



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

## From the Pastor

Fellow Pilgrims,

It's Easter, a time for new discoveries, a time for hope. I don't like spending a lot of time on the internet, in fact I find it boring after about ten minutes; but sometimes good things come to me and I find them to be a way of making sense out of some of the big issues of life.

Recently on Facebook I read a post from one of our pastors here in New England that sent me to read a blog written by Heather Kopp, a recovering alcoholic. Her blog is called *Sober Boots* and she writes about her pilgrimage along the path of sobriety. In her recent blog she writes about the reaction many people have had to her words which I have reproduced here.

"The particular brand of love and loyalty that seemed to flow so easily here [in recovery meetings] wasn't like anything I'd ever experienced, inside or outside of church. But how could this be? How could a bunch of addicts and alcoholics manage to succeed at creating the kind of intimate fellowship so many of my Christian groups had tried to achieve and failed? Many months would pass before I understood that *people bond more deeply over shared brokenness than they do over shared beliefs.*"

People bond more deeply over shared brokenness than they do over shared beliefs. I was glad to read this because I have always thought this to be true. And let's be honest: the church is a community of the broken, those who need forgiveness and new beginnings every week. If we start to think that the church is anything but a community of the broken who are on a pilgrimage toward healing by God, then we misunderstand the purpose of the church in the world, we misunderstand the role of Jesus in our lives, we misunderstand the grace of God and begin to think that faith is about moral perfection or having no need to God or others.

## OUR STAFF

### **Pastor**

The Rev. Dennis Kohl

### **Minister of Music**

Denis Brunelle

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

Elisabeth Remming Vergun

### **Treasurer**

Bill Brinson

### **Financial Secretary**

Beth Fish

### **Sexton**

Adam Kohl

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## **June Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Thursday, May 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.*

I asked one of my professors at seminary once why people don't share their devotional life with others. I will never forget his reply: "We're too polite. We don't want to embarrass others or ourselves." Could it be that we think of it as polite to not let other people know we have struggles and issues in our lives we cannot handle ourselves, and having tried to go it alone, we begin to think that there is no place for us to share our struggles or guilt or brokenness?

It is not by tradition that we begin our worship with a time of confession and absolution and wind up our service by receiving the physical signs of God not giving up on us in bread and wine and a commission to go from worship and share the healing we find here. There is a way in which if worship were a twelve-step program we could be called *Sinners Anonymous*. That's why we start with confession and absolution: it levels the field, it makes us all the same, and it reminds us that we are not alone in our pilgrimage.

Jesus created the church through the Holy Spirit to continue his ministry of wholeness and peace. Our job, as his people, is to be people of healing, forgiveness, and peace. We are called to let people know they do not stand alone; that we have more in common with others than we do that makes us different from others.

Easter is the time we see in Christ's resurrection that death, pain, struggles, suffering, abandonment by friends, not having all the answers—all those things we saw in Jesus' cross—are redeemed by God. This is what Easter means: all things are possible with God. Do not be afraid. Nothing in all of the creation can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Being a church, a community of those who know forgiveness, we ask for guidance to make this more real for others. It is an adventure that has blessings for us all.

Blessed Easter,

*Pastor Kohl*

## **Pastoral Acts**

### **Funerals**



Jean Anderson  
Lillian Badessa  
Carol Boisvert  
Patrick Boyle  
Theresa Jordan  
James Murphy  
Joan Nelson  
Richard A. Olson, Sr.  
Kevin Smith  
Walter Spinney  
Juuli Tonn  
Joy Wallace

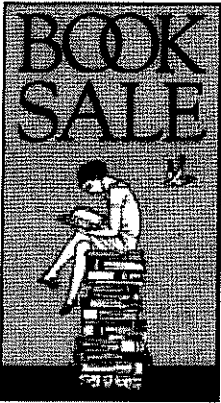
### **Hospitalized or Needing a Pastoral Visit?**

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.

## **PILGRIM BOOK AND BAKE SALE**

**Saturday, May 10  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**



The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a book sale in the Christian Life Center on Saturday, May 10 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Donations have poured in, and we have many, many great selections for summer beach reading! There are also lots of children's books, videos, CDs, puzzles, and games.

There will also be delicious baked goods for sale lovingly prepared by Pilgrim's Altar Guild.

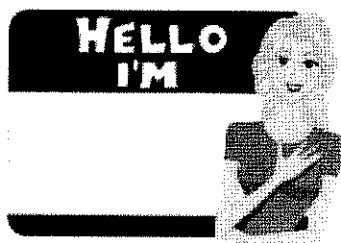
**There's something for everyone...  
so come one, come all!**

## **Has this ever happened to you...?**

You spot someone at church who you see often...but you can't remember their name?

We are working on a solution to this. The Monday night Bible Study group has provided name tags for all who worship here, but you have to put your name on the tag and you need to wear it every time you come to worship or another activities at church. All the supplies for your name tag are on the big table in the hallway outside the main worship room.

Please help us all out by wearing your name tag regularly. Thanks!



## *Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship*



The Altar Guild is currently accepting applications for the Altar Guild Scholarship in memory of Diane Fish.

This scholarship is designed to assist the youth of our congregation with college expenses. All members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church who are currently high school seniors and will attend college in the fall are eligible. Applications are located on the Altar Guild bulletin board (to the right of Pastor's office.)

Completed applications should be **mailed** to the church **or placed in the Altar Guild mailbox** located in the church office. **Mailed** applications must be received by **Friday, May 16, 2014** and **hand delivered** applications must be deposited into the Altar Guild mailbox (church office) by **11 a.m. on Sunday, May 18, 2014**.

Deadlines are firm and  
no exceptions will be made.

If you have any questions, please contact  
Jennifer Cardillo at 412-527-6889 or at  
[jennifer.cardillo@verizon.net](mailto:jennifer.cardillo@verizon.net).

## **READING THE WORD AT WORSHIP**

The people of Pilgrim are invited to participate in worship by reading the Holy Scriptures. There is an open opportunity to join together with those already reading the Word.

Readers are called Lectors and they serve two or three times a year. Lectors experience life changes and are unable to continue to read because of moving away or work conflicts. Before the next assignments of reading are finalized for June, it is possible to be included in the new schedule to be arranged in May.

Pilgrim People from youth through seniors are invited to give voice to God's Word at worship on Sundays and other special services. Contact the church office or Pastor Kohl at 739-2937, or Donald Williams (Lector Coordinator) at 783-2316.

Church Council Report  
Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Reports were received:

Financial Secretary (income March 31 for general fund)	\$69,025.84
Treasurer (expenses March 31 for general fund)	\$66,076.49

Pastor Reported

- Lutheran and Episcopal clergy from Rhode Island will meet together for the first time on May 1.
- The new Lutheran Church in Warwick (Our Savior) is a member of the North American Lutheran Church denomination.

Thanks was extended to Bob Colletta, Bill Brinson, and Denis Brunelle for their work on our sound system.

Coins for a Cause raised \$95 for the Rhode Island Animal Coalition. Coins for a Cause on May 4 will go to the New England Maritime Ministry.

Lots of socks were given to the Providence Rescue Mission for homeless people.

There will be a book and plant sale along with an Altar Guild bake sale at the church on Saturday, May 10.

As we continue to develop food ministry, the group which works on the food pantry is researching new refrigeration for the food we receive. With warm weather coming on, this is an important step to take for food safety issues.

On May 18 the council will hold an opportunity for people to share input in the area of our spiritual development ministry. This is designed as a time for fun and creativity.



**FAITH AND FAMILY DAY  
at the Pawtucket Red Sox  
Saturday May 17, 2014**

**Pregame activities 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Game starts at 6:05 p.m.**

**Sponsored by Thrivent Financial**

**Special Guest Speakers  
former Red Sox Dwight Evans  
and former Twin Greg Gagne**

**Music Performances by  
Crimson Rain and Total Surrender**

**Bring a canned good to support the Providence Rescue Mission! For tickets contact:  
Sam Sousa at 401-724-7300 or [ssousa@pawsox.com](mailto:ssousa@pawsox.com)**

## **Sunday Readings – May 2014**

### **May 4 – Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

The Book of Acts is the story of how the resurrected Christ continues his ministry through the church. This is a part of Peter's sermon delivered on the Day of Pentecost. In it Peter teaches people what following Jesus looks like: repentance and baptism.

1 Peter 1:17–23

This anonymous letter attributed to Peter, the leader among Jesus' male disciples, was written from Rome in the late first century. It is a letter sent to churches in what is modern day Turkey, encouraging faithfulness and obedience to the authorities by which God structures the world away from chaos. In this section of affirmation and exhortation, the author reminds Christians that they have turned from old ways of self-serving to being followers of Jesus.

Luke 24:13–35

On the road to Emmaus, Cleopas and another traveler (maybe his wife) meet the resurrected Jesus. It is in teaching about the Messiah that Jesus begins opening their minds to a new way of thinking, but it is in the breaking of bread (Holy Communion for us) that they come to know that Jesus is alive.

### **May 11 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:42–47

Luke, the author of Acts, gives us a glimpse into the early Christian community: spending time devoted to prayer, sharing their resources, and meeting the needs of members of the community.

1 Peter 2:19–25

The new life of following Jesus is laid out for us as a life without revenge, without violence. The author uses the cross of Jesus as the prime example of our life.

John 10:1–10

Jesus talks about his ministry as a shepherd would guide and care for sheep. He is the guardian of his sheep. He came to give abundant life to his people.

### **May 18 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55–60

Stephen is the first Christian martyr, the first person we know to have died for Jesus' sake. He was a deacon, someone who provided for the physical needs of people, in the church. Here we read the story of the religious authorities reaction to Stephen's teaching about Jesus. We also meet a man named Saul, a leader of this group that kills Stephen.

1 Peter 2:2–10

The image of Jesus as a "living stone", a solid foundation, the rock that holds everything together is used only here in the New Testament. The result of Jesus' faithfulness is that we are now chosen, royal, holy, God's own people.

John 14:1–14

Jesus speaks to us about a secure future with him, and how we come to life with God only through the forgiveness and grace which we know in Jesus.

### **May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22–31

Paul, whom we met last Sunday as Saul, is told to be standing before a curious crowd of philosophers in Athens, pointing them to understand that there is only one God who created all humanity and who is the God of all people.

1 Peter 3:13–22

Because Jesus died on the cross, Christians cannot assume that suffering means God has given up on them. Instead it is through suffering that people come to understand the grace and patience of God.

John 14:15–21

Jesus continues his promise to not abandon his people. It will be in the keeping of his commandments that the world will know that we are his followers and in the gift of the Advocate (Holy Spirit) that we learn Jesus' faithfulness to his promises.

# SERVING in MAY 2014

## GREETERS

**May 4** Fred & Laurie Linden  
**May 11** TBA  
**May 18** Angel Maisonet  
**May 25** Merrill McElroy

## READERS

**May 4** Joan Hamblin  
**May 11** Mark Cheney  
**May 18** Lois Williams  
**May 25** Filomena Maisonet

## USHERS

**May 4** Scott Chappelle  
John Merrill  
Rick Nelson  
**May 11** Scott Chappelle  
Carl Ostermann  
Jason & Courtney Petrarca  
**May 18** Scott Chappelle  
Allan Reed  
Susan Simundson  
Michele Tucci  
**May 25** Scott Chappelle  
Deb Vilardi  
Bruce & Carolyn Vittner

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

**May 4** Ruth & Real Lesieur  
**May 11** Available  
**May 18** Joan Midwood and family  
The Wagner Family  
**May 25** The Simundson/Cryan Family

## ALTAR GUILD

**May 4** Maureen Johnson  
Pat Frazier  
**May 11** Joanne Lozy  
Susan Simundson  
**May 18** Debbie Perri  
**May 25** Mary Brinson  
Pam Himebaugh

## ACOLYTES

**May 4** Samantha Almonte  
**May 11** Caleigh Blackmer  
**May 18** Connor Lowell  
**May 25** Corey Olson

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

**May 4** *Needed...please sign up*  
**May 11** Karin Kohl  
**May 18** Tina Carlson  
**May 25** Mark Cheney

## COUNTERS

**May 4** Beth Fish and Mary Brinson  
**May 11** Beth Fish and Bill Dugan  
**May 18** Beth Fish and Marie Grist  
**May 25** Beth Fish and Linda Hughes

## CONFIRMATION DINNERS Tuesday Evenings

**May 6** Chryssy and Nic Sincyr  
**May 13** End of the Year Potluck

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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