



HAPPY 250th CELEBRATION!

God bless the USA! What a celebration we will have for 250 years! We are thankful for our many freedoms—to pray, to worship, and to be able to freely share the Good News of a risen Savior and His great love with those around us. May our celebration be filled with joy and light, and may we be reminded that our ultimate freedom and strength is found in Jesus Christ!

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OSL NEWSLETTER

WE EXIST TO LOVE GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND ALL PEOPLE!

A Message from Paul Yamber, *Council President*

Happy 4th of July! I've seen the passage from 2 Chronicles 7:14 pop up a lot lately. My guess is, with the 250th celebration of our country, people are more drawn to passages that focus on nation and healing. Although this passage was for a different time and for God's chosen people, it is no less important today than it was back then. We should be praying for our government, our elected officials to lead with integrity, our pastors and churches to stand firm in God's word, especially in the things we see happening in this country in the news every day.

"If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

We have many blessings to be thankful for and should at all times and all places give thanks—we as Christ followers understand this. Many of the freedoms we have in this country are taken for granted. God's blessings extend to those who don't even acknowledge Him (Matthew 5:45). For over two and a half centuries, God has carried our nation through seasons of triumph and trial, blessing and refining. We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy, especially the freedom to worship openly and proclaim the hope of Christ.

Have a great holiday!

Blessings, Paul Yamber



From the Pastor's Desk

Patriotism is a virtue. It is good to love one's homeland, good to love the citizens with whom one shares his nation. As our country celebrates her 250th Independence Day, it is good to reflect on those things that God has given us. Our free speech laws make it possible for the Gospel to be freely proclaimed. God's Word is not hidden away in dark corners. This is certainly a blessing that is not universal.

Let us give thanks to God for what He has given us. Let us celebrate with joy our nation's successes and mourn her failures. Let us call our fellow citizens to repentance and faith, that they may turn away from sins which separate them from God and receive the mercy promised to those who are in Christ.

Here is a prayer from Lutheran Book of Prayer for the occasion of Independence Day:

"Eternal Father, Ruler of all nations, on this day when my country celebrates its birth, I thank You for all spiritual and temporal blessings enjoyed in our land. In Your mercy, You have sustained this nation in times of trouble and preserved its liberties. Teach me anew to treasure that dearly won freedom of conscience and worship that is the cornerstone of this country's principles. Let me not misuse this liberty nor forget that true freedom is freedom to serve. Give me willingness to share in the process of democratic rule, to respect my country's laws, and to work for the preservation of its institutions. Forgive our past sins committed as a nation in the name of misguided patriotism, self-interest, or political expediency. Confound all those who, for the sake of partisanship or other motives, would sacrifice the greater welfare. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Strengthen all those who strive to do Your will. Increase loyalty to You and to our beloved country. Protect me and my fellow citizens from all subversive or terrorist acts. Above all, dear God, speed the course of Your Gospel among us, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, hearts are turned to that freedom from sin and death that You alone graciously give through Jesus Christ. Amen."

– Lutheran Book of Prayer (Concordia Publishing House, 2005).

Let us thank God for what we have been given and joyfully gather together to receive the forgiveness won for us on the cross.

-Pastor Pope





Church Picnic

We have another church picnic coming up on SUN, JULY 26 at 12:30 pm. Brats, Hotdogs, Hamburgers and chicken are on the grill, bring a side or dessert to share! Yard games will be out for some fun in the sun!



Kids had a blast cooling off with water games at VBS this summer! This June we had a 1-day VBS with the theme "Making a SPLASH with Jesus!" Their memory verse was Acts 3:19: *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."* At VBS, kids learned what a difference Jesus can make in our lives, when we are willing to dive in with Him!



Happenings Around the Church

VBS & PICNIC

Thanks again to all who showed up for VBS/Church Picnic Saturday. For this time of the year, the weather was great and all the help of you who volunteered is greatly appreciated.

PROPERTY

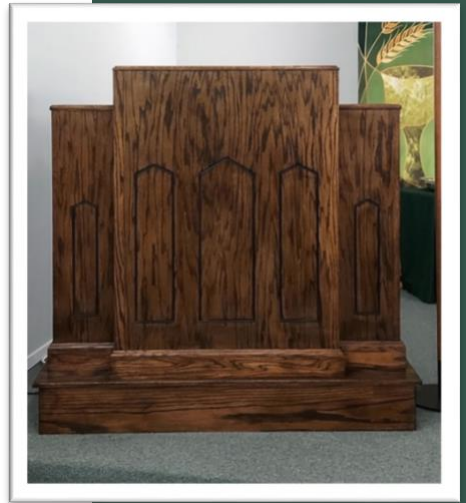
Thanks again mowing team, it's hot out there!

COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a council meeting on July 19th @ 12:15 pm. Please join us, especially if you have any questions or items to present to council.

SANCTUARY

Thanks to all who arranged for and installed the new pulpit and baptismal font! The pulpit and font were created by Joe Coaley to match the new altar.



PACKING PANTHERS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1st FROM 9 AM TO NOON

This is our third year participating! Kids around the Cabot School District come to Packing Panthers at the Veteran's Park Community Center to receive free backpacks them with school supplies. This is a great event that benefits our community! Come on out and help us fill backpacks for kids! OSL will be supplying water bottles, pencils and erasers at our table during the event.

The July noisy offering will go towards Packing Panthers!

Upcoming Events in July



LEARN TO CROCHET

SAT, JULY 11 @ 12-2 pm

Free class, materials included! Right and left hand friendly instruction! Located in the Fellowship Hall. No registration required, just show up and learn!



J.O.Y. GROUP (50+)

Wine Tasting

SAT, JULY 18 @ 5 pm

Bring two bottles of the same wine, and an appetizer to share! Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Reach out to Susan Buser!



LWML Group Revival

SAT, JULY 25 @ 3 pm

All ladies of the church are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall to learn about the Lutheran Women in Mission, and the impact we can make with an LWML group at our church. We are not just ladies in purple; ***we are women on a mission!***