

# **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**(507-962-3270)**

**Sunday, May 28, 2023**

**Pastor Nita Parker (507-360-7582)**

**[nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com](mailto:nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com)**

## **SENIOR SUNDAY**

**Music:** Glenda McGaffee

**Lay Reader:** Brenda Beyer

**Deacon:** Deb Warner

**Ushers:** Ethan Rozeboom, Gene Sandager,  
Dakota Steensma & Tom Sandager



### **PENTECOST PROCLAMATION**

**P:** In the beginning, O God, there was only you, our ending and our beginning. The Breath of our Life, our Guide and Inspiration, a conflagration of unknowable power, the Fire that fills our soul consuming us, driving us and renewing us, calling us, commissioning us and empowering us, leading us ever onward to path we could never imagine, ways we never sought, lives filled and lived in the joy of divine transcendence even in the face of evil; suffering, pain and death.

**P:** *Come to us, Holy Spirit,*

**C:** *in the quiet times of peace.*

**P:** *Come to us, Holy Spirit,*

**C:** *in the anguished eternities of grief.*

**P:** *Come to us, Holy Spirit,*

**C:** *in welling fountains of joy.*

**P:** *Come to us, Holy Spirit,*

**C:** *in cold vistas of disbelief.*

**P:** *Come to us, Holy Spirit,*

**C:** *in burning certainties of faith.*

**Come to us Holy Spirit, come!**

### **ACTS 2:1-21**

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking

about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>'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. <sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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

### **OPENING HYMN: #396 "Spirit of Gentleness"**

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

- 1.) You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing: "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." (Refrain)**
- 2.) You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land; and when they were blinded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. (Refrain)**
- 3.) You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still; and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. (Refrain)**
- 4.) You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise. (Refrain)**

### **GREETING:**

The Grace of our lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: Amen.**

**P: You are a treasured people of the Lord. C: a people holy to the Lord God.**

**P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart, teach them to your children.**

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

**P: One does not live by bread alone.**

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as you sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the holy Spirit, look upon your church and open our hearts to the**

**power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of your love and strengthen our lies for service in your kingdom; through 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**

**R:** How manifold are your works, O Lord In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**C: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.**

**R:** There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

**C: 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.

**C: When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

**R:** You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

**C: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; O Lord, rejoice in all your works.**

**R:** You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains, and they smoke.

**C: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.**

**R:** May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the Lord.

**C: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:3b-13**

<sup>3b</sup>No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia.* Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; set them on fire with your love. *Alleluia.***

## **GOSPEL READING JOHN 20:19-23**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." **P:** The gospel of the Lord. **C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY #800 "*Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart*"**

- 1.) Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, and make me love you as I ought to love.**
  
- 2.) I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies. no sudden rending of the veil of clay, no angel visitant, no opening skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.**
  
- 3.) Have you not bid me love you, God and King. all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind? I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling. Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!**
  
- 4.) Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame; the baptism of the heav'n descended dove, my heart an altar, and your love the flame.**

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell; On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there 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 life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**HONORING SENIOR GRADUATES: Alex Harris & Carter Abels  
Edyth Briggs Scholarships: Danette Leenderts, Drew Leenderts & Tara Paulsen**

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

## **OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

### **OFFERING HYMN “Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God”**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P: Breath on us, O breath of God:**

**C: Give us the promise of life through Christ Jesus Our Lord**

**ALL: Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN: #888 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”**

- 1.) O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!**

**America! America! God shed His grace on thee  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!**

**2.) O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine,  
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!**

**3.) O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years  
thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Remember in your prayers:**

***Lexi Smook, Pat Paulsen, Family of Richard Sjolseth & Family of Fran Gibbens.  
Pastor Nita officiated funeral for Richard Sjolseth on Saturday, May 27, 11:00 am.  
@Bethlehem.***

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



#### **SUNDAY, JUNE 11th**

#### **Community Worship in the Park**

This is a great way to conclude Friendship Days. Plan to join us in the park for worship, if it rains, we will meet at Bethlehem! The service is at 9:30am and will be on the radio. The kids will sing at 9:15 with Glenda McGaffee leading them.

Coffee, juice, and cookies will be provided. If you can help with ushering, set up, clean up, please see Pr. Nita. **Our Youth are going on a Mission Trip to Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Box Elder, MT. will serve a fundraising meal following the service.**

#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – JULY 16-20<sup>th</sup>**

Theme: **“HEROES”**

5:30-8:30 pm. Supper served each night.

Ages: 3 yrs. old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Contact Brianna Leuthold if you have questions:

[Brianna.leuthold@gmail.com](mailto:Brianna.leuthold@gmail.com)

Registrations forms are available in the narthex.

