

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. All of them. Together. In one place. The same place. At the same time. All of them. On Pentecost. Just take a moment and let that sink in. We should not take for granted what that meant for the disciples, but also what it means for us. To be gathered together in one place on Pentecost is an incredible gift, all thanks and praise to God who has brought us each to this time and place.

According to the laws of physics that you and I are all bound by, wind doesn't make a sound. Which seems crazy, right? Because we've heard wind before, right? Lord knows we've had our fair share of wind this spring. But according to physics, wind doesn't make a sound. It actually can't be heard until it comes in contact with some other physical object or force. So we hear the wind only because it rustles the grass and tree branches. We hear the wind as it moves scattered leaves across the lawns of the neighborhood. Side note, does it seem to anyone else that the leaves always blow right to their yard and then just stop? What we hear when the wind blows is the interaction of two things, each having an impact on the other. Which is to say that the wind is still present even if there's no objects or forces to collide with to make its noise. Wind is still moving in the world, even if there's no one to hear it and notice it's work.

As the disciples all gathered for Pentecost, which was and still is a festival in the Jewish faith tradition that marks 50 days after the Passover, when Moses and the Israelites received the law on Mount Sinai – as the disciples gathered in that one place at the same time, the wind of change came blowing. And they heard it! They felt it! And the world hasn't been the same since. We are gathered here today because a wind of God blew on that day of Pentecost. We are here because the Spirit of God continues to blow throughout the world today.

It doesn't mean that the Spirit wasn't there before or that the Spirit was just waiting in the wings, chomping at the bit to actually have a role to play in the Holy Trinity. Like the wind, even when it could not be heard or felt or known, the Spirit was and is active. Because as Luther tells us in the Small Catechism, "The Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy you and me and the whole church." The Spirit is always active, moving throughout the world like the wind. And sometimes we notice it; and other times we miss it. But it is always active, always present. And I know that there are times when I miss out on what the Spirit is doing. I know there are times when I don't notice that the Spirit is calling me. When I was younger, my mom brought me to the doctor for a hearing test, which I aced. Responding to my mom's confusion as to why I had a hard time hearing her, my doctor replied, "This might be a case of selective listening..."

In other words, yes the Spirit calls. Of course the Spirit calls, just like the wind continues to blow. The Spirit is always calling us, to be a part of what God is doing in the world. The Spirit is calling us to gather together to learn and grow

as the people of God. The Spirit is calling us to be enlightened by the gifts God has entrusted to us to share with the world. The Spirit calls us deeper into holiness. But sometimes we have selective listening. We don't always notice or pay attention to the call of the Spirit. We don't always hear or like to hear what the Spirit is calling us to.

And then there are times when we simply can't miss the call. We just cannot miss that the Spirit is at work, because we feel it, we hear it, we sense it, we see it. There are times when the Spirit moves in such a way that we cannot ignore it. It comes in like the rush of a violent wind and we cannot help but be caught up in its work. We cannot help but be reminded of the eternal call that is placed upon each and every one of us – to partner with God in the loving work of restoring and redeeming a broken world.

Maybe it's something on a bigger scale. Maybe the most recent string of mass shootings in Buffalo, Laguna Woods, Uvalde, and Tulsa have sparked you to say, "ENOUGH." Maybe you are inspired to be a part of a movement for change. Maybe it's protecting the Earth. Maybe it's advocating for the homeless and impoverished. Maybe it's welcoming refugees. Maybe it's urging for truth in education. Maybe it's a deep-seeded desire to build bridges amidst divisions because it really is good for ALL to be together in one place.

And maybe all of that seems too big for any one person to tackle. But rather than being driven to complacency and returning to a life of selective listening, maybe the Spirit is calling you to things that the world would consider small, but are by no means no less impactful. Maybe you have gifts to offer a committee at church. A shameless plug for two that I'm involved with – Education and Outreach are always looking for more voices. Maybe it's volunteering your time to help others grow in their faith by joining a Bible Study or becoming a confirmation mentor, helping with summer programs like VBS or Day Camp or Music Camp, or joining a small group like Purely Social or the quilters or card makers here at Joy. Maybe it's getting involved with hunger and poverty ministries like Parker Task Force or Joshua Station. Maybe it's partnering with Lutheran Family Services to support refugees or tutoring kids in their educational journeys. Maybe it's a community group that meets for clean-up and recycling of trash and debris.

So my brothers and sisters, since you are called, where is the Spirit leading you today? How is the Spirit calling you to be a part of the restorative work of God in the world? We can't ignore it. We are called to things big and small, but all necessary, all important for sharing the love of God in the world. For the Spirit is here and it is always coming to us, calling us to keep carrying on the work of God. May we have open ears to hear this call and willing hearts to follow it, for the Spirit will get our attention one way or another. Even if it takes the rush of a violent wind to get us to pay attention. Amen.