



Pilgrims' Progress



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

**November's Progress Deadline is
Sunday, October 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.

OUR STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Dennis Kohl

Minister of Music

Denis Brunelle

Treasurer

Laurie Linden

Financial Secretary

Cindy Cote

Sexton

Adam Kohl

Parish Assistant

Laurie Connors

death covered only original sin and humans had to make up for the rest. Others teach similar kinds of practices, leaving some things humans need to do or agree to in order to know God's salvation. Of course, if we need to do something to have God love us then we are the ones in control of our salvation, and then we would have the ability to woo God to like us or have God commit God's self to sealing God's end of a bargain made. In any of those scenarios Jesus would not have to die, he would just have to be a really good teacher to tell us what our end of the deal would entail.

But Luther believed, as we teach also, that the death of Jesus brings us forgiveness because of who God is, not because of what we must do or can do. That's radical and it might sound that way to you and others, but it is the truth that Jesus gave himself for the sin of all humanity.

So, OK, if our sins are covered by Jesus' life and death, and his resurrection proves that this is true, what is left for us to do? Nothing! But since we are free from this fear of God's wrath in Jesus, we can look at the last seven of the commandments and use our freedom for the good of others. As someone once wrote, God doesn't need my good works, but my neighbors do.

Our life in Christ is turned outward, away from self. In fact, one of the ways Luther and others before him spoke about sin was *curvatus in se*, that's Latin for being turned in on self. That's easy for us to do and can happen to us without our even being aware it is. We need something to bring us to the truth of who we are, and who God is, and who our neighbors are. We call that sacraments: God getting our attention in water and bread and wine. And in getting our attention God is

From Our Pastor

Dear Pilgrims and friends,

It was out of the blue and it did surprise me a bit that this Roman Catholic woman even knew about the 500 years of Reformation. She asked me "Why couldn't Luther be content to be a monk and leave things as they were?" Good question. My answer was that he wanted people not to be afraid of God. Then she wanted to know how I thought it went. I told her that many people are afraid of God, and those who ignore God seem to want to know God when death comes close to them or loved ones.

What Luther wanted us to know is that our salvation was taken care of entirely by what Jesus did on the cross. Some teach that his

saying that God does love us and that we need the gifts God gives to know we are those who have received all kinds of blessings from this generous giving God.

The story is told that when Luther died his friends found a piece of paper in his pocket with the simple message on it: *We are beggars, this is true.* All we have, all we are, comes to us as a gift from the God who gives us life now and finally will give us life beyond death. That's something to be celebrated, as we do every Sunday, but it is also a promise we can trust from a God who has done everything for your salvation.

In hope,



Pastoral Acts:

Marriage:

Nathan Stephen Baldrige & Katherine Grace Wilkinson

Funerals:

Raymond Blanchette*

Toy Gu Kee Woo

*Member Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Animal Blessing October 1



Wednesday, October 4, is the day the church remembers Francis of Assisi. Francis had a deep love for the world God gave us, and he had a special place in his heart for the animals who share the creation with us. As those assigned to care for the earth and its creatures, we too seek to honor God's gifts. On Sunday, October 1, we will gather at church at 11:30 to ask God's blessings on the animals that share life with you. All creatures are welcome.



Pilgrim's Annual Fall Festival

Saturday, November 18, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

We are starting to collect items for our White Elephant Sale. Clean, gently used items, please. Also, we will be selling books again – adult and children's – paperback and hardcover – fiction and non-fiction – no magazines, please. This year we will feature a Resale Boutique. If you have items – gently used, no tears or stains - please see Laurie Linden or call 529-9284.

As always, we look for hands to help with set-up on Friday night, work the fair on Saturday, and break down on Sunday morning.

Questions? Call Laurie Linden (401-529-9284) or Andrew McLaughlin (401-556-1210).

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 am offering a seven-week course on 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:

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

The Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship

The Altar Guild is assembling a committee to select a recipient of the 2018 Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship. We welcome your involvement as a committee member. The group is expected to meet less than four times this Spring before the end of May. If you can help, please contact the Altar Guild through Priscilla Angelo (Pris.Angelo@gmail.com) or 401-921-2530).

The 2018 Scholarship application and information regarding the grant will be available in early winter with a May 1 due date; most colleges require students to make their decision of where to attend by May 1. Given higher education trends that impact students, the 2018 qualifications for this scholarship have changed. Pilgrim Lutheran Church men and women of any age may apply if enrolled full time in an accredited institution in the USA or abroad. This includes current high school seniors, former high school graduates anticipating freshman enrollment, and also upper class students currently enrolled in a college. Priority will be given to an applicant who has not received this scholarship in the past.

The Altar Guild wishes to thank again the Fish Family for their generous contribution over many years to support this scholarship in Diane's honor and also the work of the Guild.

We will host a **Rite Aid flu shot clinic** on Sunday, October 29th, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the parlor. You must be at least 19 years old to receive the shot. Please be sure to bring your insurance card. We will provide consent forms and give you more information as the date nears. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 739-2937.



Sunday School meets 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 began on Tuesday, September 19. If you have questions about the program, please speak with Pastor Kohl or Tammy

McLaughlin. Again this year we 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. Following is the schedule through December.

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| October 3 | - Class |
| October 10 | - Fellowship/Service |
| October 17 | - Class |
| October 24 | - Planning (no kids) |
| October 31 | - No Class |
| November 7 | - Class |
| November 14 | - Fellowship/Service |
| November 21 | - Class |
| November 28 | - Planning (no kids) |
| December 5 | - Class |
| December 12 | - Class |
| December 19 | - Caroling |
| December 26 | - No School |

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.



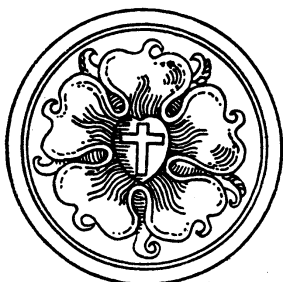
Once again, as the world gathers harvest from the fields, we are asked to consider how we understand and how we use the gifts that have been given to us by the God who blesses abundantly.

The Congregation Council has set Sunday, November 19, as the Sunday we will make a response to how we are blessed by planning how we will support the ministry of Jesus through Pilgrim Lutheran Church and beyond. Over this recent hurricane season we have seen how our offering helps in those places where disaster strikes. Our Sunday offerings help provide the mechanism for 100% of our special donations to get to places of need. There's a lot that gets done by what you put in the offering plate every Sunday.

Please pray about your support of the church around the world through Pilgrim Church. We have been blessed to be blessings. Share generously and in faith that we have God who provides.

The 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church

Be sure to stop by the display case near the Christian Life Center to see the display about the Reformation. In words and pictures you can learn about the people, inventions, and art that brought about our understanding of the grace of God. Many thanks to all who worked on it.



Altar Flower Dedications

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.

Let all the pious and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this feast; let the wise servants blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord. Let those who have toiled since the first hour now receive their due reward. Let any who came after the third hour be grateful to join the feast. Those who may have come after the sixth, let them not be afraid of being too late, for the Lord is gracious, and he receives the last even as the first. He has pity on the last, and he serves the first; he rewards the one, and is generous to the other; he repays the deed, and praises the effort. Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord. The calf is a fatted one: let no one go away hungry.

—An Easter homily by John Chrysostom