



Pilgrims' Progress



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

**August's Progress Deadline
is Monday, July 15.**

Please e-mail submissions to
parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org
or place in her mailbox in the church office.
Many thanks.

OUR STAFF

Minister of Music

Denis Brunelle

Treasurer

Laurie Linden

Financial Secretary

Cindy Cote

Parish Assistant

Laurie Connors

**Rev. Maria Hammons Coming to be
Intentional Interim Pastor.**

The Reverend Maria J. Hammons will be coming per her covenant with us on July 15, 2019-July 15, 2020 with an option of adding 1-3 months.

She is she coming to Pilgrim Lutheran Church as our Intentional Interim Pastor. Some of the main reasons that she is coming is to engage the congregation in particular needs as identified by our Church Council. She is to work with lay leaders to plan and provide opportunities for open discussion regarding the transition, and to find a way to include all ages. She is to help identify congregational challenges and to work with lay leadership and parishioners to move towards healthy and faithful resolution and ideas. She is to lead the congregation through a faithful interim process, exploring congregational gifts and discerning the mission which God is now calling the people of Pilgrim Lutheran Church to in our local community and beyond. She is to use the

information gathered during this time of discernment, in combination with available resources and tools, to guide the congregation in the development of a new Ministry Site Profile to provide to candidates for the Office of Pastor.

A full copy of the covenant is available in the church office and was emailed to everybody who is on the Parish Members email list. Hopefully, at the conclusion of her time with us, we will be able to extend a call for a full-time Pastor.

--Bill Dugan

The New England Synod Assembly

The Assembly was held in Worcester June 7th and 8th at the DCU Center with delegates Joanne Gunning and Donald Williams as representatives from Pilgrim. A total of 579 persons were present, both voting and non-voting, laypersons and clergy.

Highlights of the Assembly:

Resolutions and Memorials to the Churchwide Assembly to be held in Milwaukee in August, focused on protecting human rights of Palestinian children living under Israeli military occupation. A resolution to support humanitarian aid to Palestinian Hospitals, and of our Synod's and ELCA's support the Poor People's Campaign. The Synod gives global mission support to the seven congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan. The United States denied the visa of a Jordanian Pastor who was to be the guest speaker at a Synod Assembly in the Midwest. The Synod supports Honduran students with scholarships. There are twelve congregations in the Honduras Lutheran Church. And a Michigan student pastor was arrested and sent back to Colombia.

Adopted a budget of \$1.3 million dollars.

Spiritual vitality has the lowest place in congregational life. In addressing it, Bishop Hazelwood spoke of the struggle to talk about one's personal, every day connection of faith and life with God. He noted, "God is in, with, and under all of life." - a Lutheran understanding of the presence of God in life. A workshop on worship revealed a growing casual atmosphere in reaching young families as well as individuals. Worship is an important welcome to visitors. Alternate creeds are used, popular music of the last twenty years, one church uses blue grass!, massive art displays, non-Lutheran traditions, pop up choirs and bands, and flexibility of worship space, all work as expressed in various stories of shared faith experiences. The Assembly worship used some of these forms to proclaim God's love in Christ Jesus. As delegates, we attended the workshop, "Partnerships, Mergers and Sustainability, oh my!!" Pastor Maria Hammons spoke of assisting merging congregations.

Keynote Speaker Margot Leitman addressed the Assembly's theme, "What's Your Story?" A storyteller, comedian, writer and teacher, she told personal stories that addressed the theme as well as helped us to engage others in telling personal stories of faith.

The Rev. Leila Ortiz was the guest preacher at the closing worship. For three years she has been an Assistant to the Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod. She was a representative of the ELCA to the Lutheran World Federation gathering of Global Theology Consultation in Wittenburg, Germany, in 2012. She is a doctoral candidate in Systematic Contemporary Theology focusing on the spirituality of those persons who are considered to be irrelevant in society! She was inspiring in telling her story of hearing and learning that Jesus' grace of forgiveness was a gift, rather than achieved by doing good works to earn it. She was raised in a Pentecostal Latina Community.

The New England Synod is growing in diversity with people telling their faith stories

to those who welcome the grace of Jesus Christ. Alleluia, praise to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

-Donald Williams

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY!

During this time of our transition it is important and critical that we are all on the same page. Open lines of communication will be our key to achieving success. Please stay in touch with your council members. Members of the Church Council represent you. Knowing the thoughts and concerns of the congregation would be both helpful and appreciated by members of the Church Council. It would facilitate us when we are meeting and deliberating on matters pertaining to the church. Please, consider in the future contacting members of the Church Council. Our names are listed in each edition of the *Progress*. Please, look around in coffee hour and check in with a Council member to determine the validity of something you might have heard. Or perhaps you just might have an opinion, an idea or question you need answered. Sunday coffee time could be the perfect time for the two-way communication that is and will be needed if we are to achieve our goals. We are Church Family, let's chat! With open communication and respect for each other we will all find the way forward. Remember, God will show us the way, all we have to do is believe and pray.

--Bill Dugan



Do you grow an abundant flower garden, during the summer and fall? Do you love arranging flowers? We need you! **The Altar Guild** needs help forming a flower ministry, a new way of looking at our altar florals! Please contact Pam Himebaugh if you can help. 935-3544. Thank You!



Congratulations to **Audrey Cryan** who graduated from McGill University with a B.A. in Honor's Economics!!! Audrey is the daughter of Susan Simundson and Bruce Cryan.

Clergy Serving Pilgrim Lutheran Church

July 7 The Rev. Donald Williams

July 14 The Rev. G. Raymond Mitchell

You Are Invited!

On Saturday, July 6, at 5:00 p.m., there will be a service to

commemorate **Independence Day**. Hopefully, it will be held

outdoors. Refreshments will follow. Please join us!



Fall Festival



It's not too early to start preparing for our annual Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, November 23rd. We are always looking for new ideas, volunteers, and items for our penny social raffle. If you have ideas to share, please contact Laurie Linden at lalinden1@gmail.com. We will begin having our meetings in September.

What Does Martin Say?

"God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

"Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are?"

Shut-In Communion Visits

If you are unable to attend church services and you'd like to receive communion at home, please contact us at 401-739-2937 or by email at parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org.

A member of the Eucharistic Ministry will contact you to arrange a visit.

Altar Flower Dedications

PLEASE consider supporting the altar flowers. The cost is \$30 and the dedication can be in memory of someone or in honor of a birthday, wedding anniversary or another special accomplishment. Envelopes are available in the narthex. If you have any questions about flower dedication, please contact Pat Frazier at 941-7656.