

FROM PASTOR JAY –

Pentecost Process: The term, “Pentecost”, in the Old Testament was associated with the time of the Harvest, and in the New Testament, (and us modern day Christians as well) is recognized as the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The season of Pentecost is a lengthy period. For 2023, Pentecost stretches 27 weeks, from May 28 - until Thanksgiving, up until Christ the King Sunday which is the beginning of the Advent. Half of the year is devoted to seeing how the Holy Spirit informs us, uses us, and causes us to be Pruned and Prepared to assist the Church in its growth. Try and think: “*Planting/Growing season*,” when rain waters the fields and you watch things mature.

Planting: when the soil is prepared, tilled, finished off and ready to put the seeds in the ground. It is important to realize that planting occurs all the time. If you have 6 kids, then in your family there are a half-dozen growing seasons that you need to be aware of. In the congregation there are many growing seasons going on simultaneously, sort of like a green house where the gardener is always in the process of planting, potting, and transplanting seedlings. How/When does such planting take place in the local church?

In that planting process, there will be a hands-on cultivating that needs to take place. Unlike in a field when a mechanical cultivator, or weed sprayer snuffs out noxious plants, parents need to select by hand the items that need to be removed, those things that will cause ill will or damage to their child’s well-being. (Think “Pruning.”)

Each household is to be cognizant of the timing of such “planting/pruning” for each child.

Power: Now this is the step that is the best part. Jesus says that when Pentecost comes, the coming of the Holy Spirit there will be a display of His Power in His believers. Acts 1:8: “... *you will receive Power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*”

From pastor jay (cont.)

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon a few people but did not always stay for a lengthy period. In Judges 13:25, the Spirit came upon Samson. He was able to destroy the Philistines, but the Spirit was taken away, Judges 16, for various reasons. Likewise with King Saul, the Spirit came upon him but departed when Saul acted foolishly. That will not be the case in the New Testament.

With such power the apostles were able to perform miraculous signs. Likewise in our current time the Lord can use us to touch the lives of others, and do yet even greater signs that Jesus did. (John 14: 12-14), so that the Father may be glorified.

Prayer: This is the strongest tool you will ever have. It goes straight to the Heart of God. Prayer requires time and effort. Intimacy with Jesus grows as you spend time focused on your intentions with Him. Remember you are a *disciple* and you have as much right to get into His presence as did Peter, Andrew, James, and John. No need to wait. Talk with Jesus. He promised that He would listen to you. He promises to give you wisdom (James 1:5) so ask for it. He promises to forgive you when you ask for forgiveness (1 John 1:9) What are you waiting for?

Pruning: people do not enjoy the pruning process, because it, at times, is painful. Consider cancer surgery; the process requires the removal of the tumor. Our tumors are called “Sin”, ugly, infectious, and fatal. Jesus, the great physician makes us clean. Get rid of it. What are the things that have crept into your life that need to be removed? You know what they are. Pray and ask for wisdom to discern when to get rid of it. Do not allow it to stay. The time is short. There is a better way. There is only One Way. You get the idea.

The Power of Pentecost found in Prayer is waiting for you. Blessings to you, my Friends. Pray for St. John.

Your fellow Worker,
P. Jay



COUNCIL MEETING NOTES



1. Council met on Monday, May 22, at 7:00. Pastor Jay led Bible Study on Isaiah 5:1-3 and Matthew 7:7, 18-20.
2. The monthly designated benevolence for June is Bangladesh Ministries and LWR Projects.
3. Discussion continues regarding Pastor Jay's transition from St. John.
4. A meeting is planned with Pastor Ours, NALC District Dean, June 4th at 2:30 p.m.
5. Parish-Life/Evangelism plans to recognize fathers on Father's Day with a small gift, refreshments, and photo op.
6. VBS Committee plans to start decorating in June.
7. Next council meeting is Monday, June 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

Please note that during the summer months the church office will be closed on Wednesdays.

Also, during the weeks of June 12th and 19th, the hours will be limited due to vacation, so please call the office to make sure someone will be there before stopping by.



The Personnel Committee is looking to fill one of our part-time secretary positions. Lindsey Loschen has resigned and will be leaving the office at the end of June. If you would be interested in or know someone who would be great at this role. Please contact Derek Sieberns, Josh Frerichs, Debbie Ackerman, or Ray Manselle.

DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE

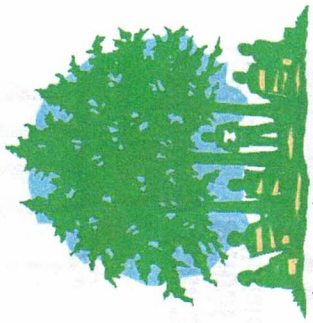
During the month of **June**, the designated benevolence is for **Bangladesh Ministries and LWR Projects** to help those in need. Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your gifts.



A special thank you to all those that contribute

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Outdoor worship services are being planned monthly through the summer (weather permitting). Please bring your own lawn chair, and members that have issues walking through the grass are encouraged to park on the south road (Duitsman Dr.) for minimal walking distances. Ushers and Council members will be available to help members with their chairs as well. Dates have been set for June 25th, and then July – September as the 2nd and 4th Sundays as outdoor worship services. The 4th Sundays in June and July, we will plan to have special music.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Father's Day is Sunday, **June 18th**. Special honor and recognition will be given to our fathers during worship and at the coffee fellowship that day.

Our thanks and God's blessings
to all fathers!

A FATHER'S LOVE

*In all that you do,
a Dad's love plays a part.
There's always a place for him
deep in your heart.
And each year that passes,
you're even more glad,
More grateful and proud
just to call him your Dad!*



**"Honor your father...
as the LORD
your God has
commanded."**
you ...

Deuteronomy 5:16

PARISH ED / YOUTH NEWS

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will shift to their summer schedule starting on Sunday, **June 4th at 8:30 a.m.** Classes will combine into 2 groups, Nursery-Kindergarten, and grades 1-6. If you can help teach, sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the north entry stairway. Please contact Allie Maul or Emily Johnson with any questions.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – SAVE THE DATE!

This year's VBS will launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! STELLAR rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun.



VBS Plans are underway! Stellar VBS will be held at the church **Sunday, July 9th-Thursday, July 13th**. A meal will be served from 5:15-5:55 p.m. and activities will take place from 6:00-8:00 p.m. A closing program will be held on Sunday, **July 16th**, during the worship service. Check the church website (stjohnroyal.org), for information on how to register your child online.

If you can volunteer during the week of VBS, please reach out to Chelsey Mohr, Shelley Breymeyer, or Jodi Bohlen. Any help is appreciated! Sign-up sheets are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Sunday school office.

The VBS Committee is also looking for people to help with decorations. They plan to start working on this project in June. Please reach out to Chelsey Mohr for specific dates and times if this is something you can help with!

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

God's blessings as you continue your journey in life and faith.

Graduating from eighth grade—

at Prairieview-Ogden:
Garrett Loschen

at St. Joseph Middle School:
Morgan Huls
Cameron Wagner

at Unity:
Alex Bromley

Graduating from high school—

at St. Joseph-Ogden:

Joselyn Frerichs, Hunter Ketchum, Madeline Osterbur,
Alayna Wagle, and Lili Wentzloff

Graduating from college—

at University of Iowa:

Kyle Ayers – M.F.A. in Dance

Graduates – and all Christians –
can trust in the promise of **Joshua 1:9 (NIV)**:

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

*Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*



REMINDER

LIST FOR



COUNCIL SERVICE:

Derek Sieberns
Steve Behrens
Josh Frerichs

ALTAR GUILD:

Jill and Dan Henderson
Debbie and Rodney Suits
Miki Wesley

SOUND SYSTEM:

Gary Duitsman

ORGANIST – PIANIST:

Loretta Aden
Susi Huls

DATE: ALTAR FLOWERS:

Jun 4 Osterbur and Smith families
Jun 11 Bruce and Shelley Breymeyer
Jun 18 Frerichs family, Chuck and Judy Carl
Jun 25 Rick and Teresa Aden, Nick and Angela Sauder

DATE: LECTORS:

Jun 4 Miki Wesley
Jun 11 Laura Ketchum
Jun 18 Laura Ketchum
Jun 25 Lori Hoveln

COFFEE HOSTS:

Gloria Grant
Parish Life--Evangelism
Teresa Aden

DATE: GREETERS:

Jun 4 Joel and Whitney
Highfill family

USHERS:

Doug and Miki Wesley

Dave and Julie Christians

DATE: COMMUNION HOST:

Jun 4 Provide Bread: Herb and Bev Thompson
Provide Wine: Kay Fiscus
Provide Grape Juice: Dale and Virginia Behrens
Jun 18 Provide Bread: JoAnn Lynch
Provide Wine: David and Cheryl Huls

OFFICIAL ACTS

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Lynn Osterbur**.
Lynn passed to his eternal home at Carle Foundation Hospital
on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Funeral worship was held here at St. John
on Monday, May 8.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of
Bill Carlisle.

Bill passed to his eternal home
on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

Funeral worship was held at St. John Cemetery
on Saturday, May 13.



May God's love, peace and strength sustain those who sorrow.

Four of our eighth-grade youth:

**Alex Bromley, Morgan Huls,
Garrett Loschen, and Cameron Wagner**

made public affirmation
of their baptismal covenant
in the Rite of Confirmation on
May 7 and 10.



*May God's Word always be their source for direction
and comfort through life's journey.*

WORSHIP DUTY SIGN-UPS

Currently the way we fill our worship duties is
through our Shepherd and Flock groups each
month. We would like to try a new method of
having several months posted for willing parties
to sign up in advance. We understand the month
your flock group comes up may not always be
convenient for your family, and hope this offers
an alternative way for you to help serve our congregation. We will
still use a Shepherd to fill in any blanks for the month but be sure
to be on the lookout for this new sign-up posted on the bulletin
board next to the map wall / east sanctuary entrance!



EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS



Dear St. John,
Thank you so much for letting us use
the church for our Sigma Alpha
Sisterhood retreat.

Thank you,
Anna Wentzloff and the Sigma Alpha Sisters

Dear St. John,

I would like to thank Pastor Jay and Jackie for their love and prayers. Next, with so many who are so sick in our church and community, I would like to offer up my prayers to our Heavenly Father for them and their families. Also, those who have recently lost loved ones. May they find that peace that passes all understanding. As for myself, I would like to thank all of you for your prayers for me, the cards that were sent, and especially the many hugs I have received. Especially on Easter before getting ready to go to Barnes for my cancer surgery. As they were putting me to sleep, I was thinking about those hugs and Jesus having my right hand and I knew everything would be just fine. I am glad to say that they think they got it all, I will need no treatments, and they will keep an eye on me that another one doesn't start up. I am blessed to have you all in my life and Jesus, the one who said many, many times in the Bible, "Do not fear". I was calm and did not fear no matter how it would have turned out. And I would like to thank my husband, Ray, for the great care he's taken of me. I couldn't have done this without him.

Ray and Kendra Manselle"
Kara Netherton and Kenzie, Drew and Cade

Dear Friends at St. John,
Thank you for your continued support of Country Health. Your donations keep Country Health going, even in difficult times.
Thank you!!
Your friends at Country Health

SOME OF "THIS AND THAT"

...**Flock Group Shepherd for July** is Laura Ketchum. *Thank you to all that volunteer!*

...**Altar Flowers** are provided each weekend by donations from members of the congregation. House of Flowers in Rantoul provides and delivers them. The cost per vase is **\$20.00**. Payment is to be made to the church and earmarked for flowers. You can sign up on the chart posted on the north office door for one or both vases, and indicate whether it's for a special occasion.

...**Monthly Bible Study Circles**: Esther—Martha—Sarah are now one circle and meets on the second Thursday afternoon of each month at 1:30 here in the church basement for study and fellowship. This month they will meet on June 8.

...**Teasing Summer Teas** - A tall, cool hibiscus tea on ice trimmed with mint? Or zingy ginger with a slice of lemon? Maybe a chilly chai in frosted glass? Or refreshing Earl Grey with honey? Now's the time to experiment, find your favourite, and support small fair-trade farmers! Of course, the Fair Trade cabinet has a tempting selection of yummy chocolate to share with your tea for two too!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday Celebrations in June (members 80+ years):

Roxie Sage celebrates her 81st birthday on the 1st.

Robert Pflugmacher celebrates his 86th birthday on the 11th.

Betty Huls celebrates her 92nd birthday on the 20th.

JoAnn Rademaker celebrates her 85th birthday on the 25th.

June Osterbur celebrates her 92nd birthday on the 28th.

Denver Phelps celebrates his 83rd birthday on the 30th.

Wedding Anniversaries in June (members 50+ years):

Floyd and Bonnie Bohlen celebrate 67 years on the 9th.

*Remember all of them in your prayers,
and with birthday
and anniversary greetings!*

