

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRISTOL, CT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Pentecost Sunday
May 24, 2026 9:30 a.m.**

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

PRELUDE

Handbell Choir

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Spirit of Gentleness

ELW 396

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading:

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

A reading from Acts, Chapter 2.

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Acts 2: 1-21

Choir Anthem

"Come, Holy Spirit"

VC Johnson

Second Reading

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.

A reading from 1st Corinthians, Chapter 12.

^{3b} No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 172



Gospel

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The holy Gospel according to John, Chapter 20. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

John 20: 19-23

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (aimed toward Grades K thru 6th, but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

SERMON

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

PRESENTATION

Those making affirmation of baptism and/or membership may gather with the ministers at the rail.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people who are making public affirmation of their baptism, Betsy and Jayce Caswell and Sue and Joe Dowdell. Today, we also give thanks for our new member, Michael Knochin, who brings from his Jewish tradition a shared life in the ministry of this congregation too as part our service, learning, and love of neighbor.

Together we celebrate the many ways God gathers people into relationships of compassion, justice, hospitality, and peace as members of Faith Lutheran Church of Bristol.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers whom you have called to yourself, enlightened with the gifts of your Spirit, and now nourish in this community of faith. Bless our shared life together, deepen our understanding of one another, and guide us all in paths of compassion, truth, and peace. Uphold all your servants gathered here today and strengthen this congregation in love and mutual care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

RENUNCIATION QUESTION

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses those making affirmation and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

AFFIRMATION OF INTERFAITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

RENUNCIATION QUESTION

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

RECEPTION OF INTERFAITH MEMBER

Michael, trusting in the God who is faithful through all generations, do you desire to share in the worship, fellowship, service, and common life of Faith Lutheran Church?

Response:

I do.

Will you seek to grow in understanding, serve your neighbor, work for justice and peace, and share your gifts within this community?

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to welcome and support these new members, to pray for them, and to share together in the life and mission of this congregation?

Assembly:

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

A blessing is given for each person.

God of all grace, stir up in _____ the gifts of your Holy Spirit; guide her/his life, strengthen her/his faith, empower her/him in serving others, give her/him patience in suffering, and lead her/him in the ways of peace and life. **Amen.**

A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

(An applause is offered by the assembly as a sign of welcome)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

ELW 401 (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

(Please be seated)

L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Now may we lift up praise and thanksgiving for Restored Health, Life Celebrations and God Sightings for which we are joyful...*(time is allowed for responses)*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

GIFTS ARE RECEIVED - *In gratitude for all God has given, you are invited to share a portion as the offering plates are passed at this time. Thank You!*

Offerings towards our Ministries are also welcomed by scanning this code with your phone camera.



SONG OF GRATITUDE

Handbell Choir

L: OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, **accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher. (if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the pew behind the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)*

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW 195

L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy One, **through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.**
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

REMINDERS

(If you are giving a reminder, come to the pew behind the lectern as the altar is cleared).

SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, May 24, 2026

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Music Director: Helen Glatthaar

Assisting Minister: Arlene Creswell

Lector: Heather Johnson

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donna Ropp, Rosemarie Tessman, Cookie Capsalors, Sandy Milke

Altar Guild: Edie Valencis

Communion Assistants: Heather Johnson and Jill Little

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**Sunday, May 24, 2026 Pentecost Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

1:00 p.m. Lutheran Hiking Club at West Hartford Reservoir

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:00 p.m. Voice Choir – Chapel

Thursday, May 28, 2026

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Saturday, May 30, 2026

10:00 a.m. Fitness Class

Sunday, May 31, 2026

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

11:00 a.m. Bible Nuggets

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT 06010

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

Faith In Action...Attendance and Offering for the week of May 17, 2026
 Facebook 5...YouTube 10...In Person 95...Total 110 ...Offering \$3108.43
 Steeple Restoration Fund Received To Date...\$4615.00