

The St. John Lutheran Church
Volume 65 — Number 07
July 2024 Jottings

“We lift up Jesus Christ in our lives, our church, and our community.”



Pastor Michael's Musings

July 2024

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

--- Romans 5: 1 – 5

I decided to get a jump on July 4th this year by reading a series of books about George Washington and the Revolutionary War; starting with the book “To Try Men’s Souls” by Newt Gingrich and William R. Forschen. About 4 years ago I started a series written by Rick Atkinson with the book “The British Are Coming” and I would like to continue that series, but alas, Rick seems to be a slow writer and we’ve been waiting quite a while for the next installment. As you may know, I am a military history buff, and this year this three-volume set of books caught my attention because it is based on history but written from a dramatic perspective through the participant’s eyes. Those of us who know much of anything pertaining to the Revolutionary War and the travails and tribulations of our founding fathers and mothers know of the famous crossing of the Delaware River by Washington and his troops on Christmas Night of 1776. We usually picture George at the prow of a boat, his men behind him rowing fiercely, the ice-flows sailing by as this daring attempt in history is carried out. He has his arm pulled back over his chest in defiance, or he is knowingly

looking out over the waters toward his inevitable, glorious destiny. This is good for a national image. We like to think about the boldness of our great heroes of the Revolution, but if we get too caught up in the folklore-ish aspects of the era, we might lose sight of the tremendous risk and sacrifice involved, carried out by regular citizens such as you and I. The truth is, the crossing of the Delaware was a final act of desperation on the part of General George Washington and the fragmented and ratty remains of the Continental Army. In many ways it is a wonder we are here at all as a Representative Democracy. “He commanded an army that had been defeated steadily from September 1776 on. It had been driven from Brooklyn across Manhattan to White Plains and then south past the Palisades and across New Jersey. It had shrunk from 30,000 to fewer than 2,500 effectives. There were another 2,500 in camp, but they were so sick they could not fight.” (To Try Men’s Souls, Introduction, pg. XVI.) We forget the incredible risk, and terrible unlikelihood, of the entire American Revolution even coming to fruition. Washington continued, “If we do not win soon there will be no army left. When there is no army left the rebellion will be over. When the rebellion ends we will all be hung. Therefore, we have little to lose.” Such was the grim and fateful task of crossing the Delaware River. And that crossing, with its miraculous and stupendous success, pivoted the entire nature of the conflict from that moment forward.

In the passage from Romans, above, we read about tribulation producing perseverance, perseverance producing character, character producing hope, and hope not disappointing us. Sometimes we might find ourselves feeling like those desperate men trying to cross that river so long ago. In our sin, we are people who have nothing to lose except our very souls, our backs, also, against the wall. For us, life is an “all in” proposition as we struggle day to day with the cross that we must carry, facing whatever uncertain future we must face. Jesus Christ, through the great promise of salvation, reminds us that we are “justified” people because of that uncertain and uncomfortable reality called faith. Not certainty, note, but faith; beautiful, wonderful, incredible faith. As we face the terrible “rivers” before us, full of ice flows and treachery, we know that we have a far greater “hero” than Washington ever was (and he would admit it), leading the way in the person of Jesus Christ. As we face tribulation, we too, are encouraged to be bold not out of pride and hubris, but because we know God truly has us in his hands.

Don’t forget who you are as you celebrate this wonderful July 4th season. You are a citizen of the United States of America, but more importantly, you are a member of God’s family through Jesus Christ, justified before him through faith.

Freedom!

Freedom! For many people, that word is synonymous with July. America celebrates its independence on July 4, but for many Americans, freedom didn't come for another 89 years until the Emancipation Proclamation was finally enforced in the last holdout state: Texas. So, many Americans have TWO similar holidays each summer, July 4th and June 19th (officially designated as Juneteenth).

As Christians, we celebrate freedom every Sunday in our liturgy during the corporate confession at the start of our service. We use different words throughout the year, but the most familiar might be these:

“We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves”. That, by definition, is slavery. We recognize that sin binds us, holds us, in many ways, controls us, and we beg for forgiveness to free us from the bondage, and that happens when Pastor announces our forgiveness. What other days come to mind when we think about our freedom from sin? How about our baptism date? How about every Pentecost when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit? How about Christmas? How about Easter? What does the Bible say about freedom?

- ✚ As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. (1 Peter 2:16)
- ✚ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. (Galatians 5:13)
- ✚ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Corinthians 3:17)
- ✚ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)
- ✚ For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (Romans 8:2)

- ✠ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, (Galatians 1:3-4)
- ✠ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, *"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* (John 8:31-32)

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Thanks to Mikel Rice (See John 4:13-14) 09-08-2000

Summer Worship

Our 9 am outdoor Worship services are once again drawing good crowds to worship in the beauty of God's creation with a less formal structure. Remember, this is the perfect opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and relatives to join us. They might not only enjoy it, BUT they might consider becoming members and continue to worship when we return inside in September!

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Thanks to Gert-Jan van Heugten

11-03-2008

NOT ONLY IS IT 100% FREE, BUT THERE'S ALSO A 3-IN-1 TRINITY SPECIAL ... BUT ACT NOW, YOU HAVE LIMITED TIME

Until Next Month...

Freedom on Earth lasts but a lifetime;
God gives us eternal freedom:

"Let it be known to you therefore, my brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. ."

Acts 13:38-39 (NRSV)

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the Glory)

Donald L. Bauer Director of Music

Look what is happening in Sunday School.

Beginning Sunday, June 2nd, the time for Sunday School will change to 10:15 a.m. due to summer worship service starting at 9:00 a.m.

There are currently three classrooms:

3 years old-PreK	Kathy Ellis
Kindergarten-3rd grade	Becky & Shannon Sanders
4th grade	Patti Riley
5th-8th grade	Fred Rosenbohm

Starting Sunday, June 2nd and throughout the summer months, we will utilize “How to Read the Bible”. This curriculum created by Jeff White, shows our students how to make the Bible a fun part of their life and why the Bible matters so much to their personal faith journey.

Middle School aged children are taught from the Augsburg Fortress ECHO curriculum, the SPARK Bible, and Luther’s Catechism. The lessons in this curriculum include topics that are relevant to their age group and prepare them for Confirmation.

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome to join. If interested, please contact me to register your child.

John Wetterauer
691-0434-home
678-1736-cell

Homebound List (as of June 20, 2024)

Jim & Nadine Bartell	2705 S. Hilton Ln. Bartonville, Il. 61607	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 rd Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Jane Look	Hearts Village Peoria 8201 N. Il. Route 91 Peoria, Il. 61615
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Don Norvill	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Jerry Pitzer	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 242 Peoria, Il. 61614
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Sharon Resler	River Crossing 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614
Barb Dickerson	2422 S. Daycor Divide Bartonville, Il. 61607		

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank You: Thank you so much for all the prayers & cards we received on the passing of my dad. Your thoughtfulness means the world to us.

Skeeter, Jodi, Will, and Levi Miller

Get Ready for VBS: VBS - Scuba Diving into a friendship with God! July 15th - July 19th from 6:00-8:00p.m. Bring a friend or 2. Pre-registrations can be picked up in the church office or by calling Jodi Miller at (309) 678-0852.

Adult Bible Study: There will be NO Bible Study in July, so our next Bible Studies will be August 15th and 29th. If you have any questions, please call or text me. Thank you....Jane Rosenbohm (309) 645-9009.

Offering for Outdoor Service: There will be two offering plates. One will be placed at the front table and the other will be placed on the table where you pull in and receive your communion cup. If you have any question, please ask someone.

Help the Pantry Help Others: It's the traditional time for spring cleaning! As a part of this, many do a deep clean or spring clean of their home. However, cleaning supplies are often costly and families in need may be unable to purchase these items. Cleaning supplies are not able to be purchased with SNAP benefits. All of us can play a part in supporting our neighbors in need by supplying important cleaning products to families. Here's how to participate. Buy a cleaning bucket and fill it with the following items: Paper towels, kitchen cleaner, bathroom and toilet bowl cleaner, toilet brush & holder, laundry detergent & dryer sheets, all-purpose household cleaner, sponges or wash rags, dustpan & brush, dish soap, disinfectant spray. When you have filled the bucket, bring it to church and it will be distributed through the St. John Food Pantry.

Share Program: Host an International Exchange Student and earn \$300.00 for your church. Volunteers, with or without children at home, are needed to host Christian high school exchange students from around the world for this coming school year. Students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, and have spending money for their personal expenses. Families provide an extra meal at the dinner table and a safe, caring environment. For more information contact SHARE!: 800-941-3738,

ycoffman@sharesouthwest.org, or visit sharesouthwest.org/contact

Fall Mum Fundraiser: The Lutheran Women are having a Fall Mum Fundraiser from now until September 1st. Below is an order form and directions for the fundraiser. If you need anymore, please stop by the office to pick up another one. Thank you, Pepper



Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria Fall Mum Fundraiser



LWGP is sponsoring a Fall Mum Fundraiser in conjunction with the Picket Fence Foundation. The plants are sourced through Picket Fence Foundation in Chillicothe, which is a nonprofit organization that provides employment and training opportunities to people with disabilities. Learn more at: picketfencefoundation.org The mums come in an 8" pot in a variety of colors for only \$10 each. \$25 GIFT CARDS for the Picket Fence are also available. Please complete this order form and return it along with your check made payable to **LWGP**. Money must accompany your order. **Deadline to order is Sunday, September 1st.**

Your Name: _____

Your Address: Street: _____

City: _____ IL Zip: _____

Your Phone (nnn-nnn-nnnn): _____

Your Church: _____

Please specify how many of each color you prefer
(color choices cannot be guaranteed because of availability from the grower):

_____ Yellow x \$10 = \$ _____

_____ Red x \$10 = \$ _____

_____ Orange x \$10 = \$ _____

_____ Pink/Purple x \$10 = \$ _____

_____ White x \$10 = \$ _____

_____ \$25 Gift Cards x \$25 = \$ _____

TOTAL FOR THIS ORDER: \$ _____

Deadline is September 1st

Mail your completed order and check to
Mary Conrad,
13511 N. Bridle Lane, Chillicothe, Illinois 61523
or give it to your church LWGP delegate.

Mums can be picked up FRIDAY Sept 20th at the LWGP meeting
or between 10 am and noon on Saturday September 21st at
St. John Lutheran Church, ELCA, 6614 W. Smithville Rd. Bartonville

READERS

July 07 9:00am Sue Rosenack

July 14 9:00am Deb Sammis

July 21 9:00am LaVonne Sammis

July 28 9:00am John Wetterauer

USHERS

July 07 9:00am Tim Sammis

July 14 9:00am Joe Baumgardner

July 21 9:00am Shirley Schmitt

July 28 9:00am Sheryl Bruninga

St. John Lutheran Church
6614 W. Smithville Rd.
Bartonville, IL 61607-9436
(309) 697-1440



Current Resident or:

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Year Round Worship Schedule :

8:00 a.m. Worship With Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Summertime Schedule (starting June 2nd):

9:00 a.m. Worship With Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH

Summer-time Service has arrived. Service will be held at 9:00am with Sunday School at 10:15 and Adult Sunday School at 10:30. Bring your family and friends.

Leisure Group will be Wednesday, July 17th at 12:00 noon.

Sewing Group meets on Thursday morning at 9:00am. Come and sew or cut patterns with them.