



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

August 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.

August can help move us back to Bible schooling

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

For many people, the month of August means back to school! In my time serving Pilgrim, we have had families with children in public schools, private schools, and home schools. I respect parents who make conscientious decisions regarding their children's upbringing by considering the relative quality of the public schools and private schools available to them and their own ability to home school. I know that what I experienced in public grade and high schools and university a long time ago in a state far, far away is not necessarily what people would experience now and here, even for as conservative as Texas, especially East Texas, is.

People can get caught up in whether or not the Ten Commandments are posted in public schools, whether or not they offer public prayer or a time of silence for private prayer, and whether or not portions of the Bible are read there. Whose version of the Ten Commandments? Whose prayers? Which portions of which Bible translation as interpreted by whom? Even religious private schools can be problematic if they are not faithfully Lutheran. We might prefer schools be religiously neutral, so that the home and church can teach children the faith, as home and church should teach children the faith.

Proverbs 22:6 (quoted on the bottom of the enclosed calendar) in its first half famously commands that we train up a child in the way that he or she should go, with its second half seemingly promising that even when the child is old he or she will not depart from that way. Too many parents who faithfully raised their children in the church can readily attest to the fact that the second half of the proverb is not a guarantee, neither that children will never depart from that way for a time, nor that children will always come back to that way. However, those raised in the church, understanding their need for the forgiveness of sins and receiving it there for Jesus's sake through the reading and preaching of His Word and the administration of His Sacraments, are more likely to be in the church, at least at some point as adults, than are those not so raised in the church, not that those not so raised in the church never come into the church later in life.

Article continues on the following page.

As indicated in its Bylaws with reference to Proverbs 22:6, Pilgrim expects its Communicant Members with parental responsibility for children to bring them for baptism and to provide proper Christian training for them, both at home and through the congregation, such as in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Youth Catechesis. Yet, while Pilgrim has a number of baptized members of Sunday School age, few are regularly, if ever, present for Sunday School, despite a teacher's always being prepared.

Similarly, all baptized members older than Sunday-School age are expected to regularly receive God's gifts through His Word and to be instructed in the Christian faith, both of which take place in Sunday Adult Bible Class and Midweek Bible Study, as well as in personal Daily Bible Reading (such as following the schedule to the right). Pilgrim has a few members in both Midweek Bible Study and Adult Bible Class, and a few more in only Adult Bible Class, but far more confirmed and communicant members who are in neither Midweek Bible Study nor Adult Bible Class.

We understand God's Third Commandment, that regarding remembering the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy, to mean that we should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred (that is, regard it as holy) and gladly hear and learn it. I do not know and do not need to know everyone's excuses, for God skips the excuses and cuts straight to the heart to see everyone's regard for His Word as it truly is. I do not take it personally when people do not consider my time spent preparing studies worthy of their attention, for I know that those people not attending are not rejecting me but are rejecting Him Who called and sent me through the congregation (for example, Luke 10:16).

With few exceptions, people who have finished their required secular education—high school, undergraduate, or graduate degrees—usually are glad that they are finished and do not want to go back to school in August or any other time of year. Similarly, people may wrongly think that once they are confirmed in the church that they have “graduated” from any form of Bible schooling or instruction in the Lutheran Confessions. But, such catechesis is rightly cradle to grave, or, as I like to put it, womb to tomb.

God will bless us as we let Him work through His Word!
Congregational unity of believing the one true faith and faithfully confessing it in word and deed is but one much-desired result!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Habak 3:2-19
2 Chron. 1-3
- 2 Psalm 57
2 Chron. 4-6
- 3 Psalm 58
2 Chron. 7-9
- 4 Psalm 59
2 Chron. 10-12
- 5 Psalm 60
2 Chron. 13-15
- 6 Psalm 61
2 Chron. 16-18
- 7 Psalm 62
2 Chron. 19-21
- 8 Psalm 63
2 Chron. 22-24
- 9 Psalm 64
2 Chron. 25-27
- 10 Psalm 65
2 Chron. 28-30
- 11 Psalm 66
2 Chron. 31-33
- 12 Psalm 67
2 Chron. 34-36
- 13 Psalm 68
Ezra 1-5
- 14 Psalm 69
Ezra 6-10
- 15 Psalm 70
Nehemiah 1-3
- 16 Psalm 71
Nehemiah 4-6
- 17 Psalm 72
Nehemiah 7-9
- 18 Psalm 73
Nehemiah 10-13
- 19 Psalm 74
Esther 1-3
- 20 Psalm 75
Esther 4-6
- 21 Psalm 76
Esther 7-10
- 22 Psalm 77
Job 1-3
- 23 Psalm 78
Job 4-6
- 24 Psalm 79
Job 7-9
- 25 Psalm 80
Job 10-12
- 26 Psalm 81
Job 13-15
- 27 Psalm 82
Job 16-18
- 28 Psalm 83
Job 19-21
- 29 Psalm 84
Job 22-24
- 30 Psalm 85
Job 25-27
- 31 Habak 3:2-19
Job 28-30

AUGUST 2026



Texas District Church Extension Fund
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Investment	Fixed Rate ²		Floating Rate ²	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note ¹	4.000%	4.06%	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	4.150%	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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August 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
2 10 TH 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	3	4 4:00 PM Catechesis Loren Walker (B)	5 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	6 NO DFW Study Group 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis Debbie Shockley (B) Arcele Wilburn (B)	7	1 (Willows Services are suspended) 8
9 11 TH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service George B. Heil (B)	10	11 4:00 PM Catechesis R/M Adler (A)	12 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	13 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	14	15
16 12 TH 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	18 4:00 PM Catechesis	19 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	20 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis Matthew Walker (B)	21	22 Holly Treadway (B)
23 13 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Rescheduled Council Meeting Gayle Gardner (B)	24 Aurianna Chiasson (B) Ellen Menconi (B)	25 4:00 PM Catechesis 5:30 PM Kilgore City Council Prayer 6:00 PM Aug/Sept Elders' Meeting	26 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	27 NO Circuit Meeting 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	28	29
30 14 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Fifth-Sunday Meal & Game Day	31	Elder on Duty: Remo Gualtieri (Back-up: Jeromy McMurray)				

**"Train up a child in the way he should go;
 even when he is old he will not depart from it."**
 (Proverbs 22:6 ESV)

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713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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