

PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 15, 2016

Pentecost began as a powerful wind shaking a house and a baptism of fire in the shape of tongues descending on the members of the group (Read ACTS 2: 1-11). Whatever fear and fragmentation the disciples had felt was overcome. They became one in the Spirit. One in faith, hope and love. The gift of peace is a continuing sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the midst of living and in our experience as Jesus' disciples.

One significant aspect of speaking in tongues was a sign of unity. When they became aware they could preach to the crowds in any language, they gave voice to the gift of healing of an ancient division that occurred in the story of the Tower of Babel (GENESIS 11).

While we often refer to Pentecost as the birthday of the church because at that moment the Holy Spirit entered the followers of Jesus, they became the body of Christ in the world. However, we do not want to overlook that the church was born on Golgotha in the breath, blood and water of Jesus. In the upper room, the disciples learned that the work of the Spirit is mercy as the gift of peace spread among them.

What the disciples freely received they freely gave. Whose sins they forgave, they were forgiven. The love Jesus shares with the Father and the Spirit began to dwell in them. This is how the world knew that they were Jesus' disciples.

Pentecost reminds us that we are the church now and we are the body of Christ in the world. It is our turn, and the Spirit gives us everything we need to continue Jesus' mission through the power of The Holy Spirit. We at First Lutheran Evangelical Church are an embodiment of church given life in The Spirit.

We can continue to expect help as we grow and expand. The life given us with the energy and insight of The Holy Spirit is life-giving. Thankfully the goodness of God our Father, and His Son, and The Holy Spirit is with us now and always for all ages to come.

Please pray with me: Come Holy Spirit, Come and Inspire Us with Your Gifts.

Pastor Folmar