



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

April 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.

The apostles witnessed and we confess Jesus's resurrection

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! That ancient greeting heralds the season and returns the joyous word "Alleluia", meaning "Praise the Lord", to the lips of His Church after it was "put away" for all of Lent at the close of the Divine Service on Transfiguration. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead in part means both that God the Father has accepted His sacrifice on the cross for our sins and that we, too, will rise. The "queen" of the season of the Church Year (*Lutheran Service Book* 487:3) fills all of April 2024.

Each of the four Divinely-inspired Gospel accounts have at least one narrative relating to the resurrection of our Lord. St. Mark's account, which we hear this year on Easter Day, is perhaps the briefest and oddest of all, ending, as it does, by reporting that the women, who heard the good news of our Lord's resurrection from the angel, went out and fled from the tomb and said nothing to anyone, at least at first (Mark 16:1-8). In the past, our Pilgrim congregation has studied the various accounts of our Lord's resurrection and offered reasonable ways that the various accounts can all be brought into harmony, which is all that is necessary to do (see, for example, the following <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/uncategorized/easter-enigma>).

The Gospel accounts of the empty tomb and the resurrected Jesus may be more familiar to many, but less familiar to many may be the book of Acts' narratives of the apostles and others' serving as witnesses of the resurrection of the Lord. In fact, last Fall when our Midweek Bible Study finished going through book of Acts in 90 weeks over the course of nearly three years (see Weeks 218-307 at <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/salvation-history>), one of the things that I took away from the study was just how much emphasis is placed on the apostles and others' serving as witnesses not just of Jesus in general but also of Jesus's resurrection in particular. The book of Acts' emphasis on the witness to the resurrection even gives the book of Acts special use in our Sunday Divine Services.

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You may know that during the Easter Season in each year of our three-year series of appointed readings, the Old Testament Reading or Epistle is replaced by a First or Second Reading from the book of Acts, supposedly following a traditional practice of the Early Church. The practice is said “to confess that the Scriptures of the prophets have been fulfilled in the cross and resurrection of Christ Jesus” and to recognize “that the history of God’s people, His Israel indeed, continues in the life of the New Testament Church”. Notably, the whole book of Acts is not used; the passages selected for each year are not all read strictly in their book order across the three years as a whole or in any of the three years individually; and there is some overlap between the three years (that is, in all three years Ascension Day uses Acts 1:1-11, Easter 7 uses Acts 1:12-26, and Pentecost uses Acts 2:1-21). Nevertheless, a significant portion of the book of Acts is read during the Easter Seasons (other First or Second Readings from Acts are appointed on other days, such as Acts 2:14a, 22-36 on Trinity Sunday).

In this year’s Easter Season, we hear the following unique portions of the book of Acts read on the Sundays after Easter (listed in their book order): Acts 3:11-21 (Peter’s speaking in Solomon’s Portico about God’s raising Jesus from the dead and their being witnesses); Acts 4:1-12 (Peter and John’s testifying to the Sanhedrin about God’s raising Jesus from the dead); Acts 4:32-35 (about the apostles’ giving their testimony to the resurrection with great power); Acts 8:26-40 (about Philip’s evangelizing the Ethiopian eunuch, presumably telling him about Jesus’s resurrection); and Acts 10:34-48 (about Peter’s telling Cornelius and other Gentiles about God’s raising Jesus on the third day and making Him to appear to those chosen as witnesses).


You and I do not so much “witness” first-hand to the resurrection of Jesus as the apostles and others in the book of Acts did, though we do “confess” that Jesus rose again from the dead according to the Scriptures. We can and should “witness” first-hand to what the resurrected Jesus has done and does for us as we repent and believe in Him, namely, giving us the benefits of His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave through His Word read and preached and His Word combined with water in Holy Baptism, with touch in Holy Absolution, and with bread and wine in the Holy Supper, and so we invite others to come to Pilgrim for Jesus to do the same for them. May God bless our efforts!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Isaiah 25:1-9
Romans 1-3
- 2 Ps. 114
Romans 4-6
- 3 Ps. 115
Romans 7-9
- 4 Ps. 116
Romans 10-13
- 5 Ps. 117
Romans 14-16
- 6 Ps. 118
1 Cor. 1-3
- 7 Ps. 119:1-8
1 Cor. 4-6
- 8 Ps. 119:9-16
1 Cor. 7-9
- 9 Ps. 119:17-24
1 Cor. 10-11
- 10 Ps. 119:25-32
1 Cor. 12-14
- 11 Ps. 119:33-40
1 Cor. 15-16
- 12 Ps. 119:41-48
2 Cor. 1-4
- 13 Ps. 119:49-56
2 Cor. 5-7
- 14 Ps. 119:57-64
2 Cor. 8-10
- 15 Ps. 119:65-72
2 Cor. 11-13
- 16 Ps. 119:73-80
Galatians 1-3
- 17 Ps. 119:81-88
Galatians 4-6
- 18 Ps. 119:89-96
Ephesians 1-3
- 19 Ps. 119:97-104
Ephesians 4-6
- 20 Ps. 119:105-112
Philippians 1-2
- 21 Ps. 119:113-120
Philippians 3-4
- 22 Ps. 119:121-128
Colossians 1-2
- 23 Ps. 119:129-136
Colossians 3-4
- 24 Ps. 119:137-144
1 Thessalonians 1-3
- 25 Ps. 119:145-152
1 Thessalonians 4-5
- 26 Ps. 119:153-160
2 Thessalonians 1-3
- 27 Ps. 119:161-168
1 Timothy 1-3
- 28 Ps. 119:169-176
1 Timothy 4-6
- 29 Ps. 120
2 Timothy 1-2
- 30 Isaiah 25:1-9
2 Timothy 3-4

APRIL 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)	4.000%	4.06%	3.250%	3.29%
Three Year Note (1)	3.750%	3.80%	3.500%	3.55%
Five Year Note (1)	3.850%	3.91%	3.750%	3.80%
Jumbo Investment	4.150%	4.22%		
\$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%

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April 2024

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	2 4:45 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Catechesis	3 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study M/M Gualtieri (A)	4 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM Plano Study Group	5	6 Celebrate Life Banquet in Longview Tracey Fey (B)
7 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service "15-2 Folk" Gathering	8 M/M Treadway (A)	9 (Elders' Meeting cancelled due to scheduling conflicts)	10	11	12	13 Quarterly Reports due to Joy tomorrow
Pastor is on vacation after the Divine Service 04/07-midday 04/16. An Elder will monitor Pilgrim's phone and contact the on-call pastor if needed.						
14 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins	15	16 4:45 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Catechesis	17 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	18 7:40 AM Pastor leads weekly devotion for the Kilgore P.D.	19	20 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM LWML East Texas Zone Spring Event in Corsicana Truman McHargue (B)
Pastor is on vacation through midday 04/16.						
21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Mary/Martha Society Gathering	22	23 4:45 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Catechesis M/M Navaille (A)	24 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	25 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Pastors meet at Pilgrim	26	27 (Willows Services suspended)
28 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Church Council Meeting	29	30 4:45 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Catechesis	Elder on Duty: Jeromy McMurray (Back-up: Carl Gardner)			

"He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young." (Isaiah 40:11 ESV)

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Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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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.