



Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Warwick, Rhode Island
May 2013

From Pastor Kohl

OUR STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Dennis Kohl

Associate Pastor

The Rev. Robert Harris

Minister of Music

Denis Brunelle

Parish Assistant/Progress Editor

Elisabeth Remming Vergun

Treasurer

Bill Brinson

Financial Secretary

Beth Fish

Sexton

Adam Kohl

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM PASTOR KOHL	P. 1 & 2
PASTORAL ACTS	P. 2
FROM PASTOR HARRIS	P. 3
CHURCH NOTES	P. 4-6
MAY READINGS	P. 7
MAY SERVERS	INSERT
MAY CALENDAR	INSERT

June Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Wednesday, May 15!

Please e-mail submissions to Elisabeth
at [both parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org](mailto:parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org)
and eremmingvergun@cox.net
or place in her mailbox
in the church office.
Many thanks!

Dear Friends,

From time to time someone will ask me, "Why should I become a member of the congregation?" It is a good question, one that is usually asked in sincerity and curiosity. I also think it is a fair question to ask. Here's my answer "Why be a member of a family?" I know it's a New England kind of thing to answer a question with another question, but in this case I think it is appropriate.

Usually people want to know what advantage membership has. What is the advantage of being part of a family? Yes, I know that families can be difficult. I get to see that from time to time, and I often fall back on a section of the marriage service: *Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of family can become a burden. But because God who established marriage, continues still to bless it with abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.*

If there is anything Lutheran Christians are it is realistic, both about ourselves and about God. We know that we are not perfect creatures, that our lives are limited by self-centeredness and sin. We know that we can be turned in on ourselves and that this will be our situation as long as we live in this world. But we also know that we have a God who has not given up on us. Jesus' resurrection shows us that and the church is in the world to make that visible to our world.

So while family can be a source of conflict, if we stay committed to the family, it is amazing how we learn and grow through conflicts. It can be similar in a congregation, the synod, or the national expression of our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

But I believe the benefits and blessings of being part of a family far outweigh those times of trouble. Family is about walking together, especially when times get tough for us. It is the same way in the church. We know that we do not have all the answers for life's problems. We know that we do not have enough wisdom to face everything that comes to us from life by ourselves. We are blessed to have family members; we are blessed to have fellow church members who know us and care about us and have committed themselves to working together, walking together, and being supports for one another. You may have heard me say that God does not always give us answers to our questions, but God does give us people to share our questions and struggles. That is one of the main reasons Jesus established his church. That is one of the main reasons Jesus sent his disciples into the world: to be a blessing for others.

I am grateful for you who are, sisters and brothers in this "family" of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and I welcome other sisters and brothers who have not yet become a part of our congregation, our family in Christ. As a pastor, I know that Jesus' welcome was not limited to certain kinds of people; all were welcomed in Jesus' company. In fact, this was one of the greatest amazements about Christians in the ancient world: they would associate with all people, not just those who were like themselves. And they did not all have to agree on everything to think of themselves as brothers or sisters. They were bound together by something more basic than that: their need for forgiveness and hope, the gifts Jesus came to bring.

So our life is centered on Jesus, not our own whims or likes or dislikes. Our life together does not have some litmus test for membership, but is a place for those who know they need what Jesus brings. This can make for a different kind of community, but then Jesus never did expect his people to be like the rest of the world, only to be in this world as his ambassadors.

In hope,

Pastor Kohl

Pastoral Acts

Weddings



Kyrsten O'Leary & Michael Funk

Funerals

Jason Bergeron
Helen Boyens
Robert Bulkeley
Frances Howarth
John Hutchings
Tyler Magliette
Doris Pease
Ruth Pearson



New Members Received



Thomas & Jane Arnold

Save the Date!

Church Picnic

Sunday, June 9
after the late service

Rain or shine!



All are welcome!

FROM PASTOR HARRIS

LOVING JESUS

Dear Friends of Christ,

"Do you love Jesus?"

That question can be a strange one. I do not think we hear it too often in most Lutheran Christian circles. It can be uncomfortable. It is an intimate question. I know that I am much more comfortable talking about Jesus' love for us, for me. Sometimes this question seems like it is not focused enough on God's action in our lives, sometime it seems too mushy, too enthusiastic. Some would ask, "What kind of love do you mean?" Love like the kind we have for a family member, a spouse or a child? Romantic love, like someone who has fallen in it?

In an episode entitled "Christian Rock Hard" from the series South Park, Cartman has formed a Christian Rock band and in a conversation with the Christian record executives is asked about his music. "It sounds like you love Jesus, I mean really love him." (He has taken popular love songs and substituted Jesus where appropriate or inappropriate as the case may be). Cartman replies that of course he loves Jesus, don't the executives? They mumble "Yes".

What does loving Jesus mean? Scripture speaks often of the love relationship between Jesus and the church. Many times this relationship is spoken of in marital terms. We know that Jesus is crazy for us. Are we crazy for Jesus?

Scripture also stresses the communal and corporate sense of the relationship. The Church is called the Bride of Christ, not the Individual Christians. We gather as the community, the Church, and are part of the love fest called worship. I love Jesus because I am part of the church. There are times when I do not feel like loving anyone. There are times when my faith is shakier than other times. We know that how we think or feel can change and slide around. But I am a part of the church, and the church loves Jesus, and I know that I will, too.

Apparently, God adores us and even takes delight in us. We are loved. Thanks be to God that we will have an eternity to learn how to love Jesus.

I have a book for you to read. Please read it. It is wonderful. It is called *Loving Jesus* by Mark Allen Powell. Dr. Powell is a professor of the New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Ohio. You can purchase it on Amazon for less than \$14 (less than \$10 via Kindle). *Loving Jesus* is a joy to read—you really should!

Pastor Harris

PILGRIM BOOK SALE

**Saturday, May 4
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**



The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a book sale in the Christian Life Center on Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Donations have poured in, and we have many, many great selections for summer beach reading! There are also lots of children's books, videos, CDs, puzzles, and games.

**There's something for everyone...
so come one, come all!**

Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship



The Altar Guild is currently accepting applications for the Altar Guild Scholarship in memory of Diane Fish.

This scholarship is designed to assist the youth of our congregation with college expenses. All members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church who are currently high school seniors, and will attend college in the fall, are eligible. Applications are located on the Altar Guild bulletin board (to the right of Pastor's office.)

Completed applications should be **mailed** to the church **or hand placed** in the **Altar Guild mailbox** located in the church office. **Mailed applications** must be received by **Friday, May 10, 2013** and **hand delivered** applications must be deposited into the Altar Guild mailbox (church office) by **11 a.m. on Sunday, May 12, 2013**. Deadlines are firm and no exceptions will be made.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Cardillo at 412-527-6889 or at jennifer.cardillo@verizon.net.

PILGRIMS AT THE MOVIES

it's...

~ The Incredibles ~



**Sunday, May 19
at 2:00 p.m.**

But isn't this a kids' movie...?

Sure, children can watch it. But it's also about family life, (mid-life!) crises, and yes...SUPERHEROES.

If you'd like to help with a snack bar, please let Pastor Harris know.

See you at the movies!

Save the Date for the STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



**Saturday evening, June 22
6:30 p.m.**

beginning with an outdoor worship service

look for details in the Sunday bulletin
and the June issue of the Progress

Hosted by the Social Ministry and
the Kitchen Ministry Teams

A Message from the Altar Guild...



Are you thinking of dedicating Altar Flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones?

May dates are still available. Dedications from multiple families are welcome each Sunday!

To dedicate flowers, simply make your request by filling out an Altar Flower envelope and placing it in the offering plate or in the Altar Guild mailbox in the church office.

Thank you!

Arne Andell Scholarship

The Arne Andell Scholarship is awarded following the first semester of a student's freshman year of college. (Pastor Andell, for whom the scholarship is named, was Pilgrim's first pastor.)

Applications are available in the church office, and should be filled out and submitted to the office by Sunday, June 2, 2012. Please place completed applications in Elisabeth's mailbox in the church office.

A REQUEST FROM THE WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND ARTS COMMITTEE



We are gathering new white candles for a future project. Please donate any that you can. All sizes of candles will be used. There is a receptacle in the hall way (narthex) to place your donation.
Many thanks!

Pentecost Garden

Red is the color for Pentecost, as it represents the Holy Spirit that came upon the apostles as flaming tongues of fire. We are asking anyone who is willing to bring a red geranium to church on the Sunday of Pentecost. During the service there will be a time to bring the geraniums forward and place them around the altar, reminding us that we too as the baptized have been given God's Spirit. After the service the geraniums will be planted as a living reminder of our ongoing growth in the Spirit. **Pentecost falls on May 19 this year.**

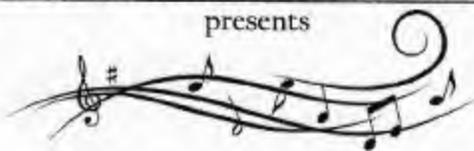
Come, come, come Holy Spirit, come!

Karin Kohl



WARWICK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

presents



CELEBRATING OPPOSITES

A concert that conjures the age-old tales of good vs. evil and heroes and villains through the works of John Williams, Jacques Offenbach, Giuseppe Verdi, Camille Saint-Saens, Henry Mancini, Felix Mendelssohn and more!

Sunday, June 2, 2013
2:00 p.m.

Temple Am-David
40 Gardiner Street, Warwick

Admission: \$10

Proceeds from this concert will jointly benefit
Temple Am David and
Pilgrim Lutheran Church.

For tickets, call the Temple at 401-463-7944

Report from the Congregation Council Meeting of April 18, 2013

Report from the Accountability Group:

- The proposed purpose statement was approved by the Council and will be passed on to the congregation for approval and support. It is: *God's purpose for Pilgrim Lutheran Church is to build our relationship with Jesus and to share our gifts from God with the community.* The guiding principles for living out this purpose are:
 - *Serving with joy*
 - *Teaching*
 - *Building community*
 - *Proclaiming Good News*
 - *Praying always*
- The Constitution Review group will meet on Monday, May 6 at 7PM. All are welcome to join in.
- The Care Team is meeting. *The mission of Care Team puts faith into action by virtue of sharing our spiritual gifts with one another in our Pilgrim Church family through visitation, care and social engagement.*

Financial Summary for first quarter:

Income versus Expenses:

Actual Income for General Operating	\$58,937
Expenses for General Operating (all bills are paid)	<u>\$65,044</u>
Income short of expenses	\$ (6,107)

Actual Income versus Anticipated Income

Actual Income for General Operating	\$58,937
Anticipate Income for General Operating	<u>\$63,108</u>
Actual Income short of Anticipated Income	\$ (4,171)

Ministry and Congregational Announcements:

- The *Church Picnic* will be held on Sunday, June 9
- Social Ministry will hold a *Book Sale* on May 4 & 5
- There will be a *breakfast* on Sunday, May 5
- A *Strawberry Festival and Saturday Worship* will be held on June 22
- Pilgrim Church needs a *Nursery*. We will begin discussion of how to do this safely. All are welcome to this discussion. Watch the Sunday bulletin for date.
- A member of the congregation will donate money to *refurbish the Woman's Room*.
- We are generating a *"to Do" and a "to Help" lists*. This will be to coordinate work that needs to be done around our building and people will skills willing to help out with such work.
- A proposal came before the Council to be listed as a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation. This would be a statement adopted by our community that all people are welcome here
- Plans are underway for a day-long *Vacation Bible School* this summer. You can get on board by contacting Pastor Harris.

Sunday Readings –May 2013

May 5 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9–15

Here we have another story of how the first followers of Jesus ventured outside their comfort zone. Paul is convinced that he is to enter into a new place to show the compassion of Jesus. God's Holy Spirit blesses this venture.

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

The writer of Revelation shares a picture of the city of God with the readers. It is a place of no darkness and of great beauty with a plentiful water supply. Many of the images we see here are reminiscent of the Garden of Eden which at the end of time will have become a city.

John 14:23–29

Jesus ministry to his followers does not end with his departure from them. Here he makes the promise of an Advocate, the Holy Spirit to come upon them and to direct them into the future.

May 12-7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16–34

Paul and his travelling companion, Silas, wind up in prison. An earthquake gave them the opportunity to escape, but chose not to. In doing this, the jailer and his family decide to become followers of Jesus.

Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21

This final series of visions is filled with images of salvation. Through them all is a promise: Jesus is returning to set all things right.

John 17:20–26

Jesus prays for all who will come to faith through the work of his disciples. The church stretches through the centuries to us today, but it is still one church because our unity comes from Jesus

May 12-The Day of Pentecost

Genesis 11:1–9

The story of the Tower of Babel shows the result of sin: the human family is divided. It was the arrogance of humanity that caused this to happen as once again humans tried to live beyond the limits of our humanity.

Acts 2:1–21

God is the one who must undo the problem which sin brings on the world. On the Day of Pentecost, all sorts of people in Jerusalem heard about the grace of God in Jesus. Most amazingly, they all understood that this was God at work in them.

John 14:8–17, 25–27

Philip's request to know God the Father better is used by Jesus as a teaching point: seeing Jesus is seeing the heart of God. Just to make sure this is understood, Jesus promises the gift of peace as his parting gift to his people.

May 26-The Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

In the Hebrew Scriptures wisdom is personified. She is the fellow worker with God in creating the world. This means that wisdom has always been a part of God's person.

Romans 5:1–5

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ by God's Holy Spirit being poured into our hearts.

John 16:12–15

We can never fully know God, but God fully knows us and is constantly revealing more of the divine nature to us. Jesus comes as a major revelation of what God's will and plan is for the creation.

SERVING in MAY 2013

GREETERS

May 5 Fred & Laurie Linden
May 12 Muriel Linden
May 19 Angel Maisonet
May 26 Merrill McElroy

READERS

May 5 Dody Matthias
May 12 Allan Reed
May 19 Roy Wagner
May 26 Helen Varin

ALTAR GUILD

May 5 Nancy Derby
Ginny Smith
May 12 Lisa Harrington
Debbie Perri
May 19 Mary Brinson
Pam Himebaugh
May 26 Jennifer Cardillo
Pat Frazier
Kitty Johnson

ASSISTING MINISTERS

May 5 Karin Kohl
May 12 *Needed...please sign up!*
May 19 Karin Kohl
May 26 Tina Carlson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

*Communion Assistants are needed for the month of May.
Sign up on the sheet posted on the office
bulletin board if you are able to help.
Many thanks!*

ACOLYTES

May 5 Sam Almonte
May 12 Andrew McLaughlin
May 19 Nichole Morales
May 26 Audrey Cryan

CONFIRMATION DINNERS

Tuesday Evenings

May 7 Mabela Abramson
May 14 **No meal** *Staff Meeting - No Kids*
May 21 The Sangster Family
May 28 End of the year party

USHERS

May 5 Scott Chappelle
Merrill McElroy
John Merrill
Rick Nelson
May 12 Scott Chappelle
Carl Ostermann
Jason & Courtney Petrarca
May 19 Scott Chappelle
Allan Reed
Kristen Resendes
Michele Tucci
May 26 Scott Chappelle
Deb Vilardi
Bruce & Carolyn Vittner

COUNTERS

May 5 Cindy Cote and Beth Fish
May 12 Steve Phillips and Chris Spencer
May 19 Clinton Smith and Joan Theroux
May 26 Cindy Cote and Kathy Gremel

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

*Eucharistic Ministers are needed for the month of May.
Sign up on the sheet posted on the office
bulletin board if you are able to help.
Many thanks!*

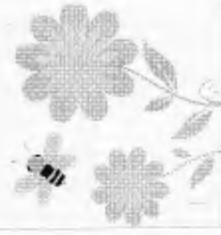
ALTAR FLOWERS

May 5 Jim & Jo-Anne Doyle
May 12 *Available*
May 19 Joan Midwood and family
The Simundson/Cryan Family
May 26 *Available*



May 2013

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
 1817 Warwick Avenue Warwick, Rhode Island 02889
 401-739-2937 www.pilgrimlutheranri.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.			1 Philip and James, Apostles 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00—1:00 Retired Pastors' Meeting and Lunch 7:00 W.S.O. Rehearsal	3 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	4 9:00—2:00 Social Ministry Book Sale 10:00 Pilgrim Youth at INSIGHT
5 Easter 6 <i>May Breakfast after both services</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	6 7:00 Leadership and Structure Group 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation - Worship 2/Word and Meal	8 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 The Ascension of Our Lord 6:30 Ascension Service 7:00 Congregation Council Meeting <i>note change of usual date</i> 7:00 W.S.O. Rehearsal	10 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	11
12 Easter 7 <i>Matthew's Day</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	13 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	14 <i>Matthias, Apostle</i> 10:00 RI Pastors Conference Mtg. 6:30 Confirmation - Staff Mtg./No Kids	15 Pilgrim's Progress Deadline 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 Toiletry Cupboard 7:00 W.S.O. Rehearsal	17 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	18
19 The Day of Pentecost <i>Coins for a Cause Sunday</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 2:00 Pilgrims at the Movies	20 7:00 Adult Education— What is the Augsburg Confession? 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	21 10:00 Pastors' Pericope. 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation - Worship 3/Sending	22 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 7:00 Worship, Music and Arts Meeting 7:00 W.S.O. Rehearsal	24 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	25 4:00 Martinelli/DePetrillo Wedding
26 The Holy Trinity 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	27 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed <i>No Adult Education</i> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	28 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation - End of Year Party	29 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30 7:00 W.S.O. Rehearsal	31 The Visitation PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 Narcotics Anonymous