

# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

BROADWAY AT FLOREY

KILGORE, TEXAS



June 2015  
"PILGRIMAGE"

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*Mission Statement: Pilgrim Lutheran Church is to glorify God in proclaiming the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with Word and deed in our midst, in our community, and throughout the world.*

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## The Office of the Holy Ministry is for you!

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

As I write this article, work is underway on the remodeling of Pilgrim's old Parish Hall. We have been planning and waiting for that work, and it has begun in God's way and time. We thank and praise Him for the work! Thanks also go to all those who helped empty out the Parish Hall on May 24<sup>th</sup> after the Divine Service so that the work could begin. I was sorry not to be present and helping, but I had previous plans for church and personal "business" in the Houston area, beginning that late-afternoon/early-evening with the Installation of Rev. Christopher James Hull as pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tomball. (He and I ended up discovering some personal connections.)

Since my Installation in November of 2011 here at Pilgrim, there have been three other such "investitures" in our Circuit #14, but I have not been able to attend any of them (two were scheduled when we had quarterly Voters' Meetings here at Pilgrim, and the third was scheduled when I had previous plans to be out of town). Pastors' sitting in the pew and otherwise participating in such installations can be good for them, who hear again of the institution, responsibilities, strength, and promise of the Office of the Holy Ministry, not to mention their hearing of their own and their congregations' related vows and commitments to one another. Of course, hearing of all those same things again can also be good for all the pastors' congregations.

The Rite of Installation as we have it in *Lutheran Service Book: Agenda* includes quite a number of Holy Scripture passages related to each of those items. For example, concerning the institution of the Office of the Holy Ministry, passages read at Rev. Hull's Installation were Matthew 28:18-20 and John 20:21-23. Concerning the responsibilities of the Office of the Holy Ministry, passages read were John 21:15-17; Luke 24:46-47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; 1 Timothy 4:14-16; 1 Corinthians 4:1-12; 2 Corinthians 3:4-5; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 20:28; and 1 Peter 5:2-4. Concerning the strength and promise God gives to those in the Office of the Holy Ministry, passages read were Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 10:17-18; and 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Following those readings, the pastor-elect acknowledges the Lord's call through His Church into the Office of the Holy Ministry and confesses his belief in the inspired and infallible Old and New Testaments, in the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian), and in the Augsburg Confession, its Apology, the Small and Large Catechisms, the

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Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord—all Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord. Then, the pastor-elect promises with the help of God to perform the duties of His office in accordance with those Confessions and to conform his preaching and teaching to Holy Scripture and those Confessions. Next, the pastor-elect promises with the help of God to instruct young and old in the chief articles of Christian doctrine, to forgive the sins of those who repent and never to divulge the sins confessed to him, to minister faithfully to the sick and dying, to demonstrate a constant and ready ministry centered in the Gospel, and to admonish and encourage people to a lively confidence in Christ and in holy living. Finally, the pastor-elect promises with the help of God to honor and adorn the Office of the Holy Ministry with a holy life, be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture and the Confessions, and be constant in prayer for those under his pastoral care.

To the congregation, Hebrews 13:17 is read, and the congregation's members promise with the help of God to receive the pastor; to show him that love, honor, and obedience in the Lord that they owe to the shepherd and teacher placed over them by the Lord Jesus Christ; to support him by their gifts; and to pray for him always that in his labors he may retain a cheerful spirit and that his ministry among them may be abundantly blessed. They further promise with the help of God to honor and uphold their pastor as he serves Christ in all his God-pleasing responsibilities, to aid him as he cares for his family, and to "put the best construction on everything".

Now, admittedly, my reiterating especially the latter details of the Rite of Installation can be misperceived as self-serving, even as any related preaching and teaching I do here at Pilgrim can be misperceived likewise. In their own congregations, all pastors risk such a misperception as they faithfully preach and teach all the articles of Christian doctrine. (Especially when I did pulpit supply regularly, I faithfully preached and taught about the Office of the Holy Ministry at every opportunity presented by the text or topic, because such teaching by visiting pastors is arguably less-likely to be misperceived as self-serving.) Yet, such reiteration and any related preaching and teaching ultimately is for the benefit of congregations, that their members know both how to regard their pastors and where to seek the forgiveness of their sins that the Lord won for them, namely in the pure preaching of His Word and in the right administration of His Sacraments. Ultimately, the Office of the Holy Ministry and the particular man in it are for you!

Properly understood, the character of the particular man in the Office of the Holy Ministry does not determine its efficaciousness, though to be sure a man's character can enhance or hamper its effectiveness. A recent very sad case of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastor's resignation from his post in Michigan made national headlines. Of course, no pastor is perfect, and so-called qualifications for the Office (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1:6-9) are not any higher for pastors than for any other Christian, although no one should be ordained if he fails to meet them and existing pastors' failing to meet them generally disqualifies them from continuing in their positions.

God's good and gracious will for us as pastor and people is always to live together in His forgiveness of sins, with daily repentance and faith. Far more important than the remodeling and even the expansion of our congregation's physical facilities is our spiritual growth as the Church in Kilgore: our receiving His forgiveness for ourselves and, as results, in turn forgiving one another and increasingly working together as the Body of Christ in this place.

*His and your servant,  
Pastor Galler*

After Pentecost 2015:

## The Lord adds to His Church



After the events of the Day of Pentecost, the Lord added about 3,000 souls to His Church (Acts 2:41), and He continues to add to His Church even today, though means and the resulting numbers are seldom that dramatic as on the Day of Pentecost. In the Divine Service, believers devote themselves both to the apostles' teaching in the Service of the Word and to the fellowship—that is, the breaking of bread and prayers—in the Service of the Sacrament, and the Lord adds to their number day by day those who are being saved (Acts 2:42, 47; confer 5:14 and 11:24). The Sundays after Pentecost in a sense both focus on and lead to such growth, and we have four of such Sundays in June of 2015.

The Third Sunday after Pentecost presents us with an agricultural figure of speech used to relate truth about the growth of the Church. In that Sunday's Gospel Reading of Mark 4:26-29, Jesus likens His Kingdom to a man scattering seed on the ground without knowing how it grows on its own. Although in that parable Jesus might be taken to suggest people do not know how the Kingdom of the Church grows, based on Scripture as a whole, we Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that the Holy Spirit works through the Office of the Holy Ministry's purely preaching the Gospel and rightly administering the Sacraments to create saving faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel, which teaches that we have a gracious God by the merit of Christ, when we believe this (Augsburg Confession V:1-3). Note that the green colored cloths on the pastor and furniture in the Sanctuary bring to mind the life and growth evident in foliage and fruit and reflect the growth in the Church.

The dates and Gospel Readings for the Sundays after Pentecost in June 2015 follow (according to *Lutheran Service Book*'s Three-Year Lectionary Series B).

- Second Sunday (06/07): Jesus's true family consists of believers (Mark 3:20-35)
- Third Sunday (06/14): Jesus's Kingdom grows like a seed (Mark 4:26-34)
- Fourth Sunday (06/21): Jesus calms the storms in our lives (Mark 4:35-41)
- Fifth Sunday (06/28): Jesus heals and raises from the dead (Mark 5:21-43)

Everyone is always invited and welcome in person at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and anyone can read and hear sermons preached at Pilgrim at [www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons](http://www.pilgrimlc.org/sermons).

Pastor Jayson S. Galler

*The base image of the banner graphic at the top of this page was found at <http://www.amightywind-prooctwa.com/polishwebsite/images/gathering3.jpg>, where the artist was not identified.*

## JUNE EVENTS

**CLEANING VOLUNTEERS** for the month of June will be Brady and Shannon Gage. A big thank you to Edgar and Barbara Wuthrich for taking their turn this past May.

**YOUTH CATECHESIS** will be held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> (there will be no class June 18<sup>th</sup> due to Pastor's vacation).

**LCMS TEXAS DISTRICT CONVENTION** June 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> in San Marcos.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC** is June 7<sup>th</sup>, after the Divine Service in the Kilgore City Park at about the intersection of East North Street and Wood Street. We are celebrating Rebecka Morton's graduation. Sign-up in the Narthex for what you will bring.

**ELDERS** Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Office Building. (Reading assignment is AC/Ap XXIII, pp.46-47, 210-216.)

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays June 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> (not June 3<sup>rd</sup>, due to the District Convention, and not June 17<sup>th</sup>, due to Pastor's vacation).

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be held Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-3 at Our Redeemer in Longview.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for July are due Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**MATINS ON JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>**: Due to Pastor Galler's vacation, the Elders have decided to have lay-led Matins on June 21<sup>st</sup> (no communion).

**PRESENTATION OF THE AUGSGURG CONFESSION JOINT VESPERS SERVICE:** Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at Pilgrim but with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Longview.

**LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION** June 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in Des Moines, Iowa.

**ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING:** Please contact Tifaney Sampson with your ideas for a fun outing in the month of June.

**QUILTING BEE AND LWML** will not meet during the summer months but will resume on September 1<sup>st</sup>

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### Pilgrim friends report new addresses

Dan, Beth, and Ian West: 871 N. Beulah St., Hawkins, Texas 75765.

Taylor Hertzler: 1933 Hopewell Road, Elverson, Pennsylvania 19520.

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### *HAPPY ANNIVERSARY*

M/M Paul Guinn – June 07  
M/M Steven Sampson – June 13  
M/M David Smith – June 15





On June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Pilgrim will host a special joint Vespers service with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church from Longview. The Vespers will commemorate the presentation of the Augsburg Confession to Emperor Charles V on June 25, 1530, which is arguably the birthday of the Lutheran Church, to the extent that She is distinguished from the true Christian Church that God instituted with the creation of the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden.

In preparation for a meeting of his officials in the city of Augsburg (in what is now Germany), Charles V called for a confession of faith from the Lutherans as part of his effort to bring unity to the church in his domain. The Lutheran theologians complied with the emperor's request, with a document they presented in both German and Latin, primarily written by Philip Melancthon, a coworker of Martin Luther and others at the university in Wittenberg. Melancthon drew upon three sets of previously-written articles and consulted with Luther and the others through the whole process. The result is really the Lutheran Church's foundational confession of what the Bible teaches, and upon the Augsburg Confession other Lutheran confessional writings are built.

If you do not know about the Augsburg Confession, come June 25<sup>th</sup> and learn more!



## *HAPPY BIRTHDAY!*

Wayne Miller – June 03  
 Samantha Hiltzman – June 06  
 Sharon Sampson – June 07  
 Josey Land – June 12  
 Debbie Smith – June 14  
 Courtnie Smith – June 15  
 Jeanette Heil – June 17  
 Jeffrey Gill – June 17  
 Cher Key – June 19  
 Dana Freeman – June 21  
 Spencer Land – June 30

## Families enjoy Game Night

More than one dozen members and one dog came to Pilgrim's Parish Hall the evening of Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, for another Family Game Night, April's Once-a-month Social Gathering.

Those present first enjoyed pulled-pork sandwiches, chips, and drinks, and the feasting continued with brownies and later popcorn.

Social Committee Chair and organizer Tifaney Sampson put the name of a character from the Bible on everyone's backs, and they had to ask other people present questions about their character in order to figure out who they were. Everyone, even Pastor Galler, benefitted from a review of some more and less familiar Biblical figures.

After that initial "ice-breaker", everyone sat down for other games that included Uno, Heads Up, Dominoes, and Euchre, which was new to several present. Groups were mixed up so that different people got to visit over different games.

Tifaney welcomes ideas for other Once-a-month Social Gatherings, though. with the remodel now underway, it will be a while before we can meet again in a large space at Pilgrim. Perhaps the summer months can include a PumpJacks game in Tyler and Shakespeare Festival in Kilgore? Please share your ideas with Tifaney and watch the bulletins for details!



Jack Watts, Elaine Navaille, Tifaney Sampson, and Pastor Galler play a seemingly never-ending hand of Uno with what may have been an incomplete deck, while others enjoy their games.

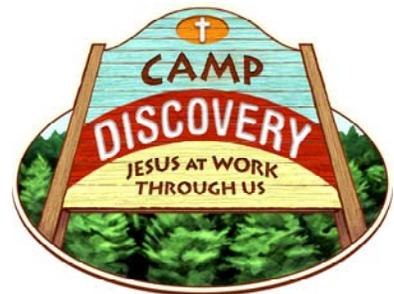


Steven Sampson, Cooper Sampson, Tyler Watts, and Emma Watts play Heads Up, at this point without Pastor Galler's giving hints to those stuck. All photos by Barbara Wuthrich.

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## Joint Vacation Bible School June 20<sup>th</sup>

Due to the remodeling work at Pilgrim, the congregation this year is having a joint Vacation Bible School with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Longview on Saturday, June 20th. Preschoolers (3 to 4 year-olds) will go half the day (9:00-11:30 a.m.), and older children (5 to 12 year-olds) will go the full day. Talk to Pilgrim's co-chair Carolyn Morton if your children will attend and if you can help with the one-day event. The next organizational meeting is Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer (1300 Judson Road in Longview).



*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven." And He laid his hands on them ...*

*(Matthew 19:14 ESV)*



Pilgrim's Elaine Navaille played the part of a waitress in a skit that showed how easy "witnessing" is.

*Photo by Pastor Galler.*

## LWML Spring Workshop focused on "witnessing"

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League East Texas Zone Spring Workshop was held at Bethlehem in Palestine on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Pilgrim members Kathy Hudson, Elaine Navaille, Sharon Sampson and Pastor Galler attended. "All Aboard" was the call of the day, with trains as the theme. A "clipboard" was handed to each person at registration with all the paperwork needed for the day. Sharon,

our East Texas Zone President, made her announcements using "train related" jargon. Pastor Galler, the East Texas Zone Pastoral Counselor, gave the Opening Devotion based on verses from Isaiah 6. District News editor for the *Lutheran Witness*, Debbie Curry "conducted" our Bible Study. We divided into groups of two or three and practiced working "God language" into everyday situations. The host Society used different packaged candies to make a cute locomotive, which was the take home favor at each place setting. The tables were covered in navy kerchief material, and the dessert table also had train tracks made of black construction paper. Aluminum containers with black wheels looked like train cars filled with fruit and placed on the track. Lunch consisted of a hamburger patty, cubed potatoes and finger carrots wrapped in alumni foil with a stick attached to make it look like a "hobo" bag. They were very cute. The whole day was very enjoyable with our sisters in Christ.

*Sharon Sampson*

## You can help Kilgore's "Helping Hands"

For the month of June, Helping Hands especially requests tuna, hamburger helper, pudding mix, toilet paper/paper towels (individually wrapped or small packages), and shampoo/conditioner. A container for your donations is located in Pilgrim's Narthex. If you want to donate money above and beyond your regular church offering, you can send your check or money order to Helping Hands of Kilgore, PO Box 1576, Kilgore, TX 75662.



## Fathers' Day June 21<sup>st</sup>

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

*"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),  
"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."*

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,  
but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."  
(Ephesians 6:2 ESV, citing Exodus 20:12)*

## Great turnout empties Old Parish Hall

The Capital Improvements Committee thanks everyone who helped clear out the Parish Hall after the Divine Service on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Nineteen workers showed up and did a tremendous job. Under the leadership of Steven Sampson and Remo Gualtieri, who brought their trailers, the lifting, packing, stacking, moving, loading, and unloading was all done in a timely manner. The enthusiasm was contagious and was great to see. Truly God works through the body of Christ. Thanks again for everyone's hard work, and the Committee looks forward to when we will have another workday to move the items from the current study and office to their new "digs".

*Steven Sampson, Chair  
Capital Improvements Committee*

*... As in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them ...*

*(Romans 12:4-6 ESV)*



Kathy Hudson, Danny Sampson, Johnny Walker, Shannon Gage, and Elaine Navaille consider the last few items going out the door for temporary storage in the Gualtieris' and Sampsons' shops while the old Parish Hall is remodeled. *All photos by Sarah Land.*



Elaine Navaille, Johnny Walker, and Sharon Sampson work in and around the kitchen.



Steven Sampson and Ken Koehlert prepare to carry out the dry-erase board to the waiting trailers.

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## Pilgrim's to-date plate offerings reported

Following a request from Pilgrim's Board of Elders, Pilgrim's Financial Secretary reports the following figures for 2015 through May 24<sup>th</sup>:

Plate Offerings received:	\$52,725.90
Plate Offerings projected:	\$49,200.90

*We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

*May we Thy bounties, thus  
As stewards true receive  
And gladly as Thou blessest us,  
To Thee our firstfruits give!*

*(William W. How, Lutheran Service Book 781:1-2)*

1	Isaiah 12:1-6
	Acts 15-16
2	Psalm 150
	Acts 17-18
3	Psalm 1
	Acts 19-20
4	Psalm 2
	Acts 21-22
5	Psalm 3
	Acts 23-24
6	Psalm 4
	Acts 25-26
7	Psalm 5
	Acts 27-28
8	Psalm 6
	Joshua 1-5
9	Psalm 7
	Joshua 6-8
10	Psalm 8
	Joshua 9-11
11	Psalm 9
	Joshua 12-16
12	Psalm 10
	Joshua 17-21
13	Psalm 11
	Joshua 22-24
14	Psalm 12
	Judges 1-3
15	Psalm 13
	Judges 4-6
16	Psalm 14
	Judges 7-9
17	Psalm 15
	Judges 10-12
18	Psalm 16
	Judges 13-15
19	Psalm 17
	Judges 16-18
20	Psalm 18
	Judges 19-21
21	Psalm 19
	Ruth
22	Psalm 20
	1 Samuel 1-3
23	Psalm 21
	1 Samuel 4-6
24	Psalm 22
	1 Samuel 7-9
25	Psalm 23
	1 Sam. 10-12
26	Psalm 24
	1 Sam. 13-15
27	Psalm 25
	1 Sam. 16-18
28	Psalm 26
	1 Sam. 19-21
29	Psalm 27
	1 Sam. 22-24
30	Isaiah 12:1-6
	1 Sam. 25-27

## Bible reading prompts at least one question

I thank and praise God for all who are regularly reading God’s Word of Holy Scripture, whether or not they are using the Daily Reading plan that we are providing, both in the adjacent box and in larger-print versions in the Narthex. All the more I rejoice when someone who is reading the Bible regularly interacts with me about its content, whether that interaction be electronic or in person, as it was last month when someone came to my study with a question that we discussed at some length. The following is a shorter summary of both that person’s question and my answer.

**Q: How do we make sense of what seem to be conflicting statements by Jesus in Luke 22:35-38 and vv.47-53 about the need for the disciples to be armed with swords?**

A: First off, in general, let me say that you are right to recognize that the statements only “seem to be conflicting”, for our Lord Jesus Christ speaks absolute truth and so does not contradict Himself. The Holy Spirit truly brought to the apostles’ memory the things Jesus said (John 14:26) and guided them into all the truth (John 16:13, part of the Gospel Reading on the recent Pentecost Day), even as the Holy Spirit truly leads us to properly understand any of Holy Scripture (1 Corinthians 2:12-14). Second, in regards to your specific question, Jesus in vv.35-36 (verses found only in St. Luke’s Gospel account) seems to be indicating that something has changed since He earlier sent out the disciples without provisions such as swords (see Luke 9:3; 10:4). Perhaps the apostles could depend on a friendly reception and its resulting hospitality then, but (note the strong contrast in v.36) the apostles in “perilous times” (*CSSB*, 1592) could do so no longer. The disciples should be ready for the worst, even as their Master was ready to fulfill the worst prophesied (v.37). Still failing to understand the necessity of Jesus’s death, the disciples in v.38 take too literally what Jesus likely meant more figuratively and so wrongly think Jesus is telling them to be armed, just as they want to and actually do strike with the sword in vv.49-50. As a result, Jesus in both v.38 and v.51 tries to put an end at least to their wrong interpretation if not the whole matter. In v.38 specifically, “it” that is sufficient is not necessarily the two swords, especially since the grammatical single number of the verb does not agree with the preceding plural noun, but more likely Jesus is rebuking His disciples as we might say, “Enough of that!” or “I have had enough!” (Just suggests the latter on 842). When St. Paul later writes about armor and weapons, as in Ephesians 6:10-20, they are not literal but spiritual.

You are always welcome to ask your own questions about Holy Scripture, even as you are always encouraged to read the Bible daily, whether or not you follow the plan we are providing. In the case of the provided plan, you can just jump in right where the schedule suggests for the current day, or you can begin anywhere you like. And, you always have available other helps related to the readings (<http://www.pilgrimlc.org/daily-bible-reading>) and can ask me your questions at any time.

Pastor Jayson S. Galler

## **Proposed resolutions for upcoming Texas District Convention decline Pilgrim's overtures**

Pastor Galler and J.D. Sampson will represent Pilgrim as her pastoral and lay delegates to the Texas District of the LCMS's convention June 4-6 in San Marcos. And, some of the business before the convention came from Pilgrim.



At their January 2015 Meeting Pilgrim's voters advanced four overtures to both the Circuit #14 Forum and the District Convention. Subsequently the Circuit also advanced all four overtures to the District Convention, essentially unchanged, but now the Convention is poised both to decline the two overtures that originated at Pilgrim (regarding the District's paying Circuit Visitors' expenses and publicizing roster and status changes) and to effectively neuter the two overtures Pilgrim advanced that originated elsewhere (regarding the District and congregations' coordinating mission efforts with nearby congregations). Delegates have opportunities both to attempt to persuade the two Convention Floor Committees to change their resolutions related to the overtures before the Convention and, if unsuccessful, to effect changes from the floor during the Convention itself.

Much of the Convention time will be spent hearing reports and electing people to various positions, as well as participating in a Bible Study conducted by the current Lutheran Hour speaker focused on the theme verse of John 4:35 and the theme "The Mission Eyes of Jesus".

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## **LCMS President Harrison prepares pastors and congregations for Supreme Court ruling**



President Matthew Harrison of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has sent a pastoral letter to the Synod's pastors and congregations, trying to prepare them for the U.S. Supreme Court ruling expected this month that will likely make so-called "same-sex marriage" the law of the land.

President Harrison called such a potential ruling "contrary to God's created orders, natural law and the inerrant Scriptures." He said such a ruling would be "the earnest beginning of a very long struggle for faithful Christians who will, more and more, be driven from participation in the culture," but he added, "the battle has already been won. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, has already defeated the foe. Satan surrendered at Golgotha. It is finished."

President Harrison's present plan is for the Synod, pastors and congregations, to stand fast, to live in and by the Savior, to redouble teaching on God's gift of marriage, to show love and mercy to those harmed by the dissolution of God's ordering of marriage and family, and to take legal action where absolutely necessary.

President Harrison says going forward the Synod's legal team will unpack the ruling and report its findings, and he suggests congregations obtain their own attorneys. President Harrison further suggests congregations limit the use of their property to marriages consistent with LCMS beliefs and be prepared for further discussion, promising to stand together under persecution.

In the future, we may be less free to be faithful, but we still will be faithful!

## Pilgrim's David Navaille recognized as Gregg County Volunteer Deputy

On Tuesday May 12, 2015, law enforcement “giants” were honored at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Giants of Law Enforcement banquet. The list of groups honoring their own included officers and civilians from the Kilgore, Kilgore College, White Oak, and Gladewater Police Departments, as well as from the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Gregg County Sheriff’s Office.

The Longview Centurion Club since 1992 has paid tribute to individuals who have “gone above and beyond in performance of their duties”, although the Club originally honored only Longview police and at a later time added the other agencies. The program at the Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center drew an audience of approximately 700 people.

Pilgrim member David Navaille has chosen to donate his services to the Gregg County Sheriff’s Department for several years, deciding to continue a similar pathway to his more than 20 years of service with the St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana before his move to East Texas following Hurricane Katrina. In Louisiana, he primarily taught classes in firearms and bicycle safety. In his capacity as a Gregg County Volunteer Deputy, David directs traffic at events like the Gregg County Rodeo and East Texas Balloon Race, as well as supervising jail prisoners on work duties and working with Teen Court.

We are very proud of David’s dedication to serving others and representing Pilgrim in East Texas! To God be all the glory!



Award recipient David Navaille (center) poses with Gregg County Sheriffs Captain Duellis Davis (left) and David’s partner and former award recipient Deputy Barry Cates. *Photo by Elaine Navaille.*

*Barbara Wuthrich*

*Drawing on a report in the Longview News Journal*

*If you invest your money with the Texas District Lutheran Church Extension Fund (CEF), you will likely earn higher interest and Pilgrim will reap a loan rebate when its loan is finalized.*



**May  
2015**

**Texas Church Extension Fund**

1-888-951-1233 [www.TexasCEF.org](http://www.TexasCEF.org)  
[www.facebook.com/texascef](http://www.facebook.com/texascef)

Investment	Fixed Rate <sup>Δ</sup>		Floating Rate <sup>Δ</sup>	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note <sup>◆</sup>	.750%	.75%	0.250%	0.25%
Three Year Note <sup>◆</sup>	1.250%	1.26%	1.250%	1.26%
Five Year Note <sup>◆</sup>	1.750%	1.76%	1.750%	1.76%
Flex Savings			0.500%	0.50%
<b>Accounts For Congregations</b>				
Congregation Savings			1.000%	1.00%
Building Fund Savings			1.750%	1.76%

Δ- Rates subject to change. ◆- Subject to penalty for early withdrawal. Rates reviewed monthly. Texas District Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, 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 CEF's Offering Circular.

## **JULY EVENTS**

**YOUTH CATECHESIS** is expected to be held each Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in Longview.

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**REPORTS FOR VOTERS' PACKETS** are due to the Church Office by Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**ELDERS** Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. (Location and reading assignment TBA.)

**KILGORE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE** Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for August are due Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

**QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING** Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary after the service.

**LWML SUMMER RETREAT** Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> –August 1<sup>st</sup>, in Palestine, TX.

**ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING:** Please contact Tifaney Sampson with your ideas.

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## **Please pray as our congregation has been requested to pray**

CHRISTIANS BEING PERSECUTED WORLDWIDE

OUR PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Hearts and minds open to God's vision and direction for our congregation

Proportionate first-fruit giving from our members

Final processing of our loan from Church Extension Fund's for our new building

THOSE WHO HAVE STRAYED FROM THE FAITH:

Elizabeth & Ava Nicol (Don and Beth's niece and grand-niece)

THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH HOMOSEXUALITY

U.S. SUPREME COURT "GAY MARRIAGE" DELIBERATIONS

SEASONABLE WEATHER

PEACE IN THE WORLD

MEN IN THE SERVICE:

Victor Guinn (Paul Guinn's son deployed in Kuwait)

George C. Heil (in New York continuing Navy school)

Brian Holcombe (Carolyn and Wendell Holcombe's son transitioning to D.C.)

Ross Land (stationed at Fort Polk in Louisiana)

THOSE IN POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

THOSE WHO TRAVEL:

Brady Gage

Pastor Galler, his mother Caryl Galler, and his sister Jayna Burgdorf

Jerome and Sallye Key

David Navaille

J.D. & Tifaney Sampson (to and from the Texas District Convention 6/3-6/6)

Edgar and Barbara Wuthrich

SHUT-INS:

Bob Abraham (in an Alzheimer Center in Austin)

Leland Dean (in a care facility in Oklahoma)

Harold Engebretson (at Brookdale in Henderson)

*Prayer List continues on next page*

*Prayer List continued from previous page*

**THOSE WHO NEED HEALING:**

Sharron Baker (Beth Nicol's cousin, continuing experimental chemotherapy)  
Krista Beck (George B. Heil's bandmate, still managing pain after 05/07 surgery)  
Rev. Dennis Bragdon (ORLC's pastor, prostate cancer "seeds" implanted 5/7)  
Karen Cole (Watts' family friend, again battling cancer, especially needs strength)  
Ardith Coughlin (ORLC member, friend of Pilgrim, dementia with Lewy bodies, stable)  
Brad, Cliff, and Lucy Dantin (Navailles' friends, son and parents with health concerns)  
Kimberly Dietz (Shannon's partner's daughter, stem-cell treatment for recurred cancer)  
Joyce Duncan (Arcele Wilburn's friend, suffering from congestive heart failure)  
Toni Erickson (recovering from 05/12 abdominal surgery)  
Bryce Faircloth (Angela's coworker's newborn nephew, needs esophagus surgery)  
Alexandra Frericks (Sallye Key's relative, back in Illinois, limited ability)  
Caryl Galler (Pastor's mother, knee-replacement surgery June 2)  
Mrs. Larry Gregg (wife of one of the car drivers, lung biopsy and possible surgery)  
Mark Harrington (Walkers' brother-in-law, spot on his lung that may be cancer)  
Charlotte Herrell (Sharon Sampson's sister, tolerating reduced chemotherapy well)  
Olene Herricks (rehabilitating at the Willows in Kilgore after a car mishap on 04/18)  
Kathy Hudson (last stem-cell treatment on her shoulders in Florida 01/02)  
Brenda Johnson (Pilgrim visitor, challenges include Parkinson's and brain surgery 7/8)  
Olin Johnson (Nicols' friend with Parkinsons, continuing to decline in nursing home)  
Jerome Key, Jr. (Jerome and Sallye's son, suffering from kidney stones)  
Laura Key (Jerome's step-mother, continuing to decline in nursing home)  
Sallye Key (spiritual strengthening, peace, and joy)  
Edgar Kocke (Elaine Navaille's shirt-tail acquaintance, newborn home, needs weight)  
Carl London (Connie Wilburn's coworker, at work, chemotherapy continues)  
Herb Michel (relative of Pastor's friends, out of the hospital but various concerns)  
Tom Nicol (Don's older brother, high blood-pressure and other health concerns)  
Shirley Peters (Mary Clubb's former pastor's wife, upcoming additional eye surgeries)  
Betty Sewing (Sallye Key's step-mother in Denver, ongoing treatment for BOOP)  
Sadie Stewart (Remo Gualtieri's shirt-tail acquaintance, can't breathe on her own)  
Dellfene Trevino (Watts' friend, knee surgery June 3)  
Robert Wiles (Betty Miller's nephew, untreatable cancer, now on feeding tube)  
James Willey (Remo and Kathy's friend, diagnosed with early stage cancer)  
Wendy Wright (Connie Wilburn's friend, breast cancer surgery coming up)  
Nick Zipen (J.D. Sampson's coworker's husband, serious car accident 04/10)

**ALL MOTHERS EXPECTING CHILDREN, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:**

Mary Clubb (our member Aaron's wife, baby girl due 8/6)  
Caroline Koen (our member, expecting her and Emmett's second child)

**FAMILIES IN CRISIS OR NEED AND ALL FAMILIES**

Clydie Black Family (Beth Nicol's aunt and cousin are both hospitalized)  
Myers Family (friends of the Watts, son Jordan jailed and facing serious charges)  
Raymond Family (Cooper's Scouts friends' family, teenager Paiglynn ran away 4/17)  
Thomas Family (Leroy's sons and grandchildren)  
West Family (moving to Lindale May 30-31)

## KIDS' PAGE

### Jesus stills a storm (Mark 4:37-41)

What is happening here? The sea and the wind look very angry. Jesus and His disciples are in a horrible storm! Jesus was asleep in the boat when the storm began. The disciples thought the storm would sink the boat. They were all afraid. "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" they shouted. "Don't be afraid," said Jesus. "Trust in God." Then Jesus told the wind and the waves, "Be quiet!" The disciples were amazed. They had never seen anyone who had power over nature. They knew Jesus had to be the Son of God. Begin at the "Start" arrow and find your way to Jesus, Who is standing in the bow (the front) of the boat.

BibleWise



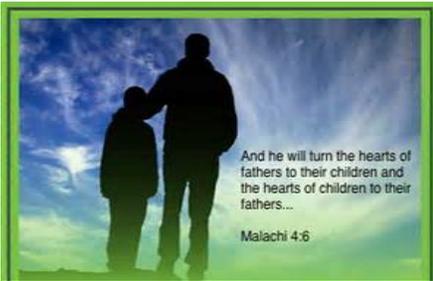
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<http://www.biblewise.com/kids/fun/jesus-stops.php>

# JUNE 2015

## 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–12:00 PM  
Saturday Noon–3:00 PM

**Cleaning Volunteers**  
**Brady and Shannon Gage**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  4:00-5:00 PM Youth Catechesis	<b>3</b> 6:00 PM VBS Meeting at ORLC  No Midweek Bible Study Wayne Miller (B)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> ST PHILLIP & ST JAMES, APOSTLES	<b>6</b>  Samantha Hiltzman (B)
				Pastor at LCMS Texas District Convention in San Marcos		
<b>7<sup>ND</sup></b> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service followed by Church Picnic honoring our Graduate  M/M Paul Guinn (A) Sharon Sampson (B)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  2:00-5:00 PM Cleaning Ladies  6:00 PM Elders	<b>10</b>  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>11</b> ST BARNABAS, APOSTLE  4:00-5:00 PM Youth Catechesis	<b>12</b>  Josey Land (B)	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Worship Service at The Willows  M/M Steven Sampson (A)
<b>14</b> 3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>15</b> M/M David Smith (A) Courtne Smith (B)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> No Midweek Bible Study Jeanette Heil (B) Jeffrey Gill (B)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Cher Key (B)	<b>20</b> VBS 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at ORLC in Longview Newsletter articles due tomorrow
Pastor on vacation – an Elder will answer the church phone and contact the Pastor on call as needed.						
<b>21</b> 4 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Matins (no communion)  Dana Freeman (B)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST  7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	<b>25</b> PRESENTATION OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION 4:00-5:00 PM Youth Catechesis  7:00 PM Vespers	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
	Pastor on vacation					
<b>28</b> 5 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	<b>29</b> ST PETER AND ST PAUL, APOSTLES	<b>30</b>  Spencer Land (B)	<b>Communion Assistant</b> – Carl Gardner  <b>Acolyte</b> – John Morton			

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

**The Pilgrimage** is a monthly newsletter for the members and friends of



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Pastor Galler and Sharon Sampson are the editors of **The Pilgrimage**. Barbara Wuthrich assists with producing and distributing editions. Everyone is welcome to contribute articles at any time. All copyright holders of excerpted or reproduced materials are hereby acknowledged, and such materials are used in good faith under fair use provisions.