



Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Warwick, Rhode Island
May 2016

**June's Progress Deadline:
Sunday, May 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 and Fellow Pilgrims:

On Sunday, May 15, we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. On that day the focus of our life together as the church shifts. The colors of the Pentecost season are red, white, and green (not blue).

Pentecost is the third most important day in the church year following Easter and Epiphany. Christmas is important, but not one of the days observed from the earliest times of the church.

Here is the shift that happens on the Day of Pentecost: our focus turns from the person and work of Christ to the work of Christ through his church, through you and me. The season of Pentecost is a time of mission, a time of growth, a time for making the work of Jesus real in our world.

The red of the Day of Pentecost is a reminder to us of the fire of the Holy Spirit who appeared as tongues of fire over the heads of the people gathered in the upper room. This was a sign for them to know it was now their turn to do what Jesus had done: preach, heal, restore, forgive. But red is also the color of

blood, a reminder that some of them, and Christians down through the ages and even today, may be spilling their blood for the good news of God's grace in Jesus to be shared. The red reminds us that we cannot follow Jesus and refuse to make sacrifices of time or energy or money for the work of God's reign in the world.

The Sunday after Pentecost is the Festival of the Holy Trinity. This teaching of the church that we know God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a great mystery. It cannot be fully explained or fully understood. White is the color of purity and holiness, both attributes of God. The teaching of the Trinity is one way we say that God is greater than our understanding, and that God is not limited to a particular area of life but is present in all of life. We speak about the "persons" of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The word "person" comes from the theater where one actor could play many roles by simply changing the mask they were wearing. The word "person" in this doctrine means "mask": God wears at least three masks in relating to us, the human family.

Then on May 29th the color of the altar turns green as we celebrate the first Sunday in the Pentecost season. Now the torch has been passed to the church to carry out the work of Jesus. So we gather around a color that reminds us of life and growth. Now we celebrate how the Spirit of God brings us life and carries us into life with a purpose for living: caring for and serving other people in the name of Jesus.

As part of the family of Pilgrim Lutheran Church you are called to share in these truths and ministries. It will be on Sundays that God comes to you in words and wine and wheat to

go with you into every day's occurrences. None of us are ever "out there" alone. When we come together on Sundays it is to know our family and to share blessings for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and so forth.

With hope,



Pastoral Acts

Baptism

Avery Claire Scambio

Funerals

Joyce DuFault

Kyle Moore

Donald Card

Norman Thompson, Jr.

David C. Cartier

John "Jack" Arnold*

Irmgard Marple

Donald E. Andrews, Sr.

Ton Chuey Woo

Evelyn B. Doyle*

*Member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church



Coins for a Cause has returned to Pilgrim Lutheran Church. This is a ministry in which we bring our spare change or saved-up coins together to be used to

help a special cause each month. Keep your eye on the Sunday bulletin to find out when what the cause is that our money will be donated to. We have asked for suggestions of causes for this ministry and have received some, but please do not hesitate to share any ideas you have of how we might be able to be blessings to others as a congregation.

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Airman Alexandra Murphy completes basic training

Posted Tuesday, March 29, 2016 4:08 pm |
Warwick Beacon

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Alexandra K. Murphy graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Murphy is the daughter of Gary T. and Michelle R. Murphy of Warwick. She is a 2010 graduate of Pilgrim High School and earned a bachelor's degree in 2014 from Rhode Island College.

The kids in Confirmation will be taking part in the **Synod Youth Gathering** in September. It will be held at Camp Calumet. The cost per attendee is \$78 for room and board for the weekend. We need to know the number who will be going. The kids will be doing some fund raising projects both here at Pilgrim and at St. Paul. Please support them. If you would like to provide scholarship for them, please speak with Pastor Kohl or Tammy McLaughlin.

The Altar Guild is looking for very special photographs of our church. Old or new. Inside or out. During holidays and everything in between. PLEASE limit your offer to a few very special shots. You can leave them in the Altar Guild mailbox in the office. Contact Pam Himebaugh with questions: 401-935-3544 or pssh99@msn.com.

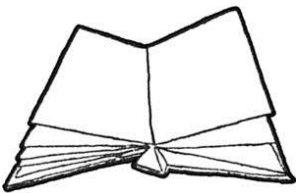
GRADUATION?



If you or someone in your family is graduating this year, please let us know. If there are plans for next year, let us know that also. We would like to share the good

news with other members of this Pilgrim family. Send your information to the church office or to Pastor Kohl. Our email addresses are parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org or pastor@pilgrmlutheranri.org. Many thanks and Congratulations!

New to the Church Library



The Recovery-Minded Church: Loving and Ministering to People with Addictions is a new addition to the church library. The book is written by Jonathan Benz with Kristina Robb-Dover. Mr. Benz is a

clinician, ordained minister, and a certified addiction professional who serves the recovery community nationally through speaking tours and his work as a clinician. Ms. Robb-Dover is also a minister and a professional writer.

It should come as no surprise to anyone that the disease of addiction is growing in our country. It takes many forms: alcohol, illegal drugs, prescribed medications, and others. As the church we are called to care for people with this disease, and this book helps congregations to give thought to how a church can better serve the recovering community or individual. The first part of the book introduces *Tools for Loving People with Addiction*. Here issues of responding to addiction, intervention, and myths about addiction are addressed. Each chapter deals at length with these topics and provides questions for discussion. The second part of

the book is called *Tools for Creating a Recovery-Friendly Church*. Here the authors consider cultivating a culture of long-term sobriety, ending shame, attentive listening, and healing.

Our life together as a congregation in some ways resembles facing our human "addiction," which is, confessing our need for forgiveness and our helplessness in creating ourselves as those forgiven. Like other addiction meetings, we always begin with an honest look at ourselves. Then through hearing the hope we have in a gracious God we give thought to the wisdom of people from the past who also have dealt with the problem of brokenness through the Scripture and sermons. Finally, in Holy Communion we find strength in our higher power who comes to be with us in bread and wine. Our life is about recovery, an on-going process of facing sin and brokenness and trusting in God as the one who will help us do what we cannot by ourselves do.

You might take a look at the book and share any ideas you have with Pastor Kohl and other members of our congregation; because the church is also about healing and health, God's work, God wish, for the whole creation.

-Pastor Kohl

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.