

Cross CURRENTS

THE HOLY SPIRIT REPLICATES PENTECOST IN YOU

About six months before Jesus' crucifixion, Peter took his Lord aside because he had something to say to Jesus. Peter tried to convince Jesus that he shouldn't suffer, die, and rise again. It was a Satanic thought.

Sometime in the forty days after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus took Peter aside and had something to say to him. Would it be a "told-you-so" victory lap? Would it be a scolding for the way that Peter betrayed Jesus three times not that long ago? It was neither. The risen Lord made sure Peter know how much he loved Peter and that he had work for Peter to do. After a beachside breakfast on the shores of Galilee, Jesus told Peter, "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17).

That's exactly what Peter did on Pentecost. The man whose Satanic thoughts once rebuked Jesus in private about his suffering and death...the man whose weak flesh fell asleep in the Garden...the man whose self-confidence gave way to cowardly denial in the temple courtyard...this same man preached a

sermon that thousands of people had never heard before. Peter fed those precious lambs of Jesus with the good news about Jesus—a Savior crucified for sins and raised for eternal life.

Well, actually, it was the Holy Spirit working through Peter. Peter was just the mouthpiece of the Holy Spirit. But this is the work and nature of the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit works on and through sinful humans. God the Holy Spirit is content to let Jesus Christ be at the center and to whom sinners look. And at the end of the day, Jesus' lambs are fed with forgiveness.

We should think of ourselves as Peter. We should think of ourselves as people who can mouth the devil's lies and are prone to overconfidence in ourselves. We should think of ourselves as people who need the Spirit to work on us.

But we should also have the confidence that the Holy Spirit has worked on us and continues to work on us. Yes, we are sinners like Peter.

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

—John 21:17 (NIV)



But we are also forgiven sinners—and thus, saints—like Peter.

And that's not all the Holy Spirit does. He now enables you like he enabled Peter on Pentecost. You probably won't preach a sermon that leads to the conversion of three thousand souls. Your witnessing probably won't be accompanied by a sound like the blowing of a violent wind and what looks like tongues of fire. But as you proclaim to your friends and family the work of Jesus Christ, God the Holy Spirit is using you as his mouthpiece. The Holy Spirit enables you to Jesus' lambs with the good news of forgiveness.

So, when we get to celebrate Pentecost (sometimes called "the birthday of the Christian Church") on May 28, think of yourself as Peter did—a soul forgiven by Jesus and now made to be an instrument of the Holy Spirit so that others might call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

In the name of Christ crucified, risen, and ascended for us,

Pastor Voss



STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Earlier this year, the Council approved the formation of a Steering Committee to evaluate repairs, renovations, and additions to our current facility and then to recommend which—if any—of those the congregation should do. The committee, chaired by Bill Walter, will meet for its third meeting on May 15. Over the first two meetings, the committee's work primarily has focused on budgetary considerations. Living Water is very blessed in that it does not have a mortgage and does have funds that could be allocated for a down payment. But the committee is dedicated to suggesting a budget that seems responsible for our congregation.

Once the committee feels comfortable with a budget number, it will relook at the master site plan as developed by Groth Design Group and consider what might be done within that amount. Additionally, the committee will consult with some other architects free-of-charge to see how they might address our needs and wants within the dollar amount given them.

With an understanding of a responsible budget and with options

before them, the committee members will be able to have more serious discussions about paths forward. Design elements not only need to be considered, but also how construction will impact the ministries of Living Water. For example, work on the fellowship hall would affect post-service fellowship and adult Bible study, and extensive work on the sanctuary would make it necessary to adjust where we worship and how.

Continue to look for updates from the Steering Committee through the newsletter, email announcements, worship bulletins, and various in-person updates. If you have questions or comments for the committee, please feel free to contact one of its members—Bill Walter (chairman), Dan Schultz (secretary), Tracy DeAngelis, John Maiwald, Mike Graffenius, and Pastor Voss.

May God bless our congregation and the work of this community so that he might use us and our facilities to bring his pure gospel to thirsty souls!

CAMP PHILLIP

“The Bible study was awesome!” were some of the first words exclaimed after most recent teen retreat at Camp Phillip. The teen was captivated by the open ended and meaningful discussion that the teenagers were guided through by the pastor at Camp Phillip.

The weekend retreats serve more than just teens; there are also weekends for women, quilters, disc golfers, and young adults.

Summer camp is what Camp Phillip is probably best known for. From half-week day camps for kindergartners through second graders to whole week

overnight experiences for middle schoolers are filled with outdoor games, music, swimming, and exploring creation. From morning devotion to Bible study to the evening campfire, God’s Word is at the center of each camper’s experience.

Living Water is a congregational member of Camp Phillip. This means our members receive a 10% discount on fees.

There will be a freewill offering to support Camp Phillip’s ministry on May 7 & 8.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 29—Memorial Day,
NO Evening Worship

August 13—Church Picnic

*O Holy Spirit, grant us grace that we our Lord and Savior
in faith and fervent love embrace and truly serve him ever,
so that when death is near at hand
we at his cross may firmly stand and there find our salvation.*

—CW 591 st. 1

PRAYER

The Holy Spirit has been poured on us and intercedes for us, and so we pray for:

- For our members who are graduating from various levels of school, that God bless their instruction and be with them as they enter a new stage of life.
- For our members who are teachers, that God give them patience and endurance to close the school year.
- For our homes and families, that God bless mothers with what they need for their roles, that children honor their mothers, and that the Comforter would repair and restore broken relationships.
- For all our members who served in our nation’s military and especially for our members who will remember on Memorial Day a loved one who served and has now passed away, that God help us to honor those who have served and comfort those who mourn.

Through Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord. Amen.



CONTACT US

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He Lives!



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WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday - 9:00 am

Monday - 7:00 pm