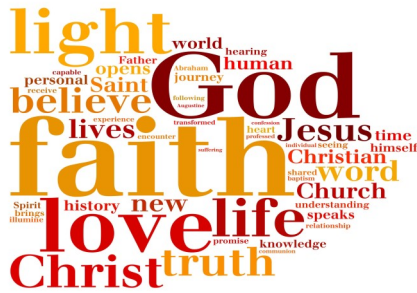


St. James-St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
119-15 135th Avenue
South Ozone Park, NY 11420

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We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am
Visit us at SouthOzoneParkChurch.org



The Liturgical Church Year: Pentecost Excerpts from *Living Lutheran* - May, 2013

In the church year, the day of Pentecost is the culmination of the 50 days of the Easter celebration. After showing himself to the disciples and after having ascended, Jesus' followers received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

On the fiftieth day of Easter, our Lutheran worship is filled with festivity, color and movement as we both conclude the Easter celebration and welcome anew the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In order to highlight the "bookend" connection of the seasons of Easter and Pentecost, some consider ways of highlighting the juxtaposition of the resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Many ELCA worshipers wear red on the festival of Pentecost, recalling the red of the flames of the Holy Spirit. Encourage your congregation to wear red as a sign that the Holy Spirit comes to all the believers, not just the leaders of community. Additionally, red banners, red ribbons on poles in the processional or swags of red fabric all contribute to a festive worship space.

The wind of the Holy Spirit both forms the church and urges us outside the walls of the church to carry on the mission and ministry of Christ in the world. Some craft a worship experience that intentionally flows beyond the worship space with an extended recessional that leads the whole congregation out of the doors of the church.

The Messenger

June 2023 Edition

Others host a reception or meal outdoors after worship in order to connect the festival celebration with the mission to which we are called by the Holy Spirit.

At the time of the sending, highlight ways that worshipers can follow the urging of the Holy Spirit into the world in Christ's mission by inviting those who gather for worship into the ministries your congregation leads. Look for ideas and support for your congregation's ministries that are welcoming, generous and outreaching.



St. James-St. Matthew's is a called out community of believers known as the church, as such, we are led by the Spirit of God to expand our mission—welcoming, generous and reaching out.

So, how are we doing? How are we carrying on the mission and ministry of Christ in the world? How is our worship experience flowing beyond the worship space so that others may be blessed by the same grace, mercy and love of God you yourself have received when gathered for worship?

The Holy Spirit of God gave birth to the Christian church as we know it today and in the same breath, continues to be reshaped into the church God intends it to be—a place to belong. It is my prayer that this Pentecost season will served as a time to focus on our mission as the church. Amen



