



THE PROCLAIMER

PENTECOST: THE DAY THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Last Sunday, we celebrated the Day of Pentecost. Have you ever stopped and thought about what that day means for us as Christians? Pentecost is one of the three biggest days in **HIS STORY**. On the Day of Pentecost, God ushered in several things that were unimaginable just 50 days before.

The most important thing God ushered in was to help the Jewish people in Jerusalem understand that the person they thought was a common criminal was in fact their Messiah. Jesus did not meet the expectations of the Jewish people of His day. He did not conquer the Romans. He did not set up the kingdom and restore it to its former glory under King David. Because Jesus did not do these things, he was seen as a false prophet and false Messiah.

The Jews did what you might expect in that day to a false Messiah—they killed Him. Sure, they handed Him over to the Romans and they crucified Him. “Good riddance” was what many thought. Imagine their surprise when the Holy Spirit moved Peter to speak in the Temple on that great day, and hearing him say, *“This Jesus, whom you crucified, is both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2:36).

The other great change brought about because of the Day of Pentecost was how the Jews worshipped. All their lives, they had done sacrifices and offerings at the Temple. The time would soon come when believers in Jesus would not be welcome in the Temple. They would worship in home churches. When Nero persecuted the Church, they worshipped in the woods and the church went underground—in some places, literally.

The third big change happened when they began to welcome Gentiles—people not like them at all—into the church. That took some adjusting, believe me. They even had a council—consisting of all the pastors—meet in Jerusalem in 46 A.D. to address the issue of the Gentiles. It is because of that meeting, found in Acts 15, that you are a part of Grace today.

We face a decision in a few weeks at the Voter’s Assembly. We hold the future of Grace and all future ministry in our hands. I believe we can transition to a storefront church. It will be different. Instead of waiting for people to come find us, we turn that around and go find them. We won’t have what we’re used to when we come to worship. Neither did the early Christians. It will be different. Are we better than they were, and not have to adjust to circumstances? I think you know the answer to that.

We have an amazing opportunity in front of us—one that we can seize and make a difference here in Everett, in our state and country, and all over the world. We have the opportunity to turn what Deacon Ryan has termed a church “in a terminal state” into a new opportunity for ministry and mission. It is time for our church to become outwardly focused. That does not mean we neglect our members. What it means is caring for our members and loving our neighbors as ourselves. We cannot do one and forget the other!

At the same time, we would have a unique opportunity to be a church that is truly a missional church. By using part of our resources, we can impact Everett, our state, our country, and our world. If done right, we will be able to have a mission where the sun never sets. We can go from a “terminal” congregation to one with a powerful ministry and mission. Instead of praying for survival, we can become an instrument used by God to bless many. The mission of His Son, Jesus Christ, is all over the world. What will it be like to be a part of that kind of ministry and mission? I hope we take the opportunity laid in front of us to find out!

--Pastor Anderson

COVID-19: What Has Changed

If you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people with a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#).
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - However, if you live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

What Hasn't Changed

For now, if you've been fully vaccinated:

You should still take steps to [protect yourself and others](#) in many situations, like wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are:

- In public
- Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household
- Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at [increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19](#) or who lives with a person at increased risk
- You should still avoid **medium or large-sized gatherings, especially inside**.
- You should still delay domestic and international travel. If you do travel, you'll still need to follow [CDC requirements and recommendations](#).
- You should still watch out for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.

March 21, 2022, Governor Inslee has declared that the facemask ban will be lifted. If you wish to continue to wear one, you may do so. If you wish to no longer wear one, that is also permitted. The Church Council will discuss the feasibility of doing the "Greet One Another." We will abide by their decision.

UPDATE: Governor Inslee has removed the indoor mask mandate beginning March 11, 2022, at 11:59PM. That means we are free to not wear a mask beginning next Sunday.

WE ARE HEADED BACK TO NORMAL!

PRAISE GOD!



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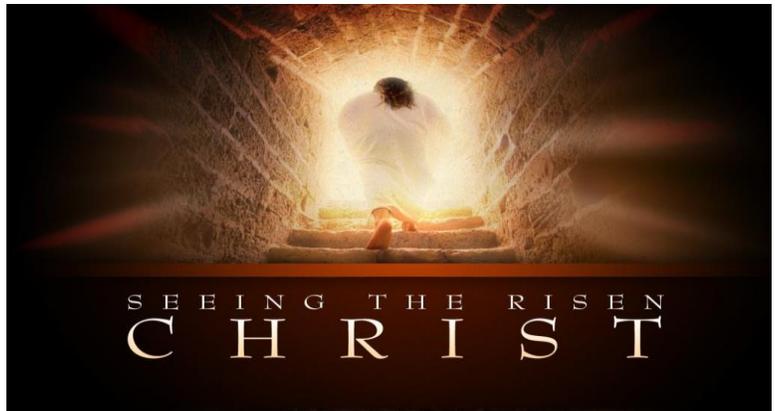
Elaine Pearson
Financial Secretary
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God's blessings to you
both on your
birthday!
June
Elaine Pearson 8
Sue Tenoll 21
Walt Ziebell..... ..23
Marilee Ryan 25
Kendra Cleveland 30



Moving on----



He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

June 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 29 9:00 HS Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service | 30 MEMORIAL DAY | 31 | 1 | 2 "Revelation" Class 4:00 PM | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9:00 HS Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 "Revelation" Class 4:00 PM ELDERS 6:30 PM | 10 PNW CONVENTION Pastor attending | 11 PNW CONVENTION Pastor attending |
| 12 9:00 HS Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service | 13 | 14 FLAG DAY Council Meeting 6:30 pm | 15 | 16 "Revelation" Class 4:00 PM | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:00 HS Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service FATHER'S DAY | 20 | 21 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER | 22 | 23 "Revelation" Class 4:00 PM | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:00 HS Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 "Revelation" Class 4:00 PM | 1 | 2 |

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article –June**



“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let’s explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive. So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also. This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



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