



# Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
Warwick, Rhode Island  
May 2019

## June's Progress Deadline is Wednesday, May 15.

Please e-mail submissions to  
[parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org](mailto:parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org)  
or place in her mailbox in the  
church office. Many thanks.

*The Progress deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.*

## OUR STAFF

### Minister of Music

Denis Brunelle

### Treasurer

Laurie Linden

### Financial Secretary

Cindy Cote

### Parish Assistant

Laurie Connors

Please, don't look to someone else to do it, but to yourself. Do we PLC want to be part of a future or planted in the past? It is indeed time for all of us at PLC to ask why: Why are we here?

## Supply Pastors for May

The Rev. Meaghan Brower - 5/5

The Rev. Donald Williams - 5/12

The Rev. Peter Michaelson - 5/19

The Rev. Raymond Mitchell - 5/26

## For your information -- Apostles' or Nicene Creed: Which, When, and Why?

## Church in Change Church in Transition

As many of you know, last August Pastor Kohl retired after many years of service, and both Karin and Adam also left their positions at the church. We are in a time of transition, a time of change, and now PLC needs all hands on deck. This is not the time to sit on the sidelines or on the fence. It is time to become energized and to get involved. Why not seek out someone on the church council and speak with them? We must realize all churches and synagogues are changing. We can not be nostalgic wishing for things to be as they were for nostalgia is dead and change is alive. We can choose to live and to change or to remain in nostalgia to be buried in the time past. The choice is ours. PLC can move on or we can perish. It's in our hands not anyone else's.

How do we know whether to use the Apostles' Creed and when to use the Nicene Creed? Here's the easy answer: when the altar is green we use the Apostles' Creed. Yep, it's that simple.

The Apostles' Creed is the creed of baptism, the gift that belongs to us all. It is the foundation for our life as a congregation and as the Church, so when we are doing basic things, we use basic tools, the Apostles' Creed. The Nicene Creed is a little "fancier." It goes into more details about Jesus and Jesus' relationship to the Godhead, God in a transcendent or almighty way. We use the Nicene Creed for festival days and seasons: times we focus on the mysteries of Jesus (his coming and birth, his manifestation to all nations and suffering and resurrection) and the mysteries of the body of Christ, the Church (Pentecost, All

Saints, and Christ the King). If the color of the day is green, get ready for the Apostles' Creed...otherwise we will use the Nicene Creed.

Another word about the Nicene Creed. Did you notice that often the words in the last part about the Holy Spirit and the Church have a bracket around the words "and the Son"? (who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]). The Eastern Orthodox Church confesses that the Holy Spirit of God comes to us only from God the Father. This is what the Gospel of John teaches us. There Jesus says he will ask the Father who will send the Spirit of Truth. John 15:26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf." When people who are Orthodox Christians say the Nicene Creed they do not say those words "and the Son".

This seems like a small thing to many people, but in fact it was the cause for the great schism or divide between the Church in the East and the Church in the West which happened in 1054 officially, although there were difficulties between the Pope in Rome and the Patriarchs of the Eastern Church.

The words we often take for granted have a lot of history behind them. But in a Church which is based on the Word of God, we should expect words to matter.

### ***A Message from the Altar Guild***

We'd like to tell you a little about the Altar Guild. We are a group of men and women who prepare the church for weekly worship and special occasions.

Teams of 2 people serve every 6 weeks or so.

Time commitment for a team is about 30 minutes on Saturday and another 30 minutes or so on Sunday of their assigned weekend.

Some of the weekly duties include:

Preparing Communion

Setting up the desk and books for ministers and worship assistants

Changing paraments, the colored linens that you see adorning the altars in the main sanctuary and the chapel

Maintaining the baptismal font, candles, florals and linens in worship spaces

We all gather as a group twice a year to prepare the church for Easter and Christmas and 3 or 4 times a year for meetings.

We always welcome new members!

If you'd like more information, contact any member of the Altar Guild or Pam Himebaugh at 935-3544 OR [pssh99@msn.com](mailto:pssh99@msn.com).

**We need your help!** We're looking for volunteers to serve as Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, and Ushers. If you are able to help with these important ministries, please sign up on the sheets posted on the bulletin board outside the office or contact the office at 739-2937.

