



Dear Friends in Christ,

Every year as spring unfolds, the Christian church celebrates Holy Trinity Sunday. We glorify God for one of the greatest mysteries of our faith: the 3=1, 1=3 divine nature of God. Now, if you're hoping I'm about to explain God's math, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed: I'm not too good with the earthly kind, let alone the celestial!



Every time Trinity Sunday rolls around, though, I find myself reflecting on mystery and its place in our faith and in our lives. When I read passages of scripture like...

*Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother's womb so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things* (Ecclesiastes 11:5-6)

...it makes me a little crazy. I like to know how things work. How and why. But people of faith and science simply don't get all the answers we seek. We are thrust into mystery daily, and are endlessly surprised by the workings of the world and the Spirit of God who moves through it. Let's face it, life is a mystery. It's a mystery written by the hand of God, long before we were born, filled with ongoing revisions, but all within the purpose and providence of God. And God calls each of us to take part in the mystery. To seek after him and his ways. To glimpse God and yearn ever more for his presence. And finally, to trust his guiding hand to write the ultimate reconciliation of all heaven and earth—and write our names in the rolls of the faithful that live forever in the kingdom!

That's quite a call to answer. And anyone who's trying knows: the more one follows Christ, the more surprises one encounters along the twists and turns of the Way. It's a lot to ask of us. Especially when trust is so hard to come by amid the broken faiths and disappointments of our world. How do we begin to trust? How do we live faithfully within the mystery? That passage from Ecclesiastes continues:

*Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon,  
for you don't know if profit will come from one activity or another—or maybe both.*

I've never been big on gardening metaphors (or gardening--extreme insect aversion), but the sentiment here rings true. We can't really know the outcome of our planting—our daily scattering of words and actions. So go ahead and plant. *Plant with all you've got.* Live, love, give, witness, praise, worship and serve *fully*. It's like William Purkey was restating Ecclesiastes with his famous quote:

*You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching,  
Love like you'll never be hurt,  
Sing like there's nobody listening,  
And live like it's heaven on earth.*

Who knows what wonders God will make of seeds we plant?—what color the bloom, what flavor the fruit, what strength the vine. God is faithful, and a little trust in God will go a long way. And no matter what the outcome of our work and words, our faith will help us know the simple pleasure and peace of being part of the ongoing mysterious glory of our God!

Blessings for a glorious spring.

Yours in Christ,  
Pr. Diane

# FROM THE LEARNING TEAM

## What is Pentecost?

On the day of Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, the church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the mission of God extending to the whole human family.



Pentecost means "the Fiftieth [day]" in Greek. It is one of the prominent feasts in the Christian liturgical year commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ after the Resurrection. The feast is sometimes called Whitsunday in various Christian traditions. Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Sunday, hence its name. Pentecost is historically and symbolically related to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus.

Among Christians, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the New Testament Acts of the Apostles 2:1-31. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the "Birthday of the Church". The biblical narrative of Pentecost is given in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. As recounted in Acts 2:1-6:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

<sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.

<sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

While those on whom the Spirit had descended were speaking in tongues, the disciple Peter stood up with the eleven and proclaimed to the crowd that this event was the fulfillment of the prophecy ("I will pour out my spirit") in Joel 2:28-29. Acts 2:41 reports: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

### *Principal Themes of Pentecost:*

- The Holy Spirit.
- The Formation of the Church.
- Christ as the Light of the World.
- The Mission of God to all nations.
- The empowerment of the faithful for mission.

*Color of the Day:* Red, a color associated with the festivals of the church, and the Holy Spirit.





CONFIRMATION CONGRATULATIONS  
AND GOD'S BLESSING TO

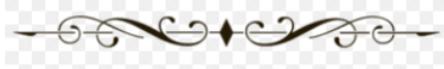
**LONDYN BURGER**

AND

**ALISSA GRZEIKA**

AS THEY AFFIRM THEIR BAPTISM  
THIS PENTECOST SUNDAY  
MAY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Make sure to join us for worship  
to support Alissa and Londyn, and help them celebrate  
this special milestone in their faith life!



As the time comes to celebrate this great occasion,  
the Confirmation class and the Learning Team would like to  
offer our special thanks to Confirmation co-teacher

**LISA DEBARBA**

We are grateful for the energy, passion, wisdom, and  
generous spirit Lisa shared with the class this year. We are blessed  
to have her helping guide our young people on their journey of faith.  
She put so much heart and effort into teaching them about God, the church,  
the bible, and how to live as a faithful disciple of Christ. God bless your good  
work, Lisa. You make a lasting difference in your students' lives!

## FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

With the month of May, we finish up the Easter season, and head into the season of Pentecost.

We'll have a new liturgy to help us lift our prayers and songs of praise for our great and glorious God!



May 20<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of Christian church, when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to the Lord's faithful followers, inspiring and empowering them to share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ! And what a perfect day it is to celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism of our two Confirmation students. Please join us for worship to support Londyn Burger and Alissa Grzeika on their special day!

Also in the works for May is a special worship service to say goodbye to and give thanks for the Salem St. sanctuary and school building, and all the wonderful ministry that happened there over the years. More information will be announced shortly.



### **Some Highlights from the April Congregational Council Meeting**

Property concerns are a major focus in council work these days. Council has approved the repair of the storage shed at Coen Street. Also approved for Coen St. is Calvary church's proposal to carpet the downstairs learning area of the office building and install an interior door window—for the care and safety of their nursery and Sunday school kids. Calvary will be financing the renovations. A clean up day for Coen St. was scheduled for Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> to help us prepare for our move there. Also being organized are clean up and moving efforts at Salem Street. Most Saturdays for the next several weeks will be work days. Volunteers are needed. Please see Allan Wood or Carolyn Raming for more information and to discern how you can best help the efforts. At April's meeting, members of the Forward Leadership team presented to council and to the Mutual Ministry team some of the exciting things they've been focusing on, and shared the learning they've received at leadership workshops. There will be a presentation to the congregation soon.

## FROM THE MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Our congregation is caught up in the whirlwind of the Holy Spirit, and this is a time of transition for us. God is calling us out of our comfort zones and stretching us toward new areas of growth.



Mutual Ministry

With big change often comes uncertainty, grief, anxiety, and conflict. The Mutual Ministry Team is available to listen to concerns, and to help our congregation work together toward our common goal of faithful growth in God's mission. Please contact the church office for more information about Mutual Ministry, or to set up a meeting with the team.



May 3 – Michael Roland  
May 4 – Don Goudreau  
May 8 – Pam Chesnas

May 15 – Kenneth Morissette  
May 25 – Robert Frennesson  
May 30 – Christina McFall

*If you don't see your birthday or anniversary,  
please let the church office know, so we can add you to the list.*

# MAY WORSHIP HELPERS

	<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 27</b>
<b>GREETERS</b>	Terri & Peter Meleschnig	Carol & Arnie Wallas	Charlotte Freer	Budge Gabrielson
<b>READERS</b>	Lisa DeBarba Erik Krueger	David Frennesson Diane Wood	Carolyn Raming Allan Wood	Pete Diamante Mary Schmelke
<b>USHERS</b>	Beryl Montville & Karen Reisinger	David Frennesson & Robert Frennesson	Gabriel Diamante & Pete Diamante	Ted Kosko & Arnie Wallas
<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</b>	Charmaine Lawton	Carolyn Raming	Lisa DeBarba	David Frennesson
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Ben Meleschnig	Londyn Burger	Abigail Diamante	Gabriel Diamante
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Sharon O'Donnell	Carolyn Raming	Carolyn Raming	Terri Meleschnig

## FELLOWSHIP FOR MAY

May 6 – Margaret Bender & Karen Reisinger  
 May 13 – Katie Gabrielson & Gerhard Roland  
 May 20 – Carolyn & Bob Burger  
 May 27 – Carolyn Raming & Mary Schmelcke



## PRAYER LIST

*Please hold in prayer your brothers and sisters in Christ, especially:*



Carmen Delessio, Liesel Voosen, Michael Roland,  
Nora Sue Duque, Lisa Duke, Ned Squire,  
Trevor Dyer, Ed Mulligan, April Fazekus,  
Deborah Dadali, Joshua Peterson, Bill Hass,  
Paul Eichner, Patrick Harrington, Karen Parker,  
Johnny Roland, Sean Skehan, Pastor Diane,  
Cherie Weiss, Rhonda Ricupero, Allan Johnson,  
Nancy Luddy.



*If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the church office.*

*Also, there is a prayer request sheet in the church entryway.*

*If you want us to continue praying for someone beyond the month, just let us know.*

## Remembering Friends & Family

Addresses are listed below for our members who are currently unable to attend services.  
A card or note is always welcome.

### **Betsy Robb**

500 Woodside Ave, Middlebury, 06762

### **Mavis Hanning**

Glendale Health Center  
4 Hazel Ave, Naugatuck, 06770

### **Michael Roland**

The Village at East Farms  
180 Scott Rd, Room #154  
Waterbury, 06705

### **Allan Johnson**

40 Lorann Dr, Naugatuck, 06770

### **Lindy Parson**

366 Millville Ave, Naugatuck, 06770

### **Merton Brown**

54 Florence St, Naugatuck, 06770

### **Mildred Evenson**

75 Trowbridge Place,  
Naugatuck, 06770

### **Dorothy Fritz**

Southbury Lutheran Home  
990 Main St. N, Southbury, 06488

### **Anita Peterson**

Apple Rehab  
35 Bunker Hill Rd, Watertown, 06795

**Thank You For Caring!**

**NEWSLETTER** 

Reminder: April newsletter articles and announcements must be in no later than May 15th. Thank you!

## MAY 2018 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
			6:00pm Confirmation Class  7:00pm Choir Practice			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:45am Choir Practice  9:30am Worship			6:00pm Confirmation Class  7:00pm Choir Practice			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:45am Choir Practice  9:30am Worship		6:30pm Council Meeting	6:00pm Confirmation Class  7:00pm Choir Practice			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:45am Choir Practice  9:30am Pentecost Sunday Worship			7:00pm Choir Practice			
27	28	29	30	31		
8:45am Choir Practice  9:30am Worship			7:00pm Choir Practice			

### Community Building Use

Boy Scouts meet Mondays 7:30pm and Fridays 6:30pm at Salem St  
 Overeaters Anonymous meets Tuesdays 7pm, Wednesday 12pm, Saturdays 11am at Coen St.  
 AA meets Wednesdays 7:30pm, Thursdays 8pm, Fridays 7pm at Coen St  
 Calvary meets Wednesdays 6:30pm and Sundays at 11am at Coen St.  
 Girl Scouts meet most Tuesdays at 7pm at Salem St.



**Grace Lutheran Church**

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Naugatuck, CT 06770

**Staff:**

Rev. Diane E. Rainson, Pastor  
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