



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

**October's Progress Deadline:  
Thursday, September 15th**

Please e-mail submissions to  
[parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org](mailto:parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org)  
or place in her mailbox in the church  
office. Many thanks.

*The Progress deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.*

**From Our Pastor:**

September is a time of new beginnings, you might even say a new birth in the program life of the church. Things pick up in September: Sunday School, choir, confirmation, adult education. It is something like a new life, and it comes to us filled with possibilities and hope.

But much has continued over the summer months also. Hungry people were fed, basic needs for health were given out, the Gospel continued to be preached, and Jesus came and met his people every Sunday in his word of forgiveness and bread and wine shared as his body and blood. Over the summer life went on: people were born, people were baptized, people got married, people got sick and went to the hospital, people were buried. Pretty much that is life in the parish. Pastors never know what any day will bring, and I have often joked about a TV series called *Parish*, not knowing from week to week if it would be a comedy or a tragedy. It could be either, and sometimes both come in the same day.

So it's time to think about the future. And I want to ask you a question that someone posed to me recently: what does it cost you to be a follower of Jesus? What's the cost of being a church member?

Certainly there is going without an extra hour of sleep or an extra cup of coffee. There may be the money we share in the offering. There might be one less round on the golf course. You know what your commitment to being a part of this community we call Pilgrim Lutheran Church costs you.

But it is easy for us to forget or take for granted what the benefits of being part of this congregation bring. I can think of no place else someone can go and be assured that God's forgiveness is the center of that group or institution's life. I suspect we might take forgiveness for granted rather than seeing it as an assist into a new way of living, a new way of being who God made you to be. In the church we also find something which many people seem to not think of as important, community, a life shared with others. Going it alone through life is not possible. That's why God built marriage into the very creation of the earth. God knew that no one should live apart from others so God made people "helpmeets" partners for one another. And what about hope? Where do you find it in the world? The hope we offer is that finally, when all is said and done, God will give a gift of life without limits to all who belong to God.

Faith is not simply the parsley on the plate of life, it is the main stuff of the meal. Faith is essential when our world seems to be falling apart. Faith that good is more important and life giving than hating others. Faith calls, not for proof of God's existence, but rather trusts that God exists **for you**. This is what we need.

So please, if you have been away for a while, come back and find the gifts of peace and forgiveness, of hope and trust that happen at Pilgrim every Sunday. One of the things you will learn is that the cost is worth it and the blessings come from places you did not expect them to.

With hope,

*Pastor Kohl*

### Pastoral Acts

Baptism:

- *Maggie Elizabeth Souza*

Marriage:

- *Stephanie Perri and Timothy Ahearn*

Funerals:

- *Mildred Reynolds*
- *William Bishop*
- *Lillian Cota*

### 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.

**We need your help!** We're looking for volunteers to serve as Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, Ushers, and Greeters. If you are able to help with these important ministries, please sign up on the sheets posted on the bulletin board outside the office or contact the office at 739-2937.



**Choir Rehearsal resumes on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m.** New singers are always welcome. Please speak to Denis Brunelle, Minister of Music, or contact the church office should you have any questions.

The next **Congregation Council meeting** will be held on Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m.

The **Parkinson's Walk** will be held on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Team Pilgrim is looking for walkers and runners. You can register online or contact Laurie Linden at [lalinden1@gmail.com](mailto:lalinden1@gmail.com) or 401-529-9284.

**New England Synod Youth Gathering**  
September 9 -11 at Camp Calumet



There will be 27 people from St. Paul and Pilgrim Churches who will be attending the synod youth gathering. The kids have been busy generating funds for the trip, but if you would like to help the kids, a donation in any amount would go a long way. The cost is over \$70 for room and meals per person. Make a check payable to Pilgrim Lutheran Church and mark it for "Youth Gathering." We would like to meet with everyone who is going and a family member on **Tuesday, September 6**, at 6:30 for a quick briefing for all.



**Pilgrim's Sunday School begins on September 18th at 9:15.** There are classes for everyone from three years old through sixth grade. (Seventh graders and above may join our confirmation program on Tuesday evenings.) Our Sunday School teachers and leaders love kids and learn a lot from them. The kids also learn many of the Bible stories that shape our faith. Please let us know you are coming so we can be sure to have all the materials we need for a great year. Call the church office 401-739-2937 or send us an email through our web page: [www.pilgrimlutheranri.org](http://www.pilgrimlutheranri.org).

## Confirmation



All our members and their friends in the seventh through ninth grades are invited to take part in our confirmation program beginning in September. The classes meet on Tuesdays beginning with supper at 6:30. The sessions end at 8:15. We share our confirmation classes with St. Paul Church. The program includes opportunities to build fellowship with one another and to serve others as well as instruction and conversation about our faith as Christians. The classes run in a three-year cycle which includes a year of Bible, a year of Catechism and history, and a year of looking at difficult topics. This year will be dedicated to issues kids and adults face. Some of the topics we will consider are internet safety, risky behavior, sex, money, addiction, and similar things. We try to include people's real life stories in each class. If you would like to suggest a topic,

please see Pastor Kohl. If you would be willing to share your story or struggles with our kids, please get in touch with Pastor Kohl. Our confirmation program has made a difference in the lives of our students. It is an important ministry, done with love and respect for all involved. Contact Pastor Kohl ([pastorkohl@icloud.com](mailto:pastorkohl@icloud.com)) if you have a student who will be joining us this year, or if you have questions about the program. Our **first gathering for students and family** will be on **Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30.**

### Invitation to Read Scripture at Worship

Each week, at the 9:30 worship service, the Word of God is read by persons who choose to read the scripture. Some have read the Word for years, and others in this past year have become readers. The children of the church school share in the reading on family weekends that fall on holidays when Sunday School is not held. There is always a time to welcome others into this rotation for proclaiming God's Word. That time is now.

A new rotation schedule is being prepared to begin on November 6th. Those persons of Pilgrim who consider and hear the call to be a reader/lector are invited to become one with those who have been reading the scriptures. The commitment to read comes about twice a year with the present number of readers. Guidance is provided, a pronunciation pamphlet always handy, and the new schedule will be sent to the readers in early October.

To be a part of this weekly ministry by Pilgrim People, you are invited to contact Donald Williams by telephone at 783-2316 or email [dolowillia@verizon.net](mailto:dolowillia@verizon.net).