



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

Faithful believers recognize and honor necessary lines

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Since humankind's fall into sin, people like us by nature are totally corrupt, until God leads us to turn in sorrow from our sins and to trust God to forgive our sins for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ by the power of His Holy Spirit. Then, after conversion, as we live in daily contrition and faith, we are at the same time both totally justified (made righteous), according to our redeemed nature, and still totally corrupt according to our sinful nature. When we who so repent die, our souls are immediately with the Lord and so are purged of sin as they are glorified in His nearer presence, as also our resurrected bodies will be on the Last Day—only then are we only totally holy.

Until our temporal deaths or the Lord's return on the Last Day, whichever comes first, we struggle both for our redeemed nature to do the good that we should do and for our sinful nature to not do the evil that we should not do. That struggle is a war going on within our bodies and souls (see Romans 7:7-25). The tension between the law that demands our perfect obedience and the Gospel that gives us that perfect obedience and the forgiveness for our failures is only resolved insofar as we are in Christ Jesus our Lord, by way of His Word in all of its forms, especially its sacramental forms of Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Holy Supper.

As we struggle in this lifetime, we recognize that our committing some sins (so-called "mortal" sins, such as adultery and murder) drives the Holy Spirit from us and leaves us needing to be re-converted. We recognize that people can so harden themselves against the Holy Spirit that God hardens them further, essentially bringing an end to their opportunities to repent. The Church, pastors and people together, tries to call all sinners to repentance and warn them against such hardening, what is sometimes called "obduracy".

Thus, pastors' faithfully exercising the Office of the Keys, either absolving repentant sinners or excommunicating openly unrepentant sinners, and the congregation's saying "Amen" to such actions are important not only in the life of individual sinners but also in the life of

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individual congregations (for example, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13). As there is a line that individuals can cross in their own spiritual lives, so there also is a somewhat-related line that those same individuals can cross in their relationship to their congregations. And so, we should not be surprised that there is also a similar line that can be crossed when it comes to relationships either between congregations or between a single congregation and a larger church body.

The issue is *not* seeking an unrealistic perfection or *sin-lessness*, neither in the case of an unrepentant individual who is excommunicated nor in the case of questionable fellowship with a church body. As stated above, some *sin-fulness* remains among believers until their deaths or the Last Day. However, that some sinfulness remains in this lifetime does not relieve faithful congregations, pastors and people, from their responsibility to take action when the lines being discussed are crossed. While we and all other believers remain sinful, we nevertheless should avoid any and all unnecessary sharing in the sin of others that also contradicts our confession of faith.

With reference to 1 Timothy 5:22, especially the February 4, 2024, Special Congregational Study on “Unity and Fellowship” discussed that matter of our not taking part in the sins of others by fellowship with them (confer 2 John 11). We should not be in fellowship with those of a different confession or who are unrepentant, as is clear, for example, in 1 Corinthians 10:1-22; 11:17-34; and Romans 16:17. (You can find all of the Special Study handouts and audio and video recordings at www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/walking-together).

Teaching and practicing the truth brings division from error. That there never has been a perfect church body has never stopped faithful believers from recognizing and honoring necessary lines, whether in the New Testament, Early Church, Reformation, early LCMS, or present eras.

Finally, we note both that in the Apostles’ Creed we confess belief in “the holy Christian Church” and that in the Nicene Creed we confess belief in “one holy Christian and apostolic Church”. For us in this lifetime, the perfectly-holy Church is an article of faith, not of sight, although, as we struggle to be faithful, we have communion with that perfectly-holy Church. And, despite the great multitude of the wicked, on the basis of those Creeds we believe, teach, and confess both that Christ supplies His Church with the gifts that He has promised to Her and that the Church will abide forever, so we do not despair (confer Apology of the Augsburg Confession VII/VIII:9).

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING	
1	Habak 3:2-19
	2 Chron. 1-3
2	Psalms 57
	2 Chron. 4-6
3	Psalms 58
	2 Chron. 7-9
4	Psalms 59
	2 Chron. 10-12
5	Psalms 60
	2 Chron. 13-15
6	Psalms 61
	2 Chron. 16-18
7	Psalms 62
	2 Chron. 19-21
8	Psalms 63
	2 Chron. 22-24
9	Psalms 64
	2 Chron. 25-27
10	Psalms 65
	2 Chron. 28-30
11	Psalms 66
	2 Chron. 31-33
12	Psalms 67
	2 Chron. 34-36
13	Psalms 68
	Ezra 1-5
14	Psalms 69
	Ezra 6-10
15	Psalms 70
	Nehemiah 1-3
16	Psalms 71
	Nehemiah 4-6
17	Psalms 72
	Nehemiah 7-9
18	Psalms 73
	Nehemiah 10-13
19	Psalms 74
	Esther 1-3
20	Psalms 75
	Esther 4-6
21	Psalms 76
	Esther 7-10
22	Psalms 77
	Job 1-3
23	Psalms 78
	Job 4-6
24	Psalms 79
	Job 7-9
25	Psalms 80
	Job 10-12
26	Psalms 81
	Job 13-15
27	Psalms 82
	Job 16-18
28	Psalms 83
	Job 19-21
29	Psalms 84
	Job 22-24
30	Psalms 85
	Job 25-27
31	Habak 3:2-19
	Job 28-30

AUGUST 2025



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Investment	Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
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\$100,000 minimum, 18 month term				
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%
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Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund			3.500%	3.56%

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August 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
3 8 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	4	5	6 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Debbie Shockley (B) Arcele Wilburn (B)	7 7:40 AM Pastor leads Kilgore PD Devotion (No Study Group) 7:30 PM Catechesis	1 8	2 (Willows Services are suspended) 9 George B. Heil (B)
10 9 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	11 Adler (A) Loren Walker (B)	12 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	13 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	14 7:30 PM Catechesis	15	16 9:30-11:30 AM LeTourneau Church Fair
17 10 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	18	19	20 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Matthew Walker (B)	21 7:30 PM Catechesis	22 Holly Treadway (B)	23 Gayle Gardner (B)
24 ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE (R) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Aurianna Chiasson (B) Ellen Menconi (B)	25	26	27 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	28 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Pastors meet in Corsicana 7:30 PM Catechesis	29	30
31 12 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Fifth-Sunday Meal & Game Day	Elder on Duty: Remo Gualtieri (Back-up: Carl Gardner)					

**"Where a father is unable by himself to bring up his child, he calls upon a schoolmaster to teach him."
 (Martin Luther, On the Fourth Commandment, Large Catechism I:141)**

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Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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