



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

March 2026

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.

More than the luck o' the Irish is needed to confess faithfully

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

What do you think of when you think of the month of March? The first day of Spring? Spring Break? St. Patrick's Day? You may know that the Church Year given by *Lutheran Service Book* includes March 17 as a Commemoration for "Patrick, Missionary to Ireland" (see p.xii), just as the hymnal includes the hymn "I Bind unto Myself Today" (*LSB* 604), the text of which is attributed to St. Patrick and the tune for which is named "ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE". Back in 2016, our Circuit #14 Pastors met at Pilgrim on March 17, and we Commemorated St. Patrick and sang his hymn. Sadly, the hymn did not go particularly well then, as it is not very familiar, apparently even among the pastors in our Circuit at that time.

There are both legends about St. Patrick and more widely-accepted facts. For example, legend holds that he taught about the nature of the Holy Trinity using a three-leafed shamrock as an analogy (a bad analogy, as our friends the Irish peasants Donall and Conall at Lutheran Satire have pointed out [see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQLfgaUoQCw>]). And, scholars generally accept that St. Patrick wrote two surviving works: a letter to soldiers at Coroticus and a "Declaration" or "Confession", which reportedly gives a short account of St. Patrick's life and mission, including telling of a vision that he had, which vision essentially called him to minister in Ireland, and defending himself from his detractors. (Patrick's hymn text is also said to have been intended to protect him and his colleagues from enemies who threatened their lives.)

We may more-commonly think of our confessions, such as the Lutheran Confessions in *The Book of Concord of 1580*, which we believe and say are faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, true exposition of the Holy Scriptures, and a correct exhibition of the teaching of the Lutheran Church. Pastors vow to perform all their duties in accordance with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and congregations such as Pilgrim insist that their teaching and practice accord with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and they say

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that they will hold membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as long as the Synod remains true in teaching and practice to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

A series of Special Congregational Studies at Pilgrim over several years has indicated seven different areas where the teaching and/or practice of the LCMS—Synod, Texas District, our Circuit—does not seem to remain true to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Pilgrim’s Board of Elders has put forward five options for the congregation to consider going forward, and there may be other options that other people want to suggest be considered. (See www.pilgrimlc.org for links to most of the Walking Together material.)

Presumably having studied the matters, each individual may be more or less convinced that something needs to be done. Each individual should ask himself or herself, if these areas *do not* now warrant action, then what in his or her mind *would* ever warrant action, if *anything* would ever warrant action, and, if *nothing* would ever warrant action, than what does that say about *who or what* that individual trusts most? Has the LCMS become his or her god?

Faithfulness to the true God is what matters most, and not universal happiness. I am not convinced that the old saying is ever true that you can please all of the people even some of the time. Given the diversity of opinions regarding how Pilgrim should proceed in this matter, we can hardly expect complete agreement on any option, though we can pray for a majority of Pilgrim’s Voters on April 12 to agree on faithful action within the congregation’s structure and in accord with what should be its underlying unity in the teaching of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

As the Holy Spirit gets the glory for bringing us both to be sorry for our sins and to trust God the Father to forgive our sins for the sake of His crucified and resurrected Son, Jesus Christ, so not something like the luck o’ the Irish but the Holy Spirit gets the glory for leading us to confess faithfully and act accordingly in this difficult matter. We do not have certain answers for all of the questions that might be frequently asked, but we should not expect to! We are called, as a Collect of the Church puts it, “to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown”, but, by that same Spirit-given faith, we “go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that [His] hand is leading us and [His] love supporting us”.

All are invited and welcome for every step along our journey this month. (See the calendar at right, with its lines from St. Patrick’s hymn.)

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING	
1	Isaiah 64:1-9 Numb. 16-18
2	Psalms 85 Numb. 19-21
3	Psalms 86 Numb. 22-24
4	Psalms 87 Numb. 25-27
5	Psalms 88 Numb. 28-30
6	Psalms 89 Numb. 31-33
7	Psalms 90 Numb. 34-36
8	Psalms 91 Deut. 1-3
9	Psalms 92 Deut. 4-6
10	Psalms 93 Deut. 7-9
11	Psalms 94 Deut. 10-12
12	Psalms 95 Deut. 13-15
13	Psalms 96 Deut. 16-18
14	Psalms 97 Deut. 19-21
15	Psalms 98 Deut. 22-24
16	Psalms 99 Deut. 25-27
17	Psalms 100 Deut. 28-30
18	Psalms 101 Deut. 31-34
19	Psalms 102 Luke 1
20	Psalms 103 Luke 2-3
21	Psalms 104 Luke 4-5
22	Psalms 105 Luke 6-7
23	Psalms 106 Luke 8-9
24	Psalms 107 Luke 10-11
25	Psalms 108 Luke 12-13
26	Psalms 109 Luke 14-15
27	Psalms 110 Luke 16-17
28	Psalms 111 Luke 18-19
29	Psalms 112 Luke 20-21
30	Psalms 113 Luke 22
31	Isaiah 64:1-9 Luke 23-24



MARCH 2026

Texas District Church Extension Fund
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Investment	Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
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Three Year Note ¹	3.750%	3.80%	3.250%	3.29%
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\$100,000 minimum, 18 month term				
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March 2026

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service "15-2 Folk" Gathering	2	3 Bethany Worsham	4 6:00 PM Soup/Salad Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	5 No DFW Study Group 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	6	7 Daylight Saving Time begins tomorrow; remember to "Spring ahead" one hour.
8 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	9	10 6:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting McMurray (A) Phoenix Murrill	11 6:00 PM Soup/Salad Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	12 7:40 AM Pastor does KPD Devotion 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	13	14 (Willows Services are suspended) Lindsay Knight
15 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Mary/Martha Society Gathering Ansleigh Heil	16 Brady Gage	17 PATRICK, MISSIONARY TO IRELAND Myers (A)	18 6:00 PM Soup/Salad Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	19 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis Heil (A) Dawn Shen	20	21
22 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Talitha LeBlanc	23	24	25 6:00 PM Soup/Salad Supper 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Vespers	26 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Pastors' meet at Pilgrim 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis Tina McMurray	27 Ford (A)	28 Charles Rittenberry
29 PALM SUNDAY (P) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service ("Loose-Change Sunday")	30	31 Tim Worsham	Elder on Duty: Carl Gardner (Back-up: Don Gibson)			

"I bind unto myself today The strong name of the Trinity
 By invocation of the same, The Three in One and One in Three." (LSB 604:1)

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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.