


July 2025 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk . . . 

July 4th brings Fireworks, Red, White and Blue, Apple Pie and the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest (it's almost become a ritualistic right in our home – we have to see the Contest) and a remembrance of the Declaration of Independence. Few realize that in Lutheranism, July 4th is another important date in it's great church history. In fact, 479 years ago (230 years before the Declaration of Independence was even signed), the Pope openly declared the Bull of July 4, 1546. It read:

"From the beginning of our Papacy it has always been our concern how to root out the weeds of godless doctrines which the heretics have sowed throughout Germany ... Now it has come to pass that, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, our dearest son in Christ, Charles, the Roman Emperor, has decided to employ the sword against these enemies of God. And for the protection of religion we intend to promote this pious enterprise with all our own and the Roman Church's possessions. Accordingly, we admonish all Christians to assist in this war with their prayers to God and their alms, in order that the godless heresy may be rooted out and the dissension removed ... To each and all who do these things we grant the most complete indulgence and remission of all their sins."

It is safe to say and without a doubt that we Americans are truly blessed. It is truly wonderful that we live in a free nation that has been so blessed by God that we are often and still the envy of the world. In these dark days of universal poverty of the Third world nations we are the watched, we are dreamed about, even desired by people. If need be people from all over the world flock to our nation and they believe it is worth endangering their lives on the land, over the seas or through the air, just so they can get to our shores. At all cost the world looks to our lands, leadership, and Government and the basic concepts of freedom to emulate in hopes of a better future for their countries.

But with such blessings comes great responsibilities also. As the "bread basket" of the world we should be feeding the masses. As a Medical fore-front we should be assisting the world with basic Medical necessities. As the wealthiest nation we should be sharing the blessings with the impoverished. . And as "Christian" we should be teaching the world of Christ. America is still the hope of the whole world no matter what people think.

Yet, with all these blessings, greater still, is how God has preserved for us the true teachings of the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments even in the darkest of Medieval Times. Through those who have gone before us, our forefathers of faith, we have been entrusted with the Divine truths of Holy Scripture even when the "false church/papacy" would rise up against us to extinguish our voices.

Our task as Christians is to speak the Word of God clearly with the proper distinction of Law and Gospel to a people who are literally "dying" to hear the Truth and that God has sent a Savior in His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This day we have three reasons to thank the Lord:

1. for our nation;
2. for those who have gone before us and stood firm in the faith even when facing death and the threats of extermination from those who are in the church and;
3. that God would use us as His servants to bring to this sin-sick world the Message of His Dying Son Who was Raised from the dead to pay the wages for our sin. Thanks be to God.

We pray:

Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your Generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, † our Lord.

Heavenly Father, God of all Grace, Govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your Goodness in this life. Keep us ever thankful for the Saints who have gone before us who have kept Your Word in Truth and Purity that we may know the Salvation of our souls until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your Heavenly Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, † our Lord.

Lord God, Bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a Word of Power and Peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving Faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, † our Lord.

Thank you, Lord.

Your brother and under-shepherd of Christ,
Pastor De Young