

LPC JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

We are a family of believers, glorifying God, welcoming new members from near and far, learning to love God and neighbor.

FEAST OF PENTECOST (GREEK FOR 50)

ALSO: FEAST OF HARVEST (EX. 23:16)

AND FEAST OF WEEKS (EX. 34:22, "SHAVUOT" IN HEBREW)

Many times in the Bible, the harvest of Israel's crops are used to show us pictures of God's salvation plan for us. The wave-sheaf offering (Lev. 23:11) was offered in the Temple after the barley and wheat harvests. It lasted for 50 days and ended at Pentecost. After Passover and during the Feast of Unleavened Bread the firstfruits, the first of the crops to be ripe and harvested, were offered to God. As with the other Feasts, it was to be a statute forever. To find out the details, read Leviticus 23.

Jesus Christ was the firstfruits of those who are asleep (1 Cor. 15:20). He was raised on earth in His human body like the grain. He was ripe, or ready, and so was "cut off" and died. When He rose from the dead, He offered Himself to God as the sacrifice for us to save us from death (spiritual) as the grain saves us from death (physical). In 1 Cor. 15:20 God, the Father, accepted the offering and afterward Jesus allowed His friends to touch Him when He appeared again to them.

In Romans 8:29 and James 1:18 the first Believers were called firstfruits "of many brethren". Only through Jesus is the way of living forever with God (John 14:6). Each of the firstfruits "shall be made alive...in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterwards those who are Christ's at His coming" (1 Cor. 15:20,22-23)*1

God calls His people (John 6:44, 6:63) in His own time- timing His harvest.

At Pentecost 50 days after the first wave-sheaf offering God poured out His Spirit (Acts 1:15) and His disciples, or leaders, were filled with It so that they could speak in the various languages of all the visitors there (Acts 2:1-4,6-11). All the people could hear about Jesus and how He had died for their sins and could receive salvation and the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is a yearly celebration that reminds us of God sending His Spirit to start His Church. The " Holy Spirit is described as the power of God at work in our lives (Acts 1:8, Rom. 15:13, 19), the same power was at work in the ministry of Jesus Christ (Luke 4:14, Acts 10:38)." *2

We can also be led by God's Spirit (Rom. 8:14). In 2 Tim. 1:7 Paul writes that God's Spirit is a "spirit of....power and of love and of a sound mind". *3

The Bible's story of Ruth is another picture of God's plan of salvation as the Feast of Pentecost is. As Jimmie Snow said on his program, "Journey Through the Bible", there are six gentile brides in the Bible and the seventh is the Church. Ruth stands for the Church, Naomi stands for Israel, Boaz stands for Jesus, and the silent helper of Boaz stands for the Holy Spirit. Naomi was exiled (Israel). Ruth learned from Naomi (us learning from Israel-Jesus and the Bible-Jewish). Naomi stayed exiled until God's timing

(Israel does until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled). Then at Ruth's acceptance of Naomi's God as her God, Naomi returned to her land (Israel returned to her land after the Church grew). Naomi never met Boaz even though they were kin (Israel didn't know Jesus even though He was one of them). She had heard of Boaz but did not know him. Ruth went back to Naomi's land with her when the timing was right. The Hebrew word for return is repent- to turn back to God, in other words. Ruth gleans in Boaz's fields (Gentiles find spiritual food in Jesus' harvest/people). After Ruth's acceptance of Naomi's God, she was ready to marry Boaz (the Gentile Church will be Jesus' bride). She proposes to Boaz, she asks him to redeem her- cover her- as we do when we ask God to forgive and save us.

The book of Ruth itself is a literal story of harvest. There was famine in Israel (no word of God is one kind of famine). So, Naomi's husband took her to live in Moab (Gentile land) to look for bread. He died as his two married sons did also, leaving Naomi with her two gentile daughter in laws. One stayed in exile (no salvation) but the other, Ruth, chose Naomi's way and God (Church accepting God). They went to Israel where Ruth gleaned from a kinsman's field, as the law allowed, for their food. At the field Boaz met her and instructed her to stay with his servants (us learning and obeying God's Word). Boaz says in Ruth 2:12 "The Lord recompense thy work and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under Whose wings thou art come to trust". Ruth continued to gather the wheat and barley until the end of the harvest. (Jesus will feed the Church until the end of the harvest.) Then it was time to winnow, or separate the worthless chaff from the good grain (as we will be at judgement). That night after the merriment of the harvest celebration Ruth uncovered Boaz's feet (maybe us knowing how to and following Jesus). When Boaz saw Ruth she asked him to spread his skirt (wings- for protective care) over her. He blessed her and agreed to be her redeemer but first gave a closer kinsman the chance to do so. A kinsman redeemer bought the property and the wife of the dead man to continue the dead one's name and line. The closer kinsman would not accept this Gentile Ruth (Jews did not accept the Gentile Church). So, Boaz did (Jesus paid for us by His redeeming offering of Himself to His Father). Boaz married Ruth (Jesus will take the Church to be His bride when He comes).

Actually, nature shows us God's salvation plan. You go to sleep at night (beginning of a day, Bible time) and become as an unconscious one, as dead. You wake up with refreshment and new life in the light- like a new body in Jesus' Light. A seed is planted in the ground like a person being put in the grave. The new plant rises with life like our new bodies will rise with new spiritual life. A baby in the womb is like us in this life- to be born into a much greater reality after a time beyond the limited space of the womb.

A lightning bug is first a glow worm for three years in the soil (three days in the grave!). Then it changes into a winged creature with a beautiful light. A butterfly is a caterpillar first that is limited to crawl and eat. Then it goes into its "grave", a chrysalis, to emerge later as a colorful, flying creature that thrives on nectar- sweet, like angel food! That's just a few ways God tells us what He's doing with us. You can come up with more the more you think about it or the more you learn about nature (which God made). Isn't it amazing?!

FYI: As far as numbers in scripture, 7 means spiritual perfection. 50 is 1 plus 7 x 7. 1 is unity. 50 is 10 x 5. 10 means perfection of divine order. 5 means grace.

Lynn Lesak

SPECIAL PRAYERS

- *Our Church And Its Members *Stanley White Presbyterian Church And Its Members *LPC's Mission Study Group *Carl Alston *L. H. Roberson *Joanne Jackson *Agnes Atkins *Trish Hamm *Bobbie Gregory *Believers Around The World *Our Service Folks Around The World
- *Our Country's Leaders And Citizens *The Peace Of Jerusalem
- *Congratulations To Clifton And Ariadna Lesak On Their Marriage

NOTICES

- *Summer Movies On The Lawn return June 23, July 7, July 21, and August 11. We will need volunteers to assist with set up and snacks.
- *Vacation Bible School will take place June 26- June 30. LPC will do snacks on Tuesday, June 27. See Jo Anne Daniels for information.
- *Session meeting is planned for June 12 at 6:30pm.

JUNE 2017

BIRTHDAYS

6th- Wanda Clark 15th-Susan Lloyd 16th- Hannah Skinner 20th- Debbie Alston

VOLUNTEERS

Flowers- Madeline Williford Fellowship- Madeline Williford And Lynn Lesak
Usher- Lynn Lesak

3 Sat. 8:00am LPC Yardsale And Stew Sale- Items, help, and donations appreciated

4 Sun. 9:30am Worship, Communion Guest
Minister- Chuck Wiessner

Pentecost (Begins Evening Before)

11 Sun. 9:30am Worship Service by John Clark

12	Mon.	6:30pm	Session Meeting	LPC
14	Wed.		Flag Day	
18	Sun.	9:30am	Worship	Guest
Minister-Michelle Moseley				
Father's Day				
21	Wed.		Summer Solstice	
23	Fri.		Movie On The Lawn	
25	Sun.	9:30am	Worship	Guest Minister- Greg
Gregory				
27	Tues.		LPC doing snacks for Bible School	