



# the Trinity Trumpet

July 2024

---

The Parish Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church; Danville, Illinois

---

A few years ago, at the church picnic, Harry Hoagland stood up in the Laury Barn out at Kennekuk Park and read *The Declaration of Independence* to all who were gathered there. The whole thing.

I'm sure some people were frustrated with him for doing that. Granted, it does take a long time to read *The Declaration*—even longer than the Athanasian Creed! And, admittedly, it is hard to listen to someone reading for a long period of time.

So why did Harry do that? He did it because he knew how important those words are, not were, ARE. He knew that *The Declaration* was not only a necessary defense for the rebellion and revolution out of which our country was born, but also the necessary foundation upon which our country continues to stand.

Some of the most familiar and cherished words of *The Declaration* are these:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men...*

These truths are "self-evident." That means that they are part of the natural knowledge that God has written into our hearts, knowledge that God has programmed into every human person He has created. They are truths that we just know.

It is "self-evident" THAT our Creator has given us, endowed us, with certain unalienable rights—rights that cannot be taken away from us, rights that cannot be given away by us. It

is "self-evident" THAT to secure these rights, governments are instituted by God.

You can imagine how disappointed I was then when I read these words in an article published in the April 2024 issue of *The Lutheran Witness* addressing questions of individual rights. The article states:

*First, recognize the distinction between man-made rights as granted by the Constitution and between rights as given by the Word of God.*

Apparently the truths penned in *The Declaration* are not self-evident to everyone. According to *The Declaration*, our rights, including those spelled out in the Bill of Rights, are not "man-made," they are given to us by God. In the Bill of Rights our basic individual rights were enumerated (numbered) by our founding Fathers, not created or established by them.

Furthermore, *The Declaration* states that governments are instituted, not to GIVE us rights, but to SECURE the rights that have been given to us by God. If the government gives us our rights then they are not unalienable but can be taken away from us by the same government that gave them to us.

As you celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, you celebrate more than a document declaring our independence from England. You celebrate more than a nation established to be a place where people can live freely. You celebrate a God, the Triune God, who has given us unalienable rights, rights that are rooted in and supported by His Word.

So, celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Exercise your rights! Pray for our nation! And, if you have a second, read the Declaration of Independence, like Harry did.

**A VOICE FROM THE PAST**

Samuel Adams, The Father of the American Revolution, is quoted as having said this:

*I rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ for the pardon of all my sins.*

**IN THE WORD: BIBLE STUDY AT TRINITY**

<b><i>Class</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Date/Time</i></b>	<b><i>Topic</i></b>
-Cafeteria Class	Cafeteria	Sunday, 8:30 a.m.	Gospel of Mark
-Thursday Morning Class	Cafeteria	Thursday, 9:30 a.m.	Book of Romans

**OFFICIAL ACTS FOR JUNE**

Baptisms: Estrella Ann-Marie Yocius, 6/8

Funerals: Mary Francis Meyer, 6/10  
Terrence Allan Mitchell, 6/29

Marriages: Edward Wells & Maghen Hale, 6/1

Transfers Out: Robert & Debbie Okerlund, to Trinity, Urbana, 6/4

Calls: 28 (12 HC) thru 6/26

**BULLETS FROM BOPE (Board of Parish Education)**

- Offerings for unbudgeted mission projects in June totaled \$40.00. Thank you kindly.
- Now is the perfect time to begin attending the Cafeteria Class on Sundays. We will read and discuss our way through the Gospel of St. Mark. Come and here the eyewitness testimony of the words and works of our dear Savior, Jesus.
- Sunday school continues throughout the summer! Parents, bring your children to church and Sunday school, bring them up in the fear and instruction of the Lord, bring them to Jesus!

**SCHOOL MUSINGS**

-Please tell your family members, friends, and neighbors who have school-aged children or grandchildren about Trinity Lutheran School. We are here to fill our students' minds with useful information and their ears and hearts with Jesus' words of eternal life.

**MIDWEEK DIVINE SERVICE**

The Midweek Divine Service for Wednesday, July 3, has been cancelled. However, we will meet in the chapel area on Wednesdays, July 17 and 31, for Divine Services.

**TRINITY'S MISSION STATEMENT:** The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Church is to proclaim Jesus Christ to our members, our community, our world, and to the next generation.

**THE VALUES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE:** Strong Biblical preaching and teaching; our Lutheran heritage; fellowship in faith and love toward one another; bringing Christ's mercy in Word and deed to the community; and our Lutheran day school.

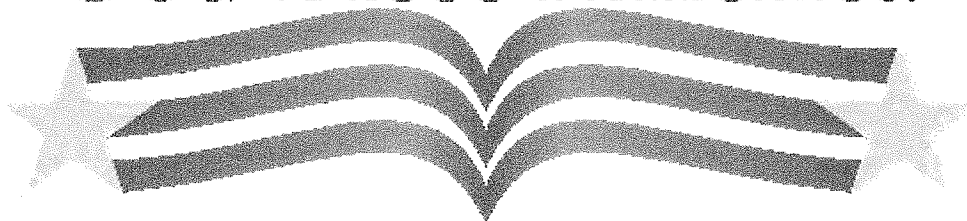
**TUNE INTO THE RADIO BROADCAST EVERY SUNDAY** on WITY, 980 AM or 99.5 FM and listen to The Lutheran Hour at 10:00 a.m. and Trinity's church service at 10:30 a.m. You may also listen to Trinity's service again at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday evening.

**WORSHIP ANEW** celebrates the new life all believers have in Jesus with a 30-minute broadcast service. Christ's love is shared through weekly Scripture readings, favorite hymns, prayers, and a pastor's message that reveals God's grace and truth. View every program at [www.WorshipAnew.org](http://www.WorshipAnew.org) or tune in Sunday mornings on channel 49 WCIX Springfield at 7:30 a.m., channel 50 CW at 8:00 a.m., or channel 2 WTWO Terre Haute at 8:00 a.m. Eastern time.

**PRAY FOR THESE TRINITY MEMBERS:** Micah Schnepel & children, Bailey & Tucker; Joel Schnepel; Sean & Chris Schroder & children, Emily, Molly, Anthony, & Dax; David Schroeder; Zachary Scott; John Sherman; Kathleen Sherman & children, Morgan & David; Rob Shumaker; Tom & Linda Shumaker; Addison Smart; Clark Smart; Maxeen Smart; Rodney Smart; Kristin Smigielski & children, Adam, Jacob, & Sara; Morgan Spiering; Tim Spiering & daughter, Lexi; David Sprouls Jr. & son, David III; David Sprouls Sr.; Shannon Sprouls & son, Mateo; Ruby Stacy; Darin Stack; Kelli Stack & children, Kaitlyn & Dawson; Billie Sue Steenbergen; Lucia Stegemeyer & son, Andy; Jane Stitt & children, Rickey & Katie; Brenda Stockdale; Linda Stuebe; Ina Stuebe; Robert Stuebe; Cindy Swider; Tricia Taylor & children, Austin & Brittany

**BETHANY BARKS** Team Bethany makes visits to many nursing homes. The visits consist of an initial greeting/petting of the dog, but always includes at least a short conversation about how the resident is doing. Many times, they engage us in a story about the dog(s) they had or maybe unresolved things in their life. Our job is to be good listeners and offer words of comfort when possible. This presents an opportunity to offer to pray with the individual to ask God for strength and guidance. Notice that Bethany is no longer the focus of the visit; the individual is the focus. This is the true reason for the Comfort Dog Ministry; to help our neighbor who is suffering and in need. If you want to be part of this wonderful ministry, contact Mike Klepp.

# God Bless America





**SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE IN APRIL:**

Altar Guild: Don & Sue Barr and Besty Perkins

Sound Schedule:

July 7 - Laura Hutchison  
July 14 - Dave Tobeck  
July 21 - Teresa Parish  
July 28 - Chris Kienast

Usher Captains:

July 7 - Dave Tobeck/Doug Hubner  
July 14 - Cliff Peak/Terry Mourer  
July 21 - Brian Parke (Mike Klepp)  
July 28 - Adam Muehl/Alex Muehl

Communion Assistants

July 7 - John Thompson & Brad Pollert  
July 14 - Terry Mourer & Brian Parke  
July 21 - Mark Hamm & Cliff Peak  
July 28 - Mark Gale & Mike Westfall

**THE DEADLINE** for submissions for the August newsletter is Friday, July 26, 3:30 p.m.

**SUMMER HOURS** continue for the church and school offices. The church office will be open from 8:00 am to 12:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. The school office will be open 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday. If you are coming to the church or school after 12:00 p.m. you will need to call and see if someone is in the office.

**LWML-EUNICE NEWS (information for ALL women in the congregation)**

Eunice Society - Laura Berry will host the Eunice picnic at her home on Thursday, July 11 at 12:00 P.M. Guests are invited. A signup sheet is posted on the parish hall bulletin board or email [jkmymers1972@yahoo.com](mailto:jkmymers1972@yahoo.com) if you plan to come. Meat, drinks and table service will be provided. Eunice members are asked to bring a small side dish or dessert. Meet at the church by 11:30 a.m. SHARP if you want to carpool or just follow the pack. No business will be conducted.

**Mites -**

The July Prayer Calendar is included in this mailing. Mites are collected the first Sunday of each month at either entrance, then sent to LWML-Central Illinois District for distribution to the various mission grants, both for our District as well as for National. For more information, view these websites - [www.lwml-cid.org](http://www.lwml-cid.org) or [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)

# JULY

---

*This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings.*

*Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from Lutheran Women in Mission at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!*



1. For LWML Mission Grant #16.
2. For God to bless our national LWML and LCMS leaders.
3. For the country of Lebanon.
4. For the opportunity to serve angels in disguise (Hebrews 13:2).
5. For the willingness to *Serve the Lord with gladness!* (Psalm 100:1-2).
6. For the Lutheran Women in Mission Public Relations Director.
7. For Mexico, one of the 83 countries support by an LWML grant.
8. For the LWML Pacific Southwest and the California-Hawaii-Nevada Districts.
9. For neighbors. Ask God to bless them through you.
10. For those who need healing.
11. For the country of Liberia.
12. For wisdom to see those who are lonely and need God.
13. For mentors.
14. For our leaders to be given wisdom and discernment.
15. For Lutheran Indian Ministries.
16. For the LWML Oregon and Washington-Alaska Districts.
17. For your family, extended family, and church family.
18. For the community where you live.
19. For the country of Malaysia.
20. For friends and acquaintances who are far from God.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #17.
22. For your coworkers in mission.
23. For the country of Lithuania.
24. For the persecuted around the world.
25. For your ability to extend forgiveness.
26. For the country of North Korea.
27. For the missions of your church and your support of them.
28. For those who work in service jobs.
29. For those living with pain.
30. For those struggling with relationship challenges.
31. For those experiencing loss.

## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

Newsletter Article – July 2024

---

### *The Rewards of Godliness*

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

#### **What does God say about all these commandments?**

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:5–6)

#### **What does this mean?**

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Eph. 6:1–3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life'" (Matt. 19:28–29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.