



Pilgrims' Progress



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

**November's Progress Deadline:
Saturday, 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 Our Pastor:

When forgetting church becomes a habit

Have you noticed how quickly bad habits can take hold of us and how long it takes for good habits to become a part of our lives? This is true with things like eating or drinking, watching TV or reading. The list can go on, and I think it is good for us to stop and reflect on such things in our lives. That kind of self-reflection is something that is necessary for us to become the people that we really want to be, and the people God created us to be.

The ease with which trouble comes to us, and the ways in which we can so easily slip into bad habits, is one of the signs that our lives are still broken and not yet whole. But that is no reason not to seek to live our lives having more in common both with what we want for ourselves, and what God wants for us.

Summer is an easy time to fall into bad habits. We perhaps eat too much, or don't exercise as we would like. Maybe our minds get bogged down or lose their focus from watching too much TV or spending too much time on Facebook. We find ourselves beginning to do what we want for ourselves rather than what God wants for us.

During the summer many people are away on vacation or at their summer home, and it is often during this time that people stop gathering together with their faith family at Pilgrim on a regular basis. This attrition is

true in almost every congregation during the summer. Perhaps this is more of a New England thing. I don't know. But I do remember when I was working at the first congregation that I served in New England that I was surprised to learn that Sunday School stopped during the summer. Perhaps I had been living under a rock somewhere, but that was a first for me - a new understanding that our faith and worship practices could actually be seasonal.

Now let's be honest. It can be easier to stay home rather than go to worship. Getting up to participate together with our faith community can too easily move down on our list of priorities. As a pastor, I see those absences in church as an indication that we don't see the full value of our worship lives or of wanting to spend time with the family of faith that God has given us.

There are many reasons why people worship God. Often it has to do with our children. We want our kids to know that we have a God who is not out to get us, but on the contrary cherishes us. We also want our children to learn about the stories and traditions that we grew up with and that continue to hold us together.

But as adults we sometimes think we no longer need worship or the church as our community of faith. I am saddened when people tell me that the Christian faith is irrelevant. Sure, it can be if all you have to work with is the faith you knew when you were a child or a teenager.

My point is this: as adults we live with a different set of questions and issues and situations and responsibilities that require a different understanding of what it means to be Christian than it does for our little ones. Our Sunday gatherings are a time when we

can engage in thought about our lives and our choices. On Sunday we bring the totality of our lives into God's presence, being reminded that we are not alone, even when it feels that loneliness is the case. Worship is a time when God wants to speak to us and to call us to a bigger picture of who we are and how we live our lives. In other words, worship and the Christian community are meant to be both a help and blessing for our lives.

Martin Luther has been credited with saying many things, some true, some made up. Whether he said this or not, these words speak an important truth for all of us: *Pray, and let God worry!* God is on our side, on your side, wanting to remind you that you are not alone. God has given you and me this family of faith to share our pilgrimage, whether children, teens, or adults. Forgiveness, love, and service are for every age of life. And it is in our faith community that we experience God's gifts to us most fully, and having experienced them are moved to share these gifts with others.

Yours in hope,



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.

Pastoral Acts:

Baptism:

- MacKenzie Marie Morton

Weddings:

- Carrie Lynn Coln & Jeremy Mark Hartman
- Alicia Lindh Moretti & Aaron David Souza
- Anthony Michael Casale & Alisha Marie Johnson

New Members Received:

- Joanne Gunning
- Deena Ann Morton
- Keith Patrick Morton
- Cameron James Morton
- Joan Riley
- Alicia Moretti
- Kristin Moretti
- Breana Moretti
- John Mayall
- Ed Johnson
- Jean Johnson
- Karen Johnson

Member Transferred:

- Marion Lundin

Funerals:

- Ruth Lesieur* (Pastor Todd Stang did this funeral)
- Sandra C. Gardner
- Inge (Boritzki) Cooper

The next **Congregation Council meeting** will be held on Thursday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m.



It is time to begin planning for **Pilgrim's Fall Festival**. This year we will be collecting gently used clothing again - women's, men's, and children's. You can put your bags of clothing on the bottoms of the coat racks and they will be moved to the basement. Thanks for your donations.

Confirmation



All our members and their friends in the seventh through ninth grades are invited to take part in our confirmation program. 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. If you have a student who will be joining us this year or if you have questions about the program, please contact Pastor Kohl (pastorkohl@icloud.com).

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.



Rosh Hashanah

West Bay Community Jewish Center Holidays

Rosh Hashanah is coming, the New Year for our Jewish friends. WBCJC will be holding their holiday services here at Pilgrim Church beginning Sunday evening, October 2, and concluding on Tuesday, October 4.

Yom Kippur, a time of fasting, forgiveness, and reconciliation, begins on Tuesday, October 11, and ends with a communal meal breaking the fast on Wednesday, October 12.



We are grateful for these people of faith who find a home at Pilgrim Church.



Animal Companions are one of God's gifts to us. Please bring your friend for a blessing on Sunday, October 9, at noon. We will meet outside (weather permitting) and ask God's blessing on those you share your life with. All are welcome (that includes friends of all varieties).



2016/2017 Sunday School Schedule of special events:

- October 9 - Family Sunday*
- October 30 - Halloween Party
(in the afternoon)
- November 27 - Family Sunday*
- December 18 - Christmas Pageant
at 9:30 service
- December 25 - Christmas Day
(no Sunday School)*
- January 1 - Happy New Year!
(no Sunday School)*
- February 19 - Family Sunday*
- April 16 - Easter*
- May 14 - Mother's Day*
- May 28 - Family Sunday*

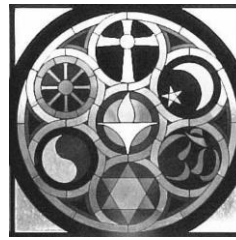
*Please bring your children to worship

FEED THE KIDS



We provide a simple supper for the kids in confirmation classes every time we have a class. Usually families supply this for the class (about 20 people). There still are many openings for suppers. Check the bulletin board for Youth outside of Pastor Kohl's office. Let us know if and when you can help.

New Adult Study to Begin



Beginning on Tuesday, October 18, at 7:00pm, I will be offering an adult class based on a book called *Honoring our Neighbor's Faith*. The book looks at different denominations, what they believe, how they worship, and how they view the world around them. It also looks at different religions, their ceremonies and beliefs, and how they connect with others. Finally, we will look at some of the various cults that have sprung up around us over the years. This was a course that I taught several years ago and I dare say we really had a good time together. One of the things that we did and will do again is to invite some people from other religions to give us a first-hand view of their faith. I would also like this year to take a couple of field trips to visit different places of worship. Since the class meets during confirmation, it is a good time for parents to take advantage of the class. Hope to see you there!

Sunday Readings for October 2016

October 2 – Pentecost 20C:

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 9 – Pentecost 21C

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

October 16 – Pentecost 22C

Genesis 32:22-31

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

October 23 – Pentecost 23C

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

October 30 – Sunday of the Reformation

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

***For I was hungry and you gave me
something to eat. Mt. 25:35***

Pilgrim's food pantry has become an important part of the social ministry of this church. It is a way to fulfill Jesus' call to us to serve those in need. Historically it carries on a tradition that goes back to Dee Bianco and Sister Carol's Anna's Place and the ministry of Jim Higgins and that of many volunteers. Among the helpers were members of Temple Am David as well as other non-Pilgrim volunteers.

Today the food pantry has expanded to serving about 80 people weekly. This includes people who are single, children, elderly, and the sick. The pantry has expanded through word of mouth and also through AA that meets here. We are very grateful to all those who have donated food to the pantry, especially to Trader Joe's that donates large amounts of food four days a week. Also making donations has been Stop and Shop, St. Rita's, and the Dollar Tree. Special thanks go to Andrew and Amber Gallucci who had their friends donate food to the pantry in lieu of them getting birthday presents! Thanks also to clients Mike Ritz and Sanra Albanese for their kind donations to us. Finally, we thank all of you members and friends of this congregation who have donated to this important ministry.

Pilgrim's pantry not only feeds people in our community, but it also reaches out to people from other communities. On Mondays we take food to St. Michael's in South Providence. Also on Mondays bread and sandwich fillings are taken to Central Baptist Church in Apponaug, and bread is given to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in West Warwick. On Fridays food is brought to Calvary Baptist on Broad Street. On Saturdays we have members of a family from the Chad Brown area of Providence come to pick up food at Pilgrim for their church pantry. We also serve people with emergency needs as they arrive. Between sorting and delivering food, the pantry is in operation every day of the week.

An important addition to our ministry has been the toiletry pantry. We have between 25-35 people come to partake of this ministry. We have also made this a time of fellowship when people can sit and talk with each other over a cup of coffee and a donut.

Note now that the pantry has its own checking account with a decent sized deposit that will definitely help us when we put together our Christmas boxes.

There are so many who have helped to make the pantry run smoothly. I apologize if I miss someone. Helping in the pantries on a regular basis are:

Karin Kohl	Bob Laurent
Stephany Laurent	Carole Laurent
Roy Wagner	Glen Bailey
Allan Reed	Rose Reed
Ray Bartlett	Martha Murphy
Michelle Murphy	Kevin Murphy
Dick Hamblin	Joan Hamblin
Sharon Spencer	Connie Mello
Lee Lerner	Calvin Linden
Jerry Davis	Renee Woodward
Laurie Connors	
Nicole from St. Rita's and Steve Phillips for his work in building the pantry.	

We continue to ask for your donations in the following ways:

We are in need of hotel sized items-shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, as well as toothbrushes and small sized toothpaste. We need canned and dried food like peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, pasta and sauce, canned goods, etc., and any other items that might be useful especially in emergency situations. One thing that we've found is we often get more perishables from Trader Joe's than we have room to refrigerate. We certainly could use another refrigerator.

Supporting the pantry is a tangible way we can answer the Sending in our liturgy:

*Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!*

