



# Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
Warwick, Rhode Island  
May 2012

## 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

Kathy Gremel

### Sexton

Adam Kohl

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## June Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Tuesday, May 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.  
Many thanks!

## From Pastor Kohl

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

*"Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!"*  
This ancient Christian greeting is still appropriate even though this year Easter Day was on April 8. We continue to celebrate Easter not just as a day, but as a whole season in our life together and our life as individuals.

One of the great challenges of being a follower of Jesus is recognizing that everything we celebrate about our life with Jesus is not just an event, it is a whole way of living. We do this in the church because in Jesus we see the intersection of time and eternity. We are dealing in worship, not just with a once-and-done event. We are dealing with God's view of life, God's view of reality. This seeking to understand eternity from our perspective lived in the limits of time really stretches our language, our images, as well as our understanding. We really cannot fully understand the truths of our faith. That is why they are called "mysteries".

In theology, a mystery is not a problem to be solved as it is when we read a book or watch a show on TV. In the church, a mystery is something that we cannot explain. In fact the word "mystery" comes from a Greek word that means "to keep one's mouth shut". It is something we can neither understand nor explain.

Easter is one of those mysteries. The event of the resurrection of Jesus is not told in detail in the Bible. (Although there is a gospel, not in the New Testament, which goes into detail. It is called *The Gospel of Peter*.) What we do have is the results of the resurrection: people

are sent to tell about it. The church is sent to proclaim repentance and forgiveness. Faith is founded not on what one can see, but on the witness of someone else.

During Easter we read from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. This is Luke's second volume of the story of Jesus. The gospel with his name is the first volume. And I can write that it is the story of Jesus because the mystery of Easter means that Jesus continues to be present in the world now through the church, through you and me and all Christians down through the ages and living today. In that sense, the Book of Acts is our story—a kind of family album of our ancestors.

Because Christ is raised, the church is in the world: telling about Jesus, calling people to faith, and witnessing to the forgiveness we have found. It is the way Easter is celebrated, not just on April 8, but every other day of our lives. "Christ is Risen!" And he calls us to show that is true.

With hope,

*Paster Kohl*



## **Pastoral Acts**

### **Baptisms**

Hannah Jade Tucci



### **Funerals**



Corydon Loomis  
Edward Young



Our Pilgrim sister Beth Fish's daughter, Cheryl, her sister, Sue, and her niece, Betsy, are walking in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Boston on May 19-20 in Beth's honor.

This is a two-day, 39-mile walk. Each walker is required to raise \$1,800—the team hopes to raise \$5,400. They're on their way, but could use our help!

Please go to  
[www.avonwalk.org/goto/teambethfish](http://www.avonwalk.org/goto/teambethfish)  
to donate. Thanks!

## FROM PASTOR HARRIS

### GIVING OUR TREASURE AWAY

Dear Friends of Christ,

"The bible is the cradle that bears Christ." Martin Luther

Jesus comes to us, is made known to us, in water, word, bread, and wine. In other words, Word and Sacrament. It is no wonder that our weekly Sunday worship is built around the Word and at least one of the sacraments. This is also why we prefer to include baptisms as a part of our our weekly worship.

Interestingly, in order to have a sacrament, we need (in addition to some earthly stuff) a word from Jesus (command) and a word of promise. How is this word borne to us? By the Holy Scriptures—the Bible. Our Sunday liturgy has a lot of Bible in it. The three readings and the psalm are obvious. The sermon is closely tied to the scripture and is an exposition of it. Many of the words within the liturgy, often set to music, are from scripture such as holy, holy, holy...lamb of God...this is the feast...alleluia...on the night he was betrayed...and the Lord's Prayer, to name a few. Other things such as the creed and the prayers are based upon scripture and often use phrases from scripture. Those of you who participated in the Easter Vigil no doubt recall the service of readings. It sounded like Sunday School! Some of the greatest and most familiar stories were heard: creation, passing through the Red Sea, the fiery furnace, and the dry bones. Other stories often read at the Vigil service include the flood, the testing of Abraham, and Jonah.

Scripture is at the heart of who we are and what we do. Our belief, faith, and trust is not in the Bible, but rather our belief, faith, and trust is in Jesus who is revealed to us in the Bible. The ELCA's Book of Faith initiative calls the Bible our First Language of Faith. The Bible is important to us. This is a reason why the Virginia Owen Bible Fund exists, and we help parents present Bibles to our third graders.

So what about younger children? Augsburg Fortress, the publishing arm of the ELCA, has produced the Spark Story Bible. In my opinion, it is the best children's Bible I have ever seen.

Recently, one of my friends from high school days posted this to Facebook: "I've been reading a story book bible to M. each night, one little chapter at a time. Tonight we were about to read about Jesus' journey to the cross and I explained that it might be tough for her to learn and she could stop me at any time. She was wide eyed, throughout, and when I got to the part about Jesus' resurrection we both cried happy tears! My four year old understands, and loves Jesus, decades before I ever did. What an awesome gift!!" I asked if they had been reading the Spark Story Bible (she is a Lutheran), and she replied that it had been.

After receiving the Spark Story Bible, one of our Pilgrim young people began bringing it to Sunday School, First Communion class, and even to school! She is able to read this Bible.

Here is what we want to do: Give this treasure away.

In addition to giving this Bible to Sunday School children of the appropriate age, we want to give this Bible as a gift to every child who is baptized here at Pilgrim. Parents can begin to read it to their children who are baptized as infants. As the children grow, they can use it to learn to read. We are establishing the Story Bible Fund in order to assist with this. We hope that all who are able and who feel that the Bible is essential to the development of faith will contribute to this. This would make an excellent gift to the glory of God and in memory or honor of someone, or on the occasion or anniversaries of baptisms, confirmations, and birthdays. Singly these Bibles cost \$20, but when we buy 50 or more that price goes down to \$14—a bit more than a movie. You may find that you want to give this Bible as a gift to young people in your life. By having enough of these bibles on hand, we are able to offer the discounted price.

You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks. We hope that you will want to give this gift to the young people to whom Pilgrim ministers!

God's blessing,

*Pastor Harris*

## Congratulations, Graduates...



*Alison Canino will be graduating from Clark University this month with a B.A. in International Development and Social Change. Allie has accepted a position with the Sioux YMCA in Dupree, South Dakota as Program Development and Outreach Coordinator.*

*Catherine Fish will be graduating from Pilgrim High School as a member of both the National and Spanish Honor Societies. She has been accepted to URI in its Nursing program.*

*Eric Fish will be getting his Associates Degree from CCRJ as a member of the Dean's List. He is going on to URI and hopes to major in Kineseology.*

*Congratulations and Blessings to all  
from your Pilgrim Church Family!*

## *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 11, 2012** and **hand delivered** applications must be deposited into the Altar Guild mailbox (church office) by **11 a.m. on Sunday, May 13, 2012.**

Deadlines are firm and no exceptions will be made.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Harrington at 737-9977.

## Toiletries Bank to Begin This Month

A lively group of Pilgrim people intent on bearing Christ's love to the poor and needy in Warwick and beyond met for a time of food, fellowship, and brainstorming on April 11. The meeting began with an excellent meal provided and prepared by Bob and Gail Sangster.

The committee decided to continue to provide toiletries to the largely Latino ministry at St. Michael's in south Providence. It was also decided that because there were so many food pantries in the greater Warwick area, it might be more useful for Pilgrim Lutheran Church to serve as a sort of toiletry bank for the area, since toiletries are items that are often too costly to buy on a regular basis for people struggling to simply feed their families. Basic toiletry kits would be given out on a per month basis, and other items would be tailored to specific individual or family need. We are also hoping to provide a time of fellowship on toiletry pantry days with coffee and baked goods. If anyone is interested in providing coffee, baking, or acquiring donations of day old donuts from local donut shops, please speak with the Carlsons, Lindens, Sangsters, Maureen Johnson, or Karin Kohl.

Items needed for basic toiletry kits are as follows:

- Quart size Zip Loc bags
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Lotion
- Washcloth
- Comb
- Kleenex

Other items needed:

- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Band Aids
- Sanitary Items
- Diapers
- Depends
- Disposable razors
- Extra plastic storage bins (all sizes)
- Money donations are always appreciated

The pantry will be held beginning in May on the third Thursday of each month.

Thanks and blessings from  
*The Social Ministry Committee*

## APRIL CONGREGATION COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Financial Secretary reported income for the month of March for budgeted items of \$19,143.18 and for the year to date \$62,599.48. The year-to-date income for all ministries (food ministry, youth ministry, etc) was \$81,864.46.

The Treasurer reported expenses for the month of \$27,837.98. This included an insurance payment and a large natural gas bill. The budgeted expenses for the year have been \$63,514.21.

The New England Synod Assembly will be held from June 8 through 12 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Voting members from Pilgrim Church are Laurie and Fred Linden. Your prayers are requested as we elect a new bishop this June.

Watch the church web page [www.pilgrimlutheranri.org](http://www.pilgrimlutheranri.org). In the near future, people will be able to make donations to our ministry at that site.

The Social Ministry's toiletry bank for our communities will be opened on Thursday, May 17. It will distribute need supplies on the third Thursday of each month. Coffee and pastries will be served to our guests. If you can volunteer time to give a hand, please let the Social Ministry committee know by calling the church office.

Pastor Kohl will be teaching a class for all interested people in the fall. The first topic will be what happens when you die, according to the Bible.

A new offering counting procedure is being put into place. Teams of two members of the council, under the guidance of the Financial Secretary, Kathy Gremel, will be assigned to count the offerings every Sunday.

We are intentionally seeking ways for better integration of the Sunday School into the worshipping community of Pilgrim Church. Please share any ideas you have with either Pastor Kohl or Pastor Harris.

## Nursery Care Help Needed



Would you like to help with nursery care for the 9:30 a.m. service? One adult and one helper are needed each Sunday.

If you can help, please sign up on the sheet on the office bulletin board. Many thanks!

### *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 3, 2012. Please place completed applications in Elisabeth's mailbox in the church office.

Thank  
You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation of our Church for the support and love that you have shown Ron and my family as I have gone through treatment for cancer.

I cannot express how much strength I have received from knowing that you are there. From the beautiful prayer shawl, lovingly made, to the many cards, notes and flowers, I am truly blessed to be part of this church. I appreciate your continued prayers as my treatment continues.

In Christian Love,  
*Beth Fish*

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**The Social Ministry Committee** extends a great big "thank you" to the congregation and especially the Kitchen Ministry for helping to make our Palm Sunday pancake breakfast a resounding success! Thanks to all who donated so generously in both cash and toiletries. We reached our goal of raising \$450, which will be supplemented an additional \$150. by Thrivent, for a total of \$600.

These funds will go a long way towards supporting our new Toiletry Bank. Our first day of distribution is planned for Thursday, May 17. If you know of anyone who is in need, please spread the word to them. All are welcome. This will also be a time of fellowship and community over coffee and doughnuts.

God's blessings abound!

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**The Altar Guild** would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all of those that made a donation to our lovely Easter Memorial Garden in memory of their loved ones. Additionally, we'd like to express our gratitude to all who helped deliver plants to members of our Pilgrim Church community.

Your spirit and generosity during this Easter season has been very much appreciated. God bless our Pilgrim Family!

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**Elizabeth Harrington** would like to thank the good people of Pilgrim Lutheran Church who generously donated gently used prom dresses for her recent community service project at Wagner College. In total, seventeen dresses were collected to benefit teens in New York City!

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Thank you to all those who donated their magazines to my project. Your response far exceeded my expectations! I very much appreciate your help.

*Natalie Clark*

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**Thank you** to everyone who helped to make Holy Week and Easter a beautiful celebration of the central story of our Faith.

- To the Social Ministry/Kitchen Ministry groups for a great pancake breakfast
- To the Altar Guild who was on duty the whole week long
- To the Altar Guild for the new baptismal font in memory of Diane Fish
- To the choir for great music
- To musicians for sharing their gifts
- To lectors at the Vigil and throughout the week
- To the people who provided the wonderful fellowship time following the Vigil
- To the planners of the Vigil
- To our fire starter
- To our kids from Sunday School for their ASL (American Sign Language) presentation on Easter
- To all who gathered for forgiveness and to hear again the story of our Lord's passion and death and to celebrate the resurrection.

When we work together, God is glorified!

## Sunday Readings – May 2012

### May 6 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

#### Acts 8:26–40

Philip, the deacon, is sent by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of God's inclusive heart in Jesus Christ to a man who needs to know that he has a place in God's love. This man responds by being baptized into the community of the Church.

#### 1 John 4:7–21

The writer teaches that God is love and those who belong to God live as God's children; they share the gift of love with others.

#### John 15:1–8

Jesus uses "I am" statements to teach about his ministry throughout John's Gospel. Here the image is of a vine to which we must stay connected to produce the fruit of blessings for others. Our obedience to Jesus, living his life, is how we produce the fruit of good works. All this happens because Jesus' life has been given to us in Holy Baptism.

### May 13 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

#### Acts 10:44–48

God sends the Holy Spirit upon Gentiles to whom Peter is preaching. This is proof that God includes the whole human family among those who belong to Jesus.

#### 1 John 5:1–6

Obedience to God is the mark of our love for God.

#### John 15:9–17

This week's gospel continues the teaching of Jesus from May 6. Once again, Jesus reminds his people that his love sets the example for his followers. This is how we know we are friends of Christ: by our love for others.

### May 20 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

#### Acts 1:15–17, 21–26

In the days between the Ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process of filling the vacancy created by Judas' betrayal of Jesus. The number of Jesus' apostles is kept at twelve to mirror the twelve tribes of Israel. In this way the Church is understood to be a new Israel, a new people of God.

#### 1 John 5:9–13

Jesus is the source of eternal life for all people. Faith (or trust) in the grace we see in Jesus brings the gift of eternal life to us now.

#### John 17:6–19

Jesus prays for his followers: for us as well as those who have been his people throughout the centuries. His prayer is for us to be faithful and to be kept safe from the evil one. Jesus keeps us connected to himself by giving us his word, his truth about God.

### May 27 – The Day of Pentecost

#### Ezekiel 37:1–14

The vision of the valley filled with dry bones served as an illustration to ancient Israel (and for us) that God is able to bring life even when there seems to be no hope by our human standards. This is the power of God's Spirit.

#### Acts 2:1–21

Luke tells the birthday of the Church in this section of his second volume. The Holy Spirit calls and gathers the Church by sending the followers of Jesus into the world.

#### John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

Jesus promises us "the Advocate", the Holy Spirit, to help us bear witness to the grace and mercy of God in Jesus. All this comes from God the Father, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to be a source of blessing in the world.

# SERVING in MAY 2012

## GREETERS

May 6 Phyllis Blanchette  
May 13 John & Tina Carlson  
May 20 Verna Confreda  
May 27 Cindy Cote

## READERS

May 6 Allan Reed  
May 13 Filomena Maisonet  
May 20 Carl Lozy  
May 27 Susan Simundson

## ALTAR GUILD

May 6 Nancy Lewis  
Ginny Smith  
Helen Varin  
May 13 Lisa Harrington  
Debbie Perri  
May 20 Mary Brinson  
Pam Himebaugh  
Joan Schappert  
May 27 Jennifer Cardillo  
Pat Frazier  
Kitty Johnson  
Marion Kullberg

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

May 6 Carl Lozy

*Assisting Ministers are needed for the remainder of the month of May. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the office bulletin board.*

## ACOLYTES

May 6 Alexis Olson  
May 13 Stephen Johnson  
May 20 Beth White  
May 27 Molly Phillips

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

*Eucharistic Ministers are needed for the month of May. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the office bulletin board, or speak to Pastor Kohl, Pastor Harris, or Gayle Sangster for more information.*

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

May 6 Bill Dugan  
Linda Hughes  
May 13 John & Tina Carlson  
Bill Dugan  
Karin Kohl

*Communion Assistants are needed for the remainder of the month of May. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the office bulletin board.*

## USHERS

May 6 John & Tina Carlson  
Scott Chappelle  
Bill Dugan  
May 13 Scott Chappelle  
Jo-Anne Doyle  
Harry Eminger  
Earle Fish  
May 20 Scott Chappelle  
Ron Fish  
David Heden  
Pam Himebaugh  
May 27 Scott Chappelle  
Susan Horsch  
Linda Hughes  
Steve Lessard

## ALTAR FLOWERS

May 6 The Lesieur Family  
May 13 Joan & Dick Hamblin  
Joan & Jocelyn Theroux  
May 20 The Simundson-Cryan Family  
Joan Midwood & Family  
May 27 The Canino Family

## COUNTERS

May 6 Laurie Linden & Lois Williams  
May 13 Jared Breedon & Angel Maisonet  
May 20 Lou Cardillo & Tammy McLaughlin  
May 27 Mark Cheney & David Perri

## CONFIRMATION DINNERS

### Tuesday Evenings

May 1 **No meal** Service/Fellowship  
May 8 The Sangster Family  
May 15 **No meal** Staff Meeting - no kids  
May 22 & 29 TBA



**May 2012**  
**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>1</b> <i>Philip and James, Apostles</i> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation — Service/Fellowship	<b>2</b> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <i>Easter 5</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Lector Workshop	<b>7</b> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>8</b> 10:00 RI Pastors Conference Mtg. 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation- The Prophets	<b>9</b> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 7:00 Worship, Music & Arts	<b>11</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <i>Easter 6 Matthew's Day</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	<b>14</b> <i>Matthias, Apostle</i> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>15</b> <i>Progress Deadline</i> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation- Staff Meeting/ No Kids	<b>16</b> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> <i>The Ascension of Our Lord</i> Toiletry Bank—Time TBA 7:00 Congregation Council Meeting	<b>18</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>19</b> 11:30 Westberg Memorial Service
<b>20</b> <i>Easter 7</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	<b>21</b> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>22</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope. 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation - Class	<b>23</b> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	<b>28</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Church Office Closed 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>29</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation - Class	<b>30</b> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> <i>The Visitation</i>	7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	