



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

## OUR STAFF

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The Rev. Dennis Kohl

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### **Parish Assistant/Progress Editor**

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### **Financial Secretary**

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### **Sexton**

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**2014 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex—please take yours home if you haven't already done so.**

**Thank you!**

## **March Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Saturday, February 15!**

Please e-mail submissions to Elisabeth at both [parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org](mailto:parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org) and [eremmingvergun@cox.net](mailto:eremmingvergun@cox.net) or place in her mailbox in the church office. Many thanks.

*The Progress deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.*

## From the Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

During the month of February the church spends its time in the season of Epiphany. This season begins with hearing the story of the three magi who came to worship the infant Jesus and the baptism of our Lord, and concludes with the story of the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountaintop. In between those stories there can be as many as eight Sundays. On each Sunday we consider how Jesus was revealed to people or how Jesus' ministry was shaped by who he is: the Son of God. Epiphany is about coming to understand the work Jesus does for the human family.

I suspect another way we can consider Epiphany is with the theme of surprises. Each of the stories we read has a surprise in it: the king is found in a barn, the heavens open and Jesus is declared God's beloved one, people leave their lives behind and start on a new road, the mountaintop glows with uncreated light and Moses and Elijah are seen talking with Jesus. None of this is just everyday stuff. Epiphany is loaded with surprises.

That's important for us to remember because God is still a God of surprises. God shows us in the least likely places the world would expect to find God: in human words spoken in forgiveness and hope, in water and bread and wine, in a community dedicated to seeing life a new way, on a cross outside of Jerusalem, and in an upper room behind locked doors with terrified disciples.

Epiphany is a time for each of us to consider those places where God has shown up in our lives. A tradition among the Moravian Christians is to write down those places where God has surprised us, those moments of grace when we knew God was there.

But here is the surprising part of doing this: you cannot know where God will meet you in a new or profound way until after the event happens. It is more by looking back that we see where God was than we can predict where God will be in such a lively and astonishing way.

A story is recorded in Exodus 34 in which Moses asks to see God's glory. God agrees but tells Moses he cannot see God's face. So God hides Moses in a cleft in the mountain and covers Moses with God's hand; then God removes the hand and Moses sees God's back. God says to Moses, "You shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Take some time during this month of snow, cold, or spring-like weather to consider those moments of grace in your life: times you were grateful, times you found relief, times you felt refreshed, time when hope came again. Write them down; they are a part of your spiritual autobiography. In doing this you will know that God is closer than you thought and more involved in your life than you might have thought.

The other thing you will learn is that our God is still in the surprising business, because God is in the business of blessings.

In hope,

*Paster Kohl*

## **Pastoral Acts**

### **Funerals**



Michael Briggs  
Mildred Hoopes  
Susan Mabry  
Valerie Martinelli  
Scott Peckham  
Meredith Ross  
Roland Swanson  
Mary Wilding



**WONDERING  
"WEATHER" OR  
NOT THERE'S  
CHURCH?**

In case of emergency road conditions, the postponing of Sunday services will be announced on television Channel 10. Information should also be available on the church's voice mail and on the home page of the church's web site at [www.pilgrimlutheranri.org](http://www.pilgrimlutheranri.org).

What we have usually done is reschedule the service for the following Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. if we cannot meet on Sunday.



### **ASH WEDNESDAY & LENTEN EVENING PRAYER**

Ash Wednesday falls on **March 5** this year. Be sure to mark your calendar, and plan to join the Pilgrim community for worship and to receive ashes at 12:00 noon or 7:00 p.m. that day. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent.

We will also be gathering for **Evening Prayer on the Wednesday evenings in Lent at 6:30**. Those dates are March 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9

# Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Many, many thanks for the kind wishes and generous gifts you shared with my family at Christmas. Your prayers and support are always a gift, but at Christmas I am reminded of the gift of you as part of the community we share here. My prayer and hope is that 2014 brings us all blessings and peace as we walk together into God's future.

Gratefully,

*Pastor Kohl*

My heartfelt thanks to the members of Pilgrim who sent cards and caring messages during my recovery from surgery in late November. Special thanks go out to Pastor Kohl, the Pilgrim Care Team, Ginny Smith, and the wonderful ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. I cherish the beautiful shawl.

Thanks to all from the bottom of my heart.

*Nancy Derby*

Pilgrim Lutheran Church has an outstanding Congregation Council. Their names are listed on the outside of this *Pilgrim's Progress*. Many thanks to those who served as officers: Chris Spencer, Kathy Gremel, and Joan Theroux. Thanks are also due to those who have completed their term on our council: Tammy McLaughlin, Steve Philips, Clinton Smith, and Lois Williams. And congratulations and blessings for those elected to a term on our council: Mary Brinson, Marie Grist, Tammy McLaughlin, Valerie Parmenter and Susan Simundson. Keep all these people in prayer as they discern and lead us in our mission to build relationships with Jesus and share our gifts with the world around us.



Thinking of dedicating  
Altar Flowers  
in honor or in memory of loved ones?

Many 2014 dates are available.  
Dedications from multiple families are  
welcome each Sunday!

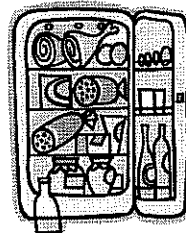
To dedicate flowers, simply make your  
request by filling out an Altar Flower  
envelope and placing it in the offering  
plate or in the Altar Guild mailbox in  
the church office.

Thank you!

## Things You Can Do to Help Pilgrim's Food Ministry...

Pilgrim's Food Ministry would love to welcome folks who would like to help us feed the hungry in our community. Volunteers are needed to:

- make telephone calls to organizations that need food
- help to coordinate with individuals requesting food
- load and unload boxes of food deliveries here at church
- drive vans, trucks, and SUVs to help with food deliveries



If you can help with any of these areas or have questions or ideas about Pilgrim's Food Ministry, please speak to coordinator Karin Kohl. Many thanks!

## Stewardship Thoughts

Drivers in Rhode Island often think of the speed limit as the bottom line for how fast they should drive. Let's face it: we all find ourselves over the limit sometimes.

Here's a challenge: let's think about our pledges to the work we do as a community at Pilgrim Church like those speed limits. Let's make our pledges the bottom line for our giving. That means giving above and beyond our stated intentions for giving.

People have asked for means to donate to our ministry through the internet. We now have an active account through Pay Pal on our church web page, [www.pilgrimlutheranri.org](http://www.pilgrimlutheranri.org). You can make a donation by using a credit card or a debit card there.

When we hear the word *stewardship* we usually think about dollars and budgets. Those things are important. They are the stuff that maintains ministry in the church not only here in Rhode Island, but also throughout New England, the nation, and even internationally. Ministry is doing the work of Jesus. It is important. His message is something our world needs to come to believe and trust to find a deeply meaningful life.

Kathy Fiscus, a member of Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, writes this about stewardship:

*Stewardship is a matter of the heart. My stewardship practices are a response to the boundless love God first showed me. It means that I am grateful for all that God has generously entrusted to me. As a faithful steward and child of God, I understand that the decisions I make, in all aspects of my life, reveal my priorities. It is a privilege to share time, talents, and finances, to care for God's earth and to serve my neighbors. Being a good steward has brought me great joy and has helped me grow spiritually. I am blessed to be a blessing.*

The gift of life, including the whole of this world, is a sign of God's trust in us to care for what belongs to God. Stewardship is about how we care for all that God has given us. When we serve our neighbors, sharing food or time or concern, when we gather to work on God's mission through the church, when we take the time to pray and to worship as a community, we are being stewards of God's gifts.

So please don't let your offering stop at the collection plate on Sunday mornings. We are called to be stewards seven days a week. We do that in so many ways, even in what may seem ordinary or every day. Being a parent, a student, a relative, the work we do for income, and how we spent our free time are all ways we have to live out our relationship with God and others. That is stewardship in the biggest sense of the word.



## **Sunday Readings – February 2014**

### **February 2 – Presentation of Our Lord**

#### **Malachi 3:1–4**

The prophet proclaims a new beginning as God appears in the temple to call the people of God to a renewal of God's covenant with Israel.

#### **Hebrews 2:14–18**

The author to the Letter to the Hebrews emphasizes the humanity of Jesus because it is in Jesus' sharing our flesh that our salvation is secured.

#### **Luke 2:22–40**

Mary and Joseph fulfill the demand of the Law by presenting Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem. While there two prophets, Simeon and Anna, recognize Jesus as the one who God sent to bring about the redemption of Israel.

### **February 9 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

#### **Isaiah 58:1-12**

Isaiah proclaims the blessings of obedience to God's will.

#### **1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

The message of God through Jesus Christ is both basic and down to earth and filled with wisdom for living. Discerning both the simplicity and depth of this message is Paul's mission for the Corinthians.

#### **Matthew 5:13–20**

In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus uses the images of salt and light. He knows that if his people know who they are, then they will know what to do as his followers.

### **February 16 – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

#### **Deuteronomy 30:15–20**

As God's people enter the promised land, they are reminded that in daily life they have decisions to make about serving God. They can choose to walk in the way of life or the way of death. Nonetheless it is God who has made them the called people of God.

#### **1 Corinthians 3:1–9**

Quarreling and jealousy were rife among the Corinthians. Some thought of themselves as better or more spiritual people than others. Paul reminds them that what matters most is not who they are but that they are God's own people.

#### **Matthew 5:21–37**

Jesus intensifies the Law of God by speaking of the purpose of the Law: it is to reveal the sin that is in our lives. By his teaching Jesus reminds all of us that we need to have a savior. Our lives cannot produce the demands of the purpose of the Law of God.

### **February 23 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

#### **Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18**

God calls Moses to remind the people of the Exodus that they are holy because they belong to God. Then God lays out what it means to be holy: it means moving beyond selfishness to inclusion of others.

#### **1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23**

The Good News of Jesus does not belong to one person; it is a team effort that allows the Gospel to be preached. Part of that team effort is in the hearers of the Gospel opening their hearts and minds to trust what the world might consider foolishness, but nonetheless is true because of who God is.

#### **Matthew 5:38–48**

This section of the Sermon on the Mount addresses love and hate. Jesus reminds his hearers that they are called not just to love their family and friends, but even to love those who would hurt them, their enemies. He does this because he knows that only by loving others can we be "perfect" or "complete" as God is.

# SERVING in FEBRUARY 2014

## GREETERS

February 2 Phyllis Blanchette  
February 9 Lou Cardillo  
February 16 John & Tina Carlson  
February 23 Cindy Cote

## USHERS

February 2 Scott Chappelle  
Laurie Linden  
Ruth Lundin  
Susan Simundson  
February 9 Scott Chappelle  
Pete Mahoney  
Merrill McElroy  
John Merrill  
February 16 Scott Chappelle  
Rick Nelson  
Jason & Courtney Petrarca  
February 23 Scott Chappelle  
Carl Ostermann  
Allan Reed  
Kristen Resendes

## ALTAR GUILD

February 2 Nancy Derby  
Virginia Smith  
February 9 Pat Frazier  
Maureen Johnson  
February 16 Joanne Lozy  
Susan Simundson  
February 23 Debbie Perri

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

February 2 Karin Kohl  
February 9 *Needed...please sign up!*  
February 16 Mark Cheney  
February 23 Karin Kohl

## READERS

February 2 Patricia Frazier  
February 9 Joan Eisemann  
February 16 Pam Himebaugh  
February 23 Allan Reed

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

February 2 Elaine Belvin, Gayle Sangster  
John & Tina Carlson  
February 9 Bill Dugan

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

February 2 Bruce & Carolyn Vittner  
February 9 Ruth Bergstrom and Family  
February 16 *Available*  
February 23 Millie Johnson and Family

## ACOLYTES

February 2 Molly Phillips  
February 9 Matt Sangster  
February 16 Jacob Resendes  
February 23 Connor Safford

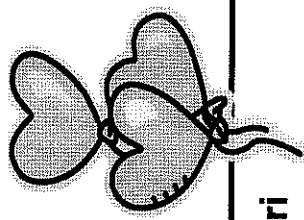
## COUNTERS

February 2 Beth Fish and Chris Spencer  
February 9 Beth Fish and Laurie Linden  
February 16 Beth Fish and Cindy Cote  
February 23 Beth Fish and Kathy Gremel

## CONFIRMATION DINNERS

### Tuesday Evenings

February 4 **No meal** *Staff Meeting/No kids*  
February 11 Pam & Ed Lowell  
February 18 **No class** *School vacation*  
February 25 Paul Sangster & Keri Lake Sangster






# February 2014

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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

[www.pilgrimlutheranri.org](http://www.pilgrimlutheranri.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>Church Office Hours:</b> <b>Tuesday through Friday</b> <b>10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>						1
<b>2 Presentation of Our Lord</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	<b>3</b> 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>4</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation — Staff Meeting/No Kids	<b>5</b> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7 PASTOR'S DAY OFF</b> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Epiphany 5</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	<b>10</b> 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>11</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Shawl Ministry 6:30 Confirmation — Sex and Love	<b>12</b> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14 PASTOR'S DAY OFF</b> <b>VALENTINES DAY</b>  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>15 Pilgrims' Progress</b> <b>Deadline</b>
<b>16 Epiphany 6</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Holy Communion 10:45 Council Orientation <i>Family Day</i> <i>No Sunday School</i>	<b>17 PRESIDENTS' DAY</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>18</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope <i>No Confirmation</i> <i>School Vacation</i>	<b>19</b> 10:30 Worship, Music and Arts 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 10:00 Toiletry Pantry 7:00 Congregation Council Mtg.	<b>21 PASTOR'S DAY OFF</b> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Epiphany 7</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion/Baptism	<b>24 St. Matthias, Apostle</b> 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>25</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Shawl Ministry 6:30 Confirmation — War and Peace	<b>26</b> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 7:00 Altar Guild Executive Mtg.	<b>28 PASTOR'S DAY OFF</b> 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](http://www.pilgrimlutheranri.org)

**Dated Material      February 2014**



*We are God's servants, working together*  
*1 Corinthians 3:9*

**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