Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday, July 23rd
11:00am

Independence Day
Tuesday, July 4th

Commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776
A Note from Pastor Seth

At the start of this summer we began a sermon series titled *The Ultimate Pursuit of Knowing God: What is He and Who is He*. It has been my desire as your pastor to lay before you who the Bible says God is. In our culture today there is a tendency to minimize God to bring him down to a level that we can understand. The truth is that God is far greater than we could ever imagine. This past month we have seen that God is a trinity. He is one God and three equally divine persons. We learned that to believe that God is one being and three persons is not irrational, but it is a mystery. We also learned about the eternality of God. He is self-existent, self-sufficient, and outside of time. There is only one who has these attributes of independence and it is God. We are all dependent on God for our existence, but God is dependent on no one but himself. This past week we learned that God is all-knowing, all-present, and all-powerful. This means that he knows everything, is present everywhere at all times, and is unlimited in power. So far we have seen what a great God we worship!

One potential criticism of this sermon series is that this topic is not relevant enough for life and too theological. The truth is what could be more relevant than learning who God is. When we realize that God knows everything about us, is always present, has unlimited power, and outside of time he is able to go with us through every trial we face in life. He can do this because he is perfect in all of his attributes. As we learn about God, I pray that we will come to know God better. The goal is not to gather data, but rather to enter into a deeper relationship with our creator. That is why I have titled this sermon series the ultimate pursuit because there really is no greater endeavor than the pursuit of Knowing God. I look forward to continuing this journey with you. I trust and pray that as we see more of God’s greatness we will love him more and worship him with the honor and reverence that he deserves.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth
The current design of the U.S. flag is its 27th; the design of the flag has been modified officially 26 times since 1777. The 48-star flag was in effect for 47 years until the 49-star version became official on July 4, 1959. The 50-star flag was ordered by the then-president Eisenhower on August 21, 1959, and was adopted in July 1960. It is the longest-used version of the U.S. flag and has been in use for over 56 years.

What do the red, white, and blue of the flag represent?
The Continental Congress left no record to show why it chose the colors. However, in 1782, the Congress of the Confederation chose these same colors for the Great Seal of the United States and listed their meaning as follows: Red: Valor and hardiness, White: Purity and innocence, Blue: Vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

According to legend, George Washington interpreted the elements of the flag this way: the stars were taken from the sky, the red from the British colors, and the white stripes signified the secession from the home country. However, there is no official designation or meaning for the colors of the flag.

The man credited with designing the current 50 star American flag was Robert G. Heft. He was 17 years old at the time and created the flag design in 1958 as a high school class project while living with his grandparents in Ohio. He received a B− on the project. According to Heft, his history teacher honored their agreement to change his grade to an A after his design was selected.

Old Glory is a nickname for the flag of the United States. The original "Old Glory" was a flag owned by the 19th-century American sea captain William Driver, who flew the flag during his career at sea and later brought it to Nashville, Tennessee, where he settled. Driver greatly prized the flag and ensured its safety from the Confederates, who attempted to seize the flag during the American Civil War. After the war, Driver's daughter and niece feuded over which of them owned the original Old Glory. In 1922, both flags claimed to be the original "Old Glory" became part of the collection of the Smithsonian Institution, where they remain at the National Museum of American History.

On July 4, 1776, the wording of the Declaration of Independence was approved and sent to the printer for publication. The first public reading of the signed Declaration of Independence took place on July 8, 1776, in Philadelphia. Signing the Declaration of Independence was extremely dangerous - a treasonable act, punishable by death. The signers of the Declaration of Independence had various occupations: 24 were lawyers, 11 were merchants, 9 were farmers and plantation owners. The underlying belief of the Declaration of Independence is that men have God-given natural rights and that government exists to protect those rights. The premise of this doctrine came from John Locke, who believed that if the government no longer serves to protect the needs of its citizens, then those citizens have the right to alter or abolish the government. In the case of the 13 American colonies, there was growing dissatisfaction with British rule, culminating in a declaration of independence from rule by the king of England. The cornerstone of the Declaration of Independence, primarily written by Thomas Jefferson and adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, is that all men are created equal. Based on that premise, there are inalienable rights, including the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The new government is then obligated to lay a foundation on principles that are most likely to ensure safety and happiness as well as organize the government in a way that facilitates those goals. The Declaration of Independence firmly established that the colonies intended, among other things, to establish rule by representation, maintain a standing army and have trial by jury. The Declaration was signed by 56 delegates from the 13 colonies, including John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress.
A great big THANK YOU to the volunteers that helped make our VBS one of the best attended in the area. Thanks to Kyle and Abby Swanson, Jeremiah and Shailla Johnson, Gordon and Barb Trombley, Pastor Seth and Brianna Brickley, Debi Swanson, Hansi Stridde, Shaun and Rachael Anderson, Amber Lindo, Josie Johnson and Mikaylyn Arvold.
We had so much fun at 2017 VBS!
At VBS, the kids learned that GOD is their refuge and strength. They learned Bible stories that showed them how God will not fail. We talked about how the walls fell down at Jericho and how God’s Word reformed King Josiah. We also spent much of the week discussing how Jesus died for us! He wins the VICTORY!! The kitchen ladies did a wonderful job setting the royal table for supper every night. The children also had Bible activities, story time, crafts and activities outside. On the last night of the week, parents were invited to hear the children sing and enjoy some pie. Thank you to those that helped by bringing a pie and greeting the parents.
ACROSS
2. The 50 stars version of the American __________ was adopted on July 4th, 1960.
6. The Fourth of July is considered a very __________ holiday.
8. During the American __________, the colonies wanted to separate from Great Britain.
9. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both signed the Declaration of Independence and also became __________ of the United States.
10. Independence is a word that also means __________.

DOWN
1. George __________ was the first president of the United States of America.
3. The Star-Spangled __________ is the national anthem of the United States.
4. Independence Day is a holiday celebrated in the United __________.
5. It is fun to see the 4th of July parades and watch the __________ in the night sky.
7. The Declaration of __________ was adopted on July 4, 1776.

4th of July Word Search

AMERICA FREEDOM RED
BLUE INDEPENDENCE STARS
FIREWORKS JULY SUMMER
FOURTH PARADE WHITE

GOD BLESS AMERICA
Sophie is the 9 year old daughter of Jeff and Amber Lindo. She lives in Center City, MN. Sophie has 2 younger brothers, Drew and Jacob, and a younger sister, Lillie.

What was your favorite part of VBS this year?
I really liked the time with Barb Trombley - hearing the stories we were learning about. I got to learn about how they relied on God to help them.

When Jesus died on the cross, what do you think he was thinking about?
Jesus was thinking about me. He was thinking about how much he loves me and everyone else. He had to be really scared because he knew what was going to happen, but he still did it because he loves us so much.

What is your favorite Bible Story and why?
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Even though they were told to worship something else, they continued to follow God. I think it’s so neat that an Angel kept them protected while they were in the hot furnace.

What are your plans for summer?
We are planning to go and visit Noah's Ark in Kentucky. I'm still playing softball. We also go to some water parks and I farm with my Dad.

God is Love. What does that mean?
God provides everything for us. He is always there to talk to and help us get through something hard. He knows how many hairs are on my head. My mom doesn't even know that - so he must really love us.
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