



Pilgrim's Progress

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

March 2020

OUR STAFF

Intentional Interim Pastor

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PILGRIM'S CONGREGATION COUNCIL & OFFICERS

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Vice President	John Carlson
Treasurer	Laurie Linden
Financial Secretary	Cindy Cote
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*From the
Pastor...*

TRAVELING ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

*But as for me,
my prayer is to you, O LORD.
At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love,
answer me. Psalm 69:13*

Somehow the often gloomy days and gray-ness of February & March seem to fit our Lenten time of self-reflection and repentance. A reminder that only after winter will spring come ... just as we need reflection before renewal ... and that death brings resurrection.

As I write, Ash Wednesday is only days away – the beginning of our Lenten season. Soon we will gather as a faith community to receive ashes, to make our confession, and to begin a special time of repentance. Soon we will enter our Lenten journey.

Christians across the globe have many Lenten practices and traditions to help us explore and experience our faith in a more focused and tangible way during this special Church Season.

One practice is to make some time for self-examination - a time to examine and reflect upon what might stand in the way of our building a closer, more



Please have articles for the Progress
to Laurie in the Church Office
by the 15th of each month.

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

personal and faithful relationship with God. In our busy lives this time may not be so easy to find, but perhaps you have a few minutes early in the day before your crazy schedule begins, or some alone time as you drive, or might find a quiet moment in the evening. It doesn't matter how long or how often, only that it's a meaningful time of self-examination and reflection - a time to talk with and listen for God.

Lent is also often a season of fasting. Fasting can take all kinds of forms. Some people "give up" something - from chocolate to a bad habit, as a sacrifice. Others give up a regular splurge - like a daily latte or trip to McDonalds - and give the money they save to a charity that works against injustice - like ELCA World Hunger or Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services. Others "do" something to grow their faith - like daily devotions or Bible study - or do a random act of kindness each day. Whatever you find meaningful - the idea behind fasting (or "doing" something) is to use it to remember what Jesus did for us - his sacrifice of love - and to be thankful.

And finally, Lent is a season of prayer. In our weekly *Women of Faith* study of the book "Sensible Shoes", we've been experimenting with a variety of ways to pray. Throughout Pilgrim's history - from the prayers of the *saints* who faithfully laid the cornerstone of your church building - to the prayers of the *saints* who gathered in this place through the years - right up to your prayers - the prayers of *today's saints* - the Pilgrim faith community has had prayer as its foundation.

Perhaps this Lent, as we pray for our beloved Pilgrim Lutheran Church ... we also pray for God's holy, whole, and holistic Church in the world - the global church with all of its varied denominations. We pray for an end to divisions and unity in service. We pray for the ELCA & for our New England Synod Bishop and staff as they do their best to support us. We pray that God's Church - local & global - be a place where **all** are welcomed, where people grow in faith & share their gifts, where all know God's grace and share God's love with the world.

I hope you will experiment with ways to participate in a Lenten journey, and find one that is especially meaningful for you. Embrace it as a blessed opportunity to explore & deepen your relationship with God - to find renewal and peace.

I promise... it is a journey worth taking. Faith journeys always are...

Pastor Maria

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TRANSITION TIMES

Dear Friends in Christ...

Another round of small group transition meetings will begin in March - watch for more information in Sunday's bulletins. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the office.

The goal of these meetings is to provide informal opportunities for parishioners to ask questions, talk about Pilgrim's future, and share their hopes & concerns in a small group setting. Small groups allow us to have more in-depth conversation. They also provide a space for those who need more time to process or hesitate to share their thoughts in a larger group setting.

The reality is that the more of you who actively participate, and the more diverse the participation is, the better idea we will have of who you believe Pilgrim is called to be as a faith community - today and for the future.

In the meantime, think about these things... What gifts has God given the Pilgrim faith community? What makes you unique ... and what mission could grow out of that uniqueness? How would you like to be known in your local community? If you told someone that you belong to Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Warwick, how would you want them to fill this blank -- "Oh, that's the Church that does ..."?

What dream would inspire and energize you as an individual and a congregation? If we are able to faithfully "dream" - trusting in God to provide and lead us - it will help to define your identity as a congregation, and what your faithful purpose is in the world.

Please join us for these important small group conversations. Be sure you have a voice in the process. We need you!

Finally, mark your calendars for our next two congregational meetings:

- **On March 1st** after worship we will share a hot breakfast and then have an opportunity to hear from the Reverend Cliff Gerber about the ELCA's RIC (Reconciling in Christ) ministry, and ask all of our questions.

- **On March 22nd**, we'll have our next Congregational Transition meeting, at which - among other topics - we will follow up our March 1st meeting and discuss how, as a congregation, we display support for our RIC ministry.

Please do your best to attend both of these special meetings - this is an important time in Pilgrim's transition journey, and we need all of you to be a part of our conversations and decisions.

With prayers for the journey!
Pastor Maria

**I know not the way God leads me,
but well do I know my Guide.
Martin Luther**

**Don't forget! We return to
two Worship Services again
on Sunday, March 8th.
See you at 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.!**

In Memoriam



May the comfort and hope of the Resurrection be with the family and friends of Steven St. Onge and Joyce Carter, along with all the saints of Pilgrim.



Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

Ellen Bennett, Gloria Burke, Joan Byrnes, Lois Chappelle, Scott Chappelle, Diane Lozy Conlon, Bill Eisemann, Joan Eisemann, Earle Fish, Ian Frenze, Dick & Joan Hamblin, Millie Johnson, Stan Larson, Carl Lozy, Paul Lozy, Jack MacManus, Margaret Oakes, Susan Oakes, Tony Reyes, Steve Whitney, Don West, and Dave Wilmot.

Please note: names will remain on our prayer list for four (4) weeks. If you would like a name to remain on the list long-term, or if a name can be removed before that time, please let the Church Office know.

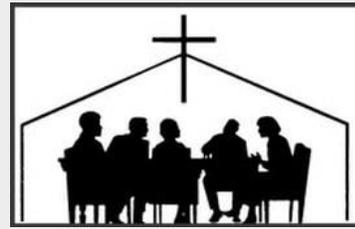
2020 Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the 2020 Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship are available in the brochure case across from the Church Office. They are also available on Pilgrim's web site: www.pilgrimlutheranri.org.

**Applications must be returned to:
Pilgrim Lutheran Church Altar Guild
mailbox by May 1, 2020 at noon.**

The 2020 recipient will receive up to \$1,000 for expenses related to their full-time undergraduate higher education study as a full-time student **OR** as an adult for continuing education in their profession. Qualifications are noted in the application. With questions regarding the scholarship or selection process, you may contact Donald Williams: dnld2020@gmail.com or at 401-783-2316

Congregation Council



Pilgrim's Council meets on the 3rd Thursday of most months, beginning at 7 p.m. Meetings are held in the Parlor.

All parishioners are welcome to attend Council meetings.

(Please understand there are times when the Council needs to go into Executive Session - if that happens, only elected Council members and the Pastor can be present.)

If you would like to address the Council on a particular matter, please speak with Council President Mary Brinson or email her at mbrinson627@aol.com.

Please hold your Officers and Council members in prayer. (They're listed on the first page!)

A sign of God is that you will be led where you did not intend to go.

Mark Your Calendars
for a very important program
on Sunday, March 1st

We worship together
at 9:30 a.m.
(please note special time)



Followed by a **Hot Breakfast**
served by the Council
& Pastor Maria



Followed by a special presentation
by Reverend Cliff Gerber
regarding the
Reconciling in Christ (RIC) ministry



We are a
RECONCILING in CHRIST
Congregation

This is a great opportunity to
have your questions answered.
Please join us!



New Members' Class Forming ... and You're Invited!

Are you interested in becoming an *official* member of Pilgrim's faith community? Pastor Maria is thinking about holding a New Members' Class in early Spring, and is looking to find out how much interest there is at this time.

During our time together, we'll explore what it means to be members of the Body of Christ ... people of faith; as well as what it means to be Christians who are *particularly* Lutheran (and ELCA Lutherans). We'll talk about what we have in common, and how we differ, from other Christian traditions. There will be time for questions & informal conversation.

Classes will culminate with a reception of new members during our Sunday worship service, followed by a pot luck luncheon to welcome our new members – sisters and brothers in Christ, fellow disciples, and co-workers in God's earthly kingdom.

Join us as we discern what God has in store for us, and work together to fulfill God's vision and mission for our faith community.

Please talk with or email Pastor Maria at pastormhammons@gmail.com, or call the Church Office at (401) 739-2937, if you'd like to attend.

We hope you'll "join" us!



Going Green with Pilgrim's Progress Newsletter!

As Christians, we are called to be good stewards – which includes taking care of God's creation. As part of our stewardship journey at Pilgrim, we are going to work to “**go green**” with the Church's *Progress* newsletter. **Beginning with this issue**, the newsletter will be forwarded by email to anyone for whom the church office has an email address.

While we encourage everyone who uses email to give this new distribution process a try (we promise it is very easy and user friendly), we also realize not everyone has internet capability or is comfortable with email attachments. The office will still provide paper copies of the newsletter to those folks. These copies will be available at entrances outside of the sanctuary on the last Sunday of each month, for the following month's newsletter.

Please note: Paper copies will continue to be mailed to all homebound members unless they notify the church office that they use the internet and prefer to get their newsletter by email.

A clarification: *If you don't use email and are often unable to make it to Sunday Worship due to driving or other limitations, please let us know and we will be happy to mail your newsletter to you.*

We estimate that the stewardship savings – trees, money, and time (not to include wear and tear on our copier) could be significant. Currently we incur the cost of materials (paper & ink), printing, and mailing the newsletter – and many of us read it & throw it away (*hopefully in the recycle bin* 😊).

That said, if you use the internet, but still like to have a paper copy for reference – don't forget ***you can always print the newsletter*** at home! This way you can pick and choose what pages you want to print to keep, rather than having to keep the entire newsletter.

Now those of us who regularly get our world news online, can also get our church news that way. You won't have to go to the website to get it (*though it will be there, too*) – it will come to you as a pdf attachment to your email and you will just have to click, open, and read! How easy is that! And the emailed version will even be in **COLOR!**

Please consider joining Pilgrim's effort to **GO GREEN** with the newsletter. We are updating email addresses over these next weeks – please be sure we have yours!

Just send an email to parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org

*God's peace!
Pastor Maria*



Don't forget to *spring forward* so you're not late on Sunday, March 8th!



YOU'RE INVITED - LENTEN STUDY

“EVERYDAY SPIRITUALITY”

- Frustrated with varied traditional approaches to spirituality?
- Feeling guilty about not following a disciplined devotional practice?
- Wishing there was a way you could embrace God in your everyday life?

During Lent we will be looking at another way to honor our “everyday spirituality” & further build our relationship with God. Rather than feeling guilty about one more failed attempt at daily devotions or quiet meditation, *Everyday Spirituality* shares that much of what we already do in life is, in fact, spiritual.

“Everyday spirituality is the kind of book that feels like a front porch conversation... with an old friend... (it) doesn't demand the reader take up some new, mindful activity, but instead gently invites us to view our daily lives as sacred. .. making the strong case that our very lives can connect us more directly to all that is holy.” Laura Everett, Executive Director, Massachusetts Council of Churches.

JOIN US! (TWO TIME OPTIONS)

NOON - BROWN BAG LUNCH

WEDS. MARCH 4, 11, 25 & APRIL 1

- OR -

7:00 P.M. EVENING STUDY

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH, AND
WEDS., MARCH 11, 25, APR 1

WONDERING “WEATHER” THERE'S CHURCH???



In case of bad weather, the cancellation of Sunday services and other congregation activities will be posted on our Facebook page, on the Church Office voicemail, & on local Rhode Island TV stations. An email will also be sent to all those who have provided their email address to the church office.

Here are a few easy clues...

If there is a parking ban in Warwick, Worship Services and Church activities are cancelled.

If it is snowing when you wake up, please check one of the above-mentioned notification choices before leaving for Church.

Also, during the week...

if Warwick Schools are closed, or if there is a parking ban, the church office will also be closed.

This is important for the safety of Pilgrim's parishioners and staff, and to allow time to assess road conditions and if parking lots will be plowed & sidewalks shoveled - so please check before you come!

God Bless & Be Safe!

Just in Case
You Were Wondering...



MARTIN LUTHER'S ROSE

You may have heard references to the *Luther Rose* and wondered what it was. We thought we'd let Martin Luther explain in his own words...

The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. 'For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.'

Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart, does not destroy nature - i.e., does not kill, but keeps alive. 'For the just shall live by faith' - by faith in the Savior.

But this heart is fixed upon the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits.

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-colored ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed.

And around this ground base is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal. Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto eternal life.

*Amen.
Martin Luther*



**Want to be sure
you hear
about what
is happening
at Pilgrim?**

**Be sure to keep the Church Office
updated with your current email address.
Just send an email to:
parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org**



Remember to bring in your donations for the Food Pantry! Look for our offering basket outside the sanctuary doors.

**Food pantry needs: peanut butter & jelly,
macaroni & cheese, pasta and sauce.**



+ *Pilgrim's Holy Week Services* +



Palm & Passion Sunday, April 6

8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 9

7:00 p.m. Special Service with Holy Communion
and Prayer Stations

(The Stripping of the Altar will follow the Service)



Good Friday, April 10

Noon & 7:00 pm Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday, April 12

Celebratory Service of Holy Communion

8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.



Confirmation Service Event – Food Truck Ministry for the Homeless

