



# ***THE PILGRIMAGE***

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

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*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.*

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## **Christians' entire lives are lives of repentance**

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Recently one night when I was on my way home from Pilgrim, I stopped at the Kilgore Brookshire's in order to buy a few groceries. Instead of going through one of the self-checkout lanes, which I usually do, I went through an attended check-out lane, since the clerk at that particular lane did not have any other customers at the time and looked a little bored. My wearing my clerical collar prompted an initial question from the clerk, and my answer to that question resulted in our briefly discussing Roman Catholicism, Lutheranism, and the Reformation that we commemorate again this month.

October 31, 2025, is the 508th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther's "posting" by nail and mail what we usually call his *Ninety-Five Theses* or what may be more-properly called the *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences*. Much is often made of the *Theses* collectively, intended as arguments for a scholarly debate with his colleagues at the University of Wittenberg and other learned men, posted in Latin but later translated into German and distributed more-widely, apparently against Luther's wishes, so as to not unnecessarily involve his prince, Frederick the Wise, who had already spoken against indulgences.

Although I once took the congregation that I was serving at the time through each of the *Ninety-Five Theses* individually, other people may not be familiar with any of them. The first of the *Theses* is said to embody "the core of all the others", and, indeed, it warns against the danger of one-time indulgences by emphasizing the need for lifelong repentance. "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' [Matthew 4:17]," Luther wrote, "He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance" (American Edition 31:25, with the editors' inserting the reference to Matthew 4:17, to which certainly we could add also Mark 1:15).

Nearly one year later, in August of 1518, Luther published his *Explanations of the Ninety-Five Theses* or *Explanations of the Disputation Concerning the Value of Indulgences*. In

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the case of the first of the *Theses*, Luther proves it on the basis of the Greek word that Jesus uses in Matthew 4:17, according to reason, and from our practice of praying throughout our whole lives the Lord's Prayer with its request for forgiveness (AE 31:83-85, with reference to the Lord's Prayer as given in Matthew 6:12; confer and compare the version of the petition given in Luke 11:4).

That lifelong view of repentance is not limited to the *Ninety-Five Theses* outside of the Lutheran Confessions but is also found in the Lutheran Confessions. In Philip Melancthon's 1531 *Apology* (or "Defense") of the *Augsburg Confession's* article on Penitence, Melancthon says, "All good men of all classes, even the theologians, admit that before Luther's writings the doctrine of penitence was very confused" (Ap XII:4, Tappert, 183). In Luther's 1537 *Smalcald Articles*, Luther writes, "In the case of a Christian such repentance continues until death, for all through life it contends with the sins that remain in the flesh" (SA III:iii:40, Tappert, 309). And, that statement is itself quoted by the 1577 *Formula of Concord—Solid Declaration's* article on Free Will (SD II:34).

So, we see that also our repentance is needed throughout our lives. We are sinful by nature and so we commit countless actual sins of thought, word, and deed. We deserve temporal and eternal punishment, but God out of His love, mercy, and grace for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected for us, offers us free forgiveness. When, enabled by the Holy Spirit, we turn in sorrow from our sin, trust God to forgive our sin for Jesus's sake, and want to stop sinning, then God forgives us. God saves us and grants us eternal life through His Word read and preached and through His Gospel applied individually with water in Holy Baptism, with touch in Holy Absolution, and with the bread and wine of the Holy Supper that are Christ's Body and Blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

Thus, as our Lord and Master Jesus Christ intends, and as we believe, teach, and confess in the Lutheran Confessions based on His Word, our entire lives can be those of repentance.

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend Pilgrim's Divine Service on Reformation Day, Friday, October 31, at 7:00 p.m., as well as our Sunday Divine Services and all of our other Bible Classes and Studies and other activities (see the calendar at right).

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING	
1	Jonah 2:2-9 Jer. 32-34
2	Ps. 114 Jer. 35-37
3	Ps. 115 Jer. 38-40
4	Ps. 116 Jer. 41-43
5	Ps. 117 Jer. 44-47
6	Ps. 118 Jer. 48-50
7	Ps. 119:1-8 Jer. 51-52
8	Ps. 119:9-16 Lam. 1-2
9	Ps. 119:17-24 Lam. 3-5
10	Ps. 119:25-32 Ezekiel 1-3
11	Ps. 119:33-40 Ezekiel 4-6
12	Ps. 119:41-48 Ezekiel 7-9
13	Ps. 119:49-56 Ezekiel 10-12
14	Ps. 119:57-64 Ezekiel 13-15
15	Ps. 119:65-72 Ezekiel 16-18
16	Ps. 119:73-80 Ezekiel 19-21
17	Ps. 119:81-88 Ezekiel 22-24
18	Ps. 119:89-96 Ezekiel 25-27
19	Ps. 119:97-104 Ezekiel 28-30
20	Ps. 119:105-112 Ezekiel 31-33
21	Ps. 119:113-120 Ezekiel 34-36
22	Ps. 119:121-128 Ezekiel 37-39
23	Ps. 119:129-136 Ezekiel 40-42
24	Ps. 119:137-144 Ezekiel 43-45
25	Ps. 119:145-152 Ezekiel 46-48
26	Ps. 119:153-160 Daniel 1-3
27	Ps. 119:161-168 Daniel 4-6
28	Ps. 119:169-176 Daniel 7-9
29	Ps. 120 Daniel 10-12
30	Ps. 121 Hosea 1-4
31	Jonah 2:2-9 Hosea 5-7

## OCTOBER 2025



**Texas District Church Extension Fund**  
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Investment	Fixed Rate <sup>2</sup>		Floating Rate <sup>2</sup>	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note <sup>1</sup>	4.000%	4.06%	3.000%	3.03%
Three Year Note <sup>1</sup>	3.850%	3.91%	3.250%	3.29%
Five Year Note <sup>1</sup>	3.650%	3.70%	3.500%	3.55%
Jumbo Investment <sup>1</sup>	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%

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# October 2025

Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
[www.pilgrimlc.org](http://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
<b>Elder on Duty: Don Gibson</b> <b>(Back-up: Jeromy McMurray)</b>			<b>1</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>2</b> 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM DFW Study Group meets in Wylie 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Council Packet pieces are due to Secretary Joy McHargue by tomorrow
<b>5</b> 17 <sup>TH</sup> 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 2:00-3:00 PM Life Chain (Longview)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  National Night-Out against Crime  Sarah Land (B)	<b>8</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>9</b>  4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  (Willows Services are suspended)  7:00 PM Circuit Forum (via Zoom)
<b>12</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	<b>15</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>16</b> 7:40 AM Pastor Galler conducts KPD Devotion 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 19 <sup>TH</sup> 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 Elaine Navaille (B)	<b>20</b>  Shannon Gage (B)	<b>21</b>  6:00 PM Clergy and Police Alliance Meeting	<b>22</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>23</b> 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Pastors meet (location TBD) 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Lindie Melendrez (B)
<b>26</b> 20 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Fourth-Quarter Council Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>30</b>  4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	<b>31</b> REFORMATION DAY (R)  7:00 PM Divine Service	<div style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-5deg); display: inline-block;">             Daylight-Saving Time begins—Fall back one hour before Church tomorrow!           </div>

**“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’ [Matthew 4:17], He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” (The first of Martin Luther’s *Ninety-Five Theses*)**

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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.