

# The *Celebration!* Connection

Celebration Lutheran Church

Is a part of the Southeast Michigan Synod

Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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## From the Pastor

As I write this, I reflect on the upcoming re-affirmation of faith (Confirmation) of two of our young people (whose faith statements can be found elsewhere in this newsletter) on Pentecost Sunday.

Pentecost – the birthday of the Christian church.

Pentecost – when the Holy Spirit landed upon the disciples like tongues of fire, giving it the wherewithal to go out and make more disciples in the name of Jesus Christ.

Pentecost – when the followers of Jesus discovered that doing so would mean all would be sweetness and light and that they would have no troubles for them **at all**.

....Uh, right.....

As you probably are aware, (and sorry if the following seems like a history lesson....'cause it is...) the early Christian Church encountered considerable opposition, culminating in the martyrdom of Stephen. Generally speaking, Christians were bitterly against the Sadducees from the very beginning. The Pharisees, who liked and agreed with the Christians support of the concept of the resurrection, were undecided ... at first. In the early days, Christians still attended the temple services. They mingled freely in the synagogue meetings. They were, essentially, pious observant Jews



However, gradually, their emphasis on the Messiah, as one who had already come, started to isolate them. This separation was further emphasized by the fact that Paul did not insist that his Gentile converts being bound by the ceremonial law (aka: circumcision). This angered the “Judaisers,” who wanted Gentiles to be circumcised, making it a condition of salvation. Paul said firmly NO, and the problem was discussed at the Council of Jerusalem in 49 AD. There Paul won the argument – but the argument continued to tick off his opposition to the end of his life.

Now, at first, the attitude of the Roman authorities to the Christians was ambivalent to say the least. The Romans regarded Christianity as just one more of many Jewish sects. This attitude was clearly displayed by Gallio at Corinth, when he refused to listen to the charges brought against Paul by the Jews because he regarded the whole dispute as a purely internal Jewish matter. The rub eventually came with Christianity’s rejection of the pantheon of the Roman Gods. After all, Caesar was regarded as the embodiment of the Roman gods and was worshipped with incense and sacrifice, therefore, conflict was inevitable. Roman power could strike at any time, and since Christianity, unlike Judaism, was not a national religion it was not protected under the law.

The first major persecution of Christians in Rome began in 64 AD following a great fire in the city. Once the fire started, it spread quickly through the crowded buildings of the city. Among the citizens of Rome, the Emperor himself was the chief suspect. When he found that the finger of rumor was pointing to himself, Nero had to look around for a scapegoat and had no difficulty in blaming the fire on the Christians.

Public feeling against them at this point was such that they were universally reviled. Even Tacitus, wrote of Christianity as a “pernicious superstition” and states that the Christians were not put to death so much for arson as for hatred of the human race. He goes on to say, “Their death was made a matter of sport. Some were wrapped in the skins of wild beasts and torn to pieces by dogs. Some were fastened to crosses and set on fire in order to serve as torches when daylight failed.”

Much of this was done in Nero’s gardens as he mingled with the crowd, riding in his chariot and enjoying the dreadful spectacle. We must remember that every strata of Roman society was riddled with practices which to the Christians were idolatrous and therefore forbidden. By this time, the prevalent attitude in Rome was that the educated classes were suspicious of this new religion because of the enthusiasm for it by the lower orders. Since the initial success of Christianity was principally among the poor, it seemed to many to be essentially a revolutionary and working-class movement.”

Now, around 68 or 69 AD, both Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome. The distinction that tradition makes between the two apostles in the manner of their death, that Peter was crucified while Paul was beheaded, is very likely to be true. Paul, unlike Peter, was a Roman citizen and would therefore be executed in a less ignominious manner.

AND THEN, just as Nero’s persecution of Christians started dying down, events in Palestine started attracting the attention of the Romans. The Zealots, a Jewish nationalist party, resolved to free the land from Roman rule by violence. In May, 66 AD, the Zealots massacred the Roman garrison

in Jerusalem. Even though the Jewish army had some early victories, future emperor Titus, surrounded Jerusalem in 70 AD and the siege began. Apparently heeding the Savior's warning, the Christians fled Jerusalem and avoided the fate of the city. Eventually, the Romans triumphed and took possession of the temple, so that even the holy of holies was set on fire and Jerusalem was completely devastated.

It was at this point that Christianity ceased to be regarded as simply a variety of Judaism. Christianity now stood clearly and unmistakably as a religion, not just of one land or one people, but of the world!

Now the challenges of the Christian church continued on throughout the millennia's, but even in the midst of all of them the Christian church goes on! The church goes on because we must remember that the church at Pentecost was the creation of God, not of man. The church born on Pentecost is a church that communicates the Good News of Jesus Christ to everyone! We, the people of the church born on Pentecost was, and is, a community of faith, hope and love.

So come and celebrate Pentecost and the Sundays after Pentecost this summer.

After all, it IS your birthday party!

See you in church!

**Pastor Fogle**

## Baptism

Emily and Nathan Junge-Hoste invite you to join in the celebration of the baptism of their son, Jude, on July 31<sup>st</sup>.



**Here's to  
our Graduates!**

Congratulations to our 2022 high school graduates:

- **Andrew Brown,**
- **Amber Evancho,**
- **Anna Livingston,**
- **Luke Szczembara.**

Amber will attend Adrian College, Anna will attend Ferris State University, and Luke will be at Grand Valley State University. Andrew Brown is graduating with a dual degree in high school and an Associates degree from Washtenaw Community College. Andrew will continue at Michigan Tech this Fall.

Noah Stempien graduated from Milan Michigan High School and will continue at Great Lakes Christian College.

Congratulations to our 2022 college graduate **Lauren Reid**. Lauren graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and Strategic Communication with minors in English and Communication.

## SUMMER FUN COMING UP!

**Mark your calendars for some great events during the summer !**

**June 17 Campfire at our fire pit**

**July 15 Movie night**

**August 12 Water fun**

**More information on the way!!!!**



# CONFIRMATION

## SUNDAY

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, PENTECOST SUNDAY, we celebrate the confirmation of Joshua Gabriel Livingston and Madeline Alma Lair.

As part of their confirmation journey, our confirmands are asked to write a short statement about where they are **now** and they grow in their faith. So here are their state-

### Madeline Lair

I believe in God because I was born and raised into a family that loves and praises: God. God is a very important aspect in my life because I believe that he put us here for a reason and that he is watching over us making sure that we live happy healthy lives. I believe that the Lutheran Church is an inclusive, loving and unified community that people can go to when they feel like they have no one to go to. People can root themselves in the Lutheran faith and have a family in it. Life is a beautiful, flourishing, canvas with so much potential to do anything you desire, but life can't last forever which is why it has to come to an end. Death doesn't scare me, I believe that God will take care of me and when my time comes I know that I will be ready to go into God's hands. Being a teenager in this day has many expectations and requirements to me, I fear that I am letting my teenage days go too fast and am not cherishing them enough. Through my confirmation journey, I have learned about God and the things he has gone through to get us here and I am so grateful that I have had this experience.

### Josh Livingston

The Lutheran faith is all I've ever known. My parents and grandparents were also raised in the Lutheran church, so my family thinks this is best. Celebration Lutheran Church is my church family. This is a place where I feel welcome, I feel loved, I feel important.

In my class time throughout Confirmation and Sunday School, I have learned many lessons and new skills to guide me in my life now. My faith in God has grown during this time, I know he's always got my back.

I have always had fun helping with service projects. Helping in the kitchen, working the cameras, and assisting with the younger kids have all been ways I've worked through my faith. I hope to continue helping others through the church in this way.

Thank you everyone for helping me in my journey as a confirmation student and guiding me through this time in my life.

*FYI: Josh and Maddie's confirmation verses were chosen by their parents and will be revealed to them during the Rite of Confirmation.*

## Help Feed the Hungry



We continue to work with The Good Hope Food Pantry in Garden City. The food pantry is especially busy during the summer because children

are home from school and not receiving free breakfasts or lunches through the schools. Families are still being impacted by layoffs due to the pandemic as well.

The Good Hope Food Pantry continues to need your support of non-perishable foods and/or monetary donations.. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make the checks out to *Good Hope Lutheran Church*.

This month's Bring One Sunday is June 12<sup>th</sup>.

If you have questions regarding this ministry, contact Greg and Gloria Tapper at 734-427-1142 or [Getapper@yahoo.com](mailto:Getapper@yahoo.com).

## We Care for the Environment! (well, *our* environment...)

Last month the Scout troops did their annual clean-up of our church area. We thank them for their continuing service to us in keeping our environment up to snuff.

Our Celebration garden team began sprucing up the gardens in the past couple of weeks. If you would like to help maintain the gardens throughout the summer consider joining our garden team The group typically meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 am .

If you have any questions regarding this group, contact Carole Hakala at 734-634-1285.



## Free Food Program And Grocery Delivery

Zelphia's Food Kitchen is a non-profit in the area currently providing free food distribution. They have recently implemented a program for senior citizens age 60+ to provide a free box of food each month. The great thing about this program is that if you live within 10 miles of one of our distribution sites, DoorDash will deliver it to you free! On Thursdays, pick-up is at Fair Haven Baptism Church 34850 Marquette St., Westland and on Saturdays at Meadowbrook Congregational Church 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi. Of course, you are welcome to pick up your box from our site if you live outside the 10-mile radius or prefer to not have it delivered.

They want as many people as possible to take advantage of this program. Their mission is to ensure that no one goes hungry. that no food is wasted in our community, and no one is denied the opportunity or assistance to become self-sufficient at the same time being committed to improving the quality of life and restoring the dignity of those we serve. To apply contact Victoria Trudell (269) 275-9728 or Erica Jeffries (734)394-7988 or email them at: [zelphiacommunitykitchen@gmail.com](mailto:zelphiacommunitykitchen@gmail.com).

### **It's All About the need for Blood!**

The next Blood Drive at Celebration is on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. To schedule an appointment, please log into [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) (sponsor code: celebrationchurch) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



**Every Sunday during our intercessory prayers, we lift up Celebration members on a rotating basis. During June and July we will lift up:**

**June 5**

Ray and Barbara Smith  
Devonna Snowden  
Larry and Christine Snowden

**June 12**

Mike, Donna, Noah, Jonah, & Nora Stempien  
Mike Sweier  
Cindy and Phil Sweier  
Cliff and Maureen Switzer

**June 19**

Lee, Laura, Luke, and Lily Szczembara  
Greg and Gloria Tapper  
Stephen, Noelle, and Gareth Tarr  
Terry and Glenda Tarr

**June 26**

Janice and Mike Taylor  
Charlene Tennant  
Eric, Joan, and Margaret Thompson  
Ciro, Megan, Teddy, and Reagan Troncoso

**July 3**

Chuck and Tina Truskowski  
Esther Van Wicklin  
Bernie Vaughan  
Mike and Pat Villemure

**July 10**

Loretta and Ed Wallace-Verda  
Shirley Ward  
Kairssa Williams  
Fred, Cheryl, and Erika Williams

**July 17**

Diane Yagerlener  
Emily, Jeff, and Maxwell Yandura  
Lois Zilka  
Ken and Estelle Zoller

**July 24**

Bill and Lisa Albert  
Leo and Sandy Albert  
Rich and Jane Alder  
Pinky Bierbaum

**July 31**

Mike and Linda Bierbaum  
Larry and Esther Bowers  
Scott and Cheryl Bowker  
Dennis Bramigk

**Flower sponsors for June and July ...**

**June 5**

The Fogle's in celebration of our confirmands  
Madeline Lair and  
Josh Livingston

**June 12**

Rick and Jodi Reed in celebration of Rick's birthday

**June 19**

Stew Israel in memory of his wife, Kathy

**July 10**

Larry and Christine Snowden in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Rick and Jodi Reed in memory of Rick's mother, Patricia Reed

**July 17**

Mike and Linda Bierbaum in celebration of Mike's birthday





# Mid-Summer Gathering

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the July women's "retreat" is back with a new name and a new location! This year we will gather on Saturday, July 16, at the home of Heather Fogle. Feel free to arrive anytime between 9:30 and 10:00 for a little coffee, tea and socializing, followed by a Bible study, pot luck lunch and a craft. You will still have much of the afternoon left to do any Saturday errands you may have. All women are invited to attend whether you've come to any of the previous get-togethers, meetings or not. There are no pre-requisites! First-timers are always welcome!

Please bring your Bible and a cold dish to share; we have generally had a great selection of salads and desserts. And there will still be time to request the recipes of any goodies you may taste to be entered in the cookbook! Beverages and table service will be provided.

The address for the gathering is: 9122 Texas Court, Livonia (northwest Joy and Merri-man). We hope you will join us. There will be a sign-up (and map) on the Communications Board if you plan on attending, just so we know we have enough chairs. If you decide to come at the last minute, that's okay too. The more, the merrier! Questions? Contact any of the W/ELCA board (Debby Hoepner, Christine Snowden, Carole Hakala, Lauren Preston, Luan Purcell, ) or Heather Fogle.

## ***Crafted in Christ***

A summer of rest and renewal

Our summer Bible study uses the concept of quilting to explore themes of community and sabbath. Some participants have ample experience as quilters; others simply appreciate the quilts they (or their friends and family) own, or quilts seen on display. Participants unfamiliar with quilting can begin to appreciate the beauty and purpose of quilts.

All metaphors have limitations. Not every type of quilting or quilt will be represented perfectly in this study. Yet quilting concepts and terms will help us delve into the specifics of Christian life and community and reimagine what we may become for Christ. Biblical patterns can help us make changes and discover opportunities. Ultimately, we are empowered by God's grace to choose life-giving patterns for ourselves and our communities.

### **Noticing Patterns (Genesis 1:1--2:3):**

1. God establishes patterns for our benefit.
2. God created people as creators. Not only our work projects but our meals, gardens, art and families are all quality creations. Creating a way to serve neighbors and share joy in doing things we love.
3. Considering our patterns can help our lives and communities to be crafted in Christ.

### **The Pattern of Rest(Leviticus 25:1-12):**

1. Rest is an important life pattern, intended for all.
2. A weekly sabbath helps us consider other opportunities (sabbaticals, debt forgiveness).

### **A New Pattern (John 13):**

1. Liturgy forms us, offering a vision of a changed pattern of life.
2. Jesus upends classical power dynamics, calling disciples into both service and leadership.

### **Patterns for Good (Acts 11:1-18):**

1. Even the best patterns sometimes need to change. This can be hard at first--Peter struggled to do so!
2. God helps us change patterns so more people can be welcomed to Christ's way of grace.



### Birthdays

- 1 Karen Call
- 4 Beth Codd
- 5 Laureen Preston
- 6 Gloria Tapper
- 7 Scott Bowker  
Judy Dauss
- 9 Heather Fogle
- 10 Timothy Lorenz
- 14 Rick Reed  
Bruno Wommer
- 15 George Evalt
- 16 Adreinne Dent  
Julia Gardner  
Laura Harrison
- 17 Janice Taylor
- 18 Kathy Tyler
- 20 Emily Jung-Hoste
- 21 Christopher Wommer
- 23 Natalie Taylor  
Sheryl Jensen
- 25 Betty Lada
- 26 Cliff Switzer  
Benjamin Lorenz
- 27 Pinky (LeEtta) Bierbaum  
Gerald Schmucker
- 30 Roger Buelow

### Anniversaries

- 3 Dick and LaVerne Lieberknecht
- 25 Eric and Joan Thompson
- 28 Ken and Estelle Zoller



### Birthdays

- 8 Janet Buck  
Diane Yagerlener
- 11 Rich Alder
- 13 Lydia Frizzel  
Reece Hardy  
Lauren Reid
- 14 Estelle Zoller
- 15 Roberta Schmucker
- 17 Brandon Wright
- 18 Jodi Ross
- 20 Margaret Thompson
- 19 Mike Bierbaum
- 27 Cindy Sweier

### Anniversaries

- 11 Larry and Christine Snowden
- 13 Rich and Jane Alder
- 14 Cindy and Phil Sweier
- 15 Ciro and Megan Troncoso
- 18 Robert and Christine Hurd
- 27 Lee and Laura Szczembara



Please consider sponsoring a week or more of live-streaming for \$15 per Sunday. Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed directly to the church.

**All Sundays in June are available for sponsorship.**

**July 10:** Rick and Jodi Reed

**July 24:** Cindy and Phil Sweier

# June Devotions

Wednesday, June 1  
Psalm 5  
Isaiah 56:1-8  
Mark 7:24-30

Thursday, June 2  
Psalm 30  
2 Samuel 14:1-11  
Acts 22:6-21

Friday, June 3  
Psalm 30  
2 Samuel 14:12-24  
Acts 26:1-11

Saturday, June 4  
Psalm 30  
2 Samuel 14:25-33  
Matthew 9:2-8

**Sunday, June 5**  
**1 Kings 17:17-24**  
**Psalm 30**  
**Galatians 1:11-24**  
**Luke 7:11-17**

Monday, June 6  
Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20  
Genesis 22:1-14  
Galatians 2:1-10

Tuesday, June 7  
Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20  
Judges 11:29-40  
Galatians 2:11-14

Wednesday, June 8  
Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20  
Jeremiah 8:14-22  
Luke 8:40-56

Thursday, June 9  
Psalm 32  
2 Samuel 13:23-39  
James 4:1-7

Friday, June 10  
Psalm 32  
2 Samuel 15:1-12  
Romans 11:1-10

Saturday, June 11  
Psalm 32  
2 Samuel 18:28—19:8  
Luke 5:17-26

**Sunday, June 12**  
**2 Samuel 11:26—12:10, 13-15**  
**Psalm 32**  
**Galatians 2:15-21**  
**Luke 7:36—8:3**

Monday, June 13  
Psalm 130  
2 Chronicles 29:1-19  
Galatians 3:1-9

Tuesday, June 14  
Psalm 130  
2 Chronicles 30:1-12  
Galatians 3:10-14

Wednesday, June 15  
Psalm 130  
2 Chronicles 30:13-27  
Mark 2:1-12

Thursday, June 16  
Psalm 22:19-28  
Isaiah 56:9-12  
Romans 2:17-29

Friday, June 17  
Psalm 22:19-28  
Isaiah 57:1-13  
Galatians 3:15-22

Saturday, June 18  
Psalm 22:19-28  
Isaiah 59:1-8  
Matthew 9:27-34

**Sunday, June 19**  
**Isaiah 65:1-9**  
**Psalm 22:19-28**  
**Galatians 3:23-29**  
**Luke 8:26-39**

Monday, June 20  
Psalm 64  
Job 18:1-21  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Tuesday, June 21  
Psalm 64  
Job 19:1-22  
Ephesians 2:11-22

Wednesday, June 22  
Psalm 64  
Ezekiel 32:1-10  
Luke 9:37-43a

Thursday, June 23  
Psalm 16  
Leviticus 9:22—10:11  
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Friday, June 24  
Psalm 16  
2 Kings 1:1-16  
Galatians 4:8-20

Saturday, June 25  
Psalm 16  
Deuteronomy 32:15-27, 39-43  
Luke 9:21-27

**Sunday, June 26**  
**1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21**  
**Psalm 16**  
**Galatians 5:1, 13-25**  
**Luke 9:51-62**

Monday, June 27  
Psalm 140  
Genesis 24:34-41, 50-67  
1 John 2:7-11

Tuesday, June 28  
Psalm 140  
Jeremiah 3:15-18  
Ephesians 5:6-20

Wednesday, June 29  
Psalm 140  
Jeremiah 23:16-22  
Matthew 10:16-25

Thursday, June 30  
Psalm 66:1-9  
2 Kings 21:1-15  
Romans 7:14-25

