



Hug~In~A~Mug JUNE 2021 VOL. 64

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting (ACTS 2:1~2).

Greetings dear friends in Christ, as this season of Summer is finally upon us.

I am gratefully sitting here at dawn, basking in the ongoing JOY cast by my favorite time of the church year: Pentecost, just barely over a week ago, thinking to myself, "Nobody does it Better." We filled the house this week!

We Lutherans do our "church-year calendar," better! We re-visit each year the traditions, breath-taking altar Paraments, banners, and seasonal colors that mark deep meanings, reflecting to the time of the early Christians. Pentecost, fifty-days after the Passover Sabbath, steeped in traditions and practices, marks the day when we were bestowed of the Holy Spirit, under the name, "the Church." What can be better than that?

My home church of 57 years graduated seventeen High School Seniors the afternoon before, and on a sun-drenched Pentecost Sunday, our first 2021 outdoor service, communed nine young confirmands, in and under the words in Luke's Gospel, The Acts....reminding us how God poured out His Holy Spirit, in the promise of renewal in our Baptism. Pastor's stole, the altar paraments, carnations on first communicant teen's white robes, and red balloons on their gift baskets...what a wonderful celebration we shared with these young people...red, a daily reminder of the blood of Christ, shed for us.

The entire rest of the day, I could not get a pesky little ballad, (composed by songwriter Marvin Hamlisch, some 44 years ago, and recorded by singer Carly Simon, for a James Bond film, "Nobody Does it Better") out of my head. I looked around all day at my home and how red had always been my favorite color.... from kitchen accent wall and shiny tea kettle, to throw pillows and cozy lap robes, a red Adirondack love seat on the deck, entry hall rug; it is an uplifting color in many ways; it reflects our "new-life" in the Sacraments.

*And then, we moved in a blink, to this very Trinity Sunday, where we kneel and have revealed the mystery of the Trinity: God in Three Persons, Father, Son, and precious Holy Spirit. May we all be filled with the peace through Christ, that we may turn to others and bear witness.... that they do not forget what we say, what we did, nor how this makes them feel. Be **JOY** filled! Wear red, and bear witness of the renewal you have received in Christ.*

Sincerely & heartfelt yours, Pat Reck, Leader Development 06/02/2021