

# Messenger

*“So If the Son makes you free you will free indeed.” [John 8:35b]*

This coming month we will be celebrating the 244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was, as you may recall, the time in our nation’s history when we said to Great Britain, “We’ve had enough of your oppression of us. We are free people and we will be free from you and your yoke of governance.” This is a day that we *should* remember, and to continually remind ourselves, that the freedoms that we have under the law in this country were gained by the sacrifices of many. (As a side note, it is sad to see the commercialization of this holiday {holy day}. However, that is a topic for a different discussion).

But what is “Freedom”? Webster’s defines it this way: *“the quality or state of being free: as a) the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action: b) liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another: c) the quality or state of being exempt or released usually from something onerous.”*



TRADITIONAL  
WORSHIP AT ST  
JOHN HAS RE-  
SUMED!!

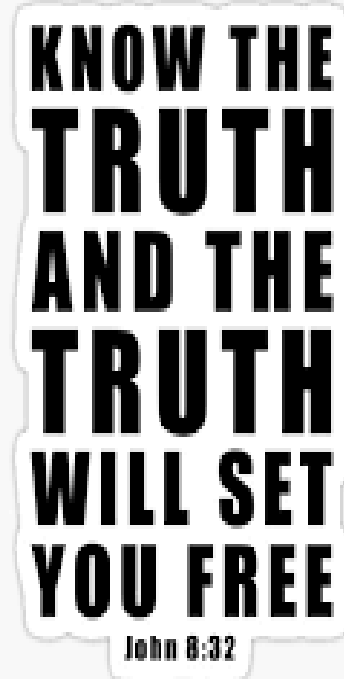
THE LIVE  
STREAM WILL  
CONTINUE.

PLEASE WOR-  
SHIP WITH US  
HOWEVER YOU  
ARE ABLE

ALL ARE  
WELCOME!!

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However, there is freedom and then there is freedom. We as Americans pride ourselves on the freedoms we have: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to bear arms, freedom against unlawful search and seizure or to incriminate ourselves in the face of the authorities. Yet surrounded by our burglar alarms, medicine cabinets, and our fears – of heart attacks, impotency, insanity, insolvency, are we truly free? We have built a society that has given an unprecedented measure of freedom to its citizens. I am given the maximum space to aggressively pursue what I want – as long as I do not bump into you while you are getting yours. We have freedom of choice, but now what do we do with it? We are free but also terribly lonely, terribly driven. The need to constantly insure our businesses succeed, the monthly mortgage or equipment payments, the push to have our children do well at any cost, the dog-eat-dog contests for grades at all levels of education– is this really freedom?



Or do we have a different kind of freedom? One that isn't dependent on what what others may think of us? I would

we own, on what our current health is, or on submit that the answer is **yes!** Like the freedom we will celebrate on the 4<sup>th</sup>, this freedom also came through the sacrifice, not of many, but of one. Our freedom comes from God's Son. In our faith, trust, and belief in Him, we are free from (as Luther would say) sin, death, and the devil. We are free from that which holds us back from being who God would truly want us to be. We are free to be loved and to love, with no preconditions. As we remember and celebrate the birth of our nation and the freedoms that were gained in that birth, let us also remember, and celebrate the greater freedom we have been given through the crucified and risen one, Jesus.

Pr Bob

#### ACOLYTE/READER SCHEDULE

DATE	ACOLYTE	READER
July 5	Charles	Bently
July 12	Bently	Charles
July 19	Kharson	Nancy
July 26	Tegan	Tyce

## WHAT IS ORDINARY TIME?

The Season After Pentecost is essentially the part of the year that is left over after everything has been accounted for. The name of this season varies widely from church to church—it can be called Kingdومتide, Dominionتide, or Ordinary Time. In most churches, the general theme of the Bible readings and sermons concerns the church’s mission in the world.

The Season After Pentecost begins on 1 June 2020, the day after [Pentecost](#). In the western Church, it ends on 28 November 2020, the day before the First Sunday of Advent. The main holy days during this season are as follows:

- **Trinity Sunday** (7 June 2020) is the Sunday after Pentecost, the celebration of the Holy Trinity.
- **The Transfiguration**. In many churches, 6 August is the commemoration of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ on Mount Tabor. The Revised Common Lectionary moved it to the Last Sunday After the Epiphany.
- **Holy Cross Day** (14 September of every year) is originally commemorated the alleged discovery of the true cross in Palestine in the fourth century. In Lutheran churches, it is the occasion for preaching on the theology of the cross.
- **Reformation Day** (31 October of every year) is the day on which Martin Luther posted 95 theses on a church door, an act that led to the Reformation. Don’t imagine him angrily vandalizing the church door by forcefully nailing his theses to it as onlookers gasped. Instead, imagine him humming to himself as he casually tacks up his invitation on the church door as passers-by hardly give him a second glance. After all, they couldn’t read it because it was in Latin. It was customary for a scholar to set up a debate and invite the others by nailing an announcement in Latin on the thick wooden church door. This much was routine. On this occasion, however, someone took the debate topics down from the church door, translated them from Latin into German, and distributed them among the general public. What Luther intended to be a debate among scholars turned first into a public debate and then into the Reformation.
- **All Saints’ Day** (1 November of every year) is the Christian Memorial Day on which all who died for their testimony of Jesus are remembered. Many American churches use All Saints’ Day as an educational, Christian alternative to the secular Halloween, by having a party and a special service for children, who dress in costumes to represent heroes of the Christian faith. The practice of having a harvest festival to avoid the secular Halloween is ironic, since that puts us right back into the pagan things we were trying to avoid. The word *Halloween* itself is a contraction of *All hallows’ evening*, which is the original English-language Christian term for All Saints’ Eve. (Hallow is an old word for holy and saint.)

**Christ the King Sunday** (28 November 2020) celebrates Jesus, the King of the universe, who rules over all things to our ultimate benefit.

## A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

*Dear God,*

*As we face these uncertain times in our nation and the world, we ask you, Lord, to dwell among us. We are comforted by the knowledge that You alone are our Savior and Lord, and the ultimate Master of life.*

*We trust our nation to Your loving care, Lord. Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it. Give us Your light and Your truth to guide us in our ways so that we may seek Your will in our lives and impact the world around us for Your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN*



## JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS

### 7/5 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

OT – Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:1-14

NT – Romans 7:14-25a

Gospel – Matthew 11:25-30

### 7/19 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

OT – Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 119:57-64

NT – Romans 8:18-27

Gospel – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### 7/12 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

OT – Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13

NT – Romans 8:12-17

Gospel – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### 7/26 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

OT – Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Psalm 125

NT – Romans 8:28-39

Gospel – Matthew 13:44-52

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July

July 4th commemorates the day in 1776 that our nation declared itself to be an independent nation, and no longer a colony of England. On that date, a number of our leading citizens signed what is known as the Declaration of Independence, stating our determination to become a free country.

Our independence did not come easily; only after several difficult years of war would it finally be won. Nor were our first years as a nation free from problems and controversies (as is still true). But our forefathers were determined to establish a free and democratic system of government, and the Declaration of Independence (together with our Constitution and the Bill of Rights) became the foundation for this. They have stood the test of time, and on July 4th we give thanks for the wisdom and faith and courage of those leaders.

Although it is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10, KJV). Our legal system reflects our Judeo-Christian roots.

While we look with gratitude to the past on this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

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*Please call or text prayer requests to Pastor Bob @ 1 (360) 355 2144*

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### PRAYER CONCERNS

*Ken Neusendorfer*

*Michelle Gaddis*

*Jo Nixon*

*Loren and Mary Jane Zabel*

*Dean and Dorothy Seems*

*Sharol Meyer*

*Roger & Laverna Yarnell*

*Milton Meyer*

*Dale Gemeahlich*

*Joanne Armann*

*Rayna Massey*

*Larry Gibson*

*TyLynn Blank.*

*Kelly Burgess*

*Marlene Wolf*

*Blaine Mapes*

*Devin Schockly*

*Darryl Vohs*

*Dennis Schmidt*

*Our country and it's leaders*

*Pr Dave Sarver*

*Virgil Henry*

*Myra Kirchhoff*

*Milford Kirchhoff*

*Dorothy Wire*

*Dashawn Eller*

*Andy Lambert*

*Hayden Lehmann*

*Fern Stinely*

## BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Julie Kirchhoff  
11 Samantha Voorhees  
14 Bently Montgomery  
15 Brittany Kirchhoff  
20 John Zabel  
26 Randy Meyer  
26 Maryanne Kirchhoff  
27 Ray Montgomery  
30 Pam Timmons  
31 Tyce McKenzie  
31 Tom Boxum

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Mr & Mrs Randy Allen  
17 Mr & Mrs Lovelle Kirchhoff  
30 Mr & Mrs Tony Blickenstaff

## BAPTISMS

- 13 Pam Timmons  
31 Tegan McKenzie

## SAVE THE DATE

### FAIR CHURCH

July 19th @ the Smith  
County Fairgrounds

Details to be announced

NO SERVICE AT ST JOHN

We still need help with the lunch bunch on Wednesdays in July and August. Contact Sherri F to sign up.



## GRIEF SHARE RESUMING

July 26th @ 2:30 pm  
St John Lutheran Kensington  
(the north church)

*Watch [www.stjohnlutheranathol.com](http://www.stjohnlutheranathol.com) and Facebook for updates to the schedule of events.*

# St John Calendar of Events

< > July 2020

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 1	Thu 2	Fri 3	Sat 4
9:30 AM WORSHIP with Holy Communion		9:30 AM St. John Coffee Group at Paul's Cafe	12 PM Bulletin Deadline	7 PM Christianity 101		Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 AM WORSHIP	6:30 AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast 9:30 AM St. John Coffee Group at Paul's Cafe	6:30 AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast 9:30 AM St. John Coffee Group at Paul's Cafe	12 PM Bulletin Deadline	7 PM Christianity 101		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
7 AM WORSHIP with Holy Communion		9:30 AM St. John Coffee Group at Paul's Cafe	12 PM Bulletin Deadline	7 PM Christianity 101		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
7 AM WORSHIP at Smith County Fair	7 PM Evening Circle	9:30 AM St. John Coffee Group at Paul's Cafe 10 AM Morning Circle	12 PM Bulletin Deadline	7 PM Christianity 101		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
7 AM WORSHIP with Holy Communion		9:30 AM St. John Coffee Group at Paul's Cafe	12 PM Bulletin Deadline	7 PM Christianity 101		

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor—Robert Sinclair.....1(360) 355-2144.....[rsinclair001@luthersem.edu](mailto:rsinclair001@luthersem.edu)

### Council Members

Glenn Timmons

Gary Frieling

Nancy Horning

Mike Kirchhoff

Vicki Hutchison

Garen Kuhlmann

Secretary—Tayln & Penny McKenzie .....1(785)282-0216.....[penny.mckenzie@yahoo.com](mailto:penny.mckenzie@yahoo.com)



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