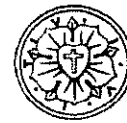




Pilgrims' Progress



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

OUR STAFF

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The Rev. Dennis Kohl

Minister of Music

Denis Brunelle

Parish Assistant/Progress Editor

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM PASTOR KOHL	P.	1 & 2
PASTORAL ACTS	P.	2
CHURCH NOTES	P.	3 & 4
COUNCIL RECONSTRUCTION	P.	5
PILGRIM FINANCIAL UPDATE	P.	6
CECILIA & THE RING OF LIGHT	P.	6
NOVEMBER READINGS	P.	7
NOVEMBER SERVERS	P.	INSERT
NOVEMBER CALENDAR	P.	INSERT

December Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Friday, November 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 the Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

It's November. The year has flown by bringing both struggles and blessings our way. Such is life in this world, and I know God has given us one another to share both our joys and our struggles. The church is important for this and many other reasons, as well. I suspect we all have our stories of what Pilgrim Lutheran Church means for us. Maybe you will share them in writing to help us all see the biggest picture we can have of our congregation.

With November comes a time for thanksgiving to God for the blessings and growth which have come to us this year. We will do that as an interfaith community on Sunday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church here in Warwick. Many people will gather with family or friends on Thursday, November 28, Thanksgiving Day. Some people will not have enough food for their families, and others will not have a place to sleep.

Jim Higgins, who was stationed here at Pilgrim Church, looked out for the people who go without adequate food or shelter. His death in October leaves a huge void in this ministry to feed people and guide them to safe places for rest. We are seeking through our interfaith and commercial connections to gather and distribute food as Jim did. Let Karin Kohl know if you can help. It is in working together that much gets done.

Also in November, we will ask for financial support for the ministry of Jesus for our life together at Pilgrim Church. It takes all of us, sharing as generously as possible, to accomplish the work Jesus has called us to do. Please increase your giving to Pilgrim's share of God's kingdom's work.

As your pastor, along with the Congregation Council, we are setting a goal before all members of a tithe of income to the work of Jesus. Biblically this means 10% of resources returned to God as a way of thanking God for all the blessings we receive. Pastor Dana Reardon at St. Paul Church here in Warwick compares the blessings of tithing to open heart surgery: It is serious enough to put our life in perspective and successful enough to open our arteries to generosity. I know she is right. After all, what do we have that has not come from God?

And then comes a new church year in December as during Advent we take four Sundays to consider the role of hope in our lives.

More and more I am convinced that the church plays an important part in our world today. In the face of cynicism we speak of hope, in the face of frustration we speak of God's care, in the face of loneliness we speak of community, in the place of anger we speak of forgiveness, in the face of divisions we speak of respect, in the face of the myth of scarcity we speak of God's abundance. God continues to use the church to bring into being an alternative community of people who seek to bless rather than to hoard, and to give rather than to accumulate. Does our world need the church of Jesus Christ? I believe it does and we do more profoundly than ever.

In hope,



Pastoral Acts

Affirmation of Baptism

Audrey Cryan
Stephen Johnson
Sarah Lowell
Nichole Morales
Kevin Murphy
Jon O'Hara
Katie O'Hara
Matthew Sangster
Jocelyn Theroux



Members Received



John & Jane Arnold
Lisa Demers
Michael Ferry
Kenneth & Holly Norberg
Wendy Pachecho
Heather White

Marriages

Douglas Etchells & Ashley Turano
Kimberly Hittner & Angel Maisonet, Jr.



Funerals



Timothy Albies
Helen Bazik
Marian Gale

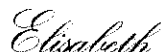


Looking ahead...a request from your Parish Assistant

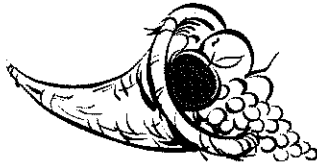
With the extreme busyness of the Advent and Christmas seasons soon upon the church office, it would be very helpful for those coordinating worship servers, and for all those who have information to include in the January 2014 *Pilgrims' Progress* to submit your material to Elisabeth as earlier as you possibly can (early in December or perhaps even some time in November).

Our goal is to have the January 2014 *Progress* available before Christmas, and we can do it with your help—tracking down information around the holidays with people traveling and being otherwise very busy can be a real challenge! Any assistance you are able to give would be very much appreciated, and will make an otherwise crazy time in the church office just that much less hectic. Many thanks!

Your Grateful Parish Assistant,



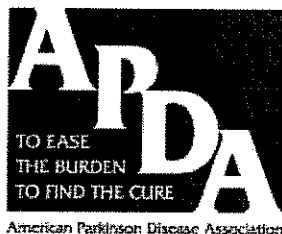
Thanksgiving Worship Sunday, November 24



Once again this year, we will gather as a community to give thanks for all with which God has blessed us.

Please join us for worship on **Sunday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m.** Our hosts will be the people of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 111 West Shore Road in Warwick. We will be joined by some of Warwick's other religious communities, including our friends from Temple Am David and St. Rita's, as well.

Following the service, we will have a time of fellowship with these people of faith. Mark your calendar now to be part of this important time of thanks, hospitality, and community. (And be sure to note the change from our Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving gatherings, as in years past.)



Laurie Linden would like to thank Team Pilgrim and the entire congregation for their support of the Parkinson's Walk on which our team honored Bruce Belvin. We raised \$1,390 from the walk, \$423 from our September Coins for a Cause Sunday, and an additional \$500 from The Rhode Island Chapter of Thrivent.

Our grand total raised was \$2,313!

PILGRIM CHURCH'S OLD-FASHIONED CHURCH BAZAAR



Saturday, November 16
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Crafts

Books

White Elephant Table

Lots of food and fun!



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.

Pilgrim Advent Celebration



The Pilgrim choir, soloists, and instrumentalists will be hosting an **Advent Celebration on Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m.**

The choir and handbell choir from St. Paul will also be sharing their musical gifts with us.

We invite you to join the Pilgrim family as we sing carols and listen to the inspirational music of the season.

A time for refreshments and fellowship will follow in the Christian Life Center.

Christmas Poinsettias



The Altar Guild will soon be accepting contributions for Christmas Poinsettias. If you would like to make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please fill out an envelope (in clear print), enclose your free will contribution, and place it in the collection plate. You may also send your envelope to the church office to the attention of the Altar Guild.

Christmas Poinsettia envelopes can be found in the pews and on the table in the narthex. Please fill out **a separate envelope for each dedication.**

These poinsettias will decorate our main sanctuary, the chapel, and other areas of the church building throughout the Christmas season.

All Christmas Poinsettia envelopes MUST be received no later than Sunday, December 15, 2012.

Summary of the October 2013 Congregation Council Meeting

The council approved the recommendations of the Leadership and Structure Workgroup. An oral report and discussion will happen for the congregation soon. Watch the Sunday bulletin. The council extended thanks to the work group which consisted of Kathy Gremel, Susan Simundson, Laurie Linden, Mary Brinson, Bob Sangster, Maureen Johnson, and Pete Mahoney.

Finances	(September 30)
Income for budget	\$182,305.00
(\$18,856 came from special funds of the congregation.)	
Expenses against budget	\$189,224.74

Coins for a Cause in September went to Parkinson Research: \$423.89

Stewardship Sunday will be November 24. All members will be asked to increase their offerings and to work toward a tithe of income to Pilgrim Church.

The Sunday School reported that it needed to order more material because of the increased enrollment. We are also in need of a few more Sunday School teachers: one will be having a baby soon.

The Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, November 16.

We will be making on-line donations available the church's web site: www.pilgrimlutheranri.org

October Coins for a Cause will be donated to the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Center.

YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER



Just in time for Christmas giving!
Look for the table after services.

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
PILGRIM'S MUSIC PROGRAM**

CHURCH COUNCIL RECONSTRUCTION

Members of the Church Council have been busy working on carrying out the vision and mission that was approved by the congregation in June of this year. So what exactly does that mean? And so why would you care?

To answer these questions first start with a reminder of the rationale for this effort. Last year the council engaged a listening group that met with and spoke to many, many members of the congregation to find out what members wanted and needed from Pilgrim Lutheran Church. They presented their report and gave several recommendations. One was the identification of the spiritual gifts of the church members, which was completed. (Always interested in getting and adding your gifts to the list.) Two was the creation of a new mission and vision, which was completed and approved by the congregation. The third one was review and restructuring of the leadership and structure for church council and Pilgrim Lutheran Church, which has recently been approved by the church council.

The goal was to have a simpler structure where the council would provide the "big picture" and overall plan for worship and service of the church and facilitate relationship of members with God, other members, and the community. The structure also has to support congregation members' worship life and the ability to take part in activities and events of the church as it fits their interests, time, and life.

In June, the council went on retreat and created a beginning structure that included the current church committees, workgroups and teams. This structure organized all the groups in to a) Spiritual Development Ministry, b) Outreach Ministry, and c) Support Ministry (administrative support). Also during the month of June a Leadership and Structure workgroup was created and charged by the council to develop recommendations. In September the workgroup presented recommendations that were approved this October. The council is excited about this simpler structure and focus on supporting relationships among church council and members to more fully use our many gifts, ideas, and prayers.

More specifically what will be happening are the following.

1. There is a move from committee structure to a workgroup or taskforce structure. It is more than a name change but is change is how each group will work. All work has to be connected to the vision/mission, therefore, the following is needed:
 - Establish a statement of purpose including how the work supports or helps congregation meet the vision mission, how the group will function, and how relate or work with other taskforces, activities, and events.
 - Create a yearly calendar. May also want to create a listing or brochure describing the work, activities, and events
 - Support & remove barriers so activities and events occur and congregation members are able to participate.
 - Meet as needed for the work involved.
 - Give report to the taskforce if part of a larger taskforce and/or to the CouncilAn example of a committee that uses this format is the Worship, Music, & Arts Committee or Workgroup.
2. Through out the year there will be open congregation meetings/events around the 3 ministries of spiritual development, outreach, and support.
3. Starting 2014, the first council meeting will be an orientation meeting with a facilitator to introduce new members to the work of the council and refocus continuing council members to the vision, mission and structure that encourages relationship, leadership, and accountability.
4. The nominating committee will start working in the fall to identify nominees for the council.

The council is excited about the work and looks forward to any questions and working with members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church as the vision and mission states to build our relationships with Jesus and share our gifts from God with the community.

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

We are writing in support of a "hidden" ministry here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. The ministry we are referring to is the one we might take for granted: Sunday worship; Christian Education for children, youth and adults; and the newsletter/website. Maybe it is "hidden" in plain sight?

Our congregation supports several important efforts that serve our surrounding community: the food ministry and the toiletry ministry especially come to mind. These are "high-profile" efforts that we often talk about.

Much unseen, low-profile activity takes place at Pilgrim every day. The building, the equipment, and the staff all contribute to sustaining the on-going ministry to our members and visitors on Sundays and throughout the week.

We are writing to you because this "every-day" ministry is in serious need of financial support! Our members are faithful in their donations on a regular basis, but we have a current shortfall of about \$25,000. This amount is about 10% of our annual operating budget. That is, we are receiving about 90% of what we anticipated.

A ten percent shortfall may not sound like much, but as you can see, on a \$250,000 budget, that 10% is huge! Please take a moment to carefully look over the donation statement that you recently received in the mail.

Please evaluate your donation statement and, if necessary, make an effort to "catch up" on your regular offering. Also, if possible, consider a one-time "leap-a-week" donation – an extra donation equal to your regular weekly offering.

Respectfully submitted,
The Finance Committee of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church Council

Stewardship Sunday is November 24.



Cecilia and the Ring of Light

December seemed like the longest month to Cecilia. She hated the dark nights and she hated waiting for Christmas. Until one year her parents brought home a ring of evergreens and four candles. "What's that about?" she asked her parents. "Well, you know how we have that Advent wreath at church? We're going to have one here at home." "I didn't know we could do that," Cecilia said. "Sure we can," her father said. It's one way we can connect Sunday mornings with every night of the week."

"Here's what we're going to do," dad said. "We're going to light one of the four candles each week just like at church, but we're going to have each candle remind us of something from the story about Jesus' birth." "Can I name one of the candles?" Cecilia asked. "Yes," her mom said. "In fact, you go first."

"I think I'll name the first candle the Angel candle. I always like when angels show up in the Bible stories," Cecilia said. And then her brother and mother and father each picked a name for the other three candles: the Star candle, the Shepherd candle, and the Hope candle. They decided that the first one they would light would be the Hope candle because that's what they would be doing for four weeks, sharing time together and reminding each other that Jesus comes to bring hope to our homes.

Then they decided to do something else: each person would take a turn in thinking about a Bible story about whatever the candle was named. They would tell the Bible story and maybe other stories they knew about people who waited or shepherds or angels or stars. After the stories, they would tell the best thing that happened that day and then the biggest bother of the day.

Lighting a candle each night helped to make dark December a little brighter, and lighting two, then three, then four candles gave more and more light each week. By Christmas that Hope candle was really burned down, but this ring of light with its four candles made Cecilia and her family glad for a time to wait and hope and share their days.

Sunday Readings – November 2013

November 3 – All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18

Apocalyptic writings are not common in our world. But in this vision of God's ultimate victory, we hear the promise that God's people will receive the kingdom forever and ever.

Ephesians 1:11–23 In this section of the letter, the writer wants the congregation at Ephesus to understand that for Christians the future, not the past, determines life in the present time.

Luke 6:20–31 This is Luke's version of Jesus' teaching about holiness and the lifestyle Jesus wants for his followers.

November 10 – Pentecost 25

Job 19:23–27a

As we move toward the end of the church's year, our readings on Sundays call us to consider the final purposes of God. In this passage from Job, we read of the hope of life eternal.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–17

People in the church at Thessalonica were being troubled by preachers who declared the day of the Lord had already come or was about to come. This caused fear among some people in the church. Paul writes to assure them that God's purpose is inclusion, that they are already saints of God, people destined for a blessing.

Luke 20:27–38

The Sadducees had an agenda in coming to Jesus: to prove that there is no resurrection or eternal life. Jesus' answer reminds them that there are things we know little to nothing about, such as marriage in heaven.

November 17 – Pentecost 26

Malachi 4:1–2a

The prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures often preached warnings and promises to the people. In this reading we hear both a warning of the end of things as well as the promise of healing and hope for God's people.

2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

Because we know that time will end is not an excuse for not living faithfully and responsibly today.

Luke 21:5–19

Jesus also tells us that faithful living is the way we face the end of time; that even in deep troubles God will provide for us what we need to have.

November 24 – Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1–6

Good shepherds and bad shepherds are the comparison in this reading. Through Jeremiah, God promises to provide a leader and king in the lineage of David who will be the source of peace and whole life.

Colossians 1:11–20

Jesus is the one who reveals the fullness of God. Jesus is the one who is head of the church. Jesus is the one through whom we have peace with God.

Luke 23:33–43

God always works in ways we do not expect. Here we read about the enthronement of Christ the King. It is a cross where Jesus is rejected by most people except one of the criminals crucified with him. Jesus promises to remember him when he comes into his kingdom.


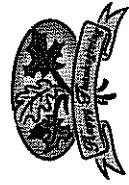


November 2013

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

1817 Warwick Avenue Warwick, Rhode Island 02889 401-739-2937

www.pilgrimlutheranri.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Remember to "Fall Back" Saturday night, November 2</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 Pastors' Pericope</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation Service/Fellowship</p>	<p>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Tuesday—Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</p>		<p>1 PK'S DAY OFF <i>All Saints Day</i></p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	2
<p>3 <i>All Saints Sunday</i></p> <p>8:00 Holy Communion</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School</p> <p>9:30 Holy Communion</p> <p>10:45 First Communion Class</p>	<p>11 VETERANS DAY</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	7		<p>8 PK'S DAY OFF</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	9
<p>10 <i>Pentecost 25</i></p> <p>8:00 Holy Communion</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School</p> <p>9:30 Holy Communion</p> <p>10:45 First Communion Class</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Pastors' Pericope</p> <p>1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation - Class Media and Materialism</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	14	<p>7:00 Worship, Music and Arts</p>	<p>15 PK'S DAY OFF FILGRIMS' PROGRESS DEADLINE</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	16
<p>17 <i>Pentecost 26</i></p> <p>8:00 Holy Communion</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School</p> <p>9:30 Holy Communion</p> <p>10:45 First Communion Class</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Pastors' Pericope</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation - Staff Meeting/No Kids</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	21	<p>10:00 Toiletry Cupboard</p> <p>7:00 Congregation Council Meeting</p>	<p>22 PK'S DAY OFF</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	23
<p>24 <i>Christ the King Stewardship Sunday</i></p> <p>8:00 Holy Communion</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School</p> <p>9:30 Holy Communion</p> <p>10:45 First Communion Class</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 Pastors' Pericope</p> <p>1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation - Class Suicide</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	28 THANKSGIVING DAY		<p>29</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	30 <i>St. Andrew, Apostle</i>

SERVING in NOVEMBER 2013

GREETERS

November 3 Fred & Laurie Linden
November 10 Muriel Linden
November 17 Angel Maisonet
November 24 Merrill McElroy

READERS

November 3 Chris Spencer
November 10 Filomena Maisonet
November 17 Susan Horsch
November 24 Allan Reed

ALTAR GUILD

November 3 Mary Brinson
Pam Himebaugh
Kate Murphy-Duncan
November 10 Kitty Johnson
Pat Frazier
Jennifer Cardillo
November 17 Maureen Johnson
Cindy Cote
November 24 Joanne Lozy
Susan Simundson

ASSISTING MINISTERS

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

ACOLYTES

November 3 Sam Almonte
November 10 Connor Safford
November 17 Connor Lowell
November 24 Caleigh Blackmer

USHERS

November 3 Scott Chappelle
Renee Woodward
Wendy Brusick & Greg Steiner
November 10 Scott Chappelle
Elaine Belvin
Lou Cardillo
Cindy Cote
November 17 Scott Chappelle
Bonnie Donahue
Jo-Anne Doyle
Ron Fish
November 24 Scott Chappelle
Pam Himebaugh
Susan Horsch
Linda Hughes

ALTAR FLOWERS

November 3 Available
November 10 The Belvin Family
Millie Johnson and Family
November 17 Verna Confreda
November 24 The Wagner Family

COUNTERS

November 3 Clinton Smith and Joan Theroux
November 10 Lois Williams and Beth Fish
November 17 Cindy Cote and Kathy Gremel
November 24 Chris Spencer and Steve Phillips

CONFIRMATION DINNERS

Tuesday Evenings

November 5 No meal Service/Fellowship
November 12 Kim Paiva
November 19 No meal Staff Meeting - no kids
November 26 Tracey Mitchell/Caleigh Blackmer

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

*Eucharistic Ministers are needed for the month of November. Please see Pastor Kohl if you are interested in serving this important ministry.
Many thanks!*