



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

May 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.

There is not always time to repent

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

This Church Year's Easter Season seems to be flying by! There are activities at Pilgrim after the Divine Service on many of these Sundays, along with a new Sunday Adult Bible Class titled "Basic Bible Accounts", our resumed Midweek Bible Study titled "All the Prophets Testify" now in Amos, and a new course of in-person adult catechesis. Whew! I almost was tired out just by typing that sentence!

Pilgrim's Easter lilies do not usually make it all the way through the eight Sundays of the Easter Season, and this year the lilies were a little more "worse for wear" than usual, as our local supplier, New Generation Farms, had a problem with its chiller and could not keep the plants from blooming too soon, so they were almost past their prime when we got them one week before we put them in the chancel on Easter Sunday. Do not blame Ellen, who picked them up, or Gayle, who faithfully watered and otherwise attended to them. Thank you to them and to those who have taken what I affectionately call our lily "stumps" home to plant in their flower beds to enjoy additional blossoms in future years. Many of Pilgrim's members and friends have much better green thumbs than I have (just sit beneath or even look at my straggly "Wandering Jew" in the window of my Study to see how good I am with plants).

Recently there was some discussion of the vinedresser's request for more time in the so-called "Parable of the Barren Fig Tree" found only in Luke 13:6-9. The Parable is part of the appointed Gospel Reading for the Third Sunday in Lent in the "C" year of *Lutheran Service Book's* Three-Year Lectionary Series, along with the preceding verses 1-5, which, like the following verses 10-13, are also unique to St. Luke's Divinely-inspired Gospel account. In the Parable, the vineyard owner (who seems to correspond to God the Father) finds no fruit (which seems to correspond to repentance) on a particular fig tree (which seems to correspond potentially to any individual, such as to each one of us) and so tells the vinedresser (who seems

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to correspond to God the Son) to cut down the tree. The vinedresser intercedes on behalf of the fig tree for more time during which the vinedresser will tend to the tree, after which time the vinedresser suggests the vineyard owner will cut down the tree if it is still not bearing fruit. The account does not say either whether the vineyard owner agreed (which he presumably did) or whether the tree produced fruit at the end of the additional year. Such parables are often open-ended so that hearers or readers such as us each ask ourselves whether or not we bear fruit in keeping with repentance (confer Luke 3:8) before our day of grace ends, before we die, or before the Lord returns, whichever of those three comes first.

The Parable shows the mercy and grace of God the Father for His Son Jesus's sake in forgiving the sins of those whom the Holy Spirit successfully leads to be sorry for their sin, to trust God to forgive their sin, and to want to stop sinning. The Appointed Verse paired with the Gospel Reading of the Parable on the Third Sunday in Lent of Series C says well that the Lord "is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9b, c).

The appointed Old Testament Reading that day is Ezekiel 33:7-20, in which the Lord both tells His watchman to warn His people and warns His watchman that, if the watchman does not warn the people, then the watchman will be accountable for the people's not repenting, but, if the watchman does warn the people, then the watchman has delivered his own soul. In discussing that Old Testament Reading, The Rev. Dr. Carl Fickenscher mentions faithful pastors who firmly and lovingly speak such warnings but are not popular and may not be supported (*Looking Forward to Sunday Morning*, pp.571-572).


Notably God does not say anything to Ezekiel about whether or not Ezekiel should continue faithfully to serve the unrepentant people of Israel, though one wonders about making any arguments from that silence. Similarly, the Parable of Luke 13:6-9 arguably does not speak to delaying any decision regarding church fellowship, whether by a congregation in relationship to its church body or an individual in relationship to his or her congregation. However, other passages might be more on point.

May God continue to bless us at Pilgrim with His Word of law and Gospel as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord and to try to discern His will in our particular circumstances, not conforming to the world but being transformed by Him (Romans 12:2).

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 1 Sam. 2:1-10
Titus, Philemon
- 2 Psalm 121
Hebrews 1-4
- 3 Psalm 122
Hebrews 5-7
- 4 Psalm 123
Hebrews 8-10
- 5 Psalm 124
Heb. 11-13
- 6 Psalm 125
James 1-3
- 7 Psalm 126
James 4-5
- 8 Psalm 127
1 Peter 1-2
- 9 Psalm 128
1 Peter 3-5
- 10 Psalm 129
2 Peter
- 11 Psalm 130
1 John 1-3
- 12 Psalm 131
1 John 4-5
- 13 Psalm 132
2 John, 3 John,
Jude
- 14 Psalm 133
John 1-2
- 15 Psalm 134
John 3-4
- 16 Psalm 135
John 5-6
- 17 Psalm 136
John 7-8
- 18 Psalm 137
John 9-10
- 19 Psalm 138
John 11-12
- 20 Psalm 139
John 13-14
- 21 Psalm 140
John 15-16
- 22 Psalm 141
John 17-18
- 23 Psalm 142
John 19
- 24 Psalm 143
John 20-21
- 25 Psalm 144
Acts 1-2
- 26 Psalm 145
Acts 3-4
- 27 Psalm 146
Acts 5-6
- 28 Psalm 147
Acts 7-8
- 29 Psalm 148
Acts 9-10
- 30 Psalm 149
Acts 11-12
- 31 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Acts 13-14

 <p>MAY 2026</p> <p>Texas District Church Extension Fund 1.888.951.1233 • texascef.org</p> <p><small>All individual Texas District CEF investments (FLEX, fixed and floating rate notes) may be included in a person's IRA portfolio, through our custodian GoldStar Trust Company. www.texascef.org/ira.html (1) Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. (2) Rates subject to change. Rates reviewed monthly. Texas District Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, Texas CEF investments are not SIPC or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by Texas CEF's Offering Circular.</small></p>	Investment		Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²		
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY	Rate	APY	
	One Year Note ¹	3.800%	3.85%	3.000%	3.03%		
	Three Year Note ¹	3.750%	3.80%	3.250%	3.29%		
	Five Year Note ¹	3.850%	3.91%	3.500%	3.55%		
	Jumbo Investment ¹	4.100%	4.16%				
	<small>\$100,000 minimum, 18 month term</small>						
	Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%		
	Rainy Day Fund			1.250%	1.26%		
	<small>Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate</small>						
Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%			
Building Fund			3.500%	3.56%			



May 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
3 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Gathering of "The 15-2 Folk"	4	5 Ben Ford (B) Pastor Galler (B)	6	7 10:30-2:00 DFW Study Group at Messiah, Keller	1 8 Rittenberry (A)	2 (Willows Services are suspended) 9
Pastor Galler is on vacation after the Divine Service 5/3 through midday 5/12. An Elder will monitor the Church Phone.						
10 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	11 Pastor Galler continues his vacation.	12	13 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	14 THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (W) 12:30 PM Catechesis 7:00 PM Divine Service	15	16
17 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Mary/Martha Society Gathering	18 Nicolas Worsham (B)	19 6:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting	20 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	21 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit #14 Pastors' Meeting 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	22	23
24 THE DAY OF PENTECOST (R) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Carter (A)	25 Teresa Gibson (B)	26 McHargue (A)	27 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Lily LeBlanc (B)	28 12:30 PM Catechesis 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	29	30
31 THE HOLY TRINITY (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	Elder on Duty: Remo Gualtieri (Back-up: Jeromy McMurray)					

“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.”
 (Liturgical Text)

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713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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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.