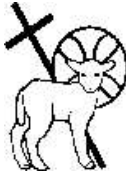




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Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVI, Issue VI

July 2021

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Saviour Lutheran Church welcomes all people to a safe place to grow in faith and serve the Lord Jesus Christ

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month we celebrate our national holiday of July 4th, the date written on the document we know as the Declaration of Independence. It has been the date we celebrate and remember our founding fathers and all those who have given their blood, sweat, and tears to make this a great nation. We also remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, in order that the freedoms we have, might long endure.

The compliment between our faith and our nation's founding documents all point to God as Creator. Many would have us believe that there is no connection at all. If you study early American history (the original documents and dairies written by the founders themselves), you will find that almost all of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence were believers in God and Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. Some were even pastors and theologians. Their faith was the foundation upon which this nation was established and we find in the founding documents of our nation.

I am reminded of a speech by Winston Churchill given on July 3, 1940. He had just ordered the Royal Navy to destroy the French fleet in northern Africa. The French had just joined Nazi Germany in the war effort. It was on July 4, 1940 that Great Britain and the United States joined together in a loyal agreement (which exists to this day) to support one another in all areas of national respect, defense and alignment. Churchill in his address said:

"I call upon all subjects of His Majesty, and upon our Allies, and well-wishers—and they are not a few—all over the world, on both sides of the Atlantic, to give us the utmost aid," he said. "In the fullest harmony with our Dominions, we are moving through a period of extreme danger and of splendid hope, when every virtue of our race will be tested, and all that we have and are will be freely staked."

Here was Churchill's moral realism on display. Most everyone expected a German

invasion of Britain at any moment, a trial whose outcome was uncertain, but which certainly would cause unspeakable suffering and destruction. Nevertheless, with a keen sense of the transcendent meaning of the moment, Churchill summoned his nation to find the courage required for survival. "This is no time for doubt or weakness," he said. "It is the supreme hour to which we have been called."

Churchill spoke words on that July day which are still true for us as a nation and as a church. We live in a time and place in which there is no time for weakness or doubt. We have been called to be strong in the name of Christ. We are called to stand up for the church and for what it stands for. We are called to stand up for Jesus as Lord and Saviour of the world. We are called to witness to our baptism and to share the good news of God's Kingdom with all the world. We must stand up for what is right and be unafraid of those groups or individuals who might be offended. This IS the United States of America. One nation...UNDER GOD... indivisible... with liberty and justice for all. God's blessings upon each of you and...

May God bless America!

By Rev. George Gilbert-2012



Fireworks celebration will be held at Cloninger Park, W. Church Street in Dallas starting at dark

Come early and bring your own chair

The Story of Independence Day and America's Birthday



Independence Day is the national holiday of the United States of America commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

At the time of the signing the US consisted of 13 colonies under the rule of England's King George III. There was growing unrest in the colonies concerning the taxes that had to be paid to England. This was commonly referred to as "Taxation without Representation" as the colonists did not have any representation in the English Parliament and had no say in what went on. As the unrest grew in the colonies, King George sent extra troops to help control any rebellion. In 1774 the 13 colonies sent delegates to Philadelphia Pennsylvania to form the First Continental Congress. The delegates were unhappy with England, but were not yet ready to declare war.

In April 1775 as the King's troops advanced on Concord Massachusetts Paul Revere would sound the alarm that "The British are coming, the British are coming" as he rode his horse through the late night streets.

The battle of Concord and its "shot heard around the world" would mark the unofficial beginning of the colonies war for Independence.

The following May the colonies again sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. For almost a year the congress tried to work out its differences with England, again without formally declaring war.

By June 1776 their efforts had become hopeless and a committee was formed to compose a formal declaration of independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman. Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the first draft which was presented to the congress on June 28. After various changes a vote was taken late in the afternoon of July 4th. Of the 13 colonies, 9 voted in favor of the Declaration, 2 - Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted No, Delaware undecided and New York abstained.

To make it official John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. It is

said that John Hancock signed his name "with a great flourish" so "King George can read that without spectacles!."

The following day copies of the Declaration were distributed. The first newspaper to print the Declaration was the Pennsylvania Evening Post on July 6, 1776. On July 8th the Declaration had its first public reading in Philadelphia's Independence Square. Twice that day the Declaration was read to cheering crowds and pealing church bells. Even the bell in Independence Hall was rung. The "Province Bell" would later be renamed "Liberty Bell" after its inscription -

Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof

And although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the 4th of July has been accepted as the official anniversary of United States independence. The first Independence Day celebration took place the following year - July 4 1777. By the early 1800s the traditions of parades, picnics, and fireworks were established as the way to celebrate America's birthday. And although fireworks have been banned in most places because of their danger, most towns and cities usually have big firework displays for all to see and enjoy.



The below appeared in the Beetle Bailey's comic strip in June 13, 2010, for Flag Day. I do not know if you saw it but I think it is worthy while showing what it was. Our National Anthem is about **OUR FLAG** and the comic strip is about **OUR FLAG**.

Beetle Bailey, along with another soldier, were watching Plato write something on a wall. Beetle exclaims, "*You'll get in trouble writing graffiti on that wall, Plato!*" The other soldier saw the General coming and said, "*Oh-oh! Here comes the General!*" The General comes up to the wall and reads what was on the wall. He then orders, "*Tear that wall down!*" Then it shows the General carrying the **OUR FLAG** and the other soldiers carrying the **WALL**.

The below is what Plato wrote on the wall.....

THIS FLAG

This Flag... The symbol of the hopes of man. This cloth of dreams for Freedom, Justice, and Opportunity.

Its Stars are like beacons guiding us through the shoals of adversity.

Its Red Stripes like wounds of struggle.

The Good in it cannot be had for nothing....

Like any garden, it must be tended....

Like any loved one, it must be held.

Hold **THIS FLAG** high and keep its promise bright,

For in it lies the best hope for all of us.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Anna Lowery, President
May 24, 2021 Council Minutes



Devotions: Jeff White

Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Members present: Alice Vlaservich, Melinda White, Anna Lowery, Robbie Wooten, Jeff White, Joe Finger, Denise Traveria

Members Absent: Teri Trudnak and Becky Messick

Minutes: April 2021 minutes were reviewed.; Robbie Wooten made the motion to approve the minutes and Alice Vlaservich seconded the motion.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: Solo Publishing requesting monetary donations. OSLC will support in prayer and purchases.

Report of the Pastor: None

Report of the Treasurer: Report was reviewed, and a motion was made by Melinda White to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Robbie Wooten.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: Trimmed shrubs at parsonage, gutters cleaned at parsonage
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report
- c. Worship & Music: No report
- d. Youth Team: No report this month
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent to shut ins. Alice is also sending bulletins to those unable to come to worship service.
- f. Christian Education Team: VBS will be held at St. Paul's this year. The dates are 6/13-6/17/2021. OSLC will provide the meal on Tuesday of that week. Please volunteer your time and talents to help support this ministry.

Report of Auxiliaries: Rachel group to meet at the home of Betty Clemmer for bible study and refreshments this month .

Old and/or Unfinished Business: Workday at church was rescheduled for 6/12/2021 at 8am. Things that need repair and maintenance: Gutters at the parsonage and activity building, siding and trim replaced on activity building due to rotten wood, haul off trash. We need as many volunteers as possible.

New Business:

- a. There is a small water leak at the activity building. The water will be turned off to the building. If someone wishes to use the building, they still can, and the water will be turned on.
- b. The guttering on the back side of the activity building needs to be taken down so repair work can be done to replace rotten wood. New downspout needs to be replaced also. Hopefully we can get a good start on this at the scheduled workday, 6/12/2021.
- c. Gutters were cleaned at parsonage and activity building! Thanks, Will and Bill Trudnak.
- d. Received another estimate from Standard Roofing System. Replacing/repairing roof still being discussed.

General Information:

- a. Attendance: B
- b. RING A FRIEND!!
- c. Laszlo Mission (Kids International) Report

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is June 21, 2021 at 7pm;
 Joe Finger will have devotions.

Why go to Church?

I think this is fantastic. I just love the guy's answer, and the 'interpretation' for Bible, Enjoy!!

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!
 If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually 'curious', there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made 'no sense' to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column

Much to the 'delight' of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals."

"But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today".

"Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN 'ALL', YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !

B. I. B L. E. simply means: **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**



Independence Day, 4th of July Meditation

Let's take a few moments for silence and appreciation for all we have in our lives, because those who came before us fought hard that we may live in an independent country.

Here is a prayer to include on the 4th of July.

May the glory of Independence Day
Remain in mind in heart
May we cherish our hard-won freedom
That it never falls apart.

Because those who walked before us
Believed in freedom's cause so much
We can carry forth a torch
Of honor and 'In God We Trust'.

That first Independence Day
More than two centuries past
Must live forever in our thoughts
Never forgotten - never a lapse.

It is a precious land we hold
In safekeeping for our children
That they, as we, may enjoy
Lives bountiful, worth living.

May God's blessings ever
Ring out
Over all our land
***A toast of praise we raise today
Americans - join hand in hand!***

A Prayer for the Fourth of July

*Gods of liberty, goddesses of justice,
watch over those who would fight for our freedoms.*

*May freedom be given to all people, around the world, no
matter what their faith.*

*Keep our soldiers safe from harm, and protect them in your
light, so that they may return to their families and their homes.*

*Goddesses of liberty, gods of justice, hear our call, and light the
sky, your torch shining in the night, that we may find our way
back to you, and bring people together, in unity.*

Independence Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

There is no greater feeling of liberation than to experience this freedom from sin and death that you have provided for me through Jesus Christ. Today my heart and my soul are free to praise you. For this I am very thankful.

On this Independence Day I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical

and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that my freedom was purchased with a very high price. My freedom cost others their very lives.

Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty meet their needs and watch over their families.

Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found following Christ.

Amen



DOES GOD EXIST?

This is one of the best explanations on the nature of God that I have ever seen...

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists." "Why do you say that?" asked the customer. "Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist.

Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things to happen." "Why do you say that?" asked the customer. "Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barbershop again and he said to the barber:

"You know what? Barbers do not exist." "How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help. That's



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OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a senior living/nursing home* and visit them.

Jill Petzold*

Brookside Senior Living Rm 44
1680 S. New Hope Rd
Gastonia, NC 328054



EVENTS for Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:

Telephone: 919-552-9421

e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:

Telephone 910-458-0783

e-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

Please see calendars and other information on the bulletin board or go on-line

Events For Lutheridge - Lutherock- Lutherspring- Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com



Food Collection

Help fill the pantry
at the
Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry.

Food items they need for the month are **crackers, instant potatoes and soup.** Let us over fill the basket in the hallway. This is a great outreach program.

God will bless you for your generosity



GO OUT ON A LIMB GET INVOLVED

BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Positions are still open.

Participate in the service of the Lord and

sign-up

Sign up sheets

for the 2020 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.

THANK YOU!

Share Your
Faith in Christ



A Stewardship Minute

If I were to title what I have to say, I would call it “Hoping to Lose.” That doesn’t make sense, does it? Who wants to be a loser? Right? The Greek writer, Nikos Kazantsakis, tells a story about young hiker on a Greek island who came across a Christian monk. In their dialogue, the young hiker asks the monk if he still wrestles with the devil. The monk told him in essence that those days were over, but that now he wrestles with God.

That puzzled the hiker, but he quickly asked the monk if he hoped to win? “Heavens no,” came the answer. “I hope to lose!” Why lose? ... because it is when we quit trying to put our ego in full charge of our minds, hearts and souls and let God use them for his purposes that we find life truly rich and meaningful. Remember what Jesus said: “Those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:39) According to Christ, it is those who offer their lives in totality for his sake who ultimately win in everything that truly matters. Every saint who ever lived has testified to that truth. It is in giving our lives without restraint to the Lord that we find true victory. In the 19th century Frances Havergal wrote a hymn that speaks of the commitment each of us should make. Here is the last verse of the hymn to ponder:

*Take my will, and make it thine, It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee. Amen.*

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to see and understand that we will find the blessings of true life only as we surrender all to thee. **Amen**



2021 Court Square Summer Concert and Cruise-In Series

(presented by the Town of Dallas)

Held on the Dallas Historic Court Square, from 7:00—10:00 pm, each FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine). Enjoy the car show along Main Street and the concert

- ◆ **Sunday, July 4—Concert at Cloninger Park with *Almost Vintage (6pm-9pm)***
Fireworks Show at Cloninger Park begins at dark. Bring your lawn chair.



- ◆ **Saturday, August 14th— Coming Up Brass**
Cruise in and Concert by Coming Up Brass
- ◆ **Saturday, September 11—**
Chairman of Board



Ted and Sandy's Patriotic Concert

July 2, 2021

7:00 PM

at

Dallas Baptist,

402 W. Trade St., Dallas

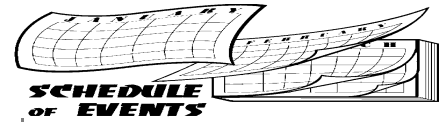
Organ and Piano concert of patriotic

songs

July 2021



Sunday School: 9:45 pm
Church Service: 11:00 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		 Food Collection		1	2 Patriotic Concert	3
 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 7th Sun after Pentecost	12 Team Mtg.	13	14	15	16	17
18 8th Sun after Pentecost	19 Board Mtg.	20  Prayer Group	21	22	23	24
25 9th Sun after Pentecost	26	27	28	29	30	31

- July 2— Ted & Sandy's Patriotic Concert
- July 4— INDEPENDENCE DAY
6th Sunday after Pentecost—
Concert and Fireworks at Cloninger Park (see page)
- July 11— 7th Sunday after Pentecost
- July 12— Team Meeting: 7:00 pm
- July 15—8th Sunday after Pentecost
- July 19—Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- July 20—Prayer Group at home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:00 pm
- July 25—9th Sunday after Pentecost



FOOD FOR THE MONTH:

Pinto Beans, Cabbed Meats, Pork-n-Beans



Birthdays

- 16 Stephen Digh
- 18 Joe Finger
- 19 Henry Clemmer
- 21 Nation Finger
Jason Spurrier
- 31 Libby Bickley



- Anna D. Cole
- Chas Messick
- Bo Messick
- Chris Messick
- Yvonne Finger
- Garrett Lowery

Holy Communion Schedule:

Every Sunday



Worship Service Assistance:

Acolyte: OSLC Member

Communion

Asst: OSLC Member

Lay Reader: OSLC Member

Worship Asst: OSLC Member

Greeters: OSLC Members

Ushers: OSLC Members



NO Choir practice in July

Board Devotions July 19:

Robbie Wooten

Stewardship Collector: Teri Trudnak

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- July 4 Nick Vlaservich
- July 11 Open
- July 18 Open
- July 25 Open

Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your love ones.

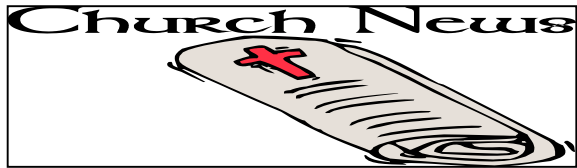
SEVENTEEN (17) OPEN DATES:



22ndBo & Raygan Messick



DON'T TAKE A
VACATION
FROM CHURCH



One Nation Under God



- If you need a Pastor, please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805 or our office at 704-922-4648.
-

.....

CLWRACHEL GROUP

will not meet during month of July



"PRAYER GROUP"

Will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza July 20th at 1:00 pm



LET US PRAY... *"Are any among you suffering? They should pray...The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up."* (James 5:

SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), BRAXTON Bearden (friend of the Locketts), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Brady, JACKIE Carpenter (friend of Alice Vlaservich-liver cancer), SYLVIA Cloninger (friend of Nick Vlaservich), MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), BEVERLY Copeland (friend of Robbie's-cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), NANCY Friday, JAMES Goudelock (cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JOYCE in Morganton (Nick & Alice Vlaservich's acquaintance-cancer), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Covid19), SAM Marr (Heart), BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELLEN & ED Pfeiffer (Keenan Gordy's Parents - Heart issues), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), SONDR A Phillips (friend of Melinda White), GWEN Ratchford (Brady Ratchford's sister-in-law-cancer), MARTHA Surret (friend of Alice Vlaservich-Cancer), TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak



SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army began in 1865 when William Booth, a London minister, gave up the comfort of his pulpit and decided to take his message into the streets where it would reach the poor, the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

His original aim was to send converts to established churches of the day, but soon he realized that the poor did not feel comfortable or welcome in the pews of most of the churches and chapels of Victorian England. Regular churchgoers were appalled when these shabbily dressed, unwashed people came to join them in worship. Booth decided to found a church especially for them - the East London Christian Mission. The mission grew slowly, but Booth's faith in God remained undiminished.

In May 1878, Booth summoned his son, Bramwell, and his good friend George Railton to read a proof of the Christian Mission's annual report. At the top it read: THE CHRISTIAN MISSION is A VOLUNTEER ARMY. Bramwell strongly objected to this wording. He was not a volunteer: he was compelled to do God's work. So, in a flash of inspiration, Booth crossed out 'Volunteer' and wrote 'Salvation'. The Salvation Army was born.

ONE ARMY: We see a God-raised, Spirit-filled Army for the 21st century - convinced of our calling, moving forward together: We will...deepen our spiritual life, unite in prayer, identify and develop leaders, increase self-support and self-denial

ONE MISSION: Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means : We will...emphasize our integrated ministry, reach and involve youth and children, stand for and serve the marginalized, encourage innovation in mission

ONE MESSAGE: With the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life

We will... communicate Christ unashamedly, reaffirm our belief in transformation, evangelize and disciple effectively, provide quality teaching resources.

The local chapter of Salvation Army is located: 107 South Broad Street, Gastonia, NC 28052-4101. Their motto: Doing the most good.

Open letter from: Mark Hunter, Corps Officer, Salvation Army, Gastonia, NC

One of my favorite songs as a youngster was *Jesus Loves Me*. Those three simple words assured me that if I was frightened, He would look out for me. If I was lonely, He would be by my side. If I was confused, He would guide me. If I made a mistake, He would forgive.

Though I've kept that song in my heart all my life, it was especially important to me as I struggled through the challenges and frustrations of adolescence. Today, the number of boys and girls I meet who are lonely, frightened and confused because they don't know about God's Love saddens me. They don't believe anyone cares for them. That is why Salvation Army in the Gastonia area does everything possible to demonstrate God's Love, protection, and direction to disadvantaged children. Through the year, we open our doors to young people of all ages.

During the summer, we offer camp activities at Camp Walter Mattson that help 25 youngsters develop their talents and self-confidence, as well as strengthen their relationship with Christ. And during the year, The Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club provides 100 kids every day with supervised alternatives to going home to an empty house while their parents are still at work. Our Club has educational programs in areas such as literacy (through our R.E.A.C.H. program – reading, education, attendance, conduct, honors), health, the arts, careers, leadership development and athletics. We also make sure children are receiving the food, clothing and care they need to be healthy and strong.

Like all of our services for the poor, our children's programs are possible only because others care. Little ones are searching for something to believe in and cling to. Together, we can help them grow in the knowledge that Jesus Loves them, and will instill a lasting song of hope in their hearts. Hundreds of boys and girls will participate in our programs this year alone. We believe that the camp experience makes a difference in the lives of underprivileged boys and girls who need a safe place to explore and learn while strengthening their faith in God. Your support is very important.

OUR SAVIOUR'S MISSION EMPHASIS FOR JULY is Salvation Army of Gaston County. This is an opportunity for us to pray for them, to volunteer, and give to a mission in our own area. They are helping the poor and disadvantaged in many ways. Their emphasis for this summer is to help children get to their summer camps. For those who would like to give through Our Saviour Lutheran Church, you can put a check in the offering any Sunday during July.

2021 is half way done. Have you participated in some of the Mission Emphasis opportunities? Some of us have. Some of the opportunities are in our own area and other opportunities are for ministries around the world. Be encouraged to seek the Lord as to how you can participate this month and each month.

“Concord Hymn”

By Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)

The Background:

The following hymn was written in 1836 by the famous American poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson, for the dedication of a battle monument commemorating the men who gave their lives at the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Emerson’s grandfather had fought in the battle, and his home was situated next to the bridge mentioned in the poem. The hymn was sung at the Fourth of July celebration in Concord in 1837. Emerson has since been credited with coining the phrase “the shot heard round the world.”

The Hymn

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
 Their flag to April’s breeze unfurled,
 Here once the embattled farmers stood,
 And fired **the shot heard round the world.**

The foe long since in silence slept;
 Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;

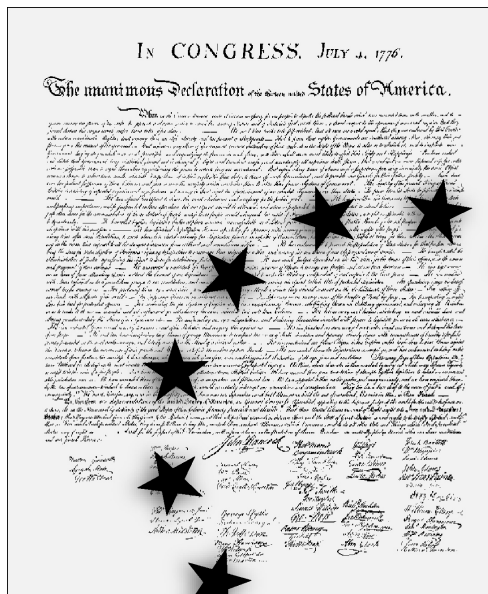
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
 Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
 We set to-day a votive stone;

That memory may their deed redeem,
 When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare,
 To die, and leave their children free,

Bid Time and Nature gently spare
 The shaft we raise to them and thee.



American Patriot: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

How long does the Sentinel hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not? He does not execute an about face. He stops on the 21st step, then turns and faces the Tomb for 21 seconds. Then he turns to face back down the mat, changes his weapon to the outside shoulder, counts 21 seconds, then steps off for another 21 step walk down the mat. He faces the Tomb at each end of the 21 step walk for 21 seconds. The Sentinel then repeats this over and over until he is relieved at the Guard Change.

Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to improve his grip on the rifle.

How often are the guards changed? The Guard is changed every thirty minutes during the summer (April 1 to Sep 30) and every hour during the winter (Oct 1 to Mar 31). During the hours the cemetery is closed, the guard is changed every 2 hours. The Tomb is guarded, and has been guarded, every minute of every day since 1937.

Is it true they must commit 2 years of life to guard the Tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives.

No, this is a false rumor. The average tour at the Tomb is about a year. There is NO set time for service there. The Sentinels live either in a barracks on Ft. Myer (the Army post located adjacent to the cemetery) or off base if they like. They do have living quarters under the steps of the amphitheater where they stay during their 24 hour shifts, but when they are off, they are off. And if they are of legal age, they may drink anything they like, except while on duty.

Is it true they cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives? Again, another false rumor. Is it true after two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as Guard of the Tomb, that there are only 400 presently worn, and that the Guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin?

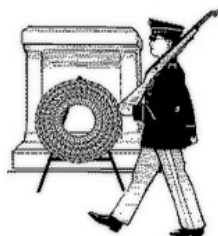
The Tomb Guard Identification Badge is awarded after the Sentinel passes a series of tests. The Badge is permanently awarded after a Sentinel has served 9 months as a Sentinel at the Tomb. Over 500 have been awarded since its creation in the late 1950's. And while the Badge can be revoked, the offense must be such that it discredits the Tomb. Revocation is at the Regimental Commander's discretion. But you can drink a beer and even swear and still keep the Badge. The Badge is a full size award, worn on the right pocket of the uniform jacket, not a lapel pin.

Are the shoes specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet? The shoes are standard issue military dress shoes. They are built up so the sole and heel are equal in height. This allows the Sentinel to stand so that his back is straight and perpendicular to the ground. A side effect of this is that the Sentinel can "roll" on the outside of the build up as he walks down the mat. This allows him to move in a fluid fashion. If he does this correctly, his hat and bayonet will appear to not "bob" up and down with each step. It gives him a more formal and smooth look to his walk, rather than a "marching" appearance.

The soles have a steel tip on the toe and a "horseshoe" steel plate on the heel. This prevents wear on the sole and allows the Sentinel to move smoothly during his movements when he turns to face the Tomb and then back down the mat.

Then there is the "clicker". It is a shank of steel attached to the inside of the face of the heel build-up on each shoe. It allows the Sentinel to click his heels during certain movements. If a guard change is really hot, it is called a "smoker" because all the heel clicks fall together and sound like one click. In fact, the guard change is occasionally done in the "silent" mode (as a sign of devotion to the Unknowns). No voice commands - every thing is done in relation to the heel clicks and on specific counts.

How many times will a Soldier be on duty during the shift? Each Relief (team) has a rotation during the 24 hour work day. This rotation is dependent on the number of Soldier-Sentinels who are proficient enough to guard the Tomb. The standard is 3-4 qualified Sentinels, 1-2 Relief Commander/Assistant Relief Commander, and 1-2 Sentinels in training. Generally, the Sentinel will be on guard duty for a tour and have two tours off in between - then go out for another tour. However, in extreme cases, Sentinels have been known to go back-to-back for the entire 24 hour shift.



Have you ever read all the lyrics to the Star Spangled Banner? No! Look at the last verse. This nation was based on Christian believe.

The Star Spangled Banner Lyrics
By Francis Scott Key 1814

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country should leave us no more!
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "**In God is our trust.**"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Flag over Fort Henry



The Pastor's Son

Every Sunday afternoon, after the morning service at the church, the Pastor and his eleven year old son would go out into their town and hand out Gospel Tracts. This particular Sunday afternoon, as it came time for the Pastor and his son to go to the streets with their tracts, it was very cold outside, as well as pouring rain.

The boy bundled up in his warmest and driest clothes and said, "OK, dad, I'm ready." His Pastor dad asked, "Ready for what?" "Dad, it's time we gather our tracts together and go out." Dad responds, "Son, it's very cold outside and it's pouring rain." The boy gives his dad a surprised look, asking, "But Dad, aren't people still going to Hell, even though it's raining?" Dad answers, "Son, I am not going out in this weather." Despondently, the boy asks, "Dad, can I go? Please?" His father hesitated for a moment then said, "Son, you can go. Here are the tracts, be careful son.." "Thanks Dad!" And with that, he was off and out into the rain.. This eleven year old boy walked the streets of the town going door to door and handing everybody he met in the street a Gospel Tract .

After two hours of walking in the rain, he was soaking, bone-chilled wet and down to his VERY LAST TRACT. He stopped on a corner and looked for someone to hand a tract to, but the streets were totally deserted. Then he turned toward the first home he saw and started up the sidewalk to the front door and rang the doorbell. He rang the bell, but nobody answered. He rang it again and again, but still no one answered. He waited but still no answer. Finally, this eleven year old trooper turned to leave, but something stopped him.

Again, he turned to the door and rang the bell and knocked loudly on the door with his fist. He waited, something holding him there on the front porch! He rang again and this time the door slowly opened.

Standing in the doorway was a very sad-looking elderly lady. She softly asked, "What can I do for you, son?" With radiant eyes and a smile that lit up her world, this little boy said, "Ma'am, I'm sorry if I disturbed you, but I just want to tell you that * JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU * and I came to give you my very last Gospel Tract which will tell you all about JESUS and His great LOVE." With that, he handed her his last tract and turned to leave. She called to him as he departed. "Thank you, son! And God Bless You!"

Well, the following Sunday morning in church Pastor Dad was in the pulpit. As the service began, he asked, "Does anybody have testimony or want to say anything?"

Slowly, in the back row of the church, an elderly lady stood to her feet. As she began to speak, a look of glorious radiance came from her face, "No one in this church knows me. I've never been here before. You see, before last Sunday I was not a Christian. My husband passed on some time ago, leaving me totally alone in this world. Last Sunday, being a particularly cold and rainy day, it was even more so in my heart that I came to the end of the line where I no longer had any hope or will to live.

So I took a rope and a chair and ascended the stairway into the attic of my home. I fastened the rope securely to a rafter in the roof, then stood on the chair and fastened the other end of the rope around my neck. Standing on that chair, so lonely and broken-hearted I was about to leap off, when suddenly the loud ringing of my doorbell downstairs startled me. I thought, "I'll wait a minute, and whoever it is will go away." I waited and waited, but the ringing doorbell seemed to get louder and more insistent, and then the person ringing also started knocking loudly... I thought to myself again, "Who on earth could this be? Nobody ever rings my bell or comes to see me." I loosened the rope from my neck and started for the front door, all the while the bell rang louder and louder.

When I opened the door and looked I could hardly believe my eyes, for there on my front porch was the most radiant and angelic little boy I had ever seen in my life. His SMILE, oh, I could never describe it to you! The words that came from his mouth caused my heart that had long been dead, TO LEAP TO LIFE as he exclaimed with a cherub-like voice, "Ma'am, I just came to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU ." Then he gave me this Gospel Tract that I now hold in my hand. As the little angel disappeared back out into the cold and rain, I closed my door and read slowly every word of this Gospel Tract. Then I went up to my attic to get my rope and chair. I wouldn't be needing them anymore. You see-- -I am now a Happy Child of the KING. Since the address of your church was on the back of this Gospel Tract, I have come here to personally say THANK YOU to God's little angel who came just in the nick of time and by so doing, spared my soul from an eternity in hell.."

There was not a dry eye in the church. And as shouts of praise and honor to THE KING resounded off the very rafters of the building, Pastor Dad descended from the pulpit to the front pew where the little angel was seated.... He took his son in his arms and sobbed uncontrollably.

Probably no church has had a more glorious moment, and probably this universe has never seen a Papa that was more filled with love & honor for his son.... Except for One.

Blessed are your eyes for reading this message. Heaven is for His people! Remember, God's message CAN make the difference in the life of someone close to you.

Matthew 10:32 says:

"Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will acknowledge him before My Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before My Father in heaven "

This is some interesting trivia!

DID YOU KNOW As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S. Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world's law givers and each one is Facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view ... It is Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments!

DID YOU KNOW? As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the two huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door.

DID YOU KNOW? As you sit inside the courtroom, you can see the wall, right above where the Supreme Court Judges sit, a display of The Ten Commandments

DID YOU KNOW? There are Bible verses etched in stone all over the Federal Buildings and Monuments in Washington, D.C.

DID YOU KNOW? James Madison, the fourth president, known as 'The Father of Our Constitution' made the Following Statement: ***"We have staked the whole of all Our political Institutions upon the capacity of mankind for Self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to The Ten Commandments of God."***

DID YOU KNOW? Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayer since 1777.

DID YOU KNOW? Fifty-two of the 55 founders of the Constitution were members of the established Orthodox churches in the colonies..

DID YOU KNOW? Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of Interpreting the law Would begin making law an Oligarchy: the rule of few over many.

How then, have we gotten to the Point that everything we have done for 220+ years in this Country is now suddenly wrong and Unconstitutional?



Quotes

Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.'

A sharp tongue can cut my own throat.

If I want my dreams to come true, I mustn't oversleep.

The best vitamin for making friends.... B1.

The happiness of my life depends on the quality of my thoughts.

The heaviest thing I can carry is a grudge.

One thing I can give and still keep...is my word.

I lie the loudest when I lie to myself.

If I lack the courage to start, I have already finished.

One thing I can't recycle is wasted time.

Ideas won't work unless 'I' do.

My mind is like a parachute...it functions only when open. .

The pursuit of happiness is the chase of a lifetime! It is never too late to become what I might have been.

Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Forget about the one's who don't. Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a second chance, grab it with both hands. If it changes your life, let it. Nobody said life would be easy, they just promise; it would be worth it.

America the Beautiful

"**America the Beautiful**" is an American patriotic song. The lyrics were written by Katharine Lee Bates and the music composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward. Bates originally wrote the words as a poem, *Pikes Peak*, first published in the July 4th edition of the church periodical *The Congregationalist* in 1895. The poem was titled *America* for publication. Ward had originally written the music, *Materna*, for the 1600s hymn *O Mother dear, Jerusalem* in 1882. Ward's music combined with the Bates poem was first published in 1910 and titled *America the Beautiful*. The song is one of the most beloved and popular of the many American patriotic songs. From time to time it has been proposed as a replacement for *The Star-Spangled Banner* as the National Anthem.

Popularity of the song increased greatly following the September 11, 2001 attacks; at some sporting events it was sung in addition to the traditional singing of the national anthem. During the first taping of the *Late Show with David Letterman* following the attacks, CBS newsman Dan Rather cried briefly as he quoted the fourth verse.

When Richard Nixon visited the People's Republic of China in 1972, this song was played by Chinese as the welcome music. Interestingly, the Chinese characters for United States literally mean "Beautiful Country."

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!





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July 2021

The quote of the month

by

Jay Leno:

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"