



Pilgrims' Progress



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

OUR STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Dennis Kohl

Minister of Music

Denis Brunelle

Treasurer

Bill Brinson

Financial Secretary

Beth Fish

Sexton

Adam Kohl

Parish Assistant

Laurie Connors

November's Progress Deadline: Thursday, October 15th

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 Friends of Christ:

Now that it is October schools are up and running (some with no contract with teachers as I write this). Sunday School is meeting on Sundays. Confirmation classes are getting revved up for another year of learning from one another. Bible Study is under way. Education never stops, but the fall is a time when we enter into a new period of learning, and we do this with hope and anticipation and excitement at the possibilities.

But our world is different. Stop and consider this: there was a time when the word "text" was only a noun. Text was something written down, it was something that was static, permanent. Text was something one could read. But in our world "text" is also a verb. It is part of a conversation that happens, not just words on a page. The world has changed, and we cannot ignore it.

We can learn from texts, both written and sent, but the truth is we really learn from other people. And we learn not just by what they say or what they write, we learn from observing them, from engaging with others, and even by sharing in some ancient or new traditions.

I have said this so often you may be tired of hearing it, but the truth is that every one of us is a theologian. Every one of us has had some encounter with the divine. Every one of us has had to think about our words and actions in a bigger picture. Every one of us has a story that can be a learning experience for others.



The church is about the only multigenerational community left in our world. The church is a place where “the wisdom of the elder and the wonder of the child” can be shared, as Dr. Rich Melheim has commented in one of his books. The church is richer when we share these gifts of wisdom and wonder. Our lives are richer when we share these gifts.

Faith formation is not a simple thing. And it is not the responsibility of the church alone. When people are baptized, the promise is made to help form the faith of the newly baptized. This does happen for kids and adults in Sunday School, Confirmation classes, Bible study and Communion classes, as well as in worship. But it must happen regularly, and by that I don’t mean simply once a week. Faith is really formed in the home, in the family. It is there that the conversation of how we understand God and life gets fleshed out for members of the family.

One of the reasons we have bulletins and services that can be taken home is so that they will be taken home. The readings we do on Sundays and the prayers we offer are meant to be used in the home with whoever is present. Please don’t be afraid to take these things from our worship on Sundays and use them daily for your devotional activity. Reading the texts at home, in light of what the day has been like for you, offering the prayers we used in our common gathering, in light of your day, will all bring a new insight to how our God is at work in your world.

And let’s not forget Luther’s *Small Catechism*. There should be a copy of this little handbook in every home of our congregation. If you do not have one, please let me know. This was written in a form for the heads of households to teach to other members. It is a book worth spending time with, maybe even

memorizing! (It can be done; many of us had to do that when we were in confirmation classes.)

So let’s share our stories and insights, let’s share our experiences and struggles. Because in all of them God is at work, calling us all to an on-going relationship with God meant for us to grow. Then on Sundays we might find all sorts of new things to ask God to help us with or to thank God for.

In hope,



Pastoral Acts

Baptism:

Jacob Michael Pasch

Marriages:

John Joseph Kelly, IV & Jessica Pankaj Patel
Paige Reed Bennet-Bonn & Michael John Skonieczny
Katie Ann Shanley & Steven Ray Clyburn, Jr.

Funeral:

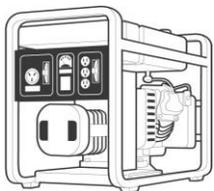
Margaret Essex

The Pilgrim Lutheran prayer chain is seeking new members. It is a rewarding way to be of service to others. There are no meetings, and praying is done on your schedule. Please consider this ministry. Call Joan Hamblin at 781-3752 or the church at 739-2937, if you would like be part of this important ministry.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, October 6th, and on Tuesday, October 20th.

We appreciate everyone's donations to the Food and Toiletry Pantries. Our food pantry which meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 presently serves about 60 people. Trader Joe's has been very generous with their donations, but we have pretty much hit a limit with the number of people we can feed. We have people who come for emergency food, and we're finding that our pantry is getting depleted. We have also had people in need of food from other places that we have had to turn away. Additionally, we are running low on items for the Toiletry Pantry that meets at 10:00 on the third Thursday of the month. Bottom line is anything you can give to these important ministries would be greatly appreciated. We are especially in need of peanut butter, cereal, pasta, rice, tomato sauce, soup, tuna, mac & cheese, and canned fruit and vegetables. We could also use dog and cat food. If you have any simple, good recipes with meat and vegetables, those would be helpful, too. As for the toiletry pantry, our hotel-sized items need to be replenished; also, large-sized shampoo, toothpaste, and soap. Razors, combs, small tissues, and deodorant are also needed, as well as toilet paper. Thank you again for helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Bless you all.
Karin Kohl



Electricity and Lost Food

It doesn't happen very often, but when the church loses electricity for a day or two, we also lose a lot of food which we could give to people if we had power in the building. Maybe a generator would be the solution to this problem. If you

have a spare one or would like to help us buy one, please let the church office know by calling 401-739-2937. Thanks for considering this for the people who rely on Pilgrim Church to provide their food each week.



Blessing of Animal Companions

October 4 is the day the church around the world remembers Francis of

Assisi (1182-1226). Francis was a man born into a wealthy family but gave it all away to live a life of poverty, a life dependent on God to provide for him. In this simplicity he came to realize all of life was a gift: the world around him, the other people in his life, and the creatures who shared the planet with him.

We bless things not to change them, but to help us remember that whatever we bless is important to God who created it. That is why we bless our pets, those animals who share life with us and our families. In these blessings we recognize our pets as one of God's many gifts to us.

If you have an animal that shares life with you and would like to have him or her blessed, please bring your animal friend to the church on **Sunday, October 4**, at **11:30 a.m.** for a special blessing. If you know someone else who would like to join us, invite them also.



Pilgrim's Discretionary Fund

While the requests for fuel assistance are not plentiful in the summer, other needs continue to come to our pastor from people within our congregation and beyond our congregation.

Please consider making a donation to the discretionary fund, perhaps in memory of someone or to honor an event. You can make your check payable to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, but be sure to mark it for the "Discretionary Fund." Many thanks!

Adult Education

Lunch and Learn – This wonderful opportunity is open to the public and will focus on the Jewish Bible "Parshat Hashavua" (the weekly Torah Portion). The next *Lunch and Learn* will be on Thursday, October 8th, at St. Timothy Church, 1799 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI, from noon – 1:00 p.m. If you plan to attend, you **MUST RSVP** either by sending payment in advance or by sending an email. No verbal RSVPs please.

The cost is \$8.00 per person – the deli will be kosher – the study priceless!

PLEASE RSVP TO
RABBIRICHARD@RABBIPERLMAN.COM IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND AND SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO WBCJC NO LATER THAN MONDAY, October 5th, to 2 Brenda Drive, Coventry, RI 02816.

The location of the *Lunch and Learn* study will move between Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. Timothy's Catholic Church, and the WBCJC home at Tamarisk. Look for updates monthly.

Martin Luther Pilgrimage

October 12-22, 2016

Plans for the Journey to sites important in the life of Martin Luther are coming along. In 2017 Christians will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Luther's posting the 95 Theses (points for a debate) about forgiveness. We will go to these places in 2016 to avoid the crowds of the following year. (Although with Oktoberfest that month there will be plenty of excitement in Germany).

The cost for the pilgrimage is \$3,669 (double occupancy) or \$4,169 (single room). This price includes airfare, hotels, entrance to all places of interest, 14 meals (9 breakfasts and 5 dinners), transportation to and from airports, and all transportation in Germany. All the hotels are at least 4-star rated.

A brochure will be available soon. If you want more information now, please check with Pastor or Karin or contact Val Mellow at East Side Travel (401) 724-3111. An evening of information and questions and answers will be held at Pilgrim Church on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at 5 PM.



There are still many dates available for flower dedications. Please sign up to support the Altar Guild. There are flower envelopes in the narthex. A \$30 donation is suggested. Place the envelope, with dedication information and donation, in the Altar Guild mailbox. Thank you.

Message from the Finance Committee:

Total Expenses for the period ending 8/31/15	\$158,739
Total Income for General Expenses for the period ending 8/31/15	<u>\$142,865</u>
SHORTFALL Through 8/31/15	(\$15,874)

In our discussions with our Treasurer, Bill Brinson, based on historic information of giving and our present financial condition, by October 1, 2015, we may not be able to pay our general expenses and fund payroll obligations. He states that our reserves have been exhausted.

Please consider donating additional funding for our general expenses.

If you have any questions, call Pete Mahoney (401) 737-3814.

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.