

Sermon on John 14
Pentecost Sunday 2013

Today is Pentecost Sunday one of the great festivals of the church. It's also called the birthday of the church because of the out pouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples to form a community of believers bold enough to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the rest of the world not only in word, but also in what they did.

But too often we take a great festival and instead of celebrating the continuing outpouring of God's Spirit upon the church; we commemorate something that happened thousands of years ago. As we read through the book of Acts and Paul's letters; we see repeated stories of how the Holy Spirit is working in the early church. But it doesn't stop in Acts! You can see it in the flourishing monasteries of the middle Ages. You can see it in the Reformation. You can see it in the Great Awakenings and Revivals in North America during the eighteen hundreds. You can see it in Vatican Two.

And I can see it here at Calvary! Pentecost isn't over! Does that surprise you? You might be thinking to yourself right now that we're a small country church; the Spirit isn't moving us to anything. Well I disagree with you! I may not see flames above your heads, but I see hearts on fire for the faith and for this church!

I see an Education committee whose excitement about Sunday school and vacation Bible school is contagious! We have people who volunteered of their time and talents to pass on our faith to the next generation. We have people who realize that learning about Jesus and our faith doesn't end at confirmation and they give of themselves to teach the adult class.

We have a Fellowship committee whose excited about coming up with ways to let us have fun while we become a stronger community both in the church and in the broader community. They are honoring our traditions, yet doing it in a new way.

We have people with musical talents whether they sing or play an instrument who are willing to share it with the community. They realize that learning doesn't just happen with preaching and teaching, but also with music and song. How many of you right now could sing a favorite song from Sunday school?

We have a community who takes care of each other; whenever someone is in need we step in to help! Whether it's the prayer chain, serving meals for a funeral, or working together to fix up someone's home; we take care of one another as a community of faith showing the outside world the love that God has for us by loving one another.

And this could only be the Holy Spirit at work, but we have teenagers who went with very little food for 30 hours to help those without and they want to do it again! They went on a weekend mission trip and want to go again and take adults with them! Can you imagine teenagers wanting to spend time with adults!

Then there's the collections we take for ECHO food shelf, for Fishes and Loaves food pantry, for Kids Against Hunger, and for the ELCA Malaria campaign. We have people who teach the importance of taking care of God's creation not only by taking care of our church property, but also by cleaning out the ditches.

I don't want to hear you say that what we do doesn't matter because we're just a small country church. The Holy Spirit is alive and well here at Calvary blowing life into this community. I also want you to remember this—the church started with 12 scared men up in a locked room. How much more can we do when we allow the Spirit to work through us?