



The King's

Business

Grace Lutheran

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We at Grace Lutheran Church are called to reach, teach and be the people of God, as stewards of the Word and gifts of God.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Grace Family,

The first thing that comes to an American mind with the arrival of July is the annual celebration of Independence Day, more commonly known as The 4TH of July. As a Christian living in the United States of America I recognize the blessing it is to live in a country in which we are still free to worship as we please.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees freedoms concerning religion and other things. The Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment gives the right to worship or not as we choose, and the government

can't penalize us because of your religious beliefs, and so we worship as we please.

As a Lutheran Christian living in the United States, I find it interesting to research how and where Lutherans have played a role in the founding and forming of this nation in which we live.

One of these Lutherans was John Rutledge. Rutledge served in the First Continental Congress and the Second Continental Congress until 1776. He was then elected president of South Carolina under a constitution drawn up on March 26, 1776. His first acts as the first President of South Carolina was to organize the new government while preparing to defend South Carolina against British attack.

Another Lutheran of note was Henry Laurens. Laurens was the president of the Continental Congress from November 1, 1777, to December 9, 1778, after being the first named as a delegate to the Continental Congress on January 10, 1777.

The Articles of Confederation was the first official document that "United" the States. It wasn't a perfect document but was ratified in 1781 and was signed by a Lutheran named John Hanson, who as then asked to serve as the first president of the Congress. Some argue that John Hanson was the first president of the United States, preceding George Washington. But there is more to that story.

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The likely truth is that Hubert H. Humphrey was the Lutheran that came the closest to being president when he served as Vice President under Lyndon Johnson.

All of this is to say that we will recognize the gift of being able to worship freely as we gather in Divine Service on July 2nd.

See you then!

In His Service and Yours
Pastor Schultz

Christians and Good Works



When the Bible speaks about good works, it really is not talking about the everyday things we think about when we mention good things people do. The good things people do are always colored with mixed motives. Maybe we did them so that people would sing our praises. Maybe we expected to get something from them, a reward, a trophy or a good deed in return. The

Hindu idea called Karma is supposed to work that way. If you do good, good will be done to you. Sometimes the things we choose to do are our own ideas. All night vigils, long fasts, pilgrimages and similar feats are very impressive, but God never actually asks us to do these things.

So, none of them save us or even especially please God — unless we do them because we have faith in God and want to thank him for his love and mercy towards us. Strictly speaking, non-Christians cannot do good works. All the things they do are motivated by the desire to get something out of it. Even Chris-

tians, who love and trust God, aren't perfect when it comes to doing good with pure motives.

Truly good works, then, are the product of faith in Jesus Christ. Every thankful thought, grateful prayer of thanksgiving, things done because we love God, are good works. Even though a sinful thought or motive might tarnish them, because Christ earned our forgiveness on the cross, God does not count these sins against us, but sees only those things done because we love him.

Rev. Robert E. Smith
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Reports from the Mission Field

Dear Grace Family,

As a means to help us be better connect to the work that goes on in the Mission Field, and the work of our LCMS Missionaries, I've

asked the Rev. Christian Tiews permission to reprint some of his reports in our monthly newsletter. Many of you have met Rev. Tiews as he came to Grace to give one of his presentations considering demonic oppression and possession.

Not long after he visited us the LCMS Mission Board issued a Call to him to be a Missionary to Germany and specifically to the many Islamic immigrants arriving in Germany. This month, I submit the following.

Pastor Schultz

Once a week I am privileged to help form 15 men from 11 different countries to become Lutheran pastors through classes at Luther Academy, Riga, joining my LCMS missionary colleagues as we take turns giving classes over Zoom.

Since January, I have been teaching "Lutheran Confessions of Faith," working through the entire Book of Concord with the men. Next month, all of us will meet for a two week in-person intensive in Latvia. Traveling there from an-

other European Union country is easy because no visas are required. But what if you live in South Sudan or Tanzania, which are neither in the EU nor have a Latvian embassy?

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You do what our seminarians Rev. John Riay and Rev. Davis Wowa did (see picture)—traveling all the way to Cairo to obtain their visas for Latvia (plus taking a well-deserved break to visit the Pyramids). Wait a minute... both men

are *already* pastors? Why in the world are they attending seminary for four years if they are already ordained? I asked them. Rev. Wowa's reply: "I was born in a pagan family, the only church I joined was Lutheran church of central Africa, in 1976, since then I have not joined any other church/doctrine. I am proud and satisfied with the true teachings of the bible the Luther academy offers. Am an ordained pastor and the lessons received through Luther academy lecturers are helping me a lot. I praise God for this opportunity ac-

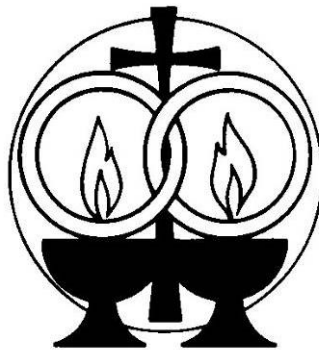
corded to me." Rev. Riay noted: "My reason to be a Lutheran pastor is the same reason I become a Lutheran. That is Lutheran remains the only church that maintains the true teachings of the Scripture." Wow...All of us—faculty and students—at Luther Academy are so grateful for our generous supporters who continue to make the "English stream" of Riga Luther Academy possible—allowing us to spread the Gospel by forming one faithful Lutheran pastor at a time.

Rev. Christian Tiewis



July Birthdays

Claude Riggin	5
Lyle Bonner	22
Jane Bleser	29



July Anniversaries

Phil & Kathy Stephens	14
Claude & Linda Riggin	27

The Summer Break

Not the Spring Break, but our usual break of the Midweek Bible Study, The Men's Fellowship, and The Women's Guild are taking their traditional break over the summer when many are traveling. These will resume again after Labor Day. If events warrant, announcements will be made in emails and bulletins. Watch for more details in September.

Our worship services will continue as usual as will Sunday fellowship and Bible Study. **See you there!** May God bless your summer!



Flash!!

This just in since the writing above.

The **Women's Guild** is planning another Luncheon meeting. This will be on Tuesday, **July 18th** at 11:00am. The location is still to be determined. Watch for more info.



The Women's Guild held their spring luncheon on June 20th. Note that our three youngest ladies also attended.

Thoughts From The Board Of Elders

BE IN THE WORD

As we approach July 4th and the celebration of the founding of our country, we will continue to hear all manner praises and complaints as well as calls for change. People talk a lot about rights, legalities, and expectations. We will hear little, if anything, about responsibilities – especially not personal responsibilities. Yet, as Christians, we must note that God has a lot to say to us. Since at this time we are likely to be speaking of government and the governed. Consider this from St. Paul in his epistle to the Romans, chapter 13.

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For

there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Since the fall into Sin (Genesis 3), God has ordained that a system of authority is necessary to control

the ravages of Sin in the world. God did not specify any form other than family. Beyond that, there are various alternatives that are available. None are perfect, but all draw their authority from God, and all must ultimately answer to God for their actions. All too many do not seem to recognize this responsibility nor the fact they must answer to God. That is their problem.

What of our responsibility? Perhaps the first thing we should note is the need for us to pray for them. We pray that God would lead them to see and know His will and to carry out their responsibilities accordingly. I believe our leaders – national, state, county or city – need the prayers of God's people. This does not mean endorsing every policy or action and, in fact, it may be prayers for God's guidance will lead to better things. When we respect authority, we look to the power behind the persons who hold that authority to the giver of the authority which is God.

Kenneth Haydon, Elder