



Grace, peace and greetings to all of you!

I had just been discussing the meaning of Pentecost with the Bible Study participants on a Tuesday afternoon, and I wondered why Pentecost is not held in such high acclaim as, say, Easter or even Mothers' Day. Maybe it is because the day of Pentecost is quite the mystery to many people. How did this day come to be known as the "Birthday of the Church?" The close friends of Jesus, the Chosen Twelve, had seen Jesus leave the scene on the day of the Ascension, and now were left alone without a manuscript to guide them. But, something had to be brewing internally deep within the heart and soul. Peter had already taken the initiative to have the others decide who was going to replace Judas. They did so, and now they were all together in one place in the bustling city of Jerusalem patiently waiting to see what would happen. At the same time, the Jewish festival of Shavu'ot (Pentecost) was occurring. This was an annual feast that took place about 50 days after Passover and was a weeklong celebration that came during the beginning of the wheat harvest. Jewish people from all over would come and present their first fruits to God in thanksgiving and praise. It was also a time when the people of God celebrated the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai. Of course, we do not celebrate Pentecost as an ancient first fruit harvest. Instead, we celebrate it as the day in which God poured out his Word through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. It remains the great mystery of how God spoke through those twelve men, that allowed them to go into the alleys of Jerusalem, among people of different tribes and nationalities, and communicate in ways that seem unreal

to us. The Holy Spirit spoke through all of those men, and they were "fired up." They were ready to face the world that existed, remembering all of the lessons that Jesus taught them, until, finally, it all clicked. Three thousand people were baptized that very day. And we wonder how all of this happened. Could we imagine what that day would have been like? Could we be so inspired? As a pastor, the one thing I can think of is when I have preached without the use of notes or other written pages, that I wondered where my words have come from, and how I have conveyed them. As far as speaking in a strange tongue, I have been in situations in foreign lands where I have not understood the language but have been able to "communicate" through gestures, tone of voice, or even laughter. The disciples carried God's grace with them, and their love for others must have been a great means of communication. The fire of the Holy Spirit brought people together, and they connected through this unique experience. What do the fires of Pentecost do for us? Do they help us to be transformed into the image of Christ? As we start each day, be reminded that the very image of Christ is to be restored in our hearts, our minds, and in our lives. Allow yourselves to be open to where the Holy Spirit can lead you. You might be surprised.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob



**Summer Time!
Have a great vacation... but don't forget your church, it doesn't go on vacation....**



All are Welcome

June Worship Assistants

9:30 AM — June 3rd

Reader: Frances Olson
Greeters: Joyce Hovland
Ushers: Scott & Jane Swenson
Coffee Hr: Mike & Sharon Endrud
Comm: Dale Washburn

9:30 ---- June 10th

Reader: Jean Wold
Greeters: Cloe Kirkland
Ushers: Jeff & Mindy Meyer
Coffee Hr: Diane DeFoe

9:30 AM --- June 18th

Reader: Anne Beard
Greeters: Lorri Honstein
Ushers: Dave & Lynette Hansen
Coffee Hr: Jean Wold
Comm: Don & Swany Schmidt

9:30 ---- June 25th

Reader: Valerie Williams
Greeters: _____
Ushers: Dale & Vicki Karpyak
Coffee Hr: Michon Sax



Building Fund Memorials

Myron Wold \$ 25.00
Dennis Frisinger \$ 500.00



Area Parish News

A Personnel Committee has been formed for addressing concerns of parish matters. Contact: Craig Paulson, Erica Johnsrud, Jessie Rolfson or Zane Frick.





Growing, Together, in Christ!

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak of his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."
(John 16:12-15)

It was the Passover meal, a very special time in Hebrew culture, and the teacher was leading the ceremonial meal. They had followed him for three years and there was a sense of expectation as he was approaching Jerusalem for a final confrontation. It was in this intimate ceremony that Jesus spoke to his followers about his impending death and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The first bit of news was troubling, the second was confusing.

Why would Jesus sacrifice himself? He was doing so much good! Why face off against the Jewish leaders if he knew it meant his death? And what is this about a spirit of truth? Jesus just said that HE was "the way, the truth, and the life," and that no one came to the Father but by him, so who is this Spirit of Truth? And what does this mean for those who gave up everything for three years to follow Jesus?

Perhaps they had some feelings that Jesus was abandoning them. If he still had much to teach them, as the text says, why didn't he stick around until they could receive it? They had been slow to understand most of what he taught them because what Jesus was teaching them was so different from the life they knew. And what he was now teaching them about the Spirit was also new to them. Thankfully, the solution to the problem is in the question, the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth.

Martin Luther, in his Sermon on the Gospel of St. John in 1537 said, "The Holy Spirit will teach the disciples and show them that everything Christ told them is the truth, for He is a Spirit who confirms the truth in one's heart and makes one sure of it." And Luther was definitely one who knew what it was like to be led by the Spirit against the norms of the church and society. He was in school to become a wealthy lawyer when he vowed to become a monk. A normal person would have excused such a vow made under stress and continued in his career, but God had other plans for Luther. As a monk, he worked hard to be the best monk he could be, irritating fellow monks, but even that failed him.

Then the Spirit guided him to see that we are saved by grace through faith, not of works, and that our faith itself is a gift of the Spirit. He said in the same sermon, "The dear apostles surely found out, and their conduct toward their Lord Christ demonstrated adequately, how completely impossible—not only difficult—it is to retain faith in trials if one does not have the help of the Holy Spirit.... It is a sure sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit and of His power when faith is preserved and is victorious in a real battle and trial." Luther was surely able to face many trials with the Holy Spirit's help, as did Christ's disciples follow his death and ascension into heaven.

In this season of Pentecost, as we enter the summer months with new life all around us, what is the condition of our faith? Is our connection with God fresh and new or is our spirit as dry as some of our fields or lawns? Do we need a refreshing of the Holy Spirit? Do we need the soil of our hearts to be turned and stirred so that we are able to receive a "fresh rain" from the Spirit of God? There is a way we can prepare the soil of our hearts, as well as a way in which we can regularly receive nourishment from the Spirit and that is in corporate worship.

Martin Luther found corporate worship powerful in awakening his spiritual fire, "At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through." There are many reasons Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to continue meeting, at least one of which is so the Holy Spirit can clearly minister to us. In worship, the Spirit speaks to us in the scriptures, refreshes our hearts in the songs, nourishes our spirit in the sacraments, and sends us out to seek others who need the same thing. When we neglect church, where do we get that kind of blessing?

David Mathis wrote on his web page www.desiringGod.org has said, "Where our hearts feel it least is when we need most to remind ourselves "For me, it is good to be near God" (Psalm 73:28)" And I have found this to be true. Although I grew up going to church every Sunday, in the Air Force, there was a three-year period where I rarely went to church. Then, I was invited by a cute girl and, my first Sunday back, I wept because my heart was stirred. I realized how much I missed hearing from God in the scriptures and sermon, praising God in the hymns, receiving Christ in the sacrament, and being sent out with a purpose far greater than myself. I reconnected with God through that service and was back to attending church regularly. The fact that cute girl I later married also attended the church was just an added bonus.

Our Lord speaks to us through His Holy Spirit and, while we can hear from God anywhere, we are most likely to connect with God in church, the place God established for us to worship and commune with the Almighty. So, while you are enjoying the summer, don't forget to care for your spirit as well as your sanity, and come join us in worship. And may God refresh us all.

Together in Christ, Pastor Mark



Reflections on ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering



world hunger

Rev. Mike Olson, Barbara Cooper, and Dustin Roise represented our synod at the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering this past January.

They will present a workshop at the synod assembly about the event which included a variety of presentations, workshops, speakers, and activities related to food security, the farm bill, and hunger awareness. Below is a reflection on the event from Mike Olson, TEEM candidate serving the McGregor-White Earth Parish. He writes:

The ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering was in a word, transformative.

The biggest realization I had was, that I am explaining things incorrectly to my congregations. I had been active in promoting how necessary it that we be active in the Larger Church. That if someone would come with me to the Synod Assembly they would see how connected we can be and to see what amazing opportunities there are when we start interacting with them.

Yes, we as a parish are active supporting World Hunger Relief with a check when it comes time for the Hunger Ride, and we are gathering supplies for the Bridges of Hope Project, and we are putting kits together for Lutheran Disaster Response and the list goes on and on. We are supporting many things, from the neighbor across the street to the global campaign. But...somehow, we are not connected personally.

I was transformed when I realized that we don't need to connect with the Larger Church...We are the Larger Church.

I heard statistics that talked about

farmers themselves having to be recipients of the very food stamp program (SNAP) they were producing for. I found out that the world currently produces 1 1/2 times the amount of food necessary to feed the world, and yet, 38 million people are hungry. I listened to a young man that had been born with aids, and his very personal struggle to make his way in the world along with his family due to the stigma. I found out about local, national, and global policies and how people are able to interact with the people that make those policies or that vote on them. Mostly, I found out how much personally we can do to have a positive change to this situation.

Jesus tells us in John 13: 34, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. This is not a suggestion, nor is helping our neighbor something that is beyond our capabilities as a church, a parish, a congregation or a single Christian who is deeply loved by God himself.

Even as if we are one of the "least of these" that Jesus talks about in Matthew 25:40, we can still love the person next to us. We ARE the Larger Church and we can love our neighbor, next door, across the state and around the world.

Mike Olson
TEEM - Serving McGregor-White Earth Parish



Women of the ELCA Circles

Wednesday, June 6
10:00 PM FLC WELCA General meeting @ the church.

The FLC – WELCA Circles will not meet this month.

The Summer Bible Study will be Thursday, August 9

Tuesday, June 12
2:00 PM Garden - the Horizon

Wednesday, June 13
2:00 PM Banks – Patti Leiseth's

Thank You !



SPONSORS

Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of May: David & Donna Lou Sanford; Olga Hovet & family in memory of Walter Hovet; Kelly & Frances Olson; in honor of the Class of 2018 by the Mitch Haugeberg family.

Please check your special dates and call the office (444-3244) to sponsor a Sunday in this new year.

The cost is \$110.00 per broadcast



Vacation Bible School

June 17-21

Again, this year the UMM Counselors will lead VBS. This will be for Pre-K through 6th grade. The Pre-K will meet in the morning and the Grades 1-6 in the afternoons. More information will be following on our website, Facebook or call, email or text Pastor Alyssa.

Mark your calendars for this event!





Frist Lutheran Church Council
May 2018 approved minutes

Present: Steve Holen, Keith Helmuth, Jeremiah Beard, Erica Johnsrud, Glen Beard, Mikka Haugeberg, Angie Moe, Gretchen Stenehjem, Megan Wirtz, Craig Paulson, Pastor Rob, Pastor Mark, Pastor Alyssa

Absent: Jeff Meyer

Call to Order: Glen called meeting to order

Devotions: Gretchen

Motion to approve minutes: Gretchen move, Jeremiah 2nd. MC

WELCA Report: Ann Beard presented, Glen is getting bids for E-gress windows for the Parsonage

Committee Reports

Finance: (Jeremiah/Jeff/Keith) Keith reported \$16000 payment to building caused \$6613.19 loss

Bill for snow blower will come out of the general maintenance fund

Property: (Glen/Craig) Discussed concrete work that will be upcoming as weather improves

Discussion for contract cleaning services

Worship: (Erica/Angie) Alyssa did sound system training

Stewardship-Evangelism: (Gretchen/Angie) Duty assignments are working well,

Discussion for some fundraising for upcoming mission trip (camp meals)

Youth & Ed: Mikka/Megan/Craig/Steve) to meet after council

Old Business: Motion to approve Glen to sign settlement agreement with Vercon- and pay out of the building fund- Erica moved, Jeremiah second, motion carried

New Business: Motion made to hire Big Buttes cleaning service and to terminate janitorial and maintenance staff effective immediately, Steve moved, Erica second, motion carried.

Discussion for creating a Personnel Committee- to help with communication between staff and members of the Church.

Discussion on bringing in extra help on committees, to help bring more ideas in and to not overwhelm committee members with thinking that they have to do the work alone. Mentioning this and asking for help in the Clarion for anyone who wants to get more involved.

Discussion on bringing in Hayley Moe as an intern starting in October to last through May. Council recommends Trust Committee to pay for a pastoral intern. (Hayley Moe)

Staff reports:

Pastor Rob: Alex Hansen wedding week of April 20; Upcoming training in Mandan' Confirmation May 6th banquet May 2nd

Pastor Mark: April 29th fun day at the RR Center; Boundaries workshop

Pastor Alyssa: Sound training; Taking over confirmation for Pastor Mark next year

Motion to adjourn: Steve moved, Gretchen second, motion carried

Devotions: Pastor Alyssa May 9th

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Acting Secretary, Craig Paulson



G.I.F.T.S. is a lifelong faith formation opportunity that helps participants grow in their faith and share their faith through service and proclamation in their homes, congregations and wider community.

The G.I.F.T.S. program features a variety of ways you can be involved, including:

- 1-day events in our synod featuring leading ELCA theologians and teachers
- week-long Lay School of Theology events at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
- a mentoring relationship with a pastor from the WND Synod
- local G.I.F.T.S. groups with peers in the program who gather for conversation, Bible study and fellowship
- A schedule for [G.I.F.T.S. Daily Bible Reading \(pdf\)](#) and commitment to daily prayer time

Costs:

\$15 event registration for each event you attend (covers lunch, materials, etc.)

Become a Supporting Member! All GIFTS Participants are encouraged to pay an annual supporting membership fee. The gifts from Supporting Members helps to cover the speaker costs for these events (honorarium, travel, lodging, etc.) Your gifts enable us to bring excellent speakers to our synod. For more information please contact Karen Broderson.

[Become a Supporting Member Now!](#)

