



Pilgrims' Progress



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

OUR STAFF

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The Rev. Dennis Kohl

Associate Pastor

The Rev. Robert Harris

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Summer Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Friday, June 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. Thanks!

The Summer issue of the Progress will cover both the months of July and August.

From Pastor Kohl

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

Graduations are happening and the school year is coming to a close, so I would like to ask you to think about education. As you know, I have been a big advocate of adult education in our congregation. I believe it is essential for us to continue to consider and explore our faith to have a mature faith. If we do not, we may well be a person facing adult challenges with the faith of a kid who has just finished confirmation classes. Confirmation age people deal with a whole other set of issues than do adults in the world. Keep on learning.

But let me raise a totally unexpected part of adult education: unlearning. Yes, letting go of some of the things we have taken to heart over life. Not everything we have been taught in life provides the perspective we need as adult followers of Jesus.

Here are a few things that we need to unlearn over the course of life:

God requires us to be good to be accepted. As a kid, I learned this at those times when I was being naughty or fighting with my sister. When I was sent to my room, it was a kind of banishment to consider how to be good enough to be back in the family. The church has done this with people over the centuries also. In some traditions, controlling the gift of forgiveness has been a way to "keep people in their place", to maintain the hierarchy that seemed to give order to things. But look at Jesus: he does not require righteousness before allowing people into his heart. Like a physician coming to a sick person, Jesus came to people who knew they had not lived up to the standards of righteousness the religious folks set. As we seek to be faithful to Jesus as his body in the world, our doors are open to all who want to know the God Jesus reveals to us.

Never write in your Bible. This might seem strange to bring up, but I want you to think about what the Bible means for you. As kids we are taught that it is a holy book, something to be handled with the greatest of care, something to be put on the shelf and admired. As adults we need to learn how to handle and use this collection of writings that are in the Bible. We need to ask our questions about it, we need to struggle with some of the things in it; we need to open the Bible to the scrutiny that our curiosity brings to it. Don't worry: the Bible will continue to be a holy book even with critical examination. In fact, in doing this, the Bible will become a book closer and dearer to you.

Faith is about me. I need to worry about my relationship with God. No, faith is about our relationships that point outward from our lives. Faith is about what God has done and is doing in Jesus and his church. Faith is about serving the other. Faith is about putting our own concerns on the back burner so the other person can be blessed. That's why there is a cross with the one who showed us what love means on it at the center of our worship. When we welcome the cross in worship and when we watch it go out after the service, we are reminding ourselves that we have been served by the one who hangs on it. And we are sent to do the same: to serve, proclaim, and remember, as ways of including the other in our field of concern.

There's more to unlearn. The point is that we must all check our assumptions, talk with other Christians, and engage in worship where a vision of God's plan is celebrated. We must recognize that community is blessing (yes, even noisy kids and cranky seniors and smart-alecky theologians). And in doing such things as these we learn and grow and find a new way of seeing life and find ourselves to be transformed people, recognizing gifts around us and blessings that abound.

That's my hope and prayer for you this summer: keep on growing!

In Christ's service,

Paster Kohl

Pastoral Acts

Funerals



Olga Bell
Donald Brown
Patricia Pratt
Robert Tweedy

We Need to Talk...

On Sunday, June 24 following the late service, council members and pastors will gather with all who are interested in touching base on our life together as a community at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. In order to focus the conversation beyond information, I have prepared three questions for your reflection:

- In your opinion, what will/should Pilgrim Church be like in five years? How can you help?
- What speaks to you in our worship life?
- How do we spiritually shape our children and youth to be proponents for Jesus? How can you help?

If you cannot be there, I know the Congregation Council, Pastor Harris, and I would be interested in your thinking about these questions.

In hope,

Paster Kohl



FROM PASTOR HARRIS

Living into it.

In life, we encounter many things. Our circumstances shape who we are and our response to life. Sometimes these are circumstances beyond our control, sometimes we find ourselves in places we would rather not be. Sometimes it is chance. Other times we can see exactly how we arrived at the place we find ourselves. Sometimes we see how our decisions or actions influence our present circumstances. Genetics, environment, disease, and other people shape us. Of course, life is more complicated than this and we realize it is often a combination of things, predictable and not, of decisions, and outside events that shape our lives. So we "live into it".

There is something that is not a result of our decisions, but not random happenstance either. God chose us to be in relationship with God. The Father sent the Son into our lives to claim us. We are entered into a relationship with God that will not end.

So how do we live into that?

There is no one right way, of course. I do think we are given a trajectory, however, based upon Jesus' own life.

We try and lead lives of love. We love those whom Jesus loved, the poor, the outcast, the sinner, the ones who hurt, the ones on the fringes.

We serve others: friend, family, and stranger.

We live lives of thanksgiving to the one who gives us life. We worship, praise, and adore the one who gives us life and forgiveness.

We forgive, even as we have been forgiven. (Even those who do not deserve it.)

We give ourselves to others and support those who do also.

We live as part of the community, offering mutual care, conversation, and consolation.

We pray for each other, even for those who are the other.

We study the Word of God and endeavor to listen to it.

We share meals together, especially that meal given to us by Jesus.

We share the good news of the reign of God with others.

The list goes on.

Of course, we do not always do a good job of living into it, of doing these things as a response to what God has done for us. So we receive the forgiveness that is offered to us by our loving God. God turns us around from going our own way and onto this path of love.

It is a process that we never finish on this side of the resurrection. We live into it.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Harris

Why is the Baptismal Font Placed in the Center Aisle?

Since Easter of this year, 2012, the baptismal font stands in the center aisle of the nave; beyond it is the table of the Lord. Baptism is a sacrament of entrance into Christ's community; the Table is the sacrament of hospitality.

In that placement, the baptismal font shows that we enter the church through baptism. Water washes us, water nourishes life, and water visibly flows over the baptized with the words that God loves us. Water is visible; we can feel it, see it. We can make ourselves wet again by dipping a finger in the water to trace a cross on our forehead – remembering our baptism. Water in the bowl shows that faith is more than words; it is a visible sign of past action that has made us the forgiven people of Christ's community. We walk past that sacramental sign to be welcomed at and fed at the Table.

ELW Hymn #652, *Built on a Rock*, was written by the Danish Pastor/Bishop, Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig. The arms of the cross-shaped base enclose a rock worn smooth by the waters of Narragansett Bay. We enter the church through baptism, and the hymn reminds us, "Built on a rock the church shall stand, even when steeples are falling." The church is a community built upon the rock of faith in Christ Jesus.

Baptism is not solely about the community of Pilgrim. Baptism sends us into the world with the Word. On the credence table, to the side of the font, the water, bread, and wine are placed for the sacraments. The legs of the table are held together with wooden pegs from the lands where people of faith baptize and teach. They are of the teak from Asia, ebony from Africa, and mahogany of the American hemispheres. Baptism calls us to mission that others may hear Christ's words and be God's "house of living stones" built on Christ.

Luther remembered his baptism when he washed his face each morning. In washing and cleansing we also can remember our baptism in that simple act. We are Christ's people living in a world remembering who we are. Passing beside the font, remember Grundtvig's words that declare the promises bestowed with baptism:

"I know my own, my own know me;
You, not the world, my face shall see;
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

From Worship, Music and Arts

Congratulations, Graduates...



Michael Gannon will be graduating from Weston High School in MA in June, and will be attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN in the fall. Michael is Marion Kullberg's grandson.

Alexia Medici, granddaughter of Howard and Nancy Lewis, will be graduating from St. Mary's Academy Bay View as a member of both the National and Rhode Island Honor Societies. She will be attending URI in the fall.

Lyndsey Supernault will be graduating from Warwick Veterans Memorial High School as a member of the Rhode Island, National, and Spanish Honor Societies. She has been accepted into the talent development program at URI majoring in nursing.

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

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH TOILETRY CUPBOARD

**Thursday morning
June 21, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**



Free distribution of kits containing soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotions, etc.

If you or someone you know is in need of any of these items, let us help!

Congregation Council Highlights May 2012

Finances

- Budget income for 2012 \$88,974.75
- Budget Expenses for 2012 \$82,678.34
- Total income for 2012 \$108,724.75

Social Ministry

- The **Toiletry Cupboard** will have its first day of serving on Thursday, June 21 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- A minimum of 43 **boxes of food** is sent from here to families throughout the state. In addition food is delivered weekly to several locations in Warwick, Providence and South County.

Finance Committee

- Our Associate Pastor's **compensation** is not included in the budget. We need regular, monthly support to be able to keep him current in compensation.
- Encouraging more people to participate in the **Simply Giving program** for automatic deductions from checking accounts will be emphasized.
- A **Leap-A-Week** mailing will go to the congregation before the summer months begin.

Community Notes

- The **Church Picnic** will be held on Sunday, June 10 after the later service, sponsored by our Sunday Church School.
- A **Congregation Conversation** is scheduled for Sunday, June 24 following the latter service. **The last day for classes** for the Church School is June 10. Classes will begin again on Sunday, September 9.

Youth

- **Confirmation Classes** end on May 29 with a "Last Supper" for the kids and staff. This will be a potluck meal with festivities.
- Pilgrim Youth (and young at heart) are invited to be part of an **integrated youth group** with youth who are challenged. Meeting will be held on one Saturday each month starting in the fall. Each session will include an activity and preparation of food for homeless shelters throughout the state.

Giving Our Treasure Away! The Story Bible Fund

Over the years, we've given Bibles to Sunday School children of the appropriate age. We'd like to start giving the Spark Story Bible as a gift to every child who is baptized here at Pilgrim.

Parents can begin to read this excellent children's Bible to their kids 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 the fund. This would make an excellent gift to the glory of God and in memory of or in 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 the price of 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.

Please consider contributing to the Story Bible Fund to help us give away the treasure of God's Word to our kids! There is a copy on display in the narthex...take a look!

Church Picnic Sunday, June 10 Rain or shine!



Pilgrim's Sunday School is sponsoring a picnic and the whole congregation is invited! Hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes, and drinks will be served and there will be lots of lawn games—sack races, three-legged race, and water balloon toss.

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the office bulletin board so that we know how many to expect.

All are welcome!



The library committee has decided that the library is in great need of some overhaul. In particular we need to delete many books whose theology runs contrary to our own tradition, and replace them with books on Lutheran theology and practice. We also want to include ecumenical and interfaith books, but since the library is considered to be an arm of Christian education in our church, we feel that it is important to include literature for the strengthening of our faith as Lutherans. Since the greater RI ELCA clergy meet weekly in the church parlor, an enhanced library could prove to be a useful resource in this regard too.

Instead of coming to the council with an already stretched budget to ask for money to replenish the library, we thought it might be better to ask if individuals might buy a book or two. Donations could be made in memory or in honor of someone, and the person's name could be put on a bookplate. For the next several months, we will be including some categorized lists of books in the newsletter-books that we would like to see included in the library. We also welcome your ideas also. Run them by Ginny Smith or myself and we'll see how they might work here. Finally, if you do make a donation, make a check payable to Pilgrim Lutheran, and put "library" on the memo line.

Many thanks,

Karin Kohl and Ginny Smith
Library Committee

WORSHIP

Why worship matters, by Robert A. Rimbo (Augsburg Fortress, 2004) \$9.99
Central Things, by Gordon Lathrop (Augsburg Fortress, 2005) \$9.99
Centripetal Worship, by Timothy J. Wengert (Augsburg Fortress, 2007) \$9.99
Christian Assembly, by Gordon W. Lathrop and Timothy J. Wengert (Augsburg Fortress, 2004) \$19.00
The Oxford History of Christian Worship, Geoffrey Wainwright, ed. (Oxford U. Press, 2005) \$41.29
A Three-Year Banquet: The Lectionary for the Assembly, by Gail Ramshaw (Augsburg Fortress, 2004) \$9.99
The Four Gospels on Sunday: The New Testament and the Reform of Christian Worship, by Gordon W. Lathrop (Fortress Press, 2011) \$32.34

MUSIC

Thine the Amen: Essays on Lutheran Church Music, Carlos R. Meserli, ed. (Lutheran U. Press, 2005) \$26.00
Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song, by Brian Wren (Westminster John Knox Press, 2000) \$19.80
Te Deum: The Church and Music, by Paul Westermeyer ((Augsburg Fortress, 1998) \$16.66

PRAYER

Luther's Prayers, by Martin Luther (Augsburg, 1994) \$10.19
The Celtic Way of Prayer, by Esther De Waal (1999) \$10.19
Where God Meets Man, by Gerhard O Forde (Augsburg, 1972) \$ 12.50

LUTHERAN THEOLOGY

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings, Timothy Lull, Ed. (Augsburg, 2005) \$43.20
Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and its Confessional Writings, by Eric W. Gritsch and Robert W. Jenson (Augsburg Fortress, 1976) \$16.00
She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse, by Elizabeth A. Johnson (2002) \$18.98
God For Us: The Trinity and Christian Life, by Catherine M. LaCugna (1993) 21.99
God and Human Suffering, by Douglas John Hall (1987) \$23.00
On Being a Theologian of the Cross: Reflections on Luther's Heidelberg disputation, 1518
by Gerhard O. Forde (1997) \$15.67
The Christian Theology Reader, Alister E. McGrath, Ed. (2011) \$39.74
The Disabled God: Toward a Liberatory Theology of Disability, by Nancy L. Eisland (1994) \$19.00
Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith, by Martin Marty (Augsburg, 2007) \$13.11
The Source of Life, by Jurgen Moltmann (Fortress, 1997) \$18.00
Fortress Introduction to the Lutheran Confessions, by Gunther Gassmann (Augsburg Fortress, 1999) \$14.60
On Being Lutheran: Reflections on Church, Theology, and Faith, by Timothy F. Lull (Augsburg Fortress, 2006) \$11.99

Sunday Readings – June 2012

June 3 – The Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:1–8

Isaiah has a vision of God enthroned in the temple. This vision is terrifying, but it also changes Isaiah's life forever. He is sent to preach and to be God's representative and spokes person.

Romans 8:12–17

The Holy Spirit makes us "children of God" and heirs of eternal life. The Holy Spirit does this by teaching us that God is our "Abba", an Aramaic word that means "Daddy". The Holy Spirit teaches us that the all powerful God we meet in Isaiah wants to be in relationship to us.

John 3:1–17

In this text, we see the ultimate step God took to relate to us: God dwelt among us in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. This action cannot be explained by logic, but Christians accept this truth to be a sign of God's connection to the human family.

June 10 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 3:8–15

The sin of Adam and Eve is revealed in their understanding of being naked. In this section of the story of the Garden of Eden, God brings judgment upon the forces of evil that brought this understanding to humans.

2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1

"So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day." With these words, Paul seeks to give the followers of Jesus a new understanding, a new way of looking at life, knowing in the end, God will provide the new being which we see in Jesus' resurrection.

Mark 3:20–35

In this text, Jesus is accused of being out of his mind and possessed by Beelzebul, the ruler of demons. This charge is brought by the religious authorities in Jerusalem who make the accusation to make sense out of someone whose actions do not fit with their idea of purity and holiness. Jesus makes a logical argument of why his work could not be from evil powers: a house divided against itself cannot stand.

June 17 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22–24

The prophet speaks about Israel as a "sprig", a small thing from which a great tree will emerge. All this is the work of God. We learn that God uses the smallest of things to do great things. That is still true today.

2 Corinthians 5:6–10[11–13] 14–17

"We walk by faith, not by sight." Faith is a new way of seeing ourselves, others, the work of God, everything that comes our way. With this new faith-determined vision, we approach life with hope.

Mark 4:26–34

Jesus often teaches from nature. Our gospel reading tells two of Jesus' parables about seeds. He marvels at how the seed grows of itself, how it becomes what it is. He also teaches from the mustard seed: a small seed that grows into something big enough to provide shelter of the birds of the air. Both these pictures in parables are to teach us about God's reign that comes because God wills it and includes all kinds of creatures.

June 24 – John the Baptist

Malachi 3:1–4

The book of Malachi is the last book in our Old Testament. It points us to the future and to the prophet who will come, calling people to consider their lives and the ways in which their lives need to be realigned with God's will. For us, these words speak about the John the Baptizer whose birthday we celebrate on this day.

Acts 13:13–26

Paul preaches the good news to people in Antioch of Pisidia. In doing this, he proclaims what God had done and tells them the story of God's work in history, including the role of John as one who also preached the call to repentance.

Luke 1:57–80

In six months the Church will celebrate Christmas. June 24 is celebrated as the birthday of John the Baptizer. John comes into the world to prepare the way for God's anointed one. This text celebrates his birth as a part of God's plan for salvation.



June 2012
 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 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.						
3 <i>The Holy Trinity</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Kids' Liturgy—Chapel 9:30 Holy Communion/Baptisms 10:30 Altar Guild Meeting	4 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	5 10:00 Pastors' Pericope	6 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	8 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous <i>New England Synod Assembly</i> <i>Springfield, MA</i> <i>June 8-10</i>	9 3:00 Richards/Garcia Wedding
10 <i>Pentecost 2</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Church Picnic	11 <i>St. Barnabas, Apostle</i> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	12 10:00 RI Conference Churches Pastors' Mtg. 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min.	13 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14 7:00 Worship, Music & Arts Meeting	15 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Pilgrim's Progress Deadline 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	16
17 <i>Pentecost 3</i> FATHER'S DAY 8:00 Holy Communion 8:30-12:30 Blood Drive 9:30 Holy Communion	18 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	19 10:00 Pastors' Pericope	20  <i>Summer Begins</i> 7:00 Nicene Creed Study	21 10:00 Toiletry Cupboard 7:00 Congregation Council Meeting	22 PASTOR'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	23
24 <i>The Nativity of John the Baptist</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Congregation Conversation	25 <i>Presentation of the Augsburg Confession 1530</i> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	26 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min.	27 7:00 Nicene Creed Study	28	29 PASTOR'S DAY OFF <i>St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles</i> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	30

SERVING in JUNE 2012

GREETERS

June 3 Cindy Cote
June 10 Jim & Jo-Anne Doyle
June 17 Earle & Ella Fish
June 24 Lisa Harrington

READERS

June 3 Helen Varin
June 10 Roy Wagner
June 17 Joanne Lozy
June 24 Sylvia Collins

ALTAR GUILD

June 3 Nancy Lewis
Ginny Smith
Helen Varin
June 10 Cindy Cote
Maureen Johnson
June 17 Nancy Derby
Joanne Lozy
Connie Radican
Susan Simundson
June 24 Jo-Anne Doyle
Muriel Linden
Linda Phillips

ASSISTING MINISTERS

June 3 Carl Lozy
June 10 Karin Kohl
June 17 Tina Carlson
June 24 Carl Lozy

COUNTERS

June 3 Cindy Cote
Steve Phillips
June 10 Kathy Gremel
Clinton Smith
June 17 Lois Williams
Chris Spencer
June 24 Maureen Johnson
Joan Theroux

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers are needed for the month of June. 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

June 10 Dody & Bob Matthias
June 17 John Carlson
Bill Dugan

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

USHERS

June 3 Scott Chappelle
Steve Lessard
Laurie Linden
Ruth Lundin
June 10 Scott Chappelle
Pete Mahoney
John Merrill
Rick Nelson
June 17 Scott Chappelle
Connie Radican
Allan Reed
Kristen Resendes
June 24 Scott Chappelle
Susan Simundson
Betty Wagner
Roy Wagner

ALTAR FLOWERS

June 3 Marion and Richard Lundin
June 10 The Doyle and Morales Families
June 17 Available
June 24 Available

ACOLYTES

June 3 Audrey Cryan
June 10 Nichole Morales
June 17 Madison Almonte
June 24 Andrew McLaughlin