



Pilgrims' Progress



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

Director of Sunday School

Pastor Harris

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
OCTOBER READINGS	P. 6
OCTOBER SERVERS	P. 7
OCTOBER CALENDAR	INSERT

November *Pilgrims' Progress* Deadline: Monday, October 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 Fellow Pilgrims,

As we move into October, we begin to feel the busyness of the autumn. Our schedules get filled and our lives become hectic. If we have children in our households, the busyness and hectic schedules are increased greatly. This is life in our times. This is the way the world works in our day. We have appointments and meetings, perhaps upkeep on property; maybe we are taking a class for our own growth. Then there are the stresses of relationships, worries about money, worries about the condition of international relationships, and let's not forget the whole arena of politics we are now deeply dealing with. Life seems to rush around us; finding time for self-care is difficult. Knowing what matters for the long haul of being who we would like to be can fall off our priorities, gradually or suddenly.

So now you read this message from the pastor at Pilgrim Church who is asking for more of your time and energy. But really, why is worship and education a good investment of your time, your energy, your money, your concern?

The Church of Jesus Christ offers some things which cannot be found in other places.

The Church offers an opportunity for you to bring your concerns, your busyness, and your life into the presence of God with both gratitude and supplication. We cannot be full people without gratitude. Knowing that we have blessings is the first step—knowing who to thank is an important part of gratitude. Worship gives us the chance to thank God and the sisters and brothers in Christ who have been with us through difficult times and joyful times. But in worship we also bring our concerns for our own needs as well as the needs of this world and place them in God's care. It is reported that Martin Luther once said, "Pray and let God

worry." It's good advice, but it takes practice and people to help us grow in this. In Scripture and Sacraments, we are reminded of who we are, and that helps us know what matters most in our lives. This understanding may be helpful in eliminating some of the busyness of our lives.

The Church offers you an opportunity to learn experientially. When our children attend Sunday School and join us at the altar for Holy Communion or a blessing, they learn about the love of Jesus for them. Each of them is cherished by God, each of them has gifts to share with others. In worship, we also learn about who God is in the beauty of music and colors and actions, as well as in words of forgiveness proclaimed in Jesus' name and words of promise made real in bread and wine, water, and the sharing of the peace of Christ. In adult discussions, we learn from one another as people share their experiences, their insights, their questions, their doubts and struggles. In discussion we often find the words we need to hear or even the strength to meet the next day. All this is how the Holy Spirit calls us to grow.

The Church offers you good news which you cannot find in any other organization. Jesus commissioned the Church to preach the good news to all people, to declare God's forgiveness, and to live life together under a different vision than any other group. In this way the Church is weird. Its call is to cut through those things that may bring us joy or a quiet mind for a little while and to declare the peace of God that passes all understanding, the truth that sets us free in the grace and love shown to us in Jesus' actions in the Bible story as well as in the community that gathers around Word and Sacraments; in those two or three who gather in Jesus' name.

If these things can be a blessing for you and your family, please join us in worship, education, and serving the community.

In hope,

Paster Kohl

Pastoral Acts

Members Transferred

Ralph and Helen Boyens

Members Received

Toni Leach

Kate Murphy-Duncan

Carl Ostermann

Jason Petrarca

Kathleen Santucci and Emily Bastien

Michele Tucci

Funerals

Joan Carlson

Robert Hopkins

Carl Johnson

Confirmation to be Celebrated on Reformation Sunday



The Rite of Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism will be celebrated at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on **Sunday, October 28 during the 9:30 service**. Please plan to be here as we celebrate with our young members this step in our life together.

Welcome, Warwick Symphony Orchestra!



The Warwick Symphony has been utilizing our Christian Life Center as its rehearsal space since late last month. The group meets here every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 9:45, and has promised to keep us posted on upcoming performance dates.

FROM PASTOR HARRIS

Dear Friends of Christ,

One of the things that the Church was reminded about during the Reformation was that all Christians have a call. The fancy word for this is **vocation**. The Latin word *vocatio* means **call**. So...God has called you to be a Christian. Now what? It turns out you do not have to be a monk, a nun, a deacon, or a pastor...but you do have stuff to do.

This is a call that sometimes has to do with Church, and sometimes it does not seem to. One of the most important calls is to be a parent. Imagine that being a parent is a calling from God, not just a circumstance of biology. Another important calling is that of student. That takes up a bit of time. Two of my dear friends are doing both. I do not know how they do it...well, by God's grace! One of the things that happens in Christian worship is that we are strengthened to live out our call during the rest of the week.

Some of you have answered calls at Pilgrim to be a council member, a Sunday School teacher, a confirmation guide, a lector, an assisting minister, a choir member, a musician. Being a Eucharistic Minister is a nice interface between Sunday and the rest of the week. (We need more of them, by the way.)

Our Parish Assistant views her work as a call. Do you view some aspect of your life as a calling from God?

You might be called to the ministry of hugs, or encouragement, or letter writing. You might make meals or treats for people. Maybe you volunteer in some way.

I invite you to examine your life and where God has already called you and to where God is calling you. It turns out calls change and evolve. See the stories of Phillip and Stephen in the book of Acts.

As is always the case in a community to which we have been called, there are some things that need doing. So, here goes...

Wanted

People to help plan Vacation Bible School for Summer 2013
Note: this is a call for planners. Volunteers will be sought later!

Wanted

People with an eye for art and design, and/or communications, especially in the digital realm, to do some thinking about Pilgrim's website. No HTML experience needed!

Wanted

Web content creators: photographers, writers, others!

All ages and abilities are welcome!

If you are ready to answer any of these calls, please email pastorharris@mac.com or leave a message at the church office, 401-739-2937. I'd like to hear from you in the next couple of weeks!

God's blessings,

Pastor Rob Harris



**Pet Blessing
Sunday, October 14
11:30 a.m.**

St. Francis of Assisi is remembered in the month of October in our church calendar. He died in 1226, but his spirit of simplicity and care of creation continues to make a difference in this world.

Francis' heart included all creatures, including animals. In recent years, we have used this time of year to recognize the animals we live with as important companions in our lives. If you have an animal that is important to you, please bring your pet for a blessing on Sunday, October 14 at 11:30 a.m. We will hold a brief service and ask God's peace to rest on all the pets that are with us.

**Difficult Conversations, Part 2
Continues in October**

This Adult Education class is taught by Karin Kohl and meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. We 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:

- healthcare and equality/inequality of care
- violence, guns, and gun control
- 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.

Please note that 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.

animate

Adult Education: Another Opportunity

On Monday, October 15 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., a new class called *Animate Faith* begins. This is a seven session series on basics of the faith with video input from various leaders in the "emerging church" perspective. Here's what we will discuss and the video presenter:

- GOD : Faith is a Quest – Brian McLaren
- RELIGION: Spirituality is Not Enough – Lillian Daniel
- JESUS: The Revolution of Love – Mark Scandrette
- SALVATION: Abundant Life Now – Shane Hipps
- CROSS: Where God Is – Nadia Bolz-Weber
- BIBLE: A Book Like No Other – Lauren Winner
- CHURCH: An Imperfect Family – Bruce Reyes-Chow

The meetings will be discussion oriented, sharing ideas and learning from one another. So, you do not need to know information, you just need to bring your experiences and an open mind and heart. A journal will be available for about \$15.00 for those who might want to reflect on these topics.

**Confirmation Schedule for
October/November 2012**

October 2	Fellowship
9	Planning – no kids
16	Class (meal)
20	<i>Saturday!</i> Haunted Hallways at Pilgrim H.S.
23	Class (meal)
30	No class – October 20 instead
November 6	Planning – no kids
13	Class (meal)
20	Fellowship/service
27	Class (meal)

All classes are on Tuesdays (except 10/20) at 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise notified.

LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN BASICS
WITH PASTOR HARRIS



Whether you need a refresher course or an introduction to Lutheranism, this is the class for you! Each month will feature a different topic (and they're not dependent on each other, so you can sit in anytime!).

We'll be meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor.

**In October, we'll meet on 10/11 and 10/25
and our topic is
"So, You're a Lutheran...What Does THAT
Mean?"**

Come join us and find out!

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization of the Ocean State is grateful to have an opportunity to work in conjunction with Pilgrim's Social Ministry Committee to sponsor a clothing drop here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters collects gently used clothing and small household items to generate revenue to support its mentoring programs for children facing adversity.

The purple drop is located on the grass just west of our parking lot on Warwick Lake Avenue. The group will be collecting items from the drop at least once a week.



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**
of the Ocean State



On Sunday, October 21 at 1:30 p.m.
Pilgrim's Sunday School will host its
annual Halloween party for ALL AGES!

**Please be sure to come in costume,
and to invite friends and family.**

All are welcome!



*Greetings from Westby, Montana!
Thanks so much for participating in the parcel
post auction. Your box brought \$550 at our
fundraising salmon and BBQ ribs supper.
Take care and God bless you all!*

Immanuel Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation in Westby, MT suffered a devastating loss to their basement area this past spring due to flooding. None of the damage was covered by insurance, so they have been raising funds to rebuild. Pilgrim donated a "Rhode Island Box" to Immanuel's parcel post auction, which included Rhode Island tee shirts and baseball cap, coffee syrup, Dunkin' Donuts coffee and Buddy Cianci's marinara sauce!

With our help, Immanuel is moving forward with a plan that includes building a handicapped accessible addition on the ground floor level.

Sunday Readings – October 2012

October 7 – Pentecost 19

Genesis 2:18–24

Marriage in our Lutheran tradition is considered to be an "order of creation". That means companionship is important to God. In commitment to one another, humans look out for each other and so make our world a bit more secure.

Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12

Although this book is considered a letter, it really does not have a letter form. It was written most likely to a specific community and uses many references to the Hebrew Scriptures. Its basic message is that Jesus is our high priest, who made the sacrifice for peace with God for the whole of humanity.

Mark 10:2–16

Jesus blessing little children is more than sweet. It is a sign of God's radical love for even the smallest and least important of the world. Jesus' teaching about divorce is hard to hear, but he says these things to protect women and families. This too shows us that in Jesus we see God's heart of concern for the whole creation.

October 14 – Pentecost 20

Amos 5:6–7, 10–15

Amos' words are both warning and grace, a call to live as God wants the human family to live: connected to one another, caring for others, and seeking justice for all.

Hebrews 4:12–16

Jesus our high priest has understanding for us because he has shared our humanity with us.

Mark 10:17–31

Jesus teaches us that not everything has immediate rewards. Here his teaching is a promise that those who have left much behind will still be blessed with even more than they originally had.

October 21 – Pentecost 21

Isaiah 53:4–12

The Isaiah text is another of the "Servant Songs" in this book. We are taught that through suffering new life comes.

Hebrews 5:1–10

As our high priest, Jesus offers up his struggles for us.

Mark 10:35–45

Jesus teaches us about being servants to one another.

October 28 – Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31–34

God promises us new hearts by which we come to know the grace of God.

Romans 3:19–28

"Apart from law the righteousness of God has been disclosed." This truth opens peace with God to all people, even us who cannot keep the law perfectly.

John 8:31–36

Truth and freedom go together. The truth that Jesus shows us is that God is merciful and gracious. Knowing this sets us free from the fear of God's judgment.

SERVING in OCTOBER 2012

GREETERS

October 7 Merrill McElroy
October 14 Jason & Courtney Petrarca
October 21 Lou Cardillo
October 28 Cindy Cote

READERS

October 7 Beth Fish
October 14 Bob Coletta
October 21 Patricia Frazier
October 28 Kathy Gremel

ALTAR GUILD

October 7 Nancy Sulmasy
Betty Wagner
October 14 Priscilla Angelo
Mary Brinson
Carol Dupre
Pam Himebaugh
Joan Schappert
October 21 Jennifer Cardillo
Pat Frazier
Kitty Johnson
October 28 Jo-Anne Doyle
Muriel Linden
Linda Phillips

ASSISTING MINISTERS

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

ACOLYTES

October 7 Andrew McLaughlin
October 14 Molly Phillips
October 21 Jocelyn Theroux
October 28 Matt Sangster

CONFIRMATION DINNERS

Tuesday Evenings

October 2 No meal Fellowship
October 9 No meal Staff Meeting - no kids
October 16 Jim Higgins
October 23 Judy Fergie
October 30 No class

USHERS

October 7 Scott Chappelle
Andrew Hughes
Laurie Linden
October 14 Scott Chappelle
Ruth Lundin
Pete Mahoney
Merrill McElroy
October 21 Scott Chappelle
John Merrill
Rick Nelson
Carl Ostermann
October 28 Scott Chappelle
Jason & Courtney Petrarca
Allan Reed

ALTAR FLOWERS

October 7 Bill and Tom Dugan & Family
Dick & Joan Hamblin
October 14 The Wagner Family
October 21 The Altar Guild
The Cryan Family
October 28 The Altar Guild
Marie Grist

COUNTERS

October 7 Kathy Gremel and Clinton Smith
October 14 Linda Hughes and Chris Spencer
October 21 Maureen Johnson and Joan Theroux
October 28 Lisa Lepore and Lois Williams

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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



October 2012

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	2 9:30 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation <i>No Difficult Conversations</i>	3 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	4 7:00 Warwick Symphony Rehearsal in CLC	5 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	6	
7 Pentecost 19 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	8 COLUMBUS DAY Church Office Closed 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	9 10:00 RI Conference Pastors Meeting 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation - Staff Meeting/No Kids <i>No Difficult Conversations</i>	10 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	11 7:00 Lutheran Basics 7:00 Worship, Music and Arts 7:00 Warwick Symphony Rehearsal in CLC	12 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	13	
14 Pentecost 20 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 11:30 Pet Blessing	15 PROGRESS DEADLINE 7:00 Animate Faith 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	16 9:30 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Difficult Conversations	17 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18 <i>St. Luke, Evangelist</i> 10:00 Toiletry Cupboard 7:00 Congregation Council Mtg. 7:00 Warwick Symphony Rehearsal in CLC	19 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	20 PM Youth Outing Haunted Hallways at Pilgrim High School	
21 Pentecost 21 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 1:30 Halloween Party	22 7:00 Animate Faith 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	23 9:30 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Difficult Conversations	24 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25 7:00 Lutheran Basics 7:00 Warwick Symphony Rehearsal in CLC	26 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF <i>St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles</i>	27	
28 Reformation Sunday 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion/ Confirmation	29 7:00 Animate Faith 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	30 9:30 Pastors' Pericope 7:00 Difficult Conversations <i>No Confirmation</i>	31 <i>Reformation Day</i>  Halloween 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.			

BISHOP'S CONVOCATION—HYANNIS