Day of Pentecost

June 5, 8:45 & 11:15 am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine, and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's with all the world.

GATHERING

REFORMATION BELLS PRELUDE

New Life

Kevin McChesney

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the № Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination may follow.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

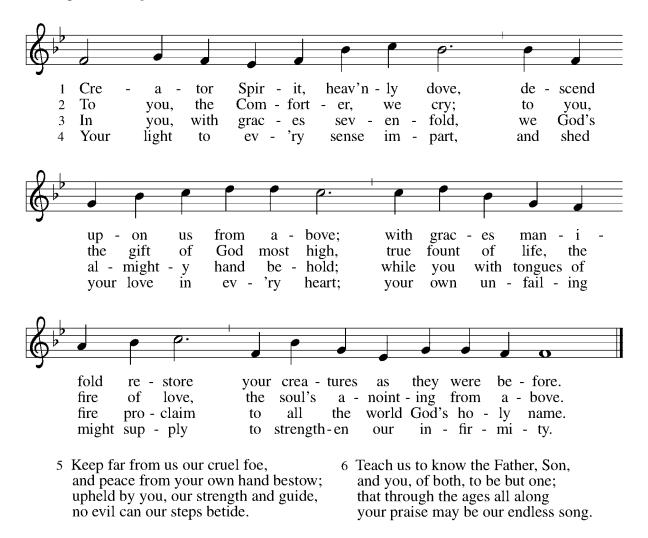


Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the 🔀 Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN • ELW 578

Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove



Text: Rhabanus Maurus, 776–856; tr. composite Music: Комм, Gott Schöpfer, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Pentecost Prayer (8:45)

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort, through Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen.

Text: Collect for Pentecost Music: Carson Cooman (b.1982)

(11:15)

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Now, amid signs of fire, wind, and a variety of languages, the people were amazed and astonished at Jesus' promise coming true.

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

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

PSALMODY

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Setting by Mark Mummert

(8:45) The choir introduces the refrain. Please sing the 2nd time. Verses are sung by the choir. Please sing the refrain where indicated.



Send forth your Spir - it and re - new the face of the earth.

How manifold are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,

living things both small and great.

There go the ships to and fro,

and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you

to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things. R

When you hide your face, they are terrified;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

O Lord, rejoice in all your works.

You look at the earth and it trembles;

you touch the mountains and they smoke. **R**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being. May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah! **R** 11:15 Please sing the refrain after the organ introduction. Please sing all the verses.



How manifold are your | works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y to number, living things both | small and great.

There go the ships | to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it. All of them | look to you to give them their food | in due season. R

You give it to them; they | gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things. When you hide your face, | they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their dust.

You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created; and so you renew the face | of the earth. May the glory of the Lord en- | dure forever; O Lord, rejoice in | all your works. R

You look at the earth | and it trembles; you touch the mountains | and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long | as I live; I will praise my God while I | have my being.

May these words of | mine please God. I will rejoice | in the Lord. Bless the Lord, | O my soul. Hal- | lelujah! R

SECOND READING

Romans 8:14-17

Here Paul speaks about the mystery of baptism: through the Holy Spirit we are claimed, gathered, and welcomed into Christ's body, the church. And we receive a new name in our adoption: child of God.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(8:45)

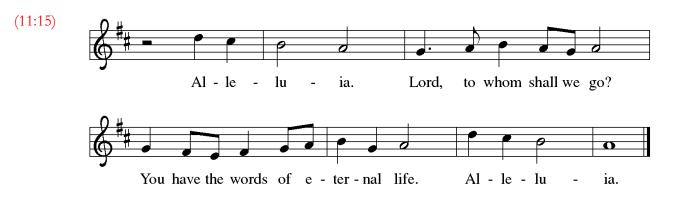


Choir: Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Choir: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love. (Psalm 85:7)

All: Alleluia, alleluia.



GOSPEL

John 14:8-17 [25-27]

The holy gospel according to Saint John, the fourteenth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

Though the disciples struggle with Jesus' nature and identity, they receive the promise that they too will be identified with God and God's mission. Though he must leave them now, Jesus promises the coming of the Advocate whom God will send to comfort and enlighten them.

Philip said to [Jesus,] "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

["I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."]

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

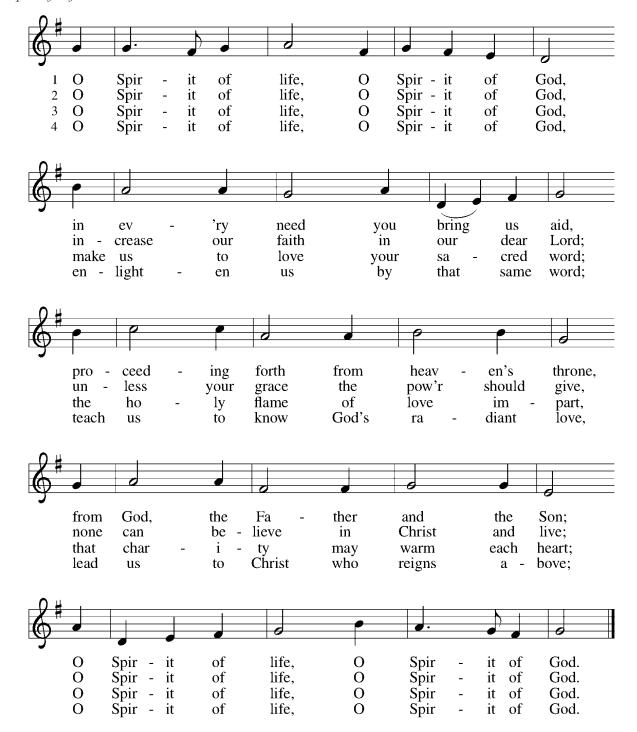
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (8:45)

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY • ELW 405

O Spirit of Life



Text: Johann Niedling, 1602–1668; tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt. Music: O HELIGER GEIST, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Pastor Morales

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the Spirit's power, we pray for the Church, the world, and all of God's creation.

After each potion of the prayers:

Life-giving God, Send us your Spirit.

The prayers conclude:

Receive these prayers, gracious God, and those prayers known only to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PEACE

Jesus says: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. The peace of the ascended Lord be with you always. And also with you

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at <u>saintlukegive.us</u> then click *Giving* or on the Give Plus app. You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church 9100 Colesville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910

CHORAL ANTHEM (8:45)

Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I would gracious be; Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee; And, with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine reveal; And with actions bold and meek For Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be; Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee; And with wisdom kind and clear Thy life in mine appear; And with actions brotherly Speak Christ's sincerity.

Text: st. 1-3 Thomas T. Lunch (1818-1871), st. 4 K.L.S Music: *Adoro Te Devote*, arr. K. Lee Scott (b.1950)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY(11:15)

Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God, BuxWV 199 Please stand as you are able. Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be; Show thy mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee; Separate from sin, I would Choose and cherish all things good, And whatever I can be, Give him who gave me thee!

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me: I would mighty be; Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee; 'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield; Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

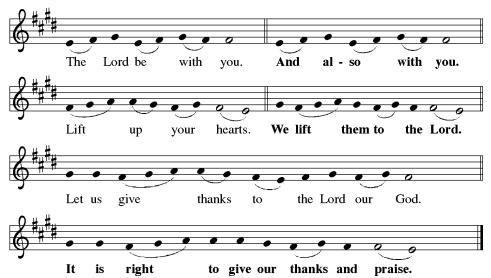
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

OFFERING PRAYER

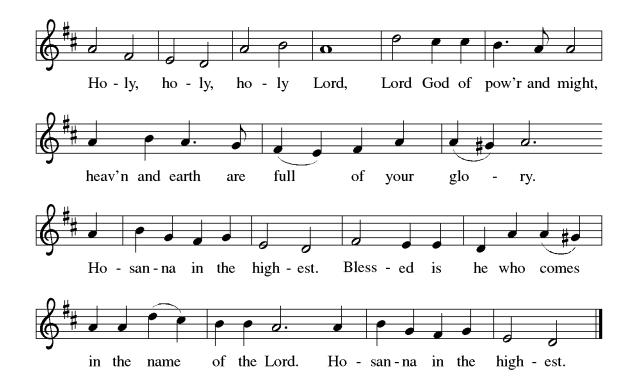
Let us pray.

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in your own preferred language. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos Santificado sea tu Nombre Venga a nosostros tu Reino Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia Perdona nuestras ofensas Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen and ascended Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come. **Thanks be to God.**

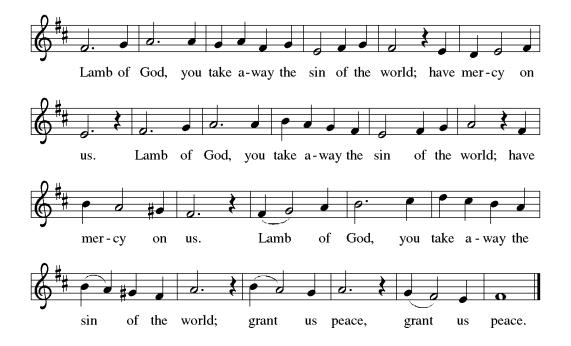
Please be seated.

COMMUNION

When communing, kindly receive the communion elements from the servers. The servers will then step back. At that time, please remove your mask and partake of the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Then proceed to the appropriate station to deposit your individual cup. If you wish gluten free bread, simply let the server know.

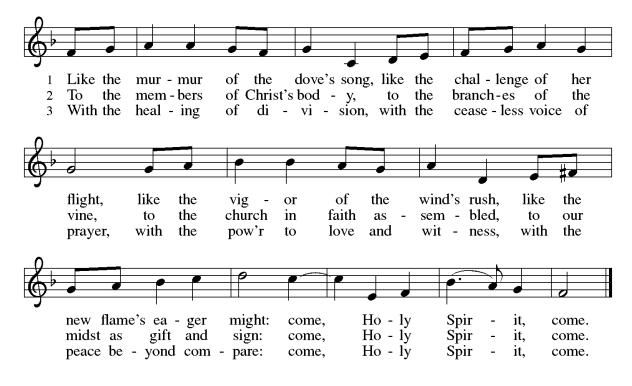
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: **Amen.**



COMMUNION HYMN• ELW 403

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



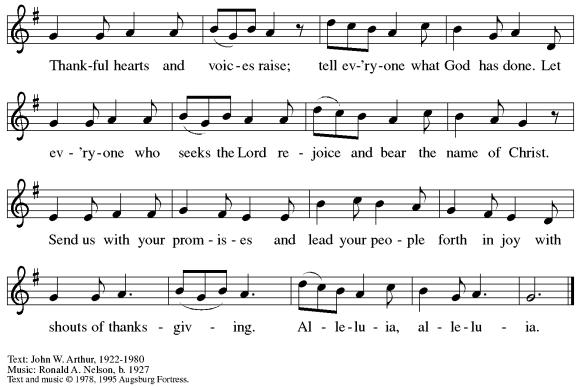
Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ★ bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN • ELW 582

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling



Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt. Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace. Tell what God has done. Thanks be to God.

REFORMATION BELLS POSTLUDE

Holy Manna

William Moore, *The Columbian Harmony*, 1825 arr. Karen Thompson

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor* The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER Deacon Kyle Warfield, Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries

READERS 8:45 a.m. Anthony Larson 11:15 a.m. Bill Schultz

MUSICIANS Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist* Schola Cantorum (8:45) Choristers (8:45) Reformation Bells

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This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, June 5—Pentecost		THURSDAY, June 9	
8:45 AM	Holy Communion	7:30 PM	Zoom Centering Prayer
10:15 AM	SLŚHY		C J
	Up For Discussion (Hybrid)	FRIDAY, June 10	
	Affirmation of Baptism Class	8:00 AM	Metro DC Synod Assembly
	Sunday School		
11:15 AM *	Holy Communion	SATURDAY, June 11	
12:30 PM	Annual Meeting (Hybrid)	9:30 AM	AA
3:00 PM	Zoom San Lucas Gospel Meditation		
	I I	SUNDAY, June 12—The Holy Trinity	
MONDAY, June 6		8:45 AM	Holy Communion
5:30 PM	Stewardship Team	10:00 AM	Affirmation of Baptism Rehearsal
6:00 PM	Yoga	10:15 AM	Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
		11:15 AM *	Holy Communion/Affirmation of
TUESDAY, June 7			Baptism
7:00 PM	Reformation Bells	12:15 PM	Reception
WEDNESDAY, June 8			
6:30 AM	Zoom Faith Connections	NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed	
	Women In Community		* in person only
7:30 PM	AA		

Upcoming Commemorations

Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, died 754

Sunday, June 5, 2022

Boniface was a native of England who became a Benedictine monk and was called to missionary work among the Vandal tribes of Germany. With fellow workers, he established churches and schools, and he also worked to reform the church.

Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, died 1866

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Noah Seattle led a coalition of tribes, and convinced them to live peacefully with encroaching white settlers. When he became a Roman Catholic, he held morning and evening prayer with his tribe. The city of Seattle is named for him.

Columba, died 597; Aidan, died 651; Bede, died 735; renewers of the church

Thursday, June 9, 2022

These three monks from the British Isles helped keep the light of learning alive during the Middle Ages. Columba founded three monasteries off the coast of Scotland. Aidan was a pastor who led people to works of charity. The Venerable Bede was a Bible translator, historian, and hymnwriter.

Barnabas, Apostle

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Barnabas was not numbered among the twelve apostles, but the book of Acts gives him that title. After Paul was converted to Christianity, Barnabas welcomed him to Jerusalem, and later the two traveled together on missionary journeys.

Saint Luke Update 6/5/2022 Edition

THE WIND BLEW, THE TONGUES OF FIRE RESTED ON THEIR HEADS, the Holy Spirit had been given to them and they were empowered to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ. What a day it was – **Pentecost, fifty days after Easter.** Yet, it is not over. It was not a one-time event. How has the Holy Spirit been working in your life?

HOW THE SPIRIT WORKS through the church on earth. Today at the ANNUAL MEETING we celebrate the Spirit. All members are asked to attend, either in person or online at 12:30 p.m. Don't miss out on all the exciting news that will be shared. Indeed the Spirit is busy.

NEXT SUNDAY, 11:15 a.m. let us come together and celebrate the AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (Confirmation) of our young people. How we give thanks for all who have served as teachers and certainly those who will profess their faith during this special service.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS! Saint Luke Christian Day School (CDS) is still enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year. CDS is a part-time, play-based program serving children ages 2, 3, Pre-K. The first day of school is September 6, 2022. CDS has space available for all age levels.

To learn more and apply on-line, visit <u>www.saintlukekids.org.</u> Students will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

SUMMER CHOIR—Are you too busy to join choir during the school year? Starting June 19, this summer you are invited to sing at the 11:15 Holy Communion Service. Just come down to the music room at 10:00 a.m. robe up, and we'll get ready to sing for the service. No need to commit for the entire summer!

WOULD YOU CONSIDER serving as an usher (8:45 or 11:15 a.m.), a member of the Altar Guild, a Carillon player, a reader on Sunday morning? If you might be able to help in any way, please email <u>stluke@saintluke.us</u> Thank you for prayerfully considering these possibilities. More to come. Gradually we are safely getting ministry teams restarted.

INVITATION TO FORMER HANDBELL RINGERS—You are invited to ring the National Anthem at the Nationals vs. Braves game—by Handbell Musicians of America Area 3 July 14, 2022. Registration deadline is June 24. Ringer tickets are \$50.00 which includes a T-shirt that will be worn for the event and transportation to and from the ballpark from First Baptist Church Alexandria. The music must be memorized (AG36050 by John Benke) and is available from your favorite supply store. Cluster rehearsals will be held in June to refresh ringers on the music or for new ringers to the event. Family and guest tickets are \$35.00 that does not include transportation to the ballpark. For more information email Jerry at jdeanhill@aol.com. If you would like to participate, please contact Edie Venit at evenit1@verizon.net

COME, HOLY SPIRIT! A BLESSED PENTECOST

St. Olaf Choir will be in town!

St. Olaf Choir is coming to the Music Center at Strathmore in North Potomac. You may get tickets on the Strathmore website. The concert time is Wednesday June 8 at 7:30 PM.

HYMN NOTES

Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove

att. Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856

"Veni, Creator Spiritus" is one of the church's classic Latin hymns. It probably comes from the 9th century and since the 11th century has been associated with ordination services—also with Pentecost and the Pentecost season. This hymn is a classic not only in the sense of its long use but in that it summarizes large portions of what the church knows about the Holy Spirit and prayer. The German chorale by Martin Luther "Komm, Gott Schöpfer" is an adaptation of the chant "Veni Creator, Spiritus." - ELW Hymnal Companion

O Spirit of Life

Johann Niedling, 1602-1668

This German hymn begins by remembering the Spirit's action and relationship to the Trinity, then ask for increase in faith, love, and light. The English translation is forced to alter the bracketing refrain, which in German links the Spirit with God—"O Heiliger Geist, o heiliger Gott" ("O Holy Spirit, O holy God").—ELW Hymnal Companion

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Carl Daw, b. 1944

Commissioned by the Standing Committee on Church Music of the Episcopal Church, this hymn is a litany-like prayer to the Holy Spirit to come. The first stanza identifies the Spirit with images of the Spirit's likeness, the second stanza indicates to whom the Spirit comes with images of the church, and the third stanza unpacks some of the gifts the Spirit brings.

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Timothy Rees, 1874-1939

This hymn to the Holy Spirit was written in four stanzas in 1922 and published in the *Mirfield Mission Hymn Book*. Rees was born in Wales. He was ordained an Anglican deacon in 1897. In 1906 he joined the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield, Yorkshire. The hymnal in which this hymn first appeared was from that community.—ELW Hymnal Companion

MUSIC NOTES

Chorale Anthem: Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me-arr. K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

A century ago, Christians took their hymns very seriously. So seriously that the publication of Thomas Toke Lynch's (1818-1871) little hymnbook, The Rivulet 1855 ("for Christian poetry is indeed a river of life, and to this river my rivulet brings its contribution"), almost split the Congregational Church. The "Rivulet Controversy," as it was called, centered around Lynch's frequent references to nature in his hymn texts, but the controversy was probably exacerbated by his fresh poetic style. The great hymnologist, John Julian, says, "Lynch's hymns are marked by intense individuality, gracefulness and felicity of diction, picturesqueness, spiritual freshness, and the sadness of a powerful soul struggling with a weak and emaciated body." Though the booklet was meant simply as an in-church supplement to Isaac Watt's popular hymnbook, the controversy spilled beyond his own church's walls and provoked the likes of Spurgeon to condemn him for promoting bad theology.

While "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me" does not contain examples of his controversial nature imagery, it has been accused of promoting the "human spirit" rather than the Holy Spirit. In light of the third verse's prayer for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the hymn's overall concentration on the fruits of the Spirit, these criticisms are unfounded. Lynch's life also bears the mark of the Spirit; in the middle of these turbulent times he said, "The air will be all the clearer for this storm. We must conquer our foes by suffering them to crucify us rather than by threatening them with crucifixion." Although this trial did nothing to shake his faith, his health suffered significantly, and it is thought that it contributed to his early death. - Greg Sheer

The text by Lynch is set to the traditional chant "Adoro te devote" by K. Lee Scott. This famous tune is set to two different texts in our hymnal: Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ (ELW 402) and Thee WE Adore, O Savior (ELW 476)