



Pilgrims' Progress



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

**April's Progress Deadline is
Thursday, March 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

uncertain. As Christians we believe that the Holy Spirit is the creator of the Church. We confess that in the Apostles' Creed: *I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints...*

While the Holy Spirit is alive and active and often surprising, the Holy Spirit has a consistent purpose: to proclaim Jesus as God's clearest revelation of who our God is. The work of the Holy Spirit is to give gifts to every Christian to build up the Church of Jesus.

Bishop Hazelwood has challenged the New England Synod to be a synod of experimentation and creativity. He has called us appropriately to think outside the box, to be creative, to not be afraid of trying something new, of not being afraid of failing, of assessing who we are and what our gifts are and what the needs of the world around us are.

For several years I have been asking us who are Pilgrim Church to consider our life together. Like all congregations we have conflicts of opinions, we have different ideas of what a church should do, we might not all be on the same page, but we are all redeemed by one Lord. As long as Jesus is the center of our life and not our own wishes or egos, we will be guided by the Holy Spirit, and Pilgrim Church, while it might be different from the past, will be a center for ministry and a place of openness to Jesus' call to follow him.

So what do *WE* do? Please read the article in this *Progress* by Don Williams. Please read the article by Bishop Hazelwood. Please take a look at the document about people of the millennial generation (also on the table at

From Our Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

If you have not yet read the document written by our Bishop, James Hazelwood, I would encourage you to do so soon. It is titled *A Church being Reborn*. You can get copies at the church (on the table in the hallway) or on line at www.nesynod.org, our synod's web page. (Look under *Resources*, then under *Policies, Documents, Resources*)

With this document, Bishop Hazelwood discusses a transition the Church of Jesus Christ in these United States must make. Knowing how to do this is not something that comes with easy steps, and even what the end result of such a pilgrimage will be is



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Church is approaching the center of our life: Holy Week and Easter. On **Sunday, March 25**, we will observe Palm Sunday/The Sunday of the Passion. There will be services at 8:00 in the chapel and at 9:30 in the main sanctuary. In addition to the blessing of palms to carry into our homes to welcome Jesus there, we will also hear a reading of the passion of Jesus from Mark's Gospel.

On **Thursday, March 29** (called *Maundy Thursday* from the Latin word *Mandatum* which means commandment, Jesus gives the church a new commandment to love others as he loved us), the Church gathers to hear the story of Jesus' serving his disciples in washing their feet. At that service individual absolution is granted to all who come. The absolution has not been offered in our worship since the Sunday of the Transfiguration, February 11. Here Jesus serves his people by blessing them with forgiveness and a new start in life. The service begins at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday is March 30. There will be two services on that day, one at noon and another at 7:00. This is the day the Church reads the story of Jesus' suffering and death from John's Gospel. These are quiet and solemn services of prayer, readings, and hymns.



At sundown on **Saturday, March 31**, Easter begins. The Easter Vigil will be celebrated with lighting the new fire, readings, baptism, and Holy Communion. This is the main service of the year for Christians. The whole story of salvation is present in this time together.

On **Easter morning, April 1**, we will welcome the resurrected Jesus among us at both 8:30 and 10:15. Our children will be joining us at the 10:15 service that day.

Mark your calendar now for observing these important times. They will be blessings for your faith and growth in Christ.

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.



Dear Friends and Members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

There are times when it is a great help to be able to be in touch with our members quickly. Please email the church office with your email address to include you in keeping current with what is happening at or involving Pilgrim Church. 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

Still Looking for a **Kitchen Committee.** If you like to cook, if you like to organize meals, if you like to make people happy with food, please let us know. We do have breakfasts and dinners occasionally and would like to have a group of people who are comfortable in our kitchen. Can we count on you? Let the church office know.

Life Together at Pilgrim

Two gatherings of “**Life Together at Pilgrim**” were held February 1st and 4th with positive direction resulting in the sharing of ideas and feelings by more than two dozen people. Comments expressed during the January 28th Annual Meeting of the congregation brought the people together to address concerns for our life and faith together.

From those two gatherings the following actions were agreed upon by consensus:

1. A letter was composed to cover the new pledge forms that were sent to the people of Pilgrim on **Monday the 5th** of February.
2. The next discussion of **Life Together at Pilgrim** will be held following worship on **March 4th**
3. There will be a **brunch on March 11th** following the **9:00** o'clock worship. The brunch will follow the **congregation meeting** to adopt the 2018 budget.

To prepare for the **March 4th** gathering of **Life together at Pilgrim**, one would be well prepared for the discussion to pick up and read two papers: one by our New England Synod Bishop, James Hazelwood, “A Church being Reborn” and the other entitled “The Ultimate Guide to Reaching Millennials”. The papers are on the table in the entrance hall of Pilgrim. They provide important ideas and information for conversations about future **Life Together at Pilgrim.**

Pilgrim has a range of generations. There are many ways to live and share the gospel of God's love to us in Jesus. Conversation creates personal relationships that will work for **Life Together at Pilgrim.** The next dates are **March 4th and March 11th.**

Don Williams

The Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship 2018

An Application for the 2018 Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship is available in the brochure case across from the Church Office. It is also available on the Church web site: www.pilgrimlutheranri.org.

The completed application must be returned to the Pilgrim Lutheran Church Altar Guild mailbox, 1817 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889 by May 1, 2018, at noon. This is the same date most colleges require students to make their decision of where to attend...an important date to note on your calendar!

Given higher education trends that impact students, the 2018 qualifications for this undergraduate scholarship have changed. Members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (men and women of any age) may apply if planning to enroll full time as an undergraduate in an accredited higher education 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 Scholarship Committee may schedule interviews with applicants in person or by telephone who surface as finalists. We hope to announce the name of one recipient and present the \$1000 scholarship check before the end of May.

This Scholarship is supported by the Fish family in Diane's Memory and is administered by the Pilgrim Lutheran Church Altar Guild.

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship application or selection process, please contact Priscilla Angelo by email (Pris.Angelo@gmail.com) or telephone (401-935-4406).