



Pilgrims' Progress



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

OUR STAFF

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April Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Saturday, March 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.

The Progress deadline is the 15th of every month.

From the Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

March 5 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. In Lent we give serious thought to important issues in faith and life. This reflection is good, although I know it can also be painful at times, but from both goodness and pain comes new growth.

One of the truths that we might forget is that the Church of Jesus Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is constantly emerging into a new being. As Bob Dylan sang in the 60's *he [who is] not busy being born is busy dying*. The same can be said for the church or any gathering of people. All things living are in a state of change.

So let me ask you in this season of Lent to give thought to what you understand the church, and in particular our congregation, to be.

We are in a period of considering how best to understand who we are as a congregation with what God's purpose for us is. And in case you missed it, here is our purpose statement: *God's purpose for Pilgrim Lutheran Church is to build our relationships with Jesus and to share our gifts with the community.* The guiding principles we will use in making this purpose more real are: *praying always, serving with joy, teaching, proclaiming the Good News, and building community.* Another part of our self-understanding is defined by the decision to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Here is how we understand that: *Pilgrim Lutheran Church is a community of the people of God, called to minister to all God's people. We believe that the Gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally, without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity, cultural or ethnic background, abilities, socio-economic or family status, gender, or age. We welcome all God's children.*

As a pastor in the Lutheran tradition of Christianity, and in particular as your pastor, I recognize that these statements are tall orders to fulfill. But we run counter to the world around us, and no one ever said being different would be easy. The good news is that God's Holy Spirit is continually guiding the church. That we believe by faith or trust that God is true to the promises God makes in Jesus, "I am with you always, even to the close of the ages".

So how do we think about our congregation? Are we primarily an organization defined by its structures? Or are we a network of gifts God has given to us individually as well as collectively? How we answer that question will make a big difference in how our future will be shaped.

Statistics make it obvious that the church in the twenty-first century is not the same as it was in the mid-twentieth century. These are times that are changing. We also live in the most non-religious part of America, in New England. So I am encouraged by the meetings and developments and conversations happening in the congregation about how we give shape to our ministry priorities.

For me the bottom line is this: the Holy Spirit has woven our lives together to be this Pilgrim Lutheran Church to let the light of Jesus—his compassion, his welcome, his forgiveness, his vision, his resurrected presence—be more real here in Rhode Island and around this world. I invite you to be on board as we move into God's future.

In hope,

Pastor Kohl



Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Jax Colton Breedon



Funerals



Geraldine Abberton
Brenda Andreoni
Albert Wessen
Randy Wojtanowski

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.

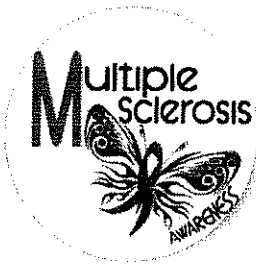
Sunday mornings are busy times here at Pilgrim, and it's possible that verbal requests may not be remembered. If you think of a need, please fill out one of the pew cards and place it in the offering plate, or leave a note for Pastor Kohl in his mailbox in the office.



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.



Multiple Sclerosis Coffee Hour Fundraiser Sunday, March 9

On Sunday March 9, 2014 Bonnie Donahue will be hosting coffee hour to bring awareness to the MS Walk-a-Thon taking place on Sunday, April 6, 2014. Donations for the walk will be accepted at this time.

Please come support a great cause and help us find a cure for MS which affects so many, including our own Pilgrim family.

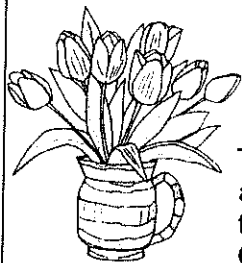
Please contact Bonnie directly at 644-2268 or at Bonnie442@cox.net for more information or with any questions you may have.



LENTEN COIN GIVING

Once again this year we are offering the opportunity to the people of Pilgrim Lutheran Church to share in sacrifice; giving through the Lenten coin folders or cans. A few cents a day is a small reminder that our lives are lived as blessings to others. Coin folders and cans are available in the narthex (the hallway outside the church).

When your folder or can is full, you may return it during Holy Week or on Easter Sunday or one of the Sundays following Easter. These offerings will go toward the ministry of Christ which is done by the people of Pilgrim Church.



An important message from the Altar Guild...

The Altar Guild will soon be accepting contributions for the **2014 Easter Memorial Garden**.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please **fill out one envelope for each dedication** (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. Easter Memorial Garden envelopes will be on the table in the narthex soon.

The Easter Memorial Garden will decorate our main sanctuary for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday in loving remembrance of those who share in the Easter victory. After the late service on Easter Sunday, the plants will be delivered to the sick, shut-in, and Lifetime Members of the Altar Guild. If you would like to help the Altar Guild deliver these plants, please see the sign-up sheet on the Altar Guild bulletin board in the hallway.

All Easter Memorial Garden envelopes **MUST** be received **no later than Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014**. Thank you!

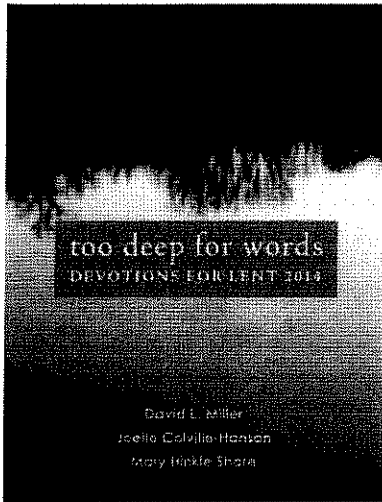
Inviting All the Baptized

Sunday's worship is everybody's responsibility and joy. The prayers of intercession are also called the prayers of the people. They are everybody's prayers. We at Pilgrim take the priesthood of all believers seriously, inviting participation in all of worship.

Worship, Music, and Arts invites the people of Pilgrim to prepare and, if one chooses, lead the intercessions for Sunday worship.

The intercessions are prayed following the sermon. The prayers intercede on behalf of all in need – the church, earth, creatures, nations, all humans and everything else! For several months the intercessions have been prepared by Pilgrim's people and have been led by the assisting minister (not the pastor).

You are invited to prepare the intercessions with provided guidance and your own prayer life. Persons interested are invited to gather in the chapel for twenty minutes on **Sunday March 9 following 9:30 worship**. One can also sign-up on the dated Intercessions sheet by the church office. Questions, clarifications, expectations may be directed to Donald Williams in person, at 783-2316, or at dolowillia@verizon.net.



Too Deep for Words Devotions for Lent 2014

The Lenten devotional booklet *Too Deep for Words* is available for \$2.

This pocket-sized book of daily devotionals was edited by three Lutheran theologians and begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

Please let Pastor Kohl know as soon as possible if you'd like a copy, as there are a limited number available.

Congregation Council Meeting Summary February 2014

Election of Officers:

President: Laurie Linden
Vice-President: Susan Simundson
Secretary: Joan Theroux
Financial Secretary: Beth Fish
Assistant Financial Secretary: Cindy Cote
Treasurer: Bill Brinson
Assistant Treasurer: Chris Spencer

The food ministry was discussed Bob Sangster made a presentation to the council. This ministry continues, involving many people, headed by Karin Kohl. The council would like to discuss with the congregation the direction to go with this ministry. There will be more information about this at a later date.

Finances (January 31, 2014)

Income for budget:	\$25,049.88
Budget Expense:	\$22,241.11

The council approved the purchase of a digital piano.

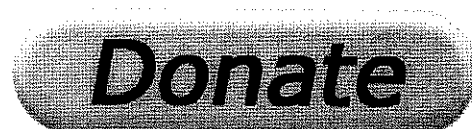
The council is studying replacement windows for the basement area and the offices, parlor and hallway next to the ramp.

The council would like help in keeping up the gardens around the church. It is also developing a way to recognize those interred in the Memorial Garden as well as how to make it as welcoming as possible.

Now You Can Donate Online!

A reminder that Pilgrim's website now has an option to donate electronically. It's located on the lower right corner of our home page.

Check it out at www.pilgrimlutheranri.org





2015 ELCA Youth Gathering-Detroit

Every three years our church, the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) gathers youth from across the country to a program for faith formation, worship, study, fellowship, service and play. The next Youth Gathering will be held from July 15 – 19, 2015 in Detroit, Michigan.

Helping our high school aged youth to attend an event like this is part of the promises made when they were baptized:

- Live among God's faithful people,
- Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through their words and actions,
- Serve and love our neighbors, following the example of Jesus, and
- Pursue justice and peace in the world.

What happens during the ELCA Youth Gathering?

The Youth Gathering is a five-day event that begins on a Wednesday evening and ends with a service of communion the following Sunday morning. The opening night sets the stage for the days ahead in which young people may have an encounter with Jesus that energizes their faith and helps them further discover their call to live and serve in the world — locally and globally.

On the days between Wednesday and Sunday, young people rotate through a variety of service learning experiences in the surrounding community. They explore and strengthen their faith by studying God's word, serving their neighbor, sharing bread and wine in worship, participating in lively faith discussions and broadening their experience of God's world and diverse communities through travel. For many young people, traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering is the first time they have been out of their county or state.

Please let Pastor Kohl know if you are interested in attending the gathering or if you might be able to help with the cost of the event and travel to it.

Registration for this gathering opens on October 15, 2014. Students must be entering 9th grade or have just graduated from 12th grade by July 2015. Adult leaders must be 21. We need to have 1 adult for every 5 kids that attend.

The cost for the event is \$375 per person, but if we can register before January 15, 2015 it is \$325. We also need to provide transportation.

I believe this is one of those life-changing events for youth. I hope we can send a group from Pilgrim Church to join thousands of other Lutheran kids. Let me know what you think.
Pastor Kohl

Sunday Readings – March 2014

March 2 – The Transfiguration of our Lord

Exodus 24:12–18 Our first reading reports a “theophany” which means an encounter with God. Here it is Moses who goes up the mountain to receive tablets of stone with God’s instruction written on them. Encountering God helps us not only to know God better, but we come to know ourselves better also.

2 Peter 1:16–21 The writer of 2 Peter reports the experience of the transfiguration of Jesus. In events like the transfiguration we come to know wisdom that is shared by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 17:1–9 Peter, James, and John get to see the glory of Jesus before his resurrection on the mountain top. Moses and Elijah (the Law and prophets) are also there talking with Jesus. The voice from heaven once again declares Jesus to be God’s Son, the Beloved. Following this theophany Jesus reminds his disciples on that mountain to not be afraid

March 9 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 Here we read the original sin: wanting to be like God. With a lie the serpent tricks Eve and Adam into doing what they have been told not to do: eat from the tree which gives knowledge of good and evil. Ironically, they do learn what evil is, but not in a way they expected to.

Romans 5:12–19 A common form of teaching in the Bible is using a type and archetype. Here Paul contrasts Adam and Jesus: one brings death to all, the other brings life and resurrection and righteousness.

Matthew 4:1–11 Times when we shut ourselves off from other people are dangerous times for us: we have no one else’s input to help our thinking and understanding. Jesus faces a similar situation after forty days in the wilderness. But Jesus does something in these periods of temptation that set a standard for his followers: Jesus turns to the Word of God, God the Father’s wisdom, to choose the right path for Jesus’ upcoming ministry.

March 16 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1–4a Here is a simple story of promise and response. God promises Abram blessings and Abram trusts these promises and sets off on a pilgrimage which brings blessings to the world of the world.

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 The contrast Paul raises in this section of Romans is between Law (the 10 commandments) and faith or trust. God’s blessings come to Abraham because he trusted that God was faithful to the promises God made, and these promises were made to bless Abraham.

John 3:1–17 Nicodemus, a teacher of Israel, sneaks in to talk with Jesus one night. And in this conversation Jesus teaches that trust in what Jesus teaches brings life. But this life calls for a realignment of commitments, a new way of being and living. Jesus uses the phrase “being born from above” to describe this new life.

March 23 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1–7 The people of God grumble about things as they travel from Egyptian slavery to freedom in their own land. This unhappiness comes because they do not believe that God will provide for them. In this story the issue is having water to drink. In a miraculous way God provides water for the people from a rock.

Romans 5:1–11 Paul assures us that it is by our trusting God that we have peace with God. Jesus shows us clearly that God’s purpose for us is life by his death on our behalf on the cross. This is a God who can be trusted to bless us.

John 4:5–42 In this chapter of John’s gospel we encounter water again, but here it is Jesus and a woman from Samaria who has a reputation of having several “husbands”. Jesus offers her living water that will cause her to never thirst again. She misunderstands at first but finally comes to know that the water Jesus gives is eternal life.

March 30 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1–13 This is the account of the anointing of David as king. Samuel follows God’s command and goes to anoint King Saul’s successor before the king has died. The surprising thing about this is that God has chosen the least likely to be the king, the youngest son of Jesse, the one who cares for the sheep.

Ephesians 5:8–14 The writer of the Letter to the Ephesians contrasts darkness and light. Knowing Jesus as God’s self-revelation brings us into the light of knowing who God really is.

John 9:1–41 Walking by a man born blind the disciples of Jesus asked if he or his parents were the sinners that he was born this way. Jesus turns it all around by showing how God is able to be at work in this situation: no one sinned and caused the blindness, but it will be a way in which God’s power for life will be shown. This truth upsets the religious authorities who thought they had God all figured out.

SERVING in MARCH 2014

GREETERS

March 2 Jim & Jo-Anne Doyle
March 9 Ron & Beth Fish
March 16 Lisa Harrington
March 23 Pam Himebaugh
March 30 Linda and Emily Hughes

READERS

March 2 Roy Wagner
March 9 Helen Varin
March 16 Susan Horsch
March 23 Lou Cardillo
March 30 Mackenzie Hall

USHERS

March 2 Scott Chappelle
Deb Vilardi
Bruce & Carolyn Vittner
March 9 Scott Chappelle
Susan Simundson
Michele Tucci
Roy Wagner
March 16 Scott Chappelle
Renee Woodward
Elaine Belvin
Lou Cardillo
March 23 Scott Chappelle
John & Tina Carlson
Bill Dugan
March 30 Scott Chappelle
Cindy Cote
Bonnie Donahue

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 2 Diane Sowden
March 9 Patty Ferris
Ella & Earle Fish
March 16 The Belvin Family
March 23 Available
March 30 Available

ALTAR GUILD

March 2 Mary Brinson
Pam Himebaugh
March 9 Jennifer Cardillo
Cindy Cote
March 16 Nancy Derby
Virginia Smith
March 23 Pat Frazier
Maureen Johnson
March 30 Joanne Lozy
Susan Simundson

ACOLYTES

March 2 Samantha Almonte
March 9 Caleigh Blackmer
March 16 Connor Lowell
March 23 Corey Olson
March 30 Molly Phillips

COUNTERS

March 2 Beth Fish and Mary Brinson
March 9 Beth Fish and Bill Dugan
March 16 Beth Fish and Marie Grist
March 23 Beth Fish and Linda Hughes
March 30 Beth Fish and Kathy Gremel

ASSISTING MINISTERS

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

CONFIRMATION DINNERS

Tuesday Evenings

March 4 Pancake Supper at St. Paul
March 11 No meal Staff Meeting/No kids
March 18 Linda & Steve Phillips
March 25 No meal Service/Fellowship

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

Dated Material

March 2014



*Indeed, God did not send the Son into
the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be
saved through him.*

John 3:17

Congregation Council

Laurie Linden - President
Susan Simundson - Vice President
Joan Theroux - Secretary

Mary Brinson
Marie Grist

Cindy Cote
Linda Hughes
Valerie Parmenter

Bill Dugan
Maureen Johnson
Chris Spencer

Kathy Gremel
Tammy McLaughlin