

Immanuel Lutheran Church Augsburg

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July, 2020

### Dependence or Independence

As we enter July, we give all thanks, honor, glory, and praise to our loving God who has made it possible to once again gather as His people in His house. Though it has been difficult, He has brought us through the trials of the past few months and is still at work for our salvation.

And while we celebrate that great gift, we also celebrate the privilege of living in our great country. As we've completed half of the calendar year, our thoughts turn to Independence Day. As we remember the history and the significance of the founding of our great country, there are celebrations, picnics, cookouts, fireworks, flag waving, swimming, or at least a day off from work. In the past we might have attended (or at least watched) a Cardinals game or maybe even a parade.

Yet, how often do we realize what the Fourth of July is really about? How often do we review the meaning of that day? Without such reflection, the day is just another day.

At the conclusion of the Declaration of Independence, we read these words, "And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

Those are awe-inspiring words! The men that signed that Declaration were willing to risk everything for the freedom and independence that document sought to express. Furthermore, many of those signers did lose everything. Throughout the years since then, many others have given of themselves, many having given their very lives, to maintain that freedom. And we enjoy the benefits.

Now, as important as the Declaration of Independence was, and still is, it is but an earthly document with no eternal benefits attached. When our dear Lord Jesus returns in glory on the Last Day, everything, including that Declaration, will be as nothing. Everything earthly will fade away.

Still, consider those words penned so long ago and apply them to life in the Church, and especially here at Immanuel/Augsburg. Here they are again, “And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”

We have been set free from the bondage and oppression of the tyrants of sin, death, and the devil. The great and final battle has been fought and won as the Lord Jesus gave His all, shed His holy, precious blood, died, and rose from the dead that we might be truly free. That’s why your Baptism is so important. Romans 6 declares that in Baptism you were baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection. And this so that you would no longer be enslaved to sin. Because of your Baptism into Christ, sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. In your Baptism into Him, Christ has declared your independence from sin. And for that reason, you are “slaves of God,” totally dependent on Him for all things pertaining to life and salvation. (I encourage you to read the entirety of Romans 6.)

So it is for those in the Church. We too have “a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence.” For, indeed, the Triune God has promised that “everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:13). He who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier gives us His abiding care and protection through all the battles and storms of this life, and He promises to carry us in the ark of His Church into the safe harbor of heaven.

To that end, He has provided for the care and maintenance of our faith by providing “called and ordained servants of the Word” to minister to His people. As they preach and teach God’s Word in its truth and purity and administer His Sacraments in accordance with their purpose and institution, God creates and nourishes saving faith. Through the forgiveness of sins, God guards and protects us from those who would enslave us.

Is this not of more worth than a new earthly government? Of course it is! That’s why we at Immanuel/Augsburg need to constantly make use of His Means of Grace (preaching, Baptism, Absolution, Communion) and thank Him for them. We need to frequently hear Him speak His words of forgiveness and life. We need to hear His Law and His Gospel that we might learn to trust Him more and more and live as His people. We need to hear His Holy Absolution and receive Christ’s Body and Blood as often as we can. Indeed, this is our greatest treasure!

And as we live in this Church, we are not alone. Not only are we “surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,” we have fellow members of the Body of Christ here with us. As we are not truly independent, but rather totally dependent on our loving God, we too can “mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor” as we live under His Word and protection. God grant that by His grace we would make such a pledge to each other, do everything we can for the maintenance and furtherance of Immanuel/Augsburg and the saving Gospel of Christ. And as we live under God’s grace and protection, as we enjoy the sacred honor of His holy name, let us give of ourselves and our fortunes so that His Gospel would be proclaimed, now and forever.

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Landskroener

To help you prepare for worship, here are the readings for the Sundays in June:

July 5 - The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12

Romans 7:14-25a

Matthew 11:25-30

July 12 - The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13

Romans 8:12-17

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Prayer request update** – Due to our extended time away from Church services at Augsburg. We will be starting over with our prayer list. If you have someone you would like to have on our prayer list notify Pastor or Scott. Also let us know the relationship you have with them. We will remove names from the prayer list after 4 weeks, unless we are informed otherwise.

**Lighthouse Pregnancy Center** in Vandalia will conduct their Baby Bottle Campaign from Father's Day through Labor Day (September 7). You can pick up a bottle, fill it with cash and/or a check, and return it to church by Labor Day. This is a marvelous opportunity to serve our neighbor in need and support the unborn and their mothers.

**St. Peter Lutheran School, St. Peter, IL is seeking a teacher** for the 2020-2021 school year. St. Peter Lutheran School provides children a Christian atmosphere where they become highly successful life-long learners. Interested candidates must hold a bachelor's degree with a current state teaching certificate, be able to integrate technology into the daily curriculum, have a passion for working with children, and reflect the school's mission and Christian values. Concordia University system trained candidates or willing to commit to completing the Lutheran Teacher Colloquy are preferred, but not required. If you have a desire to be a part of a ministry that works beautifully with the church, has supportive pastor, congregational members, and school families, please contact Mr. Mann at [bmenn.spls@gmail.com](mailto:bmenn.spls@gmail.com) or call 618-349-8888 for more information.

**Bulletins are printed on Wednesday evenings.** Contact me if you would like to have something placed in the bulletin. You can send emails to [Storbeck@augsburchurch.com](mailto:Storbeck@augsburchurch.com) or Church email [augsburchurch.com](mailto:augsburchurch.com) call @ 349-6152, call or text 367-3355, hand me a note. Must receive bulletin note by 4:00 pm Wednesday afternoon to make in the bulletin for Sunday morning. Thank you.

**Email Update:** My home email [Storbeck@augsburchurch.com](mailto:Storbeck@augsburchurch.com) & Church email [augsburchurch.com](mailto:augsburchurch.com) are working again. Any emails sent during the outage are lost. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

**Augsburg is collecting Christian materials**, bibles, Portals of Prayer, Sunday School and VBS materials, Lutheran Witness, books, etc., to be given to the mission in Butler to distribute worldwide. Please put them on the table in the middle of the basement.

**Trimming Stamps for Mites** -- Trim each stamp leaving paper measuring 1/8 of an inch or less around the stamp. Be careful not to trim too close to the stamp. No corners or edges should be cut. The stamps must be 100% complete. If there is a group of stamps trim around the whole group.

**Council Meeting** is July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall

**Voters Meeting** is July 19<sup>th</sup> immediately following the service

**Church office is looking for help** in maintaining accurate records for Augsburg. Have you moved since our last directory or had a change in marital status? Have you noticed a birthday or anniversary that is incorrect or missing? Please notify Scott Torbeck to get our Church records updated.

**Do you have a cell phone?** Do you text? Do you have a home phone? Some do some don't. How do you want to be contacted by the Church? The Church would like to contact you via text with any info, updates or closings. To receive a text message, you will need to give us your cell number. Normal text fees will apply. Please provide info to Scott with a note or email [storbeck@augsburchurch.com](mailto:storbeck@augsburchurch.com) or text 618-367-3355

# Augsburg Church

# July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Voter's Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>23</b> 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 (B) Adrianna Sasse	3 (B) Bob Crippen	4 (B) Jami Berry (B) Jerry Schukar
5	6	7	8 (B) Doug Stein (B) Haele' Ruble	9	10 (B) Logan Smith	11
12 (B) Hunter Sasse (B) Lila Knecht (B) Rhonda McCaslin	13	14	15 (B) Kevin Schaal	16 (B) Mark Meadows	17 (A) Michael & Tammy Sasse 04	18
19	20 (A) Brad & Sherry Courson 02	21	22 (B) Amanda Walk	23 (B) Colleen Wefer (B) Lisette Ehrt	24 (B) Fran Collier	25 (B) Fran Cole (B) Nancy Schaal
26	27 (A) Brad & Patricia Grandt 84	28 (A) Michael & Diana Bauer 73	29	30	31 (B) Lisa Wasmuth (B) Ruth Ann Moyer	