



Pilgrims' Progress



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

**October's Progress Deadline is
Friday, September 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 and Fellow Pilgrims:

There's something bittersweet about September. I'm not just thinking about the weather, but also about how September is seen as an end to the relaxation and leisure summer allows us, and how it is also a time for new beginnings with a new school year. For us at church it is also a beginning of a "program year." That means Sunday School, confirmation programs, adult education, and meetings will be starting. There are some things you should know about your church. You will notice a banner hanging on the front of the building by Warwick Avenue. The banner will be changed from time to time. They were designed and produced by Joanne Gunning. They are beautiful. Each one has a slogan that we hope will say something about our congregation and our tradition within the family of Christians. It is one of the ways we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting the 95 Theses.

We hope these banners will be something of an evangelism tool, also. Truth be told, many people in New England do not know who we are or what our faith as Lutheran Christians is about. Some people confuse Martin Luther with Martin Luther King, Jr. No doubt about it: they were both great men, but about 500 years stands between them.

Others have no idea what we teach or what our worship is like. Numerous times when visiting with us, people from a Roman Catholic background are surprised by how similar our worship is. I have been told by others that they thought we were like Jehovah's Witnesses. We have a lot of educational work to do in our world, but more importantly we need to be those who make the grace we have received in Jesus real for others.

You know, as I do, people who live in fear of God. They might not be immobilized by their fear, but they still somehow believe God is out to get them, watching for any slip up, any mistake made. Many people assume that the highest goal of Christians is to be morally flawless. But what does Paul teach us in 1 Corinthians? *Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.* As followers of Jesus we don't make morality the first issue of our faith, but as Paul says, and as Jesus demonstrated often, love is the highest goal, the greatest gift, and the means by which the world will come to know who God is most clearly.

I'll be the first to admit it: we Lutherans hold a different understanding of what it means to be a Christian than most other groups. Freedom in the Gospel can be tricky stuff. We might think that our freedom means anything goes without regard for our neighbors, but the truth is that anything that enables us to love, respect, value others is what matters for us.

As a part of this new time in our lives, in a world that seems to often be on edge, when fear seems to be the loudest voice in our world, we need the promises that Jesus brings to us and all: *I am with you.*

Who do you know who needs to hear this? Invite them to worship with you and your sisters and brothers in Christ at Pilgrim Church. There is a place for hope in our world, in fact many places; but one of them is located at 1817 Warwick Avenue, right here in Warwick, Rhode Island.

I hope to see you soon,



Pastoral Acts:

Baptisms:

Kari Quinn Anderson
Abigail Joan Driscoll
Brayden Carl Hartman

Marriages:

Christopher Jenkins & Laura Killguss
Dean Waterfield & Deborah Roberts

Funerals:

Alice DeSantis*
Theodore Drown Colvin
Harry Eminger*
Alan F. Slade
Loretta P. Samardak

*Member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church



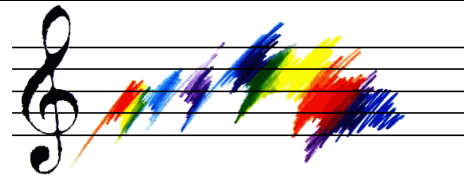
Sunday School will begin on September 17 at 9:15 in the chapel. All kids between three years old and sixth grade are welcomed

and encouraged to take part in the fun. We also need to have adults/teenagers help with the school. Please let Pastor Kohl know if you can give a hand. This is an important ministry in fulfilling the work God began in baptism. Please pray about your part in this ministry.



Confirmation classes for students seventh grade or older begin on Tuesday, September 19. This will be an abbreviated class from 6:30 to 7:30. If you have questions about the

program, please speak with Pastor Kohl or Tammy McLaughlin. The schedule of the classes will be distributed on Tuesday, October 3. Again this year we will ask families to provide dinner for the kids on the Tuesdays we have a class. We are looking forward to a year of fun and learning.



A U.S. study of 166 older adults revealed that those who joined a choir were in better health, used less medication, were less lonely, and had fewer falls after a year than a similar group of non-singers. This could be due to the effect that singing has on breathing as well as the emotional benefits of creating harmony with a group. Another small study out of Sweden found that when choir members sang in unison, their heart rates slowed down and eventually synchronized, which may have long-term benefits for both cardiovascular and mental health. *-Reader's Digest*

The Parkinson's Walk will be held on Saturday, September 9th. **Team Pilgrim/Belvin's Buddies** is looking for walkers and runners! You can make donations and/or register online at APDAParkinson.org/ri or contact Laurie Linden at 401-529-9284 or lalinden1@gmail.com.

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



by heart

ADULT EDUCATION

The song from *Sound of Music* goes: "Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start..." So we are beginning with basics, also. I will be offering a seven-week course in the *Small Catechism*

for adults and teens. If you have never studied this classic, now is your opportunity. It will help you know how we as Lutheran Christians understand the importance of learning for our faith as well as the basics, such as what we mean by "faith" or "grace." We meet Mondays from 7 to 8 PM. Here's the schedule of meeting days and topics:

- September 18- The Story of the Small Catechism
- September 25 – The Ten Commandments
- October 2 – The Apostles' Creed
- October 9 – No class
- October 16 – The Lord's Prayer
- October 23 – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Confession
- October 30 – The Sacrament of the Altar
- November 6 – Daily Prayer and the Household Chart



On October 31, 500 years ago, 1517, Martin Luther posted points for academic debate about how God gives forgiveness to Christians. What started as an academic issue became one of immense proportions as the topic was considered to be an insult to church authorities. 500 years later, Martin's ideas still continue to gather people whose lives are marked by the grace, the free gift of forgiveness given for Jesus' sake. At Pilgrim church we have a few things in the works, but there are more things we can do. If you have ideas or would like to be part of the planning, please let Pastor Kohl know. There is a place to sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office.

HAMMONASSET 2017



The New England Synod-wide Youth Gathering is being held from Friday, September 8, through Sunday, September 10, at Camp Calumet. We have a bunch of kids from

Pilgrim and St. Paul going on the weekend. The theme this year is *I Choose Compassion*. The cost per person for our kids and adults is \$78. We would welcome any donations to help make sure all our kids are able to attend.



On Sunday, September 17, we will be preparing basic supply bags for homeless folks in our

community. This is one of the projects we will be working on to bless the greater community. **Here's how you can help:** donate a small item of easily-used food (packs of crackers, fruit cups, granola bars, etc.) or emergency items such as bandages or headache medicine. Use your imagination, what would you need in an emergency and you had no place to keep your items but the backpack you have with you? Check at church in the Sunday bulletin for more information.

Financial Report 2017

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| Total general expenses through 6/30/17 | \$119,405 |
| Total income through 6/30/17 | \$110,794 |
| Deficit | (\$8,611) |

Please consider donating funds to reduce the deficit. If you have any questions, call Pete Mahoney at (401) 737-3814

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 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church

Pilgrim Church is preparing to celebrate the work of Martin Luther. Banners announcing the anniversary, a Luther play, and a display of the beginning of Luther's life's work to proclaim the gospel of God's grace will be some of Pilgrims commemoration of the 500 years of the Lutheran Church.

Beginning the first of September, the former trophy case at the rear entrance to the church hall will hold a display of the people and events which were seminal for impelling Luther and others to address social and theological practices.

October 31, 1517, on the eve of All Saints Day, a selection of the more than 9,000 holy relics, collected by Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, were displayed in the Wittenberg church for remembering the dead and saints of the faith. On that day, Luther posted his 95 theses concerning the practices of the Church and thus began the debating of the "Disputation of Doctor Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences".

Upon viewing the historical beginnings of the Lutheran Church, if you have some memorabilia packed away in a closet, pictures or "relics" related to the beginning of the Reformation, you are invited to loan them for the commemorative display. Simply bring them to the church's office for inclusion, properly marked with your name to be returned at the conclusion of the display.

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.

Altar Flower Dedications

All Sundays in September are available for 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.



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