

Cross Words

Reaching, Teaching and
Living with the Cross of
Christ

**June 2019
Edition**



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Pastor's Page

Pastor John De Young



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Easter was so late in the Spring this year that Pentecost falls in the second week of June. But many misunderstand the festival of Pentecost. Some say it is a Jewish festival. Others say it is a Christian celebration of the birth of the Church. So, is the celebration of Pentecost a Jewish celebration? Or is it a Christian celebration? The answer: Yes and Yes, respectfully. Looking at the etymology: Pentecost is from the Greek word for "fiftieth day."

The festival is so named from Exodus 23:16 and is known as "the feast of harvest," and again in Exodus 34:22 as "the day of the firstfruits" (Numbers 28:26) – also known as the Festival of Weeks. From the sixteenth of the month of Nisan (*the second day of the Passover*), seven complete weeks, i.e., forty-nine days, were to be reckoned, and this feast was held on the following day or the fiftieth day. It is seven weeks from Easter, on the fiftieth day after Easter. While the feast is movable, changing dates as Easter changes each year, it is always on a Sunday, just as the first Christian Pentecost was.

The manner in which it

was to be kept is described in Leviticus 23:15-19 ; Numbers 28:27-29 . Besides the sacrifices prescribed for the occasion, every one was to bring to the LORD his "tribute of a free-will offering" (Deuteronomy 16:9-11). The purpose of this feast was to commemorate the completion of the grain harvest. Its distinguishing feature was the offering of "two leavened loaves" made from the new corn of the completed harvest, which, with two lambs, were waved before the LORD as a thank offering.

But here is where the confusion starts for Christians: On the day of Pentecost after the crucifixion – meaning when the Jewish people had gathered at the temple to offer their sacrifices and offerings for the festival of harvests (Pentecost), the Holy Spirit descended upon the Jewish apostles, and on which, under Peter's preaching, so many thousands were converted in Jerusalem (Acts 2). Therefore, the 1st Christian Pentecost – the festival of weeks and of first-fruits is a celebration of an interesting harvest of souls in the Christian Church. The first fruits of that harvest were the 3,000 souls gath-

ered to the Church on that first Pentecost. Here, we celebrate the day of first fruits not just because of those souls gathered, but primarily because it was the day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church in a visible and audible way, giving the Church its formal start.

Notice, that I am careful to say that Spirit was given "visibly" and the start of the church was "formally" on that day because neither actually began on Pentecost. No one believes without the Holy Spirit, and the disciples clearly believed before that day, so they had the Spirit in them, and the Church existed throughout history as the whole total number of those that believe in Jesus, or in the promise of Jesus to come, or in the promise of salvation, first given in Genesis 3:15 as God was about to remove Adam and Eve from the Garden.

On Pentecost, God fulfilled the promise to send the Holy Spirit in a way that was recognizable and undeniable except to hardened unbelief. Although there were as many as 500 hundred brethren already before Jesus ascended (1 Corinthians 15:6)

who could be rightly called “Christians” (even if the term had not been invented yet, that happened in Antioch some time later, Acts 11:26), the Christian Church formally began, distinct from prior church bodies, on Pentecost number one. Like Lutheranism, the Christians would have been happy to remain in Judaism and reform it into the body of believers, but that was not to be. Unbelievers would not permit that any more than they would permit the reformation of the Roman Church at the time of Luther.

Pentecost today is the celebration of something we have never witnessed in quite the same way as the first Christians. They had the noise of the great wind (a spirit reference!) and the tongues of fire on the heads of the Apostles and the speaking in tongues of that first Pentecost to mark the event. The gift of tongues on that day was different in kind from what men claim is the gift today because the Apostles all spoke languages of the people gathered around them. It was not merely ecstatic speech which was without meaning to all those who heard it. That day has never been replicated since the time of the Apostles. Oh, sure the Scriptures talk of a couple of events on which the Spirit was similarly poured out on others, but not like the first Pentecost.

But remember – we do still see the Holy Spirit poured out today. It happens in Baptism. We don’t see the Spirit, but we see Him being poured out with the water. I know it happens because Scripture says so. My eyes only see the water, but my trust in the Word of God shows me the Spirit, as God performs what He Promised and creates Faith in those who are “born of water and the Spirit,” John 3:5.

We hear the sound of the Spirit on every Easter day (Sunday) which is to say every Pentecost celebration - every Sunday - in the preaching of the Word of God in Truth and Purity. After all, “faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ,”

Romans 10:17. The sound of faithful preaching is the sound the Holy Spirit makes today to call men and women to faith and to Eternal Life in Christ Jesus.

Although modern life can confuse us and deceive us by hiding reality from us, we can take comfort that the Holy Spirit locates Himself in Word and Sacrament. Although, we cannot see, for example, the Holy Spirit at work in the Church as we worship. We can know He is there, by taking God at His Word. We are responding to what we know and believe, not what we perceive with our senses, and the modern world has done an awfully good job of training people to believe only what they can perceive to be real - and not even all of that.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church to teach and lead and guide her, even though we do not perceive directly the hand of the Spirit, and the Gift of the Spirit to each and every one that believes, even though believers generally do not perceive His presence in them.

Luther referred to the hiddenness of God, or *Deus absconditus*. Luther would say God uses tools or God hides behind masks. What He was describing is how we often cannot sense God where He is at work. He works through His Word, but when we hear it preached or sung (as in the liturgy) we do not feel His presence or work. When God forgives us our sins, we do not feel that forgiveness. We may believe it is so and feel about the forgiveness, but the forgiveness itself is not tangible. We have no nerve endings to sense that. It is the Holy Spirit Who brings those gifts to us.

We don’t think of it that way, often, because Jesus died for our forgiveness, and we might pray to God the Father for the forgiveness won for us, but the Holy Spirit is the one dealing with us - not that it makes any difference, since all God does in our lives is done by all three members of the Trinity. We can distinguish

among the Persons of the Trinity for teaching purposes, but those distinctions are artificial as far as human observation - or the witness of Scripture - is concerned.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to make the good news of the gift of God in Jesus Christ known and to bring men to faith in what God did and what He Promised in connection to what He did in Jesus Christ. He does that work through preaching, and through Baptism, and through the LORD’s Supper and through Holy Absolution and through the witness of the children of God when they witness the Word of God. He uses what we call the Means of Grace, the Word and Sacraments.

Anyone who wants to take you anywhere else to find the Spirit or identify His work is trying to lead you astray. He isn’t in your feelings, although you may be feeling about what He has done. He is to be found in the Church, but you may be able to enter a church and see them doing religious-looking stuff and He is not there because the Word of God has been falsified and the things they do as “sacraments” are self-described as mere symbols and rituals and nothing more. Thing is, even in the Church, you cannot see Him or who He is in for sure, you can just see His work being done and know He there.

So, on June 9, we will celebrate the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, the Person of the Trinity Who wants you to look away from Him to Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor De Young

From the President

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

The 67th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod will be held this July. The theme this year is “Joyfully Lutheran” and the text is 1 Thess. 5:16-18.

What a wonderful text! Rejoice, Pray and Give Thanks – a fantastic reminder of what it means to be a Christian.

This text is also a reminder of how blessed we are to be a part of Cross of Christ. We are approaching the midpoint of 2019 and I rejoice in the fact that your council is strong and full of passion to continue God's purpose for us.

I also Pray for each of you and our church. I Pray that God "... preserves in us faith and His heavenly gifts, strengthen us day to day, and keep us to the end." (LSB notes)

Finally, I give thanks that we are financially sound heading into the summer months. Each of our boards have done a fantastic job working within budget and Stewardship remains solid.

So it is with encouragement that I say Cross of Christ continues to be blessed far beyond that which we deserve.

Yours in Christ, Dan

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Board of Elders

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Carrie and I are leaving on a trip to Russia for two weeks so we will not be here when Dr. Jerry Kieschnick leads our service on June 9th. As you may be aware, he is coming to give our church a substantial check. The check is the result of a bequest to our church by Marion Knaub, who was a member here.

Marion passed away over a year ago. At the time of her death, she had very few assets but she left the most sizeable asset to our church. She and her deceased husband (Bob) had bought two crypts at a mausoleum in Wisconsin and those were left to our church. Dr. Kieschnick became the executor of the estate and I will let him explain how that came to pass

when he is here. After much effort over the course of a year, he was able to sell the crypts and the proceeds from the sale, net of expenses, will be presented to our church. What a wonderful gift!

I would also like to mention that Marion unfortunately did not have many friends in this world when she passed. She did, however, have a good friend named Lisa Combs. Lisa helped take care of Marion in her last few months and assisted her in getting into an assisted living facility/hospital. She also went out of her way to assist in the estate process so that the Church could ultimately receive the proceeds of Marion's gift. She did all of this as a good Christian and never received or asked for anything from Marion. What a blessing Lisa was to Marion and our Church.

This experience has caused me to think about my own estate planning and perhaps you may want to consider it as well. Our natural inclination is to leave our assets at death to children and family members. Perhaps, we all should consider leaving something for the Lord (after all, our material gifts don't belong to us but to Him). I believe Dr. Kieschnick is going to talk about this more at the Bible class he is leading. I am hopeful that everyone can attend the services and his class and celebrate this special occasion.

Peace be with you! Tom

School Happenings!

Graduation was a success, with 6 graduating students!

Summer enrollment is good and we have a few openings, tell your family and friends.

Our Spring Yard Sale will be June 15th, volunteers can sign up in the Narthex.

We will hold our 4th of July parade on July 3rd. Plan to attend and enjoy the parade.

Board of Properties

Thank you to the Graves; the Huse's and A.D. Cowser for their work in our flower beds. Although there is more work to be done we have made great progress in making our Church grounds look great.

Jacob Hedtke, working towards his Eagle Scout put together a team of 27 Boy Scouts and leaders to begin the work on the school playground. Our goal is to bring the playground area that is age appropriate. Volunteers are needed to help complete the work. A sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex. You can volunteer to work on the playground or to fix some brown bag lunches for the workers and bring drinks.

A special thank you to my brother, Howard Fussell for his help with labor and equipment on the playground project.

We have a goal to set up a garden area for the children after the playground equipment is in place. Watch for more news!

JUNE Birthdays

6-07	Noreen Hall
6-12	Harry Davis
6-15	Katie Graves
6-16	David Freerksen
6-21	Karen Dillon
6-23	Lloyd Parker
6-23	Cynthia Huse
6-24	Isaac Arrington

We are sorry if we have inadvertently left your name off the birthday list. Please contact the church office by phone, 972-223-9340, or e-mail at: crossofchristchurchtx@gmail.com so we can update our list.





Remember:

As you travel and stay in hotels please pick up the travel size shampoos; soaps; tissues; conditioners; and mouth wash. Place them on the table in the main hallway and we will set them aside for our Gift Bags we present to the Pregnancy Center. We also collect baby socks and booties; onesies; and receiving blankets for this worthwhile project.



Widowed Friends is taking the summer off!

We will resume meeting in September, watch for more information.

Family Life Ministry

The May activity has been set. There will be a fish fry at the home of A. D. Cowser. (1351 Bryson, Midlothian, TX 76065) There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. SAVE the date May 5th, after church.

We had 14 people at the first outing and 16 for the second. Let's top those numbers for the next outing.

Watch for details coming soon. We welcome suggestions for future events.

A. D. Cowser

Below is the website to enter to the **Amazon Smile** account that benefits Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. Feel free to share this information with others that shop on Amazon.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1850377>

As you shop you will see "Eligible for Amazon Smile donation". These items will earn .5% for Cross of Christ Lutheran Church at time of purchase. No additional fees or charges will be added to your purchase.

This summer we will have a **Clean the Handbells** event. We need a coordinator for this event. Won't you help us coordinate this? Let Pastor De Young; Greg Fussell; or Sharon Wilson know if you are interested.

In May we received \$84.81 from the Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Board of Christian Services

Before the Voters' Meeting on June 1st we will have a Potluck dinner. The meal will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Voters' Meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Please bring a dish to share and attend this important quarterly meeting. It is about *Your* Church!



Emily De Young, daughter of Pastor and Tammy De Young
&
Nathan Straley, grandson of A. D. Cowser

Both graduated on May 18th from Texas Tech with their Juris Doctor of Law.

Now on to the Bar Exam!



COC Lutheran School Yard Sale

JUNE 15, 2019

Yard Sale, benefitting the School Playground Project.

Donations will be accepted until close of business day, Thursday, June 13, 2019.

Please get with Lila on where to place donations. Note furniture will not be accepted.



June 30th we will be replenishing our Food Pantry for those that need assistance.

This is also DOW Sunday and donations of sewing related items and foods for DOW will also be accepted.

DOW accepts food items such as: rice; pickles; couscous; flour; sugar; cornmeal; tuna; salmon; sardines; green & black tea; coffee; peanut butter; jams preserves; canned beans; canned milk; olives; olive oil; canned tomatoes; canned fruits; canned vegetables; raisins; dates; spices; nuts.



Volunteers Needed!!

Chris Kloess has agreed to take over as the chairperson for the Altar Guild and is asking for volunteers for the Guild. We need two people to complete the current schedule. Please visit with Chris Kloess to learn more.

Sharon Wilson has assumed the role of coordinating the Saturday Secretaries. We need one person to fill the teams of volunteers.

Remember our Shut-ins

Nathalie Smith; Dolores Jirik; Joan Symank; Dr. Falke; Lucille Gropp; Sue Riewe; Grace Miller

Sewing Seeds of Faith

There are items available from the Sewing Seeds of Faith.

Please take a look and remember all items are available for a free will offering. New items have been received.

Items currently available include:

Teddy bears—dressed
Cosmetic bags
Kleenex covers
Pillow cases
Table runners
Apron
Hand bags
Large pot holders
Adorable little girl dresses
Chair caddies



Scrip Cards

Shop with Scrip!

If we don't have a gift card for a store or restaurant you would like, ask! We can add it to the next order, just for you.

To purchase Scrip Cards: See Lila Fussell or Carrie Graves after church on Sundays, or call the school at 972-223-9586, or contact Sharon Wilson at the church office during the week.

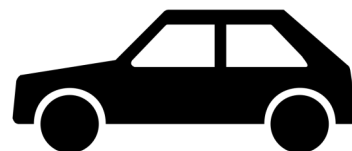
Please help keep our church grounds clean and tidy. If you see trash, please pick it up and dispose of it properly.
Thank you!

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

If you need a ride to church the Board of Family Life and Ministries is willing to help.

Contact A. D. Cowser
972-979-3584 -or-
Sharon Wilson at the church office 972-223-9340.
Please allow plenty of time to make arrangements for your ride.

If you are willing to pick up someone for church, please contact A. D. or Sharon.



HEROD THE GREAT

M N O T A B L E N N I D L G F N
 D I E D T H E E M I L F N N O R
 O T H S I W E J A O A I Y I O U
 R H H R I N L I T R D E G T B T
 E E E E C M F D S N S E D C O E
 H T A I F L R A E K R I Q U F R
 S E E D S O L S N E N T O R J M
 P M N L L A R I H T A O Y T E O
 M P A O A O L T K E E T W S S U
 T L M S F M N S R O H H K N U N
 B E O S A I Y G O E T P I O S T
 B H R I S D E R T K S E N C P I
 O N K H F H A I E U A S G R L C
 G E M F T O M A V V W O O O B P
 A H C L I E N T N N E J F F Z D
 R W D V E X P A N D I N G Z M Y

Find the CAPITALIZED words listed below in the puzzle above.

HEROD
 THE GREAT
 WAS THE
 ROMAN
 CLIENT
 KING OF
 JUDEA IN
 THE TIME
 OF JESUS.
 HE IS KNOWN
 FOR SENDING
 HIS SOLDIERS
 TO KILL
 EVERY MALE
 JEWISH
 INFANT

in the REGION
 HE IS ALSO
 NOTABLE
 for CONSTRUCTING
 the FORTRESS of
 MASADA and
 EXPANDING
 the TEMPLE
 MOUNT.
 WHEN HE
 DIED THE
 LORD TOLD
 JOSEPH to
 RETURN
 TO ISRAEL

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving the LORD

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Charlotte Walker

GREETERS: Donice Arrington; Suetta Freerksen; Christ Kloess

USHERS: David Freerksen; Phil Strand; Arvid Hall

June 5

COUNTERS - Harry & Eileen Davis
ELDERS - Robert Flye
LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand
NURSERY - Cassie Martin
SATURDAY SECRETARY -
(1) Cynthia Huse; Amber Parker

June 9

COUNTERS - Elton & LaVonne Kindler
ELDERS - Allan Kloess; Dale Huse
LOCK-UP - Tom Caldwell
NURSERY - Jackie Peña
SATURDAY SECRETARY -
(8) Polly Braig; Kate Duncan;
Patty McKethan

June 16

COUNTERS - Gail Bielefeldt; Charlotte Walker
ELDERS - Tom Graves; Ron McKethan
LOCK-UP - Carrie Graves
NURSERY - Cassie Martin
SATURDAY SECRETARY -
(15) Lila Fussell; Chris Kloess

June 23

COUNTERS - Ken & Kay Boelter
ELDERS - Tom Caldwell; Thomas Lee
LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand
NURSERY - Jackie Peña
SATURDAY SECRETARY -
(22) Carol & Bo Brown; Nona Flye;
Ellen Holmes

June 30

COUNTERS - Bennie Symank; Gail Bielefeldt
ELDERS - Robert Flye
LOCK-UP - Tom Caldwell
NURSERY - Cassie Martin
SATURDAY SECRETARY -
(29) Bennie & Joan Symank; Vera Watson

JUNE 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2019 Activities

June 1st	5:30 p.m.	Pot luck Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Voters' Meeting
June 6th	7:00 p.m.	Board Meetings
June 6th	12:30 p.m.	"Living with Grief"*
June 13th	7:30 p.m.	Council Meeting
June 15th	8:00 a.m.	Yard Sale
June 20th	7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
June 26th	9:30 a.m.	Braille, Grace Lutheran, Arlington
June 20th	12:30 p.m.	"Living with Grief"*
June 22nd	10:30 a.m.	Feed Thy Neighbor
June 23th	9:00 a.m.	Confirmation
June 30th		Dow Sunday (bring your donations of sewing related items)
June 30th		Food Collection for Food Pantry