



Monthly Newsletter

July 2024

Community Lutheran Church

Jesus said,
"Whoever
believes in me,
streams of living wa-
ter will flow from with-



2275 Ricca Rd, Bullhead City, AZ 86442; 928-763-2422
communitylutheranchurch@gmail.com clcbhc.com



Pastor Tim Eighmy



OFFICE HOURS:
Tues.– Fri., 9 am to 1 pm;

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

*Sunday, 9 & 11 am
Last Sunday of every
month: 10:00 am

*10:00 am only during
summer months starting
May 5th Thru Oct 27th

Mission Statement of Community Lutheran Church:
Living Christ's love in all we do.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIM Christian Citizenship

My favorite secular holiday is the Fourth of July. I love the picnics and barbeques, the parades and the fire-works, and the whole reason for us to celebrate.

Now, I am not one to tell you that the United States was formed upon Christian principles. I have studied American history and I know better. There was a false Christian teaching that was popular during the time of the founding of our nation called "deism".

Deism was a teaching that said God no longer is involved in our lives. God gave us reason to fend for our-selves. God gave us laws in the Bible to give us direction, but if we rely on the reason that God gave us, we will naturally follow those laws. Deists also insisted that Jesus was simply a moral teacher whose teachings we should follow.

Several of the founding fathers who signed the Declaration of Independence and later who signed the United States Constitution were deists: including Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and James Madison.

Deism was close to Christian teachings and they called themselves Christians, but they were not concerned about the heart of the gospel message that God loves us so much that God sent Jesus to die and be raised from the dead for our salvation.

But I do love the American principles of democracy for all, equality and equity among our people, and all of us seeking the common good through our government. These principles are reflected in the Christian gifts of love for others, forgiveness toward those who offend us, being reconciled with one another through Christ, and seeking justice for the most vulnerable among us. American principles are close to Christian principles, but slightly miss the mark. And we Christians are called to fill in those blanks as citizens of our country.

Because of the confusion that many Americans have between Christian principles and American principles, there were times in American history when Lutherans were condemned and sometimes persecuted on

American soil for not being American Christian enough. The way we number the Ten Commandments are not the same way that people want to display the Ten Commandments in our schools. The 'decision theology' that Evangelical Christians and Baptists pray with is not the same Christian theology that Lutherans try to teach our children. And during World War I, some German Lutheran churches were actually burned down to the ground on American soil because Lutherans shared the same ethnicity as our enemy. And this is why the Lutheran church has traditionally stood strongly in favor the separation of church and state; because we are often the first to be rejected as not being either Christian enough or American enough when those lines have been blurred.

So enjoy the Fourth of July along with our Christian principles. And remember that being a good citizen of our country also means to be discerning of how we are to serve Christ in our country and vote accordingly.

May God bless the United States of America and have a great Fourth of July celebration.

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Tim



The summer temperatures are no surprise to those of us who live here year around. We've been through it, and worse, before. Some of our congregation has the good sense to go to cooler areas during this season. But the heat brings new concerns. Our food pantry and water distribution is in greater need during these months. Our utilities increase with the thermometer. Meanwhile, the attendance is low. Please keep the church in your prayers.

The council would like to thank and congratulate all who were involved in providing flowers to mothers on Mother's day. And, for the bratwurst lunch on Father's day. We fathers would not exist if it were not for mothers. The mother grows the child, births the child and feeds the child. All things considered the father's contribution to the process is rather small. Thank you Mothers for making us Fathers.

See you in Church.

Dave Brusby

The Bible's balance of 'too much' and 'too little'

June 25, 2024 By Rob Blezard

Key verse: *As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little."* -2 Corinthians 8:15

A guiding principle of congregational stewardship holds that preaching on money should happen all year long, not just during the fall "stewardship season." This week's epistle lesson offers a perfect opportunity to talk about finances.

Exodus 16:18 **But** when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

Another guiding principle can help you craft your message. It says that you should preach as often as you can about money without asking for it. That's because most of the time when preachers talk about money, it's an occasion when they want folks to get out their wallets and

checkbooks. As a result, “money” talk is stigmatized as code for “give us more.”

With those things in mind, Paul’s advice to the Corinthians provides a perfect springboard to talk about economics and finances.

In Paul’s context, he is asking the Corinthians to help the poorer congregations in Jerusalem. Paul bases his argument on several bedrock principles of biblical stewardship that could be lifted up to remind congregants of ancient teachings.

The first is that God is the owner and source of everything. Paul says as much when he masterfully cites Exodus 16:18 in verse 15. The passage in Exodus occurs when God’s people are in the desert and God provides manna for them to eat every day (daily bread). God’s people are reliant upon the hand of God for every good thing. In lifting up Exodus 16:18, Paul affirms that God is the sole source all we possess.

And the passage also gives a clear teaching about God’s intention for the blessings God rains down from heaven. Whether people are rich or poor, God intends that everyone is entitled to have enough. The question is how this can occur.

As it applies to the Corinthian churches, Paul invokes Exodus 16:18 to stir them to generosity. God has given gifts in abundance, and those who have more than enough are expected to share with those who do not have enough, so that all may enjoy sufficiency.

The teaching speaks volumes to those of us in North America, and especially to congregations and congregants who are at least financially stable. Despite a growing economy, the “wealth gap” continues to widen between the riches and the poorest among us. And inflation, especially in the housing market, disproportionately harms the poorest among us. While mentioning these concerns, a wise preacher would be careful in talking about how public policy has contributed to the growing wealth gap. Our main concern is to lift up the Bible’s view of wealth and the obligation for those who have more than enough to share with those who have less – Paul’s very point in the 2 Corinthians lesson. Although this preacher generally avoids bringing into a sermon Bible

passages that RCL has not assigned for the day, a sermon might refer to Jesus’ familiar command for us to love neighbor as self (Mark 12:31), or the well-known teaching of Matthew 28:31-46 about caring for the least among us. And just as Paul used this teaching to ask for donations to help the churches in Jerusalem, a preacher could lift up several ministries in the congregation, community or world where donations would help ensure that “*The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.*”

In worship

Invite a representative of a ministry serving the marginalized in your ministry to talk about their work and the clients they serve. The talk could be during service – during announcements, an “offering moment” or before or after worship – or outside of service at a temple talk, forum or pane. The point would be to help congregants understand not only the needs faced by their neighbors but also how they could help through their financial contributions.

With children

It’s a tried-and-true exercise, but it works every time. In a gathering of children, perhaps Sunday school or a children’s sermon, bring treats (such as pieces of candy, fruit, toys, etc.) enough for all to have one. Then give multiple treats to some and none to others. Ask if this is fair. (It’s not.) Why? (Some have many and others have none.) What does God ask us to do? (Share.) It’s a simple but effective.

With youth

The exercise for children would work for youth, too. But the older youth would also be able to discuss where they have seen people in need. Are there some students in their schools who have much less than others? How is that evidenced? Similarly, are there students who have much more than others? How is that evidenced? What are the consequences of some having a lot and others having little as it appears in school? In homes? In social life? Using the 2 Corinthians lesson, explore what is a Christian response to inequality of material wealth.



SOME 4TH OF JULY FACTS



During the [American Revolution](#), the legal separation of the [thirteen colonies](#) from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the [Second Continental Congress](#) voted to approve a [resolution of independence](#) that had been proposed in June by Henry Lee of [Virginia](#) declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule.^{[6][7]} After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the [Declaration of Independence](#), a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by the [Committee of Five](#), which asked [Thomas Jefferson](#) to author its first draft.

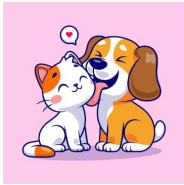
While Jefferson consulted extensively with the other four members of the Committee of Five, he largely wrote the Declaration of Independence in isolation over 17 days between June 11, 1776, and June 28, 1776, from the second floor he was renting in a three-story private home at 700 [Market Street](#) in [Philadelphia](#), now known as the Declaration House, and within walking distance of [Independence Hall](#).

Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, removing Jefferson's vigorous denunciation of [King George III](#) for importing the [slave trade](#), finally approving it two days later on July 4. A day earlier, [John Adams](#) wrote to his wife [Abigail](#):

The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch 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 commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more. Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether members of Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and [Benjamin Franklin](#) all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed.

By a remarkable coincidence, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signatories of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as [presidents of the United States](#), both died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration.^[16] Although not a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, [James Monroe](#), another [Founding Father](#) who was elected president, also died on July 4, 1831, making him the third President who died on the anniversary of independence.^[17] The only U.S. president to have been born on Independence Day was [Calvin Coolidge](#), who was born on July 4, 1872.



A FEW DOG AND CAT FUNNIES



What did the alien say to the cat?
Take me to your litter.

Bathing cats is a martial art!

There is no snooze button on a cat that wants breakfast.



Dog's prepare you for babies. Cats prepare you for teenagers.



Do dogs see police dogs and think "Oh no! It's the cops!"

Never make snow angels in a dog park.



Anyone who doesn't know what shampoo tastes like never washed a dog.

The 5 second rule does not apply to a 2 second dog.



CHURCH CHOIR Notes



The Choir is off for the summer. Think about joining in the fall.

New Church Service Hours for Summer

The summer hours for church services is one service at 10:00 am. Be sure to make a note of this.



Food Pantry **desperately** Items Needed

Anything you can donate will be appreciated, especially cereal, peanut butter, tuna and bottles of water. Please insure that the items have not passed their expiration date. We are not allowed to give out expired food.

As always, please place the items in the food pantry room not in the red wagon.

July

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office closed	2	3	4 No Bible study Office closed Fourth of July	5	6
7 10:00 am Worship service w/communion	8 Office closed	9	10	11 9:00 am Bible study 6:00 pm Council meeting	12	13
14 10:00 am Worship service w/communion	15 Office closed	16	17 Barons	18 9:00 am Bible study	19	20
21 10:00 am Worship service w/communion	22 Office closed	23	24	25 9:00 am Bible study	26	27
28 10:00 am Worship service w/communion <i>Noisy offering</i>	29 Office closed Election set-up	30 Election Day	31			

August

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 am bible study	2	3
4 10:00 am Worship Service w/communion	5 Office closed	6	7	8 9:00 am bible study 6:00 pm Council meeting	9 9:30 Worship Committee	10
11 10:00 am Worship Service w/communion	12 Office closed	13	14	15 9:00 am bible study	16	17
18 10:00 am Worship Service w/communion	19 Office closed	20	21 Barons	22 9:00 am bible study	23	24
25 10:00 am Worship Service w/communion <i>Noisy offering</i>	26 Office closed	27	28	29 9:00 am bible study	30	31

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays

- 6—Christina Hoffmeyer
- 18—Bonnie Swandal
- 20—Richard Grumbine
- 29—Ken Grondahl
- 31—Barbara Leuthauser



July Anniversaries

- 6—Davin & Adrienne Cordero (11)
- 27—Richard & Linda Grumbine (60)

Mark your Calendars!

Next Women's Bible Study:

September 10th 9:30 am

Choir

No Choir Practice until fall

Pastor's Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:00 am

No bible study July 4th

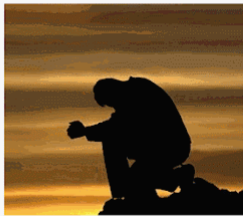
Worship Committee

Friday, August 9 am at 9:30 am

Election Workers

The election workers will be here July 29th to set up for election day. The day to vote is July 30th.

Prayer Corner



PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Please continue to pray for all the persons whose names have been offered up by members and friends of the congregation.

We pray for healing, comfort, guidance, strength, recovery, safe travel, and unrevealed needs, as well as for those with thankful hearts and for those who grieve.

Let us remember the ones God called home out of our midst, and keep their families and friends in our prayers.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



If you know someone who would like to be included in the ongoing monthly prayer list, be it for prayer or thanksgiving, please let the office know!



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2275 Ricca Rd
Bullhead City, AZ
86442



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