



Understanding the Church Calendar:

What is the season of Pentecost?

What is the “church calendar”?

Did you know that that the historic Christian Church has its own calendar? This “church calendar” or “church year” is not divided into “months” but rather into “days” and “seasons.” These “seasons” don’t refer to the weather or to changes in nature, but to periods of time set apart to study the life and work of Christ or specific church doctrines (teachings). Because some “days” and “seasons” have the same names, it can be confusing. For example, “Christmas Day” starts the season of “Christmas,” Epiphany” starts a season with same name and so does “Easter.” While it can be confusing, each year follows the same format.

The church year begins with the season of Advent, which looks forward to the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent brings in Christmas, which goes until to the season of Epiphany (which emphasizes Jesus and the GOD-man Savior of the world). Epiphany paves the way for Lent where we focus again on the sufferings of our Savior. Lent culminates in Easter where we celebrate the Resurrection. The season of Easter actually goes for fifty days and ends at Pentecost. Which brings us to our question, what is Pentecost?

Ok, what is Pentecost ?

“Pentecost” was Hebrew “Feast of Weeks” which celebrated the giving of the Law on Sinai and was the second of three pilgrimage feasts celebrated by Israel. Literally, Pentecost means “fiftieth day” because this celebration occurred fifty days after the offering of the barley sheaf

which occurred during Passover. However, for the Christian church, something even more special happened. On this day, some 2,000 years ago the Holy Spirit came in a special way to the early Apostles and disciples in the upper room as recorded in Acts chapter 2. It is this event, often considered the “birthday” of the Christian church, that Christians celebrate.

So, what is the “season” of Pentecost?

The season of Pentecost is often called the “Time of the Church.” While the church calendar from Advent up to Pentecost centers on highlighting the life of Jesus Christ so that Christians focus upon who He is and what He has done for us, the season of Pentecost can focus upon many themes. Sometimes the church will focus upon a particular book or books of the Bible. Sometimes there will be a theme or themes that will be the focus. Other times the pastor will continue to preach through the Gospel focus for the year. Whatever the focus for the particular year, this season usually runs from May/June through the end of November and the sermons will have something to do with the work of the church by the power of the Holy Spirit in the church. That is why the color used on the altar is green as it emphasizes God growing the church—which also means that God is growing you. Pentecost is all about the Holy Spirit working in our lives, no matter who we are. God loves us and He wants to work in our lives through His Word and Sacrament by the power of the Holy Spirit.



If you have more questions about Pentecost or about God working in your life, please contact us at:



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