



THE PILGRIMAGE

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

“Thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord for all His love”

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

The month of November 2026 begins with Sunday, November 1, All Saints’ Day, and ends with Monday, November 30, the day after Sunday, November 29, the First Sunday in Advent, the beginning of the New Church Year. In between are the last Sundays of the current season of Sundays after Pentecost, including Sunday, November 23, the Last Sunday of the Church Year. November also includes the fifteenth anniversary of my installation at Pilgrim, Friday, November 13, and our country’s Day of National Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26, neither of which Pilgrim is presently planning to observe in any way.

As someone who recalls growing up going to Divine Service on Thanksgiving Day, my not doing so has always seemed weird to me. Even when I lived in Canada, where we observed Canadian Thanksgiving more than one month earlier, not going to Divine Service on American Thanksgiving somehow seemed ungrateful. My vicarage year, the secretary at the congregation I was serving bought me a tiny little pumpkin pie on American Thanksgiving, and, my last year in seminary, I prepared a multi-course Thanksgiving meal for several classmates and their families, including the classmate and family with whom I lived.

When I arrived in Kilgore, Pilgrim had the practice of having Thanksgiving Eve services, and those continued apparently for six years. After the 7:00 p.m. Divine Service, I would drive to my sister’s house in Austin, arriving sometime after midnight. (I used to say that late on Thanksgiving Eve was the best time to drive I-35 southbound between Waco and Austin; of course, that was before the highway was widened-out to three lanes in each direction.) On at least one occasion, the late arrival time did not stop me from running the Turkey Trot with my sister and brother-in-law the next morning. Later, Pilgrim’s Board of Elders decided to cancel what was usually a poorly attended service, and, strictly-speaking, not a festival of the Church Year, which cancellation made it possible for me to go with my then-widowed mother down to my sister’s home early enough on Wednesday in order to go with them to a Thanksgiving Eve Service in Austin.

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Article continues from the preceding page.

Of course, one can be sure to give thanks at Thanksgiving even without going to a church service, though whether or not one does so may be another matter. And, our giving thanks is not to be limited to one day each year, whether in October, because the harvest comes in earlier, or in November because the harvest comes in later. Rather, we should always give thanks, in all circumstances, as the Divinely-inspired St. Paul writes, for example, 1 Thessalonians 5:18. The word group of the Greek verb that the Spirit uses there, *eucharisteo*, gives us our English word “Eucharist” referring to the Lord’s Supper for the thanksgiving associated with it, arguably both Jesus’s giving thanks when He instituted His Supper (for example, Luke 22:17, 19) and our giving thanks when we celebrate it. Some understand the supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings (*eucharistia*) for which St. Paul calls in 2 Timothy 1 as corresponding to the Divine Service’s Kyrie, Collect of the Day, Prayer of the Church, and Preface and linked Prayer of Thanksgiving in the Service of the Sacrament.

The Proper Preface for Easter Day says that, “most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life.” A version of those words were in my mind as I “penned” an additional stanza to the Thanksgiving hymn, “We Plow the Fields and Scatter” (for example, *Lutheran Book of Worship* #362, the refrain of which is the headline above), which hymn a sister-in-Christ and I sang as a duet at a church I used to serve. In 1782, Matthias Claudius, the son of a Lutheran pastor, published a 17-stanza poem ostensibly sung by faithful, simple peasants on the way to a harvest-thanksgiving celebration. In 1800, Johann Schulz’s tune WIR PFLÜGEN was added to the poem (if I remember correctly, we sang the hymn to the tune Steven Schwartz composed for the hymn in 1971 in *Godspell*). In 1861, Jane Campbell published a free translation of the poem as a hymn in three stanzas. The hymn text had a great harvest focus, but we wanted to emphasize more the greatest gift for which we should be thankful, namely the forgiveness of sins received in faith by grace for Jesus’s sake.

From the daily manna of the Old Testament (Exodus 16:1-36) to the daily bread of the New Testament (Matthew 6:11; Luke 11:3; see also John 6:1-71), we realize that God gives us all that we need for body and soul, and we receive it with thanksgiving (Small Catechism III:13), not worrying about tomorrow’s, but praying and trusting that God will continue to provide it (for example, Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6, with *eucharistia*).

*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 2026



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November 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 ALL SAINTS' DAY(W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service "The 15-2 Folk" Gathering Rita Whitley (B)	2	3 NO Catechesis	4 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	5 7:40 AM Pastor leads KPD Devotion 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM DFW Study Group 4:00 PM Catechesis	6	7 (Willows Services are suspended)
8 24 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Annual Voters' Assembly	9	10 4:00 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	11 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	12	13	14 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Syrup Festival
East Texas Pipe Organ Festival (November 8-12)				Reel East Texas Film Festival (November 12-14)		
15 25 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 Connie Wilburn (B)	16	17 4:00 PM Catechesis M/M Worsham (A)	18 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Nik Knight (B)	19 Lana Carter (B)	20 Laney Eichelberger (B)	21
22 LAST SUN. OF THE CHURCH YEAR (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service 6:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service (KHS Augitorium)	23	24 4:00 PM Catechesis	25 NO Midweek Bible Study	26 THANKSGIVING DAY NO Circuit Meeting	27	28 10:00 AM Float Decorating at Remo and Kathy's? (201 Norris Road)
29 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Fifth-Sunday Meal & Game Day?	30	Elder on Duty: Remo Gualtieri (Back-up: Jeromy McMurray)				

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever!"
(Psalm 107:1 KJV)

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

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