

SERMON NOTES:

Prayer Requests

- ♥ Pray for Stephanie (Jerry Hermsen's friend) who will be operated on May 16th.
- ♥ Pray the Drew Gilman's wife Nikki and he continue to love and raise our boys Jamison and Landon as best they can, and reach our career-oriented goals. And pray for them to have patience with each other through all the changes that are happening.
- ♥ Pray for Nikki Karg, schoolmate of Janna Fitzgerald, recently diagnosed with leukemia.
- ♥ Pray for Jennifer & Mike Huehns' college friend, Steve Gast, as he awaits a lung transplant for his cystic fibrosis complications.
- ♥ Akosua Addo asks to pray for strength to navigate the final week of the semester.
- ♥ Pray for Jennifer Ivers (John & Gloria's granddaughter) as she is undergoing tests.
- ♥ Pray for Kate, friend of Sally Leitch, who has made it safely through 9 weeks of bed rest so far. Delivery of baby Mitchell is scheduled for May 20th!
- ♥ Pray for Bobbie Pearson, friend of Gloria Ivers, who has a new tumor and more cancer.
- ♥ Pray for Amy Moore's dad, John, as he struggles with hip and knee pain and is seeking the best medical treatment plan.
- ♥ Pray for Pa Alemka in Cameroon, (Karen Bakia's friend's dad) who is in the hospital.
- ♥ Pray for Blaine's mom, Josh Dochniak's best friend, as she is dying from stage 4 cancer.
- ♥ Pray for Jon & Jodi Black's friend Joanne Seeman Benick who has cancer.
- ♥ Al's father, Rocci Norcia cancer has returned and is starting Chemo treatments. Please pray for him.
- ♥ Continue to pray for Cathy Smith who is struggling with mental illness.
- ♥ Pray for Jennifer's neighbor, Jenna Undersander, who was just diagnosed with cancer and started chemo. And her friend Julie Fjeld who lives with cancer.
- ♥ Steven Van Meter, son of Kevin & Pam Van Meter, who is serving our country in Afghanistan.
- ♥ Pray for Jerry Hermsen's brother, Vern, who is in a home for Alzheimer's.
- ♥ Pray for Jerry Hermsen who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer.
- ♥ Pray for John Thiessen as he lives with cancer.
- ♥ Pray for David Schwartz (friend of George & Dianne Black) as he is suffering from cancer.
- ♥ Pray for Donna McCullen, wife of Ken McCullen, who is suffering from cancer.

DEVOTION

The second chapter of Acts shares the birth of the church and the movement of the Holy Spirit. It is the story of Pentecost.

This week we have the opportunity to reflect on the story and see where it applies to our life. The spiritual energy in this community can be part of our community. Pray for discernment this week about how this can continue to happen.

Enjoy! Comments about the devotion can be E-mailed to pastor@colpres.org

Monday, May 20

Read Acts 2:1-4

One hundred twenty believers were gathered together to celebrate the ancient festival of Pentecost. They weren't expecting to be filled with the Holy Spirit or to be speaking in different languages.

Being filled with the Spirit is not one particular experience—it is many. Every person in their lifetime has a moment of being filled with the Spirit—it's a moment of clarity and insight and power!

Imagine a congregation of people who frequently are filled with the Spirit. This doesn't mean that we have to wave our hands like Pentecostals—though we could. It does mean we know that our ultimate source of wisdom comes from God.

The people in this story were never the same because of what they experienced. The same can be true for us.

Prayer: Help us be courageous so that our new congregation can be people who are filled with the Spirit.

Tuesday, May 21

Read Acts 2:5-13

The people who had gathered for the celebration of Pentecost were from many different nations. When they heard the sound they rushed to where the 120

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people were. When they arrived they heard each of them speaking in a native language. And they could understand what they heard!

When the Holy Spirit is present a clarity of vision takes place. Everything fits into place—like a puzzle coming together.

We've had moments in our life when the way is especially clear to us. We just know the direction that we are supposed to take. This is the Holy Spirit.

When this clarity happens in congregations amazing ministries happen. Suddenly ministry isn't about work or effort anymore—there is an ease of effort that is wonderful.

Coming to a scene where people are speaking different languages would be confusing to some. However because the Holy Spirit was present in this story, everything made sense.

Prayer: I so want the clarity that exists in this story. I want it for our faith community too. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Wednesday, May 22

Read Acts 2:14-21

On different occasions as recorded in the book of Acts Peter would stand and give a sermon. His sermon was an interpretation of the events that were happening. In this case his sermon is an interpretation of the 120 speaking in different languages, and it was a response to people who sneered at the principal actors in the story were drunk.

Peter took a Scripture from the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32) and re-interpreted it. Peter saw the events as vision,
"your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
And your young men shall see visions,
And your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
In those days I will pour out my Spirit and they shall prophesy. Acts 2:17-18

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Often in congregations someone will receive a vision or dream from God. Sometimes this person is interpreting events that are happening. These visions and dreams are powerful gifts.

We might remember a time in our own life when someone received a vision or dream that they were certain came from God. What a wonderful gift for a person to have! And what a wonderful gift for a congregation!

Prayer: I pray that someone or a group of people at Chain of Lakes will receive a vision or dream about our congregation from God. Don't let us be afraid of these dreams!

Thursday, May 23

Read Acts 2:22-28

The key message of Peter's sermon is verse 24: "But God raised [Jesus] up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power."
Acts 2:24

Peter was communicating with people that Jesus had been raised from the dead. The confusing events that had happened were preludes to this message of resurrection. The world was changed because Jesus was raised.

It was impossible for Jesus to be held in the power of death. In a similar way we cannot be held in the power of death. We have been given the gift of salvation through the wonderful gift of resurrection can celebrate. Death does not hold us in its power.

Prayer: I give thanks, O resurrected God, that death does not have the final word on who I am. Help me to grasp this simple message that Peter was sharing.

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Friday, May 24

Read Acts 2:29-36

The last words in this passage could be words for us: "let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah."

As Presbyterians we say that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Our ultimate allegiance comes because of our relationship to Jesus Christ. So everything we do flows out of this relationship.

Reflect for a moment on how your life would look if everything we did flowed out of our relationship to Jesus Christ. Many of us adhere to Jesus and place our lives at his feet. But what would happen if everything came out of that relationship. E-v-e-r-y-t-h-i-n-g!

Prayer: Help me live a life where everything flows out of my relationship with you. May our relationships within Chain of Lakes and with people outside of the world flow out of our own relationship to Jesus.

Saturday, May 25

Read Acts 2:37-47

Finally we see the result of this relationship to Jesus Christ. The people are moved by Peter's preaching and ask what they can do. Peter encourages them to be baptized and then starts baptizing people—ultimately 3,000 were baptized.

What a wonderful amount of spiritual energy existed in that early faith community. This story isn't about a building—it's about placing everything under that relationship. Amazing things happened in that early community. They happened because of people's faith. The community was bound together through that faith. Wow!

Prayer: This story shares a vision for our new church. May we be bound together as tight as the community in this story. Don't let us keep this message to ourselves.