



The Lord of Wind and Flame

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Triune God in whom
we live and breathe and have our being!

Happy early Pentecost!

That's right, it's June and on Sunday the 8th we celebrate what is often called the "Birthday of the Church", Pentecost. Pentecost, Greek word for fifty, marks the end of the Easter season and comes fifty days after Easter. Pentecost also refers to the Jewish festival of weeks, which celebrates the giving of the Torah to the people of Israel.

The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2:1-21. The apostles are gathered in one place to celebrate Pentecost, and in a rush of "violent wind," the Holy Spirit shows up, igniting tongues of flame which rested on each apostle, filling them with the Holy Spirit and giving them the ability to speak in "other languages." This commotion soon draws a crowd of people, "devout Jews from every nation under heaven", who then hear the Disciples proclaiming the good news of Jesus in their native languages.

In other words, the Holy Spirit showed up in wind and flame and bridged and broke down a barrier so that every person there could experience the good news *for them* in their language; God meeting God's beloved where they are at, in exactly the way they needed to be met.

We celebrate this as the beginning of "the Church" because it was the first time that the gospel was proclaimed, by the apostles, to people who were of other nationalities. It represented the expansion of the message. Soon, this same message would be proclaimed outside of the Jewish faith altogether; Gentiles would be accepted into the fold and included as the body of Christ. From this point onward, the gospel is proclaimed and accepted in ever-widening circles, breaking down barriers of race, religion, status, wealth, and gender. Women, children, and Intersex people (Acts 8: 26-40) are included as believers and apostles.

From the very beginning of the Church, the God of wind and flame has moved us through the Holy Spirit to break down barriers and to proclaim that God's grace is for everyone, and two-thousand years later our work is still not done. Today, God's word is proclaimed in every language in the world, and yet there are still people who have not heard that God's grace is for them. This is not because of language, it is because of the lines we, the Church, have drawn between who is in and who is out.

The Church has drawn lines around gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, and wealth. Every boundary the world has put up, and every group of people the world has deemed to be outcast or unwelcome, the Church has also marginalized. People of color,

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PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

those who identify as female, children, indigenous people, elderly people, people experiencing poverty or homelessness, our LGBTQ+ siblings, people struggling with mental illness, chronic illness, disability...all have experienced the church at one time or another, as a place where they have been specifically told that God's grace is not for them. They have experienced the church as an institution that does not see or accept them and uses the Bible to tell them they do not belong.

It seems that we have strayed away from the first days of wind and flame.

Thankfully, the Lord of wind and flame has not abandoned us. Two thousand years ago, God sent the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in wind and flame, sending them out beyond barriers to proclaim that God is for us. God, in Christ Jesus, also sent the Holy Spirit as an Advocate, and a source of the peace that passes all understanding (John 14: 8-17, 25-27). God calls us to wildly include others, to go beyond our comfort zone, to break down barriers and proclaim a love through Christ that is almost reckless in its inclusion. God also gave us the Holy Spirit to let us know we are not alone, to wrap around us in love when we are scared, when the prospect of change leaves us anxious, when we feel like we can't take a step into the unknown.

This Pentecost, in addition to wearing red and singing songs to the Holy Spirit, let us also invite her into our everyday life. Trusting that God is with us and holding that peace that passes understanding within our being, let us be open to wind and flame.

May we dream dreams of how our community of faith can be a place of love, honesty, hope and transformation in the lives of the people we live among, may we, with holy imagination, envision what God might be calling us to, and may we completely trust that God is indeed with us as we strive to live as the body of Christ in the world. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jess

JUNE OUTREACH

Outreach in June:

Holland PRIDE! Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 12:00 to 6:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet new people and joyfully share the love of Christ! Good Shepherd will be hosting a booth at the PRIDE festival. It's a great time to enjoy the sunshine, meet amazing people, have a ton of fun, and invite people to worship with us! What could be better? There are many shifts available (shifts are about 2 hours). Sign-up will be in the fellowship area, or talk to Pastor Jess.



SYNOD ASSEMBLY RECAP

Greetings to the Congregation,

The 2025 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly took place May 18 - 20, 2025 in Mt. Pleasant. We participated in some great discussions and activities. We made good connections with people from churches from many different communities in the NWLM Synod.

During the Assembly meeting the upcoming Synod budget was passed with discussion focused on the continued support of youth ministries. There were also elections to fill Synod Council and committee seats. Pastor Julie Schneider-Thomas from Zion Lutheran Church in Comstock Park/ Hope Lutheran Church in Rockford was elected to a six year term as the new Bishop of the NWLM Synod.

The 2025 Synod Assembly was a successful gathering and it was a blessing to go to Mt. Pleasant and be a part of it.

Peace,
Bill and Suzanne House



l-r Bill House, Pastor Jess, Suzanne House.

NICENE CREED

The Nicene Creed

History and Significance

Observing the 1700th anniversary of the
Council of Nicaea

Guest speakers

Dr. Tim Howerzyl (Christian Reformed), Kuyper College

Dr. Jared Ortiz (Catholic), Hope College

Refreshments to follow

Trinity Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 7:00PM
Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church,
14 W. 14th Street, Holland



C U S P
CHRISTIANS UNITING
IN SONG & PRAYER

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 18, 2025

This year we recognized three graduates: Jacob Bacon, Alex McCaughan, and Jonas Pearson.



Above l-r: Pastor Jess, Nathan, Alex & Meggan McCaughan, Perry, Jonas & Lisa Pearson, and Jessica, Jacob & Branden Bacon.

Left l-r: Jacob Bacon, Alex McCaughan and Jonas Pearson.



Special Music provided by Eric Mueller and Tammy Walters.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

- Red Cross Blood Drive at Good Shepherd -



BLOOD DRIVE

We have started a partnership with the American Red Cross to hold blood drives at Good Shepherd. Our first blood drive of 2025 is on Thursday June 26, 2025, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

2 Ways to Help:

- Volunteer at the event or help set up our Commons before the event.
- Sign up to donate blood on the Red Cross website or app.

Please reach out to Kerry Johnson or Branden Bacon to sign up to volunteer or if you have questions.

More planned blood drives:

Thursday, August 28, 2025, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Thursday, October 30, 2025, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Thank you for helping with this huge community need!

BREEZE

Breeze



Remember to update your information if you make any changes such as address, email address, or phone number. You can notify the office or Vicki Russell to make these changes. The information we have in Breeze is the way Good Shepherd and all our members can contact you.

If you have any questions about Breeze, would like a demonstration, or would like information about online giving contact Vicki Russell in person or email.

(vicki0528@gmail.com)

LOOKING FOR QUILTING HELP

HELP!

No sewing or quilting skills needed

No experience necessary

We will teach you everything you need to know.

Do you love being creative? Do you love colors and working with color?

Do you love the feel of fabric in your hand?

Come join our quilting group. Come for the fellowship, the camaraderie, the feeling of a well done creative project.

We have large tasks and small, easy and more difficult.

Come for an hour or come for the day. We'd love to have you with us.

We meet Tuesdays 11:00 am - 3:00 pm,
except December.

Can't come during the day?

We have projects to work on at home.

Contact Sharon Wendt for more information:

616-399-0204

kiwiynk@yahoo.com



SPRINGTIME & NEW LIFE

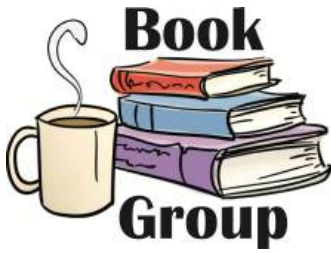


New Life

Mama Robin successfully raised three chicks in the bush outside the office window from April 30 through May 21.

It was a fun process to watch.

BOOK GROUP NEWS



The Book Group is now on summer break.
See you in September!

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Dear Friends and Church Family,

Carolyn and I would like to thank you for all your concern these past 2 months. My back surgery and my diabetes problems took a lot out of me but I am now recuperating. Thank you for all your prayers, the cards, the drawings, the meals, your visits, your rides, and the use of your medical equipment. As I recuperate I remember all of you and your kindness.

God's Blessings,
Dennis Willaman

rec'd May 29, 2025

The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 212

Families: 13

Average Sunday Attendance: 53



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



Summer Office Hours Memorial Day - Labor Day

Begin: Tuesday, May 27, 2025
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

End: Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

NOISY OFFERING

May/June Noisy Offering: Paws for a Cause



For 45 years, Paws With A Cause (PAWS) has assisted thousands of people living with disabilities in embracing the journey of life through our amazing Assistance Dogs. Each custom trained PAWS Dog opens a world of possibilities – inspiring independence, confidence, companionship, and dignity for individuals, families, and communities.



The facility improvements needed to support the expansion of our mission and reach more of these qualified applicants will cost \$9.5 million to complete. We're excited to share that PAWS has raised \$9.1 million in charitable gifts towards our \$9.5 million capital campaign goal already. Now we need the help of our community to raise the remaining funds needed!

More than 400 qualified individuals apply for their own PAWS Assistance Dog each year, far beyond our current capacity to serve. We are determined to answer the growing need for more custom-trained Assistance Dogs through strategic improvements that will maximize efficiency and support expanded programs in the world-class breeding, care, and training of our dogs. This will allow us to serve more qualified applicants and support them on their PAWS journeys.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Carolyn, Suzanne, Branden, Julie, and Pastor Jessica

**EMBRACE
THE JOURNEY**
A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR PAWS WITH A CAUSE



SUNDAY SERVANTS

Sunday Servants Needed for June

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant

Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.

616.772.4075 or gslc.office@icloud.com

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader(s)	Usher	Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up
June 1 7th Sunday of Easter	WL- CA- Lynda Parrott	Floyd Norvell		Lynda Parrott
June 8 Day of Pentecost	WL - CA-			Deb Ludwig
June 15 The Holy Trinity Sunday	WL - CA -			Terry Grossman
June 22 2nd Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA -			Terry Grossman
June 29 3rd Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA - Eric Mueller	Eric Mueller		Deb Ludwig

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP - JUNE

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
June 1, 2025	Norvells
June 8, 2025	
June 15, 2025	
June 22, 2025	
June 29, 2025	

JUNE

Birthdays

Sam Rogers 2
Carolyn Willaman 3
Brian Dixon 10
Jacob Bacon 16
Sheila Dixon 18
Jill Letourneau 20
Meggan McCaughan 25
Rob Parrott 28
Perry Pearson 28



Anniversaries

Steve & Terry Grossman 4
Dave & Sharon Wendt 26
Eric & Melinda Mueller 27

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services are also on-line.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525508195?pwd=MmtjVENGaUg3ODFuaXhhUHR1TVR3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 2550 8195

Passcode: 022399

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via Zoom
Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm, September - May
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 11:00 am on site. No Quilting in December.
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm. September - May

PASTOR JESS' SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Thursday
via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze
calendar on our website at goodshepherdhollandmi.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Branden Bacon (VP)	(920) 889-8707, branden.bacon@gmail.com
Dylana Eisaman	(616) 953-0603, dylana.pinter@gmail.com
Suzanne House	(616) 655-9732 wlsmhouse@icloud.com
Michael Russell	(616) 283-6723 miker163@yahoo.com
Brian Underhill (Pres)	(616) 292-7194, underhillbrian@yahoo.com
Pastor Jess	(616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com

IN OUR MAY PRAYERS

In Our May Prayers...

- **Praise & Thanksgiving:** Brent Havalka, (husband of Laurie Schuldt's niece), is at home recovering slowly and will be heading to the Mayo Clinic soon. Andrew, (Cathy Sytsma's nephew), is now at home and has recovered.
- **Our Sympathies:** to the friends and family of Lisa Miller, former member, who passed May 2, 2025; to the friends and family of Kirk Addis (long time friends of Norvells) who passed away Sunday, May 11, 2025, please keep his wife Roberta in your prayers; to the family and friends of Rita Taylor, (Julie Wolff's mother) on the passing of Rita, Tuesday, May 6, 2025; to the family and friends of Marlene Howe, a former member and quilter, who passed away Wednesday, April 30, 2025. If you wish to send a card, Deb has the address in the office; and to family and friends on the passing of Elmer Henry, (Joan Maring's father), Tuesday, April 22, 2025. Services to be held in Pennsylvania.
- **Ministries of the Month, May:** Paws with a Cause and our Synod Assembly voting members.
- **Healing/Peace:**, Kirk & Roberta Addis, (decades long friends of Norvells), Andrew (Cathy Sytsma's nephew), dealing with neurological condition, Annie & Chris, Annie has leukemia (friends of Carolyn & Dennis W.'s daughter Elizabeth) Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Jake Bird, cancer treatment (Corinne's son-in-law), Greg Bolton, (friend of Julie Wolff), Patricia Bradfield, Tom & Elizabeth Brookover, (friends of the Wentz') Tom has a rare form of ocular cancer, Dylan Brophy, age 26, (nephew of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 melanoma, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) cancer diagnosis, Nan Ehram (Julie Wolff's sister-in-law,) cancer diagnosis, Jayce Genzinger (Tammy Walter's step-niece's son) born preemie in July, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Brent Havalka in ICU (husband of Laurie Schuldt's niece), Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Jan (Cathy Sytsma's sister), Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Ron Meyer, Richard Mueller (Terry Grossman's dad), Linda Paine, (Lois' R.'s daughter), injured bicep, Rob Parrott, recovery from foot surgery, Dorothy Postema (Deb PG's mom), Casey Rosel (Norvell in-law relation) diagnosed with cancer in her skull, surgery occurred July 9, Elizabeth Russell (Mike & Vicki's niece), Janice Russell (Mike & Vicki's sister-in-law) cancer diagnosis, Jacquie Schmidt, long time friend of Tammy W., back surgery, Jerry Shoup, Kathy Shoup, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) recovery from transplant surgery, Stella, 6 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friend's granddaughter) needs a kidney transplant, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Julia Wentz, chemotherapy treatments, Dennis Willaman.
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Hannah Hitchcock, Naomi & Sam's daughter.
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Susan Straith, Bonita Zielke,
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Mitchell Johnson (Parrott's nephew), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Zion Lutheran Church, Rev. Kevin O'Bryan, Freeland; Edgewood Lutheran Church, Rev. Ellen Schoepf, Fruitport; Peace Lutheran Church, Rev. Megan Crouch, Gaylord; Synod Assembly 2025, Bp. Craig Satterlee, Ms. Sandy Schlesinger, VP, and Synod Council; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Rev. Emily Olsen-Brandt, Baldwin.