

## *Pastors Note 2008*

Greetings in Christ and Happy Birthday United States of America! Our country marked her birth on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1776 with a declaration of independence, and as I pondered that, I wondered what a similar document might look like if it were to come from our church as a proclamation to our community of who we are, and what we are all about. What follows is the result of that pondering. This is our....

### *Declaration of Dependence*

*IN THE CHURCH, JULY 4, 2008*

*The unanimous Declaration of the Congregation of God's Church*

*In the Course of Divine events it became necessary for God to dissolve His connection with sinful man, because this sinful nature was so offensive to His just and holy nature. It is not possible for man to earn a separate and equal station to which the Laws of God entitle those who keep them. A decent respect to the truths of God requires that we should declare the causes which impel us to cling in faith to the promises of God.*

*We hold these truths to be divinely revealed, that all men inherit from Adam their sinful nature, that they are blessed by their Creator with a certain assurance of salvation through Christ, this is affirmed by God in His sacramental gifts of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confession & Absolution.*

*— To secure these Gifts, God bled, died and resurrected in the person of Jesus Christ in order that all men would have available to them atonement, allowing them through faith access to the just and Loving God. —*

*Because of these truths we the people of God declare our dependence on Him and as such enumerate the following truths revealed by Him. We Believe and teach in accordance with His word that "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness," (2 Tim 3:16).*

*His word is the rule and norm for all we say and do as His church.*

*Through His word;*

*He reveals himself to be one God triune in nature consisting of;*

*God the Father, Creator of the universe and all that is in it,*

*God the Son born, of a virgin, suffered, died and*

*resurrected for all; (2 Cor 5:15) and*

*God the Holy Spirit praying for us and planting faith in contrite hearts.*

*He is perfect and holy, and His law reveals His perfect and just nature*

*We are sinful at birth as descendants of Adam.*

*"for all have sinned and fall short" (Rm 3:23)*

*He washes us clean in Holy Baptism;*

*"the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit," (Tit 3:5)*

*He commissions us all to spread His gospel*

*"go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19)*

*He defines His church as the body of Christ, “*

*Now you are the body of Christ,” (1 Cor 12:27)*

*He gives forgiveness in the Lords Supper that he instituted by Christ as His true Body and Blood. in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine, for Christians to eat and drink. Jesus said this in*

*Matthew 26, Mark 14 Luke 22, and in I Corinthians 11, with the words “this is My Body,” “this is My Blood,” “Given and shed for you.”*

*But in a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the service of self, man has a design to reduce Gods word to absolute Despotism. Because of this it is the privilege and duty of His church to throw off such Human reason which is insufficient to understand God and to adequately describe His glorious mysteries. Therefore, the church “His Body” must provide in accord with His will the visible means for the benefit of mans eternal security.*

*Such mysteries are treasured and protected by His holy church in spite of the resistance, consternation, and out right rebellion of the world that surrounds it. To wit: the account of His miraculous creation of all that exist in 6/24-hour days, Miraculous Plagues, taming of the elements, provision for his people, healing of the sick, the gifts of order, abundance, and well-defined roles for all mankind at all stations of life. These gifts are unquestionable, but man continues to rebel against what God so freely gives.*

*– 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.*

*Happy Independence Day!*

*In Christ*

*Pastor Portier*