

*Dear Friends in Christ:*

“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”<sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

*April 17, 2022 marks the Festival of the Resurrection. As the 40 days of Lent count up to Easter Sunday the 50 days of Easter count down to Pentecost, which marks the giving of the Holy Spirit. Prior to this festival the disciples inquired about the restoration of the kingdom. This was reflected in the text I quoted above from the Acts of the Apostles.*

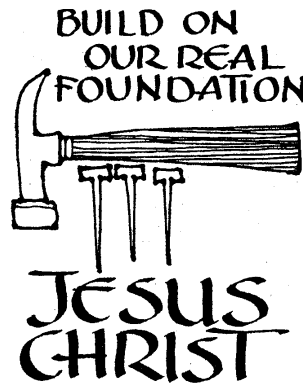
*Throughout history the church has struggled with the restoration of the kingdom from predicting the date to discerning the signs of it. There has been much debate, discussion and controversy over it. How do you strike a healthy balance regarding the topic dealing with the end of time, the restoration of the kingdom and the return of Christ. Is there any middle ground?*

*Many religious groups have weighed in on this and some have neglected to talk about, while others have been obsessed with it. Unfortunately using scripture as proof text doesn't work. Neither does lifting scripture out of context without seeing a particular passage in the broader context of the whole of scripture. How about we let Jesus have the final word and find both our ground and comfort in what he has to say?*

*The text I quoted above on the eve of Pentecost, which follows in Acts chapter 2, is a classic in shaping any discussion relating to the end of time while giving the church a mandate for its mission. We cannot ignore the words of our Lord in these matters.*

*About to ascend following his resurrection and post resurrection appearances Jesus was asked by his followers if this event of the Ascension would be the time when the Kingdom would be restored.*

*His response is clear, perhaps clearer than some of his responses in his ministry. There is no implied meaning, no hidden level of spirituality, no parable or metaphor.*



*The times and seasons are not only fixed by the Father's authority but they are controlled by him. It is not for us to know those times and seasons nor our concern regarding when. Should we be vigilant about a return and restoration? Yes! Should we be prepared? Yes! Jesus told us, in our Advent texts, to always be aware and alert for the end.*

*Should we be obsessed with it? No! Should it make up our whole theology and mission? No! If we do we would neglect the very purpose for which we are here as the people of the God, not to mention being disobedient to what the Lord told us to do in the above text. To paraphrase an old cliché, “If we are so heavenly bound then we earthly good to no one.*

*“You will receive power “the “power from on high “. “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth “. And so, my friends, this is the mission statement of every Christian of every community of faith. Christ may be coming soon but let's not forget he was once here and by the Holy Spirit still is. The only days we ought to be counting are the ones in which we missed the opportunities to be His witnesses because we were too busy with management and not enough with sales.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Pastor Hal*

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**CONTACT  
INFORMATION**

Pastor Hal: 715-828-1112  
Email:  
harkihear@gmail.com

If you are hospitalized,  
know someone who is,  
need pastoral  
assistance, a prayer  
request, home visit,  
private communion, or  
other pastoral service  
contact Pastor Hal at any  
of the above.

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**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

April 03, 2022  
John 12: 1-8  
"Something Old....."

**Sunday of the Passion  
Palm Sunday**

April 10, 2022  
Luke 22: 14-23: 56  
"Great Contradictions"

**Easter Day**

April 17, 2022  
Luke 24: 1-12  
"Fake News or Not"

**Second Sun. of Easter**

April 24, 2022  
John 20: 19-31  
"Can't Touch That?"



**Jesus Raises Lazarus From The Dead**

**(John 11:1-44)**  
April 06, 2022- Barum Lutheran  
Soup Supper at 6:00 pm  
Worship at 7:00 pm



Holy Week  
Worship  
Schedule

**Holy Thursday Worship-**

April 14, 2022- 7:00 pm  
Big Elk Creek Lutheran

**Good Friday Worship-**

April 15, 2022- 2:00 pm  
Barum Lutheran



**Resurrection of our Lord-Worship  
April 17, 2022**

**Barum Lutheran- 9:00 a.m.  
With Holy Communion**

**Big Elk Creek Lutheran- 10:30 a.m.  
With Holy Communion**



**RESUMES in person on April 04, 2022**



Classes will resume on April 20 at  
6:30 p.m. at Big Elk Creek for both  
7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades.

Only Grade 8 Confirmations will meet on April 27, 2020 for  
practice and pictures. Bring your selected bible verse and  
\$12 for the picture.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 01 at 9:00 and 10:30.**