

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
August 22, 2021

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ.

Procedures and Requirements for In-Door Worship

- Masks are **REQUIRED** at all times when inside of the building.
- Three hymns will be sung. Masks are required when singing.
- Sign in on sign-up sheets that will be on the table as you enter the church.
- Pick up your bulletin and communion kit at the table in the Gathering Area
- Place your offering in the offering plate at the table in the Gathering Area
- Sit only in designated seating places (if you are sitting with more than two people, please sit on the sides)
- Greet and visit with people before or after worship outside
- The air conditioning will be on.
- The service will be on-line for those not yet comfortable being inside.
 - In order to not overload the internet, please either power down your phones or put them on Airplane Mode.
 - Also, so that the people who are joining us on-line can hear the congregational responses and announcements, a worship leader/reader will lead the congregational responses and all announcements must be made at the pulpit.

Worship Leaders – We are in need of people to help lead worship by reading both the congregational responses and the lessons. Please let Kathy Bobeck know if you are willing to volunteer.

If you have prayer requests, please send them to me so that I can include them in my weekly newsletters.

God's Work, Our Hands – October 12th.

We are assembling packages for our military families for God's Work-Our Hands Sunday, on Oct. 10th. Deadline to bring in items is Oct. 3rd.

Hygiene Items: dental floss, chap stick, small bottles of Tylenol or Advil, tooth paste in small tubes, Band-Aids, vitamin C tablets in small bottles, sunscreen in small tubes, cold meds in small bottles, blister packs, other medical items in small packets. No toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, or liquids.

Candy items: (all individually wrapped) hard candy, mints, chocolates, small candy bars, tootsie rolls, Hershey kisses.

Cotton socks-white or black, calf high, all sizes for adults.

These items have to be small enough to fit into a sandwich bag. They will then be packed into Christmas stockings. Boxes are available in the gathering area to receive your gifts. A grant of \$250. from Thrivent Financial will help us purchase items to "round out" what is needed to make up the contents for 100 stockings. The Witness Committee thanks you for your support of this project.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Denise

Home Phone

610-750-6432

Cell/Text Phone

610-858-818

Acts 2:37-42

³⁷ Cut to the quick, those who were there listening asked Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers! Brothers! So now what do we do?”

³⁸⁻³⁹ Peter said, “Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites.”

⁴⁰ He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, “Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!”

⁴¹⁻⁴² That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

Sermon

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father
and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. AMEN.

Our text this morning begins
with these words spoken to Peter
by the Jews:

“Brothers! Brothers! So now
what do we do?”

Which certainly begs the
question as to what was it that
Peter was telling them. As we
backtrack a little in second
chapter of Acts, we find
ourselves among the crowd that
had gathered in Jerusalem for
Pentecost and we are specifically
with a group of Jews who are
mocking those who have been
filled with the Holy Spirit and
have been speaking in foreign
languages.

Those Jews, who have not yet
come to believe in Jesus as the
Messiah are mocking the people
who are talking in foreign
tongues and suggest that these
people are drunk.

That’s when Peter has heard
enough from these self-righteous
Jews and stands up and begins
to speak boldly saying:

Fellow Jews, all of you who are
visiting Jerusalem, listen
carefully and get this story
straight. These people aren’t
drunk as some of you suspect.
They haven’t had time to get
drunk, it’s only nine o’clock in
the morning. Remember this is
what the prophet Joel had told
us would happen.

Then Peter quotes Joel’s words,
as he says:

“In the Last Days,” God says,
“I will pour out my Spirit
on every kind of people:
Your sons will prophesy,
also your daughters;
Your young men will see visions,
your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes,
I'll pour out my Spirit
On those who serve me, men and
women both,
and they'll prophesy.

Peter continues on saying:

Fellow Israelites, listen carefully
to these words: Jesus the
Nazarene, a man thoroughly
accredited by God to you by the
miracles and wonders and signs
that God did through him are
common knowledge. This Jesus,
following the deliberate and
well-thought-out plan of God,
was betrayed by men who took
the law into their own hands,
and was handed over to you. And
you pinned him to a cross and
killed him. But God untied the
death ropes and raised him up.
Death was no match for him.

And then Peter says:

Dear friends, let me be
completely frank with you. Our
ancestor David told us that God
promised him that one day a
descendant of his would rule his
kingdom. This Jesus is the one

that God sent to sit on that
throne.

This [is the one] that God raised
up to sit at God's tight hand.
This is the one who promised
that God's Holy Spirit would be
poured out upon all those who
believe. This pouring out of the
Spirit is what you have just seen
and heard.

And know this my fellow
Israelites: This Jesus is without
a doubt, the Messiah, whom you
killed on a cross.

These are the words that Peter
spoke.

What did they hear?

This Jesus is the Messiah that
they have been waiting for and
praying for.

This Jesus is the descendant of
David that God promised would
one day be the King to lead God's
people.

And you my friends are the ones who turned him over to be crucified.

And in response to that harsh message – the men asked Peter – so what do we do now?

And Peter responds with the words from this morning's text.

Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins may be forgiven. Open your hearts and minds and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and the new life that is waiting for you

And that day about 3000 were baptized into this new faith community that was not based on their lineage, but a faith community that was centered in what God had done for them through the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus.

Through baptism in Christ, these descendants of Abraham now claim and embrace the story of the life, the death and the

resurrection of Jesus as their new story of rescue. Their new story of how God has acted to save them from their sinful ways. The new story of God's steadfastness. The new story of God's love for them and for all people.

And now through their baptism, they too have been filled with the Holy spirit, which has energized, inspired and strengthen them to go forward to do the work of the kingdom. The work of loving and caring for their neighbor. The work of carrying the light of Christ out into the world to overcome the darkness.

The very same work that we have been called to as we have been baptized into this same Jesus centered community and we too are commanded to Let our light so shine, that through our good works, we may let others experience the light of Christ.

Claimed and named as beloved children of God, may we live out the promise we made as we affirmed our baptism in the rite of confirmation. Let your light so shine before others that through

your good works so that all may
experience God's Glory.

And to that command I respond -
This little light of mine, I am
going to let it shine, let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.

AMEN

Blessing

May
The love of God,
The light of Christ,
And the joy of the Holy Spirit
Abide with you on this day
and forever more.

AMEN