



Pilgrims' Progress



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

**December's Progress Deadline is
Wednesday, November 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

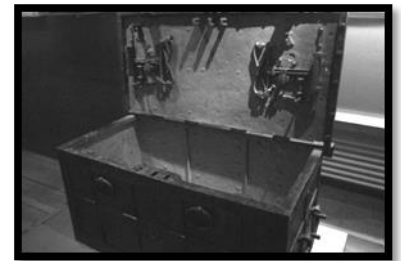
Adam Kohl

Parish Assistant

Laurie Connors

revolutions: 1517 and 1917." I must admit that I was somewhat offended when I saw Luther associated with the Russian revolution of 1917 and the beginning of a communist government in Russia. It was a movement that spread throughout eastern Europe into Germany creating the "German Democratic Republic."

In thinking about the contribution Luther brought to our world as we remember the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses, I decided to do more reading about Luther and his on-going influence. I learned something from a book recommended to me by Don Williams about how the Lutheran Reformation dealt with economics and society, something I had not thought about before. The book is titled *The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation*, edited by Carter Lindberg and Paul Wee and published by the Lutheran University Press. The cover of the book has a picture similar to one of the pictures about the Reformation in the display near the Christian Life Center. It is a picture of the Common Chest in Wittenberg,



Germany, Luther's place of residence. The common chest was provided by the city government, the prince (Elector Frederick the Wise), and the people of the community. While the funds gathered there were closely watched and under several locks and different keys, the money was used for many different kinds of purposes: helping the poor, paying dowries for indigent girls, medical expenses, housing for the homeless, food for the hungry, and so on. The understanding

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Karin and I made a trip to the former East Germany for the first time in 1985. It was to attend a Bach Festival in the city of Leipzig. We heard great music by internationally famous groups and individuals. We also had our first taste of life in East Germany which was made more real by meeting friends there who shared our faith as Lutheran Christians. (We still keep in touch with them and have visited several times at their home, but that's another story). One of the things that struck me most powerfully were signs in shop windows which spoke about the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth. The signs made reference to the "two great

was that there was to be no one who needed to beg in the city of Wittenberg; people looked out for one another.

Luther wrote an *Ordinance for a Common Chest*. This idea spread, and many of the cities where Lutheranism flourished also started a common chest. Poverty had been celebrated in the Roman Catholic tradition as a virtue. They taught it somehow made people more Christ-like. Luther made the bold claim that poverty was evil and did not make us more holy but rather inflicted suffering on individuals as well as on the whole community. Looking out for neighbors has been central in our Lutheran understanding of God. In fact, taking care of others is the prime way we serve God.

The economics and social understanding of the Reformation is something we need in our

world all the time and, especially, as we live in a time with more and more people losing basics of life like medical care and heating assistance. So as the church we ask those who follow Jesus to be as generous as they can be, even if it means sacrifice on the part of Christians to be a community of

help and concern, a place where all people are regarded as important and lives connected to one another.

In the church, November is a time when we consider the last things: All Saints Sunday and the judgment of Christ the King are days that remind us that our lives are not our own and that we need to reflect on what we want our lives to mean. The end of November is also the end of the church year. We begin again on December 3 as the First Sunday of Advent, and even at the beginning of the year we are called to remember the end

things. It's almost a picture of eternity, a reality without time.

Maybe that year, 1517, did start a new revolution in our relationship with God, a relationship marked by grace, as well a new relationship with our neighbors, a relationship marked by concern, connection, and community.

With hope,



Pastoral Acts:

Marriage:

Joseph Ernest Lafreniere & Tammy Lyn Smith-McLaughlin
Christina Louise Jones & Elliot Kim
John Francis Major & Robin Daily Brandt

Funerals:

Henry Carl Ortelt, Sr.
Dorothy Vincent*
*Member Pilgrim Lutheran Church



The cover of Luther's "Ordinance for a Common Chest"

🕯️ 🕯️ 🕯️ **All Saints' Sunday is November 5.**

This is the day we remember all the people of Pilgrim Lutheran Church who have died and especially those who have died since our last celebration of All Saints' Sunday. However, because we all have loved ones who are among the hosts of heaven, we also give any who wish an opportunity to light a candle in their memory. Please come to the 9:30 service that Sunday to remember those who have shaped our lives in love and faith.



Pilgrim's Annual Fall Festival

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

Including the popular White Elephant Sale and Book Sale. This year we will feature a Resale Boutique and a Penny Social Raffle. We will also be serving a light breakfast as well as lunch. Vendors will be selling some fun and unique items.

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. If you have any questions, please Call Laurie Linden (401-529-9284) or Andrew McLaughlin (401-556-1210).

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Community Thanksgiving Service



will be held on Monday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Folks from Pilgrim Church will join people from St. Mark's Church, St.

Timothy's Church, and the West Bay Community Jewish Center. We planned the service for Monday so people are free to travel closer to Thursday.

Advent and Christmas Services

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, and runs through Sunday, December 24. The 9:30 services on those days will be Advent services. However, please note, on **December 24** we will hold **only one morning service at 9:00.**

Also on December 24 in the evening we will hold our **first Christmas services at 5:00 and 10:00.** These will both be candlelight services with carols and Holy Communion.

Inclement weather

As winter comes there may be times when we need to reschedule or cancel services at Pilgrim Church. There are several sources for you to learn about service schedules. We will post changes through the Rhode Island Broadcasters Association. These are the notices you see on TV or hear on the radio. We also will publish any changes on our Facebook page, on our web page (www.pilgrimlutheranri.org) and on the telephone message in the office 401-739-2937.



ADULT EDUCATION



by heart

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. We will be studying Daily Prayer and the Household Chart on November 6.



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.

Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.



While Christmas is a time with much joy and happiness for many people, it is not always easy for people having a rough time in life. When we lose a loved-one or face difficulties that seem overwhelming we need to know that we are not alone. Pilgrim Church will host a Longest Night Service for folks who might need to be with others at a hard time in their lives. Literally the longest night of the year in 2017 is December 21, the winter solstice. We will gather with prayer and song and candles to remember or to know that we are not alone in our sadness or struggle. Invite a friend who might be having a rough year. This is a service of hope in the midst of sadness, of fellowship in the midst of loneliness. Following the service we will have a period of refreshment and fellowship. And even if this has been a great year and your life is filled with happiness, come and be a blessing to someone else.

Thank you to all who participated in the Parkinson's Walk as Team Pilgrim/Belvin's Buddies members. Thank you, also, to our congregation for their generous donations. We raised \$1080! -- Laurie Linden

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. We look forward to a year of fun and learning. Following is the schedule through December.

- November 7 - Class (Meal)
- November 14 - Fellowship/Service (No Meal)
- November 21 - Class (Meal)
- November 28 - Planning (no kids)
- December 5 - Class (Meal)
- December 12 - Class (Meal)
- December 19 - Caroling (No Meal)
- December 26 - No School

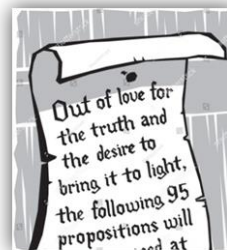
The Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship

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.

Nailing things on churches has been a Lutheran "thing" for 500 years. Pilgrim Lutheran Church is doing it also. You may have noticed the banner celebrating the 500 years of the Reformation on the front of the church building. These banners were created by Joanne Gunning. We want to tell folks around the city who we are and what's important to us.





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.



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.

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

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.



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

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.