

The Zion Flame

June 2022



Zion Lutheran Church
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Pastor Becky Langholz

Dear ones in Christ,

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place...” (Acts 2:1). The Day of Pentecost has also come once again for us as a church. We will celebrate this festival together in worship on Sunday, June 5th. The word “Pentecost” includes the root “pent”, as in “pentagon”, a five-sided shape. Pentecost was (and remains) a Jewish holiday taking place 50 days after Passover. The Jewish Pentecost is a harvest festival, also known as the Festival of Weeks, and God was always thanked for the bounty of the harvest. According to Acts, faithful Jewish people from many places are in Jerusalem to observe this festival, when suddenly and dramatically the Holy Spirit comes upon them and ignites within them faith in Jesus as the promised Messiah (Acts 2:1-21). The Spirit empowers them to hear the Word of God in their various languages. The Spirit meets those who are gathered and offers them the inspiration and ability that they need to minister in Jesus’ name.

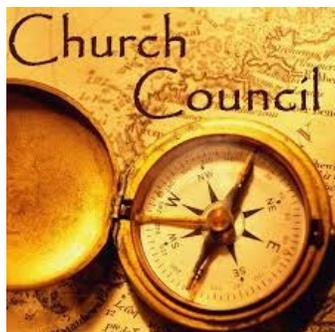
We also could all use some Holy Spirit power these days. The news of the past month has knocked the wind out of us—on-going war in Ukraine, an enflamed debate on abortion, mass shootings in Buffalo, NY and Uvalde, TX. Good thing Pentecost is not only an event long ago but a recognition of the Spirit’s mighty work in our midst. I find myself longing for the presence and power of the Spirit as we face our very broken world. There is a Gospel song that goes, “Breathe on me. Breathe on me. Holy Ghost power, breathe on me. Yesterday’s gone. Today, I’m in need. Holy Ghost power, breathe on me.” I’ve been listening to this song on repeat lately.

Perhaps there is inspiration to be found in the root of the festival. Folks were gathered to give thanks for the harvest. Gratitude is often a good place to start when we are trying to seek out the work of the Spirit in our midst. We offer gratitude for God’s many gifts and for the ways in which God has sustained us “thus far along the way”. When we are able to recognize all we have and the progress we have made, we feel more energized to face the future with hope. Also, the Spirit reached those gathered in the diversity of their life experiences—language, location, culture. The people heard the message of Jesus’ love in a variety of ways. God creates and honors our diversity, and the Spirit calls us to bring all our unique selves to the table. Our special gifts and perspectives are all needed when it comes to the complexity of the troubles we face. Pentecost is a powerful festival and comes this month just as we need it! May we all sense the Spirit’s power in our midst and feel inspired to love and to serve as the Spirit calls.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come,
Pr. Becky Langholz

Pr. Becky is regularly in the office on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9am-12pm.
She can also be reached by cell phone: (360) 393-6630 or by email: pastor@zionlutheranwhatcom.org

Pr. Becky is in the church office Mondays & Thursdays from 9am-12pm. She also works from home and can be reached on her cell phone: (360) 393-6630 or via email at pastor@zionlutheranwhatcom.org Fridays are her day off; only emergency or prayer chain calls/texts on Fridays, please.



Did you know you can give to our church online? You can even set up automatic withdrawals or give to specific special funds. Check out our church website: www.zionlutheranwhatcom.org and the "Give" tab for more information.

Financial Information (through April 2022):

General Fund Balance: \$38,453.72

Special Fund Balance: \$7,471.72

Thrivent Mutual Fund Balance: \$22,251.75

For the year 2022:

Receipts: \$42,961.66

Expenses: \$37,615.87

Net: \$5,345.79

The Church Council will meet again on Thursday, June 9th at 4:30pm. Reports or agenda items for the meeting are due by Weds., June 1st. Continue to hold our leaders in prayer and thank them for their time and effort.

We are looking ahead to a summer painting project on the parsonage and south-facing chimney on the sanctuary. The Council reviewed a great bid in March, and we anticipate spending \$4,000-\$5,000 on this project. If you would like to contribute, you can put a check in the offering plate and indicate "painting project" in the memo line. Thank you for your generous giving!

Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Since 1903

The beloved, forgiven people of God.

Called to spread the Good News so as to build up the body of Christ.

Gifted to share the healing love of Jesus Christ with our hurting world.

Empowered by the Spirit

to be a caring country congregation

for ministry to one another and the larger community.



Zion's Relational Covenant

In our life together, we will...

Give thanks to God for the gift of our church and each other. Honor and respect our diverse opinions, perspectives and work-styles. Take responsibility for our own feelings and deal with issues directly. Ask clarifying questions and avoid making assumptions. Speak up honestly in the proper time and place. Make decisions in a transparent manner. Support decisions made by the group. Pray for unity in our congregation.

From the Bishop

June 2022



Today I walked my dogs. As I was walking, one person told me how beautiful my dogs were. (I agree!) Another person told me they were so glad to see the sun. (Me too!) Another mock-yelled after me when I didn't greet him, "Hey! Aren't you going to say hello?" (I smiled and waved.) I love my neighborhood in South Everett. I especially love that there are several languages being spoken in the homes surrounding mine: there is a multitude of ethnicities, there are different religious expressions, children's voices are heard at all hours of the day, and there are different food smells wafting out windows at dinner time.

Even as I experience belonging and love for this neighborhood, though, I am also aware of the troubles and heartaches here. A little girl was hit by a car and died here a few years ago. People have been affected by COVID. Rising prices are causing some to not be able to live here. People who are renting are being forced out when landlords decide to sell. And there are people affected by meth, domestic violence, and so much more behind the walls of the homes in my neighborhood.

I think of all of us in the "neighborhood" of the Northwest Washington Synod and how I love our neighborhood. I love the diversity we have in our synod. I love the different geographies, landscapes, languages, ethnicities, cultures, and foods in our synod. As I journey through the 110+ congregations and ministry sites of this synod, I am aware of the deep joys and crushing sorrows, and the connections and the loneliness that surround us. Much like my little neighborhood, there is diversity and there is belonging here. And much like my little neighborhood, there is loss and there is grief and there is difficulty. We cannot ignore that there are thorny and deep-seated social and relational complexities within us as a church and in society as a whole.

Holding the "both/and" of this reality – the true joy and the deep sorrow and frustration – is why the theme for this year's 2022 Synod Assembly is *abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*.

Now let me say this: While it is true that some may look at our theme, "Abound in Hope" and assume that we are naively optimistic or positive. Others may look at our theme, "Abound in Hope" and think that we do not understand the mountain that we must climb. Still others may look at our theme, "Abound in Hope" and wonder how – with the pain Church has caused many or the sins of our ancestors – that we are only living in the present and not acknowledging the past. To those, this is what I say:

We are abounding in hope. And because we are abounding in hope we are invited into complex and difficult conversations through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are able to face the realities of life today - knowing that we are not alone. We do not ignore or downplay or pretend that there are not sad and horrifying realities in our world today. We fiercely hold on to the hope that comes only through Jesus. And, knowing this, together, we are called to be, share in, and live into the good news that comes through our risen Savior Jesus. And so ... we are ***abounding in hope***.

I am thankful to be living in this neighborhood of Northwest Washington Synod with you. May we abound in hope through God's Spirit living in this world and into God's future.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org



Your prayers make a difference! If you have a person or situation that needs prayer, please call Pr. Becky and let her know. She can alert Zion's prayer chain and/or add the item to our congregational list.



Our prayers as a congregation continue:

- ◆ For all in need of healing, especially Bethany, Nina, Donna, Julie, Norma and Laurel.
- ◆ For all battling cancer especially Kinsley and Marijo.
- ◆ For these ministries: Lutino Adunu in Gulu, Uganda, Sol de Justicia church in Grecia, Costa Rica, Hogar Irekani in Michoacán, México, African S.M.I.L.E in Tanzania, Family Promise of Whatcom County, World Relief of Whatcom County and Blaine CAP program.
- ◆ For peace in our world, especially in Ukraine.
- ◆ For congregations in our Whatcom Cluster, especially those in transition: Hope, Central, Christ the Servant, Faith and Immanuel.
- ◆ For the loved ones of recent mass shooting victims in New York and Texas.



Exciting news from Tom, Abby and Evelyn Jensen:

Their family is growing, and they look forward to welcoming another baby this month. We'll pray for healthy final weeks of pregnancy and a safe, swift delivery. Look forward to a birth announcement! The Jensens currently reside in Pomeroy, WA

(pictured here are Tom, Evelyn (2) and Abby on Easter Sunday).

June Birthdays

- 10 Ken Quinn
- 20 Esther Irvine
- 25 Tom Jensen





June Outreach and Missions

Zion's on-going collections:

- Non-perishable food items
- Household items and toiletries
- Bottled water

We partner with local non-profits to get these items to community members in need.

Thank you for your generous contributions!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Did you know Zion will collect your aluminum cans for recycling? Proceeds from this have funded many church improvements over the years. Drop off cans in the bin by the basement ramp door. Speak to Brenda Bannerman for more details.



Zion now has a puzzle library on a shelf in the basement fellowship hall. Feel free to take a puzzle to work on at home and leave some that you have already completed. As you are passing by, also add to the group puzzle on the table!

Great fun was had at game night last month!
It was good to be together.

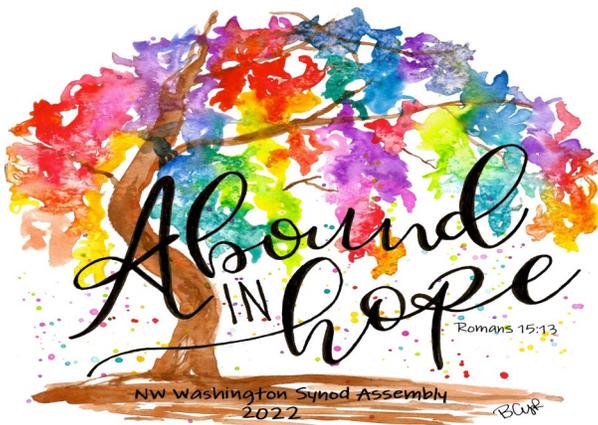


MEETINGS AND EDUCATION



Monday Bible Study will meet all four Mondays in June. The group meets from 12-1:30pm in the basement fellowship hall. All are welcome to come read and learn about the Bible and to share our faith with one another.

We'll gather to clean the church on Saturday, June 4th at 9am. Cleaning and maintaining our church are volunteer efforts, and many hands make light work. Come on out for an hour of vacuuming, dusting and generally sprucing up our beloved church building.



Saturday, June 4th is our Northwest WA Synod Assembly at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. Pr. Becky, Matthew Ames-Woolsey, Aimee Day and Paloma Day will represent Zion at the event. We will elect Synod Council members, approve a budget for the Synod and hear reports from Synod and Church-wide ministries. Please keep all who will gather in your prayers.

On Sunday, June 12th, we'll hold a semi-annual congregational meeting immediately following worship. This meeting will be for informational purposes only. We'll review our ministry to date this year, our church finances and our upcoming summer painting project.



The Evangelism Committee will meet on Monday, June 13th at 2:15pm at Woods Coffee in Ferndale. Your ideas and helping hands are welcome. Speak to Rosemary Meyers for more information.

WORSHIP

Sunday, June 5th is Pentecost. You are invited to wear red (the color of the Holy Spirit) and to bring a red geranium that morning to help beautify our sanctuary. **We will also have a “heritage” potluck meal after worship. Consider bringing some food to share that is special to you and your family.** We'll celebrate together the great diversity of God's creation!

There will be a memorial service for Rev. Bob Johnson on Saturday, June 18th at 2pm at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Bellingham (2600 Lakeway Dr.). All are welcome to attend.



Connect with Zion online: Resources for worship and reflection are available on our church [YouTube channel](#). We also live-stream the worship service there each Sunday at 10am. You can also find the church on Facebook.

BE FILLED
WITH THE
HOLY
SPIRIT
Continuously



June Events

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers in our midst! We give thanks to God for all you do to care for your children, grandchildren, family, community and beyond.



Save the date: The Strawberry Social is back! We'll gather Sunday, June 26th at 4pm in the basement fellowship hall to listen to music from the Old Time Fiddlers and enjoy fresh strawberry shortcake and good fellowship. There will also be a quilt raffle to support Zion's quilting ministry. We'll be asking for donations of shortcake as well as some helping hands in the kitchen. This is a fun community event. All are welcome; spread the word!



Come gather on the last Tuesday of the month (June 28th this month) for "JFF" ("Just For Fun"). Drop-in anytime between 10-12pm to the basement fellowship hall for coffee and conversation. Bring a snack to share, if inclined. There's no agenda to the time; just a chance to be together! Friends, family and neighbors are also welcome. Any questions please speak to Joyce Dippold.