

# Independence Day

Thursday, June 29 & Sunday, July 2, 2017



## Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know  
Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

# Independence Day

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## AS WE GATHER

As we once again celebrate our nation's independence, we will hear much about freedom. As citizens, we give thanks for the blessings we have and for the many who fought for and paid the price for our liberties. While we certainly do not worship our nation, we appropriately honor and give thanks to God for this land in which we can freely worship the one true God. As this national celebration then passes, we are joyful that we don't need an annual holiday to recognize true freedom as Christians. Daily we hold fast to the wonderful news that the battle has been fought and the price has been paid by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that we may have freedom from sin, eternal death, and the devil. Today we hear the Spirit-inspired words of the apostle Paul from Galatians and learn more about what real freedom is, guidance for lives lived in that freedom, and the fruit freely given to us through the Holy Spirit.

**HYMN** "O Holy Spirit, Enter In" ..... LSB 913

## INVOCATION

*P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Galatians 5:1, 16*

*P: For freedom Christ has set us free;*

**C: stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

*P: Walk by the Spirit,*

**C: and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

*P: Let us pray and confess our sins to God.*

*(Silence for reflection.)*

*P: Lord God, You have given us freedom and called us to follow Your only-begotten Son, to learn from Him, to live and grow in Him, and to tell others of Him.*

**C: But we have been distracted by the responsibilities, the busyness, and the temptations of daily life in this world as we sin against You and one another in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and left undone, not loving You with our whole heart, and not loving others as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

*P: Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. For freedom Christ has set us free! May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**C: Amen.**

## **KYRIE**

*P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**C: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION and COLLECT**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*P: Let us pray. Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish*

*us with all goodness that we may love and serve our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

*Romans 13:1–7*

<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

*P: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**

*Galatians 5:1, 13–25*

<sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. <sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and

things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

*P: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.)*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 8:31–38*

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup> They answered Him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, ‘You will become free?’” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill Me because My word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** “Christ, by Heavenly Hosts Adored” ..... Tune: *LSB 394*

**Christ, by heav'nly hosts adored,  
Gracious, mighty, sov'reign Lord,  
God of nations, King of kings,  
Head of all created things,  
By the Church with joy confessed,  
God the Son forever blessed,  
Pleading at Your throne we stand,  
Save Your people, bless our land.**

On our fields of grass and grain  
Send, O Lord, the kindly rain,  
And throughout this spacious land  
Crown the labors of each hand.  
Let Your kind protection be  
Over commerce on the sea.  
Open, Lord, Your bounteous hand;  
Bless Your people, bless our land.

Give us rulers faithful, true,  
Such as love and honor You;  
Let the powers You ordained  
Be in righteousness maintained.  
In the people's hearts increase  
Love of piety and peace.  
Thus united, we shall stand  
One wide, free, and happy land.

Text: Henry Harbaugh, 1817–67, alt. Public domain.

## **SERMON**

### **NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic

**Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, You sacrificed Your Son that we may be set free from the power of sin and eternal death. We give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith and for those who have sacrificed their lives in service to this country, that we may freely worship You and call upon Your name in thanksgiving and in time of need.*

**HYMN** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ..... **LSB 733**

**1 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:**

**2 Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.**

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*P: Gracious Lord, You have blessed this land with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and You continue to provide our daily bread in what we need for this body and life. Continue to bless this nation, state, and community. Preserve our liberties, and enable our leaders to govern with wisdom and justice. Give us willing hearts to observe laws of order and to work together for the common good of others. Guard us from calamities and disaster, and continue to call many to true freedom in You both now and for eternity to come through Christ, our Lord and Savior.*

**HYMN** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ..... **LSB 733**

**3 Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.**

**4      A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.**

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*P: Merciful Father, You are our help in ages past and our hope for years to come. We humbly ask You to be the help for those now in need facing physical trials, uncertainty, and grief, [especially . . .]. Grant them trust and faith in Your promises to come. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times, do not let our trust in You fail.*

**HYMN** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ..... **LSB 733**

**5      Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.**

**6      O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home!**

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*P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**C: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

## **PREFACE**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**



*P: Lift up your hearts.*

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

*P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should in all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, who through Jesus has set us free from the slavery and prisons of our sin and has granted to us life in You now and eternal life to come through His perfect life, His sacrificial death, and His glorious victorious resurrection, that we join with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, evermore praising You and saying:*

### **SANCTUS**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.*

*Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

*P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **PAX DOMINI**

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C: Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" ..... LSB 717

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

*P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: For freedom Christ has set us free! Walk by the Spirit, and go in peace as you serve the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN** "God Bless Our Native Land" ..... *LSB 965*

**Acknowledgments**

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**THIS WEEK — (July 2 - 9, 2017)**

**Sunday:** Worship/HC, 9:00am; John Stransky ordination, 3:00pm

**Thursday:** Worship/HC, 6:30pm

**Sunday:** Worship/HC, 9:00am; What We Believe class, 10:30am

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (Week ending 6/25/17)**

General & Building Funds: \$3981.50; Blessings: \$25.56; Memorial: \$50.00

Attendance: Thursday: 43; Sunday: 104

**CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GUESTS AND VISITORS:** We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship and Bible class following the service.

Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

**WHAT WE BELIEVE CLASS** will not meet this Sunday, July 2, due to Pastor Wetmore being out of town for a wedding. We will resume next Sunday, July 9.

Candidate John Stransky will be **ORDAINED AND INSTALLED** as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Town of Easton, this Sunday, July 2, at 3:00pm. Please keep him, his family, and the congregation at St. John in your prayers.

**NEEDED:** The quilters are in need of top sheets for backings for the quilts. Large pieces of fabric will also work. Thanks!

**THANK YOU** to all who gave blood during last week's blood drive. Lives are being saved by your generosity.

**LADIES GUILD** will be taking a tour of the Helke Funeral Home on July 11 at 2:00pm. Anyone who would like to join us, please call Judy Saeger (715-355-7962), or Elaine Hess (715-675-7665). There is a limit of twenty participants, so please let us know as soon as possible.

**LWML HUMAN CARE INGATHERING** for July is for Hope Life Center. Items needed are: bottled water; gift cards (Kwik Trip, Target, Walmart)

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS** may be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

### **“LIFE QUOTES” from Lutherans For Life**

“We must be diligent and unceasing in prayer for our land—for the church, people, governments, and culture—to repent, seek God’s forgiveness, turn from wicked ways, and prosper by hearing the saving message of the Gospel which leads to life everlasting.” *Lynette Auch, president of Lutherans For Life – ([www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org))*