Pilgrims' Progress

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

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May Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Tuesday, April 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

It has been said that Paul, more so than Jesus, shaped the church as we know it today. This may be true, but the church in the last century or so has been trying to get connected to the Jesus who walked the earth and who called people to follow him. It is possible to lose the humanity of Jesus in the divinity of Christ, but the church has declared that Jesus is both completely human and completely God. This is a mystery we consider at the incarnation, at Christmas.

But perhaps by considering the human and earthly Jesus we will learn more about how we humans call follow him more closely.

I have recently read a wonderful book about Jesus and the world he lived in and the scope and understanding of his mission. It is called *Jesus: An Historical Approximation* written by José Pagola. For me this was a refreshing look at Jesus, a book that helped me to see the work of Jesus in a new light.

Looking at Jesus from the perspective of his economic security, we see Jesus was poor, a peasant, a person with no status in this world. But what Jesus does from that perspective teaches in a new way. He uses illustrations and parables from everyday life: yeast mixed into dough, seeds sown on the ground, fish caught in nets. These were images people understood because these images came from their everyday life.

But the really radical thing that Jesus did by teaching this way was to help people understand that God was involved in their lives through everyday things. In his day, the religious authorities taught in ways that made God seem to be far off, removed, perhaps in the temple in Jerusalem, perhaps only among certain kinds of people. Jesus knew differently. He knew that God was not far away, that God's care was not only for the righteous or pure folks, but for every kind of human. This was a radically new way to teach about who God is.

It was also a reason why the communities of Christians were open to all people. This is something we take for granted (although not all denominations in the Christian family welcome all sorts of people), but in Jesus' day this welcome was a surprising element in the world.

Welcoming others, living with different kinds of people, and seeking to see life from the other's perspective is not easy. It came with struggles for the early church and it continues to be a struggle for all of us in the church today. But if God's heart is open to all, the church must also be open to all if integrity is concerned, if what is believed and practiced is consistent. You see, it is God in Jesus who defines the church, not our assumptions or prejudices about others. This is a challenge for all people, but it is also a way in which we grow as people. It is one way we become more human, more connected, more aware of the vastly creative power of our God.

As we walk through Holy Week, listen for those signs of the humanity of Jesus, and as we celebrate the resurrection let's not forget that this action of God shapes how we live in the world every day.

For us to follow Jesus we must know him through Word and Sacraments. He is the only good and perfect leader both in life and through death.

With hope,

Pastor Kohl

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Autumn Marie Gallucci
Lisa Ellen Morales
Isabella Noel Paolantonio

Funerals

Marjorie Wessen

Holy Week and Easter 2014

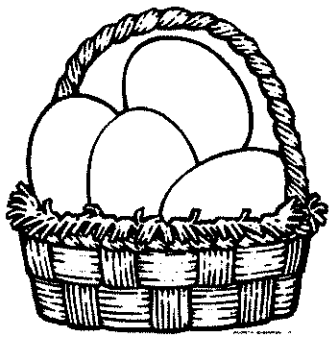
This is the central time in the life of the people of God in Jesus. Please make worship a priority during this season. In worship, we both experience and remember all that God has done for our salvation and for our life.

Maundy Thursday
April 17
Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
April 18
The Way of the Cross
12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.
No Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Saturday, April 19
10:00 a.m. Altar Guild Decorating
10:30 a.m. Sunday School Egg Hunt
7:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter
Followed by a time of fellowship

Easter Day
The Resurrection of Our Lord
April 20
Holy Communion
8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.



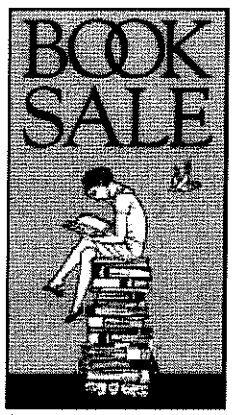
Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 19
10:30 a.m.

Be sure to come and join in a great time of fun and fellowship! Further details will follow soon.

Over the next few weeks, the children will be bringing home empty plastic eggs, which we're asking parents to please fill and bring back to be hid the day of the hunt. Many thanks for your help with this!

Please talk to teachers Bethany Gallucci or Kristen Resendes for more information.

BOOK AND PLANT SALE DONATIONS WANTED



Pilgrim's Social Ministry Committee is holding a book and plant sale to be held in the Christian Life Center on Saturday, May 10.

Needed are your donations of gently used books, magazines, CDs, videos, jigsaw puzzles, and games. Fiction, non-fiction, hardcovers, paperbacks, and children's books in clean, saleable condition would all welcomed!

PLEASE! NO textbooks, encyclopedias, or anything so dirty or musty that you wouldn't buy it yourself.

Get a jump on your spring cleaning season and clear out your shelves of books that you won't read again, CDs you'll never play again, and videos you'll never watch again, and make room for something new!

In the spirit of spring and the fact that it will also be Mother's Day weekend, we're also welcoming donations of small potted plants to be sold that day. If you find yourself with too many seedlings of flowers or vegetables, they'll be sure to find a good home at the sale on May 10.

Donations may be left in the coat rack in the hallway outside the kitchen door. Thank you!

Altar Guild Bake Sale – Saturday, May 10

The Altar Guild is sponsoring a Bake Sale on Saturday May 10!

Delicious treats lovingly made by the women of the Altar Guild will be available to buy during the Book and Plant Sale.

Easter Vigil

Saturday evening, April 19

7:30 p.m.

The sun will set on April 19 at about 7:30 p.m. when the Pilgrim community will gather at the lighting of the new fire to begin the Easter Vigil. **The Vigil of Easter** has been held for centuries by those who follow the Passion and resurrection of Jesus. The saving acts of God are remembered from the creation to Jesus' resurrection, the culmination of the Holy Week of God's salvation acts in Jesus.

Pilgrim's people will **gather at the labyrinth** for the lighting of the Christ Candle, the symbol of Jesus' resurrection. With candles lit from the new fire, the people **process into the chapel**, following the Light of Christ, the Candle. In Christ Chapel, the announcement of Easter is joyfully exclaimed and the stories of God's saving actions in the Old Testament are read.

The life of Christ is celebrated with the Affirmation of our Baptism. It is the renewing of the gift of our forgiven life that is ours through the water of baptism's rebirth into life in Jesus. For it, the faithful again follow the Light of Christ, the Candle, to **gather at the baptismal font** to confess the faith of the church in the words of the Apostle's Creed and are sprinkled with the water from the font.

Following the Affirmation of Baptism, the Light of Christ leads all gathered **into the church** to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from Death to Life. Christ Jesus is not only present in the Light, but also in the bread and wine of Jesus' meal for those who have followed him through the centuries to our present time. Alleluias of praise are sung and said to give glory to God for his life giving Son.

A party of celebration will follow the Vigil in the **Christian Life Center**, with festive food and beverages to greet and connect with others on this joyous night that begins the Easter Season of worship. The invitation is extended to all.

The Food and Toiletry Ministries of Pilgrim

Thank you so much for your care for the Food and Toiletry Ministries—your help, your prayers, your donations. Both ministries have grown in recent months. Presently, we serve the greater Warwick and Providence areas, and we even have a rabbi that comes from Attleboro!

Why I like these ministries so much is not only being able to celebrate the gifts that through various donations we are able to bring to those in need, but also to celebrate the relationships that develop and to see how people in poorer neighborhoods are also working hard to care for those who are even poorer than themselves. We are all in this together and, of course, God is always in the midst of us.

Thanks to those who have asked their dentists for toothpaste donations. Now we need toothbrushes. We also need large sized soap, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, sanitary items, toilet paper, and cash donations.

Let me know if anyone can help sort food on Thursday mornings.

Karin Kohl

Council Meeting
March 20, 2014

Finance Report (Year to date February 28)

Income for budget	$40,405
Budget expenses	$43,549

The Congregation Council is planning a congregation-wide event for May 18 to share and learn ideas or dreams about the area of spiritual development. The three areas of ministry (Spiritual Development, Outreach, and Support) will each be addressed and input sought over this first year of our new structure.

The sound system in our sanctuary is being adjusted. Many thanks to Bob Coletta, Bill Brinson, and Denis Brunelle for working on this project.

Be sure to read the Thank You for Bishop Hazelwood printed in this *Pilgrim's Progress* to learn more about what our offerings do.

Coins for a Cause will be held the first Sunday of each month. In April the offering will go to "Ocean State Animal Coalition. In may the offering will be given to the New England Seafarers' Mission.

Mark your calendars for a Book and Plant Sale, along with the Altar Guild's Bake Sale on Saturday, May 10 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM.

The council was reminded of the pledge of support made to our Camp Calumet for $5,000 over the next three years. This will be for major improvements on the campground.

Both Easter Vigil and the new keyboard are on their way. If you would like to take part in the vigil, please let Mary Brinson, Don or Lois Williams, or Pastor Kohl know.

The Revs. Danny and Maria Hammonds have moved back to New England. Pastor Danny has been called to be the pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Gales Ferry, Connecticut.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, April 15 because the third Thursday is Maundy Thursday.

New England Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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The Rev. Dr. James E. Hazelwood, Bishop
The Rev. Sara J. Anderson | The Rev. Dr. Theodore W. Asta | The Rev. Timothy A. Roser | The Rev. Dr. Jane O'Hara Shields | The Rev. Paul D. Sinnott

March 11, 2014

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1817 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889

Dear Pastor and Members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Thank you. On behalf of hungry people as near as Lowell, MA and as far as Honduras, thank you. On behalf of a new Chinese congregation in Quincy, MA and the new churches being started in Nebraska, thank you. On behalf of a new seminary student at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and the new pastoral education student in southern Africa, thank you. On behalf of cancer patients receiving treatment at Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, as well as hospital chaplains at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital or Mass General in Boston, and on behalf of all the other congregations of the New England Synod, thank you.

These are just a few examples of the ways in which Mission Support (what used to be called Benevolence) impacts people both here in New England, as well as across the country and indeed around the world.

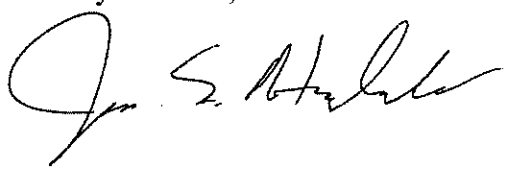
I so appreciate your 2014 Mission Support Pledge.

I could go on and on. The more I learn about the ministry of our whole church as your bishop, the more I am learning about the many good missions that happen around our synod and around our country and the world. You are a part of that ministry. I know that the decisions you have made for Mission Support have not been made lightly, and I assure you we in New England are being responsible stewards of your support.

Once again, thank you for your 2014 Mission Support Pledge.

"For we are God's servants, working together…" First Corinthians 3:9a

Sincerely In Christ,



Bishop James Hazelwood
New England Synod

JEH/lw

Sunday Readings – April 2014

April 6 – Fifth Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel 37:1–14
One this Sunday the Church stands with Ezekiel in the valley filled with dried up bones. In the face of the hopelessness of the situation, God alone gives the breath of life. Our hope and trust are based not on what we can do but on what God does for us.
Romans 8:6–11
"Flesh" and "Spirit" are important dualities in Paul's theology. The truth is that we live in both worlds. For Paul "flesh" is what leads away from God and leads us closer to death. "Spirit" on the other hand is God's gift. It is our life being drawn to God as the source of joy and peace and life.
John 11:1–45
Jesus amazes the people by calling Lazarus, his friend, back from death. This however causes the religious authorities to want to get Jesus out of the picture even more. Ironically, it will be by giving this life back to Lazarus, Jesus sets his course most definitely on the way to the cross and his own death.

April 13-Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50:4–9a
This is one of the "Servant Songs" of Isaiah in which the prophet speaks about one who will serve God and will not turn away from suffering. Christians see this in Jesus' obedience to show God's love by dying on the cross.
Philippians 2:5–11
Paul calls the Christians at Philippi and each of us to consider our attitudes. "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus". We are called to humble living as a way by which Jesus continues to be present in the world. This humility Paul calls for is the serving of others without regard for their status or history.
Matthew 26:14—27:66
It has been said that the Gospels are really stories of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection with introductions added to them. On this Sunday around the world, the Church reads the story of the passion of Jesus, his death and resurrection as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter Vigil and Easter Day. It is a solemn story of the way Jesus served us on the cross.

April 20 – The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day
Acts 10:34–43
"God shows no partiality" is the good news in this reading. It is also the proclamation of the church when Peter and others discovered to their amazement that the resurrection was for all people. This is part of the preaching to the household of Cornelius, a Roman. The resurrection means that God is the God for everyone, not just one group of the human family.
Colossians 3:1–4
Again this Sunday, we are called to think about what we take to heart: if we believe that God has given new and eternal life through Jesus, then we are called to live that new life now.
Matthew 28:1–10
Matthew reports the resurrection of Jesus with earthquakes and fear. The angel from God announces to the women coming to the tomb that Jesus has been raised by God. Jesus promises to meet his disciples in Galilee. In doing this he assures his disciples that he has forgiven their abandoning him at his trial and execution.

April 27 – Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22–32
In his preaching to the crowd on the day of Pentecost, Peter explains how the death and resurrection of Jesus fits into the story and plan of salvation God has for the whole world.
1 Peter 1:3–9
"By mercy...new birth...into hope through the resurrection of Jesus." Our hope and future are based on God's action in Jesus. Mercy, hope, salvation, resurrection are all gifts which God has for us.
John 20:19–31
Although his disciples abandoned Jesus at his trial and crucifixion, Jesus does not abandon his disciples but comes to them as they gather together. In doing this Jesus blesses them with the Holy Spirit and with the gift of forgiveness to be shared with the whole world.

SERVING in APRIL 2014

Please see the sheet posted on the office bulletin board for information regarding worship on Easter Sunday, April 20

GREETERS

April 6	Susan Simundson
April 13	*To be announced*
April 20	**Easter Sunday**
April 27	Marion Kullberg

READERS

April 6	Susan Simundson
April 13	Mary Brinson
	Lou Cardillo
	Joan Eisemann
	Beth Fish
	Pam Himebaugh
	Laurie Linden
	Filomena Maisonet
	Susan Simundson
	Chris Spencer
	Lois Williams
April 20	Kathy Gremel
April 27	Mary Brinson

ALTAR GUILD

April 6	Debbie Perri
April 13	Mary Brinson
	Pam Himebaugh
April 20	Jennifer Cardillo
	Cindy Cote
April 27	Nancy Derby
	Virginia Smith

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Assisting Ministers are needed for the month of April...please sign up!

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Communion Assistants are needed for the month of April, including both services on Easter Sunday. Sign up on the appropriate sheet posted on the office bulletin board if you are able to help. Many thanks!

ACOLYTES

April 6	Jacob Resendes
April 13	Matthew Sangster
April 20	**Easter Sunday**
	Needed...please sign up!
April 27	Connor Safford

USHERS

April 6	Scott Chappelle
	Jo-Anne Doyle
	Ron Fish
	Pam Himebaugh
April 13	Scott Chappelle
	Susan Horsch
	Linda Hughes
	Laurie Linden
April 20	**Easter Sunday**
April 27	Scott Chappelle
	Three additional Ushers to be announced

COUNTERS

April 6	Beth Fish and Susan Simundson
April 13	Cindy Cote and Tammy McLaughlin
April 20	Kathy Gremel and Chris Spencer
April 27	Laurie Linden and Maureen Johnson

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 6	The Belvin Family
April 13	The Cardillo Family
April 20	**Easter Memorial Garden**
April 27	*Available*

CONFIRMATION DINNERS
Tuesday Evenings

April 1	Kim Olson and Corey Olson
April 8	**No meal** *Staff Meeting/No kids*
April 15	**No meal** *No class/Holy Week*
April 22	**No meal** *No class/school vacation*
April 29	Karla Safford

Servers are needed throughout the Sundays in April, and especially on Easter Sunday. Please sign up on the appropriate sheet on the office bulletin board if you're able to help.