

## Pastor Roy's sermon from June 9, 2019

Today is the feast of Pentecost. Today we celebrate the Spirit of God moving in the life of the church. But what exactly does that mean? What does it mean that the Spirit empowers the church to do all that we do. . .in the name of Grace, Peace, Love—in the name of God?

How does this look? How does this feel? What are some examples you can think of? And the Spirit working in the church is not a matter of complicated theology, the Spirit is the flow of the energy of God in us, around us, through us, under us. Our examples are probably less miraculous than the story in Acts, but the Spirit is forming us all the same.

It is humbling to have the Spirit move in us because living in the Spirit's presence and power is a confession that none of this is about me and you and our power as individuals or congregations. Anything good and beautiful in us is not about me and you, it's about the Spirit of God shining in us.

How do you see the Spirit of God at work?

--welcoming strangers, --befriend the friendless, --living in love, --choosing to be generous even when there is nothing in it for me and you, --baptizing ...

Snacks for the wellspan benevolent pharmacy bike race/tour. Being present at community events with good food. Years of meals for people who give blood in the spring and fall. All the roles you play in Farmer's fair each year. Being excellent, loving parents and grandparents and good neighbors. Creating spaces of beauty at home and elsewhere. Giving as a congregation to support the Lower Susquehanna Synod so that together all the churches can be creative in addressing the challenges facing the church today. **I've been around a**

**while and I've seen the way you care for each other.** It's a beautiful thing. And the way you cared for me when my mother died and Gail's this year, when I've had anniversaries of various sorts and the cards come flooding in. As time goes on, the Spirit endears us and enriches our experiences and the depths of our appreciation of what we share.

**That is the work of the Spirit. Forging and strengthening relationships for courage and joy. And not just for the benefit of our communities, but the church's vision of the Spirit leading is that we are drawn outside our comfort zones to love and care for people who are different from us—strangers--because we see Jesus in their eyes.**

**Or we care for creation because we see God sustaining the trees and the hawk, and renewing the streams and rivers when we are willing to trouble ourselves to reduce pollution and chemicals in runoff from factories as well as less fertilizer on lawns.**

The Spirit of God does not generally drive us but leads us as children of God. Not by fear, but with courage. We don't understand all that much if we're honest, but we are called to faithfully put one foot in front of the other, reach out one hand to another, listen for the Spirit inviting us to act and trust that God will bring about the harvest, whatever that harvest may be. And fortunately the end result and the journey have much more to do with God than us.