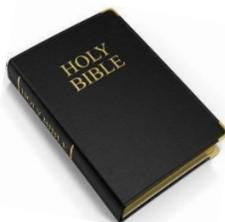


Linway Church In Touch

Staying In Touch Without Touch

April 29, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! The arrival of the month of May brings with it the hope that in the coming weeks Pennsylvania will join with other states in beginning the process of resuming the business and activities that we once considered normal. This hope is expressed with the caution that the Corona Virus Pandemic continues to subside. I'm sure that you join with me in praying that it may be so. The *shelter in place and physical and social separation or distancing* declaration is to continue for several more weeks at the very least. I know that you are as anxious as I am to resume what we thought were our "normal" activities.

This coming Lord's Day, May 3rd, is the fourth Sunday in the Easter Season as we head toward the celebration of Pentecost on May 31st. How great it would be to celebrate Pentecost in our Lord's Linway Sanctuary! Whether that will be possible or not remains to be seen. Please remember that while I want you to come to worship at our Lord's Linway Sanctuary, it is out of an abundance of caution that requires us to **not** gather for holy worship until the pandemic has subsided and the all clear is given. That being said, I am asking once again that you take time, find time, and make time, for your own private or family devotional worship. It is the best we can do under the circumstances.

In an effort to assist you, let me share with you the Scripture readings designated for this coming Sunday, May 3rd, the Fourth Sunday of Easter:

- Psalm: 23
- Epistle: 1 Peter 2: 19-25
- Acts 2: 42-47
- Gospel: John 10:1-10

As before, I encourage you to read one or all of the Scripture texts. The message based on Acts 2:42-47 picks up where the reading for last Sunday left off. It is an account of what the new followers of the Lord were doing after Peter's bold proclamation to the residents of Jerusalem and all who could hear his voice. I am going to suggest that if we look closely, we can find a pattern of worship and service that is appropriate even today.



Have you ever thought: “*What are the rules for being a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ?*” Peter clearly announced that it was necessary to “*Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ*” (Acts 2:38). In the following verses I think we can find other expectations. I am not suggesting that we simply follow rules for rules sake. I am suggesting that the intent to be a

follower of Jesus Christ carries with it some obligations which carry over to life-style choices. In other words, the fact that Jesus Christ is Risen has repercussions for those who would be followers.

Once again, I am asking you to intentionally read one or more of the above Scripture texts, to think of its meaning in and for your life. I also ask you to pray for the sick, the poor, and those in need. Expand your prayer to include those providing medical assistance to all whose health is impaired and not just those afflicted by this pandemic. Include in your prayers a request for our heavenly Father to comfort the families who have lost loved ones whether by the Corona Virus or some other disease or illness. Pray for our elected leaders at all levels of government that their decisions will aid our community, state, and country in providing assistance to those in need, not only medically but economically. We need to also pray that the resumption of economic activity will not produce a second wave of the virus and infect even more.

I will be writing to you again next week. I will also give a message from the Linway Sanctuary that will be available on the Linway Church Facebook Page and on the Linway website www.LinwayChurch.org for this coming Sunday, May 3rd.

While being closed has seen a slight decrease in our utility expenses, there are still expenses that must be covered for our Lord’s Linway Church. Unfortunately, we will miss our spring *Chicken BBQ!* Please read about the Sarris Candy Bars, Giant Eagle Gift Cards, and Greeting Card Sale in the May newsletter. If you are able, consider participating in one of these fundraisers for our church. Finally, let me encourage you to send your tithe and offering to the church. You may send your offering envelope by mail or you can use the new electronic system at <https://tithe.ly/give> . It is one more way we can stay connected as we seek to live out our faith in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. In the meantime, keep the faith and stay safe.

God Bless You,

Eric E. Dennis, Pastor

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