



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

July 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.

God blesses us in Christ, in this country, and at Pilgrim

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

The ordinary (unchanging from week to week) Preface in *Lutheran Service Book's* Divine Service, Setting Four, refers to “the countless blessings” that God so freely bestows “on us and all creation”, but the Preface continues well that “Above all, we give thanks” for God’s boundless love shown when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ “into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving *Him* into death that *we* might not die eternally” (*LSB* 208, emphasis mine). What a blessing that God substituted His holy Son for us unholy people! What a blessing that Setting Four of the Divine Service thanks God for and reminds us of what is called the “vicarious atonement” each Divine Service (every Sunday and on other festivals, in keeping with the Apology of the Augsburg Confession XXIV:1)! We should never get tired of speaking or hearing those words about Christ’s sacrifice for us!

Of course, Jesus’s dying on the cross for the sins of the whole world only does us individually any good as we each are led by the Holy Spirit to turn in sorrow from our sin, to trust God to forgive our sin, and to want to stop sinning. So repenting and believing, we seek out God’s forgiveness in His Word and Sacraments—Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Holy Supper. What a blessing that God is “surpassingly rich in His grace” and offers us “counsel and help against sin in more than one way” (Smalcald Articles III:iv)! We who repent and believe should be baptized into Christ once; we should repeatedly be in God’s Word (with devotions at home, both individually and with our families, and with classes and studies at church, as well as in the Divine Service); and we should regularly both make use of private Confession for the sake of individual Absolution (for example, *LSB* 292-293) and receive Christ’s Body and Blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

Thanks be to God that in this country we are generally free to seek out God’s forgiveness in His Word and Sacraments. That freedom is perhaps the most important freedom for which we

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should be thankful to God as our nation celebrates its 249th birthday July 4th (wait until we celebrate 250)! Adopted years later, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits Congress from such things as making laws respecting the establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise of religion, and abridging the freedom of assembly. Subsequently, Courts have applied those stipulations to other governing authorities, though many of us remember that during the coronavirus pandemic even those stipulations' broader application did not seem to stop all governing authorities from, for example, prohibiting the free exercise of religion and abridging the freedom of assembly. Still, we in East Texas, and in Kilgore in particular, were blessed by God with elected leaders and law-enforcement officials who said that they would not interfere with churches.

To be sure, the freedoms to exercise our religion and to assemble peaceably are not essential to our repenting and believing, nor are they on their own sufficient for us to repent and believe, obviously. We need the pure preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments (Augsburg Confession VII:1; confer V:1), and Pilgrim has been a place for those things for nearly 73 years (by the way, we still need volunteers to serve on the committee planning Pilgrim's 75th anniversary celebration). Thanks be to God for blessing Pilgrim with the service of faithful pastors and faithful lay-people! No, neither pastor nor people, nor Pilgrim's preaching nor practice, are not perfect. But, I do not think that one has to visit too many other Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations near or far in order to realize that Pilgrim is better than many by comparison.

In prayers we certainly can and should not only thank God for His past blessings in Christ, in this country, and at Pilgrim, but we can and should also petition Him to continue so to bless us in Christ, in this country, and at Pilgrim. Clearly pastors and people come and go over the decades of life of a congregation such as Pilgrim. God's being willing, His purely-preached Gospel and rightly-administered Sacraments remain, regardless even of the congregation's relationship to any church body that is by human right. As we noted in our last Special Congregational Study, neither Holy Scripture nor the Lutheran Confessions specify an explicit structure for a larger Church body and its oversight of member ministers and congregations but describe the Word of God's having ultimate authority. May God grant His Word such authority in our lives now and forever.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING	
1	Deut. 32:1-4 1 Sam. 28-31
2	Psalms 28 2 Sam. 1-3
3	Psalms 29 2 Sam. 4-6
4	Psalms 30 2 Sam. 7-9
5	Psalms 31 2 Sam. 10-12
6	Psalms 32 2 Sam. 13-15
7	Psalms 33 2 Sam. 16-18
8	Psalms 34 2 Sam. 19-21
9	Psalms 35 2 Sam. 22-24
10	Psalms 36 1 Kings 1-2
11	Psalms 37 1 Kings 3-6
12	Psalms 38 1 Kings 7-8
13	Psalms 39 1 Kings 9-11
14	Psalms 40 1 Kings 12-14
15	Psalms 41 1 Kings 15-17
16	Psalms 42 1 Kings 18-20
17	Psalms 43 1 Kings 21-22
18	Psalms 44 2 Kings 1-3
19	Psalms 45 2 Kings 4-6
20	Psalms 46 2 Kings 7-9
21	Psalms 47 2 Kings 10-12
22	Psalms 48 2 Kings 13-15
23	Psalms 49 2 Kings 16-18
24	Psalms 50 2 Kings 19-22
25	Psalms 51 2 Kings 23-25
26	Psalms 52 1 Chron. 1-5
27	Psalms 53 1 Chron. 6-10
28	Psalms 54 1 Chron. 11-15
29	Psalms 55 1 Chron. 16-20
30	Psalms 56 1 Chron. 21-25
31	Deut. 32:1-4 1 Chron. 26-29



JULY 2025

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July 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: Carl Gardner (Back-up: Don Gibson)		1 Land (A)	2 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	3 (The Plano Study Group does not meet this month) Ben Freeman (B)	4	5 Second-Quarter reports due to Joy tomorrow Carl Gardner (B)
6 4 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service "The 15-2 Folk" Gathering Menconi (A)	7	8 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	9 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	10 7:30 PM Catechesis	11	12 (Willows Services are suspended)
13 5 TH 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 Zylan Ellis (B)	14 Traylor (A)	15 6:00 PM CAPA Mtg. Luke Land (B)	16 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	17 7:40 AM Pastor Galler conducts Kilgore PD Devotion 7:30 PM Catechesis	18 David Navaille (B)	19
20 6 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	21	22	23 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	24 (Circuit #14 Pastors do not meet this month) 7:30 PM Catechesis	25	26 Joy McHargue (B)
27 7 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Regular Quarterly Council Meeting	28	29	30 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	31 7:30 PM Catechesis		

**“God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night”
 When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave, Do Thou our country save, By Thy great might.” (LSB 965:1)**

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



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