



Pilgrims' Progress



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

OUR STAFF

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October Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Saturday, September 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!

From Pastor Kohl

Dear Friends of Christ,

When does worship begin for you? That might seem like a strange question to ask because usually we think of worship as beginning when we get to the church building. But worship might begin for you before you arrive at church or while you are arriving at church. Let me explain.

Worship is called *liturgy* which comes from some Greek words that means "work of the people". That means worship is not a spectator event, it is the work we do when we come together to thank and praise God for all the gifts we have received. But there is a way in which we might think of liturgy as "the *workout* of the people".

Like going to the gym, there are times (maybe most of the time) when we go to a place we do not want to go, at a time that we do not want to be there, to do something we might not want to do but which we know is good for us. It is that way with worship. Yes, it is inconvenient. Yes, it is in a place that we have to travel to get to. Yes, things don't always go as we wish they had. And yet, like going to the gym, we know deep down, that for the long haul, being at worship will be good for us.

You see, the world around us focuses so much on the physical things in life that we may forget that another part of what we need to pay attention to is our spiritual or emotional self. What kind of person are you becoming? This is where the workout of the people can be important. This is why liturgy matters, why worship matters. It is in worship that our full

selves come into God's presence. And it is in worship that a community of people whose variety is vastly different from people we might meet in our regular routines gathers.

So worship begins for many before arriving at church by praying for the community that gathers, by reading the Scriptures we will read together ahead of time, by welcoming one another, not as strangers who we might see in the grocery store, but as sisters and brothers, people with a common purpose: to hear God's Word and to receive the grace of God in the Sacraments which Jesus gave the church.

Such things call us beyond ourselves. These kinds of practices encourage our souls to expand, our minds to open, our awareness to be enlarged, and our lives to be blessed. In the workout of the people (unless one chooses to be a spectator) the Holy Spirit is creating you and all who gather into new beings. In worship we are re-created as the children of God.

And for the long haul, that is a very good thing!

See you at worship!

Paster Kohl



Sunday School begins on September 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Hey Kids, age 3 through Grade 6...
be sure join us for a great year
learning about Jesus!
We can't wait to see you
in Sunday School!

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Robert Cruz Masters
John Dennis McElroy, Jr.
Merrill Lynn McElroy
Matthew John Palumbo, Jr.
Damian John Petrarca
Courtney Marie (McElroy) Petrarca
Matthew Philip Watkins
Carl William Young



Marriages



Michael Berluti & Lisa Panebianco
Matthew Pallini & Nadine Parmenter
Garry Marshall & Kelly Rebocho

Funerals

Lois Barone
Alisha Confreda
Robert Corcoran
Dorothy Friberg
Edith Johnson
Jacqueline Lopes
Ronald Marshall
Helen Nicholls
Edward Pike
Michael Scott
Marjorie Soares
Ethel Feldon Sweatt
James Turnertora



FROM PASTOR HARRIS GIVING THE DEVIL THE RASPBERRY

In our baptismal liturgy, (and thus the affirmation of baptism, and so this includes confirmation) there is a profession of faith. Part of this is the question and response form of the Church's ancient baptismal creed, the Apostle's Creed. It starts off with a question to get us ready: "I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church." The Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) includes "the faith in which we baptize" after the word Church. The Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) does not.

Then the candidates for baptism, including parents and sponsors of young children, are addressed (the renunciations):

From the LBW:

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
I do.

From the ELW:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

Basically the same thing. I prefer the ELW version. It more closely resembles the ancient form used by the Church. I like the three articles of the Creed contrasted with the three renunciations. The Triune God responds to the evil three of the world (it is there for the LBW, just not as noticeable without the question/response). Of course, God is much more powerful than the devil/world/evil stuff—these are not simple opposites. You may remember all this being used in the film "The Godfather" very powerfully, in which Michael Corleone was not renouncing much of anything, and trusting in his own power. I love the stronger words used as a response in ELW, "I renounce them!" Much stronger than "I do". Sometimes the whole congregation responds with the renunciations as well as with the Creed. It is a good reminder that we are all in this together.

Both, however, are giving the devil (and all the against-God stuff) the raspberry. Basically, telling the devil to go to hell. I will leave it to the reader to make connections to other colloquialisms. So feel free to give a liturgical raspberry at the appropriate time!

Luther writes this: "Remember, therefore, that it is no joke to take sides against the devil and not only to drive him away from the little child, but to burden the child with such a mighty and lifelong enemy. Remember, too, that it is very necessary to aid the poor child with all your heart and strong faith, earnestly to intercede for him that God, in accordance with this prayer, would not only free him from the power of the devil, but also strengthen him, so that he may nobly resist the devil in life and death. And I suspect that people turn out so badly after baptism because our concern for them has been so cold and careless; we, at their baptism, interceded for them without zeal."

Thankfully, even if we cannot quite make true renunciations (like the Godfather), if we cannot do them ourselves (as a child cannot), if our intercessions are weak, the Triune God prevails. We are still children of God, marked with the life-giving cross of Jesus and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever. We live into them and finally are made perfect at the end.

God's blessings,

Pastor Rob Harris



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

The New England Synod invites you to a Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Consecration and Installation of

The Reverend James E. Hazelwood as the Third Bishop of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Saturday, September 29, 2012

at 2:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

73 Lancaster Street

Worcester, MA

A reception will follow at Trinity.

*Additional information is available at
www.nesynod.org*

**American Parkinson Disease
Association's Annual Race, Walk,
and Roll at Goddard State Park
on Saturday, September 15, 2012**

Join Team Pilgrim for the American Parkinson Disease Association's Annual Race, Walk, and Roll at Goddard State Park on Saturday, September 15, 2012! We honor Pilgrim's own Bruce Belvin, who always walks along with us. There are 1,800 families in this small state of Rhode Island who are affected by this disease. The Race, Walk, and Roll is an official 5K run and a 1.5 mile walk. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Carousel House. It is a great time of fun and fellowship...even if you can't do the run or the walk, please come down and support Team Pilgrim! A signup sheet is posted in the narthex. For more information, contact Laurie Linden at 941-3302 or at lalinden1@verizon.net.



**German Exchange Student
Looking for Host Family**

A life changing opportunity: have you ever thought about hosting an exchange student? A 16-year-old girl from Germany is looking for a host family to stay with for a year. If you would like to know more about her or about the experience of being a host family for an exchange student, please speak with Pastor Kohl.



Here's an opportunity to help kids who might not be able to afford it to get to Camp Calumet, and it involves our own Jim Doyle (the son, not the dad). Jim will be running in the Reach the Beach relay on September 14 and 15. It is a 200 mile run in just 24 hours! (No pressure there!) Jim's team will have 12 members, and you can see them all on his webpage: www.stayclassy.org/jimdoyle. You can help by making a donation to support Jim and his team on the webpage or by sending a check to Jim at **Camp Calumet, P.O. Box 236, West Ossipee, NH 03890**. In the memo line please write "RTB - Jim Doyle". By the way, Jim is one of the co-directors for the resident campers program (the kid's camp) at Calumet. Other members of Pilgrim who will be involved are Susan and John O'Hara. They have been important resource people in the family camping program. Thanks for helping in this ministry of Christian community!

What happens when you die according to the Bible?

That question will be the topic for discussion at our next Monday evening Adult Education time. **On Mondays, September 17 and 24 we will gather at 7:00 p.m. to discuss this topic.** Please come if you are curious or want to get to know your fellow members of Pilgrim Church better. All are welcome!

Difficult Conversations, Part 2

An Adult Education opportunity will begin on Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. This class will deal mostly with topics that were not broached in the last course, as well as several repeats, so that we can see how things have changed in the past year.

Topics will include:

- atheism, theism, and local public policy
- healthcare and equality/inequality of care
- violence, guns, and gun control
- Lutheran support for Israel and Palestine
- church and public policies on things harmful to the body, how they are peddled and lead to addiction, different lifestyles, violence, and suicide
- wealth, poverty, and the middle class
- Jesus' views on money vs. our public policies
- body image, stigma, and the incarnation
- the digital world vs. the actual world – how does this fit in with the incarnation?
- living as a Christian in a multi-cultural world.

This class will be taught by Karin Kohl. There will be no class on October 2 and 9.

Please feel free to let Karin know about any topics that you may be interested in exploring.

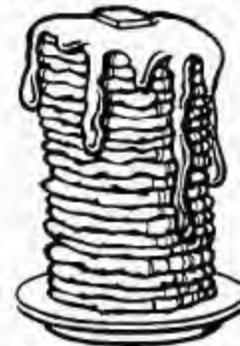
Pilgrim to Welcome New Members on September 16, 2012

Pilgrim Lutheran Church will welcome new members on Sunday, September 16 at the 9:30 service. Membership in a congregation means a commitment to share the life of that community of God's people, to be present for worship and to support the community's work by prayer and financial gifts. We are blessed to have people with long histories at Pilgrim Church, but also welcome the new ideas, vision, and energy that others bring to us. In a sense all congregations are always in flux, changing as our world changes. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this community, please speak with Pastor Kohl or Pastor Harris. We would be grateful for sharing life together as God's Holy Spirit calls us into the future.

BUFFET BREAKFAST

Sunday morning, September 16

following both services



Please join us for a delicious buffet breakfast on Sunday morning, September 16 following both the 8:00 and 9:30 service and help us to welcome the newest members of our Pilgrim family. Enjoy freshly made eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, breakfast potatoes, fruit, OJ...and it wouldn't be a good Lutheran breakfast without fresh coffee (and tea)! Be sure to sign up on the sheet posted on the office bulletin board so we know to expect you!

Confirmation 2012-2013

- Classes for students in 7th through 9th grades
- Tuesday evenings: 6:30 – 8:15
- First class: Tuesday, October 2
- Orientation for all kids and families: Tuesday, September 25 at **7:00 p.m.**

Confirmation classes are a practice in our Lutheran tradition to help young people understand themselves as children of God and servants of Jesus. It comes at a time when their lives are opening to the world, stepping out somewhat from family and exploring new friendships. We take all that seriously in our time with these young women and men.

At Pilgrim Church, our confirmation program is three years long. Each of the three years has a theme or topic we consider: the Bible, the Catechism (life and worship as Christians), and what we call "hot topics" when we consider issues our young people deal with at school and other places. In 2012-2013 we will study *the Small Catechism*, basics of our Faith. The program is based on four necessary functions of our faith: worship, education, fellowship, and service to others. All of these are expected as we seek to help our young people form their faith and become part of the Christian community, the Church.

This is a ministry we share with St. Paul Church here in Warwick. The teachers for the classes are Pastor Reardon (St. Paul) and Pastors Kohl and Harris. Several adults also work with our youth in small groups. These adults have been blessings to our students who find an adult they can trust and someone who cares about them even though they are not connected to them by family.

While the classes are designed for teenagers, all people are welcome at the classes, which begin about 7:00 p.m. following a meal at 6:30.

If you have a family member or someone who wants to be part of this group, please call the church office and leave his or her name, contact information, and grade.

Many thanks!

Pastor Kohl



It's blood drive time again!

The Rhode Island Blood Center will be at Pilgrim on
Sunday, September 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If you or someone you know is able to give, please set this time aside on your calendar. Should you have any questions or need further information, or would like to help out with organizing or publicizing the blood drive, please contact Kristen Resendes at 737-5924. Thank you!

Sunday Readings – September 2012

September 2 – Pentecost 14

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

In this sermon attributed to Moses, God is reminding the people to follow the Law which God has given them. In doing this the people will find blessings and they will show how near God is to the people, how deeply God loves them.

James 1:17–27

This Sunday we begin reading from the Letter from James. One of the important items which the author addresses is how our lifestyle shows the compassion of God. Here the author deals with anger, living the word, and how we speak to others. This reading concludes with the reminder that to live out the good news is to "keep oneself unstained by the world"—to live by values which the world does not treasure.

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Jesus and the Pharisees have a confrontation in this reading. Their unconcern is defilement by eating the wrong stuff. Jesus concern is defilement by saying and doing selfish and hurtful things.

September 9 – Pentecost 15

Isaiah 35:4–7a

Isaiah gives a word of hope to us: "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God." God comes to renew the people and bless the whole creation.

James 2:1–10[11–13] 14–17

A crucial question throughout the early church was how Christians welcomed others. In those days, people only paid attention to others who were of similar economic or social status. Jesus' people are radical in that they do not pay attention to such things, but welcome all as God in Christ welcomed us.

Mark 7:24–37

Jesus heals a Gentile woman's daughter and a man who could not hear. In both these events we see the power of God and the desire of God to create wholeness from limitations. This is what we call grace.

September 16 – Pentecost 16

Isaiah 50:4–9a

This servant of the Lord faces suffering and persecution knowing that God is the one who finally sets all things right. "It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?"

James 3:1–12

How Christians speak to and about one another is another concern of the writer of the Letter of James. Our words can cause trouble. In this passage, we are encouraged to remember that as we speak.

Mark 8:27–38

Even his disciples did not understand Jesus. Even though Peter thought Jesus was the Messiah (the Anointed one, one sent by God with a purpose), he misunderstood what that meant. Suffering and death and resurrection was not anyone's expectation of the Messiah. Jesus even announces that following him would not be an easy path, but in the end a life-giving one.

September 23 – Pentecost 17

Jeremiah 11:18–20

Jeremiah laments being used by others because of his meekness, but ultimately trusts that God will bring redemption and justice.

James 3:13–4:3; 4:7–8a

Conflict grows from sin. Sin is the results of self-centeredness. As we consider this, we seek the presence of the living God who is always coming to be with us.

Mark 9:30–37

Again Jesus predicts his death and resurrection, and again the disciples don't understand. Finally Jesus uses a teaching aid: a little child. The openness, the vulnerability, the readiness to trust in the child is the model for life for the followers of Jesus.

September 30 – Pentecost 18

Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29

Among God's people, one person alone is not able to deal with all the issues that arise. Here God directs Moses to gather a team of 70 people to help in leading the community to its new life in the Promised Land.

James 5:13–20

How Christians care for one another is the concern of James in this section. Whether it is illness or spiritual sickness, wandering away from the community or someone being stuck in sinful behavior, it is the ministry of the whole community to reconnect and bring healing.

Mark 9:38–50

Jesus is open to collaborative ministry: "Whoever is not against us is for us." But ministry is not only what we do, it is what we are careful *not* to do what might cause another to fall away from Jesus.



September 2012

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Pentecost 14 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Holy Communion	3 LABOR DAY Office Closed 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	4 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 Altar Guild Executive Meeting	7 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	1 8
9 Pentecost 15 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 First Day of Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	10 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	11 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry	12 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13 7:00 Worship, Music & Arts	14 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal <i>Holy Cross Day</i>	15 PROGRESS DEADLINE 9:00 Parkinson's Race, Walk & Roll Goddard Park
16 Pentecost 16 <i>Buffet Breakfast after both services</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion—New Member Welcome—Sunday School Teacher Installation—Bible Presentations	17 7:00 What Happens After? 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	18 10:00 RI Conference Pastors' Meeting 7:00 Difficult Conversations 2	19 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20 10:00 Toiletry Cupboard 7:00 Congregation Council Meeting	21 St. Matthew, Apostle PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	22
23 Pentecost 17 8:00 Holy Communion 8:30 Blood Drive 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 10:30 Altar Guild General Meeting	24 7:00 What Happens After? 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	25 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 Confirmation Orientation 7:00 Difficult Conversations 2	26 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	27	28 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	29 St. Michael and All Angels 2:00 Bishop Hazelwood installation at Trinity—Worcester, MA
30 Pentecost 18 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	Church Office Hours Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.					

SERVING in SEPTEMBER 2012

GREETERS

September 2	Carolyn & Bruce Vittner
September 9	Roy Wagner
September 16	Christine Kirsch Renee Woodward
September 23	Bruce & Elaine Belvin
September 30	Michele Tucci

READERS

September 2	Lois Williams
September 9	Mary Brinson
September 16	Ruth Lesieur
September 23	Mark Cheney
September 30	Morgan Lepore

ALTAR GUILD

September 2	Jennifer Cardillo Pat Frazier Kitty Johnson
September 9	Jo-Anne Doyle Muriel Linden Linda Phillips
September 16	Cindy Cote Maureen Johnson
September 23	Nancy Derby Joanne Lozy Connie Radican Susan Simundson
September 30	Nancy Lewis Ginny Smith Helen Varin

ASSISTING MINISTERS

September 2	Carl Lozy
September 9	Karin Kohl
September 16	<i>Needed...please sign up!</i>
September 23	Tina Carlson
September 30	Karin Kohl

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

USHERS

September 2	Elaine Belvin Wendy Brusick & Greg Stiener Scott Chappelle
September 9	John & Tina Carlson Scott Chappelle Bill Dugan
September 16	Lou Cardillo Cindy Cote Bonnie Donahue
September 23	Scott Chappelle Jo-Anne Doyle Ron Fish David Heden
September 30	Scott Chappelle Pam Himebaugh Susan Horsch Linda Hughes

ALTAR FLOWERS

September 2	<i>Available</i>
September 9	Stan and Deb DeAngelis
September 16	Evelyn Doyle Marie Grist
September 23	<i>Available</i>
September 30	The Wagner Family

ACOLYTES

September 2	Nichole Morales
September 9	Jon O'Hara
September 16	Alexis Olson
September 23	Audrey Cryan
September 30	Madison Almonte

COUNTERS

September 2	Laurie Linden Lois Williams
September 9	Jared Breedon Angel Maisonet
September 16	Lou Cardillo Tammy McLaughlin
September 23	Mark Cheney David Perri
September 30	Cindy Cote Steve Phillips