

THE AUSTRALIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (AELC)

BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHNS AUBIGNY,
ST PAULS GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKY

24 May 2026

Pentecost Sunday

A warm welcome to all those who are worshipping with us today!

Jesus promises to release the power of the Holy Spirit that will sustain the church as she magnifies the name of Christ, in all wisdom, knowledge, and enlightenment. Today, the church honours Jesus' ascent into the heavenly realms. In His absence from us, we shall be comforted and sustained by the Spirit of God. In our waiting for Christ's return, we boldly proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins to all nations.

In preparation of worship, please prepare by praying one of the prayers found on page 308 in your LSB hymnbook

Hymns (LSB): 913 497 498 496

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Stand

Invocation

R In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

Hymn 913

Stand

Confession of Sins and Absolution

LSB 184-185

R Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

Kneel/Sit

R Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

R I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

C and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

R Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Reader stands and faces the congregation

R Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptised shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit & Glory to the Father

Psalm 25:1–15

¹To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all the day long.

⁶Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

- ⁸Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**
- ⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.**
- ¹⁰All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**
- ¹¹For your name's sake, O Lord,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.**
- ¹²Who is the man who fears the Lord?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.**
- ¹³His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.**
- ¹⁴The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.**
- ¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the Lord,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Gradual

The pastor/reader speaks the gradual, and the congregation responds:

Acts 2:17b; Romans 10:10

R I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.
With the heart one believes and is justified,
and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

The Lord Have Mercy (Kyrie)

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

R Glory be to God on high

Luke 2:14; John 1:29
LSB SETTING 4, 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

R The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And with your spir - it.

R Let us pray:

The Collect

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Numbers 11:24-30

²⁴Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. ²⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

²⁶Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” ²⁹But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” ³⁰And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Acts 2:1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—

we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants

in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,

before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

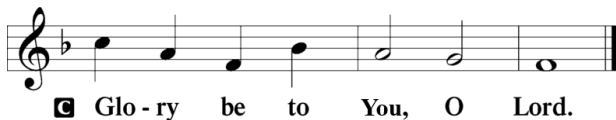
Alleluia



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

R The Holy Gospel according to **John 7:37-39**



³⁷On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

R This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 497

Sermon (*the congregation stands to hear the text and then sits*)

WE LIVE BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

Sermon for Pentecost, 2026

Acts 2:1-21

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is our First Reading read before, Acts 2:1-21.

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Pentecost is the Greek name for the important Jewish observance of the Feast of Harvest¹, or, as it was also called, the Feast of Weeks.² Pentecost means ‘50th,’ for the feast took place 50 days after the Passover Sabbath. Every pious Jew tried to be in Jerusalem for this feast. Those who could not be there observed it in the synagogues throughout the Roman Empire and beyond.

As it did every year, Pentecost once again came around. But this time, God had special events in mind for the Pentecost mentioned in our text. What Jesus had earlier promised concerning the Holy Spirit would now take place.

This account of Pentecost paints a beautiful and exciting picture.

Now, the Bible does not make it very clear as to whether the events of that Pentecost, where you had the sound like a violent blast of wind, and the tongues of fire, rested only the 12 disciples, or the 120 or so who were with them at the time, but it doesn’t really matter. They are gathered together, and there comes this sound of a violent blast of wind. It doesn’t say that there was a wind, just the sound of it - and it sounds as though it may have sounded like a hurricane! While this sound is happening, “**divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.**” Here was the fulfilment of John the Baptist’s prediction: “*He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire*” (Luke 3:16), and Christ’s promise: “*In a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit*”

¹ Exodus 23:16

² Exodus 34:22

(Acts 1:5).

The tongues of fire came to rest on each person present. All received the baptism of the Spirit, for each would have work to do in carrying out the great commission of baptising and teaching. **“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”** The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit to such an extent that they could not help but preach, even though it was in another language! What a remarkable thing that must have been, preaching but hearing your own voice come out in another tongue! It takes years to master another language, yet through the Holy Spirit, these disciples were able to deliver God’s message in words everyone could hear and understand. And while we do not know exactly what they spoke, they told of **“the mighty works of God.”**

People were gathering and marvelling that they could hear their hometown native language being spoken to their amazement and apparent delight. Some, of course, heard all the noise and announced according to their judgment that the disciples **“are filled with new wine.”** In other words, they were drunk. Then Peter stands up and begins to preach, telling the Jews gathered that what they are witnessing is what Joel had prophesied about the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the Last Days.

Today, don’t you sometimes think that it’d be nice to see and feel the Holy Spirit working in and through you? Wouldn’t it be nice to see and experience the Holy Spirit flowing through your veins, granting you miraculous powers, such as speaking in tongues? But that is the source of the drive that lies behind Pentecostal denominations. They want to see it and feel it, and they want to have the same sense of wonder that the disciples must have felt as they experienced Pentecost. *That is not God’s plan.*

That Pentecost was something unique. God was doing something in a remarkable way so that it would be clear what He was doing and that He had done it. He provided His Church with His ongoing presence and did so with a visible and audible illustration of the gift. He even duplicated the gift to some small extent in the home of Cornelius the Centurion, to whom Peter also preached. Remember on that occasion that *“while Peter was still speaking these words, (to a gathering of people in Cornelius’ home), the Holy Spirit came upon all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the*

Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God,” (Acts 10:44-46). In this instance, God made it unmistakably clear that Gentiles were also welcome to the Holy Spirit and the grace of God found in Jesus Christ.

Pentecost was about beginning the Church in earnest and confirming God’s presence and activity in it by these signs. Having now made His point, God expects us to walk by faith and not by sight. This is exactly what Paul told the Corinthian Church when he wrote, “*We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight*” (2 Corinthians 5:6-7).

God has not left Himself without a sign, mind you. He simply isn't going to do those flashy things all the time. If God had to prove Himself all the time, then you would no longer be walking by faith, but by sight. If every Sunday were like Pentecost, then rushing wind and flames and foreign languages would become something ordinary, an everyday kind of thing, and people would be hankering for something really remarkable to prove God’s work and presence among them. And if you are inclined to doubt that, then just think about the Exodus. The Israelites had the pillar of cloud by day, the pillar of fire by night, and the miraculous daily gift of manna, and yet they still wandered into sin and idolatry, grumbling about God and His treatment of them, and even complaining about having to eat that manna, which initially they thought of as delightful! It didn’t seem to strike them that they were eating a miracle, and it was *free* — they didn’t even have to work for it! It very quickly became just an ordinary, everyday thing.

God continues to give us the signs of His presence through Word and Sacrament. And instead of preachers who speak in tongues, God has provided everything to be translated into *our tongue*, and He has provided preachers who speak *our language*. He has given us Baptism so that we, too, can witness the Holy Spirit being poured out on each one of us individually. He has given us the Lord’s Supper to receive the body and blood of Christ and with it forgiveness, life and salvation. We can see it happen. We have a visible sign that God has each of us, individually, in mind, as He has arranged for the precious gifts of the Supper to be placed into our mouths individually – and speaks each of our names in Baptism, calling us His own.

So, what if some still doubt, do not see it, or do not believe it? As we mentioned earlier, there were those who stood in the crowd on that first Pentecost and sneered: **“They are filled with new wine.”**

Accusing the disciples of being drunk, they paid no attention to the enormous blast of wind coming from heaven. They ignored those flames on the heads of the disciples. They were unimpressed that the disciples’ speech made sense to others in their hometown language. They took it all in and called it rubbish and said they didn’t see or hear anything but a bunch of drunks. So it is no wonder that men today do not believe God’s Word about Baptism and refuse to believe that the Lord’s Supper is a Sacramental miracle. They could pick up manna every morning and yet complain that it was tiresome, dull, and nothing special.

Pentecost started the Church. Nothing has changed, really, since then. The message preached that day is still the same message that God has given us to speak. He still pushes us out there and makes us speak it, even when it gets us into trouble. Every little bit of good that is accomplished by the Church is done so by the Word preached, and the power of the Holy Spirit, who is still doing what Acts 2:47 says, *“And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”*

We need to get the message out there, no matter what it might cost. And that simple message, of course, is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and also true man, has borne all our guilt and sins, and died on the cross to redeem us. All our sins, past, present, and future, have been nailed to that cross, and Jesus has paid in full the price due for our sin. He has paid that price for each and every one of us, and has given to us His righteousness and eternal life to all who will simply trust Him, take Him at His Word and believe. All our sins are forgiven, and God has given the gift of everlasting life. He will even raise our bodies from their grave, one day, and outfit us for life with no more death, no more sickness, and no sorrow or pain. All this is *the free gift of God*, for the sake and on account of Jesus Christ, and not by anything we do. Such is the love of God.

Furthermore, all this is a present reality. It is, however, a reality we do not witness with our senses. God tells us, and invites us to believe Him, and learn of His goodwill and love for us, to trust Him the way Adam and Eve should have.

Finally, in Pentecost, we also see the reversal of the cursed effects of sin. When the world was still new, and men were not too long in sin, God confused their language to keep them from effectively using their intellects and skills and sin to destroy themselves. He divided them by confusing their tongues and letting human sin, fear, and suspicion drive them apart.

In Pentecost, God reversed the tower of Babel. Suddenly, men could speak His Word to others without the obstacle of language dividing them. He only gave us a sample that day, but it was clear that this Gospel was healing the damage caused by sin among mankind. But you need faith to see it and to trust it — faith in God. In Christ, God is again uniting all men — of course, that is, all men who believe. Those who reject God and refuse to see His work and believe His Word remain separate and divided, just like those who accused the disciples of being drunk at nine o'clock in the morning.

We, like the disciples, have been filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. He is the reason we believe — or can believe. This is the message we still proclaim, and He is the power behind our preaching, teaching and confessing of Christ. He pushes us out to speak and to do. The signs are here, and the wonders — that is, *the people of God*, who believe what the world calls old-fashioned and foolish. The really amazing thing about Pentecost was not the show. It was the gift of the Holy Spirit: The Comforter and the earnest of salvation in each of us who believes. He was given then and remains with us right up to the present moment, that we may be filled to overflowing with faith and hope and love. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Hymn & Offering

Hymn 498

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192
Psalm 51:10-12

■ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Your pres - ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Your free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church for Pentecost

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

You bid us come to the waters, O Lord. Grant that Your gift of Holy Baptism may bring forth fruit in what we say, think and do.

Almighty God, You delivered Your Word through Moses and the prophets and fulfilled Your Word in Christ. He was planted in death for our sins and raised for our justification, and in Him shall all the nations of the earth be united. Give us pastors who will preach this truth faithfully and church workers who are devoted to Your service.

Lord God, You have poured out the Holy Spirit upon us, that we may believe Your truth and raise our sons and daughters in it. Bless all parents, that they may faithfully teach their children in Your Word.

Lord, we thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon this nation. Grant us a long memory to recall those who gave the full measure of devotion to our country's peace and security. Bring to mind the sacrifices of those who served faithfully until death in the protection of our freedom and in the defence of our land.

O Lord Almighty, draw near to those who face the distress of sickness, surgery and pain. Let them not be afraid and heal them according to the abundance of Your steadfast love.

Advocate and Defender whose light never wanes, we bless You, that on the great and magnificent day, You will raise all of the dead and give unto those who believe in Jesus eternal life. We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us and are at rest. Comfort those who mourn, and bring us all with them into the light that knows no darkness.

Almighty Father, with Your Son, Jesus Christ, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word to rule and govern us according to Your will. Comfort us in every temptation and misfortune and defend us against every error, that we may continue steadfast in the faith, increase in love and good works, and — trusting firmly in Your grace — obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer (prayed together)

LSB 196 Matthew 6:9-13

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

LSB 202 Numbers 6:24-26

R The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn 496

Acknowledgments

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ARTICLE An update on the progress of our student, Matthew.

Our seminary student, Matthew, has been progressing well since he began in late 2024. As he moves closer to completing his course, I thought I would give an update.

Matthew has been kept rather busy lately with classes at Walther Theological Seminary in the USA, taking regular Zoom classes with Pastors Brock Abbott and Tim Killion, face-to-face classes with me, and online Hebrew classes with Zondervan Academic.

One of the classes Matthew has been taking with me is Pastoral Theology, which teaches and explains the everyday work of a pastor. This past week, he completed the theory side of the class and will now begin the practical side. This means Matthew will begin to accompany me on home/hospital visits whenever possible to gain field experience. Furthermore, because Matthew has now completed many classes in Exegetics (the study of the books of the Bible), he will also soon begin leading Bible Studies across the parish, putting into practice what he has learned and gaining experience in teaching. This leads to my next comment.

As you are all aware, Matthew has been leading LR services across the parish for some time now, but as he is a student in the ministry, he ought to be seen leading these services as a student pastor, not as a lay reader. Therefore, it would be proper for Matthew to lead the services wearing a gown. Also, he will begin assisting me (with the congregation's approval) in distributing the Lord's Supper and taking a more active role whenever we hold parish services (reading lessons, leading in prayer). So, beginning 1 June, this will be considered the start of Matthew's vicarage, which will continue for six months until November, when it is hoped that Matthew will be ordained at the start of the new Church Year, the 1st Sunday in Advent (Nov. 29).

In September, Matthew will start a 3-month class on homiletics (sermon writing) with me. This course will be completed about the same time as his ordination. He will still have other classes to complete for some time after his ordination (see below), but that shouldn't be a problem. WTS has another student beginning classes in September, so we have to work with their class schedule. Matthew will be able to attend these classes, and for the classes he still has to complete with me, I can work with him on a schedule that works for both of us here.

The latest Seminary Committee minutes (available today) recommend a figure for financial support for Matthew to be presented to the congregations. While it will be up to each individual congregation to accept/reject this recommendation, the recommended extra support needed to fund Matthew works out to about \$4.00 per week per communicant member – not a large amount. So instead of throwing those \$2.00 coins in your ashtray after buying your drive-through coffee or whatnot, put them on the collection plate! The Lord has called Matthew into the ministry, and He will provide (Genesis 22:14).

Please continue to pray for and support Matthew and, indeed, his wife, Abby, who is expecting their first child in July. If you have any questions, please ask.

Pastor Peter Z

Matthew's completed classes:

Greek

Lutheran Confessions

Law and Gospel

Hermeneutics (study of the Scriptures)

Worship 1

Pastoral Theology

Study of Genesis, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1-2 Chronicles, Romans.

Reformation History

Matthew's ongoing classes:

Study of the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Hebrew

Dogmatics

Matthew's classes in the New Year:

WTS: Continuing study of books of the Bible, Church History, Biblical Counselling, Ethics, Hebrew.

AELC: Apologetics, Worship 2.

Children's Address:

Have you ever taken a couple of paper cups, poked a hole in each one and joined them with a string? You then pull the string tight, and while one talks in one cup, the person on the other end puts the cup to his ear. What happens? He can hear your voice!



But you need that string. Without it, it wouldn't matter how much one of you talked into a cup; the other would not hear your voice coming through.

That little string changes everything. When you add the string, you can hear what is being said. When you add the string, the message becomes as clear as if the person speaking in the cup is whispering right into your ear.

Today is Pentecost, the day when Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to the church. Remember, the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who makes us holy because He's the one who gives us faith. Where does the Holy Spirit give us faith? *Baptism and God's Word*. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us faith in our baptism and gives us faith as we read God's Word. He's the one making us holy every day, forgiving our sins through Jesus' death on the cross and helping us live a new and holy life in Him.

The Holy Spirit is like the string between our two cups. He gives us faith. He allows us to believe in those words, "Jesus loves you." Without the Holy Spirit, it would be as if we didn't hear those words at all. So today at Pentecost, God sends His Holy Spirit so that we can have faith and trust in the words given to us in Baptism: that we are forgiven of all our sins and are children of God in His Holy Word.

So did you know Jesus loves you? How did you know that? Because He tells us so! Yes, and when you heard, the Holy Spirit made the connection in your heart to believe it.

Dear Lord, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to guide me to hear Your Word and believe it! Amen.

SERVICE TIMES

31 May Trinity Sunday	7 June 2 Pentecost	14 June 3 Pentecost
WHITE	GREEN	GREEN
9.00am OAK LR 10.00am MARBURG HC AELC Service	8.30am OAK HC 9.00am TMBA PR MS 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN HC 9.00am LOWOOD LR	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA HC 9.30am GRN PR MS 10.45am AUB HC 9.00am MARBURG LR

Sunday, 31 May		
READINGS: Genesis 1:1-2:4a;	Acts 2:14a, 22-36;	Matthew 28:16-20
HYMNS: 578 507 947 (565 622) 953		
Sunday, 7 June		
READINGS: Hosea 5:15-6:6;	Romans 4:13-25;	Matthew 9:9-13
HYMNS: 915 689 409 (606 618) 933		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Studies for May:

Friday, 29th, 7.30pm, Oak/Aub at Oakey.

The Women’s Guild is putting together a ‘Baby Bundle’ for Matthew and Abby. If you would like to contribute something (gift/money), please bring it along to the AELC service next Sunday.

For anyone who would like a copy of the “Child Protection and Safety Risk Management Policy 2026” for the Darling Downs Parish of the AELC for your individual congregation to read so that it can be adopted as the Child Safety policy for the congregation, please email the Child Safety Officer at childsafety@aelc.org.au for an online copy, or ask for a printed copy.

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday, May 24	Jeremiah 51-52 Philippians 3	<i>Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (2017)</i> pp. 164 - 175, The Second Article Part 1 Questions 148 -161
Monday, May 25	Joel 1 – 3 Philippians 4	
Tuesday, May 26	Deuteronomy 1-3 Acts 1	
Wednesday, May 27	Deuteronomy 4-6	
Thursday, May 28	Deuteronomy 7-9 Acts 2	
Friday, May 29	Deuteronomy 10-12 Acts 3	
Saturday, May 30	Deuteronomy 13-15 Acts 4	

AELC Member Congregations Details

Contact: ddaalc@gmail.com

Congregation	Address	Giving
Bethlehem Toowoomba	41 Buckland Street, Harristown	BSB 638-070 Account 15877094
Our Saviour Lowood	63 Prospect Street, Lowood	BSB 633-108 Account 159171487
St Johns Aubigny	2 Aubigny Crosshill Road, Aubigny	BSB 014-675 Account 388228975
St Pauls Greenwood	617 Acland-Silverleigh Road, Greenwood	BSB 638-070 Account 6918247
Trinity Marburg	19 Edmund Street, Marburg	BSB 633-000 Account 146106893
Trinity Oakey	125 Hamlyn Road, Oakey	BSB 638-070 Account 7405138

Pastor Peter Ziebell: Ph. 0407583922 Email: paziebell@gmail.com

The Church Office of the AELC: Email: draelc@gmail.com

Matthew Sippel – matthewsippel@aelc.org.au

Child Safety Officer – childsafety@aelc.org.au

About the AELC

The Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) believes that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, and accordingly, believe that the Holy Scriptures are the sole source of what we believe, teach, and confess. We also subscribe to *The Lutheran Confessions of 1580*, *The Word Shall Stand* and *The AELC Statement of Faith* as correct expositions of Scripture, which address issues that have arisen throughout history by the Word of God. We teach nothing new and stand on Scripture alone as God’s Word to us. We teach the message of Christ crucified for sinners. We teach that salvation is by God’s grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone.



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