



Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Warwick, Rhode Island
October 2013

From the Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

Twenty years ago during the installation service as I became your new pastor, Pastor Bloomquist, the former pastor, leaned over to me and said, "Pilgrim is a church of great diversity." Over these twenty years, and in my opinion, he was absolutely right about our congregation. There is great diversity among us in age and theological understandings, in economic and social traditions, in politics and questions of social concern.

I have found that this great diversity is both a strength and a struggle for us as a community. I am proud of the ways in which we have worked much of this out over the years. Have we made some mistakes? Yes. But we have never wanted to hurt anyone in the process. Did we do some things right and have reason to be thankful? That also is true.

In the minds of many this phenomenon of diversity creates anxiety, not just here at Pilgrim Church but also in every community: church, club, school, work place. Wherever people get together and there is a mix of people, there is a level of nervousness or anxiety.

Some congregations try to minimize this by calling all its members to believe the same thing about all things. Some congregations seek to minimize anxiety by rallying around a leader. But for the church to be true to why it exists, the anxiety which diversity brings is resolved in the death and resurrection of Jesus who has conquered all anxiety. Being grounded in Jesus makes him our center. And that is a vision which we, the church, are called to bring to the world: life is not about us, it is about Jesus.

OUR STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Dennis Kohl

Minister of Music

Denis Brunelle

Parish Assistant/Progress Editor

Elisabeth Remming Vergun

Treasurer

Bill Brinson

Financial Secretary

Beth Fish

Sexton

Adam Kohl

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM PASTOR KOHL	P.	1 - 2
PASTORAL ACTS	P.	2
CHURCH NOTES	P.	3 - 5
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2013-14	P.	6
OCTOBER READINGS	P.	7
OCTOBER SERVERS	INSERT	
OCTOBER CALENDAR	INSERT	

November *Pilgrims' Progress* Deadline: Tuesday, October 15!

Please e-mail submissions to Elisabeth at both parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org and eremmingvergun@cox.net or place in her mailbox in the church office. Thanks!

*God's purpose for Pilgrim Lutheran Church is to build our relationships with Jesus and to share our gifts with the community.
Praying always - Serving with joy - Teaching - Proclaiming the Good News - Building community*

I am reading a book titled *Wide Welcome* by Jessicah Krey Duckworth. The subtitle is *How the Unsettling Presence of Newcomers Can Save the Church*. She writes about "established" and "disestablished" congregations. Established churches exist for their present membership. Disestablished congregations know that change and even anxiety is a part of faith, a part of following Jesus.

Her advice, which I believe is right on the mark, is that newcomers bring stories and understandings, experiences and insights that we need to have to be more fully the church. In other words, *the role of newcomers in a congregation is not to be conformed to what the congregation has been, but to help shape the congregation for its mission as it walks into the future*. The gift of newcomers in a congregation, (and this is true whether or not a person comes from another tradition, another congregation, or with no understanding of our faith), is to keep us unbalanced. Our responsibility to new people among us is not to make them identical to us but rather to listen to what we might become, what we might learn, as we walk this journey of faith together. We need to hear their stories and share our stories with them. In this exchange of stories, we all grow.

With the diversity that is among us as well as for the greater diversity we need to be more fully the church, listening is the key. Actually in doing this we discover something of great importance: we share much with one another even though we come from different places, with different understandings, with different backgrounds.

So, the church unlocks its doors and welcomes those who come. But the church also invites people who need to know peace and forgiveness, hope and promise, a place where the future is the common thing shared rather than the pasts we bring.

Blessings and hope,

Pastor Kohl

Pastoral Acts

Funerals



Christine Cyr
Mildred Dexter
Lois Dille
Edith Louise Nilsson
Wilhelmina Seemueller
John Valletta

Hospitalized or Needing a Pastoral Visit?

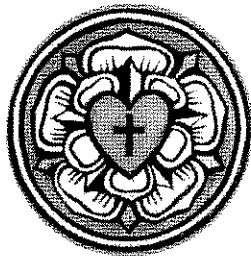
Please have a family member call us at 401-739-2937 to speak to Pastor Kohl, or to leave information with Elisabeth or on the church's voicemail. Be sure to leave your name, the name of the person who needs a visit, which hospital and room number if possible, and a contact telephone number.

Sunday mornings are busy times here at Pilgrim, and it's possible that verbal requests may not be remembered. If you think of a need, please fill out one of the pew cards and place it in the offering plate, or leave a note for Pastor Kohl in his mailbox in the office.



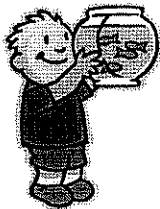
Please be sure to notify the church office at 401-739-2937 or parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org if you have an address/telephone/e-mail change, a membership change, or a change in your family status. Many thanks!

Confirmation to be Celebrated on Reformation Sunday



The Rite of Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism will be celebrated at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on **Sunday, October 27 at the 9:30 service**. The young members of our congregation will affirm the promises of their baptism as a foundation for their lives.

No one has faith alone. Faith needs a community to support it and to help it grow. Please be sure to be here as we welcome the commitments these young women and men will make. They need your presence as well as your prayers.



Pet Blessing Sunday, October 6 12:00 noon

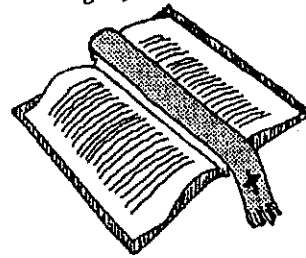
October 4 is the day the church remembers Francis of Assisi, a man who loved nature including all kinds of animals. Our pets are part of God's creation, one which bring us companionship, joy, and devotion (unless you have a cat!) But cats also are welcome at our time for thanking God for our pets as well as gathering them for a blessing to remind us of the role they play for us and to ask for health and joy for them in the coming year. This will take place on **Sunday, October 6 at 12:00 noon** on the grounds of the church. Bring your friends: two legged and four legged or no legged.

New Members Welcomed Sunday, October 6

At the 9:30 service on October 6 we will welcome new people as part of our community of ministry at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. If you have not yet spoken with Pastor Kohl and would like to join us in our ministry, please do so soon. You can e-mail him at pastorkohl@mac.com. We have discerned that God's purpose for Pilgrim Church is to grow in our relationship with Jesus and to share the gifts God has given us with others.



Bible Study/Adult Education



During the month of October, we will be reading and discussing the Letter to the Galatians with Pastor Kohl. In this letter, Paul confronts the subtle movement to add something humans must do to make the death of Jesus a means of salvation for them. He insists that we are saved only by the cross, and that is the good news (or "gospel") God has for us.

Our first meeting was on September 30, and we will meet again on Mondays October 14 and 28. The group begins at 7:00 p.m. and will conclude at around 8:00 p.m. Please bring your Bible.

This group is for all people. Please come!

ALTAR Guild

Altar Guild members, please make note of the following meetings in October:

The Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday evening, October 3 at 7:00 in the church parlor.

The General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday morning, October 6 immediately following the late service. Please note that this is an important all-member meeting—please plan to attend.

Let's Talk

From time to time, people ask questions about matters of faith and life. This is good. We are fortunate to be a tradition within the family of Christians in which questions can be asked and doubts or struggles shared. If you would like to be part of a group to discuss questions or to ask questions about faith, please join Pastor Kohl on the Sundays in October following the 9:30 service in the church parlor (the fireplace room).

This is meant to be a conversation among people. There are many facets of faith that may not have definite answers. But it is in the process of asking and sharing that faith becomes our own. There are some ground rules for discussion we need to observe:

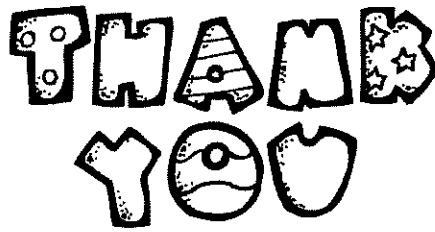
- The conversation must be shared. No one should dominate the discussion
- People's opinions are respected
- If something is shared in confidence it remains with the group present at that time
- Interruptions are not respectful

Get a coffee or snack and join Pastor Kohl starting on Sunday, October 6 if you are interested or if you have questions to pursue.

Sunday School



Sunday, October 27 at 2:00 p.m.
Invite your friends! All are welcome!



Dear Friends of Christ,

Thank you all so much for all the blessings that you have shared with me over the past few years. I especially want to thank you for the many kindnesses you showed me on Sunday, September 22. It was wonderful getting to greet so many of you. I appreciated the many gifts of cards, cookies, and your generous monetary gifts. And the photos and special artwork will always be wonderful reminders of my time here.

I pray God's blessings upon you, people of Pilgrim, as you carry forth God's great commission.

Peace and blessings,

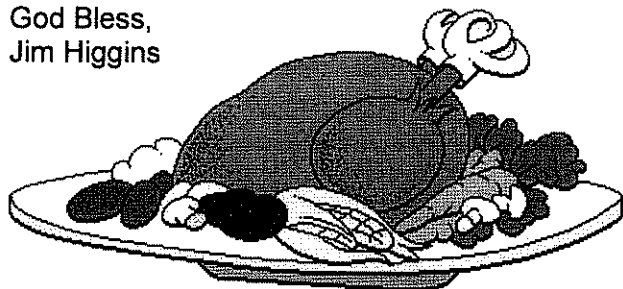
Pastor Harris

780B Heritage Village
Southbury, CT 06488
pastorharris@mac.com

The Holiday Season will soon be upon us, and the food ministry needs your prayers and support to help us beat back the rising costs of fresh foods and gasoline.

Last year, we prepared over 45 baskets of food for Thanksgiving, as well as giving out over 160 turkeys to those in need. You should see the looks on the faces of families when they come to pick up their food!

God Bless,
Jim Higgins





Congregation Council Meeting
September 19, 2013

First Holy Communion Classes

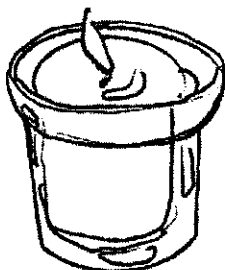
Pastor Kohl will meet with students and families interested in Holy Communion on **Sundays November 3, 10, 17, & 24 following the 9:30 service**. We will welcome the students to receive Holy Communion on the first day of the church's new year, the First Sunday in Advent, December 1 at 9:30.

There is no set grade or age for first communion. At the time a child expresses interest in coming to receive this gift and they have a beginning understanding of forgiveness is the best time to bring your child to classes. There will be a sign-up on the bulletin board. It is important to let us know your child is coming to classes so that materials used will be appropriate to the ages of the student.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of November (November 3 this year), we remember the saints of the church and will list the names of members of Pilgrim Church who have joined the church triumphant in the past year.

But each of us also remembers those dear to us, and this year at the 9:30 service we are providing a way for you to remember your loved ones who have died. As we sing the hymn *For All the Saints* we will invite people to bring or to light a candle in the front of the church in memory of your loved one. Please bring along a white candle to add to this remembrance of the light of Christ in which our loved ones dwell for eternity. If you forget to bring a candle, the ushers will have a small supply available.



The council received the report from the Leadership & Structure workgroup. Their proposal shifts the model for our organization from a committee-based structure to a functional/relationship-based structure. More will be coming to the congregation about this.

The council approved a digital instrument to replace the acoustic piano in the sanctuary. This is because the piano has been having more problems over the years in spite of regular maintenance, space issues, and the growing expectation of a variety of worship modes. The instrument costs \$14,000, but will be sold to Pilgrim Church for \$7,000 plus the acoustic piano.

Coins for a Cause raised \$300.30 for Camp Calumet in August.

Financial report as of August 31, 2013

Income for budget	\$156,234.34
Expenses against budget	\$169,891.10

Our Sunday School is being coordinated by Beth Gallucci and Kristen Resendes.

The council and congregation were asked to consider the question "What is Evangelism?"

The property committee reported that the doors in our Sunday School area will all have glass inserts in them. The women's room across from the kitchen is being remodeled.

A gas leak was repaired in our furnaces which cost us \$1,520 to repair.

The Social Ministry committee reported raising over \$2,000 for Parkinson Research between the walk at Goddard Park and the Coins for a Cause Sunday.

There are an increasing number of people who come to our toiletry pantry.

The Fall Festival will be held on November 16. The committee welcomed a new member, Wolfgang, the dachshund who attended the Parkinson walk.

Our annual Stewardship Sunday will be on October 20. Watch for more information in the mail.

Confirmation Schedule 2013-2014

September 24- Orientation
September 29 - Holy Communion

October 1 – Use of Time
October 6 – Holy Communion
October 8 – service/fellowship
October 13 – Holy Communion
October 15 – Use of Talents
October 20 – Holy Communion
October 22 – Teachers' Meeting
October 27 - Holy Communion
October 29 - Use of Money

November 3 - Holy Communion
November 5 – Service/fellowship
November 10- Holy Communion
November 12 – Media and
Materialism
November 17 - Holy Communion
November 19 – Teachers' Meeting
November 24 - Holy Communion
November 26 – Suicide

December 1 - Holy Communion
December 3 – Service/fellowship
December 8 - Holy Communion
December 10 - Caroling
December 15- Holy Communion
December 17 – No Class
December 22 - Holy Communion
December 24 – No Class
December 29 - Holy Communion
December 31 – No Class

January 5 - Holy Communion
January 7 – Teachers' Meeting
January 12 - Holy Communion
January 14 - Drugs
January 19 - Holy Communion
January 21 – Service/fellowship
January 26 - Holy Communion
January 28 – Risky Behavior/risky
sex

February 2 - Holy Communion
February 4 – Teachers' Meeting
February 9 - Holy Communion
February 11 – Sex & love
February 16 - Holy Communion
February 18 – No Class
February 23 - Holy Communion
February 25 – War & peace

March 2 - Holy Communion
March 4 – Service/fellowship
March 9 - Holy Communion
March 11 – Teachers' Meeting
March 16 - Holy Communion
March 18 – God & Science
March 23 - Holy Communion
March 25 – Service/fellowship
March 30 - Holy Communion

April 1 – Angry at God?
April 6 - Holy Communion
April 8 – Teachers' Meeting
April 13 - Holy Communion
April 19 – No Class Holy Week
April 20 - Holy Communion (Easter)
April 22 – No Class
April 27 - Holy Communion
April 29 – Doubts & Faith

May 4 - Holy Communion
May 6 – Why Bad Things?
May 11 – Holy Communion
May 13 – Pot Luck

*All classes and service/fellowship
activities begin at 6:30.*

They will end at 8:15.

*Dinner is provided ONLY when we
are having a class. On
service/fellowship nights there will
be a snack, no meal.*

Sunday Readings - October 2013

October 6 – Pentecost 20/Lectionary 27

Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4

“The righteous live by their faith.” These are the words that began the Lutheran Reformation in the 1500s. This whole reading calls us to reflect on faith as patient trust. God will do all God promises.

2 Timothy 1:1–14

The writer keeps coming back to faith as trust as a word of encouragement to a younger worker in the community of Christians. But something of importance here is the truth that faith is something we learn from others, just as Timothy did from his mother and grandmother. By our lives, we show others what faith looks like for us.

Luke 17:5–10

Faith the size of a mustard seed is very small, and yet for Jesus that is all that is needed for living and doing the work of God. Jesus then calls his followers to a path of obedience, not as a reward for life, but as a way of living out that faith.

October 13 – Pentecost 21/Lectionary 28

2 Kings 5:1–3, 7–15c

God's ways are not human ways. Naaman is healed of leprosy by simply bathing in the Jordan River. No big deal, no magical incantations. But this how our God works, this is where our God can be found: in the places we least expect to find God: in the simple and ordinary activities of daily living.

2 Timothy 2:8–15

Jesus, the human born as a descendent of David, and God's anointed one (Christ) is the summary of the gospel or good news of who God is.

Luke 17:11–19

Ten lepers are healed; only one says thank you to Jesus, and he is one considered to be an outcast. Gratitude, thankfulness, enables us to see our lives as bigger than ourselves. Gratitude makes us whole and healed and peaceful.

October 20 – Pentecost 22/Lectionary 29

Genesis 32:22–31

This encounter Jacob had with God shows us several things that happen when God and humans come together: humans are changed (for Jacob it was limping) and humans know God more intimately.

2 Timothy 3:14–4:5

With these words of encouragement, Paul urges Timothy to remain faithful to Christ and to the teaching of the Scripture (which for Paul and Timothy was the Hebrew Scriptures).

Luke 18:1–8

Persistence in petitions is what Jesus teaches here using a story about a judge and a bothersome widow. The lesson is not for us to pester God into granting our needs, but in knowing that God will give us what we need as we continue to seek God's blessings through our prayers.

October 27 – Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31–34

God's plan is for us to know God so intimately that God's purposes would seem to be written on our hearts.

Romans 3:19–28

Salvation is beyond our human ability to earn it. But it is the free gift from God given to us not because we are so good, but because God is so good and loving and forgiving. Paul tells the Romans that life with God is about God, not about us.

John 8:31–36

Freedom and slavery do not go together, but freedom and loving service do. In our service freely given from gratitude we follow Christ faithfully.

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH
1817 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889-2238
Phone: 401-739-2937/Fax: 401-732-0735
www.pilgrimlutheranri.org

Dated Material October 2013



*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

Chris Spencer - President
Kathy Gremel - Vice President
Joan Theroux - Secretary

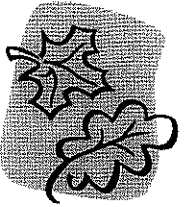
Cindy Cote	Bill Dugan	Linda Hughes
Maureen Johnson	Laurie Linden	Tammy McLaughlin
Steve Phillips	Clinton Smith	Lois Williams





October 2013

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 - Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		1 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation - Use of Time	2 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00 Altar Guild Exec. Committee Meeting	4 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	5
6 Pentecost 20 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion/New Members Welcomed 10:45 Let's Talk 10:45 Altar Guild General Meeting 12:00 Per-Blessing 2:00 Healy Baby Shower	7 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	8 10:00 RI Conference Pastors Meeting Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation - Service/Fellowship 7:00 Leadership Structure Workgroup	9 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00 Worship, Music and Arts	11 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	12
13 Pentecost 21 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 10:45 Let's Talk	14 COLUMBUS DAY Church Office Closed 7:00 Adult Ed - Galatians 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	15 PROGRESS DEADLINE 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation — Use of Talents	16 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	17 10:00 Toiletry Cupboard 7:00 Congregation Council Meeting	18 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF <i>Luke, Evangelist</i> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	19
20 Pentecost 22 <i>Coins for a Cause Sunday</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 10:45 Let's Talk	21 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	22 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 6:30 Confirmation— Teachers' Meeting/No Kids	23 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	24	25 PASTOR KOHL'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	26 4:00 Koussa/Lessard Wedding
27 Reformation Sunday 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion/ Confirmation 10:45 Let's Talk 2:00 Baptism 2:00 Sunday School Halloween Party	28 Simon and Jude, <i>Apostles</i> 7:00 Adult Ed - Galatians 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	29 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation — Use of Money	30 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	31 Reformation Day  Halloween		

SERVING in OCTOBER 2013

GREETERS

October 6 Linda and Emily Hughes
October 13 Millie Johnson
October 20 Karin Kohl
October 27 Marion Kullberg

READERS

October 6 Pam Himebaugh
October 13 Lou Cardillo
October 20 Roy Wagner
October 27 Helen Varin

ALTAR GUILD

October 6 Maureen Johnson
Cindy Cote
October 13 Joanne Lozy
Susan Simundson
October 20 Ginny Smith
Nancy Derby
October 27 Nancy Sulmasy
Betty Wagner

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 6 Audrey Cryan
October 13 Jocelyn Theroux
October 20 Stephen Johnson
October 27 Andrew McLaughlin

CONFIRMATION DINNERS

Tuesday Evenings

October 1 Jim Higgins
October 8 **No meal** Service/Fellowship
October 15 Susan Mahoney
October 22 **No meal** Staff Meeting - no kids
October 29 Kristen Resendes

USHERS

October 6 Scott Chappelle
Rick Nelson
Carl Ostermann
Allan Reed
October 13 Scott Chappelle
Kristen Resendes
Jason & Courtney Petrarca
October 20 Scott Chappelle
Michele Tucci
Betty Wagner
Roy Wagner
October 27 Scott Chappelle
Deb Vilaridi
Bruce & Carolyn Vittner

ALTAR FLOWERS

October 6 Roy Wagner
Dick and Joan Hamblin
Millie Johnson
October 13 Roy Wagner
October 20 The Simundson/Cryan Family
October 27 Pam Himebaugh

COUNTERS

October 6 Beth Fish and Maureen Johnson
October 13 Bill Dugan and Laurie Linden
October 20 Beth Fish and Tammy McLaughlin
October 27 Chris Spencer and Steve Phillips

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!*