

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashely Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

May 23, 2021

9:00 AM

PENTECOST



Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son, Holy Spirit, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we will confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things we have done
and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you,
and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P 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.

C Amen.

- 1 O day full of grace that now we see
 appearing on earth's horizon,
 bring light from our God that we may be
 abundant in joy this season.
 God, shine for us now in this dark place;
 your name on our hearts emblazon.
- 2 O day full of grace, O blessed time,
 our Lord on the earth arriving;
 then came to the world that light sublime,
 great joy for us all retrieving;
 for Jesus all mortals did embrace,
 all shame and despair removing.
- 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,
 when he on the cross was hanging;
 and then he arose and moved the stone,
 that we, unto him belonging,
 might join with angelic hosts to raise
 our voices in endless singing.
- 4 God came to us then at Pentecost,
 the Spirit new life revealing,
 that we might no more in death be lost,
 its pow'r over us dispelling.
 This flame will the mark of sin efface
 and bring to us all true healing.
- 5 When we on that final journey go
 that Christ is for us preparing,
 we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
 all joy of the heavens sharing,
 and there we will join God's endless praise,
 with angels and saints adoring.

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001, alt.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Mighty God,
C you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-21

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “*Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?*” ⁸*And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?* ⁹*Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,* ¹⁰*Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,* ¹¹*Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”* ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “*What does this mean?*” ¹³But others sneered and said, “*They are filled with new wine.*”

¹⁴But 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.*” ¹⁵*Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.* ¹⁶*No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:*

¹⁷*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.*

¹⁸*Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.*

¹⁹*And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.*

²⁰*The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.*

²¹*Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:24-34, 35b (read responsively)

²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!

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

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.**

²⁶There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷**All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

²⁸You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

³²You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

³⁴May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.

^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:22-27

By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and 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. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise 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. ²⁷And 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.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

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

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

Jesus said: ²⁶“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. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b}“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless 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. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Duminy

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

ELW 398

- 1 Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine;
breath of God and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.**
- 2 Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine;
kindle ev'ry high desire;
purge me with your holy fire.**
- 3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
fortify this will of mine;
by your will I strongly live,
bravely bear, and nobly strive.**
- 4 Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine;
speak to calm this tossing sea,
stayed in your tranquility.**
- 5 Holy Spirit, right divine,
king within my conscience reign;
be my guide, and I shall be
firmly bound, forever free.**

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819-1892

NICENE CREED

**☒ We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(stand)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 C hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Helen Taylor

Illness: Richard Bock, Kristin Boe, Don Burton, Sydney Dietrich, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, David Penning, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, Rosemary Tessin, Sheri Tipton, John Waterman, Evelyn Winther, Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Wyatt Johnson, Josh Kropenske, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

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

As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Veni Creator Spiritus”

Waldemar Partyak
Kai Johnson, *violin*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

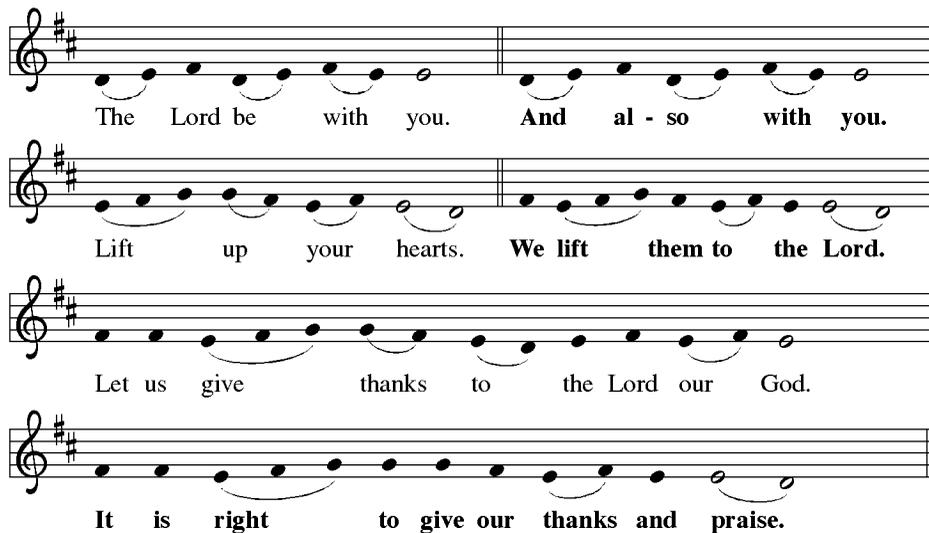
ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of love,
C you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR PENTECOST

SANCTUS



Ho - ly. ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:
- ☑ **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ The risen Christ invites us to this table.
- ☑ **Come, eat and be satisfied.**

DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.

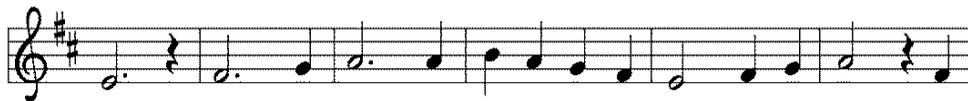
Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

ELW 800

- 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 op'ning 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.**

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

- 1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
in the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
o'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising
those of earth to thrones on high;
living, life-imparting Spirit,
you we praise and magnify.**
- 2 Holy Spirit, ever living
as the church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving
through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming
in the church the mind of Christ:
you we praise with endless worship
for your gifts and fruits unpriced.**
- 3 Holy Spirit, ever working
through the church's ministry;
quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,
setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding
age to age and soul to soul
in communion never ending,
you we worship and extol.**

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874-1939, alt.

COMMUNION BLESSING

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ℟** Wellspring of joy,
☩ through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love will bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ℟** May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

- 1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!**
- 2 God of blazing, God of burning,
all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!**
- 3 God of earthquake, God of thunder,
shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!**
- 4 God of passion, God unsleeping,
stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
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DISMISSAL

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C Christ is risen indeed Alleluia!
- P** The worship has ended. The service begins.
C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, organ

Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Saturday or Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 22 & 23, 2021

Kountze Food Pantry
Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM
9:00 - 11:00 AM
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry is in great need of toilet paper! We only provide it on request, but apparently there is a great need for it. Please leave your donations in the box in fellowship hall, or in the office. We also need new or like new reusable tote bags (we cannot reuse plastic grocery sacks), cereal, and full-sized hygiene products. Please place your donated items in the shopping cart as you enter for church, in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall, or in the church office. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! If you are able to volunteer, please sign up by using the link below:
<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Sponsor Our Youth on the 2021

KMLC Summer Youth Trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma

Please consider sponsoring the 2021 Summer Youth Trip. Your donation can be placed in the offering or mail it to the church office. Make sure you mark in the memo that it is for the Mission Trip Sponsorship. Another option to give is to visit www.kmlchurch.org and click on "Online Giving" to donate on the web!

Again, you will find in the section for Children and Youth Ministries the line item for Mission Trip Sponsorship. Our gift back to you will be a time to gather and share our experience of this trip with you. It would be most helpful to receive all donations by June 1. Thanks for your consideration! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Shari at shari@kmlchurch.org or 402-341-7761.

Today at Kountze

Youth Forum

In-Person & Zoom on Sundays, 10:15 - 11:00 AM

All 9th - 12th Graders are invited to join us!

We will meet in person in the Youth Room and on Zoom each week

- 1st Sunday: Bible Ponderings
- 2nd Sunday: High School Hang Out
- 3rd Sunday: Serving in the World
- 4th Sunday: Host Middle School Hangout
- 5th Sunday: Adventures (if on Zoom, we will carry you along with us)

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org) if you need the Zoom Link info. We will continue to be masked and physically distanced for all meetings in person at the church.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 30
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 116
Wednesday Attendance: 12
Total: 158
Streaming Attendance: 87
Cox Cable Attendance: 285
Pantry Guests Served: 824
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23
Offering:
\$8,509.00 (Regular) \$16,500.10 (Specials)
\$1,427.00 (Debt Reduction)

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday June 13

10:15 AM

In-person Meeting in the Sanctuary

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to interested members on the sale of deFreese Manor to the House of David Preservation Inc, a nonprofit corporation registered in the District of Columbia. The deFreese Manor Board plans to provide a summary of the sale conditions, followed by a Q & A period. The meeting will conclude with a vote of members in attendance at the meeting that Sunday.

The Spirit of God sustains all of life.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given
Tuesday	Romans 8:22-27	The Spirit intercedes
Wednesday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	The valley of dry bones
Thursday	Joel 2:21-27	The Lord will bless the land
Friday	Ephesians 4:7-13	Equipping the saints
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	All living things depend on God
Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit



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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works. Psalm 104:30-31 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, lead us to be the body of Christ in the world and guide us into the truth that Jesus brings for the salvation of the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Creator God, we thank you for this food as you give all living things their food in due season, you open your hand and fill us with good things. (Psalm 104:27-28)

A Blessing to Give:

May you be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to live in faith, hope, and love.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- ☑ What is something in creation that gives you joy?
- ☑ What is something that concerns you about the frailty of creation?
- ☑ In Psalm 104:31, God rejoices in the work of creation. How does that motivate you to care for what God has created?

Read: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b.

Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit that enlivens the church to continue what the disciples learned and received through Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus Christ alive and real today as Savior, not just as a historical figure to recall from the past. Jesus' forgiving and renewing work is extended to the church of all times through the Spirit. What is worth remembering is that the Spirit is celebrated in Psalm 104 as the source of life for all of creation. Without God's Spirit there is no breath and creatures "die and return to their dust" (v. 29). We live in an age when the earth is being harmed by pollution of many kinds that endangers future generations, human and nonhuman alike. It is important to see the link between God's work of creating life through the Spirit and redeeming all life through Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for life created, life redeemed, and life sustained through this one God in three persons. How does Pentecost lead you to care for and celebrate all that God has made?

Pray: **Dear God, you who love all that you create, give us that love through your Holy Spirit to care for the earth and tell others of the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Pentecost reminds us that the world is full of many languages and different cultures. Jesus' promise to the disciples was fulfilled on this day. It enabled them to speak in other languages and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. How can you spread the good news to those who speak other languages and are from different cultures?

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships – often in our own homes. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is our helper in prayer (Romans 8:26-27). Prayer is one way to practice the Christian faith in our homes. The Spirit brings our needs and concerns before God, even when we do not know what or how to pray. Light a candle when you pray this week. Look upon the flame as a symbol of the Holy Spirit that lives in you.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17**