



Pilgrims' Progress



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

**September's Progress Deadline is
Tuesday, August 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 Friends,

Once again this summer I have been honored to have a chance to serve as chaplain for the resident campers at our Camp Calumet in West Ossipee, New Hampshire. I have been asked to be there from Sunday, July 23, through Friday, July 28. As I write this I am looking forward to the week, not because it is particularly restful. It is a busy week for chaplains, but I do get to spend time with campers and leaders. I learn a lot from the kids and adults, so it is fulfilling and enriching time for me. Plus, I enjoy being able to sit on the shore of the lake and see the beauty of God's gift of creation and the peace that comes from this gift.

Every year our national church (the ELCA or Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) develops a curriculum for our camps across the country to use for teaching during the week. This year's theme is *The Water of Life*. Since most of our camps have water nearby, this is a great theme. Some places may have a lake as we have at Calumet, but other camps might be located by streams or rivers. At most camps, water is a part of the life of the campers.

Each day we will consider a Bible story or promise and give thought to verses for which the story arises. Here is what we do at Camp Calumet in 2017:

The theme verse for the week comes from Isaiah 43:2. It is a promise from God that is a foundation for the entire week and, actually, for the entire life of God's people: *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.* The faithfulness of God is the foundation for our whole life. I hope that our children can learn this truth. God can be trusted.

So each day we will look at water from a different angle.

Monday will be about the beginning, the creation. We think about water as a gift from God, something to be cherished, not wasted, and kept for future generations.

Tuesday will focus on the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:4-11) and the ministry of John. Here we learn that the water of life washes us clean in both body and spirit. We also learn that in our baptism we are declared by God to be God's own children, loved because of who God is, not because of who we are.

The story for Wednesday will be Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. This story comes from John 4. This is a story of Jesus providing the water of life, the love of God, not only to this woman but also to those who gather with Jesus because of her announcement that the Messiah, God's anointed one, has arrived.

Thursday we turn to water (really saliva) as a way of healing. The story is of the man born blind but who receives his sight. Jesus teaches us a new way of seeing our lives, other people, and the world around us, all as tools for God's reign to be manifested in our world.

Finally, on Friday we consider Psalm 23, still water and resting in God. The theme of God's faithfulness is the source of our knowing God will provide for us what we need. We will consider ourselves as recipients of God's blessings.

So, it is a week wet with promise. We are drenched in God's faithfulness and showered with God's blessings. What I have said at Calumet in the past is "what happens at Calumet does not stay at Calumet." That's also true for Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Our mission is carrying God's blessings into our lives and so into the lives of others.

In hope,



Pastoral Acts:

Funerals:

Ralph (Smokey) H. Pierce, Jr.
Leonard Dahl



Every year the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) calls on its congregations to hold a Sunday in which the congregation does something to serve its neighbors. Pilgrim Church will observe this day on Sunday, September 17, 2017. But we need your help to do it. If you know of projects that we might do in our communities, please let Pastor Kohl know. Send them by email or writing (he forgets a lot!) to be shared with our congregation council.

In the past we have made sandwiches for *CrossRoads* in Providence, helped clean part of Oakland Beach, and sang for folks in a memory unit at a local assisted living facility. Since this is a project of our whole congregation, share your ideas.



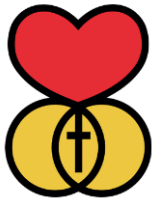
Confirmation Classes

Our confirmation program is shared with St. Paul Lutheran Church here in Warwick. It is a three-year course of study. Each year helps us to think about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. In the coming school year we will focus on an overview of the Bible. The Bible is a book of God's promises showing us what God intends for our lives. We will focus on sections of the Bible at each class meeting.

But confirmation classes are more than just classes. We try to help our students to understand that the life of a follower of Jesus is made up of several parts. Not only will we study together, we will also have fellowship together. Serving others is a basic part of our life, and worship, saying thanks to God, is also important for us to follow Jesus. We believe every Christian needs study, fellowship, service, and worship to follow Jesus. That's true for adults as well as teenage Christians.

The classes meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:15. Whenever there is a class we also have a supper together, and families of the students provide the meals for the kids. We will begin classes near the end of September, so please watch the Sunday bulletins for the first get-together with students and families. We will have the schedule then, and we will ask for volunteers to provide the meals for our students.

People between 7th and 9th grades are the usual target for our classes, but we welcome others who might be older or even a few who are younger. Most of our students find these gatherings to be important for their faith and their lives. They are a joy to be part of. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch with Pastor Kohl.



Lutheran Marriage Encounter

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: If you haven't already signed up for your Fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend, don't delay. Sign up today! The September Weekend (September 15-17 Weekend at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in the Poconos) has only a very few openings remaining. The October 6-8 Weekend is to be held at a beautiful location in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains overlooking a lake--the Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts--and we do currently have openings for this one.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. Sign up today by going to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and paying the registration fee with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at: fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.

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.



I don't want to sound like a wet blanket, but soon it will be September. Our Sunday School and Confirmation programs are being developed for the coming school year, but our adult classes still need to be identified and shaped. So, I will ask you to let me know what you might be interested in studying. Here are a few possibilities:

Because it is the 500th anniversary of the posting of Luther's 95 theses for debate regarding the sale of indulgences, we might continue considering Luther's impact on us as a community of Christians. We could use a new 7-session course on *The Small Catechism*. You hear me talk about it a lot in classes and sermons; this might be a way to meet or re-meet the Catechism.

We could spend time reading and discussing some book or section or type of literature in the Bible. Let me know which book or topic you might want to know more about.

How about an open discussion about some part of our life together: why do we do what we do in worship or as we come to the Bible? Is there a book you would like to read together? Any other ideas are welcome.

The reason why we have adult education is because, as we grow, our questions and ways of seeing things grow. None of us learned everything we needed to know to be mature, adult followers of Jesus. But another important reason to study together is that we learn from one another and our faith journeys in life. To put that another way, again, as I have often said, "We are all theologians." Education becomes a way for fellowship which helps us to grow as a community of Christians.

Please give this some thought and prayer and let me know what you would find helpful, faith-building, and a blessing for your future.

~ Pastor Kohl

Coming in October: a reprise of the Life of Luther, a lighthearted 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!



Dear Friends and Members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

There are times when it would be a great help to be able to be in touch with our members quickly. I would like to have the structure to do a group mailing to all members. Please email the church office with your email address to be able to include you in keeping current with what is happening at or involving Pilgrim Church. Even if we already have your email address, please respond to this notice. That will help us stay current and know that you would like to be included in a group mailing. To help make it a bit easier for us, please use "group mailing" as the subject of your email. Please send your information to pastor@pilgrimlutheranri.org. Many thanks!
~ Pastor Kohl

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.

The next ***Unmindful Negligence*** discussion will be held on Thursday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Just a reminder: **The Toiletry Pantry** is always looking for hotel-sized soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, etc. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.