



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

**July's Progress Deadline is  
Thursday, June 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,

What I am writing here is NOT official. It is simply something that I have thought about for several years. In the church, for good order, there are lists of people with specific roles to serve for the good of the congregation or community of God's people. We call them rosters in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). There are two official rosters: those ordained to the Office of Word and Sacrament (Pastors) and those consecrated to the roster of Word and Service (Deacons and Deaconesses). Both of these rosters have responsibility to the church.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament are called with the duty to preach and preside at the sacraments of the church, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. In emergencies any Christian can baptize someone, but for the sake of good order, we usually limit this to our Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors and Bishops). So most congregations call a pastor to come to serve this role for the congregation. The pastor usually comes from outside the congregation. This is because the Word of God comes from beyond ourselves; we do not generate the truth of God. God gives it to the church through people trained to study and proclaim, to celebrate the promises God gives in the sacraments.

Ministers of Word and Service also come from outside a congregation. These people are trained to preach and they study to know best how to address needs of people within and outside of the congregation. They may be specialists in certain areas: social work, health services, business accounting, and areas such as these.

But now my unofficial thinking about the order of the church: I believe there is a third roster created by the Holy Spirit. I would call it the Ministry of Service and Witness. This is the ministry all Christians are called to share. We all are able to serve others in some way or another. It may be in the small ways we serve our neighbors or it may be in the way in which we do the jobs God has called us to do through the gifts and interests God has given to each of us as individuals.

This service, whether to neighbors or in our various vocations, is a path of witnessing to our faith. Telling others why we do what we do in the manner in which we do it is important to show that God is at work in all areas of life. You see, there is no divide between sacred and secular, all of life is sacred and holy because all of life is a part of God's concern for our well being.

And there are no jobs, no work that is not honorable. We need everyone from our doctors or nurses to the people who collect our trash or teach our children or serve in restaurants or wash dishes there. This is true in our homes. Luther once wrote about the sacredness of a father changing his child's diaper. (Apparently men did that sort of thing in the 1500's, also!)

A few of us serve in the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and even fewer serve in the Ministry of Word and Service. However, we ALL serve in the ministry of service and witness. This is how the Holy Spirit has structured the church to be a place where life and hope, dignity and purpose is given to all people.

Consider your gifts and use them for blessings to others.

In hope,



**Pastoral Acts:**

Baptisms:

Aralyn Brielle Kennedy  
Liam Joseph Kennedy

Funerals:

Alyssa-Marie Bowder  
Ruth Nelson\*  
Earl Miller\*

\*Member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Financial Information Year to Date  
(as of April 30, 2017)

Income	\$90,302.47 (includes \$8,800 from special funds)
Expenses	\$82,616.26

**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.

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



On Sunday, June 4, the Day of Pentecost, we will celebrate the **Rite of Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism.**

This is the time when young women and men make promises to live as followers of Jesus. The Rite will be celebrated at the 9:30 service.



The Sunday School and whole church picnic will be held on the last day of Sunday School, June 11, following the second service. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, but everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. So, pray for great weather and dress comfortably.

**Coming in October: a reprise of the Life of Luther,** a light hearted look at the story of the reformer. So, if you are interested in taking part as an actor, stage designer, lights or sound, or cooking for this delightful dinner theater, please let Mary Brinson know. It will be a lot of fun and a good opportunity to learn more about this man whose name is on the signs in front of the church.



The **Coffee Hour Committee** is looking for a member(s) or family to make, serve, and host the coffee hour after the Sunday service. You would

only be required to do this once a month and would be trained on how to do this. If interested, please contact Janet & Roy Wagner at 737-7871. Thank you for your consideration!

**Worship servers are needed for June.** Please volunteer. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the office. Thank you.

## What Is the Bible?

How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything

**Rob Bell**

New York Times Bestselling Author of Love Wins

For your summer reading take a look at this book. The book is written for a broad spectrum of audience. It is almost like a conversation with the author. The author divides the book into four major sections: *There's Something More Going On Here*, *The Nature of That*

*Something*, *Where That Something Takes Us*, and *The Questions That Always Come Up*. In the course of the book Rob Bell raises questions such as "How did Jesus read the Bible," "Who paid Jesus's bill," or "Two or three kinds of apocalypses?" In the end he gets into some really common questions such as "What about predestination," "Is it [the Bible] the Word of God," "Is it inerrant," and "Is it inspired" or "What is the best question to ask when you're reading the Bible?" If you have ever felt that the Bible is too complicated or too deep to study, this book will help you know that the Bible is God's gift to God's people, a book for all of us.