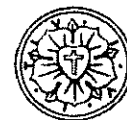




Pilgrims' Progress



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

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The Rev. Dennis Kohl

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* Look for Pastor Kohl's commentary on the August readings later this summer.

September Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Friday, August 15!

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

From the Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

July is one of those times when it might be easier to see God's gifts to us. The world is usually abloom with green and the colors of flowers. Our schedules might slow down a little. The daylight lasts longer into the evening, and many times one can actually sit outdoors in the evening and give thanks for the world around us, our families, our friends, and our church.

In the church's year, July and August are called "ordinary time". It is the season of the time after Pentecost, a time we think as we gather in worship what it means for us to be the church in God's world today. The color in front of us will be green, a reminder of growth and life.

The green also reminds us that life is what the church is called to be. The church is like a seed God has planted in the rich and often troubling soil of the world around us. We are called to be different, to be people of life and whatever brings life, not especially to ourselves but to the world around us.

Jesus shows us what life looks like: respect for others, willingness to serve, working for healing, standing with those the power structures of life judge as less than deserving of respect. The list can go on. In your life the Holy Spirit will help you discern how you can be an agent of this life. Listen for the Spirit's whispering to you as you go through each day. Who do you see that could use a little kindness? What are you reading about in

*God's purpose for Pilgrim Lutheran Church is to build our relationships with Jesus and to share our gifts with the community.
Praying always - Serving with joy - Teaching - Proclaiming the Good News - Building community*

the paper or seeing on TV or the internet that concerns you? Who needed to have you take the time to listen to them? What in your life, even its struggles, can help another person know that difficulties are more easily borne when you didn't have to face them alone?

Being this seed of the church takes both times of action and times of reflection or rest. July (and August) have both these times built into them. We need to honor them as important enough to use well for growth for ourselves and for others.

In our busy world and the busyness of life taking time for these things requires a discipline that is created out of awareness. Learning how to listen for the Spirit of God, learning how to be a blessing for others does not come naturally. It is something we all must be aware of everyday. Heck, even catching our breath in times of relaxation may take work at first, but it is a "skill" worth learning because God wants the best for you also.

So we gather on Sundays for a little time of "holy rest" as God in Jesus comes to us in word and sacrament, in people and forgiveness. Those times are not frosting on the cake, Sundays are the very stuff the rest of the week is made from. You need it as I do to live a meaningful and balanced life. Our gathering is also a model for our children and teenagers to know that life is a gift, not a schedule to be filled with keeping busy or searching for fun in the lost world of the digital game. Younger ones need to know there is value in finding quiet and thought/prayer.

So, as your pastor I am asking you to consider making this "ordinary time" extraordinary by using this gift as fully as you can. I will see you on Sundays, but remember Jesus has promised to be with you always!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Kohl

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms



Raegan Elizabeth Anderson
Elijah Domenico D'Angelo
Liam Zachariah D'Angelo
Mackenzie Ann Harter
Jamie Lynn Healey

Weddings

Robert Cribari & Robert Fage
Dennis Eckloff & Lori Paterson
John Valletta & Elizabeth Allen



Funerals



Robert Abram
Roberta Bathgate
Doris Gannon
Bettyann Giard
Joseph Kozaczka
Allen Lawton
John Medeiros
Charles Tompkins

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. Verbal requests are at the mercy of Pastor Kohl's memory! 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.

Please be sure to notify the church office at 401-739-2937 or parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org if you have an address/telephone/e-mail change, a membership change, or a change in your family status. Many thanks!

Congratulations, Graduates...



Kyle Adams graduated from Bryant University this year. Kyle is the son of Diane & Jeffrey Chaplin.

Eric Fish graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a B.S. in Kinesiology. He is a nationally certified Strength and Conditioning Coach and is currently employed at The Way in Cranston. Eric is the son of Ron and Beth Fish.

Kayleigh Peterson graduated from Chelsea Public High School in Chelsea, Vermont. She is the daughter of USAF Captain Dana Peterson and his wife, Kaysee and the great-granddaughter of Seline & Harry Peterson.

Nathaniel Stiener graduated from the University of Vermont in May with a degree in Studio Art and a minor in Theater. Nate works as a Lighting Specialist for outdoor music festivals, clubs, and conventions across the country.

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

HELP SUPPORT CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR ALL PEOPLE

Pilgrim Church and Thrivent will work together during the month of July to raise funds for and awareness of the great need for all people to have clean water to drink. We will use Coins for a Cause on Sunday, July 6 for this, along with sponsoring coffee hour. Fred Linden will be showing a video on Sundays during coffee hour in July.

Our goal is to raise \$1,500 for an organization called Charity: Water, and to get supplemental funding through our Rhode Island Chapter Board of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Charity: Water is a non-profit organization which brings clean, safe drinking water to people in developing countries. They use 100% of public donations to directly fund sustainable water solutions in areas of greatest need.

Right now, 800 million people on the planet don't have access to clean and safe drinking water. That's one in nine of us. Unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation cause 80% of diseases and kill more people every year than all forms of violence, including war. Children are especially vulnerable.

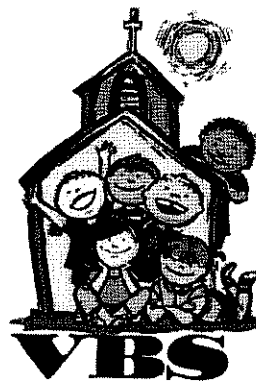
Just \$20 can give one person access to clean water. Learn more at www.charitywater.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at Pilgrim Lutheran Church

August 11-15, 2014

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ages 4-8



**Spread the word!
Invite your friends!**

**COME TO THE VBS
KICKOFF BREAKFAST
On Sunday, July 20
after the 9:30 service**

*If you would like to help with our VBS program,
please speak to Pam Himebaugh or Pastor Kohl*

The Pilgrim Prayer Chain is always available for assistance when there is a need for prayer. You may call the church office at 401-739-2937 or Prayer Chain Coordinator, Joan Hamblin at 401-781-3752, or place a written request in the prayer box in the narthex. All requests are kept confidential.

We are seeking additional members. Please call Joan if you are interested in being part of this important ministry of the church.



2014 New England Synod Assembly Report

There were 490 voters and 70 visitors and guests at Springfield's MassMutual Center from June 5-7 for the 2014 New England Synod Assembly, and we were delighted to represent Pilgrim Church there. We had an uneventful drive to Springfield in spite of the rain and the way Fred drives. ☺ We actually got there at the same time as Pastor Kohl—we saw his car going up into the parking garage as we approached the ticket gate. The following are a few highlights of the Assembly—you can see more at www.nesynod.org

There were a couple of key themes this year, much of it in regard to our church going forward and the inequity of economy between Americans.

The three days in Springfield were filled with talks, workshops and votes centered on the future of the church at large, and the future of what we do here in New England. From ELCA Representative Pastor Ruben Duran's opening remarks ("Like I tell my daughter 'we are now 25 years old, it is time to get out of the house' "), to Scott Thumma's ("What people are looking for is new expressions of being faithful") keynotes, to Bishop James Hazelwood's three-part report, the 2014 Assembly took a good, hard look at where we are and where we're going.

That forward-looking theme continued in the resolutions voted upon by the assembly. Additionally, the assembly elected 17 positions on the Synod Council, Discipline, and Consultation Committees. To read all of those resolutions and election results, see the synod's website

On the opening night of the assembly, we gathered outside the MassMutual Center in Springfield's Court Square for an evening worship based on the Cathedral in the Night ministry in Northampton, MA. Presided over jointly by Cathedral in the Night Pastor Stephanie Smith and Bishop James Hazelwood, the service featured readings from the crowd gathered around a cross-shaped sandbox, sitting on a table overflowing with bread for communion.

Bishop Hazelwood's three-part report included a look at every stop along the way of his tour of all 183 of our congregations, which wrapped up just a few weeks ago. And after a fond look back, he took a hard look forward, noting that roughly 40 of our congregations are fragile, 40 are healthy, and the rest fall somewhere in the middle.

"If your church is internally focused, candidly, you're toast," he said. "It's all over. Why? Because people are leaving internally focused churches. They are tired of silly debates about whether or not the color of the napkins should match for coffee hour. They don't want to fight about whether the prelude should come before or after the announcements, whether or not the pastor's children make too much noise. They are leaving silly budget fights. There is no future for churches like that. I'm sorry, but it's true."

So what's next?

"Experiment, experiment, experiment," said Hazelwood, wearing a mad scientist's lab coat. "You now have Synodical authorization to experiment."

Thanks for your support,
Laurie and Fred Linden

Sunday Readings – July 2014

July 6 – Lectionary 14

Zechariah 9:9–12

This will be a Sunday of contrasts. In this reading we hear about the king who comes humbly to the people. We read about “prisoners of hope”. The redemption of the people will be the work of God.

Romans 7:15–25a

We all know what it is like to know what is the right thing to do and still we chose to do what we know is wrong. This is our human condition as long as we live in this world. We are sinners in our action, but saints by being redeemed by Jesus.

Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

Jesus addresses the complaints of the people about John the Baptizer and his own ministry. Jesus is called “glutton, drunkard, friend of tax collectors and sinners”. But Jesus also offer hope and help for those who carry heavy burdens.

July 13 – Lectionary 15

Isaiah 55:10–13

Agriculture becomes the medium for this Sunday. God promises here that the word God sends will be effective. There will be no more thorns or briars; there will be peace and joy.

Romans 8:1–11

Here is really good news: *“There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* We are in Christ Jesus not because of any decision we made or of anything we do. It is Jesus who has claimed us in the water of baptism. Paul reminds us to live that kind of life: free from fear and worry about God’s gift of salvation.

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Jesus uses the image of seeds to speak about the reign of God. Sometimes the Word of God sinks deep into our lives and flourishes within us and our actions, sometimes our hearts are stony and do not value the Word of God. All of us are both good soil and bad soil: it’s our human condition.

July 20 – Lectionary 16

Isaiah 44:6–8

God is the only God. Our God brings freedom from fear and an end to the old ways as we walk into the future.

Romans 8:12–25

“In hope we were saved.” God is working new things in us, the children of God and heirs with Christ.

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

There is a danger in this story: some might think that certain people are wheat and other people are the weeds growing in the field. The truth is, as we heard earlier this month, all of us are both wheat and weeds. On the last day, the “weedy” part of us will be gone and finally we will be who God created us to be.

July 27 – Lectionary 17

1 Kings 3:5–12

Solomon asks God for wisdom and discernment to be a king over God’s people. Because this was his concern, God also gives Solomon peace and prosperity.

Romans 8:26–39

God’s grasp is forever. God is for us, giving us the Holy Spirit for those times when we are overwhelmed or have our share of pain or doubts. The Holy Spirit is at work in Christ’s church, through Christ’s people.

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

Jesus shows us that things which might appear small and unimportant are actually the things by which God is able to bring the reign of God into the world. Here Jesus uses pictures of a mustard seed, yeast, treasure hidden in a field, a fine pearl. Being in God’s reign is worth everything else in our lives.

SERVING in JULY 2014

GREETERS

July 6 Roy Wagner
July 13 Renee Woodward and Christine Kirsch
July 20 John & Tina Carlson
July 27 Bonnie Abols

USHERS

July 6 Scott Chappelle
Jo-Anne Doyle
Ruth Lundin
Pete Mahoney
July 13 Scott Chappelle
Merrill McElroy
John Merrill
Rick Nelson
July 20 Scott Chappelle
Bill Dugan
John & Tina Carlson
July 27 Scott Chappelle
Jason & Courtney Petrarca
Betty Wagner

ALTAR GUILD

July 6 Mary Brinson
Pam Himebaugh
July 13 Jennifer Cardillo
Cindy Cote
July 20 Nancy Derby
Virginia Smith
July 27 Pat Frazier
Kitty Johnson
Maureen Johnson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

READERS

July 6 Allan Reed
July 13 Roy Wagner
July 20 Chris Spencer
July 27 Helen Varin

ASSISTING MINISTERS

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

July 6 Allan & Rose Reed
July 13 The Krajewski Family
Bill and Tom Dugan & Family
July 20 Available
July 27 Available

ACOLYTES

July 6 Caleigh Blackmer
July 13 Conner Lowell
July 20 Corey Olson
July 27 Molly Phillips

COUNTERS

July 6 Mary Brinson and Beth Fish
July 13 Bill Dugan and Beth Fish
July 20 Marie Grist and Beth Fish
July 27 Linda Hughes and Beth Fish

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!

SERVING in AUGUST 2014

GREETERS

August 3 Bruce & Elaine Belvin
August 10 Phyllis Blanchette
August 17 Lou Cardillo
August 24 Cindy Cote
August 31 Jim & Jo-Anne Doyle

READERS

August 3 Susan Horsch
August 10 Lou Cardillo
August 17 Mackenzie Hall
August 24 Susan Simundson
August 31 Carl Lozy

USHERS

August 3 Scott Chappelle
Allan Reed
Kristen Resendes
Michele Tucci
August 10 Scott Chappelle
Deb Vilardi
Betty Wagner
Roy Wagner
August 17 Scott Chappelle
Bruce & Carolyn Vittner
Renee Woodward
August 24 Scott Chappelle
Lou Cardillo
Cindy Cote
Steve Lessard
August 31 Scott Chappelle
Laurie Linden
Rick Nelson
Betty Wagner

ASSISTING MINISTERS

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

August 10 Scott Chappelle and Cote Family
The Wagner Family
All other Sundays in August are available.

ACOLYTES

August 3 Jacob Resendes
August 10 Matthew Sangster
August 17 Conner Safford
August 24 Samantha Almonte
August 31 Caileigh Blackmer

ALTAR GUILD

August 3 Joanne Lozy
Susan Simundson
August 10 Nancy Sulmasy
Betty Wagner
August 17 Mary Brinson
Pam Himebaugh
August 24 Jennifer Cardillo
Cindy Cote
August 31 Nancy Derby
Virginia Smith

COUNTERS

August 3 Valerie Parmenter and Beth Fish
August 10 Cindy Cote and Maureen Johnson
August 17 Beth Fish
August 24 Laurie Linden and Beth Fish
August 31 Susan Simundson and Beth Fish

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

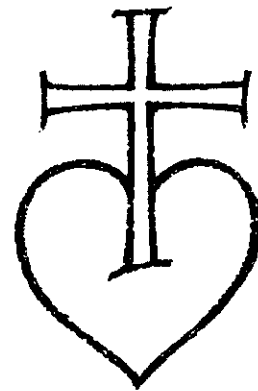
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www.pilgrimlutheranri.org

Dated Material

July 2014

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:38-39



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