

  
**THE VOICE**  
**Of Pentecost Lutheran Church**

---

*As forgiven children of God, we, the Pentecost Family of Faith, are committed to show everyone Life in Christ.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

**“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” (Romans 8:16)**

Have you ever been in a group where you felt like you really didn’t belong? Not just because you shouldn’t have been there, but because you just didn’t feel like part of the group? Because everyone else knew one another and you were the stranger? Because you had nothing in common with the rest of the crowd? Uncomfortable, uneasy, uncertain, unsure?

Sometimes we are also more than a bit uncertain about our relationship within the family of God. The devil uses our doubts and our worries, our sins and our weaknesses, to lead us to ask, “Do I really belong? Am I really one of God’s children? Is he really my loving, caring heavenly Father? Or am I just deluding myself into thinking that is all is well?”

So much of what we do and say in our everyday lives is tied up in those emotions we call our “feelings.” And in normal conditions, our feelings can well be a barometer of what’s going on inside of us. We may accurately read the signs of the party crowd around us, and then say, “I feel I’m not really wanted; I don’t really belong.”

It would be easy to make the mistake of carrying over this emphasis on feelings into our spiritual lives. We could get the impression that you must “feel saved” in order to be saved. Oh, yes, at the high points of our Christian lives, maybe Christmas or Easter, we feel pretty darn faith-filled. But all too often our faith is weak, questions are unanswered, doubts prevail, no-so-subtle sins plague the conscience, and our spirit fades and fails. We feel, “Am I really wanted? Do I really belong to God’s family?”

God’s children; however, have a vital and eternally true assurance. It comes not from within us, but from outside of us. It is not based on how we feel, but on how God feels; his Spirit speaks to us in a thousand places in the written Word. Over and over again he says: “You may feel unlovable, but I love you! You may feel like an outcast, but I have adopted you to be my child.”

It is just when we have those weak and failing feelings that we are invited to come back to him through his Word. To perk up your spirit, let his Spirit speak. You’ll be blessed with the perfect security of knowing, “I really belong.”

Prayer: O Lord, give me your Spirit so that by your Word of promise I may trust that I am truly one of your children. Amen.



## Birthdays

Richard Rognsvoog-01/01	Raynae Hensel – 01/22
Mason Wagner – 01/01	Mia Ekstowicz – 01/25
Dale Petrowsky – 01/06	Dave Wagner – 01/25
Sharon Boehme – 01/08	Sue Murcek – 01/27
Kathy McGregor – 01/13	Anne Chasar – 01/28
Andrea Wilkinson – 01/13	Gordy Mierow – 01/28
Grant Barclay – 01/17	Corrine Schrubbe – 01/28
Walter Wilckens – 01/19	

### 2018 Church Council

<b>President</b>	Tim Hasko
<b>Vice President</b>	Mike Wilkinson
<b>Secretary</b>	Sue Hasko
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Hasko
<b>Board of Elders</b>	John Lisowski Dave Wagner John Boeme
<b>Board of Education</b>	Amanda McCray Chrissy Hamilton
<b>Board of Stewardship</b>	Sharon Boehme Joyce Hasko Katie Gullicksrud
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	Noah Barclay Mike McCray Dan Geyer
<b>Board of Missions &amp; Evangelism</b>	Kathy McGregor Katy Wagner
<b>Members at Large</b>	Mike Mueller Kyle Jacob Bob Winterle

Installation of the Church Council will take place during the service on January 7<sup>th</sup>.



Arlene & Robert Verborg  
53 years - January 16<sup>th</sup>



### Altar Flowers

The 2018 Flower Chart is up in the narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the altar for a special occasion, please sign up on the chart. Please indicate whether you are keeping them, otherwise your arrangement will be given to a local nursing home. Contact Sue Murcek or Janet Greco if you have any questions.



### CHURCH DIRECTORY

A new directory will be printed soon. If you have a change in address or phone number, please let Sue Hasko know by either calling the church office or making corrections on the directory sitting on the table in the narthex. Also, if you would like to add your e-mail address and cell phone numbers, you can do that too. You can also e-mail me your information at [pentecostlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:pentecostlutheran@gmail.com).



### Annual Report

All reports for the 2017 Annual Report need to be turned in to Sue Hasko by January 28<sup>th</sup>. E-mail them to [pentecostlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:pentecostlutheran@gmail.com), or you can place them in my mailbox (Hasko, Tom). *Thanks*



**Christmas De-decorating** will take place on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am. The more people who show up the faster we will be done!

## Stewardship Corner

*Silent Night* is a favorite Christmas hymn that is interpreted in as many ways as there are people singing it. As we make Stewardship plans for the new year, I'd like to share my interpretation with you.

We have a calm, ordinary, quiet (*silent*) night. Then suddenly God changes things. He fills that silent night with the sounds of angels singing Alleluias – something important has happened. Even in the stable things probably aren't so quiet for a while. We listen for the sounds a new baby makes so we know all is well. The shepherds didn't keep quiet after they saw the baby, but told everyone they met what had happened. An extra verse in another hymnal says "With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King."

To me, this song builds up from silence to a joy you can't keep inside of you. In the words of another song, "I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know, the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on."

**NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.** Are you going to retreat back into the silence for another year or be ready to tell others about your Savior, thank God for his wonderful gift, and give back by helping your church.

Pentecost has a great need for helpers – ushers, money counters, lectors, altar guild, lay assistant, acolyte.... What will you volunteer to do this year.

## Rachel Meyer Missionary to Uganda



During one of our Advent suppers, Missionary Rachel Meyer spoke to us about her work in Uganda. At our Annual Voters Meeting, we voted to give her some

support as part of our tithe from a bequest our congregation had received. You can help support Rachel's work by making a special gift for her – checks made payable to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod with Meyer-Uganda Support on the memo line.



## Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

"**Brightest and Best**" (occasionally rendered by its first line, "**Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning**") is a Christian hymn written in 1811 by the Anglican bishop [Reginald Heber](#) to be sung at the feast of [Epiphany](#).<sup>[1]</sup> It appeared in Heber's widow's compilation of hymns entitled *Hymns Written and Adapted to the Weekly Service of the Church Year* in 1827. It can be sung to a number of tunes, including "Morning Star" by [James P. Harding](#), "Epiphany" by [Joseph Thrupp](#), and "Star in the East" by [William Walker](#). It appears in *The Lutheran Hymnal*, and appeared in the 1966 Methodist hymnal. It has been recorded by a number of artists, including [Glen Campbell](#), [Joanne Hogg](#) and [Kathy Mattea](#) (on her album *Good News*). The Kentucky traditional singer [Jean Ritchie](#) often sang this and told of her childhood memory of her grandmother sitting by the fire and singing it quietly to herself on Twelfth Night; the Library of Congress collected it from her in 1951.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brightest\\_and\\_Best](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brightest_and_Best)

Reginald Heber was born in 1783 into a wealthy, educated family. He was a bright youth, translating a Latin classic into English verse by the time he was seven, entering Oxford at 17, and winning two awards for his poetry during his time there. After his graduation he became rector of his father's church in the village of Hodnet near Shrewsbury in the west of England where he remained for 16 years. He was appointed Bishop of Calcutta in 1823 and worked tirelessly for three years until the weather and travel took its toll on his health and he died of a stroke. Most of his 57 hymns, which include "Holy, Holy, Holy," are still in use today.

[https://hymnary.org/text/brightest\\_and\\_best\\_of\\_the\\_sons\\_of\\_the\\_mo](https://hymnary.org/text/brightest_and_best_of_the_sons_of_the_mo)

## Resolve to "be there"

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

—Goran Persson



For many years it has been a tradition at Pentecost to take a picture of our Sunday School children around the manger with their Pastor on the day of the Sunday School Christmas program. Here is this year's picture. Thank you to Courtney Jacob for directing this year's program, all of her helpers, and our Sunday School children.

## A penguin "parable"



During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have

been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective "crèches" (French for "cribs"); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can't survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

## Three questions

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, "Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?"

Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid — and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the brand-new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? "I'm a child of God!"
- Where are you going? "I'm going out into the world!"
- Why are you going there? "I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me!"

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing "whose" you are and what your purpose is.

