

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

June 2019

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit . . .”

Thus St. Luke records the events of the Day of Pentecost, what is sometimes referred to as “the birthday of the Church.” It is a day, however, that never quite seems to get the attention and focus we accord to the other major festivals of the Church, Christmas and Easter (and don’t get me started on the most ignored and neglected festival, the Ascension).

Why is it that we get such eager enthusiasm expressed for the birth of our Lord and for His resurrection, but are so repressed in celebrating the event that brings us the very faith we need to embrace the other two? Without Pentecost, we would have no idea of the value of Christmas or Easter. Without Pentecost, Santa and a bunny would be the major motifs for those days. Why do we shy away from Pentecost?

I used a word in the last paragraph that has, historically, proven to be a real problem for us Lutherans: “enthusiasm.” Luther had battles with “enthusiasts” in his day, people he called “the heavenly prophets,” and of whom he opined, “they believe they have swallowed the Holy Spirit feathers and all.” Today, we might refer to such folks as “charismatics” (although that may be uncharitable for us so to do).

Luther rightly distrusted human reason as a means to relationship with God. Our logical powers will never comprehend God and God’s power. Luther himself was very much more open to what we might call the experiential side of faith. But over time, his adherents became very skeptical of experience as a trustworthy guide to faith.

Yet, throughout the book of Acts we see demonstrations of the Spirit’s power and how the earliest Christians experienced and grew from that power. We may need to recover that sense of power.

There are several images for the Holy Spirit in the Bible: wind, breath, fire, dove. We have tended to dwell on just two of those: breath and dove. These are gentle forms by which the Spirit is revealed — unobtrusive, sedate, quiet. We rather like the idea that the Spirit hovers nearby. Wind, however, can blow with such force so as uproot trees, toss about boats, even knock over buildings. Fire is frightening when we can’t keep it under control. Such images of the Spirit unsettle us. They suggest that the Spirit may be uncontrollable and, if we were to give ourselves over to such a Spirit, we would surrender control. That would be correct.

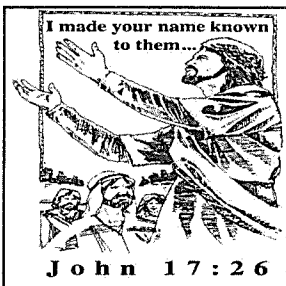
We need to focus more on those powerful images of the Spirit at work in our lives and in our congregation. The Spirit does move through the Church with great power, but often we don’t perceive it because we choose not to, or we fear letting go of the reins of our lives so the Spirit take control. Let the Spirit take control. That’s when faith becomes most vibrant and ministry begins to rattle the world.

We are often impressed by what happens in the Book of Acts: hundreds and thousands of people

brought to faith, healings and other miracles, witnesses who had been shy and timid, even fearful, suddenly and powerfully rising up to testify to the Lordship of Christ. Many believe such events ended when the last apostle died. If so, then why do we have such strong encouragements to heed the Spirit, surrender to the Spirit, be guided by the Spirit? Because the Spirit still moves with power, and wants to use Christ's people with power and purpose.

Pentecost ought to be for us a time of explosive joy! As much as Christmas and Easter, that day should swell in us exuberant praise! We are excited to hear "Christ is born!" and "He is risen!" We should be as enthused to listen when we hear of the first followers what is equally true for us, "*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit . . .*"

Our Worship This Month

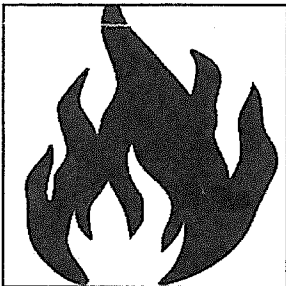


June 2 — Easter VII

Sermon: "*See the Glory?*"

Texts: Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 47; Revelation 22:12-17; John 17:20-26

Jesus prayed about the glory He had given to His followers. Can we see that glory at work today? Where?

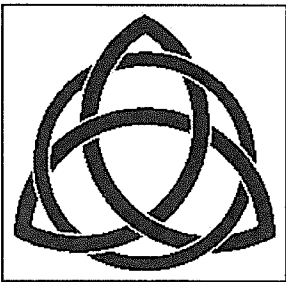


June 9 — The Day of Pentecost

Sermon: "*True Children of God*"

Texts: Acts 2:1-21; Veni Creator Spiritus; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-27

Paul tells us the true children of God are led by the Spirit. Does this mean us?



June 16 — The Holy Trinity

Sermon: "*From the Get-go*"

Texts: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

God speaks of His constant presence with us, a presence reaffirmed in Christ's promise and in the gift of the Spirit.



June 23 — Pentecost II

Sermon: "*Amazing! (Three Times!)*"

Texts: 1 Kings 17:8-24; Psalm 117; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

We witness God perform three amazing actions — two involve raising the dead; one involves reviving dead religion. Which of the three amazes us the most?



June 13 — Pentecost III

Sermon: *"Forgiveness Is Everything"*

Texts: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:10,13-15; Psalm 30; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3

David is forgiven a grave sin; Jesus forgives a woman labeled "sinner." We begin to comprehend Paul's claim, "Christ lives in me."

Since Pastor Just is still in the process of recovering from his two hospitalizations for Atrial Fibrillation and the ongoing rehabilitation for his knee replacement, he will not yet be ready to assume full leadership for Sunday mornings. He will be preaching on Pentecost Sunday, and maybe the Sundays after, but his energy level may not yet be up to leading the rest of the service.

My thanks to those of you who took the time to send a card or email or text encouragement and prayers after my three visits to the hospital. On April 30, I went to Hillcrest Hospital for knee replacement surgery, which went well and they sent me home the next day. Unfortunately, on May 5 I experienced an episode of atrial fibrillation, which landed me in the emergency room at Ahujah Medical Center. They performed cardioversion, which brought my heart rate back to "normal." Again unfortunately, that did not last through the night, for at 3:00 AM I had yet another AFib episode, which brought about a "White Code" response (about 30 people in my hospital room and a host of heavy equipment). So I had to remain at Ahujah for another three days while they monitored the new medications which they gave me and which were correcting my heart rate. But, on May 23 my pulse rate flew high once again, paramedics delivered me once again to Ahujah, but medication did get my rate back down again and I was allowed to go home.

In all this activity my rehabilitation of the replaced knee had to be put on hold for a week, but I have since "caught up" (lots of pain, thank you), and am scheduled to see the surgeon on May 31, after which I anticipate I will go to outpatient therapy and another several weeks before I am back in shape (okay, that assumes I was in shape before the surgery, but I at least can get into good enough shape to resume regular activities).

Pastor Just

We are happy to announce our High School and College Graduates!

Abigail Ayers graduated from Nordonia High School on May 24. She will be going to Tiffin University to study Criminal psychology. Congratulations Abigail!!

Corey Hautmann graduated from Streetsboro High School on May 28. He met the Ohio Board of Education requirements to receive an Honors Arts Diploma. He was accepted into the Honors College and the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music at Kent State University where he plans to double Major in Music Education and Jazz Studies. Congratulations Corey!!

Joanna Nicely graduated from Ravenna High School on May 28, 10th in her class. She attended college credited classes and will start her sophomore year at Kent State University. She will be studying Integrated Math and would like to become a Math teacher. Congratulations Joanna!!

Stephen Nicely graduated from Kent State on May with a Bachelor in Applied Engineering with a concentration in Mechatronics. He is planning to go for his Master degree. He has landed a new job to start on June 17 at a company in Wickliffe. Congratulations Stephen!!

Our college student Grace Rohaley is doing an internship at Plasmonic Nanomaterials for Energy, Environment and BioMedicine University of Gainesville, Florida. Good luck Grace!!

Join us on Sunday, June 9th, Pentecost Sunday, as we celebrate these graduates with a special fellowship hour!



Stephen & Abigail



Joanna



Corey

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers	Madeline Ayers	Trudy Ayers	Deb Earle
Cory Hautmann	Linda Hautmann	Pastor Just	Lorene Kozar
Joe Lenno	Ken Nicely II	Ken Nicely III	Kenny Nicely IV
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Amy Rohaley	Ron Stenglein
Agnes Whinnie	Rory Wolff	Barb Alcorn	Roger Black
Michael Brooks	Warren Burgess	Franklin Conn	Scott Corban
Tom Corban	Christine Combs	Dan Crile	Chuck Defer
Billy Earle	Martin Goss	Hanna & Zane	Sandy Hoover
Mr. Joe	Steve Kolar	Brad Kozar	Suzanne Latham
Frank Manijak	Art Robinson	Deb Rosenlib	Mildred Slanina
Lad Svadba	Dylynn Szcaks	Tara Vargo	Sam, Denise & Delilah
Dan Wiley			

Our High School Graduates—Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann and Joanna Nicely
Our College Students—Grace Rohaley who is doing an internship in Florida
Our College Graduate—Stephen Nicely

If there is anyone you would like to add or delete from this list, please let Marla Manijak know. You can reach her at 330-626-5120 or fill out one of the cards in the pew and put in offering plate.

SPECIAL PRAYERS...

For the Earle family in the loss of **Edna Earle** who passed away on Wednesday, May 1st. Funeral services were held on Monday, May 6th. Edna was the mother of Joe, Bob and Bill. She will be sadly missed by all her children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren and her church family.

Continued prayers for our shut-ins:

Mr. Steve Gerhard
The Gardens of Western Reserve
9975 Greentree Parkway
Streetsboro, OH 44241-4328

Mrs. Audrey Holland
4552 Aspen Lake Road
Apartment 102
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582

Mrs. Eunice Haschak
Avenue at Macedonia
9730 Valley View Road
Macedonia, Ohio 44056

FLOWER AND CANDLE CHARTS

Please check the bulletin board to purchase Altar Flowers for \$25 or Vigil Candles for \$3.00. Please mark them in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special family member or friend.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

17-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Stephen Nicely
27-Gilbert Ayers
29-Corey Hautmann
30-Diane Lee



JUNE BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

10-Deb Earle
18-Jim Doerfler
24-Logan & Gavin Hagen
24-Samantha & Victoria Weber
24-Jillian Earle

1 + 1 + 1 giving

We, along with other English District congregations, are raising money to help our missionaries spread the good news of Jesus. 1+1+1 means \$1 per member each Sunday. There is a plastic box in the narthex under the bulletins for you to place your \$1 each Sunday. We empty the box at the end of each month and are excited to fill it again! Thank you for your donations!

Also being collected are bottle caps for the Campfire Girls and can tabs for Thrivent and cancelled postage stamps for an organization in Kent. Thank you for your donations!

Our July-September Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door.

Council will be meeting in June on the 16th at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. All members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. New ideas are always appreciated.

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Just at 216-789-6688 or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions. Pastor Just is in the office on Thursdays from 8:00-4:00.



**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!!**

Display this flag in your window for Flag Day on June 14th. God bless America!

