



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

**June's Progress Deadline is  
Monday, May 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**

Dear Friends,

On Good Friday I had a call from my friend, Rabbi Perlman. The conversation began with a question: "Isn't today a holy day for Christians?" I assured him it was. "And shouldn't they be in church?" I said yes. "Then why are they all at the mall?" he asked. It was a good question that left me sort of speechless. He said, "You know, when the Rabbi is noticing these things Christians should be more careful." And then he laughed and said his congregation is similar on the holy days of Judaism.

He was absolutely right. These days set aside by the church to remember the price God paid through Jesus for our relationship of peace with God are important times for us. I know people are busy. I know it is easier to stay home or watch TV or read the paper, but as the people of Jesus the world will never believe that we believe what we say unless we walk the walk that our talk sets for us. Words and actions need to fit together. Integrity in faith is essential to being an authentic follower of Jesus.

When Christians gather on the first day of the week for worship it is a little Easter because it is here that we meet the risen Jesus in words of promise and forgiveness, in bread and wine, in the community of people who share trust in the graciousness of God.

One of the implications of the Resurrection of Christ is that he can be with us. In fact, he has promised to be with us wherever two or three gather in his name. But we might ask ourselves "why bother?" Why bother to go to worship? Why bother to take time for Jesus in our lives? Why bother to go to church and sing or listen, be forgiven or sent with a purpose?

Well, where else do you find community in your life? School? Work? Family? Neighbors? Some of those gatherings have a purpose, but sometimes those gatherings can be contentious. The church is very much like a twelve-step group meeting: we come because we need something (forgiveness, hope, companionship, etc.) and we admit before God and one another that we have fallen short in being our authentic selves (confession) and then we are assured that in God's sight, for Jesus' sake, we are seen as forgiven and equipped by worship and prayer, learning and nourishment to leave the assembly of believers with a purpose: to be Christ's body in this world.

That means we are the source of hope in a world badly divided by all sorts of self-imposed barriers of politics or economics, of language or ethnic traditions, of ethical stands or lifestyles. You see, because Jesus is risen, none of those things are of ultimate importance any more. We are a community that will be spending eternity together and here we get a foretaste of that eternity in our worship. Here we encounter people we will spend eternity with as fellow redeemed sinners and children of God.

With hope,

*Pastor Kohl*

**Pastoral Acts:**

Baptism:

Elina Nour Patney

Funerals:

Merrill McElroy\*

Judy G. McDonald

Steven Olivera

Katherine Marie Westberg

Daniel E. Anderson

Richard Duckworth, Jr.

\*Member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Dear Fellow Members,

Please know that after much Prayer and Deliberation, I offered my resignation in February as the Financial Secretary to the Council to be effective May 1.

I have been honored that you have entrusted me with the important task of keeping a careful record of the Church's contributions. But, after serving for the past five years, I feel that it is time to pass this job into someone else's capable hands.

I will continue to offer my support as needed.

Yours in faith,  
Beth Fish

Financial Information Year to Date  
(as of March 31, 2017)

Income	\$66,581.19 (includes \$8,800 from special funds)
Expenses	\$58,260.54



**A note from the Property Committee: A BRAND NEW KITCHEN STOVE!!!** Thanks to a few anonymous donors, we have a brand new kitchen stove. Let's begin more food events for our Congregational bonding.



**Altar Flower Dedications**

Over the past year, flower dedications have decreased significantly. Did you know that if no one sponsors the altar flowers, the Altar Guild must absorb that expense of \$60/week? We believe those funds could be better spent for our annual college scholarship or to purchase communion supplies, linens or other items used to beautify the altar.

PLEASE consider supporting the altar flowers. The cost is \$30 and the dedication can be in memory of someone or in honor of a birthday, wedding anniversary or another special accomplishment. Envelopes are available in the narthex. If you have any questions about flower dedication, please contact Pat Frazier at 941-7656.

**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.

**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.

## Toiletry Ministry



I cannot say enough how much we appreciate your gifts of food, toiletries, and money for the pantries. Many thanks. At the moment we are struggling to keep on top of the toiletry pantry. Our numbers are slowly increasing, and we're having a hard time replenishing the items that we need. We always need regular sized shampoo, toothpaste, soap, etc., but we are in particular need right now of hotel sized shampoo, conditioner, lotion, and soap for the packets that we make up. If you are someone who saves those items and can part with them, we could really use them. I also know that, in the past, some of you have been able to get small toothpaste or toothbrushes from your dentist. Any of these things would be helpful. Thanks again for your generosity.

-- Karin Kohl

## Thank You and Welcome



Many thanks go to Bill Brinson who has served as the Treasurer for our congregation for many years. Bill has been a faithful treasurer who has gone above and beyond the basics to serve us all. Please say thank you when you see him.

We welcome our new Treasurer, Laurie Linden. Laurie has served as our Assistant Treasurer for several years. Her willingness to learn and do this work has been a great blessing to us all. Please thank her.

Our Financial Secretary has been Beth Fish. You can read her letter in this *Pilgrim's Progress*. Beth has served us also well and faithfully. Please thank her.

Our new Financial Secretary is Cindy Cote who has been working with Beth over the past few weeks. Please be sure to thank Cindy for the role she is serving for us.

## Easter Season Readings

During the Easter Season this year our first and second readings will come from 1 Peter and the book of Acts.

1 Peter is a letter written to the church in general. It is not addressed to a specific church as many of Paul's letters are. It is a letter that shows us something of the life of early Christians in Asia Minor (Modern-day Turkey). The letter is grounded in the death and resurrection of Jesus. And as the author writes about suffering, this ground of our faith becomes the way in which we interpret our own struggles. In fact, the author acknowledges that some of our struggle and suffering will come from being a follower of Jesus. Christians are exhorted to bear this kind of suffering with dignity and the assurance that in the end it will be God who wins and sets all things right for believers.

The Acts of the Apostles is the second volume of Luke's story of Jesus and his people. Both the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts are dedicated to a patron named Theophilus. You might notice that Acts picks up where the Gospel of Luke ends: the ascension of Jesus. Another way we might think of the book of Acts is the acts of the resurrected Christ through his church. In this sense it is the on-going story of Jesus, just as we today are the on-going story of Jesus as his life is revealed through our life as Christians today.

Both of these sections of the New Testament are appropriate for reading in worship during Easter as they tell us about and encourage us with the risen life of our savior.

The next **Congregation Council meeting** will be held on Thursday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m.