



Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Warwick, Rhode Island
January 2014

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2014 Offering Envelopes will soon be available in the narthex—please take yours home as soon as possible. Thank you!

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2014
immediately following
the 9:30 service

(See page 2 for more information)

Please note that committee annual reports are due in the office no later than Sunday, January 12. Thanks!

From the Pastor

This is Christ's church.

There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person — questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

The paragraph above comes from the home page of our national church (elca.org). You might want to take a look at it sometime. I think it does a good job of reporting on the mission we do and encouraging faith practices, and introducing people to our church and to Lutheran Christians.

But these words apply to us also as a congregation, as a community in Christ at this time and in this place. As we stand at the beginning of a new year, we do not know the challenges that will come to us as a congregation, as a church, or as individuals. The *immediate* future is unknown; the ultimate future is in God's care and keeping, and because of that all will be well.

But to say that there a place for anyone looking for new life in Christ, saying we embrace the totality of a person including their doubts and questions opens us to a vulnerability that we may not be comfortable with. But if we are honest with ourselves, we know that every one of us brings our own questions and wrestling with us as we gather on Sundays.

I am proud that we have registered as a Reconciling in Christ congregation, that we have gone public in welcoming all who seek new life. And I believe that while we do not and cannot know what the year will bring us, at least we know that part of our life will be hospitality, that we want to welcome others as Christ has welcomed us. I have come to firmly believe that

our intentions shape our actions and the outcome of our mission and work. Staying rooted in our purpose is essential for us to have an intentional ministry to this world.

The purpose statement we discerned for our church is important in this: *God's purpose for Pilgrim Lutheran Church is to build our relationships with Jesus and to share our gifts with the community.* In other words, our ministry is directed both inwardly to the congregation and our relationships with Jesus, and outwardly to our community. We must have both directions to be the body of Christ, a place of renewal and hope, as well as a place of service to others.

As I wrote above, we do not know what the new year will bring to us, but we do know these things:

- Jesus has promised to be with us always.
- The Holy Spirit has gathered Pilgrim Lutheran Church to be a place of hope and service
- God has called us to be people of welcome who know that we also have been welcomed by Jesus.
- God will provide what we need
- God will never let go of us.

We are Jesus' church. If we keep that central in our conversations and planning, we will be Christ's church, no matter what life brings us in 2014.

In hope, with blessings,

Paster Kohl

**February Pilgrims' Progress Deadline:
Wednesday, January 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. Many thanks.

Pastoral Acts

First Holy Communion Candidates

Daphne Cardillo
Christopher Coppa
Parker Greene
Lily Hall
Sloan Hogan
Joshua Sangster
Aiden White



Funerals



John Peter Balzano
Lena May "Shirley" Forgiel
Earl Godfrey
Alexander Ramsey
Patricia Strand

**PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH'S
ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**

The Annual Meeting of Pilgrim Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, January 26 following the 9:30 service.** This is the meeting in which we elect people to serve the congregation on our Congregation Council and several committees: The Nominating, Scholarship, and Memorial Committees, as well as voting members of our annual synod assembly which will be held in June. It is also at this meeting that a budget for ministry for 2014 will be put into place. All active confirmed members of the congregation are encouraged and expected to be present at this meeting as these decisions are made.

Please note that committee Annual Reports are due in the office no later than Sunday, January 12 for inclusion in the 2013 report booklet.

A message from the Altar Guild...



It's time to plan ahead! The Altar Guild is accepting requests for Altar Flowers for 2014. What a wonderful way

for you to honor your family and loved ones by remembering anniversaries and special occasions throughout the year.

Flower envelopes can be found on the table in the narthex. For each request, we ask for a \$30 donation. Once completed, envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off to the church office with your donation.

The flowers will be distributed after the late service each week to those that are ill, shut-in, or celebrating a special occasion at the discretion of the Pastor.

Thank you!

The Pilgrim Lutheran Church Altar Guild

Hospitalized or Needing a Pastoral Visit?

Please have a family member call the church at 401-739-2937. There is also voice mail to leave a message if no one is in the office when you call. Be sure to leave your name, the name of the person who needs or wants a visit, and a contact number in case the pastors need more information. If someone is in a hospital, be sure to tell us at which hospital, along with any other information you may have, such as a room number, etc.

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.

The Food Ministry of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

*"For I was hungry and
you gave me food."*

Matthew 25:37

Today, Calvin Linden and I were distributing food to St. Michael's in South Providence. In the frigid weather, I was especially mindful of how important it is during this time of year for the hungry to get food, so that they have the energy to do what they need to do.

It has been about a month now since Jim died, and for the rest of us, his ministry has been a huge task to take on. But we are doing it. With God's help, people are getting fed, and gradually we are getting into the swing of things and changing and doing new things as it seems fit.

I don't know if you realize how many people and places we help to provide food for. They include St. Michael's in South Providence, the Food Ministry in Olneyville, Central Baptist in Apponaug, Dan Santos at St. Rita's, the Rhode Island Family Shelter in Conimicut, a Pentecostal church in Providence, kosher food for Temple Am David, the local Wednesday food basket ministry, and the local toiletry cupboard ministry.

Additionally, a number of local stores have helped to support our ministry: Stop and Shop, Trader Joe's, and Dave's, and we have put in for help from some other stores.

So, how can you help? Besides taking an active role in the ministry itself, you can donate in various ways – with gifts of money, cash cards, food, and toiletries.

Many thanks and God Bless.

Karin Kohl

The Gift of Community

I have been pondering about how the church is changing as we move into our modern times. It is obvious that the church is not what it was, but the question that remains for many people is this: Should the church be what it was?

One of the ironies of our culture is that the more we believe we are connected the less we really are connected as the human family. Much of our communication comes through electronic means or digital interfaces. I don't think these things are bad in themselves, but when they have come to replace the ways in which people could talk with each other and see each other, then we have a problem of isolation. I think that is one of the main reasons why I hate talking on the phone—beside the fact that my hearing is awful—the lack of seeing how people's reactions, their facial expressions, the marks of their individual humanity are missing.

I try to understand why the congregation and the church in this culture seem to be on the side of the plate rather than an important part of the meal of life.

Here's how I see it: We all need other people. None of us is our best when we keep people at a distance. I know that from my own life and periods of wanting or needing to be alone. When that happens, the only reality, the only thoughts that come to me are of my own creation or understanding. The gift that other people bring to us is new ideas, different ways of seeing life, a vision that is bigger than we might have alone. And to be most fully human, we all need ways of seeing things which come to us from the experiences of others.

The church of Jesus has always been a communal experience. Jesus himself said *where one or two people are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them*. That is a promise and an insight into how God created us: to be together.

Sundays and other gatherings of the church are a time of community. As Lutheran Christians we understand the congregation, the gathering of the assembly itself to be one of the means of grace. That means that we believe Jesus' promise that where one or two gather, he comes to be with us. So our community includes Jesus himself.

But our community also includes the other people in the pews with us: babies, kids, people with limitations, people with various backgrounds and stories. And in our being present together, we affirm the importance of each other. That is why the sharing of peace is so important. It is one way in the liturgy that we affirm the reality of all being forgiven sinners in God's presence.

But there is another community that we are part of when we worship, and that is the historical community of the church. Do you know our words and actions, our vestments, and our music are all used to reflect the ancientness of the church? It's one of the ways we have of knowing that life is not just about us. It is also about those who have held the faith before us. So now we are the link that will pass the church on to future generations by the presence of Jesus through the call of the Holy Spirit.

The church is a place for people who need healing. As the old saying goes, *the church is a hospital for sinners, not a hotel for saints*. We do need one another, and God has given us the gift of community to help us walk through life with faith and the assurance that in others, present and past, and in bread and wine, God remembers us.

Pastor Kohl

Sunday Readings – January 2014

January 5 - The Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7–14

God encourages the people to rejoice. God will reunite all people and bring them to a place of peace and fullness, a place and time when all will be well.

Ephesians 1:3–14

The writer of Ephesians teaches us that in Christ all the truth of God is revealed for us, not as judgment against us but as good news for us of God's grace lavished upon us.

John 1:1–18

The opening words of the Gospel of John bear witness to the child whose birth we celebrate in these twelve days of Christmas. John shares the revelation with us that Jesus was with God and in fact, was God from before time. Because God dwells in eternity, God is still with us by the work of the Holy Spirit revealing Jesus as God's heart to us.

January 12 – Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1–9

This reading is sometimes called one of the *Servant Songs* of Isaiah, sections of poetry which reveal the work God will do through God's chosen one. For Christians, we understand this servant to be Jesus and the church as the ongoing body of Christ in the world through all time.

Acts 10:34–43

Peter preaches to a group he never thought he would: Roman Gentiles. It is an angel that tells Peter to go to Cornelius' house to proclaim what God has done in Jesus. This text is a summary of the work of Jesus as savior.

Matthew 3:13–17

With water and words Jesus is declared to be the Son of God. Jesus' baptism is the event which establishes who he is: the beloved of God with whom God is well pleased.

January 19 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany/Lectionary 2

Isaiah 49:1–7

Isaiah knows God's call to preach is a call to serve all nations, not just a special group. Because there is only one God, this must be the God for all people.

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

We will be reading 1 Corinthians through the season of Epiphany. This is a letter Paul wrote to a congregation struggling with finding its unity in Christ. Paul reminds them (and us) that we are one in Christ Jesus because of the grace Jesus brings. This eliminates any boasting or special spiritual standing in the church.

John 1:29–42

Our gospel text looks back on the events we read last week: here is John the Baptizer's witness to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Jesus also invites two people to join him in his ministry: Andrew and Simon Peter.

January 26 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany/Lectionary 3

Isaiah 9:1–4

God shows up in places one least expects to find God. Isaiah's preaching here declares that God will show up in the Gentile world as well as among the chosen people. In our gospel reading for today we discover Jesus at work in these places Isaiah speaks of.

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

Dissension in the church in Corinth becomes the foundation for this section of the letter. Paul reminds the congregation that they were all baptized into Christ Jesus, that they share a common connection in belonging to Jesus. Paul also admits that because the cross is the place of redemption, eloquent words are not needed, but in simplicity grace is revealed. (By the way, the last verse of this reading is the text on the base of our processional cross.)

Matthew 4:12–23

After John the Baptizer is arrested Jesus begins his ministry of preaching. The message he proclaims is the same one John was preaching: *Repent, the reign of God has come near*. Jesus begins to recruit followers to help in his ministry. He calls Peter and Andrew and James and John from their work as fishing men to go with Jesus.

SERVING in JANUARY 2014

GREETERS

January 5 Bonnie Abols
January 12 Susan Simundson
January 19 Bill Dugan
January 26 Bruce & Elaine Belvin

READERS

January 5 Lois Williams
January 12 Kathy Gremel
January 19 John McElroy
January 26 Beth Fish

ALTAR GUILD

January 5 Joanne Lozy
Susan Simundson
January 12 Debbie Perri
January 19 Mary Brinson
Pam Himebaugh
January 26 Jennifer Cardillo
Cindy Cote

ASSISTING MINISTERS

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

All January dates are currently available.

USHERS

January 5 Scott Chappelle
Elaine Belvin
Lou Cardillo
Cindy Cote
January 12 Scott Chappelle
Bonnie Donahue
Jo-Anne Doyle
Ron Fish
January 19 Scott Chappelle
John & Tina Carlson
Bill Dugan
January 26 Scott Chappelle
Pam Himebaugh
Susan Horsch
Linda Hughes

ACOLYTES

January 5 Samantha Almonte
January 12 Caleigh Blackmer
January 19 Connor Lowell
January 26 Corey Olson

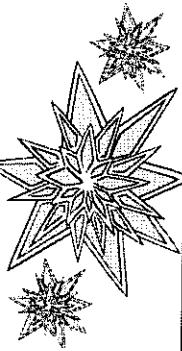
COUNTERS

January 5 Beth Fish and Maureen Johnson
January 12 Beth Fish and Cindy Cote
January 19 Beth Fish and Kathy Gremel
January 26 Beth Fish and Laurie Linden

CONFIRMATION DINNERS


Tuesday Evenings

January 7 **No meal** Staff Meeting/No kids
January 14 **Needed!** - Please sign up on the sheet posted on the Youth Board
January 21 **No meal** Service/Fellowship
January 28 Christine Jackson



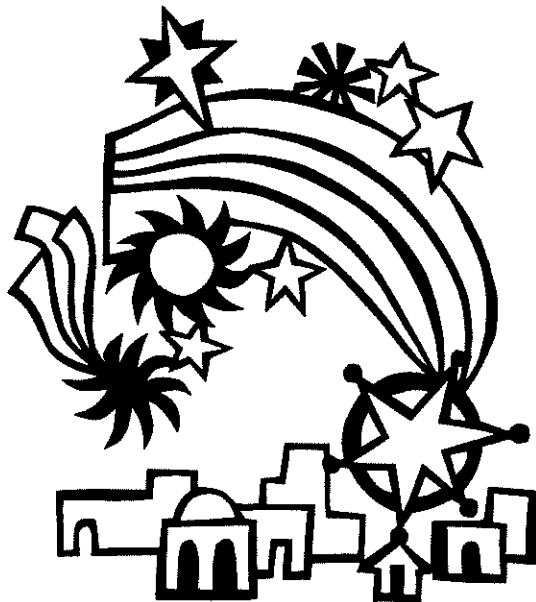
January 2014

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.— 4:30 p.m.			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 PK'S DAY OFF	4 11:00 — 1:00 Wedding Shower in CLC
5 Christmas 2 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	6 <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation - Staff Meeting/No Kids	8 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 Worship, Music & Arts	10 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	11 10:00 Altar Guild Christmas Dismantling
12 The Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion Annual Reports submission deadline	13 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	14 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 Confirmation - Drugs	15 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 Toiletry Cupboard 7:00 Council Meeting	17 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	18
19 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	20 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	21 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation - Service/Fellowship	22 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23	24 PK'S DAY OFF <i>St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor</i> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	25 <i>Conversion of Paul</i>
26 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 10:45 Congregation Annual Meeting	27 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	28 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 Confirmation - Risky Behavior Risky Sex	29 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30	31 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	

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

Dated Material January 2014



*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.*

John 1:5

Congregation Council

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

Cindy Cote
Maureen Johnson
Steve Phillips

Bill Dugan
Laurie Linden
Clinton Smith

Linda Hughes
Tammy McLaughlin
Lois Williams