



Jeff Sweeten

# Thus Saith the Lord **CHURCH BEGINNINGS**

By Jeff Sweeten

When did your church begin? History reveals that the Lutheran Church got its start during the Reformation with Martin Luther. The current Baptist Church is a mutation of another reformation group, called Anabaptists. The Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints began in the 1800s when a man named Joseph Smith claimed an angel, named Moroni, gave him divine revelation on golden plates (a revelation that has been revised considerably since its original publication, I might add). Then there is the Unification Church founded in 1954 and the list of denominations continues to grow today. History also records the beginning of the church of Christ on Pentecost.

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them... And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” Acts 8:41, 47

The church that Luke is referring to was predicted by God in the days of Daniel.

“And in the days of these kings (the Roman Empire, JDS) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed.” Daniel 2:44

This time frame in predictions perfectly aligns with the time when Peter preached this first Gospel sermon. So, God adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:47), which began on Pentecost, as a result of Peter’s preaching and, when they were baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27), they were “translated... into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Colossians 1:13). So, when the saved were added to the church, they were added to the kingdom simultaneously. It doesn’t take a math magician to add up the facts here. Daniel’s predicted kingdom is the church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, every church established after Pentecost is not Christ’s church but is, instead, a manmade religious organization. The real question that should be asked, then, is: does God add a person to any other church? And, when and how does that happen? Why would anyone want to be a member of a church that did not start on Pentecost by Divine prediction and to which God does not add the saved? If one does not have to be a member of some church that started long after Pentecost in order to be saved, why be a member at all?

In math, a “denominator” “indicates the number of equal parts into which the unit is divided.”

In religion, a “denominator” is one who divides. Corinth had this problem:

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” 1 Corinthians 1:10

Don’t you want to be a member of the church that Jesus said “I will build” (Matthew 16:18), that had its beginning on Pentecost and into which God adds the saved? That church would be the church of Christ (Romans 16:16) and that church is not a denomination.

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it.” Psalm 127:1

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
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### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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