that is to say, “all” people. As we traditionally teach our catechumens, Jesus had to be truly human so that He could die, and Jesus had to be truly God so that His death could atone for the sins of the world. We cannot give anything in return for our souls, but Jesus can and did give His life in return for our souls!

Even if in our Midweek Lenten Vespers Services this year we are not hearing the Passion narrative as combined out of the four Gospel accounts, or even as provided by one of the four Gospel accounts, the absence of such a reading need not keep us from reflecting on our Lord’s suffering and death for us. Even if in our Palm Sunday Divine Service we will not also observe the “Sunday of the Passion” emphasis by reading all of St. Mark’s Passion narrative that day, we will still hear St. John’s Passion narrative on Good Friday (alternating with stanzas of the Lenten

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hymn, “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”, *Lutheran Service Book* 450), provided we are present in person or virtually in order to hear that reading.

The Epistle Reading for the Second Sunday in Lent (Romans 5:1-11) described how God showed His love for us in having Christ die for us. In a published sermon illustration of that text, Rev. Adler rightly referred to Mel Gibson’s 2004 movie *The Passion of the Christ* as vividly, if not graphically, depicting “the staggering price Jesus paid to redeem us”. Rev. Adler went on correctly to say, “The justifying and reconciling Passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus enable us to hope in the glory of God even in the face of suffering” (*Concordia Pulpit Resources*, 34:2, p.4).

Indeed, Jesus’s resurrection can be taken in part as a sign that God the Father accepted Jesus’s sacrifice objectively on our behalf in general and also subjectively on our behalf in particular, when the Holy Spirit leads us to be sorry for our sinful nature and all of our actual sin and to trust God to forgive us for Jesus’s sake. God’s forgiveness that comes by grace for Jesus’s sake through faith in Him also brings life and salvation, and so we have the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of our bodies and the blessed reunion in heaven with all those who have gone before and come after us in the faith.

Of course, even now, we who are baptized and absolved are united and have fellowship with them and with one another in the Body of Christ: in the Body of Christ that is the Church but especially also in the Body and Blood of Christ in the bread and wine of the Sacrament of the Altar. What the liturgy says is true about our joining with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, lauding and magnifying and evermore praising the Triune God Who has put such a great value on each one of us whom He created, redeemed, and even now sanctifies.

All these themes are emphasized in services at Pilgrim this month as Lent becomes Easter. All are invited to and welcome at our regular Sunday morning Divine Services at 10:45 a.m.; our Midweek Lenten Vespers Services Wednesdays March 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00 p.m.; our Holy (Maundy) Thursday Divine Service March 28 at 7:00 p.m.; and our Good Friday Divine Service March 29 at 7:00 p.m. There also are midweek Soup/Salad Suppers and an Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, in addition to our regular Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes—see all the details on the calendar that follows in this newsletter, and I will pray that I will see you this month at Pilgrim!

*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 2024



Texas District Church Extension Fund
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Investment	Fixed Rate (2)		Floating Rate (2)	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note (1)	3.500%	3.55%	3.000%	3.03%
Three Year Note (1)	3.650%	3.70%	3.250%	3.29%
Five Year Note (1)	3.750%	3.80%	3.500%	3.55%
Jumbo Investment	4.000%	4.06%		
\$100,000 minimum, 18 month term				
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%
Rainy Day Fund			1.250%	1.26%
Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate				
Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund			3.000%	3.04%

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.



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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
3 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service "15-2 Folk" Bethany Worsham (B)	4	5 4:45 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Catechesis	6 6:00 PM Soup/Salad Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	7 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM Plano Study Group	1	2 (Willows Services suspended)
10 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service M/M Jeromy McMurray (A)	11	12 4:45 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Catechesis	13 6:00 PM Soup/Salad Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	14	15 Ansleigh Heil (B)	16 9:00 AM Work Day Brady Gage (B)
17 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Mary/Martha Lunch/Bible Study Katy & Russell Myers (A)	18	19 4:45 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting M/M George B. Heil (A)	20 6:00 PM Soup/Salad Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	21 7:40 AM Pastor Galler leads Kilgore PD Devotion (Circuit #14 Pastors do NOT meet)	22	23 9:00 AM Work Day (Rain Date)
24 PALM SUNDAY (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	25	26 4:45 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Catechesis Tina McMurray (B)	27 M/M Ben Ford (A)	28 HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY (P) 7:00 PM Divine Service Charles Rittenberry (B)	29 GOOD FRIDAY (--) 7:00 PM Divine Service	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY (W) 8:00 AM Easter Breakfast 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class Egg Hunt 10:45 AM Divine Service Tim Worsham (B)	Elder on Duty: Carl Gardner (Back-up: Don Gibson)					

"I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

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713 Florey Street
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