



# ***THE PILGRIMAGE***

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

July 2026

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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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## **July brings a 250th anniversary and a 69th Convention**

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

In July of 2026, America celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Declaration of Independence on July 4.. Even if the Declaration resisted what God had appointed then (Romans 13:1-2) and even if the Independence in some ways remains flawed still now, God certainly has worked good out of the last quarter millennium (Romans 8:28-30). We should be and are thankful for the ways that God continues to bless us through the United States governments, especially, with the Constitution in mind, that those governments do not establish one religion or prohibit the free exercise of any religion. We pray that those blessings of liberty continue to ourselves and to our posterity, especially as the union presently seems very tenuous, and domestic tranquility and the general welfare presently seem to be at great risk.

Also in July of 2026, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod holds its 69<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention July 18-23 in Phoenix, Arizona. Voting delegates will consider 68 slates of candidates for election to various positions and roles, and they will discuss and vote on resolutions brought before them by ten different floor committees, many of which resolutions started as 464 overtures (either 374 or 379 unique overtures) submitted by the Synod's member congregations, educational-institution faculties, Board of Directors, or other Boards, Commissions or Committees; by District Conventions, Boards of Directors, or Conferences; or by Circuit Forums. Other resolutions come from reports of the Synod's officers, boards, and commissions; comments received from allowable parties; and the Synodical President's Report.

Notably, among the floor committee's resolutions published before the Convention, there are a number of resolutions somewhat related to the seven error-areas identified and discussed in Pilgrim's series of "Walking Together" Special Congregational Studies spread out over more than two years (see <https://pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/walking-together>). For example, in the area of "Church Usages/Liturgy & Hymns", there is Resolution 4-06, to Reinstatement a Commission on Worship". In the area of "The Sacrament of the Altar", there is Resolution 5-05, which includes

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an affirmation of closed Communion. In the area of “Unity & Fellowship”, there is Resolution 5-02 in support of Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Lutheran Mission—Australia. In the area of “Ministry”, there are Resolution 5-08, “To Reaffirm the Synod’s Position on Men and Women in the Church”; Resolution 5-09, “To Address the Public Reading of Scripture”; Resolution 6-01, “To Uphold a Deep and Broad Study of Holy Scripture and Book of Concord in Synod Seminaries”; Resolution 6-04 “To Support Residential Master of Divinity and Alternate Route Pastoral Formation for the Sake of the Flock”; Resolution 6-05, “To Reaffirm the Synod’s Process for Training and Certification for Pastors”; four Resolutions (6-06 through 6-09) regarding the Specific-Ministry Pastor Program; and Resolution 6-13, that “Those who Preach the Gospel Should Make their Living from the Gospel”. In the area of “Public Condemnation of Public Sin”, there is Resolution 10-01, seeking the Commission on Theology and Church Relations’ further opinion regarding Matthew 18:15-20. And, in the area of “Ecclesiastical Supervision/Dispute Resolution”, there is Resolution 10-02, to consider Bylaw changes for Dispute Resolution and expulsion of congregations or individuals from Synod membership. None of those necessarily addresses concerns raised at Pilgrim, though some at least see some potential future improvement.

In the lead-up to the Synodical Convention, the June/July 2026 issue of *The Lutheran Witness* was themed “You Are All One” (see <https://witness.lcms.org/2026/lutheran-witness-june-july-2026/>), and, within the LCMS, the Association of Confessing Evangelical Lutheran Congregations (ACELC) themed its annual conference on June 16-17, 2026, “Walking Together: Next Steps” (see <https://acelc.net/>). And, incumbent Synodical President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison was finally re-elected in the third round of voting, in which election Pilgrim-member Ben Ford as Pilgrim’s Lay Presidential-Elector and I as Pilgrim’s Pastoral Presidential-Elector voted. At the Convention, our Visitation Circuit #14 and Visitation Circuit #13 to the north of us both will be represented by Lay Delegate Matthew Nelson of Redeemer, Atlanta, TX, and Pastoral Delegate Rev. Dr. Seth Davidson of St. John, Athens, TX. We pray that they represent our concerns.

Our loving and merciful God graciously reveals to us both His law that shows us our sin and His Gospel that freely forgives our sin by grace for Jesus’s sake. Let us pray that God is glorified both in the actions of the Synod’s convention and in our congregational and individual lives!

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING	
1	Deut. 32:1-4 1 Sam. 28-31
2	Psalm 28 2 Sam. 1-3
3	Psalm 29 2 Sam. 4-6
4	Psalm 30 2 Sam. 7-9
5	Psalm 31 2 Sam. 10-12
6	Psalm 32 2 Sam. 13-15
7	Psalm 33 2 Sam. 16-18
8	Psalm 34 2 Sam. 19-21
9	Psalm 35 2 Sam. 22-24
10	Psalm 36 1 Kings 1-2
11	Psalm 37 1 Kings 3-6
12	Psalm 38 1 Kings 7-8
13	Psalm 39 1 Kings 9-11
14	Psalm 40 1 Kings 12-14
15	Psalm 41 1 Kings 15-17
16	Psalm 42 1 Kings 18-20
17	Psalm 43 1 Kings 21-22
18	Psalm 44 2 Kings 1-3
19	Psalm 45 2 Kings 4-6
20	Psalm 46 2 Kings 7-9
21	Psalm 47 2 Kings 10-12
22	Psalm 48 2 Kings 13-15
23	Psalm 49 2 Kings 16-18
24	Psalm 50 2 Kings 19-22
25	Psalm 51 2 Kings 23-25
26	Psalm 52 1 Chron. 1-5
27	Psalm 53 1 Chron. 6-10
28	Psalm 54 1 Chron. 11-15
29	Psalm 55 1 Chron. 16-20
30	Psalm 56 1 Chron. 21-25
31	Deut. 32:1-4 1 Chron. 26-29



**JULY 2026**

**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>	3.750%	3.80%	3.250%	3.29%
Five Year Note <sup>1</sup>	3.850%	3.91%	3.500%	3.55%
Jumbo Investment <sup>1</sup>	4.150%	4.22%		
\$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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# July 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
<b>Elder on Duty: Jeromy McMurray</b> (Back-up: Carl Gardner)			<b>1</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study  M/M Land (A)	<b>2</b> NO DFW Study Group 10:00 AM Catechesis  NO Jitsi Catechesis NO Family Catechesis	<b>3</b>  Benjamin Freeman (B) M/M LeBlanc (A)	<b>4</b> Second Quarter Reports and Council Agenda Items due to Rita Whitley tomorrow
<b>5</b> 6 <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 Carl Gardner (B)	<b>6</b>  M/M Menconi (A)	<b>7</b>  1:00 PM Catechesis 4:00 PM Catechesis	<b>8</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>9</b> 7:40 AM KPD Devo 10:00 AM Catechesis  4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  (Willows Services are suspended)
<b>12</b> 7 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Congregational Picnic	<b>13</b>  Zylan Ellis (B)	<b>14</b>  1:00 PM Catechesis 4:00 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting M/M Traylor (A)	<b>15</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study  Luke Land (B)	<b>16</b>  10:00 AM Catechesis  4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  David Navaille (B)
<b>19</b> 8 <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	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  4:00 PM Catechesis	<b>22</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>23</b> NO Circuit Meeting  4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Mae Shen (B)
<b>26</b> 9 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Regular Quarterly Council Meeting Joy McHargue (B)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  4:00 PM Catechesis	<b>29</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**"God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night.  
 When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave, Do Thou our country save By Thy great might."  
 (LSB 965:1)**

**Pilgrim Lutheran Church**  
713 Florey Street  
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor

[pastor@pilgrimlc.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimlc.org)

903-984-4333

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