



ST. LUKE'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

MAY 2021

MUSINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

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Last month I wrote a bit about the Easter Season. As the fifty days continue, I want to focus a bit on Pentecost. This year, we will mark Pentecost on June 6.



Pentecost marks the end of the Easter Season and the Easter Cycle, though it is perhaps best known as the official start of the church; that great day when the Holy Spirit, via tongues of fire, came upon the disciples and gave to them all manner of power and authority to go into the world and declare a risen Savior. The early church viewed Pentecost as the second-most important day of the Christian year.

Like many other days and seasons in the Liturgical Calendar, Pentecost has roots in the Old Testament. According to the Law, and defined by the Jewish calendar, all males were obligated to appear before the Lord three times every year. The second of these times was called the Feast of Weeks. "This feast concluded the interval that began with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves, marking the end of the grain harvest. It was celebrated with much joy as year by year Israel gave thanks to Yahweh for showing his faithfulness by

providing another harvest to sustain them."¹ The Feast of Weeks was celebrated seven full weeks, fifty days after The Passover. It was a feast that reaffirmed Israel's covenant bond with God.

Within the 1st century A.D., Pentecost, for the Jews, became a time to remember Moses' reception of the Law on Mt. Sinai. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (3rd century) connects the two in this way: "Fifty days are reckoned from the celebration of the Passover (which as Moses ordered, was accomplished by slaying the lamb, a type to signify the future passion of the Lord) to the day on which Moses received the Law on tablets written by the finger of God. Likewise, when fifty days had passed from the slaying and resurrection of him who was led as a lamb to the slaughter, the finger of God, that is, the Holy Spirit filled the believers gathered in one place."

These examples illustrate how and why the timing of Pentecost is as it is. They provide an inextricable link to the past that cannot and should never be denied or downplayed. God is always purposeful in what he does and says. The consistent timing of these key events across a vast period of time provide objective reasons to explain the importance of knowing our Jewish heritage; our ties to the chosen people of God as ingrafted branches onto the vine of Christ.

However, the explanation above is not all there is to fully comprehend the meaning of Pentecost. The lack of comprehension can be directly attributed to the elevation of individualism that has been wrought in our time. As stated in the beginning of this section, Pentecost is perhaps best known as the official start of the church—it is the initial event that gave the disciples turned Apostles all the tools they needed to begin the church. For some, it is even viewed as the time when the Holy Spirit began working in the world. Both are inherently incomplete explanations and erroneous in its focus. If one were to define the church as believers in Christ, then by the time of Pentecost, the church was already between two and three years old as there were certainly people who believed in Jesus during his ministry and are attested by the biblical record. The explosive growth of the church in the 1st century attested by the book of Acts affirms there are both a substantive number of believers and another number who were close to believing and only needed to hear that Jesus is resurrected to become believers. Secondly, the biblical record attests that the Holy Spirit has been active in the world from the beginning.

Pentecost is the day the Holy Spirit constituted the church as a corporate community. It is not only, as it has become in some sects, a day focused on the individual gifts received by the disciples and subsequently by others. The biblical record attests to the results of that great day: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship...All the believers were together...Every day they continued to meet in the temple courts...” The day’s concluding events were about fellowship and meeting together for the purpose of worship.

Secondly, consider the words of Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem (c. 386): “But the Spirit taught them at once many languages, which they do not know in a whole lifetime. This is truly lofty wisdom. This is divine power. What a contrast between their long ignorance in the past and this sudden, comprehensive, varied, and unaccustomed use of languages. The multitude

of those listening was confounded; it was a second confusion, in contrast to the first evil confusion at Babylon. In that former confusion of tongues there was a division of purpose, for the intention was impious. Here there was a restoration and union of minds, since the object of their zeal was righteous. Through what occasioned the fall came the recovery.”

The church, until recently, saw a direct correlation between the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9 and Pentecost. Lectionaries used to include the Genesis account as a reading on Pentecost. The Book of Common Prayer (Episcopal) still includes the reading in the lections while the United Methodist Book of Worship, using the revised common lectionary does not. This is unfortunate. The Tower of Babel represents confused individualism and a disconnection from each other in the face of extraordinary human arrogance and pride. Pentecost reverses the curse of Babel. It is about the connection of believers by the Holy Spirit who enabled people from many places and languages to hear and accept the same proclamation of grace. Pentecost is, therefore, about the community of believers, interdependent links through which the will of God is able to be accomplished, not about individuals. The free-spirited individualism of our time is an anathema to the Christian faith and contravenes the very nature of the church.

All of these are relevant to grasp the fullness of Pentecost not as an inauguration but as summarization. All that God intended and purposed in the salvific work of Christ is accomplished at Pentecost with “one flock and one shepherd” —The Church.

Peace.

Pastor Dan

i. International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Volume 3, p. 757.

News from the United Methodist Women
Submitted by Becky Schoonover

The UMW would like to thank our Sunday School teachers, Mr. Walt Palmer, Dr. Jim Orr, and those working together in the adult class. Thank you for all that you do!

St. Luke's will soon be honoring our 2021 graduates! If you have a graduate in your family, or know of a church member who is graduating this year, please contact the church office.



Hello St Luke's Families,

This message is coming to you from your "Friendly Flower Bud"

If you are receiving your Voice article before April 29th you still have time to get your Mother's Day geranium order in. Our geraniums this year are red, pink or white and can be purchased for \$10.00 each. You may purchase them in honor or memory of someone; each dedication will be listed in our worship bulletin on the 9th. Please know that if you order a geranium you can pick them up following the service that you attend that day or until Thursday, May 13th. All geraniums left after the 13th will be shared with our shut ins unless other arrangements are made; please feel free to contact me (410-310-4065) to do so. (We will follow this same routine for our future poinsettia and lily orders.)

Also, our altar flower schedule has been posted just outside of the sanctuary. This is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a loved one. Please select a date, fill in your name on the calendar and place your order with your favorite florist. Two florists who have access to the sanctuary are Johns' Four Seasons and Patti's Petals. If you choose another florists and are concerned about delivery please feel free to contact me. Finally, please call the church office prior to Wednesday of your week and let our secretary know how you would like the dedication to be listed in the bulletin.

Happy Spring! Becky Manship

Update From United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men are having their monthly breakfast on Saturday May 1st at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall! No one has missed these breakfast's anymore than Fred, Jim and myself, it has been way to long since the last one! It has been a labor of love for us to see you all enjoy a great Eastern Shore Breakfast and enjoy the friendships and Christian Fellowship of all! We ask that those who attend wear their masks except while eating! This will be Pastor Dan's first breakfast so let's all welcome him to our fellowship! We also want to lift up the lives of Reverend Arthur George, Alan Lockerman and Don Homesley who were regularly in attendance, they will be missed!

Yours in Christ,
George Lacy

Elementary Sunday School

Just a reminder, that there is Elementary Sunday School available to those who wish to attend. Elementary Sunday School is offered each Sunday from 9:30a – 10:30a on the second floor of the church in rooms 19 and 20. A virtual option is also available.

The focus for May will be on the early Church and the ministry of Paul. During each class we take time to build Bible skills, memorize prayers and verses, and do crafts as well. Snacks are always served. Those attending are socially distanced and hand sanitizers are available.

The Elementary Sunday School will conclude on May 30 and resume when public schools open in the fall. Those who have questions, suggestions or concerns are encouraged to contact Jim Orr at jto327@yahoo.com.

Prayer Concerns.....

Tim Dayton, Michael Alexander, Ryan Alexander, Margaret Griffith, Mike Benny, Vicky Winter, Kurt Plinke, Helen Vogt, Quinn Williams, Robyn Smith, Wendy Bradley, Mitchell Wheatley, Josh Breeding, Ann Justice, Hollis Cantwell, Bill Eason, Rea Poore, Bette Shull, Elaine Orme, Dolly Smith, Taylor Moody, Rev. Rick Vance, Allison Gardner, Jana Dean, Brooke Schroder, Sharon Eaton, Gary Griffith, Terry Griffith, Kimberly Wooters, Brad Lynch, Renee Barringer, Colleen MacFarland, Robbin Ritter, Herb Granger, Alex Slonin, Archie Carroll, Brooke Drawdy, Susan Bunker, Gary Simpson, Sylvia Holland, Anne Jusell, Alan and Gloria Vandam, Robbie Lister, Pat Browne, Lisa Barge, Jim Johnson, Phyllis Harrison, Carol Stockley, Dale Nygren, Hayden Semans, Ruth Dore, Su Jusell-Lappin, Conrad Rosemere, Rob Cohee, Elaine Friel, Sarah & Abby Price, our country and its leaders on both sides of the aisle. Praise for miraculous recovery of Amy Clopper.



Sympathy to the family and friends of Laura Schlegal, Chris Corkell, Warren Lee Harman

Prayers for those serving in the U.S. Military: John Biddle, Jake Brown, Chelsea Bunker, Sean George, Seth Gill, Brockman Harris, Jr. Mann, Mitchell Mann, Justin Moore, Andrew Robbins, Dale Tuel, James Wright, and Matthew Parker.

To add names to these lists, we ask that you either call (410-479-2171), e-mail (stlukes@goeaston.com), or drop-off/mail to 100 South 5th Avenue, Denton. Please be sure to include your name and telephone number so that we can contact you regarding the status of the person needing prayer; otherwise the name will be removed after a couple of months.

Thank you to all who remember those named on our prayer lists. Only God knows how many are blessed because you care enough to pray.

Thank you, Ann Willey! Welcome, Carrie Soldano!

As the May edition of the Voice is distributed, we want to take this opportunity to thank Ann Willey, St. Luke's Administrative Assistant for the past 7+ years, for her commitment. Ann has served with distinction and always placed the needs of St. Luke's above her personal ones. Ann has been through three (3) ministerial changes, services of worship and a host of challenges over those years. Ann has distinguished herself by always wanting to do the right thing on behalf of our congregation and community. We wish Ann, her husband Bob, and family all the very best as this transition takes place. We surely hope they will come to see us often in the future.

As Ann departs, we welcome, Mrs. Carrie Soldano as our new Administrative Assistant. Carrie and her husband Chris are relatively new to this area, having relocated from the Annapolis area to be closer to family. The Soldano's have been attenders at our 11 a.m. and Ignite services since Fall 2019. Carrie brings to the Administrative Assistant position a variety of experiences as a secretary and parish manager in Easton and has also served as a Christian educator for over 20 years. She's been an administrator, guidance counselor and teacher in a Christian School. She's also directed Sunday School programs has been involved in a variety of ministries in education, helping the poor, and meeting the needs of her community. Carrie commented on her new appointment, "Any work in a Christian community makes my heart happy. My desire is to support the church and its growth."

As you see Ann and Carrie, join us in thanking and welcoming our Administrative Assistants.

Thank you!

MAY ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us in rooms 1&3, 9:30 AM
Last class until the Fall is May 30

Walk as Jesus Walked

Being a Disciple in a Broken World

Ray Vander Laan



Final Parting Thoughts

As my time as the Administrative Assistant for St. Luke's has come to an end, I want to express my thanks to everyone for "putting up" with me for so many years. It has truly been my pleasure to serve in the position, be the support for 3 very different ministers, and be a resource for the congregation. As I have been welcoming Carrie Soldano and doing what I can to show her the ropes in this very different time of Covid-19, I have thought about the most challenging duty of the position. For me, that would be finding volunteers to do all the many "jobs" that just seem to get done! What has always been the norm, making a schedule at the end of the calendar year for tasks like lock-up, head usher, children's moment, liturgist and greeters; most of these tasks have not been necessary during the shut-down period, but we should see them ramping up. The schedules did not get done the end of 2020, however they should be returning in the foreseeable future. I'd like to thank everyone that has so graciously agreed to fill the liturgist spot on short notice each week and encourage **YOU** to think about the other areas that will be coming back. Please let Carrie know what you would be comfortable doing. Others you could discuss this with, would be Pastor Dan, Jody Herb, Louise Webb & Linda Parsons. Stepping up to fill these very important & necessary duties is vital to the church getting back to "normal".

Now I will climb down from my soap box, to thank Linda Parsons for her willingness to back me 100% of the time and cover every Thursday. Thanks to Linda Turner for filling in at other times when I could not get appointments on Thursdays or Fridays. And, Jim Orr, who was appointed by SPRT to be my mentor. What a challenge he had, but he was always available to listen, support and guide me. Thank you, Jim.

This church building and its congregation are so important to the Denton Community, and really, all of Caroline County. It has a responsibility to come out of this pandemic as strong as it has been over the years. Bob and I are planning to stay involved in St. Luke's. This is not a real good-bye but a plea for volunteers and a chance to express my Thanks.

Blessings,
Ann

ST. LUKE'S REACH FUND

Mission Projects

Many people in our congregation may not know what the **REACH FUND** is and what it does. During the many years that this fund has been active here at St. Luke's, we have designated the last Sunday of each month to be REACH Offering Sunday.

Listed below are six missions that benefit from your gifts.
 Be assured that 100% of every dollar you give is sent to support these mission projects.



- Denton Child Development Center
- Caroline Hospice Foundation
- United Concerned Christians Samaritan House
- Caroline County Habitat for Humanity
- United Methodist Board of Child Care Children's Homes
- "Lifetime Wells International"

Please remember the **REACH FUND** with your gifts. You cannot begin to imagine the difference every dollar makes in the lives of countless people, young and old, near and far. Please make your check payable to St. Luke's U. M. Church and denote **REACH FUND** on your envelope and/or check.

2021 FATHER'S DAY HONOR ROLL

Father's Day is Sunday, June 20th!

You can make a difference by supporting these vital mission projects.

For a donation of \$5.00 or more, you can help many people through the St. Luke's REACH Fund. You may give this donation in honor or memory of your father or another loved one. On Father's Day, the church bulletin will include an insert showing your dedication. Please make your check payable to **St. Luke's U.M.C. "REACH Fund"** and place it, with this form, in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to St. Luke's U. M. Church, 100 S. Fifth Avenue, Denton, MD 21629, **by Friday, June 11, 2021.** As always, you may donate to the REACH Fund without making a specific dedication.

In honor of _____
 Given by _____

In honor of _____
 Given by _____

In memory of _____
 Given by _____

In memory of _____
 Given by _____



St. Luke's United Methodist Church Treasurer's Report

For Period January through December 2021 as of March 31, 2021

Description	Annual Budget 2021	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	% Budg Used
<u>Income</u>				
Offerings	242,307.00	50,211.65	192,095.35	20.72%
Offerings - Sunday School	100.00	28.00	72.00	28.00%
Interest Income	25.00	7.60	17.40	30.40%
Building Use	3,000.00	830.00	2,170.00	27.67%
Administrative Building Use	0.00		0.00	
Total Income	245,432.00	51,077.25	194,354.75	20.81%
<u>Expenses</u>				
Pastor Expenses				
Salary	58,000.00	14,499.99	43,500.01	25.00%
Travel Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Cable TV at parsonage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Hospitalization/Dental	18,180.00	5,100.00	13,080.00	28.05%
Bishop's Retreat	0.00		0.00	0.00%
Continuing Education	0.00		0.00	0.00%
Pension Plan	9,512.00	2,378.01	7,133.99	25.00%
Pastor Expenses - other			0.00	
Total Pastor Expenses	85,692.00	21,978.00	63,714.00	25.65%
Staff Expenses				
Staff Salaries	71,400.00	19,744.53	51,655.47	27.65%
Wage and Tax Expenses	7,140.00	1,102.62	6,037.38	15.44%
Worker's Compensation	1,428.00		1,428.00	0.00%
Expenses - other			0.00	
Total Staff Expenses	79,968.00	20,847.15	59,120.85	26.07%
Conference Apportionments	22,379.00		22,379.00	0.00%
Easton District Office	1,343.00		1,343.00	0.00%
Janitorial Supplies	1,000.00	45.00	955.00	4.50%
Electricity/Oil	12,000.00	4,887.51	7,112.49	40.73%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	6,500.00	1,877.23	4,622.77	28.88%
Kitchen/ParsonageFuel	4,000.00	1,720.11	2,279.89	43.00%
Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance	1,800.00		1,800.00	0.00%
Insurance	10,300.00		10,300.00	0.00%
Maintenance and Repairs	5,000.00	805.00	4,195.00	16.10%
Miscellaneous	100.00		100.00	0.00%
Music Committee	1,200.00	95.00	1,105.00	7.92%
MYF Program	200.00		200.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	3,000.00	125.53	2,874.47	4.18%
Postage	1,300.00	725.00	575.00	55.77%
Pastor/Organist, Substitutes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Pastor's Moving Exp Escrow Acct	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Stewardship	1,300.00	644.07	655.93	49.54%
Telephone	2,000.00	1,160.52	839.48	58.03%
Water and Sewer	1,500.00	363.21	1,136.79	24.21%
Spiritual Life	1,750.00	699.15	1,050.85	39.95%
Worship Materials	1,000.00	125.97	874.03	12.60%
Total Operational Expenses	79,772.00	13,391.57	66,380.43	16.79%
Total Expenses	245,432.00	56,216.72	189,215.28	22.91%
Net Income over Expenses	0.00	(5,139.47)	5,139.47	

The Voice

of St. Luke's
May 2021

St. Luke's UMC Staff:

Rev. Dan T. Gedman- Minister

Administrative Assistant: Ann Willey

Director of Music: Rebecca Zinser

Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Director: VACANT

Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn

Sexton: Dennis R. Weaver, Sr.

Voice Editor: Stacey Reid

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Return Service Requested

To:

