

June 3, 2020

Dear Members of Grace,

What is Pentecost? The Lord took “some of the Spirit” that was on Moses “and put it on the seventy elders” of Israel (Num. 11:25), and they “prophesied in the camp” (Num. 11:26). In the same way, our risen Lord Jesus poured out His Holy Spirit at the Feast of Pentecost — the 50th day and the “Eighth Sunday” of Easter. When “a sound like a mighty rushing wind” and “tongues as of fire appeared” and rested on each of the 12 apostles, “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” and proclaimed “the mighty works of God” (Acts 2:2–4, 11). The Lord Jesus grants this same Spirit to His Church on earth to proclaim Him glorified on the cross and risen victorious from the grave for us sinners. From His open heart, our crucified and risen Lord pours out His Holy Spirit in “rivers of living water” (John 7:38) and invites everyone who thirsts to come to Him and drink freely (John 7:37). Through this life-giving work of the Holy Spirit, we hear our pastors “telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God” (Acts 2:11), and “everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21).

Pentecost is seen as the birth of the church with the promise of the Holy Spirit being given to Christ’s people. During the season of Pentecost we will celebrate the rite of confirmation for our 8th grade youth this year. Covid-19 may have disrupted the normal rhythm of the church year, but with some sanctions being lifted, we will be able to celebrate fully the rite of Confirmation.

What better way to celebrate Confirmation and the young people confessing their faith in Christ publicly than to have flowers decorating the chancel of the church. The money that was given for Easter lilies will be used for seasonal flowers to mark such a glorious occasion.

The Rite of Confirmation will take place on June 28th at the 9:15 Divine Service, but the beautiful flowers will be adorning the chancel for both services on that Sunday.

Just a reminder:

Catechism classes will continue in the month of June for the 8th grades on Mondays at 6:30 pm.

Service times will be Thursday evening at 6:30 pm and Sunday morning at 8:00 am and 9:15 am. I will also be available for communion at the church on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. If you or you know someone who would like a home visit, please do not hesitate to call me at 262-305-2600.

The Peace of Christ be with you all,

Pastor Matthew Uttenreither