

Pastor Brian's  
Mid Week Message  
July 17, 2019

**EASTER ALL YEAR ROUND!**

Have you ever watched movies on the Hallmark Channel? If your answer to that question is no, I would advise you not to bother (someone in my household has seen them all...more than once). If you simply must tune in just to see what I'm talking about I would then say that you only need to see one, as they are all exactly the same in terms of the storyline. While the locations and time of year may change, and there is a rotation of a short list of actors and actresses, you can be guaranteed that over the two hour time frame (commercials included) there will be a fairly young man and a young woman who will in the end pair up and live (presumably) happily ever after. These movies invariably start with the two on opposite sides of whatever the subplot may be, and over the course of the first hour and 40 minutes we come to find out, and then they do, that they are simply meant for one another. This means that at 20 minutes before the end of the movie they "figure it out" and come together for their first kiss. Immediately after this there is some overblown misunderstanding that drives them apart and appears to ruin everything. Like clockwork though...with a mere two minutes left to go...the situation is diffused and the couple locks lips again and everyone celebrates their endless love. Let me repeat myself; every Hallmark movie follows this script. I bring this up because right now the Hallmark Channel is featuring "Christmas in July" as they are running all of their old Christmas drivel...over and over again. Once again, my advice is don't bother. The idea of Christmas being celebrated in July, as well as in its traditional spot in December, resonates within our culture. We love Christmas. It makes us happy. It brings about a hope and joy in what seems like an ever-darkening world. We Christians love Christmas too, and I pray even more than the secular culture. We celebrate the incarnation and birth of our Savior; His invasion of time and space to begin the job of saving the world from sin, death and the devil and delivering us into an eternity of heaven with our God. But we Christians love Easter even more...at least we should. Because where Christmas marks the beginning of Christ's mission of salvation Easter is the point at which God declares "Mission Accomplished" in the risen Lord Jesus. Without Good Friday and Easter Christmas would mean absolutely nothing. While the Church celebrates Christmas once each year we celebrate Easter every Sunday. Our Divine Service is the "Feast of Victory for Our God", a remembrance of the resurrection of Jesus and a celebration of our upcoming resurrection unto eternal life. While the calendar shows Easter Sunday sometime between later March to late April. We observe Easter in May, June, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, and yes, even July. Easter is the single event that all of human history is changed by, where justification and salvation becomes real for and available to all people through faith in Jesus Christ; His completed work and the promises that He gives to us...promises that He is most certainly going to eternally make good on. So, tune into the Hallmark Channel for "Christmas in July" if you must but cherish and celebrate the gift of Easter every day of the year!