



# Pilgrims' Progress



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

## May's Progress Deadline is Sunday, April 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

Congregations sometimes think that what they like are the same things that other congregations also like. This is a faulty assumption. All congregations are different because Jesus is the one who, through the Holy Spirit, creates the church as he wants it to be for the mission that must be done for the good of the creation and for the love God has for all people.

Our council is reading a book this year. It is called *Signs of Belonging: Luther's Marks of the Church and the Christian Life*. Mary Hinkle is the author.

In 1539 Luther wrote a treatise called *On the Councils and the Church*. This was his summary of what the church of Jesus is. He lists there seven marks of the Church:

The Word of God

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Forgiveness of Sin and Reproof of Sin

The Office of the Ministry

Worship or Public Prayer

The Holy Cross (suffering on account of faithfulness)

Where these are, that is where the church is found. And notice these are not things that are done in secret, they are all public things. The church is not, therefore, a closed group. Rather it is open to all, and what we do is available to all because of the grace that marks our lives as the followers of Jesus.

As the Church we proclaim the Word of God. And please do not assume that this phrase means the Bible exclusively. For us the Word of God is first and primarily Jesus himself. He is the means we use to understand all things: the Bible, our worship, the Sacrament, our communal life, our preaching, our teaching,

## From Our Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

As you might know, we have been discussing the document our Bishop, Jim Hazelwood, wrote called *A Church Being Reborn*. His words are a sure call for us to give thought and prayer to what the Church of Jesus Christ might be like in the future. He also calls us to pay attention to generational differences among people in a community like a congregation. His words offer challenges or dangers as well as hope and dreams.

Meanwhile we must also be certain to know what the church is. By that I do not mean only Pilgrim Lutheran Church, but I mean what makes the church authentically the church.

our fellowship times, our mission in the world. The Church is in the business of making Jesus known to the world. All these other marks are signs of Jesus' presence, purpose, and ministry that continue through us as the Body of Christ.

I know well that the last one of these marks is not something we relish. No one likes suffering. People often turn away from the cross because it seems uncomfortable or even fearful. It is, after all, an implement of death. But like all things, God has been able to use the cross, no longer exclusively as a means of death, but now a means of life.

Being the church means putting our preferences aside for the ministry of Jesus and as a way to bless other people. I don't want to sound morbid, but being a Christian means learning how to die so we can learn how to live as God wishes us to. God's understanding of life is so much richer than ours, and the way we come to know it is by "getting out of God's way" and following God's path of service.

That's what it is to be the church. It's not about us, but it is about Jesus and God's plan for this world. What form it will take, what structures the church will use, what kinds of people will make up the church are all in God's mind. But now we need to pay heed to the Holy Spirit who is helping us set the sails of the church for the future.

In hope,



**Pastoral Acts**

Funerals:

- John C. Andre, Sr.
- Alecia Beaulieu
- August Enos\*
- Mary Austin
- Ruth LaFauci-Nelson

\*Member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

**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 April and May.

- April 3 - Planning (No Kids)
- April 10 - Class (Meal)
- April 17 - No School
- April 24 - Fellowship/Service (No Meal)
- May 1 - Class (Meal)
- May 8 - Class (Meal)
- May 15 - Party

**Confirmation Feed the Kids Schedule:**

- April 10 - Sherry Traficante
- May 1 - Available
- May 8 - Available

**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.

**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.

Yes, we are 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.



**Dear Friends and Members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,**

We've been sending regular weekly "Life Together" email to all who have given us their email addresses. If you have not received your email or you would like to be added to our Parish Member email list, please send your email address to [parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org](mailto:parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org).

Thank you!

~ Pastor Kohl

**Life Together at Pilgrim**

Bishop Hazelwood wrote in his paper entitled, "**A Church being Reborn**", "I have thought for many years that the 16<sup>th</sup> century existential angst, which our reformation theology addressed, is less relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." People of Pilgrim agreed with Bishop Hazelwood at their last meeting in discussing his writing. They also concurred that God has not abandoned the church in its existential angst of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Today, our angst is not that of going to hell, but of knowing God's love in the experiences of our lives.

Such a subject may sound uninviting, but the discussion of it wasn't to the eighteen persons present on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, addressing the crisis facing the church in the present. Other ideas will be on the table for reflection when **meeting again on April 18<sup>th</sup>** following worship.

There is sufficient seating available for all interested persons to participate in considering the needs and directions of Pilgrim's angst, of our ministries to the Warwick community, and of our **Life Together**. The discussion will be held in Pilgrim's Community Room on the lower level.

~ Donald 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](http://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](mailto:Pris.Angelo@gmail.com)) or telephone (401-935-4406).