



# Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIV, Issue VII

July 2019

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

Inside this issue:

- **America's Creed** 2
- *Inspirational Corner*
- *Pledge of Allegiance*
  
- **Dates to Remember** 3
- **Minutes** 4
- *A Devotion for 4th of July*
- **Calendar & Events** 5
- *Worship Assistances*
  
- **Lutheridge/Lutherock** 6
- *Agape/Kure Beach Ministry*
- *Shut Ins, Food Collection*
- *NEED Worship Asst., Etc*
  
- **A Stewardship Minute** 7
- *Dallas Soccer Sign Up*
- *Summer Concert*
  
- **Church NEWS** 8
- *Gaston Together*
- *Work Day-Lutheridge*
- *Prayer Concerns*
- *Will Trudnak*
- *4th of July Meaning*
- **I Am Your Flag** 9
  
- **Facts About July** 10
- **The Story of the 4<sup>th</sup>** 11
- **Prayer of St. Francis** 12
- *Releasing of Ancient Evil*
  
- **Salvation Army** 13
  
- **Voices of Revolution** 14
- **Bible Readings for July** 15

## 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

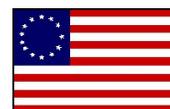
Franklin, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman. Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the first draft which was presented to the congress on June 28. After various changes a vote was taken late in the afternoon of July 4th. Of the 13 colonies, 9 voted in favor of the Declaration, 2 - Pennsylvania and 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.



## Inspiration Corner

A Jewish businessman in Chicago sent his son to Israel for a year to absorb the culture. When the son returned home, he said, "Papa, I have a great time in Israel, and by the way, I converted to Christianity."

"Oy vey," said the father, "what have I done?" So he took his problem to his best friend, Ike, and he said, "I sent my son to Israel, and he came home a Christian, What can I do?"

"Funny you should ask," said Ike. "I too sent my son to Israel, and he also came home a Christian. Perhaps we should go see the Rabbi."

They explained their problem to the Rabbi.

"Funny you should ask," said the Rabbi. "I too sent my son to Israel, and he also came home a Christian. What is happening to our young people!"

Then they prayed, telling God about their sons, and asking Him what they should do.

As they finished their prayers, a voice came booming from the Heavens, "Funny you should ask," said God, "I too sent my son to Israel...."



## THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I BELIEVE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE; WHOSE JUST POWERS ARE DERIVED FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED; A DEMOCRACY IN A REPUBLIC, A SOVEREIGN NATION OF MANY SOVEREIGN STATES; A PERFECT UNION, ONE AND INSEPARABLE; ESTABLISHED UPON THOSE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND HUMANITY FOR WHICH AMERICAN PATRIOTS SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES AND FORTUNES.

I THEREFORE BELIEVE IT IS MY DUTY TO MY COUNTRY TO LOVE IT, TO SUPPORT ITS CONSTITUTION; TO OBEY ITS LAWS; TO RESPECT ITS FLAG; AND TO DEFEND IT AGAINST ALL ENEMIES.

The Creed was written in 1918 by William Tyler Page of Friendship Heights, Maryland in the course of a nationwide contest on the subject. Page was a descendent of President Tyler, and Representative John Page, who served in the Congress from 1789-97.

William Tyler Page began his government career as a Congressional page in December of 1881. In 1919, he was elected Clerk of the House of Representatives, and held that position until December of 1931. a new post, Emeritus Minority Clerk, was then created for him which he occupied until his death on

October 20, 1942.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG



*"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."*

The Pledge of Allegiance received official recognition by Congress in an Act approved on June 22, 1942. However, the pledge was first published in 1892 in the Youth's Companion magazine in Boston, Massachusetts to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, and was first used in public schools to celebrate Columbus Day on October 12, 1892.

In its original version, the pledge read "my flag" instead of "the flag of the United States." the change in the wording was adopted by the National Flag Conference in 1923. The rationale for the change was that it prevented ambiguity among foreign-born children and adults who might have the flag of their native land in mind when reciting the pledge.

The phrase "under God" was added to the pledge by a Congressional act approved on June 14, 1954. At that time, President Eisenhower said:

*"in this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."*



# Declaration of Independence Dates to Remember

## **April 19, 1775**

The Revolutionary War begins with shots fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts.

## **June 7, 1776**

Richard Henry Lee introduces a motion in a meeting of the Continental Congress that the United States is and should be declared free from ties to Great Britain. Delegates disagree about the wisdom of this idea, which comes to be called the "Lee Resolution." Eventually, the Congress appoints a Committee of Five to draft a Declaration of Independence for consideration.

## **June 11, 1776**

John Adams convenes the Committee of Five to draft a Declaration of Independence. The five members of the committee are John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman. The committee chooses Jefferson to write the first draft.

## **Two days in mid-June, 1776**

Jefferson writes the first draft of the Declaration. He said later that he never meant to say things that "had never been said before." Instead, he tries to capture "the common sense of the subject, in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent."

## **July 2, 1776**

The Continental Congress votes to declare independence from Great Britain, formally adopting the Lee Resolution. The next day John Adams writes in a letter to his wife that, "The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epocha in the history of America. . . . It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, forevermore."

## **July 3, 1776**

The Continental Congress begins debating and editing the draft Declaration, eventually making 86 edits and cutting the length by about a fourth.

## **July 4, 1776**

The Continental Congress approves the final draft of the Declaration, formalizing what had already been decided on July 2. Congress hires printer John Dunlap to print copies of the Declaration to be distributed throughout the colonies.

## **July 5, 1776**

Dunlap delivers his 200 copies of the Declaration (which are now called "Dunlap Broad sides"). One copy is officially entered into the Congressional Journal and the other copies are distributed throughout the colonies.

## **July 6, 1776**

The Pennsylvania Evening Post becomes the first newspaper to reprint the whole Declaration, but news of the July 2 decision to declare independence has already been widely reported and various celebrations and discussions are already taking place throughout the colonies.

## **July 8, 1776**

The Declaration is read publicly to the people of Philadelphia. Around this time, Congress gets around to sending a copy of the Declaration to its emissary in Europe to be distributed to the various European governments. However, the original letter is lost and the Declaration isn't formally delivered to Great Britain and the rest of Europe until November, when news of the Declaration had already reached Europe.

## **July 9, 1776**

New York finally approves the Declaration. It is the last of the 13 colonies to do so.

## **July 19, 1776**

The Continental Congress decides to have an "engrossed" copy of the Declaration made, meaning a clean, readable, handwritten copy on parchment. Timothy Matlack, who was the assistant to the Secretary of Congress, probably makes the copy. (This is the copy now housed at the National Archives.)

## **August 2, 1776**

Those delegates who had voted in favor of independence and who are in attendance that day sign the engrossed copy of the Declaration. Fifty delegates sign on this day. Six more will sign later.

## Our Saviour Lutheran Church William Trudnak, President May 20, 2019 Council Minutes

### Devotions: Bill Trudnak

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak

**Members present:** Bill Trudnak, Steve Digh, Joe Finger, Denise Traveria, Alice Vlaservich, Jeff White and Robbie Wooten

**Members Absent:** Betty Ratchford, Teri Trudnak and Melinda White

**Minutes:** April 15, 2019 were reviewed. Joe Finger made the motion to approve the minutes and Alice Vlaservich seconded the motion.

### Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- a. Graduation Gifts: Council discussed spending \$25 each on the following seniors. Cara Feige, Jack Lowery and Will Trudnak. To be given to them the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in June.

**Report of the Pastor:** None Available.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Motion by Steve Digh to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Denise Traveria.

### Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: No report this month
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report this month
- c. Worship & Music: No Report this month
- d. Youth Team: No report this month
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent to shut ins
- f. Christian Education Team: VBS planning committee met. Dates are 6/16-6/20/2019 at St. Paul's as host church

**Report of Auxiliaries:** CLW/Rachel Circle met at the home of Betty Clemmer for Bible Study and refreshments. The Circle will meet at the home of Alice Vlaservich on May 27<sup>th</sup> for Bible Study and refreshments.

### Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Update on roof. In 2 to 3 years the church's roof will have to be replaced. Motion by Alice Vlaservich and seconded by Steve Digh to start a campaign drive to pay for the replacement of the roof and place campaign drive in the bulletin and newsletter. The council will look at other options for material for the roof.
- b. Work days at the church have been rescheduled for a two days: Tuesday, June 4 and Thursday, June 6. Hours: 6-8 pm for both days. Clean gutters, trimming bushes, etc.
- c. The council discussed Ignited Minds Childcare. It was agreed that the church could not financially make the improvement to support the Childcare. A new septic tank would have to be installed plus other improvements both at the Education building and Activity building.

### New Business:

- Motion by Alice Vlaservich and seconded by Robbie Wooten to pray for the success the American Assoc.

- b. Continuing Education for Pastor Feige working on a PhD. Pastor did not call. Council supports him in his studies with prayers.

### General Information

- a. Attendance
- b. Laszio Mission League Report
- c. Chosen People Ministries.
- d. Thank you from Lutheran World Relief

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: June 24, 2019

## A Devotion for July 4<sup>th</sup>

This classic *Daily Guideposts* devotion captures the true meaning of this beautiful, bountiful holiday.

by **Carol Knapp**

*Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you...—  
Romans 15:7 (RSV)*

It was a cloudy, quiet July Fourth for us, that year of 1988. My husband worked. There were no parades. We'd decided not to spend the extra money on fireworks. You can barely see them, anyway, in Alaska's summer twilight. We didn't even have a picnic. Yet it's the Fourth of July that I remember and treasure the most.

The two-story log home where we were living was not our own. We were house-sitting for the summer for our friends Lou and Elsa, who were visiting their native Czechoslovakia for the first time in twenty years. As a young married couple, they had fled the streets of Prague in terror when Soviet tanks swept through the city in 1968. For days before, Elsa had hidden beneath the bed in their cramped apartment with her two little girls. When they left, they could say good-bye to no one. They simply disappeared.

Lou and Elsa found a welcome in the United States, eventually making their way to Alaska. They learned English and worked hard. Lou, a master craftsman, fitted each log in their home with mortar and hope. Elsa tended a fruitful vegetable garden and produced wonderful aromas from kettles simmering in her tidy kitchen.

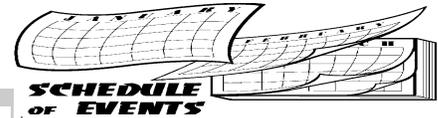
I was alone in Lou and Elsa's living room in the afternoon on that Fourth of July, when I suddenly burst into tears. *This is it, I thought. This is the real Fourth of July. They came to America to find "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and here I am, standing in the middle of their dream.* I had a glimpse of how precious this beautiful, bountiful country of ours really is. And so I waved the only flag I had ... my tears, genuine and proud.

*She's Yours, Lord, but You've allowed us to call her ours. Thank  
You from sea to shining sea.*

# July 2019



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Team Mtgs.	2	3	4 	5	6
7 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pent.	8	9 Gaston Together	10	11	12	13
14 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pent.	15 Board Mtg.	16 Prayer Group	17	18	19	20
21 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pent.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 7 <sup>th</sup> Sun after Pent	29	30	31 			

- **July 1**— Team Meeting: 6:30 pm Youth  
7:00 pm Other  
Sign Up for Dallas Soccer begins see p
- **July 4**— INDEPENDENCE DAY  
4th Celebration at Cloninger Park 6 pm  
Summer Concert "Image" on the Square
- **July 7**— 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
- **July 9**—Gaston Together (see p 8)
- **July 14**— 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
- **July 22**—Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- **July 17**—Prayer Group at Shirlee Marazza at 1 pm
- **July 21**— 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
- **July 28**—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Hunger Sunday—see 6



FOOD FOR THE MONTH:  
Pinto Beans, Canned Meats,  
Pork & Beans



NO Choir practice in July



## Birthdays

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



Anna Digh  
Chas Messick  
Bo Messick  
Chris Messick  
Yvonne Finger  
Garrett Lowery

Holy Communion Schedule:  
All Sundays



Worship Service Assistance:

Communion

Asst:

Lay Reader:

Worship Asst:

Greeters:

Ushers:

Marie Robinson

OSLC Members

OSLC Members

Board Devotions July 23: Melinda White



22<sup>nd</sup> .....Bo & Raygan Messick



## FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

July 7 Nick Vlaservich  
July 14 Open  
July 21 Carlos & Denise Traveria  
July 28 Marilyn Finger

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



725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
 Post Office Box 475  
 Dallas, North Carolina 28034  
 Phone: 705-922-4648  
 Email: oslcdallas@aol.com  
 Website: oslc-nc.org

**OUTREACH MISSION**

**SHUT-INS**  
**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

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

**Marilyn Finger**  
 1150 Meadow Way Dr., Dallas

**Jerri Presley**  
 2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas



**EVENTS**  
**for**  
**Agrape/Kure Beach**

**Contact Camp Agapé:**  
 Telephone: 919-552-9421  
 e-mail: [agape@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:agape@agapekurebeach.org)

**Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:**  
 Telephone 910-458-0783  
 e-mail: [kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org)

**Web site:** [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://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](http://www.NovusWay.com)



**Food Collection**

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

Food items they need for the month are Pinto Beans, Canned Meats, Pork & Beans. Let us over fill the basket in the hallway. This is a great outreach program.

God will bless you for your generosity



July 28 will be the 5th Sunday of the month and

You are asked to help the Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry with a financial donation to help those that are not blessed as we are.



**GO OUT ON A LIMB**  
**GET INVOLVED**

BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT  
 Positions are still open.

Participate in the service of the Lord and sign

Sign up sheets  
 for the 2019 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.  
 THANK YOU!

**YOUR HELP IS NEED.**  
**WE DO NOT HAVE ANY**  
**WORSHIP ASSISTANCE, ETC.**  
**FOR**  
**AUGUST, SEPTEMBER,**  
**OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND**  
**DECEMBER.**



## A Stewardship Minute

You and I don't really own anything. We are guests here on God's earth. As the writer of Psalm 24 put it: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." (Psalm 24:1) We are here on God's property and using God's minerals, plants, animals and land as though they belonged exclusively to us. Have you ever considered that fact?

When we do consider the gifts God has given to us, most of us surely will be prompted to be grateful for such immeasurable generosity. Every day should be Thanksgiving Day, don't you agree? Beyond being appreciative of this marvelous and beautiful earth

where we live "rent free," people should consider what they can do to respond to God's love. They surely will conclude that they should strive to become good stewards of all that they have been given: the earth, their bodies, minds, and spirits. Also their families, their churches, their work, their possessions ... whatever God has given to them.

An intriguing article in the July issue of Stewardship focuses on this truth that we are prone to forget. In 1873, the English composer Frances R. Havergal wrote a hymn that summarizes the intent of a truly dedicated steward:

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my mo-*

*ments and my days and let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.*

**Prayer:** Thank you, blessed Lord, for every benefit given to us each day of our lives. Amen.



## 2019 Court Square Summer Concert

(presented by the Town of Dallas and the Gaston County Museum of Art & History)

Held on the Dallas Historic Court Square, from 6:00—8:30 pm, each FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine). Enjoy the car show along Main Street and local craft beverage from Ole Dallas Brewery.

- ◆ **Thursday, July 4—Image**  
*NO Cruise-In this Month / Band Performing "Image" G-Town and Hotwire 6pm-9pm before the Fireworks at Cloninger Park*
- ◆ **Saturday, July 20—The Catalinas and Cruising—6:00 pm—at Cloninger Park**  
Since its creation in 1957, over 60 accomplished guitarists, keyboardists, trumpet players, drummers, bass players and singers have been part of **The Catalinas**. The band owner, Gary Barker of Statesville, has performed with the band since 1965 and attributes its long success to the ongoing popularity of beach music. **Cruise-in and Music**
- ◆ **Saturday, August 31—Cruise-In and Concert with Live Music by Coming Up Brass—7:00 pm-10:00 pm—Dallas Court Square**



DALLAS SOCCER SIGN-UP  
JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>—AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>  
(Ages 3-15)

**Sign-up at the Dallas Town Hall:** Monday—Friday 8:00 am—5:00 pm

**COST: \$50** to register (NO REFUND). Registration fees must be paid at the time of sign up. Please make checks payable to the Town of Dallas.

The **registration fee includes:** Soccer Jersey, Socks, approximately 8 officiated games, and use of town facilities and equipment.

**Practices** will be held in town at either Cloninger Park or Carr Elementary. ALL GAMES will be played in Gastonia at Martha Rivers Park.

Anyone interested in volunteer coaching or sponsoring a team please call 704-922-3176 and ask for Garrett.



GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION

July 9, 2019

8:30 to Noon

Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital  
Breakfast before meeting, if you wish

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Meaning**

Billy Graham

**Q. I'm from another country and am visiting some of my relatives here who are in graduate school. I asked them what your festival on July 4 means, but they were not sure. Does it have something to do with your Christian religion?**

July 4th commemorates the day in 1776 that our nation declared itself to be an independent nation, and no longer a colony of England. On that date, a number of our leading citizens signed what is known as the Declaration of Independence, stating our determination to become a free country.

Our independence did not come easily; only after several difficult years of war would it finally be won. Nor were our first years as a nation free from problems and controversies (as is still true). But our forefathers were determined to establish a free and democratic system of government, and the Declaration of Independence (together with our Constitution and the Bill of Rights) became the foundation for this. They have stood the test of time, and on July 4th we give thanks for the wisdom and faith and courage of those leaders.

Although it is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10, KJV). Our legal system reflects our Judeo-Christian roots.

While we look with gratitude to the past on this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

#####



Will Trudnak went before the Boards of Review and passed to become an Eagle Scout.

This is a great accomplishment.

Congratulations!

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

**CLWRACHEL GROUP**

***The CLWRachel Group will not meet again  
until August. Have a safe summer!***



**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 5:13-15)



MARGARET Addington (Brady Ratchford's sister and friend of the community), 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, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), LOYD Efird (Lung cancer-co-worker husband of the Gordy's), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), JASON Hames (friend of the White's) DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), CHRIS Messick (intestinal blockage), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), MARY O'Shea (co-worker of Melinda White's), RIVER Peedin (Ursela Peedin's great-grandson- leukemia), JANICE and JOHNNY Pendleton (grandparents of Raygan Carpenter - Janice has strokes), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), JERRIE Presley, BETTY Ratchford, TONY Trudnak (cancer), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray), ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), NANCY Wilson (hand). MARY Wooten (Sara's great-grandmother and Rosalee's great-great grandmother).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Get involved**—workers are needed to make repairs or improvements at Lutheridge.

Work day will be 1n August 24 followed by Church on 25.

Interest contact: Nick Vlaservich.



**WORK DAY**

We share fellowship with each other and other churches.



## I AM YOUR FLAG



I am your flag.  
 I was born on June 14th, 1777.  
 I am more than just a cloth shaped into a design.  
 I am the refuge of the World's oppressed people.  
 I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.  
 I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.  
 I am the inspiration for which American Patriots gave their lives and fortunes.

I have led your sons and daughters into battle from Valley Forge to the deserts of Iraq  
 and the mountains of Afghanistan.  
 I walk in silence with each of your Honored Dead, to their final resting place  
 beneath the silent White Crosses, row upon row.  
 I have flown through Peace and War, Strife and Prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.

My Red Strips ... symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.  
 My White Strips ... signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their love ones.  
 My Blue Field ... is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.  
 "Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high.

Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes.  
 Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return.  
 Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.  
 Worship Eternal God and keep His commandments.  
 And I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind.

When you fold me—this is what each fold means.  
 The first fold is a **symbol of life**.  
 The second symbolizes **belief in eternal life**.  
 The third is made in **honor of veterans**.  
 The fourth reminds us that **humans are weak and in need of divine guidance**.  
 The fifth is a **tribute to our country**.  
 The sixth represents the **love in our hearts for America**.  
 The seventh is a **tribute to the armed forces**.  
 The eighth **honors mothers**.  
 The ninth **honors all women**.  
 The tenth **honors fathers**.  
 The eleventh symbolizes the **God of the Old Testament**.  
 The twelfth represents the **Christian belief in the Trinity**.

When I am completely folded,  
 The stars are uppermost,  
 A reminder of the motto,  
 "*In God We Trust.*"  
 A well-folded flag also appears a bit like a cocked hat,  
 Symbolic of the head-wear of our Founding Fathers.

**I Am Your Flag!**



## Facts about July

According to the Gregorian calendar, July is the seventh month. On the Roman calendar, it was the fifth month and it was called 'Quintilis', meaning 'fifth'. Julius Caesar gave the month 31 days in 46 B.C. The Roman Senate named it 'Julius', in honor of Caesar.

July is usually the hottest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. July is one of the winter months in the Southern Hemisphere. The climate is mild in most of the Southern Hemisphere, with the exception of the COLD Antarctica, and the cold, rainy part of South America.

During July, when there isn't much rain, the grass often loses its greenness. Some flowers are abundant in July, because they thrive on the heat. Also, insects are abundant as well - life is thriving in July!

Independence Day is observed in the United States on July 4. On that day in 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

- The Ruby is the gem for July.
- The water lily is the flower for the month of July.
- **July 1, 1792**, Kentucky became the 15th state.
  - 1725, Comte de Rochambeau, French commander in the Revolutionary War in America, was born.
  - 1867, The British North American Act went into effect, establishing the Dominion of Canada.
  - 1898, American troops occupied San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War.
  - 1916, Battle of the Somme began in World War I.
- **July 2, 1881**, President James Garfield shot.
  - 1890, Sherman Antitrust Act passed.
  - 1908, Thurgood Marshall first black justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, born.
- **July 3, 1728**, Furniture designer Robert Adam born.
  - 1738, Matt S. Copley, American painter, born.
  - 1879, Composer George M. Cohan born.
  - 1890, Idaho became the 43rd state.
- **July 4, 1776**, Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, and Matt Hancock signed it.
  - 1804, Nathaniel Hawthorne, American author, born.
  - 1817, Work began on the Erie Canal.
  - 1826, Stephen Foster, American songwriter, born.
  - 1863, Vicksburg surrendered to the Union Army in the Civil War.
  - 1872, Calvin Coolidge, 30th President of the United States, born in Plymouth Notch, Vt.
  - 1903, First Pacific cable, running between San Francisco and Manila, opened by President Theodore Roosevelt.
- **July 5, 1810**, P.T. Barnum, American circus owner, born.
  - 1971, Amendment 26, which sets the voting age at 18 in the United States, was proclaimed.
- **July 6, 1747**, Matt Paul Jones, American naval hero, born.
  - 1777, British troops captured Fort Ticonderoga.
  - 1854, The Republican Party held its first state convention, at Jackson, Mich.
- **July 7, 1937**, Japanese and Chinese troops clashed, beginning the struggle that became World War II.
- **July 8, 1839**, Matt D. Rockefeller born.
- **July 9, 1819** Elias Howe, American inventor, born.
- **July 10, 1509**, Protestant leader, Matt Calvin born.
- **July 10, 1834**, J.A.M. Whistler, American painter, born.
- **1890**, Wyoming became the 44th state, July 10, 1890.
- **July 11, 1767**, Matt Q. Adams, sixth President of the United States, born in Braintree (now Quincy), Mass.
  - 1804, Aaron Burr killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel.
- **July 12, 1817**, Author Henry D. Thoreau born.
  - 1854, Inventor George Eastman born.
  - 1917, Andrew Wyeth, American painter, born.
- **July 13, 1863**, Mary Emma Woolley, American educator, born.
- **July 14, 1913**, Gerald R. Ford, 38th President of the United States, born in Omaha, Nebr.
- **July 15, 1918**, Second Battle of the Marne in World War I began.
- **July 16, 1769**, First mission in California established at San Diego by Father Junipero Serra.
  - 1790, District of Columbia established.
  - 1821, Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science movement, born.
    - 1945, Scientists set off the first atomic bomb, Alamogordo, N. Mex.
- **July 17, 1821**, Spain officially turned Florida over to the United States.
- **July 17-18, 1836**, Spanish Civil War began, July 17-18, 1936.
- **July 19, 1814**, Samuel Colt, firearms inventor, born.
  - 1848, First woman's rights convention in United States met at Seneca Falls, N.Y.
- **July 20, 1969**, U.S. astronaut Neil A. Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon.
- **July 21, 1861**, First Battle of Bull Run or Manassas, in the Civil War.
  - 1899, Ernest Hemingway American author and winner of the Nobel Prize, born.
- **July 22, 1864**, Battle of Atlanta in the Civil War.
  - 1898, Stephen Vincent Benet, American poet, born.
- **July 24, 1847**, The Mormons settled Salt Lake City.
  - 1897, Amelia Earhart American aviator and first woman to fly the Atlantic, born.
- **July 25, 1814**, George Stephenson, first successfully demonstrated a steam locomotive.
  - 1909, Louis Bleriot made first flight across the English Channel
- **July 26, 1788**, New York ratified the Constitution, .
  - 1856, Playwright George Bernard Shaw born.
- **July 27, 1866**, The first permanent Atlantic cable completed.
  - 1953, Truce signed, ending Korean War.
- **July 28, 1868**, Amendment 14, which defines United States citizenship, was proclaimed.
- **July 29, 1805**, Alexis de Tocqueville, author of Democracy in America, born July 29, 1805.
  - 1869, Booth Tarkington, American novelist, born.
- **July 30, 1619**, First representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown.
  - 1857, American social scientist Thorstein Veblen born.
  - 1863, Henry Ford, American automobile manufacturer, born.

# The Story of the Fourth of July

## The Declaration of Independence

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the **Declaration of Independence** and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775).

And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

## So what did happen on July 4, 1776?

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it was approved. If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed!

## How did the Fourth of July become a national holiday?

For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial. One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration. But the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies.

By 1817, John Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change.

After the War of 1812, the Federalist party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and 1941.

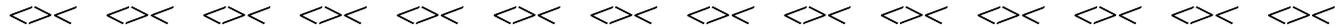


**Prayer of***Saint Francis of Assisi***Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;**

*where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
 where there is injury, pardon;  
 where there is doubt, faith;  
 where there is despair, hope;  
 where there is darkness, light;  
 and where there is sadness, joy*

**O Divine Master,**

*grant that I may not so much seek to be  
 consoled as to console;  
 to be understood, as to understand;  
 to be loved, as to love;  
 for it is in giving that we receive,  
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
 and it is in dying that we are born  
 to Eternal Life.*

*Amen*

## releasing ancient evil —Perry Stone, editorial

*“Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for the slay the third part of men.” —Revelation 9:14-15*

Years ago I once ministered in Union, South Carolina, I met a businessman who, before his conversion, was in a New Age church that taught him how to channel spirits to attack his enemies and bring sickness upon people he did not like. He admitted his first wife was killed by this method. He also revealed an unusual secret about how evil spirits receive strength to operate against human beings.

He said that the spirits in larger metropolitan areas were very large and strong. He compared them to large apes, which controlled important areas where sin was abundant. He noted that in the “Bible Belt,” where there were many churches and an abundance of preaching, the word of God actually restrained the growth and strength of these spirits. He compared them to small monkeys that sat upon people’s shoulders. He stated that the reason for the difference in the size of these spirits was the amount of sin they were fed.

I asked him what he meant, and he said, “Evil spirits feed off sin in the same way humans feed off food. If we constantly eat, we will grow large. As spirits feed off iniquity, they increase in size and authority. The more sin that is present in an area, the more authority and strength is given to the spirits ruling the region.” This man alleged he had seen these spirits prior to his conversion.

With this in mind, I believe that major sins in America that are being practiced and accepted are releasing ancient evil upon the nation. Ancient spirits that once dominated the empires of prophecy are being re-activated with new levels of energy and spiritual authority. **This is why the gospel is essential.** Preaching the gospel sheds light into the darkened minds of humankind. When this light of truth is received, evil is driven from the mind and spirit of the person. When the light is restrained, darkness rules and when darkness rules, evil prevails.

According to the scriptures, God is presently holding back (restraining) certain “antichrist forces” from rising to power on the earth (II Thessalonians 2). In America, our judges and some leaders are accepting the shedding of innocent blood and same sex relations as normal and alternative lifestyles. Flagrant fleshly sins open the door to seducing spirits, and we should warn people that their decisions are more than choices. They are the keys that can unlock the ancient evil that drove past empires into obscurity. I keep saying this and I hope you are listening: We must pray and intercede about the church and the nation. Keeping individual believers, the church, and the nation’s leaders strong in spiritual truth will help restrain more evil from invading the land.

## 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.

2016 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.

# Voices of the Revolution: Two Great Thinkers

The Founding Fathers were a group of extraordinary thinkers and brilliant men, but throughout the course of American Constitutional History, there were a number of other writers, philosophers, and revolutionaries who helped champion or support the case for American Independence. Two prominent thinkers, one directly and one indirectly, played a pivotal role in the founding of the United States. These men were **Thomas Paine** and **John Locke**.



## Thomas Paine

Thomas Paine was an English-born political activist, author, and revolutionary who came to America to support the cause against the British. As the author of two highly influential pamphlets, *The American Crisis* and *Common Sense*, at the start of the American Revolution, he aimed to inspire the colonists to declare independence from Britain. Although his work influenced the Founding Fathers to some degree, he had a much greater impact on the common people, who, after reading these two works, became much more supportive of the Revolutionary cause. Although the push for American independence was already burning when Paine was writing, he certainly helped to kindle the flame.

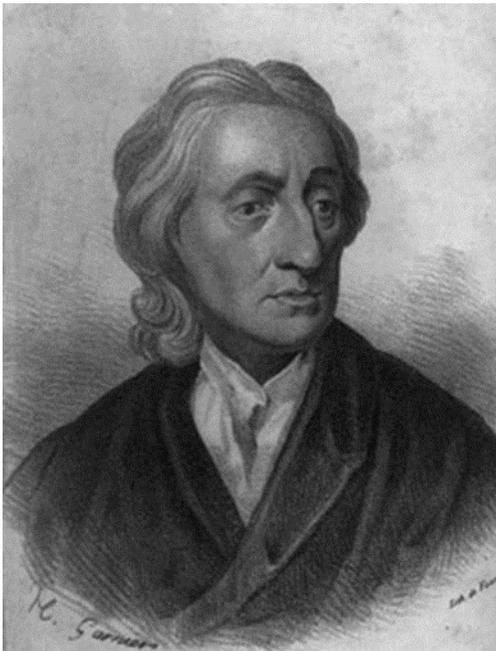
Read His Works:

[Common Sense](#)

[The Rights of Man](#)

[The American Crisis](#)

*Thomas Paine*



## John Locke

John Locke (29 August 1632 - 28 October 1704) was an English philosopher and physician regarded as one of the most influential of Enlightenment thinkers, especially concerning the development of political philosophy. His writings influenced Voltaire and Rousseau, but most importantly, the American revolutionaries. Thomas Jefferson used the thoughts first penned by John Locke while writing the Declaration of Independence. The phrase "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness," was an idea first considered by Locke in his *Two Treatises on Government*.

Read His Works:

[Essay Concerning Human Understanding](#)

[Two Treatises of Government](#)

*John Locke*

## Daily Bible reading guide from NALC, LCMS and LCC

*Reading the Word of God*, a daily Bible reading guide, has been prepared for Lutherans to use over the next three years.

The North American Lutheran Church has joined with the Lutheran Church-Canada and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to compile a three-year plan of *daily* Bible readings and a year-long series of *weekly* readings on Martin Luther's approach to the Scriptures.

### Daily readings

The daily readings are listed on calendars for **2019** and **2020**. The plan provides a guide that will take the reader through the entire Old Testament one time in three years, with the exception of Psalms, which are read twice each year. The New Testament will be read twice in the three years.

A reading from the Old Testament, a psalm (or portion of a psalm) and a reading from the New Testament are assigned for each day. Certain church festivals - Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and so forth - have readings appointed for

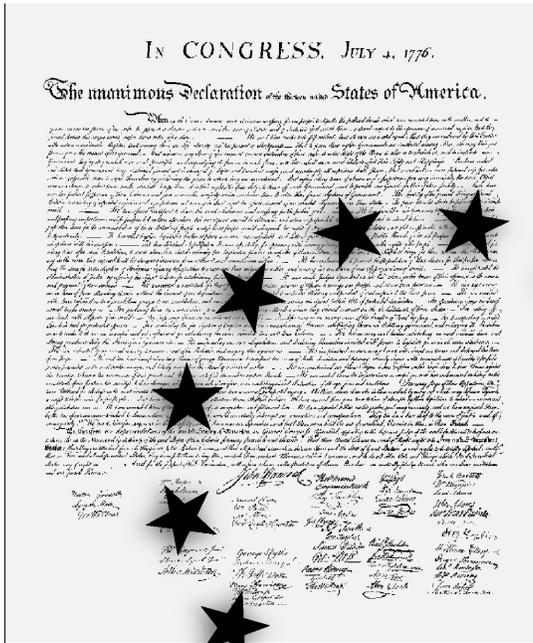
# July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <i>1 Kings 19:19-20:12</i> <i>Ps. 1</i> <i>Matt 1:11-17</i>	<b>2</b> <i>1 Kings 20:13-30</i> <i>Ps. 2</i> <i>Matt 1:18-25</i>	<b>3</b> <i>1 Kings 20:30-43</i> <i>Ps. 3</i> <i>Matt 2:1-12</i>	<b>4</b> <i>1 Kings 21:1-24</i> <i>Ps. 4</i> <i>Matt 2:13-23</i>	<b>5</b> <i>1 Kings 21:25-22:12</i> <i>Ps. 5</i> <i>Matt 3</i>	<b>6</b> <i>1 Kings 22:13*28</i> <i>Ps. 6</i> <i>Matt 4:1-11</i>
<b>7</b> <i>1 Kings 22:29-53</i> <i>Ps. 7</i> <i>Matt 4:12-25</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Eccl. 1</i> <i>Ps. 8</i> <i>Matt 5:1-20</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Eccl. 2</i> <i>Ps. 9</i> <i>Matt 5:21-42</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Eccl. 3</i> <i>Ps. 10</i> <i>Matt 5:43-6:15</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Eccl. 4</i> <i>Ps. 11</i> <i>Matt 6:16-34</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Eccl. 5-6</i> <i>Ps. 12</i> <i>Matt 7:1-23</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Eccl. 7</i> <i>Ps. 13</i> <i>Matt 7:24-8:13</i>
<b>14</b> <i>Eccl. 8</i> <i>Ps. 14</i> <i>Matt 8:14-34</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Eccl. 9</i> <i>Ps. 15</i> <i>Matt 9:1-13</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Eccl. 10-11</i> <i>Ps. 16</i> <i>Matt 9:14-31</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Eccl. 12</i> <i>Ps. 17</i> <i>Matt 9:32:10-4</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Song of Songs</i> <i>1:1-2:7</i> <i>Ps. 18:1-30</i> <i>Matt 10:5-25</i>	<b>19</b> <i>Song of Songs</i> <i>2:8-3:11</i> <i>Ps. 18:31-50</i> <i>Matt 10:26-46</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Song of Songs 4</i> <i>Ps. 19</i> <i>Matt 11:1-19</i>
<b>21</b> <i>Song of Songs 5</i> <i>Ps. 20</i> <i>Matt 11:20-30</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Song of Songs</i> <i>6:1-7:10</i> <i>Ps. 21</i> <i>Matt 12:1-14</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Song of Songs</i> <i>7:11-8:14</i> <i>Ps. 22</i> <i>Matt 12:15-37</i>	<b>24</b> <i>2 Kings 1</i> <i>Ps. 23</i> <i>Matt 12:39-50</i>	<b>25</b> <i>2 Kings 2:1-14</i> <i>Ps. 24</i> <i>Matt 13:1-17</i>	<b>26</b> <i>2 Kings 2:15-25</i> <i>Ps. 25</i> <i>Matt 13:18-30</i>	<b>27</b> <i>2 Kings 3</i> <i>Ps. 26</i> <i>Matt 13:31-43</i>
<b>28</b> <i>2 Kings 4:1-17</i> <i>Ps. 27</i> <i>Matt 13:44-58</i>	<b>29</b> <i>2 Kings 4:18-37</i> <i>Ps. 28</i> <i>Matt 114:1-21</i>	<b>30</b> <i>2 Kings 4:38-44</i> <i>Ps. 29</i> <i>Matt 14:22-36</i>	<b>31</b> <i>2 Kings 5:1-14</i> <i>Ps. 30</i> <i>Matt 15:1-20</i>			

the specific occasion.



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July 2019