

FEDERATED FINDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WATERVILLE FEDERATED CHURCH

Ramblings from the Reverend

What is Pentecost? Pentecost is the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ disciples as recorded in Acts 2. We tend to refer to Pentecost as the “birthday of the Church Universal” because it was on this day that the Holy Spirit was gifted to all those who repented, were baptized, and called upon the name of Jesus as Lord and Savior who then devoted themselves to gathering for worship and fellowship.

⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message [Peter’s message about Jesus] were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.— Acts 2:41–47 (NRSV)

Pentecost is June 4 this year. We will gather for our Sunday worship and celebrate God’s gift of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ which is the foundation of the Church Universal today and forever. For the Church isn’t something we created to get to know God, it is the result of the Triune God’s plan to have a community of his chosen to worship and serve Him in this world

Blessings,

Pastor Seth



Stay in Touch

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Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be from June 26-30 from 9:00am-12:00pm at the Lutheran Church this summer. Children Pre-K through elementary school are encouraged to attend!

You are invited to join as a community in attending, ministering during VBS, or sharing your ministry as we prepare to show the love of Jesus to the kids of Waterville. More information on exactly how you can plug into this wonderful event will be coming your way soon.

Registration will be online at our church website beginning in June with prize drawings for parents who register their children online by Sunday, June 25!

This year’s theme is *Ocean Commotion: Diving into Noah’s Flood*.

Ascension Day Eve BBQ

Ascension Day is always 40 days after Easter Sunday when we celebrate the ascension of the resurrected Jesus to the throne at God the Father’s right hand. Ascension Day is always on a Thursday and it is good to mark the day by gathering together in some way. This year, Ascension Day also falls on the first day of the state track meet and Pastor Seth’s mother’s retirement dinner, so why not celebrate the totally unknown day of Ascension Day Eve?

You are invited to a BBQ at the parsonage on Wednesday, May 24 from 6:30-9:00 as we celebrate our Lord by gathering for fellowship.

Meat and place settings will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, a beverage, and whatever you’d like to sit on.



Thank you to everyone who made our Lent and Easter celebrations so wonderful and beautiful! We appreciate how you help bring us closer to the Triune God through all of your ministry!

How Jesus Transforms the Ten Commandments

Our new sermon series begins April 30 and will explore the Ten Commandments in light of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and how our understanding of God’s foundational law is transformed and renewed by Jesus and the witness of the New Testament.

We see the commands of God and know that we and those around us should live by them, but then we also see the grace given to us by Jesus and the freedom that the Apostle Paul speaks of so frequently and it seems like we can’t hold all of those things together which leads us to either favor the law and be weak on grace and freedom or all about grace and freedom and completely let go of the law. We’ll explore how we hold the whole witness of scripture together so that we may know the truth and share the wonder of God’s love with those around us. We’ll start with the first commandment and go right through to number ten.

April 30	Ephesians 2:1-10	Exodus 20:1-17
May 7	Romans 1:16-25	Deuteronomy 4:15-19
May 14	Colossians 3:12-17	Psalm 99
May 21	Luke 13:10-17	Genesis 2:1-3
May 28	Ephesians 6:1-4	Deuteronomy 21:18-21
June 4	Matthew 5:21-22	Genesis 4:1-16
June 11	Matthew 5:27-30	Lamentations 3:25-27
June 18	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Proverbs 30:1-7
June 25	Acts 6:8-15	Psalm 15
July 2	Philippians 3:8-14	Psalm 19:7-14

¹ Then God spoke all these words: ² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. —Exodus 20:1–17

June Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Each Tuesday evening in June at 7:00pm, Pastor Seth will lead a study of the Book of Jonah.

Jonah unfolds in a series of seven episodes with the first three paralleled by the second three (and then the last episode stands as a climax). We shall attempt to take a unique look at Jonah by exploring the parallel episodes together.

Key themes in the Book of Jonah include: God’s sovereign control over all the events on earth, God’s determination to get his message to all the nations, people’s need for repentance from sin in general and self-centeredness in particular, and God’s promise of forgiveness when people repent.

You are invited to join us for this four week Bible study beginning June 6 at 7:00pm!

Women’s Bible Study on Monday Mornings

Join a great group of women on Mondays at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall as they explore the Ten Commandments in conjunction with our Sunday sermon series. Contact the office for more information.

Worship Time Changes June 11

Our Sunday worship time will be 10:00am starting June 11 for the summer. We’ll see you an hour earlier!

Financial Snapshot

	<u>Budget Year to Date</u>	<u>Actual YTD (as of 3/31/2017)</u>
Income	\$20,904	\$20,904
Expenses	<u>\$20,904</u>	<u>\$22,321</u>
Difference	\$0	(\$1,668)

Here is the financial snapshot with data through the end of March.

You might have noticed that the six maple trees in front of the parsonage have had some significant work done to them in April. The trees were significantly pruned and shaped to make them healthier and safer for those people and vehicles underneath them. The contractor said they hadn’t been touched in a few decades and asked that we not wait that long again! We got a great deal, but even with a great deal the cost was still \$2,100. Money for this came from the general fund and the Guild and is not reflected in the snapshot above.

Middle and High School Sunday School

Middle School and High School students will be gathering at 10:00am downstairs for Sunday School from April 30 through May 21. We will get together for Bible study, conversation, and perhaps the odd game and snack. We look forward to seeing you there!

Waterville Days

Waterville Days is around the corner and will be July 7 & 8. Our Guild will again be hosting their pie and ice cream booth and invites your contributions! Look for details as the time gets closer.

If you’d like to help with other Waterville Days projects, our congregation has five members on the Main Street Association Board (the group that puts on Waterville Days) and you can speak to any of them for more information on how to be involved: Lisa Davies, Jenna Dixon, Jill Thomspson, Royal Devaney, and Pastor Seth.