

# Chapter & Verse

A Newsletter of the Morongo Basin Lutheran Parish  
Immanuel Prince of Peace, 29 Palms  
Faith Lutheran, Joshua Tree

May 2010

## Points of Interest

- Pentecost in the Park
- National Day of Prayer
- Supper Club

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## Pentecost in the Park

The Day of Pentecost marks the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Church. We read about the tongues of flame that signified the presence of the Spirit that were above the heads of the still frightened disciples. And we hear how the power of the Spirit moved them to boldly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to people in many different languages.

Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church. And we will celebrate that birthday again this year with our joint outdoor worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. An exciting change this year is that we will not be alone, but will be joined by St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church and both the Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree Methodist Churches. We will gather for a Communion Service at **9:30 a.m.** in Knott Sky Park in Twentynine Palms where we have enjoyed the grassy setting for the last several years. We always look forward to this Sunday so plan to be there and bring a friend!

A regular feature of this special day is the picnic that is enjoyed immediately following the service. Hamburgers, hot dogs and buns will be provided but you need to bring everything else! That includes a potluck dish to share, your own place settings including plates, flatware and glasses, something to drink if you don't want water or fruit punch/lemonade, and chairs to sit on. It's always a fun time and done by noon. Plan to stay for this wonderful fellowship activity and meet some new friends.

And don't forget: the liturgical color for Pentecost is Red. So wear something red and be a bit of adiaphora!



# Thoughts From The Pastor

Many of us are searching for some kind of spiritual life, even though we are not always clear about what that means. We yearn for a sense of transcendence, and yet we always come crashing down to earth. The various mysticisms make grandiose promises of enlightenment and spiritual empowerment, but there is no living happily ever after. Mundane life intrudes. Work, family pressures, practical responsibilities, hurting, and failures all have a way of breaking the spiritual mood.

Our churches would seem to be custodians of spiritual reality, but they often do not seem particularly spiritual. They often seem mundane too. The Sunday sermon, sitting in the pew, coffee after church, going to fellowship dinners can seem so ordinary. One would think that spirituality would be rather more spectacular.

So how do you stay alive in faith? Open your eyes and ears and stay within earshot and eyeshot of the Spirit. It's that simple. The Spirit brings you to faith and keeps you alive in faith. But the Spirit doesn't come to you out of the blue. The Spirit uses words and water and bread and wine. The very things we see on Sunday mornings. The

Spirit uses people to bring us words and water and bread and wine. The words are God's words. The word is heard. The water is baptism. Bread and wine are the stuff of Holy Communion. The sacraments are seen. You need to stay within earshot of the word and eyeshot of the sacraments. Staying alive in the faith means staying where the Spirit is present.

There are many times and places where we are in the Spirit's presence. You participate in the life of a congregation. You were baptized. You pray. You read the Bible. You go to church for worship, confession, and forgiveness. You kneel at your first communion and you celebrate the affirmation of your baptism. You participate in a life of devotion to God and service to people. Throughout this journey you are surrounded by Spirit-bearing sounds and sights that keep you alive in faith.

Our closeness to these things keeps us alive in faith. Neglect them, and our faith becomes weaker and weaker until it is pushed aside by other things. Stay near so that you can hear and see all that God has done for you.

## National Day of Prayer

### PRAYER FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

The 59th Annual Observance of **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** is Thursday, May 6, 2010. The Twentynine Palms Ministerial Association will be holding two prayer services at Veterans' Park, next to City Hall at 6136 Adobe Rd, Twentynine Palms. The morning service from 7:00-7:30 will feature Twentynine Palms High School Student Michaela Chambers singing plus the seven points of prayer: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family. Participants are encouraged to attend both the 7:00 am and the 12:00-12:30 pm service which will feature singer Horace Miller from Faith In The Word Christian Center in addition to the points of prayer. We come together in prayer asking for guidance, protection and strength. Don't miss this event!

# IPOP Servants—May

	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Communion Assts</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<b><u>May 2</u></b>	Zander Hardin		Shocken	Hunter Stepp
<b><u>May 9</u></b>	Ellin Loveless	N/A	Hazzard	Matthew Burke
<b><u>May 16</u></b>	Susan Lunn		Burke	Samantha Burke
<b><u>May 23</u></b>	P E N T E C O S T in the P A R K			
<b><u>May 30</u></b>		N/A	Sandwich Sunday	Mia Hazzard

## Gerhardt Holds Four Week Journey to Inner Peace

Reverend Lou Gerhardt will be holding a four week seminar at IPOP beginning Thursday, May 6, and continuing each Thursday in May from 10 to 11 am.

His program is entitled 4 Ways to Inner Peace and will focus on a different practice each week. All members of the community are invited to come and share this hour of fellowship and learning.

## Lectionary for May

### **May 2** **5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35



### **May 23** **Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:14-17  
John 14:8-17, 25-27

### **May 9** **6th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:9-15  
Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5  
John 14:23-29

### **May 16** **7th Sunday of Easter**

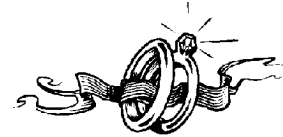
Acts 16:16-34  
Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14,  
16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26

### **May 30** **The Holy Trinity**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15



## May Celebrations!!!



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- |    |                   |    |                    |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 2  | Hanna Burke       | 14 | Kathy Lahti        |
| 3  | Bill Gosen        |    | Vicki Sarchet      |
| 7  | Heidi Beck        |    | Charlene Schafer   |
|    | Ellin Loveless    | 15 | Helen Johnson      |
|    | Vern Monroe       | 16 | Lauren Pulliam     |
| 8  | Dave Beard        | 17 | Kayla Burke        |
| 9  | Scott Clinkscales | 19 | Herb Stoecklein    |
| 12 | Rae Noel          | 28 | Jacqueline Fortner |
| 13 | Patrick Lunn      | 30 | Jon Beard          |
|    |                   | 31 | Jade Sarchet       |

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 5  | Bill & Carol Yanez     |
| 6  | Wayne & Nadine Stuart  |
| 26 | Gene & Monica Coughlin |



# HAPPY Mother's DAY

## Our May Prayer List

Rita Andrews  
Terry Andrews  
Joy Ballou  
Dave & Nancy Beard  
John & Amelia Bohm  
Bev Bottorff  
Bryan  
Camp Family  
Cathy Chamberlain  
Sarah Chambers  
Mickey Sue Crow  
Alison deJong  
Linda & Clint Diemer  
Michael Dorman  
Dylan  
Sam & Melissa Franconi  
Sarah & Gabriella French  
Donna Gibford

Eliot Hanks  
Melody Haynes  
Frank Herrera  
Herrera Family  
Mary Higgins  
Susan Jackson  
Ron Johnson  
Kurt & Celeste Kauer  
Dee & C.J. Krause  
Katrina Lammentaus  
Grace Lebda  
Kathleen Lowndes  
Susan Lunn  
Darlene Manthey  
Captain Allen Mowers  
Julie Muelhman  
Bill & Claudine Porter  
Allie Quinn

Noel Reimer  
Wanda Rinaldo  
Courtney Schaffner  
Harold Sexton  
Ronnie Sheeley  
Neil Simmons  
Connie Solloway & Family  
Karen Sorensen  
Barbara Spangler  
Jay Stepp  
Peggy Stimac  
Lydia Stoecklein  
Britta Suggs  
Jacquelin Underwood  
Hank Walters  
Doris Wilder  
Kayla Woodhouse



# Evangelism Express

by Bea Chambers

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.”*

I learned that prayer as a child, it was sung every Sunday immediately after the offering and before Communion was celebrated. Over the years, when things are less than optimum in my life, this is one of the prayers I find myself reciting as I seek the comfort of God in my existence.

In my life it seems that no sooner do I overcome one challenge and become comfortable in my living than something else comes to light that shakes not only my reality but often times my faith as well. Often, my response to these anxieties is hostility, anger that is allowed to rage unabated and soon festers into hate. It is only then that reason finally comes to me and I face the fact that alone I am nothing, I can do nothing, and that only with God can I try and be the person he wants me to be.

A very dear minister once told me that “anger is permissible, even Jesus got angry from time to time. But,” he cautioned, “hate is never acceptable, for in hating another, we lose sight of the most important commandment of all, the new commandment that was brought to us by Jesus himself; that of loving our neighbors as Jesus first loved us.” Too often we lose that focus in our attempts to try and rule our lives by ourselves. Too often we want what we want, regardless of where the chips may fall or who is in our way. Too often we let go of the hand of Christ and run unfettered onto the highway of desire, materialism, greed or avariciousness without a thought for those around us. Sometimes we are lucky, and

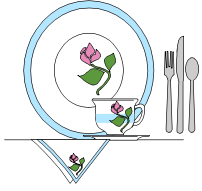
we return unscathed from our adventure, strengthened not by faith but by our own intentions. More often than not, we discover that we were run down by a thundering truck and too late we come limping back to Christ, licking our wounds and seeking his forgiveness, often times without first seeking the forgiveness of those who we still deem as responsible for our misadventure. “Cast me not away from your presence” we pray, knowing all the time that it was us, not him that left in the first place. “Take not your Holy Spirit from me” we plead, as we wallow in self pity and frustration, not willing to admit that it was our choice to embrace the anger and hostility and turn our back to the Spirit.

Saint John writes “If you love me you will keep my commandments. And I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him for he dwells in you and will be in you.” *John 14:15-17.*

As we wrap up the Easter season and prepare to celebrate the miracle of Pentecost let us not lose the joy of Salvation that we have been granted by our baptism and our



# Supper Club



We had quite a time last month at the Palms Kabob House, the food was excellent, the service superb and the company was wonderful. After much consideration, we chose The Rib Company in Yucca Valley for our May excursion. Now before you get wound up over the cost, the owners have recently revamped their menus with some prices slashed and the addition of a number of \$9.99 dinners. Our May dining jaunt will be Friday, May 21, beginning at 6:00 pm. As always, everyone is invited to join us for this dutch treat fellowship.



I would like to thank everyone who made my fund-raising dinner such a huge success. Being selected to attend the **Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival** is a wonderful opportunity for me to learn and to bring new and exciting music back to the congregation. The church is still accepting donations until May 9, and all donations are matched 33 percent by the LSM program. Again, thank you all for your love and support.

Michaela Chambers



Ms. Mary Barber & Mr. Dennis Hougard  
Cordially invite you

To

A Wedding Celebration  
Saturday, May 8, 2010  
Immanuel Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church  
4:30 pm



## Final Note

The Pentecost story is always a fascinating one. The thought of the Holy Spirit coming to the people of God and empowering them to share the Good News is almost overwhelming! There were many "Pentecost" stories in the New Testament. The first happens on Easter evening when Jesus breathes on the disciples in the locked room in which they were hiding and says to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." As Christians we believe the Holy Spirit comes to each of us at baptism and that it allows the growth of faith in Christ within us as a gift from God. I personally believe that a new Pentecost occurs every time we are reminded that Christ is with us. That's the Spirit working within us to keep us aware of the presence of Christ in our lives.



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Morongo Basin Parish

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**The Morongo Basin Lutheran Parish** is a Cooperative effort of Faith Lutheran Church and Immanuel Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Serving the entire Morongo Basin, the Parish offers worship, education, outreach, fellowship, and study opportunities firmly based in the Word of God. Pastoral care and counseling are provided by The Reverend Joseph R. Matoush. Come and share the miracle of faith!