

New Hope Lutheran Church

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June 5, 2022 Pentecost Sunday

Coming Events

- June 7 1:00 Worship & Music **Zoom**
June 8 10 - 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St**
June 9 6:30 Finnish Devotions **Hannah Lake**
June 12 10:00 Finnish Worship † **Voima Hall**
2:00 English Worship † **Regent St**
June 13 6:30 Council meeting **Regent St**
June 15 6:30 English Devotions **Hannah Lake**

In our prayers Tyson, Ruth, Marilyn.

Remembering Esme Rintala 88yrs



Merciful Lord; we pray for all who are bereaved on this day. Be with them to give them comfort, strength, and guidance. We especially pray for the family of Esme Rintala that your loving arms may enfold and comfort them in their faith. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 104:24 – 34, 35b

- ²⁴ How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you Made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁵ There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number— living things both large and small.
²⁶ There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.
²⁷ All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.
²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.
²⁹ When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.
³⁰ When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.
³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—
³² he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
³³ I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.
^{35b} Praise the LORD, my soul. Praise the LORD.

First Reading “**Acts 2:1 – 21**”

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw

what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Second Reading **“Romans 8:14 – 17”**

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel **“John 14:8 – 17, 25 - 27”**

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. “If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you

of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

*By Pastor Charles Nolting
“The Spirit is in You”*

Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, which is often referred to as the birthday of the church, since that is the day when the Holy Spirit first came with great force upon the followers of Jesus. Now just in case you weren’t aware, Pentecost is not an exclusively Christian celebration. It is also a celebration in the Jewish tradition, which holds that the Law (or the 10 commandments) were given to the people of Israel on this day. It was for this celebration that the disciples were already gathered.

So today as Christians, we celebrate the giving of another gift from God, the gift of the Holy Spirit, as was described to us in our 1st lesson. To hear about it, it sounds like it was an amazing event with some out-of-this-world special effects like: fire burning on heads, the sound of a violent wind, and a new ability to speak a variety of languages. And it was after this that the disciples began the more intensive work of preaching and healing in public.

I often get the sense that we too would like such an event to happen to us. There are times we may wonder why we don’t feel more invigorated, why we can’t seem to kick the Holy Spirit into more aggressive action, and why our lives may feel spiritually listless.

What holds us back? What’s the problem? It surprises many to discover that often we ourselves are the hold up. One problem might be how we view the Holy Spirit; as something that is external and pushes us into becoming fervently burning Christians, kind of similar to

the fire department coming around from time to time, encouraging us to make sure we have working smoke detectors. The coming of the Holy Spirit however, doesn’t force anyone to do anything. We are the ones who decide, as God allows us that freedom. The choice to allow the Holy Spirit to take over our lives, or the choice to rein it in so that we can run things the way we like, are solely our own choices. So we have to give the Holy Spirit room to invigorate and inspire us.

It’s important to note here that the Holy Spirit is not an external force outside of our bodies. Over and over we are told that the Holy Spirit, the power of God, is within us. In our gospel for today, Philip begins with the mindset that God is external, only to be informed by Jesus that God is also within us through the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus words: “he lives with you and will be in you.”

So what are we to make of this information that the Spirit is within us and we control how much the Holy Spirit influences our lives? We might compare it to having the ability to paint great works of art, or compose incredible music – and then not bother to use those gifts for whatever reason.

Can you imagine how life might be here at Hannah Lake if the founders would have looked at this property and said to themselves: “rather than a Christian camp, let’s build condos here and we can make ourselves a lot of money”? They had a choice of what to do with this property and, (to our benefit) chose to make it into a place where God can be encountered by a wide variety of people. In spite of the huge amount of work and time required, the Holy Spirit guided them to build what we have today.

Being open to the Holy Spirit is also important. For example, there are a lot of things I can do with my computer. I can write documents, I can make spreadsheets, I can come up with some pretty good slide shows. But as much as it is capable of doing,

when I choose to connect it to the internet, the possibilities of what can be done are thousands of times greater. One reason for that is because I have so many more resources at my disposal by simply making the choice to connect. By connecting to the Holy Spirit with open minds and hearts, we are inspired to become so much more than we can on our own.

In a similar way, it is our choice if we want to enable the Holy Spirit in our lives. And the way we activate the Holy Spirit is to allow the Spirit to guide us, by letting down our defenses regarding what we want and expect out of life, and take the time to contemplate what God wants from us. The Spirit's ability to work in us is greater when our lives are less about ourselves and more about others.

You may have noticed that when Philip wanted to see the Father, Jesus answer was that one can see the works of the Father working through him. It is to be with us that way also. We see and experience the work of the Holy Spirit, when we allow the Spirit to connect with us, when we allow the Spirit to inspire us, and when we give our wants and desires over to the Spirit. May you know the strong presence of God's Holy Spirit within you, now and always. Amen.

Prayers

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Holy Living One, Holy Moving One, burst open our locked doors, and by your Spirit drive us out into the world proclaiming your mighty deeds. Direct our words and actions, trusting the Advocate abiding in and among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Feed and care for creatures that remain hidden to us yet contribute to the vibrancy of your creation. Train us to interact with creation from a place of wonder, awe, and reverence. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send your Spirit to places where language is a barrier to justice and mercy for those who seek it. Bless the work of translators, interpreters, and teachers. Promote understanding for the sake of those longing for true freedom and peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort all who live in constant fear and any who are suffering. Remind them that your Spirit has made them your children and that they are never far from your glory. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide all bishops, pastors, missionaries, and other ministers of the gospel. Foster our relationships with partner synods and local ministry partners, that our visions and actions are Spirit-led. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather your people across regions, nations, and lands. Root our common life in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and by your Spirit bind us together with all the saints who have gone before us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**