



The Parishioner

Volume 25, Issue 6

A Publication of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 2020

"...it takes a certain skill set"

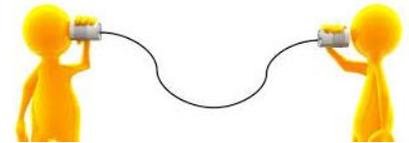
Can communication be considered a skill set?

People are always sharing books, devotions, pithy sayings, poems, etc. with me; and I find them all very interesting. I wish I had the time to respond to all the e-mail and printouts that come my way ... but they are all read and greatly appreciated. As stated, the following devotion was passed on to me, which I found to be very reflective and speaks to a need in our very conflicted nation today. I share it with you in the hope that it will be a reflective moment for you as well.

**"Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another."
– Ephesians 4:25**

GOOD COMMUNICATIONS

Read: Ephesians 4:25 – 5:1



A young boy and his stepfather had difficulty communicating with each other. The man was outgoing; the boy was quiet. The elder loved to fish; the youngster loved to read.

The stepfather, wanting to get close to the boy, took him on a fishing trip. The boy hated it but didn't know how to tell his stepfather directly. So he wrote him a note saying he wanted to go home. The man looked at it and stuck it in his pocket.

The fishing trip continued four more days. When they finally returned home, the boy shared his frustration with his mother and told her that his stepfather had paid no attention to his note. His mother said to him. "Son, your father can't read." The man had never shared this with the boy.

Good communications occur not only when we know what we want to say, but also when we know the person to whom we are speaking. And to know one another requires a willingness to let others know our weakness and limitations.

Paul urged us as believers to speak truthfully with each other (Ephesians 4:25). He also admonished us to be "kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another" (v. 32). That's Christ-like love, and it provides the security in which good communications can thrive. -Haddon Robinson



*We ought to speak the truth we feel
With careful thought for those who hear;
For truth and love must try to sense*

What others feel, and what others fear. -D. DeHaan

LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND, THEN SPEAK WITH LOVE

Pastor Neal +

****IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE****

CALL COMMITTEE

++YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED++

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

It is with great joy that we are able to inform you that the Church Council and Call Committee have picked a Pastoral Candidate to come and preach for us on **Sunday July 19th at 9:00 AM.** Please try to attend this service if possible as we will be holding a short question and answer session after the service and then voting on the call of this future Pastor for St. Mark's.

While we will still be maintaining social distancing please note that we will be making accommodations for extra seating for this crucial meeting/vote.

Please continue to pray about this very important decision we have in front of us.

Thank you and God Bless,

April Quinn

and

Reuben Pink

(Chairperson of Call Committee)

(Congregational President)

A Note from Katie's Kitchen

Well, summer is finally here! Hope you are enjoying this beautiful time of year. It seems to go by so quickly. Everyone at Katie's Kitchen continues to be busy feeding the most needy in our community with new food donations from the Subway Restaurants in Butler, & weekly produce from Holly Schubert's garden at Lutherlyn. Butler Farm Market, Panera, & Marburger Dairy share their excesses with us too & for that we are truly blessed. Please try to support these local businesses who generously provide drinks, bread & produce that are great healthy additions to our meals.

We have several new families who are volunteering their time helping to pack our Grab n Go meals this summer. It is great to have their youth & enthusiasm in our kitchen & we appreciate them sharing their free time with us until they go back to school in the fall.

Please keep JoAnn Lozier, one of our great volunteers, in your prayers. JoAnn has been an important part of Katie's Kitchen for a very long time— organizing the Give Away Table & most recently packaging all of our desserts. We pray that her health quickly improves & she brings her sweet smile back to KK on Thursday's.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate through these difficult times. Stay safe by wearing your masks & social distancing. Together we can do this & make our community a better place.

Enjoy your summer!

Justine



1620-2020 *400th Anniversary of the Mayflower Voyage

" On November 9, 1620, the *Mayflower*, carrying 102 passengers with 50 Pilgrims aboard in search of religious freedom, approached Cape Cod, Massachusetts, having left England 65 days earlier on September 6, 1620.

The Pilgrims were Separatist Protestants who made a clean break with the Anglican Church of England during the reign of King James I. A small community in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire had begun to meet together beyond the jurisdiction of the Anglican Church. As Calvinists, they believed in strict adherence to the Word of [Jesus Christ](#). Led by their pastor John Robinson, they first moved in 1609 to Leiden, Holland, but, after eleven years, wanted a place of their own, fearful their children were losing their identity. The Pilgrims through William Brewster with the aid of Sir Edwin Sandys then received a patent to establish a colony in Virginia, but they landed far to the north at Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

They were called Pilgrims by their journalist William Bradford, who had in mind the Letter to the Hebrews 11:13-16, when he wrote - "*they knew they were pilgrims, and looked not much on those things, but lifted up their eyes to the heavens, their dearest country, and quieted their spirits.*" They wished to live a pious community life, as the Apostles in the New Testament of the Bible.

They believed that every church congregation should have the right to choose its own pastor and officers and discipline its own members. Only the congregation could decide matters for the local church, and thus they became known as Congregationalists. This was in distinction to Catholics, who vested authority in one Pope; the Anglicans or Episcopalians, who placed authority with the Episcopate (Bishops); and the Calvinist Presbyterians of Scotland, who placed authority with the Presbyters, the elders of the Church.

The 102 passengers were made up of 50 Saints (the Pilgrims), Strangers (non-Separatists), and the crew. In view of the independent spirit of some, it became evident to both saints and strangers that they needed to cooperate and sign an agreement to rule themselves, as they were going to settle in an area that was not within the purview of their patent. The Elder William Brewster, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, and the Pilgrims, along with the soldier Miles Standish and the Strangers agreed to sign a covenant before they landed to ensure representative self-government, by which all of them would be bound. Signed by the 41 adult males aboard, on November 11, 1620, just 9 years after the publication of the King James Bible, the Mayflower Compact was the first charter of freedom in America and reflects the Christian heritage of our Nation. " source: <http://biblescripture.net/Pilgrims.html>

"The Bible contains the most profound philosophy, the most perfect morality, and the most refined policy that ever was conceived upon earth." John Adams

St. Mark's Financial Overview

May 2020

\$44,152.34 Receipts

\$29,058.79 Expenses

\$15,093.55 Excess

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2020 Congregational Council

Reuben Pink - President,

Ronald Atkison - Vice President

Judy Minehart - Secretary, Sherry Young - Treasurer,

Toni Tasse - Financial Secretary

Shirley Bilowich, Richard Beamer, Jonathan Bookamer,

Michael Montag, Elaine Walker, Chas Tanner,

Karen Cooper, William Oehlschlager, Paula Stepp

"[The Bible] is of all books in the world that which contributes most to make men good, wise, and happy."

John Quincy Adams ~ 6th President United States of America

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM – *Was God involved in the foundations of America?* In this month that we remember and celebrate the journey to American freedom, an excerpt of a blog post, written November 30, 20016 from author Emma Lazarus. The message is still pertinent today, you can find the entire post at - <https://thefoundersbible.com/golden-door-opportunity/>



A Golden Door of Opportunity

“...Has America always done what is right? Always chosen what is good? Always fought for the noble cause as opposed to her self-interests? No, and I don’t imagine any nation on earth has or ever will. To pretend otherwise would be incredibly naive. Civil governments are not God, and nations do not make decisions or enact policy; people do. In as much as those in power have chosen to do good, to honor what is right, and have sought the welfare of those around her, America has been a force for good. Is she without fault? Certainly not! From early on, slavery was, is, and always will be abhorrent, as were the misguided notions of “Manifest Destiny.” Her push westward sadly gave rise to a host of inexcusable horrors that destroyed the Native Americans.

Yet despite a checkered past, what has made America great is that she has demonstrated a capacity to learn from such mistakes. Thankfully, there have always been those who decried such evil; refusing to participate or comply, they stood their ground and called her to live up to a higher standard—and in those critical hours, repeatedly America has been awakened to rise again. She has been the greatest when she has been on her knees, seeking God’s blessing and the wisdom to do what is right. America is great because time after time, in the moments that have mattered, she was willing to stand up and fight for somebody else’s freedom. Go ahead and decry her failures and failings all you want; throw her sins in her face and refuse to grant her any redemption—but in chaining her to condemnation, what will you have achieved? In so doing, are you not seeking to ensure her destruction? Such blindness seems just as misguided as the refusal to acknowledge any national wrongs. But our story is not finished.”

It is an undeniable fact: America has a great history. It is and has been a great nation. But just as freedom is something that is passed as a legacy from one generation to the next, the question is, what will we do with what we have been given? What has made America great is what can make her great again. An essential ingredient of the generations that truly have been great is that they did not selfishly seek their own welfare *only*, but faithfully labored and fought for others and posterity. Jesus taught that he who would be greatest must be the servant of all (Mt.20:26; Mk.9:34–35; Lk.22:26). What made past generations great is that they served and sacrificed and sought to leave this place better than how they had found it. History would be their judge; they knew it and lived in light of that sobering reality. Those who have ever achieved anything great have never lived or labored with the expectation, or dare I say the illusion, that it would be given to them, let alone that they had an entitled right to it. We each have the God-given inalienable right to life, liberty, and the *pursuit* of happiness—but it is exactly that: a pursuit, not a guarantee. In never having had to personally pay the cost or fight the fight for the freedom and privileges we enjoy, younger generations do not adequately comprehend the sacrifice that was made.

“Yet, what has made this nation great is not just the ideas, the ideals, or the hard work ethic; it’s not just that its people have sought to do good, to serve others, to care for the needy or to help those in crisis; it’s not just her willingness to fight for freedom and for the freedom of others—all those things are great, they are noble and worthy ends. No, *the truest source of America’s greatness is that she has belonged to God.* At her founding, she dedicated herself to His purpose, and for most of her history, she has honored Him as the true source of all her many blessings. I know of no other nation whose most oft-repeated phrase or closing reference from the overwhelming majority of its leaders, down through history to this very day, is “God Bless America.” It is a prayer as well as an honest acknowledgment. The original covenant that was established on the shores of Virginia in 1607 dedicated this land to God’s purpose of taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ into all the world; they purposed to raise up godly generations after themselves and called for this “Covenant of Dedication” to remain to all generations, as long as this earth remains. Remarkably, the Pilgrims who landed in Plymouth in

St. Mark's Kids stuff



Youth Page July 2020

Family led ideas

Keep your kids connect to
Jesus and the Church during
this time of crisis



Read the Bible
together as a family.

Kids get a turn to read
aloud too!



*if your family does
not have a bible or
your child needs a
Children's Story Bible,
please contact the
Church. We have many
in our library and we
will get one to you.

Have a puppet skit or
Act out Bible story
skits as a family.



Have a worship dance party.

Put on praise music; the radio,
YouTube, Pandora Christian Music, or
the Message on Sirius Music.
Check out the GoFish Guys, Bread of
Stone, and MercyMe



Also, St. Mark's has lots of cds
available from our past VBS music that
you may have, please contact the
Church and we will make arrangements
to get one to you.

Check out the Sermons on youtube at St. Marks Butler PA

Like the facebook page St.Marks Evangelical Lutheran Church
(Butler, PA)

Check out St. Mark's website www.stmarksbutler.org

Come Worship at 9AM every Sunday in the Sanctuary!



KIDS CHURCH In a Bucket

Because of Current
Situation and
Restrictions—the Kids can
not meet for Children's
Church.

St. Mark's loves the Kids
and is welcoming to the
Kids in the pews with
their Parents/
Grandparent.

It's okay that they make a
little "joyful" noise.

It's okay that they turn
around and wave. The
others around them will be
blessed by their actions
and their delight!

The Kids are the Church
and all NEED to hear them
as the Kids Worship.

Please take a bucket. The
papers go along with the
liturgy for the day.

Coloring Pages! Puzzles!
Paper for "Creativity"!

"Were you to ask me to recommend the most valuable book in the world, I should fix on the Bible as the most instructive, both to the wise and ignorant." Elias Boudinot ~ Delegate to Continental Congress

We received the following card, including an obituary, from, Maren DeLaitsch, daughter of Dr. Harry J. Schmidt.

Dr. Harry J. Schmidt
1924-2020

Harry Justus Schmidt MD, of Owatonna MN (formerly East Lansing MI) passed away at the age of 95 on Sunday April 5, 2020.

Born in Humberstone, Ontario in 1924, Harry grew up in Buffalo NY - oldest of 3 children in a pastor's family- and graduated from Buffalo Technical High School. He went on to complete his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University, and medical school and surgical residency- under nationally known Dr. Frederick Collier- at the University of Michigan.

Drafted into the Army during the Korean War, he served as Captain of a MASH unit. He met his future wife, Rhoda, the morning he was shipping out and knew immediately that she was "the one." Together they made East Lansing, Michigan home, were active in health care, the arts, church organizations and delighted in raising four children, including twin boys.

In the 1960's, Harry served as Director of Medical Education at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing MI, developing the first true emergency room in Michigan - with dedicated physicians trained in trauma treatment. This model led to the establishment of the Emergency Medicine specialty. As he shared knowledge and expertise gained in Korea for skin grafts and skin banks with the University of Michigan, one of those physicians later developed the premier skin bank in the country - impacting thousands of people with severe burns. Harry was a member of the Ingham County Medical Society, helped establish the Medical School at Michigan State and served on their Board. He was a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons, serving as an examiner for 15 years, and was an active member in the Frederick A. Collier Surgical Society at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Schmidt loved every day that he could practice surgery and help heal others. "I never turned down a case," he was quoted as saying. He operated on hundreds of clergy and fellow physicians and never charged for his services, feeling it was the least he could do for God's messengers and for his profession.

Harry was an avid all-sports athlete; highly competitive and yet always a true gentleman. Amongst his athletic accomplishments - ranked 3rd best squash player in the Lansing area for 25 years, and a 4-handicap golfer for over 20 years. He competed in 10 US Amateur / US Open Qualifiers - always shooting under 76 and finishing in the top 1/3 of the field. He won the Walnut Hills Club Championship twice, the All-City Seniors once, and "shot his age" 11 times, ages 77-87. At age 80, he bowled a 190 average, and the game of bridge was greatly enjoyed for his competitive outlet after age 88.

A lifelong advocate of education (Master Gardener at age 75) and the arts - orchestra, opera, ballet, theater and movies - Harry especially enjoyed reading a wide cross-section of literature.

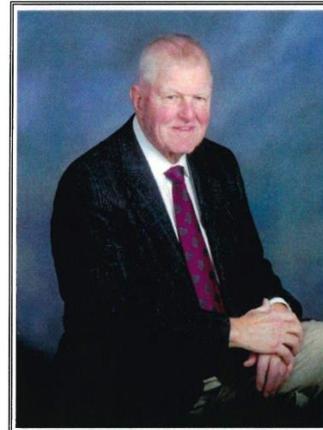
A devout Christian in the Lutheran Church, Harry believed that our purpose in life is to live in service to God and humanity. It was a life well-lived in unselfish dedication to his God, faith, family, friends and medicine.

Preceded in death by his wife of 45 years (Rhoda) and by his son (Robert); survived by his children Maren (Al) DeLaitsch, Andrew and Reed, sister Marjorie Miller, grandsons Brian (Cassie) DeLaitsch, Jeffrey (Emine) DeLaitsch; 3 great-grandchildren - Samuel, Lucas and Vera Millie; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the St. Olaf College Skindlov Family Endowment Fund for student scholarships. A private service will be held at a later date.



A Celebration of Life



Harry Justus Schmidt



Congratulations!

2020 High School Graduates

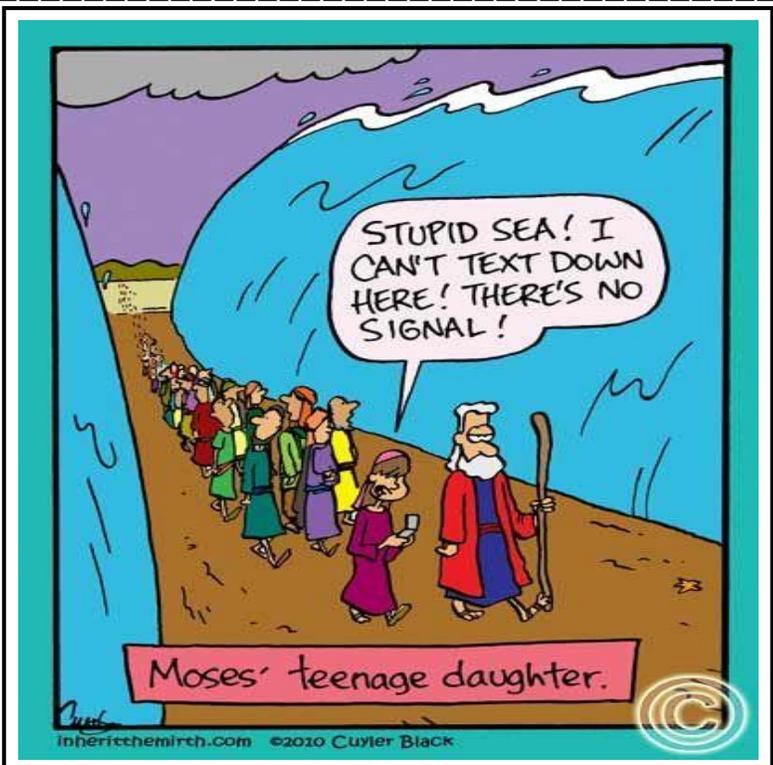
- Madison Pomykata
- Asti Atkison
- Ethan Morton
- Nathaniel McDonald
- Connor Minton
- Bryce Rearick



Did we miss you? Know a college graduate, technical school graduate, high school graduate, or any other graduation achievement? Share the good news with the church office so that we can celebrate their accomplishments!

Phone (724)287-6741

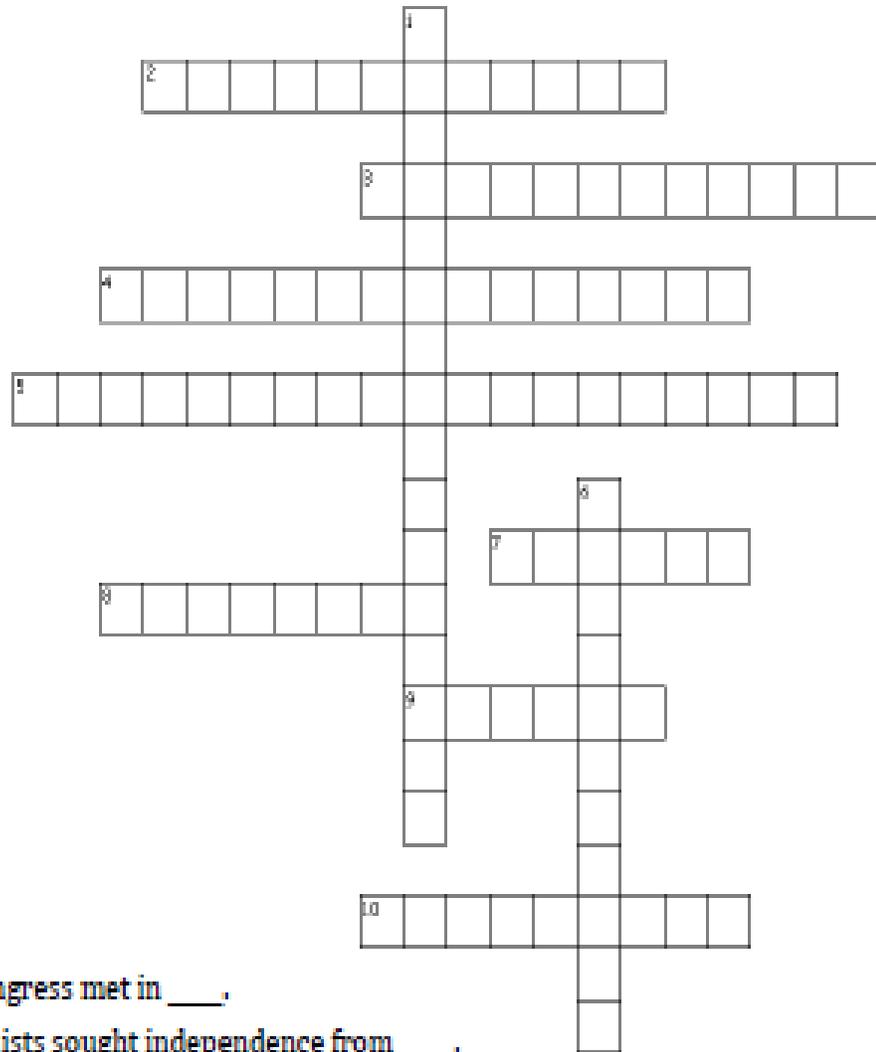
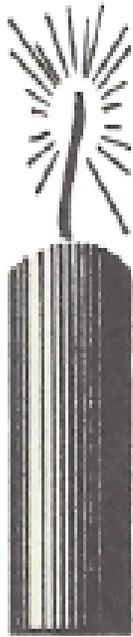
Email - wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org





Independence Day

Crossword Puzzle

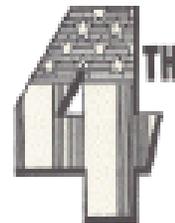


Across

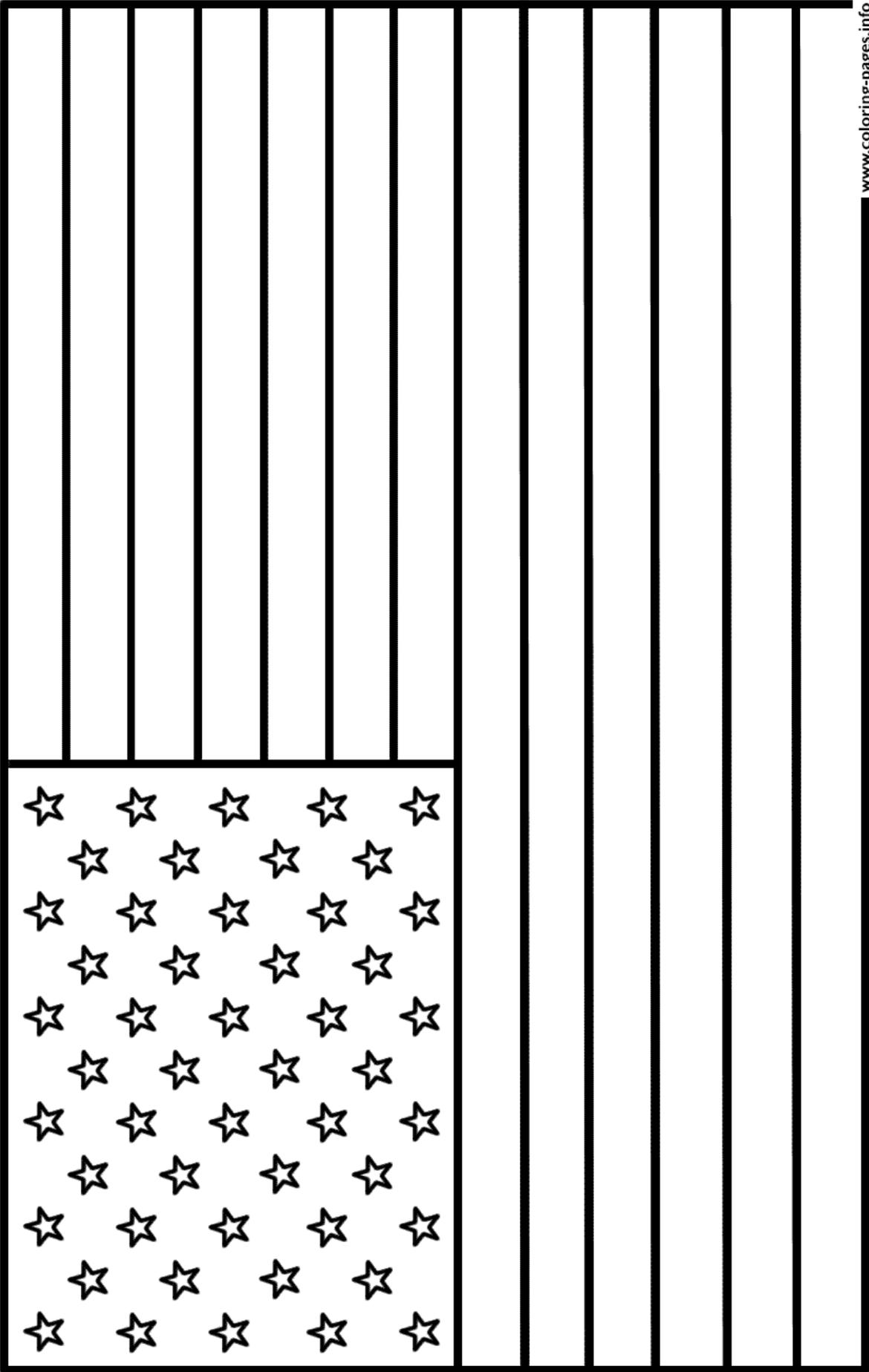
2. The Continental Congress met in ____.
3. The American colonists sought independence from ____.
4. The Declaration of Independence was primarily written by ____.
5. The Declaration of Independence was signed by members of the ____.
7. The British king at this time was ____ III.
8. There were ____ original colonies.
9. "We hold these ____ to be self-evident..."
10. Crowds gather to watch ____.

Down

1. ____ led American troops in the fight for independence.
6. ____ was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence.



IN GOD WE TRUST



2020 VISION | MISSION CONVOCATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NALC will be hosting our first ever Virtual Mission Convocation. Join us virtually to hear from Bishop Dan Selbo on the 2020 Vision, participate in elections and voting, and hear updates from across the NALC.

Friday, August 7, 6-9 p.m. ET
Saturday, August 8, 2-6 p.m. ET
Cost: \$25 (voting delegates), \$0 (visitors)

It is easier than ever to attend the NALC Mission Convocation. With no need to travel, and minimal registration costs, we encourage all pastors and delegates to attend. Invite members of your congregation to join in as well! We're hoping to have more participants than ever before.

Leading up to the Mission Convocation, NALC leaders will be hosting virtual discussion forums. Look for more information at - <https://lutheranweek.com/>

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 May 27, 2020



Dear St Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and for your support of the ministry we share in the name of our Lord Jesus. It is a joy for us to share with you in a work that carries far beyond the years we have in this life. Because of your contributions, there are immediate and eternal implications and impacts on the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your faithfulness and support of our efforts, financially and in prayer.

This letter comes as a statement of the financial gifts (listed below) you have given to our shared work through the first four months of the year, as well as an encouragement to continue your support in the months ahead. Your gifts support a church body that is passionate about proclaiming the lordship of Jesus Christ, committed to the authority of the Scriptures, and driven by a mission to go into the world and make disciples.

Now in its tenth year as a denomination, the NALC is fully aware of the ways in which God has blessed our efforts through the generous gifts of our donors. Our shared ministry is literally touching the lives of millions of people throughout North America and around the world. We are now a church body of more than 440 congregations. We currently have more than 40 seminarians studying in our North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) system. We have missionaries in 10 different countries and are actively working to plant new churches throughout North America. These and many other tangible blessings would not be possible without the grace of God and your generosity.

As you consider future gifts to the NALC, we hope you will consider supporting our seminary, Theological Education Fund and Great Commission Fund, as well as some of the other ministries we share. All gifts go directly to the ministries you designate and are used to further their work and witness in the world.

Once again, thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and in the work entrusted to us by our Lord. We consider it an honor and a privilege to share with you in ministry that is drawing people to Jesus and changing lives for eternity.

May God continue to bless you in ways that will enable you to bless others.

In Christ Jesus,
 Bishop Daniel W. Selbo

<u>Financial Gifts through April 13, 2020</u>	
General Congregation	\$3550.00
WNALC Missions	\$332.00



July 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2 5:00pm Katie's Kitchen	3 Church Office Closed	4 
5 9:00am Worship	6	7	8	9 5:00pm Katie's Kitchen	10	11
12 9:00am Worship	13	14	15	16 5:00pm Katie's Kitchen	17	18
19 9:00am Worship Pastoral Candidate Visiting	20	21	22	23 5:00pm Katie's Kitchen	24	25
26 9:00am Worship	27	28	29	30 5:00pm Katie's Kitchen	31	
<div data-bbox="483 1554 1133 1732" data-label="Text"> <p>July is National Watermelon Month Flower – Larkspur and Waterlily  Birthstone – Ruby</p> </div>						

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."
 Psalm 16:1 & 2

July Lessons and Prayers

*July 5, 2020 – Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.”

*July 12, 2020 – Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:1-13, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

“Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.”

July 19, 2020 – Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 86:11-17, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

“Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.”

July 26, 2020 – 1Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

“Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.”

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
201 West Jefferson Street
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001
Phone: 724-287-6741
Fax: 724-287-6747
email: wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org
Website: www.stmarksbutler.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT 92
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Parish Office Hours:

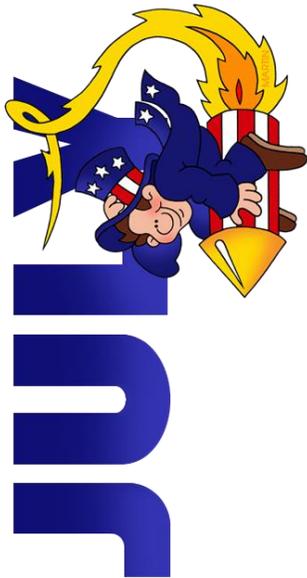
9:00 AM -- 1: 00 PM

Tuesday – Friday

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday: 9:00 AM

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



“Let us therefore persevere steadfastly in distributing the Scriptures far and near, and without note or comment. We are assured that they ‘are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16).’” John Jay ~ Founding Father

- Friday, July 3, 2020 – Church Office Closed
- Saturday, July 4, 2020 – Blessed Independence Day
- Sunday, July 19, 2020 – Pastoral Candidate Visiting

**A Congregation of the
North American Lutheran Church**

