



THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas
May 2025

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.

This May, plan for your death in view of Christ's resurrection

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Easter season continues the entire month of May this Church Year, giving us at least six opportunities (including Matins before the Circuit Pastor's Meeting—see the calendar with this newsletter) to appreciate especially how our Lord's death on the cross defeated death for us and how His resurrection from the grave shows that we, too, will rise bodily. Every Sunday is a little celebration of Easter, anyway, but that is all the more the case during the Easter Season. We realize that Christ's resurrection and so also our resurrections change our entire perspective on this life, directing us more to the life to come, ultimately under a "new", or "restored", "heaven", or "sky", on a "new", or "restored", earth.

Before then, of course, unless our Lord comes again in the same way as the disciples saw Him go into heaven when He ascended (Acts 1:11), which we also recall this month on Ascension Day (again, see the calendar with this newsletter), we will die. Although Christ bore our sins to the cross and there defeated death, death still is a consequence of our sin that we should expect to experience and for which, as much as possible, we should prepare.

Chief among our preparations is living each day with sorrow over our sin and trust in God to forgive our sin for Jesus's sake, seeking and receiving God's forgiveness through His Word—not only its public reading and preaching in the Divine Service and public teaching in Bible Classes and Studies, but also its private reading and contemplation in family and personal devotions—and His Sacraments—not only being baptized once but also using one's Holy Baptism daily, not only confessing sin in general before the Divine Service but also seeking Holy Absolution regularly, not only receiving Christ's Body and Blood in the Holy Supper four times each year but receiving them as often as possible.

We may have life insurance now in order to help provide for those who depend on us, in the event of our deaths, and we might make and even pay for our funeral-home arrangements in advance in order to relieve our survivors of at least some of the decisions and at least the initial

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expense, while that life insurance is processed and our estate is settled. All the more should we make known our wishes for our and others' spiritual care in connection with our deaths for which care there is no charge by the church! Members in good standing are entitled to and should receive both full church funerals with their intact-as-possible bodies present and complete committal ceremonies at their not "final" but "temporary" resting place. (Honorariums to the Officiant and Accompanist may be "customary" but are neither expected nor necessary.)

For years Pilgrim has had available in the Narthex (printed on purple paper) and online "Funeral Planning Worksheets" in order to compile needed information, work through desired arrangements, and express favorite Bible passages and hymns. Sadly, few have been completed as much as possible, discussed with me, and filed in Pilgrim's Church Office. Such worksheets are especially important if you want the congregation and me to be involved, for all sorts of God-pleasing reasons (such as for the Gospel's comforting the survivors), but your survivors, who may or may not be Pilgrim members or even Christians, do not want us to be involved, for no God-pleasing reason (such as for their not hearing the law's condemning sin).

The "Worksheets" are not set in stone, of course, but indicate your ideal wishes subject to what might be required or allowed by actual circumstances, congregational custom, or good pastoral practice. Along those same lines, our website has linked to it suggested Bible passages and hymns and drafts of what is called the "Christian Obituary", different from what might be posted on a funeral home website or published in a newspaper (see <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/weddings-funerals>).

Several years ago in our "Last Things" Sunday-morning Adult Bible Class we briefly mentioned matters such as embalming and cremation (see <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/last-things>). Not to condemn past action but to do better going forward, perhaps we should discuss such things again at greater length, as notably the Bible's accounts generally refer to Christians' bodies only being buried, not cremated or even embalmed.

On related topics, also worth mentioning are two prior issues of *The Lutheran Witness* available in Pilgrim's Library and online (at <https://witness.lcms.org/>): the September 2020 issue titled "Ars Moriendi: The Art of Dying Well" (Volume 139, Number 9) and the September 2021 issue titled "Dust to Dust" (Volume 140, Number 9).

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*



Texas District Church Extension Fund
1.888.951.1233 • texascef.org

The month's Texas District Church Extension Fund rates were not yet available when this newsletter was published.

For the latest rates, visit <https://texascef.org>.

Remember that your personal investments can be considered Pilgrim's supporting investments and so lead to Pilgrim's receiving a greater rebate of the interest on its CEF loan that paid for the Parish Hall.

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.

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 1 Sam. 2:1-10
Titus, Philemon
- 2 Psalm 121
Hebrews 1-4
- 3 Psalm 122
Hebrews 5-7
- 4 Psalm 123
Hebrews 8-10
- 5 Psalm 124
Heb. 11-13
- 6 Psalm 125
James 1-3
- 7 Psalm 126
James 4-5
- 8 Psalm 127
1 Peter 1-2
- 9 Psalm 128
1 Peter 3-5
- 10 Psalm 129
2 Peter
- 11 Psalm 130
1 John 1-3
- 12 Psalm 131
1 John 4-5
- 13 Psalm 132
2 John, 3 John,
Jude
- 14 Psalm 133
John 1-2
- 15 Psalm 134
John 3-4
- 16 Psalm 135
John 5-6
- 17 Psalm 136
John 7-8
- 18 Psalm 137
John 9-10
- 19 Psalm 138
John 11-12
- 20 Psalm 139
John 13-14
- 21 Psalm 140
John 15-16
- 22 Psalm 141
John 17-18
- 23 Psalm 142
John 19
- 24 Psalm 143
John 20-21
- 25 Psalm 144
Acts 1-2
- 26 Psalm 145
Acts 3-4
- 27 Psalm 146
Acts 5-6
- 28 Psalm 147
Acts 7-8
- 29 Psalm 148
Acts 9-10
- 30 Psalm 149
Acts 11-12
- 31 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Acts 13-14



May 2025

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: Remo Gualtieri (Back-up: Jeromy McMurray)				1 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM Plano Study Group 7:30 PM Catechesis	2	3 (Willows Services suspended)
4 THIRD 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	5 Ben Ford (B) Pastor Galler (B)	6	7 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	8 7:30 PM Catechesis Rittenberry (A)	9	10
11 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	12	13 (No regular Elders' Meeting this month)	14	15	16	17 LWML East Texas Zone Spring Event at Bethlehem, Palestine
Pastor Galler on vacation after the Service 5/11 through midday 5/18. An Elder will monitor the Church Phone and contact Pastor Adler as needed.						
18 FIFTH 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 Nicolas Worsham (B)	19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> Pastor Galler on vacation. </div>	20	21 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	22 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Pastors' Meeting 7:30 PM Catechesis	23	24
25 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Teresa Gibson (B)	26 McHargue (A)	27	28 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	29 THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (W) 7:00 PM Divine Service	30	31

"On Christ's ascension I now build The hope of my ascension;
 This hope alone has always stilled All doubt and apprehension;" *(Lutheran Service Book 492:1)*

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Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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



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Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

www.pilgrimlc.org



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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.