



# Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
Warwick, Rhode Island  
January 2018

## February's Progress Deadline is Monday, January 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.*

## 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

So what does it mean that we are called to do God's will on earth as in heaven? This is where you might think what I am going to write is controversial.

Let's start where we hope to end up: heaven. The pictures of salvation in the Book of Revelation are always about a community of people. Salvation in the Bible is always a communal thing. Jesus is never described as a "personal" Savior. He is the Savior of the church, the Savior of the human family.

What Jesus has done is brought together a community of people who do not all think alike or come from the same background. Look at his disciples: there are women there, there are fishermen there, there is a tax collector, a zealot (a dangerous rebel), and other kinds of people. The whole group of the first followers of Jesus is a very mixed bag of people. Uniformity and agreement did not always mark their lives. Peter and John seemed to have some personal jealousy going between them. Judas, the betrayer, and Peter, one man who boasted that he would never leave Jesus' side, had two different ideas about *HOW* Jesus should be the savior. My point is that we need to understand that diversity has always been a part of Jesus' followers. That diversity needs to mark the church in our day and age.

A big issue facing our life in the world today is that of community and diversity. Life seems to be set up for people to isolate themselves in front of a TV or in their car or on the computer. The times when people actually get together are not nearly as numerous as had once been. Some of us don't even know the names of the people living next door.

## From Our Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We pray that every Sunday, and many of us pray that every day if not several times a day. And it is something that we might think is a personal thing, that when we pray those words we think it means that *I* as an individual am the one who needs to do God's will. But then, if you think about it, the prayer itself begins, not with *my* Father, but rather *our* Father. In fact, the whole of that prayer is a communal prayer. It's something that connects us, not only to God, but also to a community of God's people.

The church over centuries has been marked by a sense of uniformity. By way of confession, I need to say that Lutherans seemed to specialize in keeping company only with others who agree on even the smallest points of theology. Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is breaking free from that model. We seek to understand what it means to be a community gathered, not because we are all alike, but because we have all been redeemed by Jesus. Following Jesus rather than our tradition makes a church (and a congregation) more like what the Holy Spirit has in mind for Sunday mornings and any other day of the week.

To be completely honest, and I don't find comfort in writing this, the church as it has been for centuries will not serve as the model for the church of Jesus to be in the future. It's hard to build without a model or blueprints because we don't know what we're doing wrong when we deviate from what was. But that is our situation as Christians in America (and probably in other places also).

So instead of looking at the structure and practices of the past, to be faithful to the future we need to look, not at how things were set up but rather what the purposes of Jesus' people are.

I want to explore some possibilities in this new year. I hope that we can discuss things like this with respect for the thinking of others, and with regard for the experience of others.

While the church has been a blessing in the world, it has also been a source of hurt for some and division of communities. One of our Luther banners says "All are welcome at the table." The table Jesus shared at his last meal was not a gathering of cookie cutter people. Most likely women were there, and people Jesus healed, and others he forgave,

and even the one who betrayed him was there. It must have been a big table, one we are called to emulate if we pray *thy will be done on earth as in heaven.*

In hope,



#### **Pastoral Acts**

##### **Members Received:**

Timothy Cronin with Alyssa, Sarah,  
and Stephen  
Jack and Robin Major  
Dawn Pare  
Amy and Joshua Rego with Kayleigh  
and Emily

##### **First Communion Candidates:**

Emma Donohue  
Autumn Gallucci  
Garrett Greene  
Wesley Greene  
Brenna Hall  
Gabrielle McElroy  
Emily Rego  
Kayleigh Rego  
Nathaniel Tuomisto

##### **Funerals:**

Vivian E. Cordwell  
Hope L. Butler  
J. Kent Cameron  
Charles Herbert Plouff  
Astrida Heal  
Kimberly Pepper  
Howard C. Lewis\*

\*Member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

For Luther, having the Bible in the hands and language of the people was very important. But it was also important to be able to understand how to read the Bible correctly in its proper context. **Reading the Bible** correctly makes all the difference in how we understand and practice our Christian faith. Beginning on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., **Karin Kohl will be offering a class** on this very topic. We will be using the book "*What Is the Bible?*" by Rob Bell which will be available for purchase. Hope to see you there.

## 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](http://www.pilgrimlutheranri.org)) and on the telephone message in the office 401-739-2937.



## 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.

**Confirmation classes** are for students seventh grade or older. If you have questions about the program, please speak with Pastor Kohl or Tammy McLaughlin. Following is the schedule for January and February.

January 2	- Planning (No Kids)
January 9	- Class (Meal)
January 16	- Fellowship/Service (No Meal)
January 23	- Class (Meal)
January 30	- Planning (No Kids)
February 6	- Class (Meal)
February 13	- Fellowship/Service (Pancake Supper)
February 20	- No School
February 27	- Class (Meal)

### Confirmation Feed the Kids Schedule:

January 9	- Val Stevens
January 23	- Karla Safford
February 6	- Colleen Hall
February 27	- Brenda Alpaio

### 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 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](mailto: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 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 Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 28, following the 9:30 service. A quorum of 50 voting members is required for the meeting to be held. Please plan to attend. At this meeting we will put into place a budget for the ministry of 2018. We also will elect members to our Congregation Council, voting members for the Synod Assembly (Thursday, June 7, through Saturday, June 9, in Springfield, Massachusetts), and various committee members.



**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](mailto:pastor@pilgrimlutheranri.org). Many thanks!

~ Pastor Kohl

**The Exhibition Case**

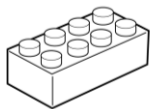
The use of the former trophy case raises a question: "How will the exhibition case be used when the Reformation history is removed?" If you haven't noticed, it is in the hall beside the entrance to the Christian Life Center.

The four shelves behind locked glass doors, as well as the bulletin board beside it, could showcase the skills, educations, and interests of Pilgrim's people: art work, hand crafts, collections, photography, authors' publications, and historical events. It might exhibit Pilgrim's ministries: how the food ministry operates; the confirmation program; the church school children meeting during the worship hour; preparing for worship; Pilgrim's spaces.

Could this showcase the reality of Pilgrim alongside the virtual reality of Pilgrim's web pages?

Interested? Agree? Disagree? Ignore it or have thoughts on its usage? Want to showcase our life together, our faith, Pilgrim's people, the community.....? The exhibition case doesn't need to collect and display dust!

Communicate your interest about creating exhibitions at 401-783-2316, or at [dnld2020@gmail.com](mailto:dnld2020@gmail.com), or corner Donald Williams when he's at Pilgrim!



**Camp Calumet News**

A *NEW* PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES & ADULTS \*\* FEBRUARY 2-4, 2018

Join other folks of all ages in a weekend of LEGO fun!! Come as a team or join a new team upon arrival and be ready to create themed Lego structures. A mystery theme is in the works and will be announced Friday evening. Calumet's delicious food and comfy accommodations will be waiting for you. Plus, winter at Calumet is always fun with the toboggan run and other outdoor winter fun.

Families, couples, and individuals, are all welcome to this new weekend retreat beginning Friday evening after supper and ending after Sunday Worship and lunch.

To register, call Alice at 603-539-3223 ext. 220

Hope you can join us for a fun Calumet weekend!

Boom Chicka Boom!  
*The Program Staff*