

WE ARE ALL CREW

(Acts 2: 1-21)

Intro: May issue of *The Lutheran*.

-Article on school children in Rwanda.

#After years of:

*Civil war.

*Genocide.

#School system is being put back on its feet.

*Although 95% of children.

+Attend elementary schools.

*Only 15%.

+Attend secondary schools.

=Junior high.

=Senior high.

-One of the extracurricular activities in the Lutheran school.

#Crew time.

*Reading.

*Counseling.

*Service.

*Discussion.

*Career guidance.

*Conflict resolution.

*Team-building.

*Fun.

#It's called crew time because the students believe:

*In their school.

*In their culture.

+They are crew.

+Not passengers.

As we celebrate the Festival of Pentecost.

-God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

-Birth of the church.

#It might be useful for us to remember:

*In the church.

+We are not passengers.

+We are crew.

+We are all crew.

I. In The Boat Called Salvation.

A. We Are Passengers.

1. Jesus is the captain.
 - a. By virtue of his:
 - Divine sonship.
 - Holy life.
 - Innocent suffering and death.
 - Resurrection from the dead.
 - b. Jesus is Lord.
2. Holy Spirit is the wind behind the sails.
 - a. Inviting us aboard.
 - Through:
 - #Word of the Gospel.
 - #Waters of Holy Baptism.
 - b. Blowing faith into our hearts.
 - Enables us to go along for the ride.

B. No Other Crew Is Needed.

1. Our paddling.
 - a. Can't overcome the current of sin.
 - b. Can't keep us in the main channel.
 - c. Can't keep us from being swamped by the waves of:
 - Fear.
 - Doubt.
 - Despair.
2. But:
 - a. Jesus.
 - b. Holy Spirit.
 - Have done.
 - Continue to do.
 - #All the paddling necessary.
 - #To open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
3. All we have to do.
 - a. Call on the name of the Lord.
 - b. Get in the boat of faith.
 - c. Go along for the ride.
 - We will be saved.
 - #Acts 2:21.
4. In the boat of salvation.
 - a. We are passengers.
 - b. We are all passengers.

II. In The Boat Of The Church.

A. We Are Crew.

1. We are all crew.
2. Acts 2.
 - a. First of several "Pentecosts."
-In the Acts of the Apostles.
 - b. Holy Spirit is given to Jews.
-Who have lived all over the Mediterranean world.
-Who now reside in Jerusalem.
3. There will be other "outpourings" of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. To the Samaritans.
-Acts 8: 4-25.
 - b. To the Gentiles.
-Acts 10: 44-48.
 - c. To various individuals.
-Along the way.
4. In Acts 2.
 - a. Individuals include:
-Young.
 #Old.
-Male.
 #Female.
-Slaves.
 #Free.
 - b. People from a variety of:
-Countries.
 #Cultures.
5. They are all crew.
 - a. When I was in college.
-One of my roommates.
 #Jock.
 *Not on an athletic scholarship.
-In the fall.
 #He played football.
-In the winter and spring.
 #He was on the rowing team.
 #His sport was called crew.
 *In those long, slender boats.
 +Called sculls.

- *There are no passengers.
- +Everyone is crew.
- +Even in the 8-person boats.
- =Coxswain.
- Doesn't have a paddle.
- But he (or she) calls out the cadence.
- =All are crew.
- b. When I ride my bike.
 - On the west side of the river.
 - #There is a boat house.
 - *Between:
 - +21st Street.
 - +Southwest Blvd.
 - *Used by:
 - +Tulsa Rowing Club.
 - +TU?
 - There are:
 - #2-person sculls.
 - #4-person sculls.
 - #8-person sculls.
 - In the sculls.
 - #All are crew.
- c. In rowing.
 - All are crew.
- d. In the church.
 - All are crew.
- e. God gives the Holy Spirit to all.
 - So that all can be crew.

B. Maybe We Wish We Could Be Passengers.

1. I have been on cruises.
 - a. Caribbean.
 - b. Aegean.
 - c. Alaska.
 - d. Hawaii.
 - e. Yangtze River.
 - I was a passenger.
 - There was a crew.
 - #Prepare the food.
 - #Wait on tables.
 - #Provide the entertainment.
 - #Schedule the shore excursions.
 - That can be a fun way to travel.

2. Maybe we wish that's how the church could be.
 - a. Other folks to be the crew.
 - b. So that we could be the passengers.
 - Ordering the drinks.
 - Grazing the buffet table.
 - Enjoying the scenery.
 3. But the church is not:
 - a. Holland America.
 - b. Norwegian Caribbean.
 - c. Carnival Cruise Line.
 4. In the church all are crew.
 - a. Pastor.
 - And lay.
 - b. Young.
 - And old.
 - c. Male.
 - And female.
 - d. Life-long Christians.
 - And newcomers.
 - e. All are crew.
- C. God Gives The Holy Spirit So That We Can All Be Crew.
1. But the paddles might not all be same.
 - a. Sometimes we might be looking for a particular kind of paddle.
 - As a congregation.
 - #We need someone:
 - *To pay the bills.
 - *To mow the lawn.
 - *To change the paraments.
 - b. But the Holy Spirit can give:
 - New.
 - Different.
 - #Kinds of paddles.
 - We have a praise band.
 - #Because some people have praise band paddles.
 - #If we didn't have:
 - *Certain people.
 - *Certain people with certain:
 - +Passions.
 - +Paddles.
 - *We wouldn't have a praise band.
 - #When the Holy Spirit gives someone a percussion paddle.
 - *Then we'll have a percussionist.
 - #But we are all crew.

- We have a Helping Hands food pantry.
 - #Because some people have food pantry paddles.
 - #If we didn't have:
 - *Certain people.
 - *Certain people with certain:
 - +Passions.
 - +Paddles.
 - *We wouldn't have a food pantry.
 - +Or it might operate in a different way.
 - #But we are all crew.
- As we prepare to engage in *Seeds for Growth*.
 - #Our congregational renewal endeavor.
 - #We may discover:
 - *New paddles.
 - *Old paddles that can be used in new ways.
 - #But we are all crew.

2. As we honor our graduating high school seniors.
 - a. We recognize that you have been given certain paddles.
 - Gifts.
 - Talents.
 - Interests.
 - b. Alyssa and Brendan have certain ideas about how to use their paddles.
 - Anthropology.
 - Pre-med.
 - Physics.
 - c. But don't be surprised.
 - If the Holy Spirit gives you:
 - #New.
 - #Different.
 - *Paddles.
 - +To try out.
 - =As you go off to college.
 - =As you go through life.
 - Just remember.
 - #Whatever the paddles.
 - *We are not passengers.
 - *We are crew.
 - *We are all crew.
 - +Through the:
 - =Gifts.
 - =Power.
 - Of the Holy Spirit.

- Concl: Pentecost is a day of transition.
- In the church's calendar.
 - From:
 - #Celebration of:
 - *Easter.
 - *Our Lord's resurrection.
 - To:
 - #Season of:
 - *Growth in the Spirit.
 - +Symbolized by the color green.

After next Sunday.

- Trinity Sunday.
 - #When the paraments are white.
- We will be using our green paraments.
 - #Throughout the summer.
 - *And beyond.
 - #We have a newer set of green paraments.
 - *Because some folks have:
 - +Creative.
 - +Artistic.
 - =Paddles.
 - #Those newer paraments have a boat on them.
 - *When you see the boat.
 - +I hope you will remember.
 - =In the boat of the church.
 - We are not passengers.
 - We are crew.
 - We are all crew.