

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 3-4, 2021

**"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."**



Music of Preparation,  
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

**Our Ministry:** We are a people of God who are: ROOTED in Christ, GROWING TOGETHER in Christ, BRANCHING OUT in Christ!

**Welcome!** As our nation celebrates Independence Day, let us remember and proclaim that God so loved the whole world that he sent Jesus to share in this life. Let us join in praise!

**Devotions & Publications Available** are found in the main entryway.  
(Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate, **not in the envelope basket.**)

..... **WORSHIP NOTES** .....

**Note About Attendance Cards...**Remember that the only way we may know you are worshipping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. **Please list the name of each person in worship.** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

**To Our Visitors...**Our church and school have a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available near the guest register in the main (west) entryway.

**For All Who Worship...**If you are arriving after the service has started, please allow our ushers to assist you with seating. We ask that you avoid entering during the confession, prayers, or Bible readings as these are quiet and meditative moments.

**For Parents with Small Children...**We love and want children in our services as a part of God's family, to spend time with Jesus, and to learn how to worship. We also know that kids can be kids. We want you and your children to experience our Lord's love and to have a great opportunity to worship the Lord along with all who are gathered here to praise our Savior's name.

**As We Gather:** *While Independence Day does not appear on liturgical calendars, it is appropriate for Christians who live in the United States of America to gather for worship to celebrate the founding of our nation. We certainly do not worship our nation, but we honor and give thanks to God for allowing us to live in this great land. We certainly do not claim that our nation is perfect, but we rejoice in the freedoms we enjoy, especially the freedom to worship our God as we choose without being subjected to government persecution. As we celebrate our nation's birth this week, we sincerely ask God to continue to bless our country, and to bless the leaders of our country with wisdom, justice, and mercy.*

**Before worship prayer**

*Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

**We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!**

**Opening Hymn:** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" *LSB, hymn #892*

Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come;  
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His harvest home,  
From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away,  
Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store  
In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide:  
Come with all Thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest home.

- P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*
- P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.  
C: **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**  
P: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.  
C: **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.** *Psalms 51:1-3, 10*
- P: Let us confess our failures, fears, and weaknesses to God. Let us seek God's mercy and grace that we may be forgiven and live in peace.  
*(Moment of silent reflection)*
- P: Almighty God, out of Your great mercy You have caused us to live in this great land, a land of freedom and opportunity. You have provided us with a government that allows us to worship You in truth and purity.  
C: **We confess to You, gracious God, that we have not always used the freedom we have as citizens of this land to honor You or to serve others.**  
P: We have often misused the gift of "freedom of religion" as "freedom from religion."  
C: **We have neglected the faithful gathering of Your people for worship. Too often we have not honored and respected those You have placed in authority over us.**  
P: We have taken for granted the gifts You give us in this country, and we have even claimed credit for our freedom for ourselves.  
C: **For these and all our many other sins, good Lord, forgive us. Restore and renew us, and encourage us by Your Holy Spirit to live in freedom for Your glory. Amen.**  
P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He

gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them His Holy Spirit. Go forth with His blessing and His forgiveness. May the Lord, who has begun this work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord † Jesus Christ.

*John 1:12, Philipians 1:6*

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray . . . God of all might and glory, You called into being nations and governments to keep order and protect sinful humanity. We ask You to bless these United States of America. Guide our leaders so they will not direct us to paths that dishonor You. Continue to bless us in this land with the freedom to worship You as we ought, and to proclaim the Gospel of salvation without hindrance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be Seated)*

**HYMN OF PRAISE: My Country, 'Tis of Thee**

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing:

Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From ev'ry mountainside Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee,  
Land of the noble free,  
Thy name I love;

I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,  
And ring from all the trees  
Sweet freedom's song;

Let mortal tongues awake; Let all that breathe partake;  
Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing:

Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

**THE READING OF THE WORD**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 61:1-6

*(Freedom For The Captives)*

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. Aliens will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

**Epistle Lesson:** Galatians 5:1, 13-25

*(Christ Has Set Us Free)*

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord,

jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Stand

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson:** John 8:31-36

*(If The Son Sets You Free)*

Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to any one. How is it that you say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, every one who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not continue in the house for ever; the son continues for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Sermon Hymn:** "Before You, Lord, We Bow"

*LSB, hymn #966*

*(This hymn was written by Francis Scott Key, the author of the Star-Spangled Banner, as a hymn of thanks and praise to God for the celebration of Independence Day in 1832.)*

Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below, Boundless in pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,  
Our hearts we raise To You, our King!

The nation You have blest May well Your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care.  
For this bright day, For this fair land -  
Gifts of Your hand - Our thanks we pay.

May ev'ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,  
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen!  
May ev'ry tongue Be tuned to praise  
And join to raise A grateful song.

Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.  
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,  
And bow before The Crucified.

And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our native land  
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,  
A countless throng, With joy to sing  
To heav'n's high King Salvation's song!

**Sermon: "True Freedom"**

*John 8:31-36*

Stand

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

*(Please be Seated)*

## Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

### OFFERTORY - Create In Me

*LSB, Divine Service 3, pg 192-193*

**C: (Sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

P: Let us pray, . . . O Lord, bless our offerings to You, They come from Your gracious hand.

**C: O Lord, accept them now, As a modest token of our love.**

P: Gracious God, You sacrificed Your Son that we may be free from the power of sin and death. We give thanks to You for those of this congregation who were willing to sacrifice their lives in the service of this country, that we may be free from the powers of repression and able to worship You as we ought. Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: O Lord, We thank You for men and women who have served in the armed forces of our country, being willing to risk their lives to protect us and to defend our liberty. Grant to them peace in their lives, and an understanding of the gratitude we have for their service to our country. Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Lord of hosts, You watched over Your chosen people as they faced their enemies while doing Your bidding. Protect Your servants who are on active duty in the armed forces of our country. Keep them safe, spare them from injury, and assure them of Your love and faithfulness to them. Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Creator God, part of Your plan for our world is that governments be established to keep order and to provide justice for all. Give wisdom to our leaders, that they may rule with a sense of justice tempered by mercy. Bless our President and Congress, our judges and officials, that good order may prevail. Protect those who risk their lives to protect us, police officers, sheriff departments, firefighters and others, that they may be kept from harm and danger as they serve citizens on our behalf. Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, You promise to be with us always. Visit those who are in any type of distress with the assurance that You abide with them even in their infirmities. We pray for those among us who are sick, homebound, or undergoing tests and treatment. We lift up before You those hospitalized this past week (*Especiallly*, . . . ). Bring them healing, strength and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, we also pray for those with medical issues out-of-town and those with ongoing needs as they continue treatment and healing at home. Be their peace and strength throughout all their trials and sustain them by Your Holy Spirit. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). Despite their illnesses and afflictions, strengthen their faith so that they may bear any hardship in patience and trust until You grant them deliverance, peace, and health. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . . )*

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

### BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: Amen**

**Closing Hymn: "Now Thank We All Our God"**

LSB, hymn #895

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

**See You In Worship Next Week!**

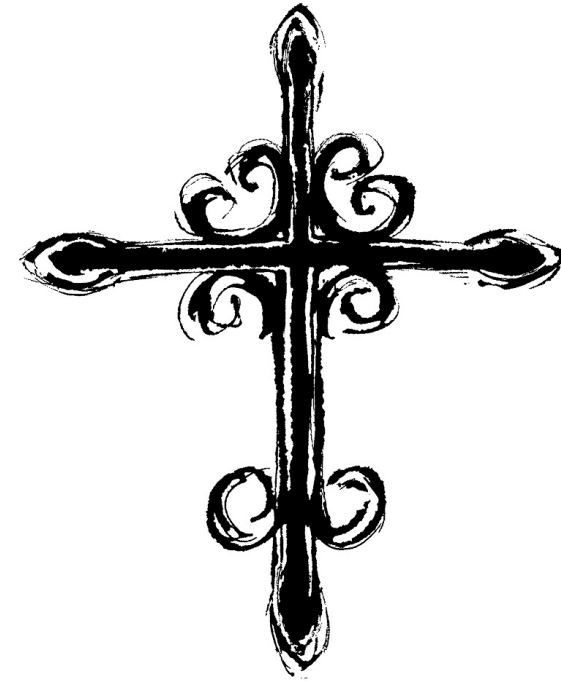
**After worship prayer**

*Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

*There is a Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that is wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you want a prayer for someone else, a concern or situation you may have, or yourself.*

*Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.*

**Altar Flowers:** Altar flowers this weekend are given in honor of our grandson, Benjamin's birthday on July 3, by Debi & Mike Callan; also in loving memory of my mom, Lori Duesenberg, on her birthday, by Pastor & Lynda Koeppen.



# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Rev. Karl J. Koeppen** . . . . . Senior Pastor  
**Rev. David Baker** . . . . . Missionary to Mongolia  
**Mrs. Jamie Stirnaman** . . . . . Interim Principal

**Church** . . . . . 348 E. Merchant, Kankakee, IL  
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