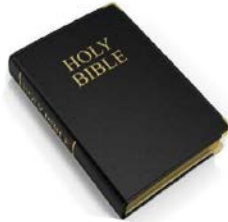


Linway Church In Touch

Staying In Touch Without Touch

May 27, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! As I write this we have reached the last week of the month of May and are on the verge of beginning the month of June. It is hard to completely comprehend the changes that have taken place over the last three months. Economically, Allegheny County and many parts of Pennsylvania, as well as other states in our country, are beginning to resume business and commerce. Not all are happy about the pace or the designations of what establishments can resume their work/business. What does this mean for the church? Unfortunately, there is not much immediate change for houses of worship. We will continue to broadcast a message via Facebook or Linway's webpage. I share your hope that we will be able to gather for worship once again at our Lord's Linway Church. In all likelihood, once worship at Linway resumes, there will continue to be online broadcasts of the message for those unable to attend. Your Session will review the requirements so that when we receive permission to resume worship onsite, we do so with caution and not endanger anyone or enflame the transmission of the Corona Virus. We don't want that.



*Pentecost
Sunday*

This coming Lord's Day, May 31st, is the Day of Pentecost where we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. This year it is a reminder of who unites us as members of the Body of Christ on earth. The opening verse of a favorite hymn is: *We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.* It is God's Holy Spirit which is the bond that holds us together through all things. The next phrase of that hymn's verse is: *And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.* Certainly we pray that the unity of our presence together in corporate worship will be restored, but the hymn speaks of much more than that. It is the unity of **all** of God's people. Is God using this Corona Virus Pandemic to draw people closer in virtual worship? Will people allow this to carry over when the Pandemic subsides and we are allowed to resume physical gathering to *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*? Only time will tell, but I earnestly hope that will be so. Nevertheless, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that flows like a breeze to touch our hearts, our minds, and our lives.

Let me share with you the Scripture readings designated for this coming Sunday, May 31st, the Day of Pentecost:

- [Psalm: 104:24-35](#)
- [Acts 2:1-21](#)
- Old Testament: [Numbers 11:24-30](#)
- Gospel: [John 20:19-23](#)

I would like to focus on John 20:19-23, but I encourage you to read one or all of the Scripture texts. The great novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote: *there are no second acts in American lives*. With respect, I think we can disagree. If we mean a change from what has been to something new and different, then I think that many individuals qualify as having a *second act*.



Don't you know of someone who has changed careers during the course of his or her life? I would be surprised if you don't know someone who has done so. It is not wrong or bad if you are led to another vocation. History is replete with examples of individuals who began in one line of work and, after a while, changed. While my own call to parish ministry came as a teenager, I resisted it for years, and after college I worked in a secular job for two years before yielding to enroll in Seminary. You might be surprised at the pastors who are in a second career.

Let's consider the Apostles. Do you really think things were the same for those individuals from their previous lives when they decided to follow Jesus? How about after the crucifixion when Jesus appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room behind closed and locked doors? How about after Jesus' Ascension? How about after the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost? How about a persecutor by the name of Saul after his encounter on the road to Damascus? He even had his name changed. No, things were never the same. Wherever we are in life, we can have a second act. The opportunity is to follow Jesus in whatever we are called to do in a life that is filled with the Holy Spirit.

I will be administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper virtually for this Sunday's recorded service that will be available on May 31st on the Linway Facebook page and on the Linway website. Therefore, you will need to provide for yourself some bread and juice. Just follow along as we did for Maundy Thursday. For those able to access this technology, I hope you find it meaningful.

I will be writing to you again next week. I sincerely look forward to welcoming you for worship at our Lord's Linway Church when it is safe to do so.

Last year a survey was conducted that found that churches receive 78% of their income through the offering received during worship. We can easily see that the Corona Virus Pandemic has crashed that. While it is true that with services and programs suspended there has been a slight decrease in our utility expenses, it is also true that there are still expenses that must be covered for our Lord's Linway Church. Your support has always been appreciated. To those who are able to be current with their estimate of giving, thank you so much. For those for whom this Corona Virus makes that impossible, we understand. We pray that in the future you are able to resume your gift. If you are able to give a bit extra, we hope you will pray about doing so. As always, you may send your offering envelope by mail or you can use the new electronic system called *tithe.ly*. There is information about how to access this technology in the May newsletter and on the Linway website.

I think we are all looking forward to the spring Chicken BBQ on Sat., June 6th beginning at 2 p.m. I have ordered 200 chicken halves and the necessary secret marinade sauce. It will be Take Out Only! It is for a **GREAT** cause, and all help is greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, keep the faith and stay safe.

God Bless You,

Eric E. Dennis, Pastor



*Please remember the following
in our prayers:*

Helen Alexander	Anne Nutter
John Arnold	Dennis Bernhardt
Betty Brinker	Charlotte
Bill Chobanic	Clay & Lois
Dorothy	Cindy Druga
Mike Feigh	Betty Frommell
Gloria	Jason & Jackie
Karen	Tim King
Audrey Koppel	Edward Lloyd
Rita Marrow	Nellie Nicholls
Nan Oskin	Carol Pascarella
Pat	Fran Pepler
Ann Puscaric	Renee
Doreen Sever	Linda Smith
Michelle Smith	Cindy Taylor
Jim Welsh	Irene Young

*"I constantly remember you
in my prayers night and day."*

-2 Timothy 1: 3



*"Suddenly a sound like that of
a violent rushing wind came
from heaven...and tongues,
like flames of fire that were
divided, appeared to them and
rested on each one of them.
Then they were all filled with
the Holy Spirit..."*

Linway United Presbyterian Church

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Church Website: www.LinwayChurch.org Facebook Page: [Linway Church](https://www.facebook.com/LinwayChurch)



BBQ

Linway Church
CHICKEN BARBECUE

Take-Out Meals Only

Sat. June 6 2:00–6:00 pm

Held on the Front Lawn – Rain or Shine
Pull into our East Parking Lot to order

COST: \$10.00

Each Meal Includes:

½ BBQ Chicken
Baked Potato
Coleslaw
Dinner Roll
Bottled Water
Sarris Candy Bar



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