



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

June brings reflection on the Augsburg Confession

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

When Lutherans say that they believe in God, or trust in Him to forgive their sins for Jesus's sake, what exactly do they believe about such things as themselves, God, the forgiveness of sins, and Jesus? If they were to repeat the content of the Apostles', Nicene, or Athanasian Creed to a family member, friend, colleague, or classmate who is Roman Catholic or of a Reformed or other religious tradition, would such a confession of the content of their faith identify key differences between them and their family member, friend, colleague, or classmate?

More than one year ago, Nolan White, the LeTourneau student who regularly attends Pilgrim when his classes are in session, asked me about differences between Lutherans and other religious traditions. My answer to his question and our subsequent conversation resulted in his and my regularly studying together two of the Lutheran confessional writings contained in *The Book of Concord*, namely, the 1530 Augsburg Confession and its 1531 "Apology", or "Defense". Though they are nearly 500 years old, the two writings remain the preeminent confessions of faithful Lutherans, such as us at Pilgrim by virtue of our membership, against both Roman Catholicism, on the one hand, and the Reformed and more radical reformers, on the other hand.

I at least would like to think that members and friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church at least have heard of *The Book of Concord* and both the Augsburg Confession and its Apology. (For example, see <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/about/biblical-and-confessional>.) While most of us may have been instructed in the faith using the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* and some edition of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's *Short Explanation* of the *Small Catechism*, at least some of the people whom I instructed prior to their joining Pilgrim I instructed on basis of the Augsburg Confession and its Apology. Yet, even the various editions of the LCMS's *Short Explanation* to varying degrees refer to *The Book of Concord* and its contents, which include the *Small Catechism*.

Article continues on the following page.

Article continues from the preceding page.

Thus, when I was a young man, I presumably should have remembered from my confirmation instruction at least that there was such a thing as *The Book of Concord*, including the *Small Catechism* and the Augsburg Confession and its Apology. Yet, I distinctly remember that, when my confirming congregation's pastor at the time mentioned the Lutheran Confessions to me, I was somewhat surprised by their existence. Similarly, one of Pilgrim's Elders recently told me about his "first hearing" about them. At seminary in Indiana and Ontario, I first read and studied *The Book of Concord*, and, at The University of Texas at Austin, I made *The Book of Concord* the focus of my doctoral dissertation. Now, I regularly lead both Pilgrim's Elders in a study of *The Book of Concord's* contents as part of our monthly Elders' Meetings and other pastors in their confessional studies as part of both our Circuit #14 Meetings and our meetings of the Plano Study Group.

The Lutherans' June 25, 1530, presentation of the Augsburg Confession to Charles V, at the time the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, is arguably—more than the earlier October 31, 1517, mailing and nailing of Luther's *Ninety-five Theses* (or, more properly, his *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences*)—the "birthday" of the Lutheran Church, sometimes called "The Church of the Augsburg Confession". Still, Pilgrim usually commemorates with Divine Service both the June 25 Presentation of the Augsburg Confession and the October 31 Reformation Day, even if those days fall on weekdays.

So, whether or not you know much more about the Augsburg Confession than I have just mentioned, you are especially invited to Pilgrim's Wednesday, June 25, Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. That Divine Service is one of six Pilgrim is offering this month, with its end of the Easter Season, Pentecost, and the beginning of the season after Pentecost, including the Feast of the Holy Trinity. Everyone is welcome also at our regular Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class, as it wraps up its study of Romans, and our regular Wednesday evening 7:00 p.m. Midweek Bible Study, as it wraps up its study of Revelation (while I already have received some suggestions of next topics for each class, I still welcome your input). And, do not forget the June 29 Fifth-Sunday Meal, in the form of the Annual Church Picnic, and Game Day! See all the details on the calendar at right.

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Isaiah 12:1-6
Acts 15-16
- 2 Psalm 150
Acts 17-18
- 3 Psalm 1
Acts 19-20
- 4 Psalm 2
Acts 21-22
- 5 Psalm 3
Acts 23-24
- 6 Psalm 4
Acts 25-26
- 7 Psalm 5
Acts 27-28
- 8 Psalm 6
Joshua 1-5
- 9 Psalm 7
Joshua 6-8
- 10 Psalm 8
Joshua 9-11
- 11 Psalm 9
Joshua 12-16
- 12 Psalm 10
Joshua 17-21
- 13 Psalm 11
Joshua 22-24
- 14 Psalm 12
Judges 1-3
- 15 Psalm 13
Judges 4-6
- 16 Psalm 14
Judges 7-9
- 17 Psalm 15
Judges 10-12
- 18 Psalm 16
Judges 13-15
- 19 Psalm 17
Judges 16-18
- 20 Psalm 18
Judges 19-21
- 21 Psalm 19
Ruth
- 22 Psalm 20
1 Samuel 1-3
- 23 Psalm 21
1 Samuel 4-6
- 24 Psalm 22
1 Samuel 7-9
- 25 Psalm 23
1 Sam. 10-12
- 26 Psalm 24
1 Sam. 13-15
- 27 Psalm 25
1 Sam. 16-18
- 28 Psalm 26
1 Sam. 19-21
- 29 Psalm 27
1 Sam. 22-24
- 30 Isaiah 12:1-6
1 Sam. 25-27

JUNE 2025



Texas District Church Extension Fund
1.888.951.1233 • texascef.org

Investment	Fixed Rate (2)		Floating Rate (2)	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note (1)	4.000%	4.06%	3.000%	3.03%
Three Year Note (1)	3.850%	3.91%	3.250%	3.29%
Five Year Note (1)	3.650%	3.70%	3.500%	3.55%
Jumbo Investment	4.250%	4.32%		
\$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			3.500%	3.56%

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.



June 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
1 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service "The 15-2 Folk" Gathering	2	3	4 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	5 (The Plano Study Group does not meet this month) 7:30 PM Catechesis	6 Margot McMillen (B)	7 (Willows Services are suspended)
8 THE DAY OF PENTECOST (R) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	9	10 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	11 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	12 7:30 PM Catechesis Shockley (A)	13	14
15 THE HOLY TRINITY (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	16	17 Jeanette Heil (B)	18 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	19 7:30 PM Catechesis Gwen Rittenberry (B) Smith (A)	20	21
22 2 ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Mary/Martha Society Gathering Katy Myers (A)	23	24 5:30 PM Pastor prays at the Kilgore City Council Mtg.	25 PRESENTATION OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION (W) 7:00 PM Divine Service	26 (Circuit #14 Pastors do not meet this month) 7:30 PM Catechesis	27	28
29 3 RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Church Picnic/Game Day Gwendolyn Freeman (B)	30 Spencer Land (B)	Elder on Duty: Don Gibson (Back-up: Remo Gualtieri)				

"I will speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame"
 (Psalm 119:46)

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

www.pilgrimlc.org



Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor

pastor@pilgrimlc.org

903-984-4333

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.