



Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Warwick, Rhode Island
March 2015

OUR STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Dennis Kohl

Minister of Music

Denis Brunelle

Treasurer

Bill Brinson

Financial Secretary

Beth Fish

Sexton

Adam Kohl

April Pilgrims' Progress Deadline: Saturday, March 15!

Please e-mail submissions to
parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org
or place in her mailbox in the church
office. Many thanks.

The Progress deadline is the 15th of every month.

From the Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

March brings us into the midst of Lent, these forty days (not counting Sundays) in which the church prepares itself for the new life of resurrection. This preparation is done by prayer, self-denial, and works of mercy or alms-giving. You might notice the common theme of these disciples of Lent: it is focusing life on God and God's people, rather than on our own needs.

This is really what the Christian's life is about, letting go of our own egos and needs to make space for the bigger world of others in our lives. This is also what it means when Jesus calls his followers to deny themselves, take up the cross, and follow him.

I don't want to sound morbid but the life of a Christian is really learning how to die. By that I mean what we learn as we follow Jesus is to let go of the things we considered to be essential or sources of self-indulgence. Yes, God has created us to enjoy the gift of life and the world in which God placed us, but if anything becomes more important or life-giving to us than our relationship with God and our neighbors, we are entering into the dangerous territory that is idolatry. Self-examination, spending time with our own conscience is important for us to grow in virtue and put our vices into a quiet place in our lives and personalities.

At the end of the day, take a few minutes to think over the day just gone. What have been places or situations where you knew you did the right thing? What things would you like to be able to go back and correct?



Do this kind of thing with our kids in confirmation classes where at the end of each class the kids share their highs and lows of the last week with others. We do this because it builds relationships and community. That is what the church is for the sake of the world, a community of people living with their focus on God and others rather than on self.

This is also what the life of baptism is. In *The Small Catechism* Luther writes this about baptism: *What then is the significance of such a baptism with water? It signifies that the old person in us with all its sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.*

Lent is the time God gives us to remind ourselves that this is what our lives are called to be. Lent is a time that was used for adults preparing for baptism; it is a time of learning. Lent is still a time for learning. As your pastor I would encourage you to read your catechism. If you do not have one, give a call to the church office. We have one here for you. This little book serves as a kind of lens to see our lives and the Bible most clearly.

I pray that your Lent is holy and filled with growth, and that when we arrive at Easter your joy will be complete.

In hope,

Pastor Kohl



Pastoral Acts

Funerals Ann Wilding
Helen DeCiantis
Gerald Kent, Sr.
Nils Broms
Susan Clark
Brenda Massy



255.5.

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 the office 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.



LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

We will be gathering for
**Evening Prayer on Wednesday
Evenings in Lent at 6:30 PM
March 4, 11, 18, 25.**
on Wednesday evenings in Lent at 6:30 PM



*An important message
from the Altar Guild...*

The Altar Guild will soon be accepting contributions for the **2015 Easter Memorial Garden**.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please **fill out one envelope for each dedication** (in clear print), enclose your free will contribution, and place it in the collection plate. You may also send your envelope to the church office to the attention of the Altar Guild. Easter Memorial Garden envelopes will be on the table in the narthex soon.

The Easter Memorial Garden will decorate our main sanctuary for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday in loving remembrance of those who share in the Easter victory. After the late service on Easter Sunday, the plants will be delivered to the sick, shut-in, and Lifetime Members of the Altar Guild. If you would like to help the Altar Guild deliver these plants, please see the sign-up sheet on the Altar Guild bulletin board in the hallway.

All Easter Memorial Garden envelopes **MUST** be received **no later than Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015**. Thank you!



The Sunday School will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 29. The time will be announced, but it will be following the service. The congregation is asked to help by taking a bag of the plastic eggs home and filling them with candy for the kids. This is a family event, so bring your cameras. We hope there will be some grass visible outside so we can use the church grounds for the egg hunt.



LENTEN COIN GIVING

Once again this year we are offering the opportunity to the people of Pilgrim Lutheran Church to share in sacrifice; giving through the Lenten coin folders. A few cents a day is a small reminder that our lives are lived as blessings to others. The coin folders are available in the narthex (the hallway outside the church).

When your folder is full, you may return it during Holy Week or on Easter Sunday or one of the Sundays following Easter. These offerings will go toward the ministry of Christ which is done by the people of Pilgrim Church.

New Revised Schedule for Confirmation

- March 03-Covenant with Abraham
- 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 07-Elijah Night
- April 14-Planning for Confirmation staff
(no kids-watch a video as a family)
- April 21-NO CLASS SCHOOL VACATION
- April 28-The Prophets 101
- May 05-Planning for Confirmation staff
(no kids-have them mow the lawn)
- May 12-The Prophets 102
- May 19-PARTY!

A Note From Elisabeth 10 Feb. 2015

Dear Pilgrim Friends,
Please accept my most sincere thanks for your generous monetary gift as we said good-bye to my time with you as your Parish Assistant. But even more than this I want to thank you for your support and your warm wishes as I left Pilgrim, and your many kindnesses to me over the years. I am overwhelmed by the lonely words and sentiments you shared with me. I hold them close to my heart always. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers! With love in Christ, Elisabeth



Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

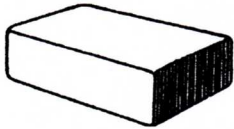
Combining into one liturgy the "Hosanna!" of the triumphal palm procession and the "Crucify him!" of the passion drama—especially as filtered through Paul's image of the "exalted" slave—invites a meditation on the mystery of Jesus' sovereignty.

How can we Americans grasp what it means to have or want a king when we reject the notion that bloodline conveys the right to rule? And yet, thanks to fairy tales, the Arthurian legends, and Shakespeare we have some inkling of the power, privilege, and even "divine rights" of royalty. We can use our imaginations to muster up a rousing "Ride on, King Jesus!" Then we can appreciate the incongruity: this king has to borrow a donkey, a room, and a tomb. Then, even more confounding, is that this king, "who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited" and even borrows our human likeness—including our death (Phil. 2:6).

Judas and Pilate are symbols of all humanity—including the church—in their desire for a grand royal gesture: start a revolution, call in your army, dazzle us with eloquent testimony. Jesus resists every such temptation and embraces the mortal human scale of his limited earthly reign.

Jesus prophesied that when he was lifted up all the world would be drawn to him; Philippians proclaims that "every knee should bend" and "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." So, whose knee will bow at the name of Jesus? All those who, following Jesus and trusting the faithfulness of God, are drawn to attend fully to human life, need, and mortality.

In monarchy, leaders lead by virtue of divine sanction of a particular bloodline. Our fond hope is that leadership is bestowed on the basis of merit, hard work, and authentic charisma. Our cynical fear is that it is bestowed on the basis of money, influence, and cronyism. The witness of Passion Sunday is that Jesus' credential is innocent blood shed in obedience to God for the sake of the broken.



Pilgrim Church's Memorial Garden is a work in progress. But we hope to bring it to completion on Saturday, May 2, with Saturday, May 9 as a rain date. This is a job that most of us can help with. The plan is to have the soil covered with bricks on which people's names can be engraved as a place to go to remember loved ones.

If you would like to place a brick with your loved-one's name engraved in it, please fill out the form attached to this notice. The cost for the brick and engraving is minimally \$30, but a higher donation is always appreciated. Return the completed form to the church office by mail or through the offering plate.

Please print clearly

Name to be engraved on brick _____

Name of person donating brick _____

Contact information of donor: e-mail _____

Phone number _____

Gospel Readings for March 2015



Lent 3 – March 8

John 2:13-22

That the fourth evangelist, writing in the late first or early second century, understands his religion as distinct from Judaism is evident in the narrative of the cleansing of the temple. The evangelist has relocated the narrative from the last week of Jesus' life, thus in the synoptics a possible explanation for his arrest, to its very beginning after his miracle at Cana, thus identifying the entire mission of Jesus as a new proclamation. In verse 21, John uses the episode to proclaim Christology: Christ himself is the temple, the locus of divine power, the place where God and humankind meet.

Lent 4 – March 15

John 3:14-21

Set as if it is baptismal catechesis for Nicodemus, this passage presents two images of the crucifixion: Moses' serpent in the wilderness and light in the world's darkness. Two uses of "son" also appear in this passage: the eschatological Son of Man, understood as coming to judge the world, and the begotten Son of God, come to save the world. By "world," kosmos, the evangelist means both the place and the time in which God's salvation is unfolding. It is good to remember the complexity of the verb "lifted up" in John's gospel: up on the cross, up from the tomb, and up to the Father. John's use of the story from Numbers is an early example of Christian interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Lent 5 – March 22

John 12:20-33

Chapter 12, the conclusion of what is often called the gospel's book of signs, echoes the call of the disciples in chapter 1 by reference to Philip and Andrew. But now at the turn toward Christ's passion narrative, it is Greeks, that is Gentiles, who come to Jesus, while the Jewish authorities are plotting his death (12:10). The image of the grain of wheat shows that the late first-century evangelist imagines God's paradox of life-through-death already manifest in creation and now spread to Greek peoples.

Passion/Palm Sunday – March 29

Mark 11:1-11

According to the gospels, the last week of Jesus' life began with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a ritual befitting his albeit paradoxical kingship. In Mark's version, the earliest that is extant, the crowd claims that Jesus comes in the name of (that is, under the authority of) YHWH and intends to reestablish the kingdom of David. "Hosanna" is a plea that means "save now": thus the intent of the phrase ""Hosanna in the highest" is unclear. A colt suggests the paradox of a humble king.

Mark 14:1—15:47

The Passion according to Mark

SERVING in MARCH 2015

GREETERS

March 01 Cindy Cote
March 08 Jim and Jo-Anne Doyle
March 15 Ron and Beth Fish
March 22 Lisa Harrington
March 29 Pam Himebaugh

READERS

March 01 Laurie Lindin
March 08 Joanne Lozy
March 15 Youth
March 22 John McElroy
March 29 Patricia Frazer

USHERS

March 01 Scott Chappelle
Bruce and Carolyn Vittner
Michele Tucci
March 08 Scott Chappelle
Roy Wagner
Rene Woodward
Elaine Belvin
March 15 Scott Chappelle
Lou Cardilo
Cindy Cote
Bonnie Donahue
March 22 Scott Chappelle
John & Tina Carlson
Bill Dugan
March 29 Scott Chappelle
Jo-Anne Doyle, Ron Fish
Pam Himebaugh

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 01 Available
March 08 Susan Jay
March 15 Nelson Family
March 22 Available
March 29 Varin Family

ALTAR GUILD

March 01 Mary Brinson
Pam Himebaugh
March 08 Jennifer Cardillo
Cindy Cote
March 15 Nancy Derby
Virginia Smith
March 22 Pat Frazier
Maureen Johnson
March 29 Joanne Lozy
Susan Simundson

ACOLYTES

March 01 Alex White
March 08 Caoilfhionn Farrell
March 15 Caileigh Blackmer
March 22 Chris Lopez
March 29 Connor Lowell

COUNTERS

March 01 Beth Fish and council member
March 08 Beth Fish and council member
March 15 Beth Fish and council member
March 22 Beth Fish and council member
March 29 Beth Fish and council member

ASSISTING MINISTERS

March 01 Karin Kohl **March 08** Available
March 15 Carl Lozy **March 22** Available
March 29 Palm Sunday Karin Kohl

CONFIRMATION DINNERS

Tuesday Evenings

March 03 The Covenant with Abraham and Sarah
March 10 The Covenant with Moses
March 17 Planning No Kid
March 24 Covenant with David & the Psalms

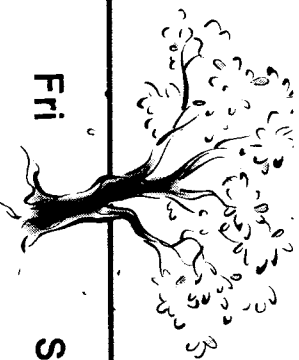


MARCH 2013

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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

www.pilgrimlutheranri.org



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 Lent 2 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion</p>	<p>2 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>3 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation – Covenant with Abraham</p>	<p>4 6:30 Lenten Evening Prayers in Chapel 7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Lent 3 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i></p>	<p>9 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>10 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Shawl Ministry 6:30 Confirmation - The Covenant with Moses</p>	<p>11 6:30 Lenten Evening Prayers in Chapel 7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Lent 4 Pilgrims' Progress Deadline 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion 10:45 Altar Guild General Meeting</p>	<p>16 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>17 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation — Planning NO KIDS ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p>	<p>18 6:30 Lenten Evening Prayers in Chapel 7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 <i>St. Joseph Day</i> 10:00 Toiletary Cupboard 7:00 Council Meeting</p>	<p>20 PK'S DAY OFF <i>Spring Begins</i> 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Lent 5 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion</p>	<p>23 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>24 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 1:00 Shawl Ministry 6:30 Confirmation –The Covenant with David & the Psalms</p>	<p>25 6:30 Lenten Evening Prayers in Chapel 7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 PK'S DAY OFF 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Palm Sunday 8:00 Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Holy Communion TBA Egg Hunt</p>	<p>30 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>31 10:00 Pastors' Pericope 6:30 Confirmation - Fellowship/Service</p>			<p>Don't Forget to Spring your CLOCKS AHEAD! FOR MARCH 08</p>	

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH
1817 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889-2238
Phone: 401-739-2937/Fax: 401-732-0735
www.pilgrimlutheranri.org

Dated Material

March 2015



*Indeed, God did not send the Son into
the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be
saved through him.*

John 3:17

Congregation Council

Susan Simundson -President
- Vice President
- Secretary

Mary Brinson
Marie Grist
Tammy McLaughlin

Mike Cote
Linda Hughes
Valerie Parmenter

Bill Dugan
Maureen Johnson
Clinton Smith

Mike Ferry
Laurie Linden
Chris Spencer