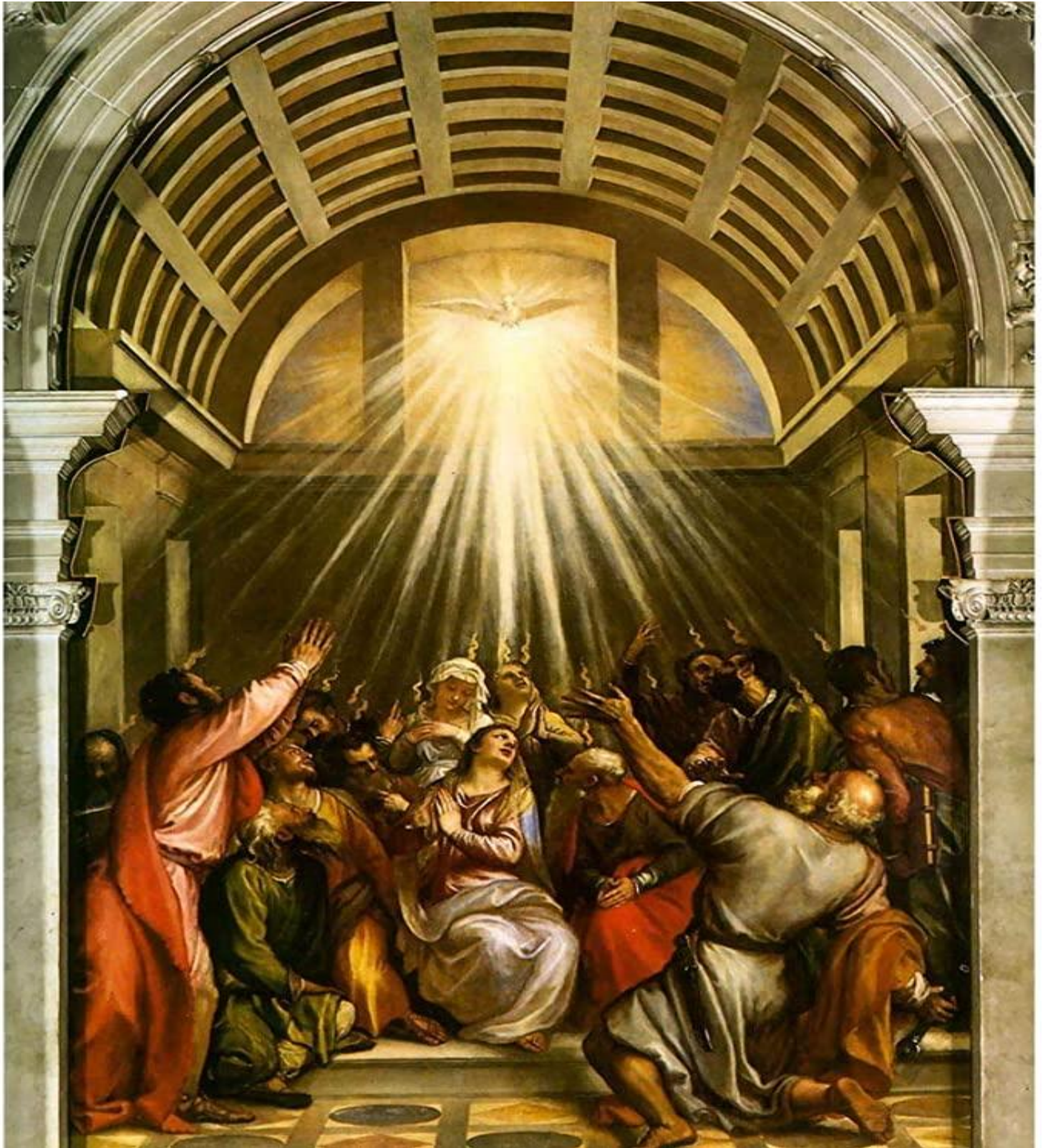




WITTENBERG WAY

May 2023



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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Grace Family,

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear about the "Holy Spirit"? Pause for a second. OK, time's up. Did you picture people speaking in tongues? A televangelist performing miraculous healings on stage by the power of the Spirit?

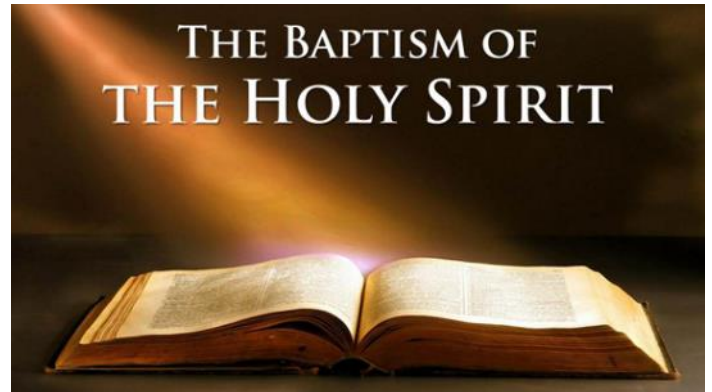
Since the unfortunate rise of the Pentecostal movement in the early 20th century, the ministry of the Holy Spirit has been widely associated with over-the-top church dramatics. People falling down, giving special prophecies, and performing jaw-dropping healings. If that's been your predominant view of the Holy Spirit, you're missing the point.

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, He manifested himself in two ways. First, He came as "tongues of fire" that appeared on the disciples' heads. But the second way he manifested was as a mighty rushing wind. These two symbols—wind and fire—are not an accident. Fire is a common biblical image to represent God, which makes sense: light, heat, purifying judgment. But what about the wind? What happens when wind meets fire? It shouldn't take southern Californians too long to answer that. The fire spreads everywhere.

The main role of the Holy Spirit is to take Jesus public. That is, empowering the church to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and open the hearts of sinners to receive the Good News that Jesus Christ is the world's only Savior from sin, death, and judgment.

Every year, we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit fifty days after Easter (May 28 this year), depicted on the cover of this issue by the late Renaissance painter, Titian (1541). We will hear once again about the wind, fire, and tongues. But we also note the means that the Holy Spirit uses to deliver the Gospel: Word and Sacrament. St. Peter boldly preaches Christ crucified for sinners and the gathered crowd is convicted. They ask Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter answers, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the

forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:37-38).



The promise of baptism is that those who are baptized will receive the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit brings more gifts with Him. He is both a gift and a gift-giver.

One gift the Holy Spirit gives us in baptism is faith. Our sin makes us spiritually blind and dead. We can't create faith ourselves any more than the dead can raise themselves to life. Instead, faith is worked in us by the Holy Spirit and delivered by means of God's Word attached to water.

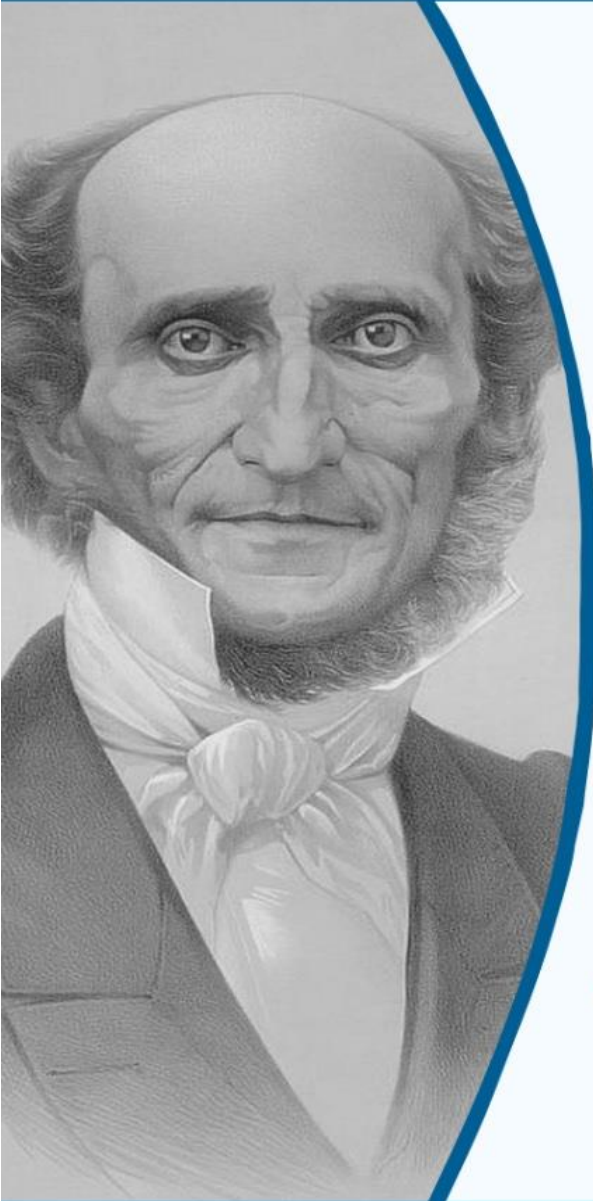
Another gift the Holy Spirit gives us in baptism is the forgiveness of sins. As Martin Luther said, "Where there is forgiveness, there is life and salvation."

The last gift is often the most overlooked. In baptism, the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of assurance. Faith does not depend on our ability to reason well enough or believe hard enough. God doesn't rescue us from sin, death, and the devil only to leave us to fend for ourselves. The Holy Spirit is there to help us when we struggle. He is there to continually shine the spotlight of God's grace on Jesus so that we may always look to Him as "the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb 12:2).

Happy Pentecost!

Pastor Thomas





C.F.W. Walther

May 7

Time Period 1811–1887

Who was he?

The father and first president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Did you know?

- He founded Concordia Seminary, and in 1847 was instrumental in the formation of the LCMS.
- His most influential works are *Church and Ministry* and *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*.
- He worked tirelessly to promote confessional Lutheran teaching and doctrinal agreement.

*Ascension Thursday
An “Elevated”
Spaghetti Supper*



May 18th at 5:30 pm

*Ascension Thursday Service
at 6:30 pm*



FOLLOW HIM IN GENEROSITY

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the Tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry

2023 GIVING

April Actual Offerings	\$ 22,697
April Budget	<u>\$ 24,700</u>
Shortfall	\$ 2,000
YTD Actual	\$ 80,406
YTD Budget	<u>\$ 88,920</u>
Shortfall	\$ 8,513

HOW TO GIVE

- Your offering envelopes or those in the pews
 - Online from your bank website
 - Scan the QR code here
 - Text the amount to 84321
- The Giving Page at grace.sandiego.com
 - Time and Talents



Overturing Roe was Only the End of the Beginning

By Shannon Carreiro



Timothy Goeglein was the keynote speaker at this year's LCMS Life Conference. Before joining Focus on the Family as Vice President of External and Government Relations in 2009, this seasoned pro-life activist was special assistant to President George W. Bush and Deputy Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison.

Tim Goeglein began with a bold assertion that abortion is the major human rights issue of our times. He compared the 2022 Dobbs decision to the Supreme Court's 1857 Dred Scott decision, which ultimately paved the way for the 14th Amendment guarantees of citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States. Dobbs, Goeglein said, is a precursor to something just as big, but its reversal of Roe means we are "only at the end of the beginning." America's abortion conflict has entered the next phase.

Six Challenges Ahead

The following is a summary of what Goeglein believes are the six major challenges the pro-life movement faces.

1. Dobbs returned the abortion issue to the state level, but the critical battles ahead won't be fought in states like California. The pro-abortion forces are targeting the pro-life states they think they can flip. They are confident, wealthy and focused.
2. The unstated goal of the current administration is to nominate and confirm pro-abortion judges for every District, Appellate, and Supreme Court opening. Except for SCOTUS, they are succeeding.
3. Online access to and mail delivery of abortion pills to states that ban or significantly restrict abortion is Ground Zero now. The recent *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v the US FDA* decision was a major pro-life setback.
4. Relative to #3, 12 state Attorneys General are suing regarding FDA approval and promotion of chemical abortion at the federal level in all 50 states. They are court shopping for the right judge in the right district who is morally, legally, and theologically aligned to making the U.S. a pro-life country.
5. A well-organized, well-funded pro-abortion cultural matrix is working under the radar. According to Goeglein, seven of the largest U.S. law firms do pro bono work to advance the "dignity" of abortion. Many Fortune 500 companies are working to indemnify abortion in their corporate culture. "Pro-abortion has perfected the promotion of abortion in places where you'd least expect it, including the little screen in the hands of our kids. They have a plan," Goeglein said. "Do we?" (*Personal note: I have seen abortion featured as a storyline in ads for an online Candy Crush-style tile-matching game.*)
6. Several federal agencies are currently staffed by outspoken abortion advocates or are using federal funding to promote abortion. Goeglein said these include HHS, DOJ, DOE, and DOD.

We Shall Overcome

Goeglein cautioned us to remember that abortion isn't just big business. It is also he said, "a religion of 21st-century progressivism. It's powered by zeal and passion, but it is a hollow faith in nihilism and death. It is evil being monetized. That's what we're up against."

A self-described inveterate optimist, Goeglein offered a reassuring message. "There are two things that should encourage us. The U.S. Constitution contains nothing that supports abortion; and our unalienable, God-given right to life asserted in the Declaration of Independence is not just visionary poetry.." He concluded with a quote from theologian Richard John Neuhaus: "There will always be great evils. Because He has overcome, we shall overcome."

PHOTO TIME

With graduations and the end of the school year right around the corner, Harold Nichols will be displaying graduation photos in the display case in the fellowship hall. Please bring in a photo to display by Sunday May 28th. Make sure your name is on the photo. All photos will be returned unharmed.

IN MEMORIUM

April 25, 1924 ~ March 8, 2023

The funeral for Mary Jane Robinson was held at Grace last month. Mary Jane was a longtime member and very involved in the activities at Grace. She is remembered for her delicious homemade pies and volunteering her time.



On May 4th, the Fourth Grade class of the Cambridge School visited Grace Lutheran to learn about traditional church art, architecture, and liturgy. Pr. Brian gave them a tour of the sanctuary, teaching them about the history of the Divine Service and the role that architecture and music serve in our worship of the one true God. With our organist, Dale Sorenson, Pr. Brian taught the children how to chant a Psalm and then they sang two of Luther's hymns.

Following their visit, they traveled to the Spreckel's Organ Pavilion where Dale gave them a behind-the-scenes tour along with a private concert.

We gathered in the front of the church to hear the Gospel on Palm Sunday then entered the sanctuary singing *All Glory Laud and Honor*.



TACO SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP



FOOD! FOOD! FOOD!
There was plenty of food for our Taco Sunday Fellowship on Sunday May 7th and quite a variety. Our Thrivent rep, Clare Troung treated us to churros for dessert. Many thanks to everyone who shared their delicious recipes and helped set-up and clean-up the event.

Our next monthly fellowship event will be for Father's Day in June.

Our next Supper and Service will be on Ascension Thursday May 18th at 5:30 pm. An "elevated" spaghetti dinner will be served and the service will be held at 6:30 pm.



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brianwilliamthomas@gmail.com

Director of Parish Music
Dale Sorenson
dalesorenson2@gmail.com

Church Secretary
Gretchen Jordan
gjordan@gracesandiego.com

Sunday Divine Service
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School
9:30 to 10:15 am

Nursery available

JOHN HANSEN
Council President

RICHARD SEGARRA
Treasurer

SHANNON CARREIRO
Secretary

HEATH RUSSERT
Trustee

KELLEY SCHMIDT
Fellowship/Activities

JOHN BARBER
PHILIP HAWTHORNE
Members-at-Large

CARL LEHMAN
Education

TED NILSEN
Head Elder

JEREMY FULLAM
STEVE HOLLMAN
JASON HUNTLEY
DARYL NEWTON
TRAVIS WHEELER
Elders

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING

Dave, Bill, Phil, Edward, Colter, Connor, Mary, Daniel, Larry, Taj, Charlotte, Mark, Pr. Burkey, the Ramey Family

PRAYERS FOR THOSE EXPECTING A CHILD OF GOD

Daniel & Eileen Fohey, Matthew & Kalisha Morgan, Jeremy & Jessica Belgau

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Rev. Tyler McMiller, Joshua Salas, Lorenzo Murrone, Luiz Lange, Michael & Nance Morizio (Lutheran Church planters & seminarians in Italy)
Rev. John Bombaro

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

John Campisi, Tajy George, Jack George, Jr., Jeff and Jordan Gruetzmacher, Philip Hawthorne, Josh Martin, Matthew Morgan, Nathan Farish, and Elliott Perko

PRAYERS FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND SERVICES

Joyce Rochester

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

19- Paul Himmelberger
24- Kimberly Newton
28- Michelle Thompson
29- Jeremy Belgau

JUNE

1- Grace Newton
10- Elvie Nichols
12- Jack George

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Wednesday Bible Study

May 10, 17, 24, 31 @ 10:00 am
St. Mark's Classroom

Sunday School

May 7, 14, 21, 28 @ 9:30 to 10:15 am
St. Mark's Classroom

Ascension Thursday

Spaghetti Supper and Service

Thursday May 18 @ 5:30 pm
Service at 6:30 pm

Saturday Evening Service

Saturday June 3 @ 6:00 pm
There will be no Sunday service due to Rock'n'Roll Marathon
Appetizers & Refreshments at 7pm

Father's Day

Sunday June 18
Hot Dog Picnic Fellowship in the Courtyard at 11:30 am

1517 Comes to Grace

Saturday July 22 at 6 pm
and Sunday July 23
Details to follow

CONNECT WITH US

