



Pilgrims' Progress



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

July's Progress Deadline is Friday, June 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

commitments and our comfort in the old way things are when change comes, and with a sense of excitement and hope about what could be coming to us, something we might look forward to.

But conflicts can also arise between people. Some are so committed to the old that they refuse to consider a new way. And sometimes such conflicts cause people to want to walk away from that time when things are up in the air.

Times of change do not happen overnight if the new that is coming is to be embraced with joy and welcomed as a gift for tomorrow. Living between any things or any times can be hard. It's not what we are used to and, in fact, it is not what we are even taught to expect. There is something about being human that can make us think that everything should always be stable and predictable. But until we are able to control life (not that this will ever happen) change is an important factor in life and in growth.

There was an ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, who wrote: Πάντα ῥεῖ (everything is in flux, everything flows, everything changes). In fact, he proposed that the essence of reality is change. And yet we resist change as something to be avoided.

Transition times, while they can be times of conflict, are also times of great creativity. But for them to be times of creativity we need to know something important: we are not alone during times of change, we are not facing whatever comes by ourselves.

Here is where faith enters the story. The Church is now in the time of Pentecost. It is the second part of the church year when we

From Our Pastor

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

It's the time between the trapeze artist letting go of one trapeze and waiting for the next one to be there to grab onto. It's the time Linus spends while his blanket is in the dryer. Sometimes it feels like we have nothing to hang onto. Often these times feel scary and they can produce all kinds of reactions from any of us.

Our life in the world is exactly like that. We search for certainty, a way to know what is coming next. These times can be filled with conflicts, not only in our relationships with others but also conflicts within our own selves. There can be a conflict between our

think about how the ministry of Jesus continues in our life together as the church. And an important part of this time of our life in the Church is what was celebrated on May 20 this year: The Day of Pentecost.

On Pentecost the Church celebrates the good news that we do not face life alone. God sends the Holy Spirit. In writing about this Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit as the Paraclete, literally translated from the Greek as the one called to be along with, beside, another.

The Paraclete comes and assures us that we are not alone. Of course, those who chose to separate from the community of believers do go it alone. The Holy Spirit is present in the Church. Remember the Apostles' Creed: *I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints.* See how they go together? The Church of Jesus and the Holy Spirit operate in communion with one another.

Change comes. But we have a promised companion in the Holy Spirit. The Church is never alone, and as long as people are faithful to the Church, worshipping regularly, sharing in the gifts of Christ in the Church, and serving in the ministry of Jesus, no one is ever alone, no matter what changes may come.

In hope,



Pastoral Acts

Baptism:

Jonathan Richard Pelletier

Funeral:

John (Sean) Harrington

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.

A Thank You from the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all of those who made a donation to the beautiful Easter Memorial Garden in memory of their loved ones this year.

We'd like to also extend a special "thank you" to those who helped deliver plants to members of our Pilgrim Community.

Your spirit and generosity during the Easter season is very much appreciated. God bless our Pilgrim Family!

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.

As a reminder: **All Sundays throughout 2018 are available for Altar Flower Dedications!!!** Over the past year, flower dedications have decreased significantly. Did you know that if no one sponsors the altar flowers, **the Altar Guild must absorb that expense of \$60/week?** Those funds could be better spent for our annual college scholarship or to purchase communion supplies, linens or other items used to beautify the altar. **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.