



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

## OUR STAFF

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The Rev. Dennis Kohl

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## Summer Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Sunday, June 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 Summer issue of the Progress will cover both the months of July and August.*

## From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Please read this: it applies to us all.

Recently a friend of mine began a new ministry in a congregation. One of the things said was that the members of the congregation hoped the new pastor could build the church up so it would not be so nervous about its future. This is not an unusual wish, but it is an unrealistic wish. There may have been a time when a pastor alone could cause a congregation to grow or flourish, but that was in a totally different social configuration than we have today. The bottom line is that it is the community of the church/congregation that will make it a living community.

Some of us remember when the church was the center of community life. In those days churches were formed around ethnic identities or actual communities in which people lived. Another factor was that in those days religious activity was taken as a regular part of life in a community. Some of us remember when life seemed more "tame", fewer sports activities, fewer distractions of entertainment. People seem to have a better understanding of who they were and what was important to them.

I am not saying that I think we can re-create these times again. And that is where the challenge comes for congregations today.

The issues of faith and life are not so clearly understood today. And these issues of faith and life are the substances with which the church blesses the community in which it is. We all try to find meaning for our lives, but there are times we don't even know where to begin to find the meaning of our lives. It is into this kind of confusion that the church steps with some answers that are created not only by Scripture but also by the experiences of the community.

In other words, what you have been through, your story, is a part of blessings to others. As I have said from time to time, everyone in the church is a theologian; everyone has had some experience of God and interaction with other people. These experiences are important because they are what create the community of the congregation.

For us it is even our struggles that build community, because in our struggles we learn that we are not the ones in control; God is in control. But we need each other to remind us when we are in difficult times, that God is still on our side, that God has not forgotten us.

As I have said before, twelve-step groups, like Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous serve as examples of communities of people in which lives are changed, in which personal growth happens, in which the working of God is seen and shared or even pointed out in the life of another person. This is what the church is called to be: a people living with the awareness of God's presence and activity in the world.

People who study society tell us about the world we live in. While it is a world connected digitally, it is a world disconnected personally. There is a loneliness about living today: some of us do not know our neighbors, some of us might even think we are imposing on our neighbors if we speak with them. Busyness is one way to keep our anxiety about not understanding the meaning of our life at a distance.

As the church moves into the future, we need to learn new ways to relate to others. Fundamental to our belief is that since Jesus entered into relationships with all kinds of people, his body, the church, must continue that ministry of valuing others. It will be by relationships that the church grows. It will be by realizing that we are in this thing called life together and that each of us can learn from each other. In all this there is grace, the presence of God who sent Jesus to us to open our worlds to new people, new ideas, new experiences.

This is something we, the community of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, must do together.

With blessings and prayers,

*Paster Kohl*

## **Pastoral Acts**

### **Baptisms**

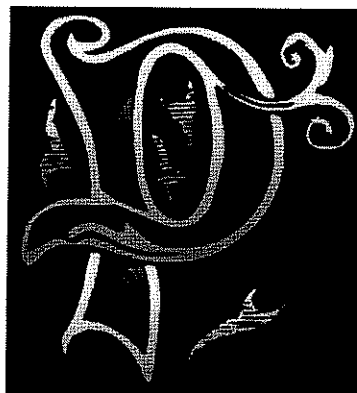
Oliver Andrew Morais



### **Funerals**



Frank Buckle  
Frederick Charlton  
Mary Roy  
Emily Sherman  
Sadie Taber

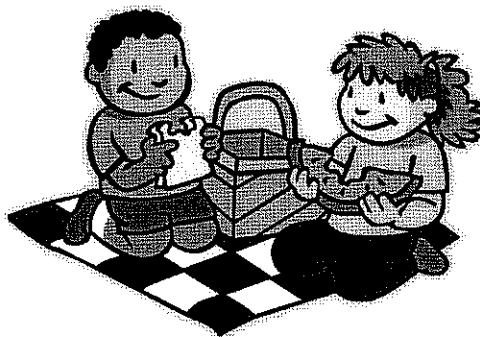


ILGRIM'S  
ENTECOST  
OSSIBLE  
OT-LUCK  
ICNIC

**Sunday, June 8**  
following the 9:30 service

**Sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board...**  
**but it's not just for kids!**

**See you there!**



## Congratulations, Graduates...



Dan Cryan will be graduating from LaSalle Academy this month. He will be attending Stanford University in California in the fall where he plans to study Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Caitlin Kullberg earned her B.S. degree from Northeastern University, and Sarah Gannon earned her B.S. degree from Tufts University this year. Both young women are granddaughters of Marion Kullberg.

Alexandra Murphy graduated from Rhode Island College with a double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She was honored in Alpha Kappa Delta - International Sociology Honor Society.

Tyler Rouillard is graduating from Veteran's Memorial High School this month. He will be deployed in July for Basic Training with the United States Air Force in Texas. His family is very proud of him!

*Congratulations and Blessings to all  
from your Pilgrim Church Family!*

### Hospitalized or Needing a Pastoral Visit?

Please have a family member call the church office 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.



**Vacation Bible School is coming!  
August 11 through August 15, 2014**

Watch the *Progress* and Sunday bulletins for further details and more information as it becomes available.

Want to help with VBS this year?  
Please talk to Pam Himebaugh or  
Pastor Kohl. Thanks!

*Thank You* for remembering...

On Sunday, May 18, you kindly remembered the anniversary of my ordination which took place on May 21, 1974. The cake and prayers were a blessing. These forty years I have been a pastor have in one way flown by too quickly. And I am grateful that you have let me share ministry with you here at Pilgrim for over half of the time I have been a pastor.

One thing I love about parish ministry is that every day is different: joyful stuff and tough stuff, the sad things and the funny things all make up the years of ministry. And I can attest that there is always something more to do. So thank you for sharing your life with my family and me. I ask for your continuing prayers.

With love, hope, and gratitude,

*Pastor Kohl*

## Council Summary – May 2014

The Congregation Council met on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Financial reports:

Income for budget	\$88,979.04	(\$5000 of this was a loan from special funds)
Expenses for budget	\$88,471.12	

The natural gas bill for the first third of the year was over half the utility budget. It cost \$8,330.66 for heat for the first third of the year. This expense will drop considerably as we enter warmer seasons.

### Property:

- Two of the stained glass panels in the big window in the front of the church have cracks in them. Repairing them and putting new Plexiglas protection on the outside of the window will cost \$1565.
- The carpets in the parlor, chapel and main sanctuary have been professionally cleaned. This was paid for by a donation to Pilgrim Church for this cause.
- The need for windows that open and are more environmentally friendly (more airtight) has been noted. The approximate cost to replace all the windows in the basement, the two offices and the parlor is about \$27,000. The decision about how to handle this is still under consideration.

Bible School is coming: August 11 through 15. Watch the *Progress* and Sunday bulletin for more information.

### Social Ministry:

- The book and plant sale generated \$655. The bake sale of the Altar Guild also provided income for their work.
- The food ministry has a new chest freezer thanks to a donation for this ministry. The food ministry folks are looking for a more efficient refrigerator.
- The toiletry ministry produces about 85 health kits per month. 50 of them go to St. Michael's Church every month.

The council is asking for a volunteer to serve as captain for our kitchen ministry (preparing food for events at the church). Please let Pastor Kohl or Laurie Linden know if you are able or would like to nominate someone.

The council thanks those who planned and participated in the breakfast event help May 18 to prepare for the ELCA's *God's Work, Our Hands* Sunday on September 7.

## Sunday Readings – June 2014

### June 1 — Seventh Sunday of Easter

#### Acts 1:6–14

Luke shares the concluding scene of Jesus' life on earth in this reading. But as always with God, the end is the beginning: this reading calls us into the future with the gift of the Holy Spirit and the return of Jesus at the end of time. It also sends the disciples out into the world from Jerusalem to the "ends of the earth".

#### 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11

The author contrasts this life with the one promised to us in Jesus. There will be trials and suffering here, but the glory God has prepared for us is beyond our understanding.

#### John 17:1–11

Jesus spends time in prayer for his followers, that God the Father would keep them in eternal life. He tells us in this prayer that eternal life is knowing Jesus, knowing that God is revealed in all Jesus does. In this eternal life we are united with God and with other followers of Jesus in a unity that is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### June 8 – Day of Pentecost

#### Acts 2:1–21

God has different ways to get people's attentions. On this day, the Spirit of God comes like a mighty wind and what the disciples go out and preach is welcomed in all languages. It is the story of Jesus, not the babbling of a bunch of drunken people as some folks assume.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13

The unity of the Church is not found in agreeing on every principle, rather it is found in following and serving the same Lord. All kinds of gifts from the Holy Spirit enable the church to carry out its ministry.

#### John 20:19–23

Jesus breaths on his disciples and they receive his very Spirit, the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Spirit is marked by peace with God and forgiveness.

### June 15 – The Holy Trinity

#### Genesis 1:1—2:4a

We are not here by accident. This first creation story in Genesis (the second story begins right after this one ends in chapter 2) declares that we are here as a part of God's creation. While humans may be the last of God's creatures in this account, we are also a part of the world, having our place as caretakers ("dominion") of God's world, made in the image of God.

#### 2 Corinthians 13:11–13

This ending of 2 Corinthians is filled with guidance for living as a community in the Spirit of God. It ends with a blessing that marks the beginning of our worship every Sunday: grace, love, and communion.

#### Matthew 28:16–20

Jesus gathers with his disciples to commission them for ministry. Even though some doubted, Jesus sends them all out to baptize and teach in the name of the Holy Trinity. Finally Jesus makes a promise to his people, "I am with you always, to the end of the age".

### June 22 – Lectionary 12/2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### Jeremiah 20:7–13

Belonging to God is not easy. Here Jeremiah raises his struggle with being God's spokesperson. But Jeremiah also proclaims the truth: God is faithful and God will be the one who redeems all struggles.

#### Romans 6:1b–11

If only sinners can be saved, does that mean that we should continue to sin? Paul's answer is no. Since we now belong to Jesus by baptism, we have a new life to live.

#### Matthew 10:24–39

Jesus teaches his followers that following him will put them in conflict with the world, but in the end promises that the conflict is worth the trouble because this struggle brings an authentic life.

### June 29 – Peter and Paul, Apostles

#### Acts 12:1–11

Luke tells the story of Peter's escape from prison during a time of persecution of the followers of Jesus in the early history of the church. It was an angel that brings him from the prison. Peter knows that this is the world of God.

#### 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18

In this letter attributed to Paul, the author confesses faith that God has been faithful in saving Paul. This becomes a part of the witness to God's faithfulness as others are told about faith in Jesus.

#### John 21:15–19

Three times Peter denied Jesus. Now Peter confesses commitment to serving others. Jesus reminds Peter cross.

his love for Jesus three times. Loving Jesus brings a of this truth as he speaks about how Peter will die on a

# SERVING in JUNE 2014

## GREETERS

**June 1** *Needed*  
**June 8** Jason & Courtney Petrarca  
**June 15** Allan & Rose Reed  
**June 22** Michele Tucci  
**June 29** Deb Vilardi

## USHERS

**June 1** Scott Chappelle  
Betty Wagner  
Roy Wagner  
Renee Woodward  
**June 8** Scott Chappelle  
Elaine Belvin  
Steve Lessard  
Kristen Resendes  
**June 15** Scott Chappelle  
Lou Cardillo  
Cindy Cote  
Bonnie Donahue  
**June 22** Scott Chappelle  
Jo-Anne Doyle  
Ron Fish  
Pam Himebaugh  
**June 29** Scott Chappelle  
Susan Horsch  
Linda Hughes  
Betty Wagner

## ALTAR GUILD

**June 1** Jennifer Cardillo  
Cindy Cote  
**June 8** Nancy Derby  
Virginia Smith  
**June 15** Pat Frazier  
Kitty Johnson  
Maureen Johnson  
**June 22** Joanne Lozy  
Susan Simundson  
**June 29** Debbie Perri

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

**June 1** Karin Kohl  
**June 8** *Needed...please sign up!*  
**June 15** *Needed...please sign up!*  
**June 22** Mark Cheney  
**June 29** John Carlson

## READERS

**June 1** John McElroy  
**June 8** Beth Fish  
**June 15** Patricia Frazier  
**June 22** Joan Eisemann  
**June 29** Pam Himebaugh

## ALTAR FLOWERS

**June 1** Calvin & Muriel Linden  
**June 8** The Chappelle and Cote Families  
The Wagner Family  
**June 15** Marion Kullberg and family  
Karla and Connor Safford  
**June 22** **Alice Burnham**  
**June 29** *Available*

## ACOLYTES

**June 1** Molly Phillips  
**June 8** Jacob Resendes  
**June 15** Matthew Sangster  
**June 22** Connor Safford  
**June 29** Samantha Almonte

## COUNTERS

**June 1** Beth Fish and Susan Simundson  
**June 8** Beth Fish and Cindy Cote  
**June 15** Beth Fish and Tammy McLaughlin  
**June 22** Beth Fish and Chris Spencer  
**June 29** Laurie Linden and Maureen Johnson

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

**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**

**June 2014**



*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and  
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.*  
*2 Corinthians 13:13*

**Congregation Council**

Laurie Linden - President  
Susan Simundson - Vice President  
Linda Hughes - Secretary

Mary Brinson  
Kathy Gremel  
Tammy McLaughlin

Cindy Cote  
Marie Grist  
Valerie Parmenter

Bill Dugan  
Maureen Johnson  
Chris Spencer