

The Messenger

Volume XLVI ~ Issue 10 ~ October 2024

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

417 N. Seventh Street, Allentown, PA 18102

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www.StLukesLutheranAllentown.org ~ <https://www.facebook.com/StLukesLutheranAllentown>

Pastor Mathisen: 215-643-9109 | richard.a.mathisen@gmail.com

Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Richard Mathisen

Music Director: Andrea Berntsen

Administrative Assistant: Camille Campbell

Outreach Coordinator: Pr. Dr. Genie Watson

Sexton: Beth Hickman

The Pastor's Message

I'm grateful to all of you who have been able to join my Entire Bible Study during the Education Hour at 9:00 am on Sundays. Reflecting on my sermon from a year ago, I emphasized that God has a plan for each of us, and studying the Bible helps us discern that plan. I have now covered most of the New Testament. The essential message of the Old Testament in relation to the New Testament will be discussed on October 6 and 13, and the Bible Study will be completed on November 3, 10, and 17 (Please note that my wife and I will be on vacation on October 20 and 27.) I have also decided to publish a summary of each class in the Messenger to benefit those who couldn't attend.

Pastor Dr. Genie Watson, our new Outreach Coordinator, has been actively engaged in various activities. She has been distributing colorful and informative flyers about St. Luke's to businesses around the Church. This has required us to arrange for printing services with a local printer. Pastor Genie can now be reached via cell phone at 484-761-2770 and through email at outreach@stlukesluth.org. To enable her to attend St. Luke's Coffee Hour on Sundays, the Council has initiated a three-month experiment allowing Pastor Genie to conduct the Church's Zoom services from the Conference Room on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am, and this setup seems to be working well. She is developing new outreach ideas for the neighborhood, such as organizing a Trunk-or-Treat event on October 29 (refer to details and flyer on subsequent pages). We encourage everyone to participate as we continue to engage with the neighborhood. Another idea of Pastor Genie's is to open the Clothes Closet for evening hours. Bonnie Wachter and Monica Tucker-Morgan have agreed to manage this on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and we are now working on advertising the extended hours of this outreach to people outside the Church.

The Allentown Collaborative Ministries continues to be very active. The Annual Crop Hunger Walk is on Saturday, October 13. It meets at St. Timothy's at 1:00 pm. We also invite you to celebrate Reformation Sunday with us on October 27th. Your presence and support mean everything to us!

Blessings to all of you!

Pastor Richard Mathisen

Financial Highlights

Financials as of August 31, 2024

Income	\$4,854.00
Expenses	(\$16,005.00)

Roof Fund Loans as of August 31, 2024

Memorial Fund Loans	
North Roof	16,000.00
Elevator Addition Roof	10,000.00
Apartment Turret Roof	5,000.00
Apartment Roof	17,000.00
Loan Repay	(8,601.50)
Balance	<u>\$39,398.50</u>

Join us for...

Education Hour
Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00 am

“The Entire Bible for Everybody,
From Atheists to Christian
Believers!”

*A nine-week course from
September 8 to November 17*

Worship Service
Sundays at 10:30 am

Property Committee Highlights:

- Met with the elevator inspector to do our semiannual elevator inspection; everything was good.
- Replaced the broken toilet seat in the men’s restroom near the Youth Lounge.
- Met with UGI technician to do the annual boiler service maintenance.
- Refastened the loose high baseboard heat units on the wall up in the balcony.
- Delivered signed contract and one-third down payment to Altronics for the office door intercom system.
- Met with workers from Adams Glass & Aluminum, Inc. for the installation of the clear Lexan (Plexiglass) over three stained glass windows. The window over the main front doors and the two second-floor windows on the front of the church were covered to protect them.
- Obtained and installed new parts needed for the weed wacker so it can be used.

NEWS AND NOTES

Candy Donations for Trick-or-Treat Night

Bags of individually wrapped candy are needed for St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church to hand out to children in the area on trick-or-treat night. The event will be held on Friday, October 25, 2024, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Please bring your donations to the Church by Sunday, October 20th, and leave them in the back of the sanctuary or take them to the Church office. Beth, our Sexton, will distribute the candy to hundreds of costumed children and their families. She welcomes other members of the Church to join her.

Trunk-or-Treat at St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Join us for Trunk-or-Treat on October 25 (Trick-or-Treat night for Allentown) from 6 pm to 8 pm in St. Luke's parking lot. We invite all members to get creative, decorate their trunks, and spread joy by handing out candy and information about our Church from their vehicles as children pass by. This event is a great opportunity to be visible to the neighborhood and have a chance to greet the children and their parents. Your participation will make a difference. Please, take a moment to let Pastor Genie know you're in by calling her at 484-761-2770. Let's make this event unforgettable together!

Lehigh Mission District (LMD) Christmas Ingathering

The LMD Christmas Ingathering held its organizational meeting on September 11 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus. We at St. Luke's plan to participate again in this worthwhile ministry. Each of the Churches in the Mission District is assigned two local organizations to buy gifts from the wish lists that they provide. This year we were assigned the Rescue Mission and Turning Point. Their lists are as follows:

RESCUE MISSION

Single Serving Fruit Juice

Salad Dressing

Sauerkraut

Low Sodium Canned Soups

Low Sodium Chili

Low Sodium Pasta Sauce

Powdered Milk

Coffee

Disinfectant Cleaning Spray

Pine Sol

All Purpose Cleaner

Trash Bags (45-55 Gallon)

Window Cleaner

Granola & Cereal Bars

Men's Underwear (Sizes M-XXL) NEW

Men's T-Shirts (Sizes M-XXL) NEW

Powdered Drink Mix

Men's Winter Work Gloves

Canned Beef Hash

Notebooks/Lined Composition Books

Any item on the Rescue Mission Amazon Wish List

TURNING POINT

NEW

Bath Towels

Pull-Ups (All Sizes)

Twin-Sized Comforters

Diapers (Sizes 4-8)

Full-Sized Comforters

Paper Plates

Pillows

Plastic Forks, Spoons & Knives

Body Wash

Disposable Cups (Hot & Cold)

Body Lotion

Laundry Detergent

Conditioner

Laundry Softener

Shampoo

Leggings (Women's Sizes M-XL) NEW

Scented Hand Creams for Moms

Baby Wipes

\$10 Gift Cards to the following stores: Giant, Weis, Wawa, Walmart, and Target

We will be collecting these items as well as monetary donations until the end of November.

A collection box will be on the back table in the sanctuary. We will take Joyful Noise Offerings after our worship service periodically throughout October and November, and these donations will be used to purchase additional gifts from the wish lists. Christmas Ingathering is on December 4, at which time we will deliver our gifts directly to the Rescue Mission and Turning Point.

We are also seeking sponsors for gifts for children at the Topton Home. We have committed to purchasing four gifts at \$25.00 each. We will receive the children's names and request lists in early October. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these gifts, please speak to Kathy Patterson.

St. Luke's Bake Sale

St. Luke's will have a bake sale on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024, from 8 am to 5 pm, or while supplies last. Bakers and help are needed to set up and work the table.

Please bring items ready for sale/packaged individually to the Church the night before, from 6 pm to 8 pm, or any time throughout the sale. You can put 3-4 cookies in a bag or a cupcake in a baggie and provide information about what they are, **including if any item**

contains nuts, for us to put up signs at the table for ease of selling items. Please call Patti at 610-393-9707 to sign up to help or plan for the drop-off or pick-up of baked goods.

Prayer List Policy

The Prayer List is important to St. Luke's Church and its members. However, it's uncommon for names to be removed when prayers are no longer needed. As a result, I have strongly recommended to the Council the process I've successfully used in other Churches. Names added to the Prayer List will be retained for four weeks and then placed into God's care. The Pastor exercises discretion as appropriate. You may always add names to the prayer list at any time by contacting the Church office. The same names can be re-added again as many times as desired. The Pastor does exercise discretion! Anyone with questions about this procedure should feel free to contact Pastor Mathisen. Thank you!

Our Sincere Condolences

We have been notified of the passing of long-time member Jim Kondravy. The funeral will be held on Thursday, October 3, at 11:00 am at the Trexler Funeral Home. Visitation will be at 10:00 am. Pastor Mathisen will be officiating the service. We were also informed of the passing of Dale Kidd, the brother of Rev. Robert Kidd. Dale Kidd, a long-time member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, attended St. Luke's after St. Paul's closed. Dale Kidd passed away on September 24, 2024. His funeral was also held at Trexler Funeral Home on Monday, September 30, 2024.

Entire Bible 01 Overview

Pastor Mathisen's presentation at the September 8, 2024, Education Hour at St. Luke's has been summarized on the last pages of this Messenger. An earlier presentation version with the same title is available on YouTube.

What's Going on With Outreach?

- If you look around the community stores, St. Luke's flyers are posted.
- There have been some good conversations with our neighbors as they walk by.
- Jessenia of CACLV has posted and shared ESL flyers in her office.
- Holy District has posted ESL flyers in their Church.
- Church of the Mediator has been referring people to St. Luke's ESL classes.
- Don't forget, Trunk-or-Treat is October 29. Flyers will be posted soon.

Our outreach efforts are ongoing, and our reach is expanding!

45th Annual Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 13, 2024

1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m.
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104



INDIVIDUALS, TEAMS, and BUSINESSES/GROUPS: If you haven't already done so, please **REGISTER** and/or **DONATE** at www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa

The CROP Hunger Walk is a great **intergenerational fellowship and service event** for families, youth groups, adult groups, businesses, organizations, and congregations.

Walkers may choose from two route options: a 10K route and a "Golden Mile" route (refreshments available for both).

The Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk **helps food-insecure neighbors locally** through the **Conference Kitchen** and the **Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank**. Our CROP Walk funds also support Church World Service's life-saving disaster assistance, displacement assistance, and long-term development assistance with our neighbors in need **throughout the United States and around the globe**, including victims of floods, fires, droughts, earthquakes, wars, and other humanitarian crises.

Find more **INFORMATION** about the life-saving work of Church World Service at www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa.



TRUNK OR TREAT

At St. Luke's
Lutheran Church
Parking Lot

FROM 5PM -6PM

29TH
OCT

FREE
ENTRY

417 N. Seventh Street

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PROUDLY PRESENTS



Bake Sale



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

FROM 8 AM - 5 PM, OR WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

ENJOY A WIDE VARIETY OF DELICACY

COOKIES - CUPCAKES - DOUGHNUTS - CAKES - ETC

417 N 7th STREET, ALLENTOWN

Prayer Requests

Please keep in prayer those who are sick, suffering, homebound, or grieving the loss of loved ones,
especially:

FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

November Barton-Moore
Rev. Richard Baumann
Anthony Bosket
Mary Davis
Eduardo Fernandez
Donald Helm
Frederick J. (Jim) Kern III

George Kratzer, Sr.
Dolores Lewis
Keith Lewis
Erica Lopez
Carol Mayers
Cathi Murphy
Donna Recker & family
Margarita Rodriguez

Zachary Strouse
Carl Swoyer, Jr.
Elizabeth Swoyer
Mary Swoyer
Emily Talago
Carol Vasko
Susan Wyman
Marge Yarnall

The families of Jim Kondravy, Linda Zeiser, and Janet Stump on their loss

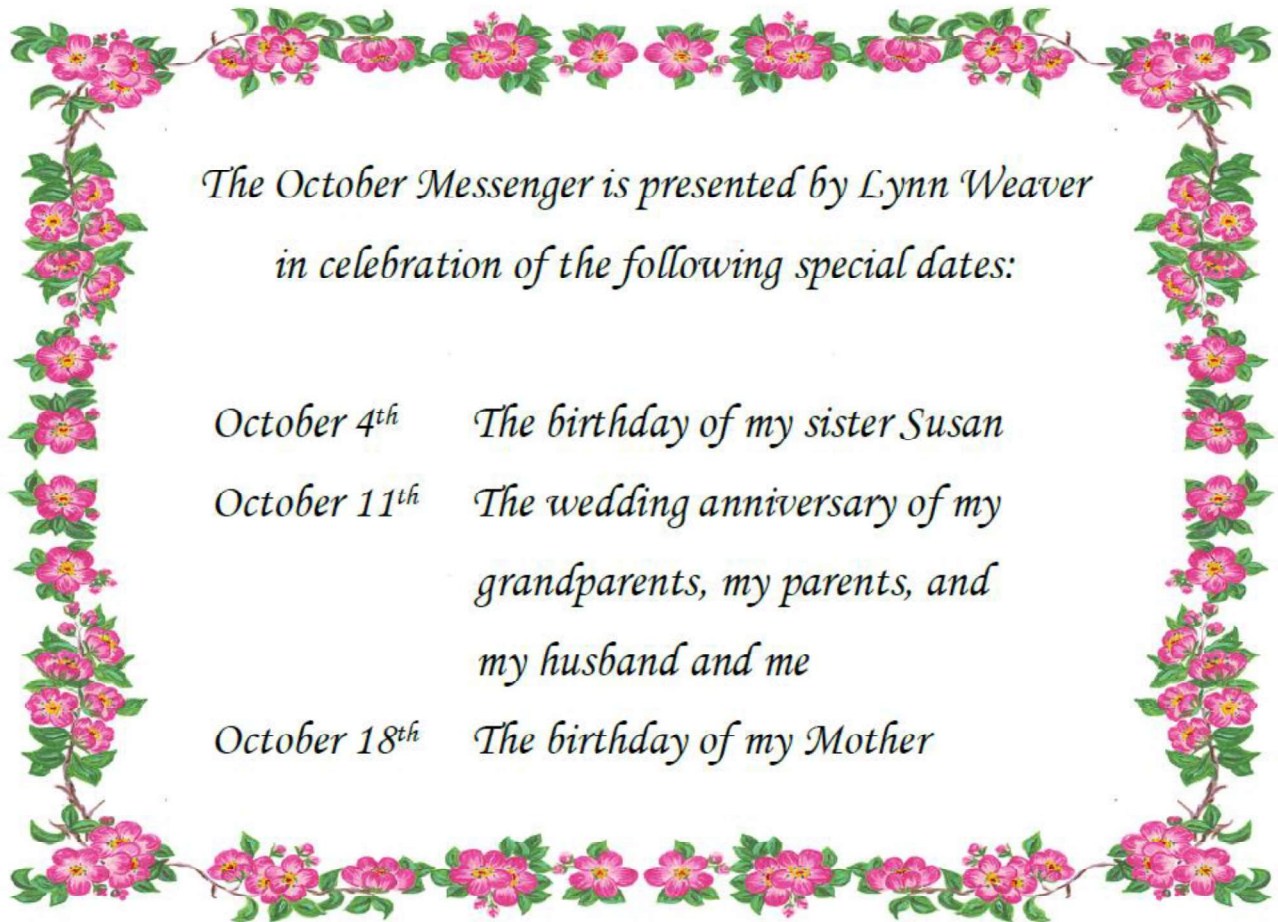
FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Elva Bachman
Ruth Brinker

Jackie Gehringer
Vivienne Ho
Miriam Schuon

Elwood Shanton
Charlie Talaber

*Join us at St. Luke's for our
Healing Service
on
Sunday, October 13
10:30 am*



*The October Messenger is presented by Lynn Weaver
in celebration of the following special dates:*

October 4th The birthday of my sister Susan

*October 11th The wedding anniversary of my
grandparents, my parents, and
my husband and me*

October 18th The birthday of my Mother



Blessings on your birthday

October 4 Susan Simmonet

October 6 Andrew Harrison

October 25 Marion Melber

Have we missed anyone?
Please call the Church office if you would like to be added to our birthday list.

Thank You, Volunteers!

Lay Ministers October 2024

Oct	Offering Collector	Scripture Reader	Worship Assistant	Communion Assistant	Greeter
6	B. Mathisen	M. Tucker-Morgan	M. Westman	M. Westman	E. Hickman
13	R. Patterson	M. Westman	J. Zimmerman	J. Zimmerman	K. Baker
20	D. Skinner	D. Skinner	T. Zimmerman	T. Zimmerman	B. Mathisen
27	J. Zimmerman	M. Westman	L. Weaver	L. Weaver	R. Patterson

Lay Ministers November 2024

Nov	Offering Collector	Scripture Reader	Worship Assistant	Communion Assistant	Greeter
3	T. Zimmerman	S. Simonnet	C. Bachman	M. Westman	J. Zimmerman
10	B. Engler	J. Zimmerman	K. Baker	J. Zimmerman	B. Engler
17	E. Hickman	T. Zimmerman	M. Tucker-Morgan	T. Zimmerman	E. Hickman
24	K. Baker	L. Weaver	B. Mathisen	L. Weaver	K. Baker

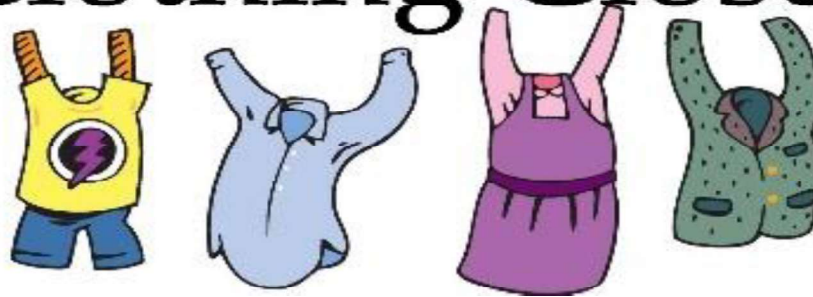
We are looking for sponsors for the altar flowers and bulletins for October, November, and December. Many weeks are still available for sponsorship. If you are interested in sponsoring altar flowers (\$16.00 per vase) or weekly bulletins (\$12.00), please contact Kathy Patterson at 484-633-0333 or email her at robert.patterson@rcn.com.

We appreciate those of you who regularly sponsor flowers. If everyone would consider sponsoring one or two vases of flowers during the year, it would help us to continue having fresh flowers on the altar.

Thank you!

ST. LUKE'S MISSION STATEMENT: St. Luke's is a community of God's people centered around the Gospel and empowered by God's Spirit to be Jesus' disciples now. The Lord calls us to be channels through which His love and acceptance can flow to others. Using our varied gifts, we commit ourselves as a congregation and individuals to be God's presence to our community in both word and deed.

Clothing Closet



one
MORE
DAY

The Clothes Closet's hours are
Thursday mornings, 9:30 - 11:30 am
and



Wednesday evenings, 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

A photo ID and contact information are required to register.
Masks are no longer required, but please be respectful of others.

Donations can be dropped off in the Clothes Closet
on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am,
or you can call Bonnie at 484-735-1169.

Clases de Ingles, gratis ***(Free English Classes)***



Clases de ELL siguen
Distrito escolar de Allentown
Para inicios tardíos y cierres
(Para comenzar tarde, mañana)
las clases son canceladas

ELL classes follow
Allentown School District
for late starts and closings
(For late start, morning
classes are cancelled.)

Los martes y jueves,
desde las 9:30 - 11:30 am

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 am

En la Iglesia Luterano San Lucas;
St. Luke's Lutheran Church

610-434-3943

Calle 7 norte # 417, Allentown, PA 18102
417 North 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18102

Se entra por el estacionamiento y luego por el porto rojo.

www.StLukesLutheranAllentown.org

NEPA Synod News Highlights

(Please refer to the Synod's website for further details.)



Bishop Eaton statement on Haitian community in Ohio

The recent national spotlight on Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, clearly has fanned flames of hate and stoked threats of violence. The rhetoric has created discord and mistrust of people who have already suffered civil unrest in their nation and been granted legal protection in the United States. History shows us that this kind of hatred often carries negative national and global consequences. Our Church teaches that immigrants are children of God, made in God's image and worthy of respect and lives of dignity. God calls us to witness boldly to this truth when people tell dehumanizing lies that perpetuate racist tropes and support white supremacist narratives.

Grief Recovery

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Tuesday nights, from 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Sylvia Havlish, M.Ed., will serve as Facilitator

CALL Sylvia Havlish to register at 610-395-5045

Grace Lutheran Church is located at 28 W. Main Street in Macungie, PA

Grief is a confusing, tangled, and painful process of discovering how to live, feel, cope, and heal in the midst of coming to terms with loss. No one should have to face grief alone.

Join our private Facebook Group **"Journeys Through Grief."** Click the link and request to join our community of caring individuals.

LCS offers "Journeys Through Grief" counseling in small groups where you will be introduced to the stages of grief and explore your feelings about the loss you have experienced. Our goal is not to make grief disappear but to equip each participant with the tools needed for lifelong healing and understanding. A professional Christian counselor or trained facilitator will guide you through six, 90-minute sessions on living with grief.

There are no fees thanks to our sponsors:

Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral Homes Shantz Funeral Home

October's Bible Readings

WEEK 1

- *Genesis 2:18-24* *Created for relationship*
- *Psalms 8* *You crown us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:5)*
- *Hebrews 1:14; 2:5-12* *God has spoken by a Son*
- *Mark 10:2-16* *Teaching on marriage*

WEEK 2

- *Amos 5:6-7, 10-15* *Turn from injustice to the poor, that you may live*
- *Psalms 90:12-17* *So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*
- *Hebrews 4:12 - 16* *Approach the throne of grace with boldness*
- *Mark 10:17-31* *Teaching on wealth and reward*

WEEK 3

- *Isaiah 53:4-12* *The suffering servant*
- *Psalms 91:9-16* *You have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation. (Ps. 91:9)*
- *Hebrews 5:1-10* *Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation*
- *Mark 10:35-45* *Warnings to ambitious disciples*

WEEK 4

- *Jeremiah 31:7-9* *The Lord gathers the remnant of Israel*
- *Psalms 126* *Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)*
- *Hebrews 7:23-28* *Christ the merciful high priest*
- *Mark 10:46-52* *Christ healing the blind man Bartimaeus*

Entire Bible 01 Overview (A Quick Summary)

The entire Bible is huge and mysterious! What is the Bible about? The Bible is about the “meaning of life”! More specifically, the Bible is about Jesus.

Some Statements of Fact: At the center of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus is the most influential person in the history of the world and changed the history of the world. Because of Jesus, the Bible is the most influential book in the history of the world and changed the history of the world. Are these statements scientifically true? Yes! Well-informed atheists and skeptics agree with these statements but would add “for better or for worse,” because the Bible’s enormous impact has led to many things that are good and to many other things that are not so good. Why should an atheist or skeptic care about the Bible? Because it’s impossible to understand the history of the world and the modern world without understanding the impact of the Bible, for better or for worse!

The Bible says “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1) God is almost unbelievably powerful, but also mysterious. This mysterious God chose to reveal himself to humans in a very specific and dramatic way, like a play in three acts -- Act One, Act Two, and Act Three. Act One was the Old Testament. Act Two is Jesus and Act Three is the Holy Christian Church. Look at the “Timeline of Civilization for Bible Purposes”, showing the entire history of Civilization, which consists of about 3,000 years before Jesus (B.C. – Before Christ) and 2,000 years after Jesus (A.D. – Anno Domini – Year of our Lord). Act One is the Old Testament, which is the area on the chart called B.C. (Before Christ). Act Two is the life of Jesus in the New Testament, born about the year zero. And Act Three is the Holy Christian Church, the result of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

What happened after the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Christianity officially started on the Day of Pentecost, about 30 A.D. The Day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church, when the disciples gathered in Jerusalem 50 days after the resurrection and saw the Holy Spirit descend as tongues of fire. This means that the Church has had a huge impact on the world from about 30 A.D. to today, 2024 A.D.

During this period, the Church grew at an extraordinary rate. When Jesus was born, there were no Christians. By 100 A.D., scholars estimate about 8,000 Christians. By 200 A.D., it jumped to about 150,000 Christians. By 300 A.D., it was up to about 3 million Christians. And, by 400 A.D., it reached about 30 million Christians. This was phenomenal growth so by about 400 A.D., Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

The growth continued after 400 A.D. Current statistics (2023) for the five World Religions indicate Christianity is the largest religion in the world. Of about 7.6 billion people in the world, about 2.4 billion are Christians, or about 31.3%. About 1.9 billion are Islamic, or about 24.8%. About 1.2 billion are Hindu or about 15.2%. About 500,000 are Buddhist, or about 6.6%. Finally, about 14 million are Jewish, or about 0.2%. These five are considered the five “World Religions.”

In about 400 A.D., the Roman Empire split into two halves: the eastern half, known as the Byzantine Empire, and the western half, known as Western Civilization. The two halves had very different histories. The Byzantine Empire was a centralized empire that lasted for over 1,000 years, from 400 A.D. until it was conquered by the Muslims in 1453 A.D. The western half of the Roman Empire was fragmented into several smaller countries during the Dark Ages (400 – 1000 A.D.). The High Middle Ages (1000 – 1600 A.D.) produced two important inventions -- the modern university and the start of modern experimental science. This led to the Enlightenment Period (1750-1800), the rise of secularism, and then to the Four Freedoms: political freedom, economic freedom, religious freedom, and intellectual freedom. These are the heritage of Western Civilization.

The overall religious trend in the history of the world has been from an original polytheism throughout the world to the first monotheism in Ancient Israel (the Old Testament), to the second monotheism, Christianity (the New Testament), and eventually to Modern Science and the Enlightenment Period. All of this led to the Four Freedoms of the modern world, a product of Western Civilization.

Why does this Overview of the Bible contain so much history? Because the Bible and the extraordinary growth of Christianity had a huge impact on the history of the world!

Next month, we will examine the four Gospels in detail.

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TIMELINE of CIVILIZATION *for* BIBLE PURPOSES

3,000 B.C. – 2,000 A.D.

