

ACTS

OF THE APOSTLES

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Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Who was Luke?

- **Gentile, educated in Greek, possibly Greek**
- **Teacher (?) to Theophilus (“friend of God”)**
- **Authored the Gospel of Luke and Acts**
- **Did not experience Jesus’ ministry**
- **Experienced that which Jesus did through the Apostles and others**
- **Physician and loyal friend of Paul (Colossians 4:14, 2Timothy 4:11)**
- **Frequent companion and fellow worker with Paul (Philemon 24)**

What is Acts?

- **A continuation of the Gospel of Luke**
- **Third longest book in the New Testament**
- **Written about 64 A.D. while, it's anticipated Luke was in Rome**
- **Possibly a document used to defend Paul in Rome**
- **Written to inform and confirm that taught to Theophilus**
- **It tells the story of the birth of the Church at Pentecost and it's growth through the first 30 years**
- **It is a segway to all the Epistles**

What is Acts?

Gospels

- Show us Jesus who died for our sins
- Tells us of the crucified and risen Son of God
- We hear of His teachings
- Luke provided what he heard

Acts

- Shows the coming of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit
- Shows Him as the ascended Lord
- See the effects of His teachings
- Luke wrote about what he heard and experienced

Acts by Whom?

- **The Apostles, “the Seven”, Paul, Barnabas, Timothy and others**
- **The Holy Spirit**
- **Jesus**
 - **Matthew 16:17** **Jesus said He would build the Church**
 - **Acts 9:5** **Jesus on the road to Damascus**
 - **Acts 9:17** **Jesus sent Ananais to see Saul**
 - **Acts 9:34** **Peter said “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you”**
 - **Acts 16:7** **Jesus’ Spirit restricted them from Bithynia**
 - **Matthew 28:20b** **Jesus promised to always be with us**

Why was Acts Written?

- **It's a proclamation to those at that time and from then to now and tomorrow, how through the Church:**
 - **the Gospel is related to the course of redemptive history,**
 - **the Gospel is rooted in and interacts with history,**
 - **we have been freed from Jewish law, and**
 - **behind the proclamation of the Word stand the power and activity of the Holy Spirit**
- **It's apologetic, Christianity isn't a political threat to the empire.**
- **Catechetical, it helped draw people together as they understood the spread of the Christian Church**
- **Conciliatory, it balances out Peter and Paul**

Parallels in Acts

Peter

- **First Sermon** 2
- **Lame Man Healed** 3
- **Influence of Shadow** 5
- **Simon the Sorcerer** 8
- **Laying on of Hands** 8
- **Tabitha Raised** 9
- **Peter Worshipped** 10
- **Peter Imprisoned** 12

Paul

- **First Sermon** 13
- **Crippled Man Healed** 14
- **Influence of Handkerchief** 19
- **Elymas the Sorcerer** 13
- **Laying of Hands** 19
- **Eutychus Raised** 20
- **Paul Worshipped** 14
- **Paul Imprisoned** 28

Parallels in Acts

Chapters 1-12

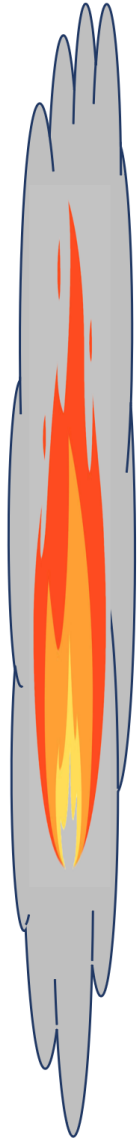
- Jerusalem is the center of the Church
- Peter is the chief figure
- The Church extends to Samaria
- Peter is imprisoned
- Herod is judged

Chapters 13-28

- Antioch is the center of the Church
- Paul is the chief figure
- The Church extends to Rome
- Paul is imprisoned
- The Jews are judged

Festival of Weeks

Festivals Compared



Sabbath

6 days of work and on the 7th day you rest

Passover

14th day of the 1st month

The last supper and Jesus' arrest

Feast of Unleavened Bread

15th – 21st day of the 1st month, immediately after Passover

Refers to Jesus who was without sin

Offering of First Fruits

1st day after the Sabbath, 1st grain of Barley harvest

Jesus was the first fruit of the dead

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Festival of Weeks

50 days after First Fruits, celebrated the wheat harvest

Pentecost, the use of leavened bread refers to the work of the Holy Spirit and the spreading of the Gospel both to Jews and Gentiles

Festival of Trumpets

1st day of 7th month, a sabbath day of rest

Jesus return will be signaled with trumpet blasts

Day of Atonement

10th day of 7th month, scape goat

Jesus covered our debt and we are thereby righteous in God's sight

Festival of Tabernacles

15th – 21st day of the 7th month, celebrates the exodus from Egypt

We look forward to our exodus from this sinful world

Pentecost

Exodus 23:16

“You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field.”

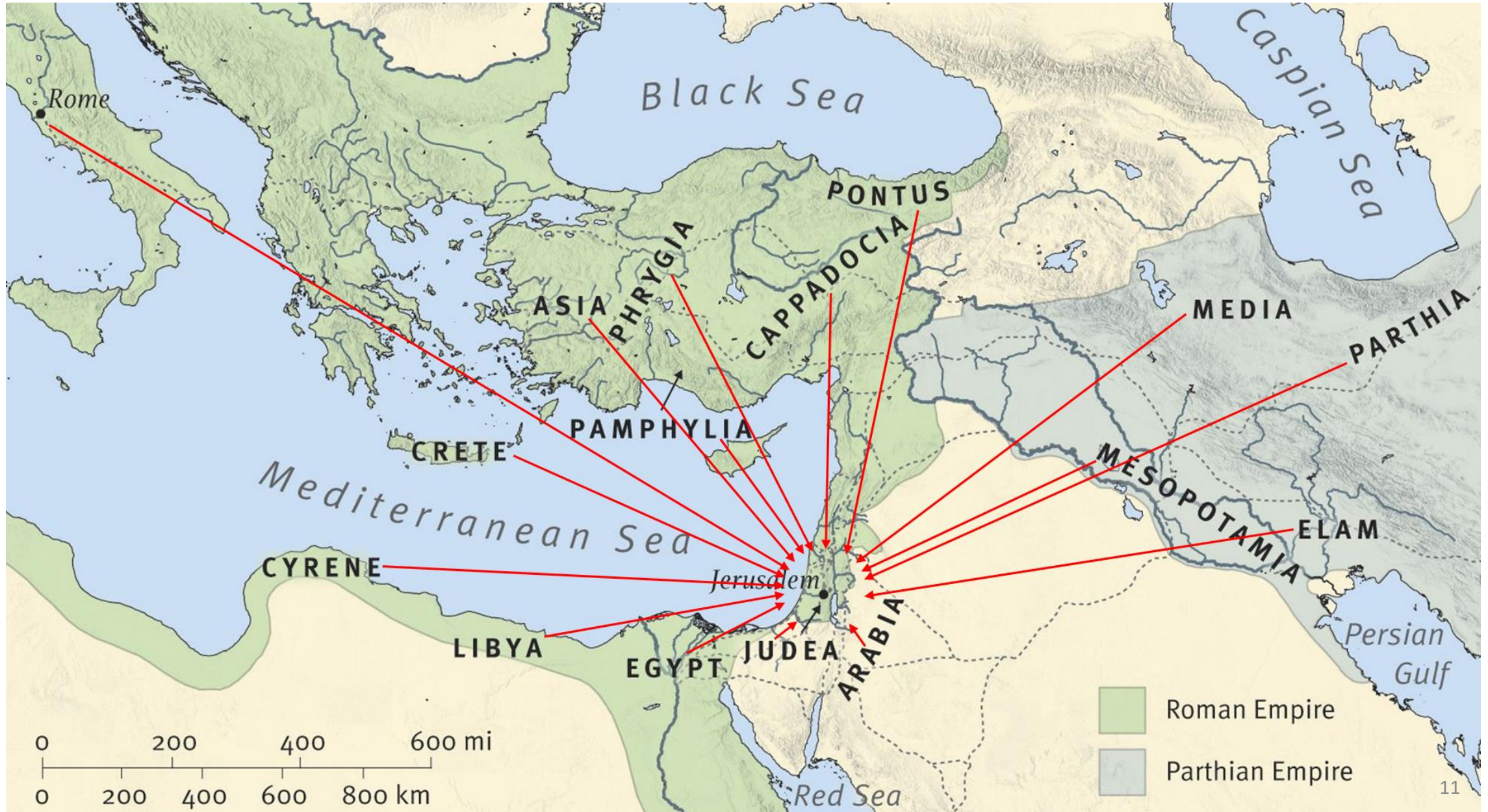
Numbers 28:26

“On the day of the firstfruits, when you offer a grain offering of new grain to the LORD at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation.”

Pentecost

- **50 days after Easter (Ascension is 40 days after Easter)**
- **The Christian Churches' Birthday**

The Diaspora in Jerusalem (Acts 2:9-11)



Jesus Foretold to Expect the Holy Spirit

John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach **you** all things and bring to **your** remembrance all that I have said to **you**.”

John 16:7

“Nevertheless, I tell **you** the truth: it is to **your** advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to **you**. But if I go, I will send Him to **you**.”

John 16:13-15

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide **you** into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to **you** the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to **you**. All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to **you**.”

For What Reason?

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon **you, and **you** will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

Who is “you”? It’s “we”!

Ephesians 4:11-16

“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until **we** all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that **we** may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we** are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.’

What is “the body of Christ”?

Ephesians 4:11-12

“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up **the body of Christ,”**

“Church” – a definition

Building

Congregation - COS

Denomination - LCMS

Christian Church

A gathering of people who have share a common belief.

What did Jesus say about the Church?

Matthew 16:16-18

“Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

How was the Church built?

Matthew 21:42

**“Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:
“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?””**

Ephesians 2:19-22

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

“Built on the One Foundation”

1Peter 2:4-5

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

“church”

ekklesia (ἐκκλησία) is a borrowed word from the Greek senate which means a “called out, set of people”, often given the power to represent and advocate for others.

“Who? Me?”

1Peter 2:9-10

“But **you** are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that **you** may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called **you** out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once **you** were not a people, but now **you** are God's people; once **you** had not received mercy, but now **you** have received mercy.”

Who is Peter talking to?

1Peter 1:1

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,”

“I am innocent of the blood of all of you”

(Acts 20:26)

Paul made this statement after the following.

Acts 20:18-21

“And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When, to whom, and why?

Ezekiel 3:17-19

““Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. **But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.””**

COS Mission Statement

The mission of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church is to make disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ in these communities and with people everywhere.