



July 2025

### *From the Pastor's Desk*

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . . For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." [Gal. 5:1,13]

I was discussing our freedom as Americans with a young man the other day. He was of the opinion that we are in many ways slaves - to government, to employers, to the criminals, to other countries. It is interesting how people can have such disparate perceptions and perspectives. No one is absolutely free! Even God is bound by the nature of His character, His love, His promises. In terms of personal freedoms and liberty, it would be hard to find another time or place where common people have the kinds of rights and freedoms and privileges that every American has under our Constitution and laws.

All of this begins with the British people, their history of developing checks and balances and insisting upon personal liberties. How all of this occurred is in many respects a mysterious miracle, not at all likely, and something that didn't develop similarly in any other nation in the world. All concepts of personal freedom and liberty come from the development of these concepts in Great Britain. They also almost singularly forced the world to cease and desist the practice of slave trading and slave owning. It was Christians in Great Britain, Puritans first and then Anglicans, who ceaselessly pressed this morality on their own country, which was the largest slave trading and slave owning nation in the world.

Many people from the British empire came to America and helped build the country to what it is today. A lot of the original immigrants were quite poor and backward, and quite prone to vendetta and violence. Nonetheless, Americans also shared in "miracles" as our nation came together. First, that such a small population could thwart the will of the greatest Empire in world history, and win independence. Second, that we had enough intellectuals to craft a Constitution and Bill of Rights to guarantee us the freedoms we enjoy. Of course, those freedoms have had to be defended on many occasions, and our citizens have always had the courage and fortitude to defeat all enemies.

Our freedoms are very much based on the freedoms God has given us in Christ. The greatest freedom we have in Christ is from our sin, guilt, and condemnation, freedom to have fellowship with God and eternal life in heaven. We also have the freedom to turn away from the ways of the sinful flesh, and to serve one another in love. For the most part these freedoms have also been safeguarded to us by our Constitution and laws in America. If these Constitutional freedoms ever erode, it will also impact our Christian freedom, which in turn will further erode our concepts of personal rights and liberty. Much is at stake in what we hear and see going on around us in our nation. Vigilance is required, and much prayer, and a willingness to fight for the blessings God has given us in America.

It is good to be eager for improvement where necessary, but also important to be respectful and grateful for the huge blessedness we already enjoy. May we give thanks and praise to God as we celebrate our independence from England this month, but let us ever remember that we can never retain such blessedness if we choose to be independent from God.

Blessings . . . Pastor Rhode

## Those Who Serve for July

### **Elders:**

July 06 – Jim Paddock

July 20 – Mark Vasel

### **Readers:**

July 06 – Jim Paddock

July 13 – Henry Rische

July 20 – Mark Vasel

July 27 – Rik Forschmiedt

### **Ushers:**

Mark & Judy Vasel (Jerry Henderson will usher for Mark on the 27<sup>th</sup>)

### **Greeters:**

Mark & Judy Vasel

**SOS Organist:** - July 20 – LoAnne Forschmiedt

**Zoom:** Angeline Kenzie

### **Audio Visual System:**

July 06– Dave McAfee

July 13 – Ed Nelson

July 20 – Jim Paddock

July 27 – Mark Vasel



**Hospitality Meeting:** Wednesday, July 2, at 9:30am.

**Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, July 2, at 1:00 pm.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST TUESDAY, July 1, at 9:00 am at the Big Horn Restaurant.**

**Men's Barbeque and Movie Night:** The men of the congregation: We are initiating a "men's barbecue and movie night" on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:00. Our first movie will be "Seven Days In Eutopia." Please plan on joining us, and let Pastor know if you are coming so that we can plan for amounts of food!



### **Congregational Picnic Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>!**

The church picnic will be after worship. We will be barbecuing hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs. We ask everyone to please bring a side dish, or dessert. We'll have a great time!

**Council Meeting:** Wednesday, July 16, at 6 pm.

**Evangel Class Thursday, August 14, 6:00 pm.**



**Thanks to everyone for your thoughts and prayers.** GOD answers prayers. I look at my total knee replacement surgery as a miracle. God directed the surgeons, physician assistants, nurses, recovery nurses and physical therapist to perform this miracle. My leg is straight, very little pain and now learning to walk upright again. My daughter has been a blessing being my nurse the last two weeks. I still have 8 more weeks of physical therapy, but each day is better. Thanks to all your prayers it is going great.

God's peace be within you.

Jerry Henderson



Jim Paddock found this little visitor by the church's front door on a Friday when he was trying to finish the mowing. He had to move to the other side of the church to mow while hopefully waiting for Mom to pick him up soon so he could finish mowing.

Thank you Jim for the picture.



Mt. Calvary's  
new grill for our  
summer and fall enjoyment.







## *Birthdays*

2	
3	Bob Copper
5	
6	Anne Goetz
9	
13	
16	Dean Pedersen
22	Marian Rische
27	Jan Bridge
28	Joanie Jurmu

## *Anniversaries*

Gary & Vicki Bien (54)
Michael & Sheri Williams (50)
Rik & LoAnne Forschmiedt (42)
David & Jane McAfee (34)



*(If we missed your special day, please let the office know.)*

## *June Birthdays and Anniversaries*



*Jim Baranovic & Rylee Nelson-Koob*



*Henry & Marian Rische*



## Lutheran Women's Missionary League Updates:

**Advent Tea Money Paid:** On Thursday, June 12, the LWML Board met and discussed mission funding to be sent to designated charities. Thank you for supporting this important event on Saturday, December 7, 2024 by purchasing kraut burgers, baked goodies, holiday items and lunch that day.

**Movie Night - July 10:** The men are hosting a movie night at the church on Thursday, July 10, at 5:00 pm. See further details at another part of this newsletter. Come and Enjoy!!!

**Church Picnic - Sunday, July 13:** The Hospitality Committee is providing the meat and buns. The other foods are potluck by our members. Get out those recipes for potato salads and other salads or relishes, fresh fruit and yummy desserts. This event is after the morning church service.

**Ice Cream Social:** The date is Saturday, August 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 at the church so mark your calendar. We will have those talented Ramblers Jazz Band. Check the signup sheet to see where you can help with ice cream toppings.

**Saying Goodbye to Members:** We are so saddened to hear of the moving of several couples here at Mt Calvary due to health reasons. They are David & Mary Whitman and Jim & Sandy Zingelmann. You will be missed so much.

### Mite Project

#### Upheld by God's Hand, Mental Health Outreach -- LCMS Life Ministry \$96,500

Millions of people in the United States are suffering with mental illness and disorders. There is a tremendous need and opportunity for Lutheran outreach to help these people and their family members cope with mental illnesses. Research validates that people seeking help for mental disorders might be more likely to consult a pastor than a clinical therapist or psychologist. Pastors, church workers, and lay leaders must be prepared to address the mental health and illness issues that members of the congregation and those outside the church may bring to them. The LCMS Task Force for Mental Illness, Health, and Wellness is coordinating with LCMS Life Ministry to develop and publish materials and resources to provide training for church workers and lay leaders related to mental health outreach and spiritual care. This grant will support the development of these materials.

*Cheryl Schutz (586-4714) Pres. of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Women's Missionary League*



<div> <div>July</div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Men's Bible Study Breakfast 9:00 am.	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Prayer Quilters Hospitality 9:30 am. Elder's Meeting 1:00 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 am Divine Service Holy Communion & via Zoom Meetings 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Prayer Quilters	<b>10</b> Men's Barbeque & Movie Night. 5:00 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00 am Divine Service & via Zoom Meetings 10:30 am Bible Study <b>Congregational            Potluck Picnic</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Prayer Quilters  Council Meeting 6:00 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00 am Divine Service Holy Communion & via Zoom Meetings 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> St. Mary Magdalene	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Prayer Quilters	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> St. James the Elder, Apostle	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 am Divine Service & via Zoom Meetings 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Info for newsletter due	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Prayer Quilters	<b>31</b>		

Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20

**2025**