

Bethlehem Star

Connecting People to Jesus"

June 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

In the Church year Pentecost is a major festival. This year it falls on the 31st of May. However it is not just a single Sunday celebration. Pentecost initiates the second half of the church year. The first half began with Advent and closed with Ascension. Pentecost begins the longest season of the church year with as many as twenty-seven Sundays. While the first half of the year observes the life of Christ the second half deals with the life of the church through the work, gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Christian Pentecost is related to the Jewish festival of Weeks, seven weeks from Passover. It marked the giving of the Law and the founding of Israel. Christians celebrate Pentecost as the day of receiving the Spirit and the founding of the New Israel – The Church. On Pentecost Christians are also grateful for the gift of the Spirit which create faith and call us to repentance and faith.

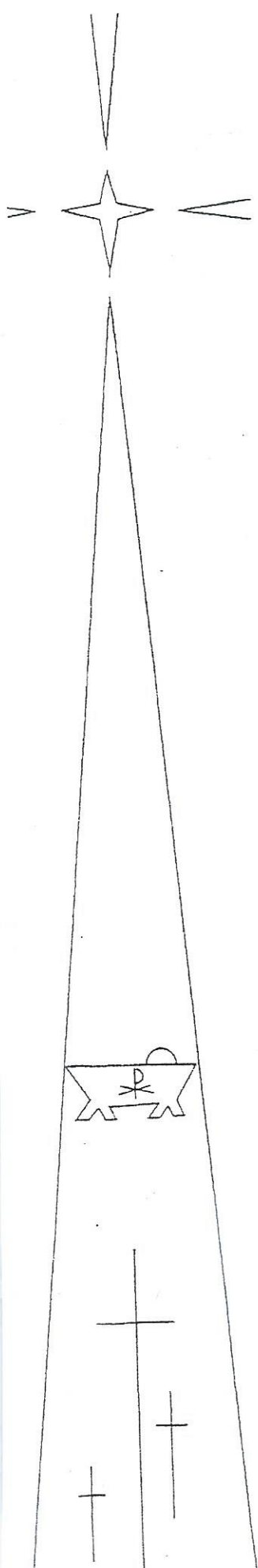
The color of the Day of Pentecost is red. It is the color of fire, for the Spirit came in tongues of fire. Fire also represents warm hearts, fiery zeal, dedication, and devotion. Red is also the color of the blood of the martyrs which is the seed of the church. The color for the Sundays after Pentecost are green. It is the color of growth. In this season Christians grow in the Spirit as they exercise their faith and work in the vocation that God had called them into.

The mood of Pentecost is:

1. **Celebration.** Pentecost has a mood of joy because the promise of Jesus to send the Spirit was fulfilled and the gift was received. Pentecost has the joy of new members received and sinners coming to repentance. It is the joy of the birthday party, for it is the birthday of the New Israel – the Church.
2. **Gratitude.** Christians are grateful on Pentecost for the Spirit and his sevenfold gifts. The Spirit brings life; he calls, enlightens, and gathers believers into the Church. Since the Church is the product of the Spirit Christians are grateful for the Church as the mother of their faith.
3. **Hope.** Hope results from the Spirit's making all things new. Pentecost is renewal and revival day in the church. The Spirit is renewed in the faithful. Pentecost is more than an observance of a great event in the past but is a repeatable experience here and now. With the Spirit comes new life and hope.

Hopefully in the month of June we will be able to re-open our churches, rededicate ourselves to the mission and ministry the Spirit has given to us as the Church.

Pastor Griesse



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler



The LHM Mission: *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*

Global Focus— LHM-Liberia

Website: www.lhm.org/global

Equipping the Saints* training session helps bring young man to Christ

James is 22 years old and is the seventh of eight children in his family. He lives with his older brother who practices a non-Christian religion and encourages the other siblings to follow that religion as well. James has been curious about Christianity and is friends with a pastor at a local church. The pastor told James about a training event that was going to be held at his church and James decided to attend. The event was an **Equipping the Saints*** training session hosted by **LHM-Liberia**. The staff at the event assumed James was there for training, so they included him in all the activities and answered all the questions James asked. LHM staff members described his questions as ones being asked by someone seeking truth and wanting to get rid of doubt. After two days of training, James decided he had found the truth and expressed a desire to become a member of the church. The pastor is now continuing to help James grow his new-found faith.

***Equipping the Saints** is a series of voluntary workshops that heighten participants' interest in witnessing and provide them the practical tools they need to reach out to family, friends, and neighbors who need to hear the Gospel and experience God's love.

Lutheran Hour Ministries International Ministry Centers in more than 30 countries serve the needs of hurting people. Ministry center volunteers reach out to their neighbors and communities in culturally appropriate ways with the story of Jesus—sometimes at great personal risk. **Every \$10 you give enables us to reach over 2,000 people with the Gospel!** A \$50 gift shares the Gospel with more than 10,000. To donate or for more info:

June 2020

June 7

"An Undeserved Salute"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
New Series Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-16)

June 14

"What You're Getting Into"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
New Series Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5)

June 21

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
New Series Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5)

June 28

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
New Series Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5)

LHM plays a vital role in helping spread the Gospel message all over the world with 34 ministry centers on six continents reaching into more than 50 countries, often bringing Christ to places where no other Christian evangelistic organizations are present. LHM's flagship ministry, The Lutheran Hour®, airs weekly on more than 1,800 radio stations and the American Forces Network.

MINISTRY NEWS

Has your idea of work changed in the last three months? how has your work world been impacted? You can let the folks at THRED know what you think by [clicking here](#)

MINISTRY EVENTS

Dependent on social distancing guidelines from State and local Government officials.

National Events:

SENT 2020: Registration now open
www.lhm.org/sent2020/
Saturday, October 17, 2020
St. Louis Union Station

NW/AK district Events:

District Convention
September 12-13, 2020
St Luke's Lutheran Church
Federal Way, Washington.
Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler will share news from LHM at the Saturday convention and will preach later that afternoon as well as at both services on Sunday.
Look for registration info next month.

LLL/LHM Districts

The Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) is divided into regional districts and district zones, each zone having ambassadors for each of their zone churches. Districts partner with an Int'l LHM ministry center. Districts have the opportunity to choose from a variety of ministry center needs, allowing them to reach out with effective ministry to the people of that region.

Listen to The Lutheran Hour



LHM MOBILE APPS



LHM NW/AK Newsletter Editor
Julia Sinclair Zone 2 Eastside President