Pastor’s Pieces

May 2024

Pastor’s Pieces for May

“You shall count seven weeks. Begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God … ‘ - Deuteronomy 16:9-10a - Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, May --- beginning with May Day (May 1) and ending with Memorial Day (well, almost ending – this year, Memorial Day is celebrated on May 27) it is already a month of celebrations that includes Mothers’ Day. This year, the church adds a BIG (as in, important) celebration to the list: Pentecost. Because Easter was early, Pentecost comes “early”: May 19. Often falling in the month of June, Pentecost has nothing to do with the months of the year, but rather depends for its date on the date of Easter: Pentecost being 50 days after Easter. When the Church was “born” at Pentecost, it was the great gathering of faithful Jews in Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks. There would have been great numbers of Jews from all over the then-known world (the diaspora) in Jerusalem for the festival, as ordered by God. We read about the disciples all being together in one place (Acts 2). Heaven sent the sound of a mighty wind, and “divided tongues as of fire” rested on each of them, and they began to speak about God in “other tongues”, which could be heard and understood by the many passers-by outside, on the street. The amazing phenomenon was immediately understood and interpreted by Peter. In the midst of his sermon, he quoted the prophet Joel and proclaimed Jesus as the promised fulfillment, The Christ. Added to the number of baptized believers that day was “about 3,000 souls” (Acts 2:41). I’ve tried to picture this event and am pretty much just in awe of God’s mighty power. God still calls His people to come together --- to praise Him for Who He is, to thank Him for all He has done and is doing, to confess before His throne of grace and I n the presence of brothers and sisters that we have fallen short of the mark, and to seek His healing, mercy, and guidance for our lives and the life of the world. Pentecost – the beginning of the second half of our church year, in which our readings are full and rich, focusing on the building up of the body of Christ. Come and worship with our church family on Pentecost, and bring a neighbor, a friend, a relative whom you care about. Come and rejoice every Sunday --- see what The Lord is doing.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Lisa+