

JULY 26-30

Dear siblings in Christ,

This year has been full of new and challenging experiences. The current coronavirus pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives, including the ability to worship together in person.

During a season of so much uncertainty, God's love and promises remain unchanged.

In our Baptism, God made a covenant with us. With water and the Word, God named and claimed us as God's own children forever, and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in and among us. We, either by our own voice or the voice of sponsors, promised to participate in that covenant with God as we:

Live among God's faithful people

Hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper

Proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed,

Serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and

Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

This year, in place of Vacation Bible School, you are invited to participate in a congregation wide photo scavenger hunt, *Spirit Snap*. As we continue to be physically distant from one another, we remember that the Holy Spirit is still at work in our lives, helping us to fulfill those promises made in our Baptism.

Where will you see the Holy Spirit working this week? What holy moments will you snap on camera? Inside this booklet you will find activities, devotions, and photo prompts as we remember our baptism together, though apart.



Instructions

Spirit Snap is for EVERYONE!

Children, youth, and adults. Members, friends, and family. If you are reading this, you are invited to snap the Spirit this week with the people of St. Mark's! Haven't used side walk chalk in a few years? Now's the time! Have fun, play, and keep your eyes open for God's activity. You're never too old to remember your baptism! This photo scavenger hunt can be done by yourself (we love a good selfie!), or with your family. You can accomplish the hunt at home or outside in the community. Please remember to keep a safe distance from others and wear a mask if you choose to go out in public.

Holy Spirit Dove Cut Out

On the last page of this booklet you will find a fine feathered friend to take along with you on your photo scavenger hunt! Feel free to decorate your dove, or even give them a name! Your dove will need to be present with you in each of the pictures that you take for the photo scavenger hunt as a reminder that the Holy Spirit is always with us, helping us fulfill our baptismal covenant.

Choose your own adventure

You never know where or how the Holy Spirit will move!

You can choose to do this Scavenger Hunt all in one day, or spread throughout the week. This booklet has a page of activities and photo prompts for each of the baptismal promises as well as a complete list for the scavenger hunt at the end of the document if you'd like to stick with taking pictures. Try to take all the pictures, or choose a few from each promise—it's up to you!

Be Part of Sunday's Sermon!

Pictures from our Spirit Snap will be compiled and used during the sermon on Sunday, August 2, as we see how the Spirit has moved through our community during the week. Please choose 1 picture from each baptismal promise (5 total) and send them to Deacon Katie no later than noon on Friday, July 31. By submitting photos, you agree to allow St. Mark's to use your pictures on our streamed worship service on Facebook.

Email your pictures to katierivers@stmarkslutheran.net or text to (845)206-1364

LIVE AMONG GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE



"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ. There is no longer Jew of Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:27-28

In Baptism, we are made children of God, and are given a family in the Body of Christ. We are called to live together with our brothers and sisters, whether in our family, our church, or our community. We are each a special, important, and needed part of the Body of Christ!



- When we were baptized, you were marked with a cross on your forehead. Find something around your house that you can use to make a cross on your forehead and take a picture! (finger paint, flour, washable marker, lipstick, face paint, etc.)
- Take a picture of you and your family doing something that you love to do together. If you live alone, take a picture with a photo one of God's faithful people, or of you and your dove writing a letter to someone.
- Water gives life to the world, and gives life to us in our baptism! Get creative and take a picture of you
 and your dove in or near water.
- St. Mark's is where we have spent a lot of time living among God's faithful people, though not in the past few months. If feel comfortable going out into the community, take a picture <u>outside</u> on the front steps by the Red Doors at St. Mark's. If not, take a picture of a place where you have been spending time with God's faithful people the past few months.



Loving God, you have called us each by name, and made us your children in Baptism. Help us to live among your faithful people, that our faith might grow and be strengthened by each others love and support. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



There's no better way to remember your baptism than to play in water! Whether with water balloons, cups, sprinkler, hose, pool, or dancing in the kitchen while washing dishes, have some fun and remember your baptism with water!

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND SHARE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" Psalm 119:105

In God's Word, the Bible, we hear the story of God and God's people. It contains commands and promises, challenging and encouraging us in our baptismal life with God. God speaks to us through to Word to helps us grow in understand of who God is, and grow in faith throughout our lives.



- Take a picture of you and your dove worshiping with St. Mark's online.
- Dress up like a character from your favorite bible story and take a picture!
- Daily at home devotions are one way that we have been able to find new routine in how we hear God's Word
 during this pandemic. Take a picture of you/your family having devotions or reading a story about
 God together.
- We hunger and thirst for the time when we can be back together again and have Holy Communion.

 Take a picture of you with bread and wine/juice and remember God's gift to us in Communion.



Almighty God, you gave us your Word that we might know about you and the great love that you have for all creation. With the help of your Holy Spirit, help us to read, study, and learn more about you through the Bible as we strive to live out our baptismal promises.



The Bible often speaks about the Holy Spirit as a breath or wind. Use the breath that God gave you to blow bubbles today, and remember the Holy Spirit that breathes life into you an all creation!

PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD IN CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND DEED



"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me: to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners." Isaiah 61:1

In your baptism, God gave you the Holy Spirit to share God's love with all people you meet. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can share the Good News in both what we say and what we do, and be a prophetic voice of God's goodness and mercy.



- Be a sidewalk chalk evangelist! Go outside and write an encouraging message of God's love in chalk on your sidewalk or driveway for your neighbors to read. Take a picture of you, your message, and your dove.
- Someone lived out this promise of "proclaim" well when they told You about Jesus! Write down the name of someone who shared the Good News with you. Take a picture of you and that name with your dove.
- Sometimes the voice of God is quiet, sometimes it's loud! Take a picture of you and your dove depicting something quiet or loud.
- Write "Let the Spirit speak" on a post-it note or mirror in your house as a daily reminder that God has anointed you to proclaim the Good News. Take a picture of your message.
- As you are driving around town or surfing the internet, take a picture of a church sign with an encouraging, prophetic message. Take a picture of you and your dove with the sign.

Pray

Guiding Holy Spirit, you have given us unique voices to share God's love with the world. Help us to be bold as we share the Gospel in our words and actions, and point to Jesus in all we do. Amen.



The Holy Spirit is sometimes depicted as fire, like at Pentecost. Remember your baptism today with fire—Cook dinner (or roast marshallows!) on the grill, enjoy a fire in the backyard, or light a candle during a meal or devotions. May the Holy Spirit burn in you like fire!

SERVE ALL PEOPLE,

FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS



"For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." John 13:15

We are called in our Baptism to serve all people, following the example of Jesus. God uses our gifts, our time, and our resources to help those in need. Acts of service in the name of Jesus point to what God has done for the world, and who came not to be served but to serve.



- St. Mark's Christian Action Team has organized a collection of new or gently used bath towels and washcloths for Western Carolina Rescue Ministries. Take a picture of you and your dove wrapped up in some towels to donate! (Donations being accepted at St. Mark's July 30-August 1 from 3-5pm)
- Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and taught us what it means to be a servant. In the spirit of our current times, take a picture of you washing your or someone else's hands, and remember Jesus' example of servanthood.
- Homeward Bound is in need of some items for people who are experiencing homelessness.
 Camping hear, sleeping bags, rain gear, reusable water bottles, sleeping pads, waterproof tarps, backpacks, and blankets. Take a picture of you and your dove dropping off some of these items to the
 Welcome Home Donation Center at 205 Elk Park Drive, Woodfin, NC
- Picking up trash outside is an easy but important way to serve our world and our neighbors. Take a picture
 of you/your family picking up trash in your neighborhood.



Faithful God, you sent your Son to be servant of all. Where there is a need, direct us to be helpers. Where there is a job to be done, help us to be workers in your kingdom. Guide us as we live out our baptismal promises by serving our neighbors. Amen.



The Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove, like your fine feathered friend that you have been carrying around with you this week! How many flying things can you see today? Planes? Helicopters? Fireflies?

STRIVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN ALL THE EARTH



"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17

Lately, our world has felt like it needs a little more justice and peace. In our baptism we are called to speak God's love and truth in all situation, to stand up for what is wrong, and to work to bring healing and wholeness in the world. Remembering that all are created in God's image, we work to treat all people as beloved children of God.



- The past few years, St. Mark's has been working for justice and peace in all the earth by forming a partnership with WNC Baptist Fellowship. Write a letter or color a picture to our friends at WNC Baptist Fellowship. Take a picture with your letter/picture before you send it to: WNC Baptist Fellowship 240 Haywood St. Ashville 28801
- Make a sign that says "God loves all people, and so do we" and hang it in your window at home and take a picture
- Make a monetary donation online to an organization that is working for peace and justice in our world today. Take a picture your dove with their logo.
- Social Distancing has been a time when a lot of people are reading more while at home, and education in an
 important step as we work for justice. Take a picture of a book that you have read/hope to read that's helping
 you learn how to be a person of justice and peace in the world today.



Reigning God, your kingdom comes through us as we work for justice and peace for all people. Help us to be bold bridge builders and loving peace makers as we live out our baptism. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



The Holy Spirit is often referred to as the Wisdom of God. Try to memorize the baptismal covenant (they are in a list on the front of this booklet), so that you are able to remember and daily recall the promises you made with God in your baptism.



Full Spirt Snap list of pictures

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Serve all people, following the example of Jesus

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Strive for justice and peace in all the world

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Cut out this dove and take all of your Spirit Snap pictures with it this week! Feel free to decorate it or even give it a name. May it remind you that the Holy Spirit is always with you.

