

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
May 29, 2019

BRING ON THE RAIN

Several years ago, while I was still a member of the television weather-blabber profession, a friend showed me a picture of a sign out front of a general store in Alaska that read "The last accurate weather forecast was when God told Noah it was gonna rain". For some reason weather forecasters are not held in high esteem. While I'm no longer a meteorologist by trade, I still keep my fingers in it on a daily basis. Today I can tell you with the utmost certainty that June begins on Saturday, and during the month of June it is going to begin to rain...quite a lot. But then again, residing in Florida, you very likely knew that already. It's right about the beginning of June that the rainy season begins here on the Sun Coast of Florida. At this time of year, the temperature of the surface water out in the Gulf of Mexico reach into the middle 80s, headed for 90 degrees, and from these warm waters a tremendous amount of water evaporates into the air above it. The intense sunshine of late spring into early summer rapidly heats this muggy air mass each morning and the atmosphere literally boils over in the afternoon, with the process being aided by the almost daily sea breeze that develops. The result is widespread thunderstorms packing lots of lightning and local heavy downpours. These storms can and will move in any direction, and we all have to keep an eye on the sky if we plan to be outdoors for any length of time. For me, this is the most exciting time of the year. As we head into June the pace of the Church Year seems to go in the opposite direction. Yes, the first three Sundays of June are pretty big...we'll be commemorating the Ascension of Jesus, then Pentecost, and finally Trinity Sunday. After that we settle in for the long stretch of the "Pentecost Season" (you know; the 1st through 639th Sundays after Pentecost), with the next major church festival/celebration being Reformation Sunday at the end of October...which is just about the time that the rainy season draws to a close. As the church calendar "slows down" we don't want to become complacent. The urgency of our salvation, and that of all the people around us doesn't ebb in the summertime. As we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus to the throne at the right hand of God the Father we also look forward to His imminent return. That could be any day, even today! We also know that this human life is fragile and only temporary, and none of us know how long we will remain. No matter what time of year it may be, it's vital for us to remain connected to Christ, the True Vine, through His Word; gathering for worship and Bible study, as well as in readings and devotions on our own. Doing so will enable us to fulfill the purpose for which God has given us life. Jesus clearly tells us in John 15:5; "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."