

News From The Pews

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church—ELCA
Pastor Phillip Vickers

143 Chota Center, Loudon, TN 37774
www.shepherdofthelaketn.org
(865) 816-4756

May 2024

A Christian community sharing God's love with the world.

Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.

In Person
and
Online

On the website:

Bulletins
Announcements
Sermons
Newsletters
Livestream

Church Council

Christine Elbert
President

Tom Tisch
Vice President

Julie Claus
Secretary

Cherie Oswald
Treasurer

Bob Bly

Claire Moxim
Members-at-Large

Office
Manager
Sandy Hagan
Shepherdofthelake13@gmail.com



Pentecost

Pastor Phil's Page

The poet Charles Bukowski once wrote: "An intellectual says a simple thing in a hard way. An artist says a hard thing in a simple way." For me, he gives a great example of this truth in his poem "empties." This autobiographical poem shows us a snapshot of addiction as it follows he and his girlfriend one night as they dispose of the mountain of empty wine bottles they had accumulated in their apartment.

"We were afraid the landlord would be tipped off by his trash cans, that he'd realize there were two serious drunks among his tenants... finally upon a given night after drinking for a few hours we'd sneak the bags and boxes down the back stairway and into our old car... driving slowly up into the Baldwin Hills we were terrified that the police might stop us and insist that we spend at least a couple of days in jail... then as if the very searchlight of God was focused on me I'd leap out and begin throwing sacks and boxes of empties into the throbbing dark... she'd hand me a fresh hit and I'd pass it back and she'd say, "geez, don't you feel better?" and I'd answer, "yeah, how much we got left?"... it was a hollow, temporary victory that only someone like us could appreciate."



Pastor Phil Vickers

I have always been struck by the picture that this poem paints, and how very much it says so simply. It is just a description of a man hurling bottles from a cliff, but it begs the question of what emptiness truly is. If artistry is saying something hard simply, he is certainly doing that. Bukowski's poems have helped me on my spiritual journey by warning me where not to step, though I have not always listened.

A simple poem conveying so much makes me think of another quote. This one is by Fred Rogers aka Mr. Rogers: "Life is deep and simple and what our society gives us is shallow and complicated." If I had Mr. Rogers in my office this morning, I would ask him what a deep simple life looks like, but maybe he has already shown me. For him it looked like helping generations of children deal with their feelings and feel connected. That is both not complicated and one of the most meaningful things I can imagine. If there is an art to living maybe Fred was a master of it.

On the last Wednesday of April, I was leading a bible study as is my habit, going verse by verse and trying to comment as best I could on what the scripture has to say. On this particular morning though we ran across the fourth chapter of 1 John. "Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God... Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another... God is love." I teach primarily off the cuff, but after reading those verses aloud I was rather flummoxed about how I might complicate them with commentary. What else can you really say other than what John says in those verses about who God is and what we are supposed to be doing? How many shallow and complicated arguments do those few verses render pointless? Since we believe that God is the ultimate author of Scripture, I suppose I should not be surprised that 1 John meets Bukowski's criteria of artistry by speaking of a hard thing simply, but sinner that I am I was surprised anyway. God is an artist. God is deep and simple. God is love. I'll keep trying to complicate it for the sake of job security, but I'm also thankful that God has said it all.

Pastor Phil

MAY

Birthdays

- 2 Lois Fusco
- 8 Don Eatock
- 11 Christine Elbert
- 11 Otto Stutz
- 19 Autumn Vickers
- 24 "PK" Klingensmith



Anniversaries

- 8 Sandy & Lloyd Arrowood
- 15 Shari & Tom Lillestolen

Outreach Program of the Month

Save Your Bottle Caps for Benches

Our Outreach Ministry of the Month is the **Kiwanis Bench Project**, which converts our bottle caps into **Buddy Benches** for schools, libraries, community organizations, and Habitat communities. Why is it called a Buddy Bench? It was originally designed so that kids who may be shy, new, or just having a bad day could sit there; a classmate or teacher who noticed a child sitting on the bench would know that they needed a buddy. Today it fills that need as well as fostering relationships for all ages.

Kevin Meyer from Community Church started the Tellico Village bench program five years ago, and Shepherd of the Lake has been one of its supporters from the start. Early on, the Kiwanis Club joined the endeavor as a co-sponsor. From five benches the first year, the program has grown, and this year dedicated its **50th** bench! It takes 200 pounds of caps to make one bench. Here's how you can help:

Collect plastic bottle caps. In Friendship Hall there is a bin near the exit door where you can deposit your caps. Barb Warfel, who is our liaison, empties the bin periodically and delivers the caps to Kevin. Many types of clean plastic bottle caps up to 8" and recycle #2, #4 or #5 are acceptable. A complete list with pictures is available *here*: k15626.site.kiwanis.org/buddy-benches/ Scroll down the page and click on the **DOWNLOAD** link to access the Acceptable Caps List.

Sponsor or co-sponsor a bench. The labor cost for each bench is \$400, and individuals or groups may sponsor a bench. A co-sponsorship is \$200. The sponsor may help select the location for the bench, and a plaque on the bench recognizes the sponsor and if it was dedicated in honor or memory of someone. You will be invited to the dedication on location. Several members from Shepherd of the Lake have sponsored benches in the past, so please consider this worthwhile investment in our community.



In appreciation of
Sweetwater Elementary
Teachers, Staff and Students
(Deb and Amos Hatch)



Boys and Girls Club of Lenoir City
(Norm and Linda Schuessler)



Vonore Elementary School,
in memory of
Ida Rattleman,
a Mother & Veteran with
a love for education and children
(Carol and Steve Opsal)

God's Work. Our hands.



Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo a day early and help support sending kids to camp. The Come to the Water Banquet is being held this year on May 4, 2024 starting at 5:30 pm at Rothchild's Catering. This will be an evening of food and fun, including a spirited live auction. Tickets are \$65 each or a table of 6 for \$350. For tickets, scan the QR code or contact coordinator@ComeToTheWater.us.

Come to the Water sends east Tennessee middle school students to summer camp - kids who because of life circumstances may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience a week of Christian camp. Qualifying campers are nominated by area school counselors. In the past, students have hailed from 12 area middle schools across the greater Knoxville TN area.

Spring Gala Event - Dinner & Auction

(RSVP NOW Early...Tickets)

Please join us for a Gala event to benefit **Our PLACE** on Sunday, May 19 from 5-10pm at the Yacht Club in Tellico Village.

Our PLACE will host our Spring Capital Campaign Fundraiser & Gala in support of our Capital Fund for further expansion.

We have planned a very special evening, including a social hour, hors d'oeuvres, a delicious dinner, wonderful music, and many auction items. The real beneficiaries of this annual event are the families and caregivers who struggle daily with the many aspects of dementia. Your participation in this event will not only provide you with an enjoyable and entertaining evening, but it will also help **Our PLACE** to continue providing Moments of Joy to so many individuals.

For your convenience, follow the link below to the RSVP form. (Secure online credit card payment is offered for your convenience.)

<https://form.jotform.com/240744302721144>



Water To Thrive

Twelfth Well

In February, 2022 our congregation funded our twelfth well. This well was part of a group of 45 projects that were being implemented by W2T's partner known as Mekane Yesus in the district of Burra in Ethiopia.

This group of wells took a little longer to complete, partly because there were 45 well projects and completion reports are not received until all of the wells are fully operational.

I am happy to report that our twelfth well is serving a minimum of 420 members of the Betena village. That is just the minimum number of lives that have been changed by receiving clean water, it is more likely to be 2 to 3 times that amount.

Before a well is placed in a community, they have to establish a water committee that must have women on it because it is the women and girls who are most responsible for gathering water. After the water committee is established, they receive training on water, sanitation and hygiene practices. They also must open a maintenance fund bank account for the well.

With each well, lives are changed forever!! The girls can attend school instead of spending much of their days walking to fetch filthy water that has water borne diseases in it. Women now have time to grow crops and participate in other ways to provide income to the family. The community will have much better health and the children won't die from drinking the water. What we take for granted, is a life changing event for the villages that receive a well.



From the picture, you can see the joy on the faces of a few of the people at our 12th well



Loudon County Schools Family Resource Center

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Shepherd of the Lake on the Wednesdays of Lent, Pastor Phil was able to present Mrs. Cindy Purdy (Loudon County Schools Family Resource Center) with a check for nearly fifteen hundred dollars.

These monies will go directly to helping students in our district with basic needs such as food and clothing during times of financial crises. We give thanks for the work of the resource center and for the opportunity to support them.

Pastor Phil



RECURRING EVENTS

So+L has many recurring activities throughout the month. They are on our website should you wish to check them out and just maybe participate. See below what's happening! Go to the website and select:

GET INVOLVED then COMING EVENTS.

Wkly.	Al-Anon Meeting	Mon	10:00am
Wkly.	Women's AA Meeting	Mon	11:30am
Bi-Wk.	Dream Study Circle	Tues	2:00pm
Wkly.	Bible Study	Wed	10:00am
Wkly.	Small Group	Thurs	3:00pm
Mthly	Card Making Ministry	2nd Thurs	10:00am
Mthly	Fiber Arts Ministry	2nd Thurs	10:00am
Mthly	Women's Fellowship	3rd Thurs	11:30am
Mthly	Men's Fellowship B'fast	3rd Sat	8:30am

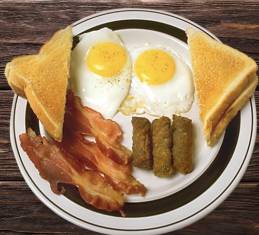


SAVE THESE DATES

May 1	11:30am	Lunch—The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
May 4	5:30pm	Come to the Water Banquet
May 9	10:00am	Card Making/Fiber Arts
May 11	8:30am	Men's Fellowship
May 12	10:15am	Mother's Day Brunch
May 15	11:30am	Habitat for Humanity Lunch
May 23	9:30am	Women's Fellowship (Garden Party)
June 15	5:30pm	Dinner for 6/7/8

Men's Breakfast

Join us for
food, faith, and
fellowship



Saturday, May 11 at 8:30am
Friendship Hall

Join the men for coffee and breakfast items of your choice as they fellowship together.

Go to SignUpGenius and make your reservation and select the food you plan to bring. It will be a great time to socialize.

Men's Fellowship: Men's Fellowship Breakfast
(signupgenius.com)

For questions, email Howard Kastner (howardkastner285@gmail.com) or call Sandy in the church office 865-816-4756



Women's Fellowship

Save The Date

Come and join us for these fun events!

May 23	9:30am	Garden Party Jean Clesen's Home
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Invite a friend!

Go to SignUpGenius and be a participant.
Women's Fellowship: Women's Fellowship (signupgenius.com)

Women's Fellowship Committee

Card Making Ministry & Fiber Arts

Thursday, May 9, at 10am,
in Friendship Hall



Card Making is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10am until Noon. Each month we make various types of cards, depending on the month and special holidays or celebrations.

There are jobs for everyone and no supplies to bring! It is a fun activity good fellowship and learning, as well as providing a smiling face from all those who enjoy receiving the cards. Any questions, give me a call at 936-520-2271 or e-mail csopsal@gmail.com.

Carol Opsal

Habitat for Humanity



We have a wonderful opportunity to assist with one of our Outreach programs. Habitat has volunteers who assist with building new homes in Loudon County, and we have been asked to provide lunch for them. There are 10-12 workers who will be at the site on May 15.

I am seeking volunteers to provide luncheon meats, cheeses, breads, salads, chips and desserts. I will also need help with making the sandwiches.

Please consider signing up for one of these items on SignUpGenius. Any questions can be directed to me. Thank you! **Pauline Gorsline** (847-830-6097)

SIGN UP

www.shepherdofthelaketn.org

Select Worship

- ⇒ Sunday Servants
- ⇒ Coffee Fellowship
- ⇒ Flower Calendar
- ⇒ Men's Fellowship
- ⇒ Women's Fellowship



Communications Team Mission Statement

"To provide support to church staff, committees, and ministries to develop, implement, and maintain a dynamic communications system that supports the overall mission and strategic plan."

*"A Christian community sharing
God's love with the world"*

Contact cards are now available for you to hand out to friends and neighbors expanding So+L's visibility into the community.

These cards are now available in the Narthex, Friendship Hall, and the office. Please take some and proudly show where you worship.



Women's Fellowship



Garden Party Invitation

*So+L Women & friends,
Come and enjoy conversation and a delicious brunch in
beautiful surroundings!*

**Take a pathway walk through the lovely gardens*

**Be entertained by storyteller, Linda Schuessler*

Thursday, May 23 (4th Thursday)

9:30-11:30am

The Clesen's home on the lake in Kahite

Menu:

Quiche (with meat or vegetarian)

Hash browns

Fruit

Muffins

Beverages

Cost: \$10

Hope you can join us! Invite a friend!



(Carpool from the church is encouraged leaving at 9:10am)

Dinner for 6/7/8 SAVE THE DATE!!!



“Dinner for 6/7/8” is scheduled for **Saturday, June 15.** SignUpGenius is up and running on our church website for you to add your name to the list for socializing with other church congregants.. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss this next opportunity to get to know your So+L family a little better.

Notice the name change? Just want everyone to know that this is NOT a couples event! There is a place at the table for singles as well. And along those lines, your spouse or significant other who is not a member of Shepherd of the Lake is also invited to join us for an evening of fellowship. It is perfectly okay to be a “social Lutheran”.

Stewardship Toolkit for May 2024

The Foundation of Stewardship

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; the world, and those who live in it.

Psalm 24:1

The Bible consistently gives us a countercultural and counterintuitive understanding of the world and ourselves. It's so radical that many of us can't accept it.

The idea is that the world belongs to God, and so does everything *IN* the world. Even *US!* We ,who proudly think of ourselves as autonomous, self-directed and self-made, actually belong to God. In other words, we don't own ourselves.

We are possessions of the Almighty.

Think about that for just a minute. We don't own the earth, our houses, our cars, our possessions, our animals, our children, or even ourselves. It all belongs to God. We belong to God. Though made in God's image, we are nonetheless humble servants – slaves, actually.

The reality that God owns everything, even us, forms the foundation for biblical stewardship. If God owns everything, including us, then we are responsible to God for our wisest and best use of the planet, our possessions, our talents and our lives.

Taking that responsibility seriously, God's people will prayerfully make choices that are in accordance with God's wishes. We will care for ourselves, our neighbors, and the earth. We will strive to love the Lord our God with all our being, and our neighbor as ourselves.

How are you doing with all this?

--Rob Blezard

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General Stewardship Resource Websites

Stewardship of Life Institute— Headquartered at United Lutheran Seminary, this site has a trove of resources in areas of congregational and personal stewardship. (<https://www.stewardshipoflife.org/>)

ELCA Stewardship Resources— Our denomination’s deep well of materials. (<https://www.elca.org/stewardship>)

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship – Solid resources! (<https://www.tens.org/>).



Prayer Ventures—May

- 1** *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* Give thanks for our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors and siblings in Christ, and for their cultures, languages and contributions to our nation and church. Pray for the well-being of Asian and Pacific Islander congregations and ministries of the ELCA as well as the work of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders.
- 2** *National Day of Prayer* Join with our siblings in Christ in praying for the well-being of the church, our neighbors in need and the leaders of our communities and nation. Ask God to help us resolve the problems and issues that keep us from thriving in unity.
- 3** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Minneapolis Area, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Arkansas-Oklahoma and Southwestern Texas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.
- 4** Pray for congregational young-adult ministries, ELCA Young Adult Ministry, Abide small-group ministry, Young Adults in Global Mission, Lutheran Campus Ministry Network, Lutheran outdoor ministries and long-term volunteer service organizations. Ask God to bless leaders who serve young adults as they seek community, strengthen their faith, find opportunities to serve, and discern their gifts and vocations.
- 5** “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). These words, spoken by Jesus to his followers, seem simple and unambiguous, yet we respond with resistance and stipulations. Pray that we might turn to the word of God and the example of Jesus to see the power of humility and fearless, unconstrained love.
- 6** *National Nurses Week* Pray for faith community nurses, who nurture and care for the whole person body, mind and spirit — and promote wellness in Lutheran congregations, ministries and agencies; other denominations; and our communities. Give thanks for the ministry of the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association, which promotes health and well-being in faith communities and supports nurses serving in a variety of roles across the country.
- 7** Pray that our love for God will move us to seek God’s ways, wisdom and Commandments, which exist for the benefit of all humanity.
- 8** Give thanks for the creative gifts of church musicians and music ministry leaders, who enrich the worship experience in our congregations and help us express to God our joy, concerns and praise.
- 9** Remember in prayer our neighbors in Haiti, who yearn for peace, safety and hope amid persistent suffering and violence. Ask the Spirit to guide us as unwavering advocates for the peace and relief of our neighbors and siblings in Christ.
- 10** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Saint Paul Area Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.
- 11** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Southeastern Minnesota, Southeast Michigan, North/West Lower Michigan and New Jersey synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.
- 12** Praise God that the truth of our faith, assurance of salvation and call to participate in God’s work in the world are revealed to us through Jesus Christ, the Spirit, and the nurture and affirmation we experience in our faith communities.
- 13** Ask God to strengthen and be with all mothers — biological, adoptive and foster — in the daily joys and challenges of teaching values, passing on faith, and protecting and guiding their children.
- 14** Thank God for the ELCA’s special relationship with the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength, resources and encouragement for the work of sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.
- 15** Give thanks for the ELCA Life of Faith Initiative, an effort to equip people of all ages to live out their faith in their families, workplaces, schools, local communities and world, serving their neighbors and working for justice in everyday life.

16 *International Day of Living Together in Peace* Our words and actions speak volumes about our faith and values. Pray that we might move past our conflicts and that the Spirit will fill us with kindness, compassion, respect and sacrificial love for our neighbors.

17 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Southeastern Iowa Synod, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and Greater Milwaukee Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

18 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northwest Washington and Northern Great Lakes synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

19 *Day of Pentecost* Praise God for the work of the Spirit, which calls us to faith, focuses and strengthens us, accompanies us in our baptismal journeys and unites us in a diverse, global community of siblings in Christ.

20 Remember in prayer college, university and seminary students as they prepare for final exams, graduation and vocations that will direct their gifts and passions into service to their church, communities and world.

21 “The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). Praise God for the gift of the Spirit, an advocate for us who stirs and strengthens our faith.

22 Give thanks to God that, in every corner of the world, the Spirit works to open hearts and minds to the life-changing news of unconditional love, forgiveness, renewal and salvation that we receive in Jesus Christ.

23 Ask the Spirit how God is calling us to use our faith, gifts, experience and wisdom to uplift our society, nation and world. “Could it be that we are called for such a time as this?” (*All Creation Sings* 1003).

24 Give thanks for scientists, science teachers and researchers, who stir our understanding and awe of God’s creation and seek to improve our lives, communities and natural environment. Promise to be careful with technology and new advancements, using them for the sake of justice and the well-being of humanity and creation.

25 Pray for the work we do through the ELCA’s AMMPARO strategy to accompany migrants with protection, advocacy, representation and opportunities, which is an expression of our faith and understanding of the gospel. Promise to uphold basic human rights and to work alongside immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees that they might transition to life in the United States in safety, dignity and respect.

26 *Holy Trinity Sunday* Nicodemus came to Jesus with questions about faith, baptism and the kingdom of God. Rather than snub his curiosity, Jesus took the time to speak with him. What questions do you have about faith and theology? Share your uncertainties with God, trusting God to understand.

27 Pray for the ministry we pursue through ELCA Global Mission, and for the personnel, missionaries and volunteers who serve in long-term partnerships with our global companions in nine Latin American and Caribbean countries.

28 Sing a prayer of praise and worship to the Lord our God, creator of all that exists and sustains our lives.

29 Pray for teachers and professors in public and faith-based settings, who work with students of all ages and abilities to develop and nurture their faith, self-confidence, curiosity, creativity and caring relationships.

30 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Montana and North Carolina synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

31 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Southwest California, South Dakota, Southern Ohio, Lower Susquehanna, Western North Dakota, Southeastern and Florida-Bahamas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

Voting location to change in Tellico Village



The Loudon County Election Commission decided Thursday, April 18, to move a voting location for future elections in Tellico Village.

Voters formerly cast ballots at the Chota Recreation Center on Awohili Drive will now do so less than a mile away at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, 143 Chota Center. Those residents who formerly voted at Chota will receive new cards and a letter about the change in the mail in the next few weeks. The move is being made because the church is a more central location with better parking, according to Susan Harrison, county administrator of elections.

“The church was very gracious in letting us come there,” Harrison shared.

Another reason for the change is that during polling hours, the recreation center would close to the public for its usual purposes. Now pickleball won’t have to be interrupted so people can cast ballots.

Signage denoting the change will be up during the next election in August, but the locations are close enough in proximity that if someone does go to the old election location, they can be at the right place within minutes.

SALES TAX VOTE CERTIFIED

Another point of business during Thursday’s meeting was to certify the results of the April 13 special election in Lenoir City.

The certification cemented Lenoir City voters’ rejection of a local sales tax increase that was earmarked for city schools’ expansions and a city community and senior citizens center. If voters had approved the referendum, the local sales tax rate would’ve risen from 2 percent to 2.75 percent.

Harrison read the results to the Election Commission members before they were approved.

“(The results were) 236 for, 496 against for a total of 732,” Harrison said. “Actually we had 734 voters ... Two voters decided to cast a blank ballot.”

Voter turnout for the special election was about 12 percent. Thirty-nine residents voted absentee, and 454 voted early.

This was Lenoir City government’s second attempt in six years to increase the local sales tax. In November 2018, a proposition for a half-cent increase to the sales tax to go toward school safety improvements failed 1,372 to 964.

The latest chapter of the saga was recognizable by the dueling signs that popped up around the city.

Signs urging people to vote “no” on the referendum were paid for by Loudon County Commissioner Van Shaver, and the ones imploring people to vote “yes” were paid for privately through donations by School Board members.

Following the election, Lenoir City Mayor Tony Aikens said the outcome means the senior citizens center is off the table. A local sales tax hike being on the ballot again in the future isn’t something he currently sees as being an option, but that determination is ultimately up to City Council.

Jeanne Barker, director of Lenoir City Schools, said the Board of Education would be working to determine next steps for accommodating a growing student population.



A Prayer for Pentecost

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life: At the beginning of time you moved over the face of the waters; you breathe into every living being, the breath of life.

Come, Creator Spirit, and renew the whole creation.

Holy Spirit, voice of the prophets: You enflame men and women with a passion for your truth, and through them call your people to the ways of justice and compassion.

Come, Spirit of Righteousness, and burn in our hearts.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Jesus: By your power Jesus came to bring good news to the poor and release to those held captive.

Come, Liberating Spirit, and free us from the powers of sin and death.

Holy Spirit, Advocate, Teacher: You speak to us of our Lord, and show us the depth of his love.

Come, Spirit of Truth, abide in us and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit, wind and flame: You filled disciples with joy and courage, empowering them to preach your word and to share your good news.

Come, Spirit of Power, make us bold witnesses of your redeeming love.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Peace: You break down barriers of language, race, and culture, and heal the divisions that separate us.

Come, Reconciling Spirit, and unite us all in the love of Christ.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life: At the close of the age all creation will be renewed to sing your praises.

Come, Creator Spirit, and make us new creations in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Bible studies & small groups

2024 Study

Bible Study Opportunities

Lectionary study with Pastor Phil Vickers
meets each Wednesday, at 10am.

For any questions
call the church office 865-816-4756.

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Small Group Ministry

"Meeting the Shadows of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul"

by Dr. Connie Zweig

Meets Thursdays at 3pm

For questions contact: *Shari and Tom Lillestolen,*
865-603-9467

June Newsletter

**NEWS FROM
THE PEWS**



MAY 28