

Dear Friends in Christ:

June is the month for weddings. June is the month for graduations. June is the month for transferring to a summer home for those who have summer homes. June is also the month for Worshipping the Living God. We begin the month with the 7th Sunday of Easter. It is also known as *Ut Unum Sint* Sunday . Those are the Latin words for the prayer of Jesus in John 17: “that they may be one.” Jesus’ prayer for a united church ought to be perceived by us as not merely a prayer but as a command. Our differences with other denominations and other Christians must be things we work and pray to put behind us.

On June 8, we celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost predates Christianity. It was the early Jewish Harvest festival which happens 50 days after Passover. In Jewish tradition it was also associated with the giving of the 10 commandments to Israel at Mount Sinai. Supplanting that, Christians associate the day with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on Pentecost in the book of Acts. We will have Confirmation of one of our younger members. Of course, the learning never stops for Christians, but he has been instructed in the basics and is prepared to take responsibility for his faith life and participate as an adult in the congregation.

June 16 will be Holy Trinity Sunday. It is the day in which we remember and celebrate the most complete name for God.

Next comes the Season after Pentecost. It is the second ordinary time (as in ordinal numbers) in the Church year. This ordinary season focuses on the growth of the Kingdom of God as the Gospel texts bring us parables, teachings, actions, and responses which increase our vision of how things will be when our Lord returns to judge the quick and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. There is a connection: The kingdom of God can only be imagined by us if the Holy Spirit is actively leading, shaping and guiding our spirits and our life together. Pray for the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12) and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) to be present and active among us this Summer.

Yours in Christ,

John Shepherd McKenzie