

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF JULY 3, 2022

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jim Cleveland; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Darlene Welsh; Brenda LeFever

PASTOR OUT OF THE OFFICE most of this week to attend a Lutheran Education conference in Fort Wayne. I will be reachable by phone or text the whole time—please don't hesitate to reach out if you need me!

ELDERS & COUNCIL meet this Tuesday, July 5, at 6pm and 7pm respectively.

SUMMER SUNDAY STUDY: over the next few months the Sunday morning Bible study will be hitting the highlights of CPH's "Lutheranism 101." Join us for a refresher on some of the basics of the Christian faith and bring your questions as we dive into "what makes us Lutheran."

THE MEN'S GROUP will meet this coming Saturday, July 9. Breakfast at 8:00am with fellowship to follow. Join us! Invite others, too!

TIN CAPS TICKETS: we have a few extra tickets for the game **next Sunday, July 10.** \$10 each includes lunch (noon) and the game (1:05). See Pr. Mullet!

VBS: our next VBS evening will be Tue., July 12, beginning at 5:30pm with a potluck. We'll see how Jesus is our Great High Priest! Sign up by the doors!

CHURCH PICNIC: mark your calendars for Sunday, July 31. Details soon!

FAITH LUTHERAN T-SHIRTS: the shirts are in! Please pick them up and pay for them if you haven't already. We do have extras! Talk to Pr. Mullet.

CALENDAR

Sun. Jul. 3 (Trinity 3)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Bible Study (Lutheranism 101)
Tue. Jul. 5	8:30am Greek Study 6:00 / 7:00pm Elders / Church Council
Wed. Jul. 6	8:30am Matins 9:00am Book of Concord Study 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Jul. 7	7:00pm Bible Study (Philippians)
Sat. Jul. 9	8:00am Men's Group
Sun. Jul. 10 (Trinity 4)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Bible Study (Lutheranism 101) 12:00 / 1:05pm Lunch / Tin Caps Game

THE BACK PAGE

I wrote a similar back page this time last year, but I think it's worth saying again. We are Christians first, and Americans somewhere after that. Jesus is not an American (nor a German Lutheran, for that matter!). In terms of loyalty to crown and kingdom, ours belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. This is so easy to get confused or switched around. But we are Christians *who happen to be* American, and not Americans who happen to be Christian.

This is important to remember and consider for a few reasons. The USA is not “God’s chosen nation.” As remarkable a document as the US Constitution is, it is nevertheless authored by men and not by God. This might be especially important to keep in mind as we rejoice in the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. This is worth our thanksgivings to God, but let us not hang our faith upon the success of our favorite legislative issues. In other words, sometimes laws will go the way we want them to, and sometimes they won’t. Sometimes our guy will win the election, and sometimes he won’t. Sometimes our leaders will do things we like and agree with, and sometimes they won’t. But none of this, ultimately, has much to do with your faith in Jesus Christ. Your Christian faith should inform your vote, your opinion on social issues, and so on; NOT the other way around!

There is a certain comfort in knowing that, as the hymn says, “I am a stranger here; heaven is my home.” This reminds us that we have fellowship with Christians around the world, regardless of nation or race. And it gives us hope and comfort to know that we are heirs of an eternal kingdom—because the US, as wonderful a nation as it is, is nevertheless an earthly kingdom which will, eventually, fall.

All that being said, we can and should celebrate our nation, her independence, and the freedoms we enjoy as American citizens. These are great gifts of God, and we should thank Him every day for the blessings He has showered upon us. While we celebrate our great nation, let us never forget where those blessings ultimately come from.

The separation of and interaction between “church and state” can be tricky to navigate, and I’m happy to take them up in more detail if you have questions or concerns. In the meantime, let us celebrate our freedoms and our great nation, giving thanks and praise always to God our Father, who is King of kings and Lord of lords; and let us look forward with hope and joy to our inheritance as citizens of the Kingdom which has no end. Happy Independence Day. God bless America!