**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, May 24, 2015 – Pentacost**

**Sermon Title: Far From God? -- “Encourage the Call” Sunday**

**Scripture: Acts 2:36-41 *(New International Version)***

36“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” 37When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” 40With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Isaiah 6**

Leader: The angels shouted, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

**People: At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.**

Leader: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

**All: And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”**

**Basic Theme: *Pentacost is known as the birthday of the Church! This is the day that the Holy Spirit was unleashed through the words of Peter! At the heart of his message was the truth of the Gospel!***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Peter was preaching to people who were far from God. His message: “Repent. Be baptized. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!” This promise is for all who are far from God! For all whom God calls!**

**So What? Ever feel that you are too unholy – too far from God – to hear his voice calling out to you? Ever wonder if God could use a sinner like you? The answer to both is yes! He did and he does! The message of Pentacost is for those who are far from God! What is your answer?**