



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

**March's Progress Deadline is Wednesday,  
February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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**

Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

On March 1 we enter into the season of Lent. That is Ash Wednesday. There will be services here at both noon (in the chapel) and at 7:00 (in the main church). Ash Wednesday is a reminder of something important for us to always keep in mind: we are mortal beings. We are created having both a beginning and an ending: birth and death. For us who are followers of Jesus, both of these can be viewed as a blessing as we share in life with others here and as we enter into the life God intended for us and for all children of God.

These parameters of mortality make the time between birth and death meaningful for each of us. I cannot explain to you the mystery of how to make these days of life meaningful. There are probably many ways we give our lives meaning, but I know that being aware of life as a gift is of extreme importance in finding life's meaning.

We live in a world that calls us to so many things. This happens through work or family, through news reports or advertisements, through entertainment and schedules. It can be overwhelming. I know lots of people who are "too busy" for doing what they want to do

and feel as though their lives do not belong to them. Maybe you know or are someone like that.

So, Lent comes as a reminder to slow down, a reminder to discern what matters most to you. There are a number of resources we will have to help you to engage in this discernment. Once again this year we will provide a daily devotional booklet for your use at home. It is called *Free Indeed: Devotions for Lent 2017*. Because this is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, the daily texts for devotions in this booklet come from the *Small Catechism*, the book Luther wrote for use at home to learn about the basics of being a Christian. There are also prayers and photos for each day. I think this book might help you to see your life in a bigger picture, which is itself a mark of faith. We are asking for a donation of \$5.00 to cover the expense of this book. However, if that is a difficulty for you, don't let that be a reason not to take and use one.

We also have coin folders for those who wish to use them. Setting aside money daily for Christ's work is another way we are reminded that life is not about us exclusively. As followers of Jesus we are always called to consider others in need, especially those who have no voice in decision making about their own lives.

On Wednesday evenings I invite you to gather with me at 6:30 in the chapel for Evening Prayer. This brief service is a way of entrusting the day to God and asking for God's care over the night. The service is one of Scripture, hymns, and prayers. There will also be a brief meditation or conversation about the scripture passage read.

But for me, this is the bottom line for Lent: as followers of Jesus we are called to live a different life from the world. I know we usually think of Christian faith in terms of theological truths or ethical behaviors. And to a certain extent that is true. But Christianity is in fact a life-style, a way of living that incorporates others into a daily vision. It is not about being comfortable or being rich (although there are plenty of preachers who will tell you that). Our faith is about following Jesus and that means a cross before resurrection and sacrifice that brings life to others.

Our world is vulnerable right now. We may begin to think that hatred is OK or that we really only have to look out for ourselves and those we know. But Jesus calls us not to be fearful, not to be selfish, not to be greedy. Jesus calls us to be a community in which we know we are not alone in our pilgrimage to make the world a place of blessings for others. And we discover that when we do that, we too are blessed.

In hope,



**Pastoral Acts:**

**Funeral:**

Miriam Riegel

**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.

The next **Congregation Council meeting** will be held on Thursday, February 16, 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

**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.

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.



**We're still looking** for a person to serve as the treasurer for Pilgrim Lutheran Church. This is an important position and requires about 5 hours a week

to fulfill. Basically it is writing the checks for our congregation and presenting reports to the monthly council meetings. Almost all of the work is done on the computer which makes it a bit simpler. If you would be willing to be considered to serve in this position, please let Mike Ferry or Pastor Kohl know. Many thanks for giving this thought and prayers.

Our book discussion of *Unmindful Negligence* by Karen Gustafson will be held on Thursday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. Please join us.



### Service Readings in February

**February 5** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
**Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]** *The fast God chooses*  
**1 Corinthians 2:1-16** *God's wisdom revealed through the Spirit*  
**Matthew 5:13-20** *The teaching of Christ: salt and light*

**February 12** – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** *Choose life*  
**1 Corinthians 3:1-9** *God gives the growth*  
**Matthew 5:21-37** *The teaching of Christ: forgiveness*

**February 19** – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
**Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18** *Holiness revealed in acts of mercy and justice*  
**1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23** *Allegiance to Christ, not human leaders*  
**Matthew 5:38-48** *The teaching of Christ: love*

**February 26** – **Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
**Exodus 24:12-18** *Moses enters the cloud of God's glory on Mount Sinai*  
**2 Peter 1:16-21** *The apostle's message confirmed on the mount of transfiguration*  
**Matthew 17:1-9** *Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*



### Altar Flower Dedications

Please sign up to support the Altar Guild in 2017. There are flower envelopes in the narthex. A \$30 donation is suggested. Place the envelope, with dedication information and donation, in the Altar Guild mailbox. Thank you!



Remember to pick up your Lenten coin folders at the church. They are on the table in the hallway at church. Many thanks!