

Pentecost  
Grace Lutheran Church  
“Something is Happening”  
Acts 2:1-21  
Pastor Troy E. Medlin

My brother...in 4th or 5th grade...had just gotten home from school and was waiting for my mom to get home from work..when....all of the sudden he was so startled that he had run out of the house and was now....sitting outside on the driveway.....and wondering what in the heck was going on..... Something was happening.... Whatever it was....he was awakened...and propelled out of the house....and into the driveway and was trying to figure out what was going on and What was happening....

When my mom pulled into the driveway she found him sitting on the front steps (with the dogs...whom he had brought out too).....looking like he was scared and worried....and he was so thankful that she was home.... So they could figure out what was going on...

That house that we grew up in backed up to a farm field...and there was a lot of wide open space....to the east of our house....and in the springtime....and the wind would gust powerfully....

And, on some of those windy days...in the springtime....when the sun starts to get warm....and we open the windows....in the house...and open the doors of the rooms in...to get some fresh air...and get a little better circulation and air flow..... The wind would suddenly whip through our house....and because of how the air moved through our house....if the doors to the bedrooms upstairs were open....they would all the sudden slam shut....from the wind.... And when that happened...especially if you were just enjoying your book or dozing off on the couch....on a lazy afternoon....and that door would slam....it was startling....even scary.... And if you were not expecting it...it would awaken you...and propel you out of the house...and onto the driveway.... And you would say...”what in the world is going on....” even if a few seconds later you would remember...”Oh, yea, it’s just the wind.....”

The wind... and noise caused by the widden had driven....my brother out of the house...and onto the driveway...the wind was startling...awakening....and it propelled him outside.....something was happening....

Just 10 days earlier Jesus had gone back up into Heaven....and he had mentioned that something....was going to happen...but it was all still a bit fuzzy....after all, Jesus was gone...his body...that had risen from the dead....was not there anymore...

So now....They were all together.....in one place....inside a house...trying to figure out what was next....

When all of the sudden there was a noise....a sound....like a rush of a violent wind.... And it filled the entire house where they were sitting....tongues of fire rested on them...and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability....each of them testifying to God's mighty deeds...and each of them were *filled* with the Holy Spirit...and just like that....with that loud noise and violent wind the disciples gathered in the house have been driven out on to the streets of Jerusalem....The wind had propelled them outside....and something was happening....and God was on the move.....

And, just as the Holy Spirit of God fell on those unsuspecting disciples of Jesus in the room where they were huddled in...2,000 years ago in Jerusalem 50 days after Jesus had risen from the dead...that very same Holy Spirit of God, third member of the Trinity...fell on each and every one of you....God is still on the move...and God has come to each one of us.....

Just last week when Rory Aiden Phillips was baptized in this font....he was *sealed with the Holy Spirit*.....When I laid hands on Rory's head I prayed..."pour out your Holy Spirit upon Rory...." And, God did it....the Holy Spirit now lives inside of Rory and will forever....

And...the same thing can be said about us....you and me...I don't know when and where you were baptized....but in that moment...the Holy Spirit fell upon you....in fact you could say that the day and promise of pentecost not only happened 2,000 years ago and not only just one day on the church calendar....but it *happens* each time someone is baptized...including when you were baptized.... You were given the Holy Spirit.....as a gift....not only....the Holy Spirit...but all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit...now....reside...live...take up residence...in you! You...in your body...you are a blazing sign of Pentecost....come into this world....in this place...in 2021....wherever you are...the promise and power of Pentecost....is....there....Something has happened...and God is on the move! And, that movement of God....that began 50 days after the resurrection has continued until this very moment.... We are witnesses...that something has happened....and God is on the move...

Just as the Holy Spirit has fallen on each one of us just like the Holy Spirit did that first Pentecost.... That same powerful wind of God that blew through where the disciples had gathered that day....has blown through your house....as well....the Spirit has blown through the house....that all of us live in....built by this world....houses named sin and death....and that Spirit has propelled us out of those houses...by that Spirit's power....from those waters of rebirth....where we are made children of God and made one with Jesus Christ....that wind of God has driven us out on to our driveway...out of the captivity of sin and the bondage and slammed doors of life lived curved in on ourselves behind our own four walls...we no longer

live in that house of sin and death...but you and I are the houses of God...and forgiveness and life is now ours forever....God's future is now where we have been placed. Pentecost has come...and it happens again and again....Something is happening...and God is on the move....

And, even though we have been brought out of that house of sin and death and placed in the spacious driveway of God's future...on this side of Heaven....we still sometimes find ourselves....being drawn back into houses that resemble remnants of that house of sin and death....and the Holy Spirit....still wants/still promises to breath and blow into those places too awaken us and propel us into the world of God's future....and the Holy Spirit....still does...Something is still happening...and yes, God is still on the move....

We might find ourselves....stuck in a house of our own guilt and shame built brick by brick....weighed down and stuck in a room where we cannot see past the feeling of our own unworthiness....the Holy Spirit...blows through that house today....and through this proclamation of God's promises which are for you....and God's forgiveness...which is unilateral and unconditional....we find ourselves...propelled...into that driveway today...where we can now live set free from our own sin and look past those feeling....up towards those who are in front of us...who we can now love without regard....giving ourselves away for the sake of our neighbors....That's what the Holy Spirit still does....Something is happening and God is on the move...we are out of that house and into the world....

There are other houses too...that we find ourselves in from time to time...where the spirit still blows...like wind...pushing us out and into the world where God is at work....houses that feel like they are closed in on us...keeping us stuck....houses we have lived in so long....we could never imagine...living somewhere else...or looking at different walls.... Houses of despair..and disappointment....houses of sorrow....houses built by what other people have said about us or to us...houses of our own experiences marred by the brokenness of the world that we see from there...these walls seem to speak to us..telling us that we will live here forever...that we have no future....or things can never change....and there....in those structures...no matter how closed up and sturdy they may feel....the Holy Spirit....blows through them....and propels us out of those houses and into the driveway...and into a more spacious place...into the world...where God is at work and on the move...outside of that house....there we are able to hear...with ears attuned for the gospel....the word of God that comes to us there....promising us that....in Jesus Christ and filled with the Spirit...there is always a future for baptized children of God....and whatever end we are experiencing is never a final end....since Jesus himself has conquered even death...and stands on the other side of that ending....filled with the Spirit and in God's hands...we receive the gift of hope...a profound and clear-eyed hope we see in Romans 8...fueled by that same Spirit's intercessions on our behalf... when we cannot quite see that future on our own....

On that same driveway....now....no longer alone...or stuck in a house...but in community...we are ready to hear the stories of other Spirit filled followers of Jesus...signs and sounds of Pentecost all around us...speaking...in a language....that will speak right to our hearts...words of how the Spirit has worked in their life....just the words spoken in the way we need to hear them...as the Spirit gives them ability....about how we have been sustained through each twist and turn of lives journey...and how God brought them through what seemed to be an end...and how the Spirit has propelled them out of their houses and into the driveway...of God's future where God is on the move.....

Outside of our houses....and no longer confined....and now...in the driveway...in the street...the spacious fields of God's reign come near...driven....outside..exactly where the Spirit wants us to be....in that place we too can speak of God's mighty deeds...in our own tongues...in our own way....with our own language...the way only we can....since the Spirit has fallen not just...on us...but on you....and when you speak....the Spirit uses your testimony....to blow through other's houses they are stuck in...and propel them into God's life too....

There.....speaking of God's work....in our lives....with the Spirit rushing through not only our houses but now through our bones....animating our lives and our speech....we now join God at work in all sorts of places.....in all sorts of ways...outside....on the streets....in our jobs...with our family...and with our neighbors....

My brother...was driven by the wind...out of the house...and into the driveway....and that is what the Spirit has come to do to us...in our baptism.... today...and everyday...to propel us out of whatever houses we find ourselves.... And into the driveway....and into the world....where God is....waiting for us....

Even without flames dancing over our heads...we stand as signs of Pentecost all year long.... our own voices telling...of God's mighty deed we keep walking....keep moving....still....being carried along...by the Holy Spirit.....who does what the Holy Spirit does....moves us out of the house....and into resurrection life...today and forever.....