

The Day of Pentecost

June 4, 2017

Deaconess Elizabeth L. Borth
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
123 E Livingston
Orlando, Florida 32801

Dear Deaconess Elizabeth,

Today the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ celebrates Pentecost, the day of the Holy Spirit. Together we joyfully thank God for the fulfillment of His Pentecost Promise, first given to us through the Prophet Joel. This 9th century B.C. prophet told the world that at just the right time God would pour His Spirit out upon His people. Such Spirit-blessed people would then become the Lord's Church and would proclaim God's Gospel of salvation to people of all climes and times.

And so it was. On that very day, by-standers and others who heard the inspired words of Saint Peter and the others, were moved by this Word and Witness. 3,000 people received Baptism. The Church of the New Covenant is born.

From that day to this, faithful Spirit-blessed pastors, teachers, evangelists, – and deaconesses – have moved through the world bringing the healing and redeeming Word of Jesus to the hearts of people thirsty for the water of life, the healing streams of God's river which flows from His Throne.

Last Mid-March. I am on my way out of the back door of the Magnolia Castle. You were there and we exchanged mutual greetings. I was about to ask you something regarding School Chapel, when suddenly a young woman virtually flew through the door into the hallway, weeping and uttering unintelligible words. She was in great anguish. And she was looking straight at you.

In a millisecond, you had your arms around her, hugging her, saying "Honey, it's going to be alright. Let's talk." Then you took her to your sacred space, your office. It was obvious that the young woman knew that you were the one that she needed to speak to and had frantically sought you out for the comfort, care, and good advice that you would offer.

It was also obvious that you knew this tortured young woman, and that you had spoken with her many times before. You were (and still are) her minister, her friend, her comfort, solace, and peace. Thank you.

God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ have given you a rich measure of the Holy Spirit, Liz, and you have applied that Gift to those about you, doing what Spirit-blessed people do, that is sharing the Love of Christ and the assurance of forgiveness to the hurting soul. Thank you.

You have been at Trinity for some nine years I believe, and your mark here is indelible. You have brought compassion, integrity, and common sense to Trinity's Ministry. Thank you.

When you first received the Divine Call to Redeeming Life, many of us attempted, with all good intent, to convince you to stay here rather than go to an uncharted pastoral position. But your good thinking and clarity had set you on a new path of ministry. How blessed it will be for those you will begin to serve, How blessed we have been through your Ministry here with us. Thank you.

Your Persona is strong and it has strengthened us. Thank you.

Today Trinity gathers to thank you for your service and to bid you a fond *auf Wiedersehen*. The tears in the eyes of those who bid you farewell are an indication of their (our) love for you. Rest assured that you are being carried into the future with their (our) prayers for God's protection and a daily re-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon you and your loved ones.

Go in peace, Elizabeth L. Borth, Deaconess, anointed by the Holy Spirit of God to bring the Gospel to all nations, and now more specifically to the Sanford, Florida section of all nations.

You are and will always be a dear sister in Christ and a most gifted fellow worker in the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jackie joins me in this greeting and the sentiments herein expressed.

In Christ's love,



Pastor Thomas R. Zehnder