



**“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” Colossians 3:16-17.**

As we all look forward to June and no more snow, right, we also look forward to the second half of the church year. The second half of the church year begins after Pentecost and is referred to as the “non-festival” with the first half, from Advent to Pentecost the “festival” part which celebrates the life, ministry, suffering death, resurrection and ascension of Christ our Savior. Another name for it is “The Time of The Church” within the Pentecost season or it can be called “ordinary time”, again a reference to the fact that we are not in the festival half of the church year. The festival half of the church year teaches us the life of Christ and what He in His person and work has done for us in giving us salvation. The Time of The Church draws our attention to our life together in the church through The Holy Trinity.

During the summer, we do not have Bible Class on Sunday mornings but that does not prevent Bible Study from taking place as we continue our study of God’s Word on Tuesday mornings at 9 am. I invite you to come and bring a friend as we continue to study the Gospel according to St. John.

What are we most concerned about regarding this life given to us by God’s grace? Certainly, we must be about our business, making a living, caring for our family, contributing time talent and treasure, both to our church and our community but what is most important? The Time of The Church helps us to focus on our Baptized Life in Christ and grow together in faith. The Time of The Church is the season of growth within the church year. The green paraments, on the altar, lectern, pulpit and pastor’s stole indicate growth as do plants through the summer months.

As Americans, we are already witnessing the beginning of the 2020 campaign for President of The United States. There is much talk about the “good life” that we all desire and to which we strive. There is much talk about what government can do to help people with that desire. But what is the “good life?” What is most important, popularity, wealth, a life of ease? While we certainly are to work and make a living and if we can save some money those things are fine. But when those things are not viewed as blessings from God and if those things become the central focus of life they will draw us away from Christ our Savior.

Far more important than anything we can receive regarding this life, the “good life” or anything else we strive for is what Jesus offers to us by His life, death and resurrection. The most important gift He offers is forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation.

The Time of The Church beginning after Pentecost draws us to God’s Word for growth in our faith. From the gift of forgiveness and the peace of God given in Christ we are thankful for every good gift of God’s grace. Our desire then, as Baptized children of God is to continue in the Word that we would grow in faith. When faith grows there is the desire to serve God and our fellow human beings, not by compulsion but in gratitude to God for all His gifts given in Christ.

The Time of The Church draws us toward the study of God’s Word, growth in faith, and nurture and care for the fellow redeemed among us. We live each day in our Baptism reminded of God’s grace toward us as we receive the Word and Sacraments which strengthens our faith in Christ our Savior. Our Savior bestows on us the good things of faith that are good and right and pleasing to God that we can then be a blessing to others as well.

Therefore, as we “Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly and sing and pray and give thanks to God together we are all strengthened in our Lord Jesus Christ that we would do everything in the Name of Jesus giving thanks to the Father through Christ our Savior!” To God be the glory!

Hallelujah! Let praises ring!	Unto our Triune God we sing;
Blest be His name forever!	With angel host let us adore
And sing His praises more and more	For all His grace and favor!
Singing, ringing:	Holy, holy, God is holy,
Spread the story	Of our God, the Lord of Glory!

TLH 23 “Hallelujah! Let Praises Ring” verse 4

God’s Blessings to all of you this summer as our faith grows by the grace of God through His blessed Word and Sacraments giving us Christ our Savior!

In Christ, Pastor Ahrendt