



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

Happy 1700th “birthday” to the Nicene Creed!

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

November brings us to the end of the current Church Year and, after our observance of All Saints’ Day on the first Sunday of the month, three Sundays with a focus on the final coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the Last Day, before the new Church Year begins with the First Sunday in Advent on the final Sunday of the month. Some may remember our Summer 2019 ten-part Adult Bible Class on “Last Things”, including the Final Advent of Christ (see class handouts and listen to its audio online at <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/last-things>), and, of course, we confess the Lord’s final coming each Sunday in either the Apostles’, Athanasian, or Nicene Creed. The Apostles’ and Athanasian Creeds both confess Jesus’s coming *from* the right hand of God the Father and *for the purpose* of judging the living and the dead. The Nicene Creed confesses that same purpose and adds the detail that His final coming will be with “with glory” (no separate secret rapture, as dispensational premillennialists falsely imagine on the basis of their misinterpreting passages such as 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Incidentally, happy 1700th “birthday” or “anniversary” to the Nicene Creed this year! The usual understanding is that the First Council of Nicea met in that city from May through July of 325, with some 200 bishops (or pastors) in attendance, attempting to resolve disputes related to Jesus’s Divine nature and the Son’s relationship to the Father and so producing the first part of what we know as the Nicene Creed, as well as ordering a uniform observance of Easter and promulgating early church ordinances. Then, the First Council of Constantinople met in that city from May through July of 381, amending the creed of 381, especially adding detail regarding the Holy Spirit, the Church, Baptism, resurrection of the dead, and eternal life.

Recently, the more-conservative International Lutheran Council, of which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a part (in contrast to the more-liberal Lutheran World Federation, of which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a part), met in Panglao, Bohol,

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Philippines, from September 14-19, 2025, and issued a statement reasserting the member churches' commitment to the teachings of the Nicene Creed, recognizing the Creed as a binding statement of faith included in *The Book of Concord of 1580* with continuing authority for Confessional Lutherans today evident by their regularly confessing the creed in the Divine Service, and viewing the Creed as a "touchstone for relations between different Christian traditions" that confess the Creed together as part of a shared apostolic and catholic (that is, universal, according to the whole) heritage.

When Pilgrim's Board of Elders and I began our study of *The Book of Concord* anew last year, we went through the Nicene Creed essentially line by line. When preparing for our sessions dealing with the Nicene Creed, I lamented the lack of a good-Lutheran more-detailed study of the Nicene Creed, and I picked up two then-very-new books (perhaps published intentionally leading up to the Creed's 1700th anniversary) from non-Lutheran authors and publishers, though one book had an "endorsement" from a notable LCMS pastor. When I recently saw a Fall catalog from the LCMS's Concordia Publishing House, I noticed a new multi-part study of the Nicene Creed (Item #204304, \$18.99 each), and a search of CPH's website (<https://www.cph.org/>) also brought up an illustrated guide to the Nicene Creed for families, a children's book that is said to have "simple explanations and beautiful illustrations" (Item #562592, \$17.99 each). At some future point, we may go through the Nicene Creed as a congregation, since we go through the Apostles' Creed as a part of catechesis regularly and have been through the Athanasian Creed before (<https://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/athanasian-creed-holy-trinity>).

Faith in the heart leads to confession with the lips (Romans 10:9-10). We can legitimately wonder about the faith of the religious traditions around us, especially in East Texas, that will neither pray the very words our Lord gives us in Holy Scripture nor confess the faith of Holy Scripture as expressed by the Spirit-led Church. Do they so strongly reject creeds in general, or do they reject specific statements of the creeds in particular? I have my suspicions. Ask your family and friends and see what they say!

We thank the God the Holy Spirit for leading us to believe and confess and so be justified and saved. We look forward to God the Son's return in glory, when we who are blessed by God the Father will inherit the Kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34).

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Exodus 15:1-18
Hosea 8-10
- 2 Psalm 122
Hosea 11-14
- 3 Psalm 123
Joel
- 4 Psalm 124
Amos 1-5
- 5 Psalm 125
Amos 6-9
- 6 Psalm 126
Obadiah, Jonah
- 7 Psalm 127
Micah 1-3
- 8 Psalm 128
Micah 4-7
- 9 Psalm 129
Nahum
- 10 Psalm 130
Habakkuk
- 11 Psalm 131
Zephaniah
- 12 Psalm 132
Haggai
- 13 Psalm 133
Zechariah 1-5
- 14 Psalm 134
Zechariah 6-10
- 15 Psalm 135
Zechariah 11-14
- 16 Psalm 136
Malachi
- 17 Psalm 137
Matthew 1-2
- 18 Psalm 138
Matthew 3-4
- 19 Psalm 139
Matthew 5-6
- 20 Psalm 140
Matthew 7-8
- 21 Psalm 141
Matthew 9-10
- 22 Psalm 142
Matthew 11-12
- 23 Psalm 143
Matthew 13-14
- 24 Psalm 144
Matthew 15-16
- 25 Psalm 145
Matthew 17-18
- 26 Psalm 146
Matthew 19-20
- 27 Psalm 147
Matthew 21-22
- 28 Psalm 148
Matthew 23-24
- 29 Psalm 149-150
Matthew 25-26
- 30 Exodus 15:1-18
Matthew 27-28

NOVEMBER 2025



Texas District Church Extension Fund
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Investment	Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note ¹	3.800%	3.85%	3.000%	3.03%
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Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%
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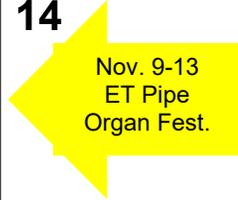
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November 2025

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
2 ALL SAINTS' DAY (OBSERVED) (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service "The 15-2 Folk" Gathering	3	4	5	6 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM DFW Study Group meets in Keller	7 	1 DST ends tomorrow Rita Whitley (B)
9 21 ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Annual Voters' Assembly	10 5:30-7:00 PM Called to Serve event at Redeemer in Nac	11 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	12 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	13 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis B.J. Wilson (B)	14 	15 <i>Lutheran Witness</i> subscription due to Texas District Office Connie Wilburn (B)
16 22 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	17 M/M Worsham (A)	18	19 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	20 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis Laney Eichelberger (B)	21	22
23 23 RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service 6:00 PM Thanksgiving Service (First Baptist, Kilgore)	24	25	26	27 DAY OF THANKSGIVING Circuit Pastors Meet? NO Catechesis	28	29 10:00 AM Float Decorating at Remo and Kathy's (201 Norris Road, Kilgore)
30 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service NO Fifth-Sunday Meal						
Elder on Duty: Carl Gardner (Back-up: Don Gibson)						

God knits together His faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of His Son, Jesus Christ. (Adapted from the Collect of the Day for All Saints' Day)

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713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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



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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.