



Pilgrims' Progress



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

**July's Progress Deadline:
Wednesday, June 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:

I know there are many people who find their lives too busy to include worship on a regular basis. I also know that without worship our lives can lose focus and our priorities as individuals can become confused.

Recently I was told by one of our members that a friend of hers, a captain of one of the state's police forces, read a study that said that kids who are part of a church group are 50% less like to be involved with drugs than kids who have no connection with a church, synagogue, or religious community.

The problem of opiate addiction and misuse is widespread in Rhode Island. It is indeed a plague that needs to be addressed as communities, churches, and families. I believe I would be safe in saying that this disease touches the lives of all people. One of the big questions behind this disease is why it exists at all. What is missing or what powers lead people to think that some substance would make life better?

Addiction is a disease that cannot be ignored. It destroys families and makes a person less than they can be. It robs people

of hope and brings a sense of despondency not only to the individual but also to the whole constellation of people connected with the individual.

What can we do? I am grateful that we have several twelve step groups meeting here. Both Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous hold meetings in our building. This is consistent with the mission of Pilgrim Church to be a place of healing, life, and forgiveness. Education is also essential in handling such issues. Support groups are often a positive experience, but each of us can also do our part in coming to better understand the impact and the opportunities to help support one another through these kinds of issues.

Last month I wrote about a new book, *The Recovery-Minded Church*. Jonathan Benz is the author. There is one copy for the church library, but it is available through a book dealer. It's a good place to start in learning about this disease.

Pilgrim Church is blessed to have a strong youth program. We call it "confirmation," but there's a lot more to it than learning stuff. There are discussions about what it means to be a friend and to have friends. We talk about common struggles and delights, we play games and share meals, we help others. All these are important.

In our Sunday School we teach our children about how much they are loved and cared for by God through Jesus. The children learn Bible stories and as they get older what these stories mean for who God is, or wants to be, for them.

We owe a great deal of thanks to Sunday School and Confirmation workers. They are a blessing for the present as well as for the future of our children and congregation. The real "secret" behind these ministries of our congregation are the people who work in them. These are adults who do not need to but do love, respect, and value our children. These are people who are willing to share their time to help our kids know they are indeed loved by others. These are our members who share their hearts with our kids, and find out in doing that that both the children and they are blessed in the process.

This is the great Pascal Mystery: when we give, we receive; when we share, we are blessed; when we connect with others, we are fuller, richer, and find meaning that life apart from others will not give us.

Maybe isolation in front of a screen breeds the loneliness that people seek to escape from. Maybe being alone in a confusing world causes frustration which results in anger and violence. Maybe lack of a community centered in forgiveness leads to a sense of hopelessness.

Maybe I am wrong about all of this, but my experience has shown me otherwise. Please let me know what you think. Please share ideas and hopes also.

Yours with hope,



Pastoral Acts

Baptism

Raegan Maddix Metivier

Funerals

Barbara C. Fiske
Kathryn Crosby
Luke Mitchell
Robert Flanagan
Clare Ghigliotty
Doris Thompson
Marjorie Mathieu

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.



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 and 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.

.....

GRADUATION



Audrey Cryan will graduate from LaSalle Academy. She is planning to attend McGill University in Montreal where she will study Economics and Statistics. Congratulations, Audrey!

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.

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.

CONFIRMATION

Car Wash

Saturday, June 4

Noon -2PM

\$5.00 per car.

St Paul Lutheran Church
Greenwich Avenue

Our confirmation kids are going to the New England Synod Youth Gathering at Camp Calumet in September. They are raising funds to attend this event. The Pancake Breakfast in May raised over \$500 for the kids. Now we are going to St. Paul Church (by the malls) for a car wash. Bring your car, meet the kids, and leave with a clean car and a clear conscience that you have been a helper in sending our kids to an exciting event.



Martin Luther



Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.

AZ QUOTES

Our choir's last Sunday for singing in worship will be June 19. The choir has been a great gift to our congregation, and we are blessed by their faithfully sharing their gifts with us all. Please be sure to thank the members of the choir and our Minister of Music, Denis Brunelle.