THE DAY OF PENTECOST

May 23, 2021 - 10 A.M.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1

Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com

Parish Assistant:Louise Gondosch(905-329-8579)parish.assistant@christlutheransc.caBusiness Manager:Karen McCumberbusiness.manager@christlutheransc.ca

Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca

SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen/Gillian Leaver

 Facebook:
 Lisa Gall
 www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

 Bulletin by email:
 Judy Mason
 chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

<u>Prayer</u>: O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in communion with the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday Musician: 10 a.m.: Mayumi Munoz **Sunday Reader**: 10 a.m.: Lorraine Kaija

Sunday School: "Pentecost" https://youtu.be/i_mQgauLoas **Precious Moments:** Dorcus https://youtu.be/io9mxVvloJc

Children's Message: The Churches Birthday https://youtu.be/od5EScNAAMU

WORSHIP NOTE:

 Service will be live-streamed at 10 AM on Facebook: (https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC).

- Following the service, a recording will be uploaded to YouTube "Gathering the Scattered" at: (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: <u>christlutheransc.ca</u>.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Judy Slingerland or Pastor Todd or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

 Monday:
 Acts 2: 1-11
 Wed.:
 Acts 3: 1-10
 Friday:
 Eph. 2: 17-22

 Tuesday:
 Acts 2: 42-47
 Thurs:
 Acts 4: 6-21
 Saturday:
 Acts 8: 14-25

HOW EXCITING!! Thank you to all those who sent Logan a birthday card. As of the morning of his birthday, he had received **743**! What an encouragement for this young boy and his entire family & friends **A**. Thank you also for keeping him in prayer. Louise

WITH THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE TO GOD we celebrate the safe arrival of our adopted seminary student, Eduardo Farias, and his lovely wife, Daniela Cruz, into Canada. Eduardo has been an online student studying theology at Concordia (from East Lansing, Michigan) for the past year. During that time the Mary Martha Society/LWML has embraced and supported him with special offerings towards his tuition fees; our hope is to maintain this commitment throughout his seminary days. At present, Eduardo and Daniela are renting a home at: 13 Cartier Dr., Thorold, On, L2V 4H8; phone number: 1-229-300-5097 and completing their 14 day quarantine. Eduardo's email address is: efarias@concordia-seminary.ca

The ladies look forward to meeting them in person and are actively seeking ways to be of service to them during their present situation. While the ladies are bringing home-cooked meals to them, we would like to cordially invite members of the congregation to join us in our efforts to make them feel welcome by giving them a phone call, emailing them, or sending a special card during this time of isolation. It will brighten their day as well as yours. Thank you for your positive response to this request, in the name of Jesus. Mary Silver, Christian Growth

<u>COLLECTION NOTE</u>: At this point we are not collecting any materials for the church. This means no milk bags for making mats; no SOUL bingo prizes; no Christmas cards for Sunday School or SOUL; no puzzles for exchange, etc. Thank you.

<u>FLOWERS FOR ALTAR</u>: If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: secretary@christlutheransc.ca. Cost is \$25/bouquet

<u>THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN</u>: The Canadian Lutheran is available to read online at: WWW.CANADIANLUTHERAN.CA

<u>SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC</u>: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at: http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,

275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3

Attn: Darryl Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church

140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

CALL SERVICE 2021: Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines

May 29, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

Service for Certification of pastoral candidates and announcement of placements for candidates and vicars.

Streamed from the CLTS Chapel.

You may follow the order of service by clicking – Ctrl and left click on Call Service 2021.

REV. TODD HOEFFS PENTECOST DAY (series B)

Scripture: Acts 2 May 23, 2021

F, S + HS. Amen.

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church.

Not just our church here, but the concept of church.

The living body of Christ all over the world.

Born a bit less than 2000 years ago. [1986 years give or take]

The word "Pentecost" means "50".

Marking 50 days after Jesus' Easter resurrection.

Jesus spent 40 days on earth in His glorified, risen body teaching, eating, visiting with His followers. Promising to ascend to His Father's right hand.

Promising He will never leave them but remain with them, in them, when the Spirit comes to them. In the city of Jerusalem.

In an upper room (most likely the one where the disciples hid out in after Jesus' died on the cross.) The same Spirit poured out then Was poured out upon us in our baptisms.

The same Spirit winging his way around our worship today.

Still just as powerful.

We celebrate this special day best By humbly receiving from Jesus His gifts of forgiveness, life, joy & hope! The pouring out of the Holy Spirit is important.

His work makes it possible for us to stay connected to Jesus.

Because of the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus.

Because of the Holy Spirit, we have faith, we remain in the faith, we grow in our faith as we engage in good works for all who have a need, a faith muscle strengthened as we are of use to others, all of this flows out of that faith we have. That's why we celebrate Pentecost.

The Spirit is truly our life-line joining Jesus' followers together in every time and place and era. That 1st Pentecost 120 followers with His disciples gathered together.

Not many when you think about the number of people who should've followed Jesus. Out of the 100-150,000 devout Jews from all over the world, crowding into the Holy City for the last 50 days, from Passover to Pentecost, only 120 still gathered in the Name of Jesus.

(We shouldn't get too upset over low numbers today in light of that.) Despite stories of His Resurrection spreading throughout the City,

appearances to His friends, the vast majority were steering clear of His newly formed Church. Lots of disbelief, fear and worry.

And Pentecost day arrived with so much action. First, the sound of a rushing mighty wind (like a freight train, or a massive humming car engine.,.,.) this roaring wind filled the house where the 120 sat in worship, waiting. And second, after the wind, fire appears! Little flames of fire like tongues, dividing off from the main burst of fire, and resting upon the heads of each worshipper. The wind and the fire left them shaken, confused.

And when they asked what in the world was going on, the disciples answered. The devout people, from every nation under heaven, all heard the disciples answer in their own native languages, dozens of different ones.

In other words, the visitor from Egypt heard Peter speak in his Hebrew Galilean accent but it went into the Egyptians ears in their own language! Amazing! All heard and understood! That's the awesome universal power of the Holy Spirit's Gospel message which is not tied to any one language. Some wondered what this all meant! Some said its drunkenness on new wine! In a way, it was. Drunk on the new wine not found in an un-corked wine bottle but satisfied on the new wine from the Holy Spirit's connecting power creating a blessed communion with the True Vine.....sipped joyfully because we are the Branches set on fire with faith and new life! Pentecost proclaims God's transformative power to change lives.

The Holy Spirit fills us and makes us literally drunk on the love, mercy and grace of God. Here our Lord's storehouse of generosity, abundance, beauty and joy is made available to every person of the world by simply believing in Jesus Christ. We receive it. With humility & joy.

We just don't really know what to do about Pentecost these days.

We don't see little flames on each other's' heads.

We may hear wind out there among the trees but not in and among us. We have the Bible written in hundreds if not thousands of different languages, available on the internet, easily accessible for anyone at any time, so all people have the opportunity to read and hear of God and believe. And yet active faith lives are at an all time low. No doubt the wind & fire scared those 120 people gathered that 1st Pentecost. Kind of shook what they had known or expected.

Keep in mind, Pentecost's promise of the Holy Spirit had been a dream of Israel since the day they received the promise of the Saviour.

God told them to build tents out of palm branches in their homes.

Sit in them. Wait in there in readiness for the coming Holy Spirit.

It's called the festival of booths, in the Autumn, and Jews today still celebrate this. But on Pentecost the waiting is over. The Spirit comes.

They could see and hear but don't know what they're looking for.

We tend to look for God in the mighty wind, the fire, the big deals in life.

Wanting a big rescue immediately from trouble

Rather than seeing God unravel the problem in His own time.

There continues to be killing in Palestine and Jerusalem,

Effects of climate change

Shootings in the US

And life in lockdown.

Where's God in the face of this!?

We want to see the signs and wonders, have the purposes of life all unraveled and fully explained.

Our sin keeps us wanting things out own way, which is not always God's way.

We don't get to see God in those big, ground shaking kind of things.

Rather, He's with us as we are in the struggles, the trials, the boredom the turnaround events life throws our way.

Because it wasn't the fire or the roaring, mighty wind, that got through to all those 3,000 other people who crowded outside & around the upper room on Pentecost. It was Peter's sermon that moved the huge crowd.

God living within Peter to create transformation!

Preaching the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

The dreams and visions and prophecies—and how all who call on the Lord's name will be saved! Yes, and this coming from the lips of an imperfect, hasty, fisherman turned pastor, the denier of Jesus the night of His suffering –from Peter. The Spirit took those words and planted them into the ears and hearts of all the listeners. So that they then and we today would come to faith! That's the Spirit! That's the Way!

Jesus is THAT Way and THAT Word comforting all listeners.

Jesus is the Drink that revives thirsty souls.

Jesus is the Bread that satisfies the hungry heart.

Jesus is our purpose in living which the Holy Spirit directs –

keeping us trusting in Him, keeping us focused on His love and mercy, helping us dwell contented in our families and serve all who have need whom we meet. We do not live only to ourselves.

We are each made as one in service to all others.

And the Spirit is the driving force winging this message and gifts to us, even today, nearly 2000 years later.

Here we are, still listening to a pastor's voice, still hearing our own voices singing, speaking, praying...still reading the same Pentecost message. Because God makes His promises believable, accessible, real. He needed a wind and a flame all those years ago as the climactic completion of His saving work as the Perfect Son born to die on a cross and give us life. But after the wind and fire left, the simple Gospel of Christ carried on. The church is born and gathers every week, every Sunday, in the Spirit, sharing the same gifts we have to rely on – Baptism, Prayer, Scripture, Forgiveness, Holy Communion. That's the awesome universal transformative power of the Gospel to change

A message the Holy Spirit still carries to human hearts. Happy Birthday, Church. Amen.

lives.

REFORMATION 500TH ANNIVERSARY SOUTH AMERICAN SETTING

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

May 23, 2021 10 AM Blended

OPENING HYMN: "Holy Spirit, Light Divine" LSB 496 Song 13 77 77

Holy Spirit, light divine, shine upon this heart of mine, Chase the shades of night away, turn my darkness into day.

Holy Spirit, joy divine, cheer this saddened heart of mine, Yield a sacred, settled peace, let it grow and still increase.

Holy Spirit, love divine, glow within this heart of mine, Kindle ev'ry good desire, purge me with Your Holy Fire.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive our poverty of worship, our neglect of fellowship and the Sacraments of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive us that so little of You love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgements, hasty in condemnation, grudging in reconciling, unwilling to help all in need:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Have mercy on us, O God:

According to Your never-ending love, blot out our sins, wash us through and through from sinful stains, creating clean hearts in us, with new and right spirits. Amen.

With mercy and compassion, our Father in Heaven saves you. The Light of the promised Holy Spirit guides your feet into the way of peace. And so in the place of Jesus Christ and by His Holy Command, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you: And also with you.

Let us pray: O Father, You taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Fill us with the same Spirit, so that we may have a right understanding in all things and always rejoice in His holy comfort; we ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

The First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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." This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Romans 8:22-27

[St. Paul writes:] We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in

our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



The Holy Gospel

St. John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 15th & 16th chapters:

Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus says]: 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. 'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. '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 on 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. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker 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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Spirit, 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.

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."

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

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.

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

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.

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

James K. Manley (20th century), hymn-writer. Published in Everflowing Streams (1981). "Spirit," l. 1-4 (1978). Reprinted from <u>www.hymnary.org</u>.

MESSAGE
VICTORIA DAY ANTHEM – "God Save The Queen"

God save our gracious Queen, long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious, happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us -- God save the Queen!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for pouring your Spirit out so abundantly since Pentecost, and for uniting us with our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessings of his resurrection through your gifts of grace. Continue to send the Holy Spirit into the world through the preaching, teaching and witnessing of the church, and through your holy Sacraments. Bring many people to faith and open up lives to Jesus as Lord.

We speak to You, O Lord; hear our humble prayer.

Build up our faith and confidence in our own parish, trusting your mighty power rather than our own efforts. Keep us close to your holy word, and stir us up to work for you in the ways you have gifted us and to the tasks you call us.

We speak to You, O Lord; hear our humble prayer.

You inspired the disciples with your Spirit to praise your marvelous deeds in many different languages. Unloose the tongues of all your people, so that we may joyfully confess you as our Lord and boldly proclaim our common faith to all the world. Bless the witness to Christ given by all the churches in this area; give all Christians the unity that is only possible through the Holy Spirit and your word of truth.

We speak to You, O Lord; hear our humble prayer.

Your Spirit touched the hearts of those who heard the Gospel message. Ready the consciences of those who hear your word and help them embrace the truth, so that all may turn away from what harms us and receive your merciful forgiveness. Open the minds and hearts of those in our homes, in our neigbourhoods and in our workplaces to hear and believe. We speak to You, O Lord; **hear our humble prayer.**

Your Spirit brought healing and hope through the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Shine on them with your grace and peace. Give health and strength to all we know to be in need, such as [names added...], that if it be Your will, restore fullness of health or uphold them with grace to endure; We speak to You, O Lord; hear our humble prayer.

You united people from many different nations and cultures by your Holy Spirit. Bring together those who have been divided by misunderstanding, hatred, and mistrust, and join us with them and all the angels as we adore you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE 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.

BLESSING

Go out into the world in peace; take good courage, hold fast to what is good; strengthen the weak, honour all, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing always. And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Spirit Divine Attend Our Prayers"

"AZMON" tune "Oh For A Thousand Tongues To Sing" LSB 528

1. Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
and make this house your home;
descend with all your gracious pow'rs;

2. Come as the light, reveal our need, our hidden weakness show, and lead us in those paths of life where all the righteous go.

oh come, great Spirit, come.

5. Come as the dove and spread your wings, the wings of peaceful love, and let your church on earth become one with the church above.

Andrew Reed [1788-1862], children's hymnal