



Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Warwick, Rhode Island
January 2017

**February's Progress Deadline is Sunday,
February 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

Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

Happy New Year! We stand at the beginning of another year as a people. The year will hold all sorts of things, some joys, some struggles, some successes, and some not so successful things. But this is a new year, and God has brought us together as a community at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. We each have a place at God's table and in God's heart.

I know that can sound like something trite or overused, but a new year does bring all kinds of things. One of those things might be resolutions, not to make you better than others, but to make yourself a better you than last year. Believe me, I know from my own experience that resolutions are hard to keep and easy to break. We can find all sorts of excuses for why we do what we do. But as the saying goes, "*excuses only satisfy those who give them.*"

We live in a world that says it wants to work for peace, and yet some have plans for more weapons, and some have plans for keeping information from us. We live in a world that says it wants peace, but some want to cut the very substratum that provides food for people or aid for the homeless. We cannot work for peace if we only look out for our own interests. We need a broader view of

life in order for there to be peace. And yes, that means sacrifice on the part of all of us. As another saying goes, "*if you want peace, work for justice.*"

While our actions and decisions might be faulty or our resolution broken easily, while we look only at our humanity we can become discouraged. But we gather weekly as a people to be reminded that even though there are things we can do and must do for the good of this world, we are not alone in this work. Every Sunday we are reminded of the God who does not break the promises God makes. And in fact, our God has already made the sacrifice that means life for us: the cross of Jesus. But almost ironically, that cross, that death, brought life, opened the gates of heaven, and assures us that nothing can separate us from God's love for us in Jesus; nothing can snatch us out of God's care. That is a promise that God took care of in our Lord Jesus.

I do hope that you (and I) can keep the resolutions and promises we make at this beginning of a new year. Prayer is often an important part of that, and worship reminds us that there is one who stands with us, God's Holy Spirit.

Our life with God is yielding our wishes, our time, our priorities to what God wants for this world. And in doing that we find the gift of peace that passes all understanding; we become new people, washed and forgiven, nourished and sent, a community with different values, one unafraid to do what is right, to stand with the weak and unwelcomed, and to seek new opportunities to be blessings to others.

That's what Pilgrim Lutheran Church is about. You are a part of it. You might know others who would like to be part of this "experiment" in faith and trust and hope and service. Invite them to come and see how God sees their lives and the gift of knowing that in Christ our past is over and we are the new people of God, blessed to be blessings.

With peace and 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:

Funerals:

Richard Crompton
Rosalind L. Garvey
Patricia M. Varesi
Jeannette Barnett
Imelda Ramsay

The next **Congregation Council meeting** will be held on Thursday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m.



2017 Sunday School Schedule of Special Events (Revised):

February 19 -	Family Sunday*
April 16 -	Easter*
May 14 -	Mother's Day*
May 28 -	Family Sunday*
June 11 -	Church Picnic

*Please bring your children to worship

The Adult Class on **Honoring Our Neighbors' Faith** meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. We are studying about various denominations of Christians, various world religions, as well as some sects and cults. There will be opportunities for speakers and field trips. The following week's topic will be posted on the church bulletin board.

