



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

## 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 & 5
JANUARY READINGS	P. 6
JANUARY SERVERS	P. 7
JANUARY CALENDAR	INSERT

**2013 Offering Envelopes are available  
in the narthex—please take yours home as  
soon as possible. Thank you!**

## PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 27, 2013

immediately following  
the 9:30 service

(See page 2 for more information)

**Please note that committee annual reports  
are due in the office no later than  
Sunday, January 13. Thanks!**

## From Pastor Kohl

Dear Pilgrims,

We begin a new calendar year. It's hard to believe it is 2013 already. As we stand at the beginning of a new year, there are many thoughts and memories we carry from 2012. Several times I have heard people say that they hope that 2013 will be a better year than the last one was. And I understand what they mean.

It should not be an act of courage to send our children to school or to be a teacher, administrator, or staff in the schools. We should not have a government in which people stand in opposition to one another and refuse to consider compromise as a way forward. We do not need the bitter and acrimonious language which marks our political conversation. We do not need to have dictators warring against their own people or attacking the people of peace from a foreign country as happened in Libya. The list of things we wish we could leave behind as we step into 2013 is longer than this, and you might have some personal items to add also. It is an obvious truth that we live in a broken world.

How do we begin again as individuals? How do we start anew as a community?

We seek forgiveness. Life teaches us that there are times and situations in which forgiveness will be the only way the future can be opened to us. Forgiveness seeks to put the past in the past and seeks to live in the present moment, seeing the present as a present, a gift to create a different future. Forgiveness is also a promise for each of us. It is not just something we seek in our relationships with others or with God, it is also something we seek in our self understanding.

Often, because we know all our own shortcomings and troubled places, forgiveness for ourselves is the hardest to come to know.

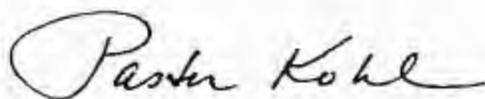
Another gift we need for the future is humility. I know people do not think about humility often. That might be because sometimes people think that it means to consider ourselves as not as good as others. But humility is really knowing ourselves as like others. It is humility that creates community, people who know they cannot go it alone in life; people who know there are others who also have worries and fears, joys, and struggles.

Gratitude: seeing the gifts and blessings we already have. This is not something which we do without doing it intentionally. Troubles always seem so much greater than blessings, but there are reminders in our lives that God remembers us.

As the people of God, we also have hope. The hope we hold is that God is a provider for us—that God, in Jesus, has conquered all our enemies, even death itself. And as Paul reminds us in Romans, "There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God that is ours in Jesus Christ our Lord."

My prayer is that our New Year will begin and continue in these gifts: forgiveness, humility, gratitude, and hope. It is a solid foundation in Christ!

With hope,



**February Pilgrim's Progress Deadline:  
Tuesday, January 15!**

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

**Pastoral Acts**

**Baptisms**



Anna Lynne Jones

**First Holy Communion Candidates**

Carly Karen Gayman  
Emily Karen Bastien  
Gianna Grace Marzillo  
Rose Isabelle Tuomisto  
Andrew John Barboza  
Emily Madison Morales  
Molly Beth Brown  
Chloe Michele French  
Nathan Dean Rouillard



**Funerals**



Robert Caldwell  
Walter Hackett

**New Members Welcomed**

Barbara Andrews  
Michael & Amber Jones  
and family  
Karla Safford and Connor



**PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH'S  
ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**

The Annual Meeting of Pilgrim Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, January 27 following the 9:30 service**. This is the meeting in which we elect people to serve the congregation on our Congregation Council and several committees: The Nominating, Scholarship, and Memorial Committees, as well as voting members of our annual synod assembly which will be held in June. It is also at this meeting that a budget for ministry for 2013 will be put into place. All active confirmed members of the congregation are encouraged and expected to be present at this meeting as these decisions are made.

**Please note that committee Annual Reports are due in the office no later than Sunday, January 13.**

## FROM PASTOR HARRIS

Dear friends of Christ,

For the Church, January is the time of the Epiphany and the Sundays after the Epiphany. This January, we celebrate Epiphany (which is always January 6) on a Sunday. The days in between Christmas and Epiphany are the "days of Christmas", like in the song. (Even though Wal-Mart will undoubtedly have its Valentine displays up by this time.)

So what is an Epiphany?

At its core, it is a god-sighting, more specifically a Jesus-as-Son-of-God sighting. The day of Epiphany commemorates the visit of the magi to Jesus. This is also known as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Even though this is a major festival of the church, it often gets a little short changed since this date can occur on any day of the week.

The first Sunday after the Epiphany is the Baptism of our Lord. This is one of my favorite festivals, so I often think of January as baptism month. We certainly see Jesus revealed here, we see God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—intersecting our human lives. This is a good time to remember our own baptism. I am reminded how Luther writes that remembering our baptism is a daily occurrence. Every time you get wet, remember that you are baptized into Christ, and that you are loved by God. You are a sibling of Jesus. In baptism, Jesus is made manifest in our own lives. So get wet! Use that font to remind yourself and your children that you belong to Jesus, that you are loved. When you take a bath or shower, or get rained on or snowed on, remember that God is active in your life, that you have been showered with grace and mercy.

The time after Epiphany is bounded by the feast of the transfiguration. Jesus is transformed and once more the voice of God is heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. The stories in between further reveal who Jesus is. We hear about miracles and Jesus' mission statement, into which we are invited.

The two biggest Epiphany moments, the revelation of who Jesus is, are not limited to the time after the Epiphany. These two events are the death and resurrection of Jesus. In fact, every Sunday is sort of a "mini-Easter" day. Even during Lent! We see God's heart for humanity. We learn that Jesus is crazy for us.

So back to Jesus' baptism, back to our baptism. We are loved and claimed by God. Not because of anything that we have done. God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—loves you, forever.

Carrying forth our Advent project, where we looked for signs of God in the world, look for signs of God in your life. How has Jesus become manifest (clear or obvious) in your life? How are you a manifestation of Christ for others?

God's peace and blessings,

*Pastor Harris*

*Spiritual Gifts: The Holy Spirit's Gift to you  
is also your gift to others!*



On Sunday, January 6, Christians all over the world will celebrate Epiphany, a time when the Magi delivered their gifts to The Newborn King. At Pilgrim Lutheran Church, we will celebrate our gifts on this Sunday with a brunch immediately following the second service where our community will seek to discover the Spiritual Gifts that were given to members at their baptism. The youth and young adults are invited and encouraged to join in this gifts discovery. The purpose is not to find out what each member can do in order to give them a job, but the process can be a fun and exciting time for all with the results being helpful in many ways. This is the first step the church council has requested in the multi-step program approved which includes the development of our unique mission and vision statements. The gifts of the people in our community need to be known first so that they may be included in and direct the mission and vision.

The number of guests for the brunch will be limited to the number of seats that can be set up for food service. If you have made reservations for the meal and are unable to attend the event, kindly call the church office and leave a message so that persons waiting for a reservation will be able to take your place. This can also be done by e-mailing [SpiritualGifts10@aol.com](mailto:SpiritualGifts10@aol.com).

The Social Ministry Committee invites you to make a special  
New Year's Resolution for 2013...

...to donate your loose change in a special offering that will be collected on the third Sunday of every month. These offerings will go to various organizations that help the needy in our area. We will list the particular group that we'll be supporting each month in the Sunday bulletin. And feel free to bring your own suggestions to the committee!

Many thanks,  
Karin Kohl for the Social Ministry Committee

### Exciting Social and Community Service Opportunity for Pilgrim Youth

Come celebrate the new year on Saturday, January 5! Join us from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a party complete with music, dancing, hats, noisemakers, sparkling grape juice, and hors d'oeuvres. After the merry making, we'll make sandwiches to be delivered to those in need.

See you there!



We would like to thank everyone who was involved in this year's Sunday School Christmas Program!

First of all, thank you to the Sunday School teachers. You really are amazing. Our children love coming to Sunday School because of your love for Jesus and for them. You went above and beyond!

Thank you to Karin Kohl for teaching and leading the children in song.

Thank you to Denis Brunelle for leading the assembly in song.

Thank you to all who brought food, who made drinks, who set up, and who stayed late to clean up.

Thank you to parents and grandparents for taking seriously those promises made at baptism.

Thank you for bringing children to Sunday School and for making the time to bring them to the program.

Thank you to the people of Pilgrim for coming to hear and see our children tell us the Christmas story. It was so nice to see such a large group assembled.

Thank you for singing to your children!

Thank you to some of our older youth for being there to help out, and in one case to shepherd around the little ones.

Finally, thank you to our Sunday School children for sharing this important story with us.

Thank you to those of you who had no lines, thank you to our readers. Thank you all for singing so well.

Pastor Harris and Pastor Kohl

### **Hospitalized or Needing a Pastoral Visit?**

Please have a family member call the church at 401-739-2937. There is also voice mail to leave a message if no one is in the office when you call. Be sure to leave your name, the name of the person who needs or wants a visit, and a contact number in case the pastors need more information. If someone is in a hospital, be sure to tell us at which hospital, along with any other information you may have, such as a room number, etc.

Sunday mornings are busy times. Verbal requests are at the mercy of the pastors and both of them forget things easily. Please write any information on the green cards in the pews and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the pastors.

Calumet Lutheran Ministries  
proudly presents

### **THE CALUMET RHODE SHOW**

A completely free and totally fun evening for young families from all over Rhode Island!

GAMES • CRAFTS • PIZZA  
SONGS • SLIDESHOW  
ICE CREAM

Hosted by Jim Doyle  
and the Calumet Staff

**SUNDAY JANUARY 20, 2012**  
**5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**  
**at Pilgrim Lutheran Church**

R.S.V.P. to  
[jim@calumet.org](mailto:jim@calumet.org)

### **Thanks to All**

As most of you know, last November 11 marked the first anniversary of my brother Paul's tragic accident. And, as I'm sure you are aware, it is truly a blessing and a miracle that God chose to spare his life and let Paul stay on this earth relatively unscathed. Aside from his obvious physical disabilities, his mind and his brain are functioning at near normal capacity...a true miracle in itself. If not for the obvious intervention of God's hand it was the overall opinion of Paul's team of surgeons and experts that Paul, if he were to survive his massive and severe brain injury, would live the rest of his life in a vegetative state at best. Thankfully, God saw things differently.

To mark Paul's achievement, Joanne and I held a fundraiser after each 9:30 a.m. service last month and also during the bazaar. I am happy to announce that we were able to raise a total of \$325, of which a portion went to Hospital Hospitality House in Richmond Virginia (a charity of Paul's choosing), a portion went to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church and the remainder went to the Paul Lozy Fund to help defray his ever-mounting medical bills.

It is with much appreciation and heartfelt gratitude that I extend a sincere "thank you" to all who participated in this fundraiser through your purchases and contributions. I am humbled by both your thoughtfulness and generosity. I cannot express the amount of gratitude I have not only for your monetary support, but also for all your prayers. God listens.

Your brother in Christ,  
Carl Lozy

### **Celebrate Your Heritage in Food**

The Social Ministry Committee is hosting an International Potluck Dinner sometime early in 2013! This is a time to get out your favorite ethnic recipes, or your mother's or grandmother's recipes. While Pilgrim has Swedes, to be sure, we have now become a melting pot of many ethnicities: Italian, French, Portuguese, Hispanic, English, Irish, Lebanese, German, etc. This will be a wonderful time to celebrate our uniqueness and our oneness as part of the Pilgrim family. And I'm sure the food will be great!

The date will be announced soon. Look for a signup sheet will be on the bulletin board.

Thanks,  
Karin Kohl

## Sunday Readings – January 2013

### January 6 – The Epiphany of Our Lord

#### Isaiah 60:1–6

This is a passage and a day rich in promise: God promises to let the light of grace shine on God's people. As a result of this great gift of light and understanding, all nations will bring their treasures to thank God.

#### Ephesians 3:1–12

In this reading, Paul proclaims the new understanding that Jesus brought to him: God's mercy and grace is for all people. Gentiles are also included among God's people through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the promise which shapes the church that God wants us to be.

#### Matthew 2:1–12

Three wise men or *magi* from the east come to worship the baby Jesus. Right from the start we see that Jesus makes a difference by including Gentiles in his story.

### January 13 – The Baptism of Our Lord (First Sunday after the Epiphany)

#### Isaiah 43:1–7

God's promises to be with the people no matter what dangers they pass through. This presence of God is the Holy Spirit who holds them and us through all of life and death.

#### Acts 8:14–17

The apostles in Jerusalem were amazed that non-Jews accepted the word of God, they sent Paul, Peter, and John to ask the Holy Spirit to bless them. In fulfillment of the promises, the Holy Spirit came upon them.

#### Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

Baptism is about identity and mission. Jesus' baptism is the start of his ministry as God's *Messiah*, "anointed one". Jesus' mission will be bringing the Holy Spirit to people, including them in God's life.

### January 20 – The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

#### Isaiah 62:1–5

God rejoices over the people, not because they are special, but because they are living out God's life in their community life. The people become a light to the nations by their faithfulness to God's life.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:1–11

In dealing with a congregation in which some members looked down on other members who did not have certain gifts of the Holy Spirit, Paul reminds the people of Corinth that everyone has some kind of gift to share and because they are used for a common purpose, all spiritual gifts are important and essential to the church.

#### John 2:1–11

The wedding at Cana in Galilee reveals Jesus as the one who is able to create new things, even wine from water. This first of his signs will be part of the foundation of faith for his followers.

### January 27 – The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

#### Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

A rediscovery of the Book of the Law becomes the reason for renewal as God's people in Israel. At first, people mourn over hearing their sin in light of the Law of God, but Nehemiah and Ezra teach them that there is reason for joy in this because God is working salvation through their new understanding which brings them this awareness of their sin.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

One body, many members is how Paul sees the church in this reading. He recognizes that all have a place in the church, all bring something to our life together in Christ, and no gift, no matter how small, is a part of Jesus' plan for the church.

#### Luke 4:14–21

Jesus' teaching in his hometown of Nazareth was a statement of his mission as the anointed one. He teaches that his life and ministry will be a fulfillment of the scripture.

# SERVING in JANUARY 2013

## GREETERS

January 6 Susan Simundson  
January 13 Bill Dugan  
January 20 Bonnie Abols  
January 27 Bruce & Elaine Belvin

## READERS

January 6 Filomena Maisonet  
January 13 Lou Cardillo  
January 20 Sylvia Collins  
January 27 Susan Simundson

## ALTAR GUILD

January 6 Lisa Harrington  
Debbie Perri  
January 13 Priscilla Angelo  
Mary Brinson  
Pam Himebaugh  
January 20 Jennifer Cardillo  
Pat Frazier  
January 27 Cindy Cote  
Maureen Johnson

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

January 6 Karin Kohl  
January 13 Carl Lozy  
January 20 Carl Ostermann  
January 27 Carl Lozy

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

## ACOLYTES

January 6 Jocelyn Theroux  
January 13 Alexis Olson  
January 20 Jon O'Hara  
January 27 Andrew McLaughlin

## CONFIRMATION DINNERS

### Tuesday Evenings

January 8 **No meal** Staff Meeting/no kids  
January 15 Kristi Castor  
January 22 **No meal** Fellowship/Service  
January 29 the Sangsters

## USHERS

January 6 Scott Chappelle  
Bill Dugan  
Wendy Brusick & Greg Stiener  
January 13 Elaine Belvin  
John & Tina Carlson  
Scott Chappelle  
January 20 Lou Cardillo  
Scott Chappelle  
Cindy Cote  
Bonnie Donahue  
January 27 Scott Chappelle  
Jo-Anne Doyle  
Ron Fish  
Pam Himebaugh

## COUNTERS

January 6 Lou Cardillo and Laurie Linden  
January 13 Kathy Gremel and  
Tammy McLaughlin  
January 20 Chris Spencer and Lois Williams  
January 27 Cindy Cote and Maureen Johnson

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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



**January 2013**  
 Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
 1817 Warwick Avenue Warwick, Rhode Island 02889 401-739-2937  
[www.pilgrimlutheranri.org](http://www.pilgrimlutheranri.org)

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Church Office Hours</b> Tuesday—Friday 10:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.			<b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>  <i>No Confirmation</i> <i>Blessed New Year!</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 PK'S DAY OFF</b>  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>5</b> 10:00 Altar Guild Christmas Dismantling 10:00 Youth Group New Year Event
<b>6 The Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Spiritual Gifts Branch	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope  6:30 Confirmation - Staff Meeting/No Kids	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 Worship, Music & Arts	<b>11 PK'S DAY OFF</b>  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>12</b>	
<b>13 The Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion Annual Reports submission deadline	<b>14 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>15</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope  6:30 Confirmation - Creed 2	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 Toltory Cupboard 7:00 Council Meeting 7:00 Warwick Symphony Rehearsal in CLC	<b>18 PK'S DAY OFF</b>  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>19</b>	
<b>20 Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 5:00 Calumet Road Show	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope  6:30 Confirmation - Fellowship/Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24 St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor</b> 7:00 Warwick Symphony Rehearsal in CLC	<b>25 PK'S DAY OFF</b>  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>26 St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor</b>	
<b>27 Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Congregation Annual Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope  6:30 Confirmation - Creed 3	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:00 Warwick Symphony Rehearsal in CLC			
	7:00 Narcotics Anonymous						