



Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Warwick, Rhode Island
October 2011

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November *Pilgrims' Progress* Deadline: Saturday, 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 Friends,

When I was a kid, every autumn we had a "Harvest-Home" service at our church. You may have had these celebrations also. They were a time people brought in food—tomatoes, potatoes, and of course, zucchini—all from their gardens. There were also canned goods and packaged foods. These were gathered to be shared with agencies in the area that provided food for people. It happened in October because that was the time for harvest. I never really understood why the word "home" was used, until I got older and realized that what we were doing was bringing food back to the one who gave it, who owned it, and who had shared it with us. In other words, we were bringing these items back to their original home, back to God.

This was a graphic way to be reminded that God is the source of all things, seen and unseen. And that was and continues to be an important lesson for us to remember. We live because God first gave us life and love and purpose.

Our gathering on Sundays is both to be reminded of this truth as well as to celebrate it. Our gathering on Sundays is also a main way by which we say thank you to the source of all that is. This is important, in fact, essential for us to be fully human beings. A life without gratitude is an empty and disconnected existence. Thankfulness is a way we practice spirituality, the essence of both faith and being.

As your pastor, I would encourage you to take some time everyday to think about your life. In confirmation classes, we take time each week to share "highs" and "lows": the blessings and challenges of the week. You might consider doing this in a journal or simply sharing with the people who live with you. But also give thought to places you suspect God has been at work, and places where you wish you had made other choices and people who have blessed you or challenged you.

In doing these things, your life will be brought into the presence of the God who seeks to bless you and who longs to be part of your daily routine, the God who sent Jesus as a sign of that longing to be connected to you.

There is no doubt that life can be difficult. None of us are immune to troubles and problems. This is part of living in a world broken by sin. And all of us are tempted to think that these troubles are the big things in our lives. This is the power of sin in our lives. But the greater power is the blessing which God wants to give. It takes a discipline, a practice, to allow God's blessings to be recognized daily. That is what we are doing right now in the adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. Join us there if you want to learn and experience some traditional spiritual disciplines with a grace-oriented flavor.

As we come to this season of harvest, remember the source of all blessings, the giver of life. Saying thank you is worth the time for worship. Your congregation is waiting with open arms to welcome and bless you.

With hope,

Paster Kohl



Pastoral Acts

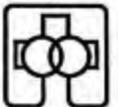
Baptisms



Adonis Xavier Clark
Kyanna Destiny-Ann Diehl
Kelli Elisabeth Larson
Avianna Kaylin Molavi

Marriages

Deborah Grabe & Stanley DeAngelis



Funerals



Diane Appt
Carmine Bianco
Linda Jane Hopkins
Beverly Perri
Elanna Zuller

Confirmation to be Celebrated on Reformation Sunday



The Rite of Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism will be celebrated at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on **Sunday, October 30 during the 10:00 service**. Please plan to be here as we celebrate with our young members this step in our life together.

Rehearsal will be held on Monday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.

FROM PASTOR HARRIS

Dear Friends of Christ,

Who am I? That is one of those questions. It can be so open ended. It can have short, simple answers. The answers can change over time, whether the time frame is years or minutes. Sometimes our answers are based on vocation or what we do. Sometimes on what we are feeling. At times we use our relationships to answer the question. Often our name serves as the answer. Maybe it is our behavior, our national origin, our race. Sometimes this is an easy question, sometimes it is difficult. This question can be asked of individuals or of groups.

This does not even touch on what others answer about us. Jesus' questions, "Who do people say that I am?" and "Who do you say that I am?" being examples.

One answer that is common to Christians of all ages is "I am a baptized child of God." In fact, this is really the primary answer. So what does this mean? How does this affect the rest of our identity?

"Child" seems to say that ultimately we are perhaps powerless and dependent upon another. Our life is not quite our own. We have not fully grown into ourselves yet. We are immature. Perhaps we feel as if the world revolves around us. We do not know everything nor have we experienced either. After a certain age people do not appreciate being called a child. The words "quit being such a child" sting. Yet here we are saying that our identity is a child.

Yet we are not orphaned. We are "of God". We are God's. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the one who creates, sustains, and redeems us. "Of God" means not of ourselves. We belong to the ultimate, the most powerful. The one that defeats death. But God, for us Christians, is revealed to us in a special way by the Son, Jesus. The crucified, risen, and ascended one. This God of ours really knows what it is like to be human. What being fleshy means, what death is.

We are "baptized". We are claimed by this Triune God, We are changed. The old self is drowned, a new self arises. We are forgiven. We are named Beloved. We are given new life, we will be given new life. We are made clean even if we have a tendency to dirty ourselves.

So if this is our identity, what does it mean for daily life? Do we forgive others? Do we serve others? Do we love the types of people Jesus loved? Do we keep throwing ourselves upon the grace of God? Do we share the good news of Jesus raised from the dead with others in deeds and if necessary, words? Do we allow ourselves, and even expect to be God's agents of grace for others?

Who are you?

Blessings,

Pastor Harris



Pastor Harris Wants to Be Your Facebook Friend!

The next time you're on Facebook, be sure to "friend" Pastor Harris (you can find him if you search for **Robert Harris**), or you can connect with him via Pilgrim Lutheran Church's Facebook group page. Be sure to join us on FB!

Halloween Party!



On Sunday, October 23 at 1:30 p.m. Pilgrim's Sunday School will host its annual Halloween party! Please be sure to come in costume, and to invite friends and family. All are welcome!

New Adult Education Opportunity Begins on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00p.m.

"Where is God in the middle of life's difficult and tragic situations?" The age-old question of "theodicy" is one that asks and struggles with a seemingly irreconcilable dichotomy—that is, if God is good and still there are difficult, tragic, and evil things in our lives, then, God must not be all-powerful. The only other option seems to be that God must not really be all-good. It is this struggle with a God who has allowed bad things to happen that has caused some to reject God. In this class we will look at our own struggles (and those of others) in specific situations, while asking where God is for us in all of this. The class will include guests who will speak of their own experiences. Please join us!

Karin Kohl

Youth Group Planning Busy Fall!



Our Young Pilgrims have a lot going on in October, including cool things like... **Bowling and Lock-In on October 7, a Youth Group Meeting on October 16, and a Hayride and Corn Maze on October 28.** Be sure to check the Youth Bulletin Board for the latest news on what's happening!

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IN THE WORKS

Several of you have come forward to volunteer your time and talent working as photographers and information gatherers for our new church directory, as well as those who will be handling the layout and production. We hope that we will be able to get as many pictures of you as possible. This is a good way for us to be able to put names with faces. We are planning to offer several times for you to have your picture taken, including Sunday morning, a weekday and evening time, and perhaps a Saturday time also. We also are planning to go out and get pictures of those who are not able to get to church. If you have good candid photos of the church, committees, events, or members of the congregation that we might be able to use, let us know. If you have any questions or ideas about this project, speak with Karin Kohl.



Pet Blessing Sunday, October 2 12:00 noon

St. Francis of Assisi is remembered on October 4 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 2 at noon. We will hold a brief service and ask God's peace to rest on all the pets that are with us.

Operation Smile

Changing Lives One Smile at a Time

In sponsorship with Pilgrim's Social Ministry Committee and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Rhode Island Chapter, we will be raising money for Operation Smile, an international charity providing much needed free surgeries for children and young adults born with cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities. Our goal is to raise \$1,500 and supplemental funds from Thrivent of \$500. Please contact Fred Linden at 529-9210 or talk to him after the late service for details.

Was ist das?

Reformation



Reformation—a “re-forming” or “reshaping of something”. With regard to Luther’s reformation, this involved the reforming of abuses in the early 16th century medieval church. Luther was particularly concerned about the way heavily indoctrinated parishioners were duped into paying money for “indulgences”—certificates of sorts that guaranteed the bearer a certain amount of release from divine punishment. Luther was so irate because of this fraud that he wrote 95 Theses about the problem with indulgences and posted them on the doors of the Wittenberg Church.

The underlying motivation for Luther’s reformation came about in great part from his own personal life as a monk. Even though Luther was the model monk, he still felt a sense of overwhelming guilt for his own sinfulness. Fortunately for Luther, his mentor Staupitz told him about God’s grace, something that would transform his life. God’s word became his guide in the person of Jesus and in scripture. Together these formed one of his “*solas*”—“*Sola Scriptura*”, “Word Alone”—the only inspired word of God and source of Christian doctrine with Christ always at its center.

Luther never set out to form a new church, but those churches that did buy into Luther’s understanding of Christianity and of the church also agreed with Luther’s thinking on the following:

Justification – God’s act of declaring a sinner righteous, by faith alone, through God’s grace alone. Faith is not our own striving, but is a gift from God. People are capable of doing good things, but they are not capable of doing works that satisfy God’s justice. Faith is not about “decision” theology, but about trusting in the promise of the gospel.

The Sacraments – They are effective for us whenever they are properly administered with both physical components and the word of God in the words of institution. God is present for us in the sacraments with gifts of forgiveness and salvation.

Law and Gospel – It is important that these do not get confused with one another. The law demands obedience to God’s ethical will, and is something that we cannot achieve on our own. There are two uses of the law in Luther’s understanding. The first use of the law is what convicts us of our own sinfulness and drives us to the gospel. The second use of the law is given to us for the sake of good order in the world and is shown especially in government and its leaders. Some Lutherans look to a third use of the law, as a way in which people strive to do good works in society and to seek justice and peace. However, Luther is always quick to remind us that good works are the fruits of faith that comes from God and not from our own striving. The gospel on the other hand comes to us with the promises of forgiveness of sins and of new and eternal life in the light of the person of Jesus Christ.

In/not of – Luther is clear that God’s intention is for us to live our lives in the world that God has made, not in the locked up and outwardly pious environment of convents and monasteries. However, we are not to conform our lives to the world—that is, those things that are not of God.

Two Kingdoms (or Realms) – God’s rule comes to us in two ways. Through God’s left hand God rules God’s earthly kingdom through secular government, by means of the law. Through God’s right hand rule of God’s heavenly, spiritual kingdom, Christians voluntarily obey the law by means of the gift of the gospel.

Penance – Even though the Medieval Church believed that in baptism original sin was erased, and that an individual was given new life as a Christian, it didn’t know what to do with sins that were committed after baptism. The Sacrament of Penance then became seen as the second plank of baptism, where one was required to make satisfaction for one’s sins. This often came about in a public and humiliating way, and also became connected to the sale of indulgences, something that Luther fought strongly against.

Vocation – Priests in Luther’s day were seen as having a special status and powers apart from other people. Luther’s talk of the Priesthood of all believers told the common folk that all of their vocations were importantly called and ordained by God. Even something as simple as changing a child’s diaper was to be seen as a part of God’s call.

In incurvatus se – Like Adam and Eve, all human beings are curved in on themselves, fancying themselves as god-like rather than turned outward towards God and others.

Theology of the Cross – God comes to us in ways that one would reasonably least expect to find God—not in the God of Majesty, but in a God humbled in Jesus, as a human being who suffers and dies for us.

The theology of Martin Luther encompasses many aspects, but hopefully some of the above will give some insights into some of the most important aspects of what it means for us to be Lutheran Christians.

Karin Kohl

Meet Your Pilgrim Family



Who says online dating doesn't work? In the case of Valerie and Robert (Bubba) Parmenter it has worked out just fine, thank you.

It was 2000 and Bubba and Valerie, both divorced for a few years, decided to try Yahoo Personals in an attempt to meet someone nice. "I received 60 responses, some of them really awful," recalled Valerie, who had grown up in California in a Lutheran family—"My father was the janitor at our church, and I used to help him clean," she said.—but had moved to Maine and then to Newport with her former husband who had opened a restaurant in Newport.

"I forgot that I had even filled it out, and was surprised when I noticed that I had a response in my inbox," remembered Bubba who had grown up a Catholic in Scituate but attended a Methodist

church when he got married.

"She was a cheap date. We went to Dave's and she ordered the grilled cheese and tomato that cost \$1.99, said Bubba with a smile. "When I saw him, I thought, oh, he's old because he had white hair, but then I realized he was only two years older than me," said Valerie.

The couple started dating and then two months later, on Valerie's birthday, he came to her house and said he had a present, but she had to come outside to see it. It was a kayak, a big hobby of Bubba's. "My son said to me afterwards, 'you have to keep this guy, he gave you a kayak,'" recalled Valerie.

Bubba loved Valerie's smile and honesty and Valerie said, "He had a job, a car, could balance a checkbook, something that not that many that I had met online could do, and was a nice guy." They dated for six years and got married in 2005 at Colt State Park by Victoria Burdick, a hospice chaplain, who had the attendees laughing and crying as she described this couple who had met online and fell in love.

Valerie's dad was a Danish Lutheran and her mom, of Mexican heritage, was Catholic. The family (three older sisters, too) always went to the Lutheran church in Monterey Park, California. Valerie was very active in church, singing in the choir and playing guitar. "My dad would always look down the pew and say to us girls, 'sing loud for Jesus,'" said Valerie who sang in a Jewish band for a year while in high school.

She attended a dental assistants' school after graduation and has been in the dental field for 34 years, currently working with Dr. Peter Bourdeau in Warwick. Her only child, David, 25, is currently stationed in the Pacific on an aircraft carrier and plans to join the Army and be a Ranger when his tour is up in a few months.

Bubba grew up in Scituate and graduated from Scituate High and the University of Rhode Island with a degree in Physical Education and Health. "It was 1975 and I couldn't find a teaching job anywhere," recalled Bubba who went to work as a stonemason under Tyrel Rhodes of Charlestown. After three years he ventured out on his own and did that work until 1987 when he was accepted into the Warwick Fire Department.

He is currently a captain at Engine 4 on Sandy Lane and recently passed his exam for battalion chief. He has two daughters, Amy and Nadine. Nadine is currently on the Warwick Police Dept.

An outdoorsman who started his firefighting career as a fourteen-year-old with the Hope Volunteer Fire Dept., Bubba enjoys white-water rafting, surfing and kayaking. He started the Scituate High girls' soccer team 18 years ago and serves as their head coach now.

"It was two years ago when I came to Pilgrim Lutheran," remembered Valerie. "Bubba was working most Sundays, my son was away in the Navy and all my family was in California. I needed to refind my sense of faith and get closer to God. When I heard Kajsia and the choir, I knew this was where I wanted to be so that I could Sing loud for Jesus," said Valerie with a big smile on her face.

It wasn't long before she began bringing Bubba with her when he had Sundays off. "I was impressed with the friendliness of the people and the amount of youth activities," said Bubba. "This is such a super friendly and warm place and I think Pastor Kohl is so genuine," said Valerie who joined the choir right away.

The couple lives in the Lakewood section of Warwick with their two Welsh Corgis. Valerie's hobby is making beaded bracelets and necklaces, many that she sold at the church bazaar last year. Her tiny business is called All Alone Beads (I do the beads when I'm all alone).

Maybe online-dating is better than we thought. We are very happy that this nice couple was able to connect in cyberspace, and glad they found Pilgrim Lutheran.

Sunday Readings – October 2011

October 2 – Pentecost 16

Isaiah 5:1-7

The song of the vineyard is Isaiah's poem regarding God's love and judgment which comes to make the vineyard (symbolizing the people of Israel) a better, more God-trusting people.

Philippians 3:4b-14

Nothing is as important as Jesus, declares Paul in this reading from Philippians.

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus' parable speaks about God's expectations from God's people. God calls a people to be a blessing in this world, to be the people whose lives show God's priorities. When the people refuse to do this, God chooses new people to be God's presence in the world.

October 9 – Pentecost 17

Isaiah 25:1-9

Isaiah has a vision of the great feast at which God not only provides the best of everything, but also wipes all tears from our eyes.

Philippians 4:1-9

Paul's words bless the church with peace both in individual relationships as well as in the whole community.

Matthew 22:1-14

Again Jesus tells a parable. This time he uses the image of a wedding banquet with an open invitation to speak about the reign of God.

October 16 – Pentecost 18

Isaiah 45:1-7

God calls Cyrus, the Persian emperor, as the anointed one through whom God will return the people of Israel from the exile. By using a Gentile to accomplish God's will we know that God is the Lord of all people, Jews as well as Gentiles.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

This is most likely Paul's earliest letter. Here he thanks God for the faith and love of the people at Thessalonica which becomes an example for the rest of the church around the Mediterranean world.

Matthew 22:15-22

Jesus' enemies try to trap him with a question about paying taxes. His answer allows people to know that they have a relationship with both God and others.

October 23 – Pentecost 19

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The legal code of Leviticus calls God people to be holy as God is holy. God's people are always called to be like God. Here that similarity is lived out in caring for the poor and seeking justice for all people.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul writes about coming among the Thessalonians because of his call to preach the Gospel. He also expressed thanks for their care for him in this relationship.

Matthew 22:34-46

Again Jesus is put on the spot by his adversaries. Here he summarizes the law of God to two commands: love God, love neighbors. In Jesus' teaching, it is that simple.

October 30 – Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah looks forward to God law being written in the hearts of the people. This is the law which is unbreakable and eternal.

Romans 3:19-28

No law will make people right with God, it is only by the gift which God provides for the human family in Jesus.

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH
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www.pilgrimlutheranri.org

Dated Material October 2011



*Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of
God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it.*

Martin Luther

Congregation Council

Steve Phillips - President
Beth Fish - Vice President
Maureen Johnson - Secretary

Dee Bianco
Cindy Cote

Clinton Smith

Bill Brinson
Laurie Linden

Chris Spencer

Betsy Canino
David Perri

Roy Wagner

Mark Cheney
Rick Nelson

SERVING in OCTOBER 2011

GREETERS

October 2 Lisa Harrington
October 9 Allan & Rose Reed
October 16 Debbie Vilardi
October 23 Phyllis Blanchette
October 30 Emily & Linda Hughes

READERS

October 2 Allan Reed
October 9 Susan Simundson
October 16 Helen Varin
October 23 Roy Wagner
October 30 Joanne Lozy

ALTAR GUILD

October 2 Joanne Doyle
Debbie Perri
Linda Phillips
October 9 Maureen Johnson
Cindy Cote
October 16 Connie Radican
Joanne Lozy
Susan Simundson
October 23 Ginny Smith
Helen Varin
Nancy Lewis
October 30 Alice Burnham
Ruth Lesieur
Muriel Linden

ASSISTING MINISTERS - 10:00

October 2 *Needed...please sign up!*
October 9 Karin Kohl
October 16 Carl Lozy
October 23 John Carlson
October 30 *Needed...please sign up!*

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

*Eucharistic Ministers 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

October 2 Ron Fish
John Gunning
Susan Horsch
October 9 Joanne Doyle
Dave Heden
Linda Hughes
October 16 Ruth Lundin
John Merrill
Roy Wagner
October 23 Pam Himebaugh
Joanne Lozy
Elaine Belvin
October 30 Bill Dugan
Bruce & Carolyn Vittner

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

October 2 Bill Dugan
Karin Kohl
October 9 Linda Hughes
October 30 Bill Dugan
Joyce L'Heureux

Four Communion Assistants are needed at each service. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the office bulletin board if you are able to help.

ALTAR FLOWERS

October 2 Bill and Tom Dugan & Family
The Krajewski Family
The Wagner Family
October 9 The Simundson-Cryan Family
Dick and Joan Hamblin
October 16 The Wagner Family
October 23 Pilgrim Altar Guild
October 30 Dorothy Kallmeyer & Marie Grist

ACOLYTES

October 2 Katie O'Hara
October 9 Dan Cryan
October 16 Joshua Olson
October 23 Tyler Phillips
October 30 Molly Phillips & Audrey Cryan



October 2011
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 16 8:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Holy Communion 12:00 Pet Blessing	3 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	4 9:30 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Pheasants for Life	5 3:30 Warwick Children's Chorus 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Yoga 7:00 Lectio Divina	6 12:00-1:30 House of Hospitality	7 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Youth Bowling & Lock-in 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	1 8 PROGRESS DEADLINE
9 Pentecost 17 8:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Holy Communion/Baptism	10 COLUMBUS DAY Church Office Closed 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	11 10:00 RI Conference Pastors Meeting 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation - Service/Fellowship 7:00 Where is God?	12 3:30 Warwick Children's Chorus 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Yoga 7:00 Lectio Divina	13 12:00-1:30 House of Hospitality	14 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	15 PROGRESS DEADLINE
16 Pentecost 18 8:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School/ Bible Presentations 10:00 Holy Communion 11:00 Youth Group Meeting	17 7:00 Confirmation Rehearsal 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	18 St. Luke, Evangelist 9:30 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Where is God? 7:00 Pheasants for Life	19 3:30 Warwick Children's Chorus 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Yoga 7:00 Lectio Divina	20 12:00-1:30 House of Hospitality 7:00 Congregation Council Mtg.	21 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	22 4:00 Pheasants for Life Dinner
23 Pentecost 19 8:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Holy Communion 1:30 Halloween Party	24 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous BISHOP'S CONVOCATION—HYANNIS	25 9:30 Pastors' Pericope 10:30 Anna's Place 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation — Teachers' Meeting (no kids) 7:00 Where is God?	26	27 12:00-1:30 House of Hospitality 7:00 Worship, Music & Arts Meeting	28 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF <i>S. Simon and S. Jude, Apostles</i> 7:00 Youth Hayride & Corn Maze 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	29
30 Reformation Sunday 8:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Holy Communion/ Confirmation	31 Reformation Day Halloween 	CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.				