

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF AUGUST 22, 2021

IN OUR PRAYERS: Ashlyn; Jim Cleveland; Emily Slone; Barb Myers; Carolyn Wilkins; Judie Spencer; Jack Vaught; Cyrus; Megan Mullet; Mike; Afghan Christians; the nation of Haiti & the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti

YOUTH GROUP: TONIGHT, here at the church. Dinner @ 6:00!

CONFIRMATION will begin Sunday, Sep. 12, at 11:30am. **Parents, please plan to attend this first session!**

Q & A SESSION regarding service times and weekly communion on Sunday, Sep. 5, between services during Bible study hour.

NEW BIBLE STUDIES: we would like to offer more opportunities for Bible study during the week. Interested? Let Pastor or Vicar know!

PHOTOS FOR NEW DIRECTORY: we will have a photographer at church on Wednesday, Sept. 15; Sunday, Sept. 19; and Sunday, Oct. 3.

GOLF OUTING: Saturday, Oct. 9, at Eagle Glen in CC. It's a fundraiser for Woodlands Senior Activity Center. Ask Pr. Mullet for more info!

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: please fill out one of the half-sheets on the tables. Or, you can call/email the church office or Pr. Mullet.

PASTOR & MEGAN TO ATLANTA: Aug. 23 – Aug. 31. I'll be reachable by phone. Please keep us in prayer. If you need *immediate in-person pastoral care* call Vicar Woelmer (214-218-8354) or Pr. Burgland (260-417-6753).

CALENDAR

Sun. Aug. 22 (Trinity 12)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Bible Study 6:00 – 7:30pm Youth Group
Wed. Aug. 25	7:00pm Worship
Thu. Aug. 26	7:00pm Bible Study
Sun. Aug. 29 (Martyrdom of John)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Bible Study
Aug. 23 – 31	Pastor & Megan in Atlanta

THE BACK PAGE

We live in a nation that was founded, in part, on the principle of religious freedom. The First Amendment is meant to guarantee the freedom of religion to all Americans—people are free to practice any religion they like, or no religion at all if they choose. Further, the government is prohibited from imposing any particular religion upon the people. In this context it is easy to forget about our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering and even dying for their faith, since we, by and large, do not suffer ourselves.

The past couple weeks have thrown this reality into sharp relief. With the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan, the future is very uncertain and even perilous for Afghan Christians. These men and women and children, fellow believers with us in the Lord Jesus Christ, will almost certainly be persecuted and many will likely be martyred.

Tragically, the situation in Afghanistan is not unique. Christians around the world suffer for their faith. I do not say this to make you feel guilty, but rather to encourage and exhort you on a few points:

1. Pray earnestly for Christians here and around the world, and especially for those who are suffering for their faith.
2. Thank God daily for the blessings He has so richly poured out on us in our nation, especially the gift of safely gathering together for worship.
3. Let us all consider our calling as Christians. Our persecuted brethren are prepared to gather to receive Christ's gifts even if it means earthly hardship, suffering, violence, and death. Are we prepared to make that sacrifice and take that stand for the sake of our faith and the faith of our children?
4. Take heart in knowing that the Church is built by Christ Himself, and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;

He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.

And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,

Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won;

The Kingdom ours remaineth. (LSB 656:4)