



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

## OUR STAFF

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The Rev. Dennis Kohl

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM PASTOR KOHL	P. 1 & 2
PASTORAL ACTS	P. 2
GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY	P. 2
CHURCH NOTES	P. 3-4
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2014-15	P. 5
SEPTEMBER SERVERS	P. 6
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR	P. 7

## October Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Monday, September 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. Thanks!

*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.*

## From the Pastor

### Hell and Stewardship

Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

Before you assume that you know what this letter is about, please give it a read.

As you have probably noted in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book, the Apostles' Creed gives us an alternative to the line in the second article about Jesus descending into hell. We could also say at that point in the creed "he descended to the dead". We don't hear much about hell, and to be honest with you, beside Matthew's Gospel and some parables and the Book of Revelation, hell is not a major theme of the Bible. That is something we might not notice unless someone pointed it out to us.

And yet in some traditions among the Christian family the notion of hell seems to be more prominent than the notion of grace. Many of us were raised with the threat of hell hanging over our heads. Hell was used to make us behave, to keep us from doing bad things. In the ancient cathedrals and parish churches of Europe a depiction of hell was often carved over the doors of the church and might be displayed in the windows as a grim reminder that Christians need to listen to what the church taught or suffer the consequences of their actions by an eternity in hell. I suspect that Dante's *Inferno*, a part of his extended poem *The Divine Comedy*, shapes our pictures of hell more than anything else. But remember that work was written as a political statement about life in Dante's world.

Hell was used at the time of the Reformation (1500s) to collect money for building St. Peter's at the Vatican in Rome. This fund raising program was called the sale of indulgences. No indulgence, no forgiveness; a future in purgatory or hell. Indulgences also were supposed to be able to get people already dead closer to heaven by shortening their time in purgatory.

Now that was an effective fund-raising technique! Fear is often a good way to control people and make them do what you want them to do.

But in our tradition as Lutheran Christians it is not fear that motivates our good behavior, our sharing of resources, our following Jesus. We are not Christians out of fear, but rather because we have come to know that transformation happens when we are loved—not forced to do something. Hearts do not change because of fear, but we become new people because we are loved.

As we begin to think about the financial positioning of Pilgrim Church for 2015 and beyond, please do so—not because any of us can buy our way out of judgment and into grace, but because we have been blessed first of all by God, whose heart is filled with love for this whole crazy human family. And if Jesus is the one who shows us what God is like (and we believe he is) then we see a love that will not stop even through the cross. In him we see a God who operates out of God's own self, not as one who can be manipulated by our behavior.

So, what is your reason for giving to the work of Christ through Pilgrim Church, the New England Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America? It would be interesting to know such things, and probably inspiring to the rest of us. You see, stewardship does not have to be hell. It can be one way we get on board with God's work of healing and restoring God's creation.

With hope,

*Pastor Kohl*



## **Pastoral Acts** **July and August 2014**

### **Funerals**

Lois Barton  
Dorothy Battey  
David Hall  
Robin Ponte  
Joseph Quinn  
Elizabeth Rouillard  
Norman Roy  
George Southworth, Jr.



## **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS** **SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 7, 2014**

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday will be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The nearly 10,000 congregations of this church will gather to serve its communities in ways that share the love of God with all God's people.

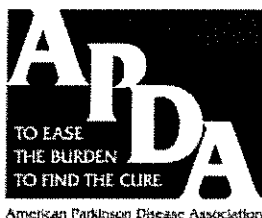
Some ways that Pilgrim will be serving our community on September 7 include singing hymns at an Alzheimer's program, making a meal for a homeless shelter, packing lunches for Crossroads, meditation and prayer at the labyrinth, and a community cleanup project. The Coins for a Cause offering will benefit Pilgrim's Food Ministry that Sunday.

The day will begin with a special service. Afterward, some groups will stay at church, and others will go into the community. We'll all gather at Pilgrim that afternoon for a celebration.

Be sure to join us on September 7, and invite a friend or neighbor along!



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## American Parkinson Disease Association's Annual Race, Walk, and Roll at Goddard State Park Saturday, September 13, 2014

Join Team Pilgrim for the American Parkinson Disease Association's Annual Race, Walk, and Roll at Goddard State Park on Saturday, September 13, 2014! We honor Pilgrim's own Bruce Belvin, who always walks along with us. There are 1,800 families in this small state of Rhode Island who are affected by this disease. The Race, Walk, and Roll is an official 5K run and a 1.5 mile walk. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Carousel House. It is a great time of fun and fellowship...even if you can't do the run or the walk, please come down and support Team Pilgrim! A signup sheet is posted in the narthex. For more information, contact Laurie Linden at 941-3302 or at [lalinden1@verizon.net](mailto:lalinden1@verizon.net).



### It's Blood Drive Time Again!

The Rhode Island Blood Center will be at Pilgrim on  
**Sunday, September 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

If you or someone you know is able to give, please set this time aside on your calendar. Should you have any questions or need further information, or would like to help out with organizing or publicizing the blood drive, please contact Kristen Resendes at 737-5924. Thank you!

*Don't forget to bring your driver's license or another form  
of identification when you donate.*

## Vacation Bible School 2014...a Huge Success!

August 11-15 was a wonderful week at Pilgrim. We had a week-long Bible School with 10-15 children attending every day! Some are members of our church family, while others came from outside our community. One family drove all the way from Middletown, RI to bring their two children to our program. They danced, sang, created and explored our church and our faith. They learned that Jesus loves us all, despite our differences.

In addition to the students, we had over 15 volunteers who made it all happen! Some worked from home, beforehand, preparing food and crafts. Others came as teachers, guiding the children through the day and the different activities. Everyone played a vital role in the success of the Bible Camp.

Many thanks go out to everyone who supported this program in some way! God's work, our hands!

Peace,  
Pam Himebaugh



### IT'S CHOIR TIME!

Our first rehearsal of the season will be on Wednesday evening,  
**September 3 at 7:00 p.m.** New singers are always welcome!

Please speak to Denis Brunelle, our Minister of Music, should you have any questions about joining Pilgrim's choir.

## Sunday Worship Modifications

Our Bishop, James Hazelwood and the leadership of our synod has asked all congregations to be places of innovation or experimentation. As we consider this at Pilgrim Church, one of the areas that will help us to do this is our worship time.

Modifications to worship will be made to make our worship easier for folks visiting us and as a way to address the fact that we all understand information in slightly different ways. You will notice a new format for our bulletins, and a renewed emphasis on the theme of each Sunday's service.

Sunday services are planned by our Worship, Music and Arts Committee. We hope these small shifts will make worship more meaningful and our faith more clear.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Our Sunday School starts up again on September 7.  
Meet in the Chapel at 9:15!**



On September 7 we will register the students, so families will need to give us information that morning. Please contact Mrs. Gallucci at [bethanyg223@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyg223@gmail.com) to register your students, or call the church office at 401-739-2937.

We need kids' names, addresses, and phone numbers. Also, letting us know about any special situations or learning styles would be very much appreciated.

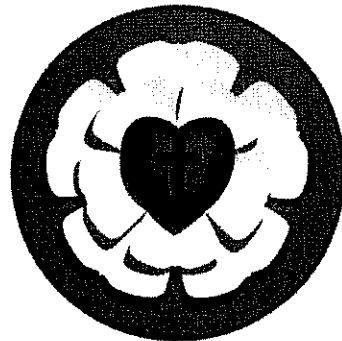
*All are welcome!*

## Confirmation 2014-2015

Preparation for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) is offered for all students between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. This is a ministry Pilgrim Church does along with St. Paul Church in Warwick and Bethany Church in Cranston. Classes meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 until 8:15. Our first meeting is different. It will take place on **Tuesday, September 23** and we will **begin at 7:00 p.m.** We would like all students and a parent/guardian to be at the meeting. The program we have at Pilgrim Church has expectations and involves the families of the students. We would like everybody to understand how this series of classes works.

Over the three years of instruction we cover the Bible, *The Small Catechism* of Martin Luther, and topics or issues that impact on young people's lives. We want our students to know that as the followers of Jesus our lives are shaped by his principles, not simply what everyone else is doing.

Whenever there is a class for the evening (sometimes there are fellowship or service events) we ask a family or a couple of families together to provide a supper for the students.



Please call the church office at 401-739-2937 or e-mail Pastor Kohl at [pastor@pilgrimlutheranri.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimlutheranri.org) to let us know if someone in your family will be part of these classes.

## ***Proposed Calendar for Confirmation 2014-2015***

**All events are on Tuesdays. Classes (with meal) begin at 6:30.  
Only the class events provide meals for the students.**

September 23 – 7PM – orientation with family members  
September 30 – *Who wrote the Bible?*

October 7 – Fellowship/Service  
October 14 – *Is the Bible True?*  
October 21 – Planning for Confirmation staff (no kids – take them out for ice cream)  
October 28 – *New Testament overview*

November 4 - No class  
November 11 - No class  
November 18 - Fellowship/Service  
November 25 – *Why are there four Gospels?*

December 2 – Planning for Confirmation staff (no kids – have them wash the dishes)  
December 9 – *Letters & History of the Early Church*  
December 16 – Fellowship/Service  
December 23 – No class  
December 30 – No class

January 6 – *Revelation & Apocalyptic Literature*  
January 13 - Planning for Confirmation staff (no kids – let them shovel snow)  
January 20 – *Overview of Hebrew Scriptures*  
January 27 – Fellowship/Service

February 3 – *Creation & the Fall*  
February 10 - Planning for Confirmation staff (no kids – get homework done early)  
February 17 – No class  
February 24 – *The Covenant with Abraham*

March 3 – Fellowship/Service  
March 10 – *The Covenant with Moses*  
March 17 - Planning for Confirmation staff (no kids – give the dog a bath)  
March 24 – *The Covenant with David & the Psalms*  
March 31 – Fellowship/Service

April 7 – *Elijah Night*  
April 14 - Planning for Confirmation staff (no kids – watch a video as a family)  
April 21 – No class  
April 28 – *The Prophets 101*

May 5 - Planning for Confirmation staff (no kids – have them mow the lawn)  
May 12 – *The Prophets 102*  
May 19 – Party!

# SERVING in SEPTEMBER 2014

## GREETERS

September 7  
September 14 Ron & Beth Fish  
September 21 Susan Simundson  
September 28 Lisa Harrington

## READERS

September 7 Laurie Linden  
September 14 Mary Brinson  
September 21 Joan Hamblin  
September 28 Mark Cheney

## ALTAR GUILD

September 7 Pat Frazier  
Kitty Johnson  
Maureen Johnson  
September 14 Joanne Lozy  
Susan Simundson  
September 21 Nancy Sulmasy  
Betty Wagner  
September 28 Mary Brinson  
Pam Himebaugh

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

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

## ACOLYTES

September 7 Jacob Resendes  
September 14 Corey Olson  
September 21 Molly Phillips  
September 28 Connor Lowell

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

## USHERS

September 7 Scott Chappelle  
Bonnie Donahue  
Jo-Anne Doyle  
Ron Fish  
September 14 Elaine Belvin  
Scott Chappelle  
Pam Himebaugh  
Susan Horsch  
September 21 Scott Chappelle  
Linda Hughes  
Laurie Linden  
Ruth Lundin  
September 28 Scott Chappelle  
Pete Mahoney  
Merrill McElroy  
John Merrill

## COUNTERS

September 7 Mary Brinson  
Beth Fish  
September 14 Bill Dugan  
Marie Grist  
September 21 Beth Fish  
September 28 Linda Hughes  
Beth Fish

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

September 7 Ruth Lundin  
September 14 Krajewski Family  
September 21 Available  
September 28 Available



# September 2014

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

1817 Warwick Avenue Warwick, Rhode Island 02889 (401) 739-2937

[www.pilgrimlutheranri.org](http://www.pilgrimlutheranri.org)

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

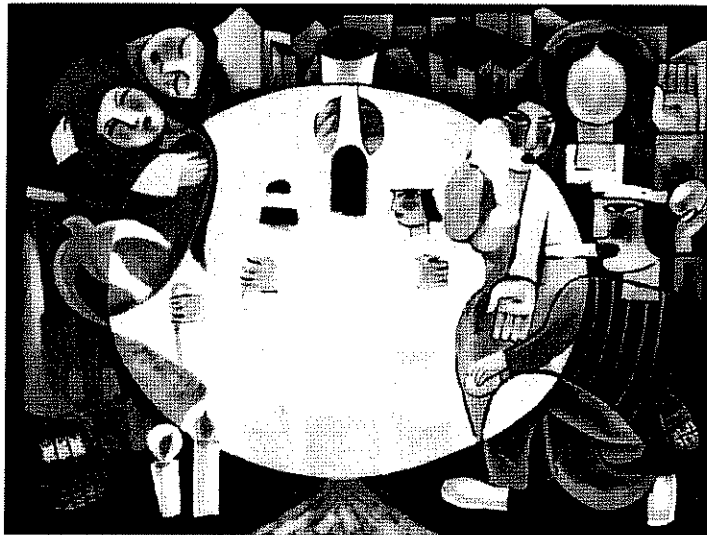
**Sat**

	<b>1</b> LABOR DAY Office Closed  <i>No Bible Study</i> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>2</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope	<b>3</b>  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> PK'S DAY OFF	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>Pentecost 13</i> GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	<b>8</b>  7:00 Mark Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>9</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min.	<b>10</b>  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> PK'S DAY OFF  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>13</b> 9:00 Parkinson's Race, Walk & Roll Goddard Park
<b>14</b> <i>Holy Cross Sunday</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 8:30-11:30 Blood Drive 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion/Baptism	<b>15</b>  Pilgrims' Progress Deadline  7:00 Mark Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>16</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope	<b>17</b>  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 10:00 Toiletry Cupboard 7:00 Congregation Council Meeting	<b>19</b> PK'S DAY OFF  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>Pentecost 15</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	<b>22</b>  7:00 Mark Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>23</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Prayer Shawl Min. 7:00 Confirmation - Parents and Students	<b>24</b>  7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> PK'S DAY OFF  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>Pentecost 16</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion	<b>29</b>  7:00 Mark Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	<b>30</b> 10:00 Pastors' Pericope  6:30 Confirmation - Who Wrote the Bible?		Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		

**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**

**September 2014**



*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*  
*Matthew 18:20*

**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