

# The Witness

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

## *Ascension Lutheran Church*

LCMS

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**July 2021**

# The Witness

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Volume 6 No. 7

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
LCMS.com

# The Power of the Word



Just the other day, I was greeted by this sign. The artists and messengers are Adrian and younger sister, Hadley. Their parents, church, and school have taught well. It's an example of the power of the Word which overflows to others. Adrian and Hadley couldn't just keep it inside or for themselves. I was moved and encouraged.

These are days of religious confusion in our culture, nation, the world, and yes, in the church, our church. And as Jesus says, "the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12). Is that an issue for us? In too many places of the church we have an unhealthy internal focus which can wear us out or become idolatry of self or institution. Lord forgive me! Lord forgive us! Where Jesus and His Gospel is spoken, there is the "power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

If we have lost our zeal for witnessing it is not because Jesus has not lost His love for those outside His Church. I believe that every relationship ultimately will lead to a spiritual conversation of some kind. It may take a while, but people have spiritual questions and may not even know it. We do! We do not have control over what the Gospel does, but talking about the Word and work of Jesus for us sinners is never a waste. Friends, the Gospel still works!

Pastors bear witness in the public ministry. Commissioned workers have a significant witnessing role. But every laywoman and layman is on the front line of communicating the message. Yes, so are Adrian, Hadley, and their faith-filled mom and dad. Yes, it can be messy and slow, but the Word works! We speak of the reconciling work of Jesus in our congregations, schools, and homes. He takes our garbage and gives us clean conscience and confidence as we live and die. This witness to the Risen Savior spills out into our conversations inside the church in our relationships, communities, and world.

"For where Christ is not preached, there is no Holy Spirit to create, call and gather the Christian Church, apart from which no one can come to the Lord Christ." (Large Catechism of Martin Luther)

After we listen, we get to speak. We speak of what Jesus has done and is doing. I would love for the NID to be known for a passion for personal and corporate witness to the Crucified and Risen Christ!

Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss, President  
LCMS Northern Illinois District



**Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League**  
Lutheran Women  
In Mission

## Where Mites Go

**Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere**  
**\$60,000**

Since 1924, KFUE has been reaching people far and wide with the message of Jesus Christ by using the latest technology. In the last century, technology has advanced at an unprecedented rate and continues to develop with each new year. Incorporating the newest forms of communication methods into KFUE's ministry, they can more effectively reach the younger generation and the generations to come with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even our Nation's military can listen wherever they are stationed. Aging family and friends who are confined to their homes can still be gathered to the Word through an iPad or similar device. Prison Ministry also utilizes KFUE as an effective way of sharing the Gospel. This grant will assist the station in sharing the gospel and staying current in the digital age.

## Testimonies from Around the World: Kenya

Firstly, we have a mum in our church who has a teenage daughter who had developed deviant behavior and was never attending church. The mother has been trusting God for her transformation. Early this year the mother approached me to pray for her daughter who she claimed was undergoing depression and was also exhibiting suicidal traits. We prayed, then later brought her in for counseling. I also gave her one of the books that you sent, that talks about how to overcome depression. Am happy to report that **she later gave her life to Christ and she now fellowships with us.**

We so much appreciate your help and support. May the Lord open more doors. God bless you.

## HOW DID OUR FOUNDERS ENVISION INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS?



John Adams considered July 2nd to be the day when Americans actually declared their independence. He envisioned the celebration to be one filled with fun, games, and fireworks—not an occasion for displaying military strength (as one might expect). On July 3, 1776, he wrote these words to his wife Abigail, capturing the spirit of the times:

“Yesterday the greatest Question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men. A Resolution was passed without one dissenting Colony ‘that these united Colonies, are, and of right ought to be free and independent States, and as such, they have, and of Right ought to have full Power to make War, conclude Peace, establish Commerce, and to do all the other Acts and Things, which other States might rightfully do...’

*The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable Epoque, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival... It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”*

On July 18, 1777, an issue of the *Virginia Gazette* describes the July 4 celebration in Philadelphia:

“The evening was closed with the ringing of bells, and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks, which began and concluded with thirteen rockets on the commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated. Every thing was conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and the face of joy and gladness was universal.”

What's really special about America's celebration of freedom is it was quite different for its time, focusing on the joys of freedom. Many countries have emulated this spirit of celebration ever since.

# Time & Talent

## Greeters

|         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| July 4  | Judy Darville<br>Rosalie Streng  |
| July 11 | Pam Hrajnoha<br>Lois Marten      |
| July 18 | Gail Bujnowski<br>Rosalie Streng |
| July 25 | Pam Hrajnoha<br>Lois Marten      |

## Deacons/Ushers

|         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| July 4  | Jim Jenne<br>Tom Friedewald        |
| July 11 | Jim Jenne<br>Jonathan Schultz      |
| July 18 | Tom Friedewald<br>Jonathan Schultz |
| July 25 | Jim Jenne<br>Tom Friedewald        |

## Altar Guild

|      |                                 |
|------|---------------------------------|
| July | Gail Bujnowski<br>Judy Darville |
|------|---------------------------------|

## Altar Flowers

The Altar Guild and Church Council have made the decision to use silk greenery behind the altar. We have found an independent florist who is willing to provide bouquets for \$20 each, but cannot commit to every Sunday. Therefore, you can still sponsor flowers for a special event, birthday or anniversary but you must notify Lois Marten at 857/965-6255 or the church office at 847/647-9867 **TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE DATE YOU DESIRE.**

## Formula for a Strong Nation

I know three things must always be  
To keep a nation strong and free.  
One is a hearthstone bright and dear,  
With busy, happy loves ones near.

One is a ready heart and hand  
To love and serve and keep the land.  
One is a worn and beaten way  
To where the people go to pray.

So long as these are kept alive,  
Nation and people will survive.  
God, keep us always, everywhere—  
To home, the heart, the place of prayer.

—Author unknown

**HOMIE  
OF ★ THE  
FREE  
BECAUSE  
OF ★ THE  
BRAVET**



## Food for Thought

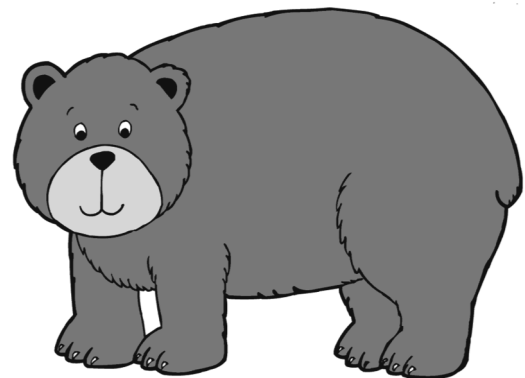
An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he exclaimed.

As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. As he turned to look, he saw a seven foot grizzly charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path but as he looked over his shoulder, he saw that the bear was closing in on him. His heart was pumping frantically as he tried to run even faster when he suddenly tripped and fell to the ground. As he rolled over to pick himself up the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him.

At that instant the atheist cried out, "Oh my God!" Time stopped and the bear froze. The forest was still as a bright light shone upon the man and a voice came out of the sky. "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist, and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer now?"

The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the bear a Christian.

"Very well," the voice responded. The light went out and the sounds of the forest resumed. The bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together and bowed his head and prayed, "Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful."



We congratulate the following members of Ascension as they celebrate their **birthdays** in July.

|         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| July 3  | Richard Schultz                    |
| July 16 | Jadon Gregorio                     |
| July 20 | Matt Giannopoulos<br>Karen Hepburn |
| July 25 | Hal Downs<br>Tom Giannopoulos      |
| June 22 | Gideon Aguilera                    |
| June 29 | Scott Darville                     |
| June 30 | Jason Romano                       |



And we congratulate the following couples as they celebrate their **wedding anniversaries** in July.

|         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| July 26 | Gary and Wendy Duszak |
|---------|-----------------------|

These are the **birthdays** and **wedding anniversaries** recorded in our church records for the coming month. If any birthday or anniversary was omitted, please notify the church office.

## 2021 ASCENSION COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>President:</b>                    | Tom Friedewald  |
| <b>Vice President:</b>               | Jim Jenne   |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                    | Sandy Friedewald  |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                    | Audrey Schultz  |
| <b>Financial Secretary:</b>          | Carolyn Jannusch  |
| <b>Board of Deacons:</b>             | Jim Jenne (Chair)<br>Hal Downs<br>Tom Friedewald<br>Jim Jenne<br>Jonathan Schultz |
| <b>Board of Christian Ministries</b> | Lois Marten (Chair)   |
| <b>Board of Trustees:</b>            | Jason Romano (Chair)  |
| <b>Board of Youth:</b>               | Sarah Lindahl (Chair)   |

\* \* \* \* \*

## OFFICIAL ACTS

None on record

Do you have an announcement to share about your family such as a birth, death, engagement, graduation, etc., **let us know! We'd love to hear from you!**

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