

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2017



On July 4, 1853 Dr. C.F.W. Walther, the founding President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was asked to give an address for Independence Day to a youth gathering. The following is excerpted and adapted from his comments:

It was seventy-seven years ago today, on the 4th of July, 1776, when thirteen English colonies solemnly declared their independence. Therefore, today is most important for all of us, for whom this nation has become our second homeland.

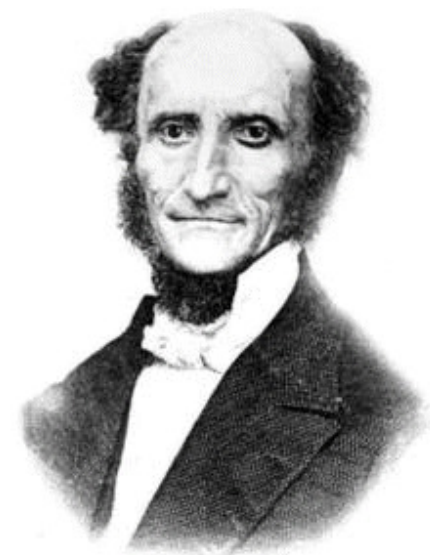
However, if you should desire that I blend my voice in the accustomed manner of those who appear before our nation's citizens on this day, that is to say, should you expect me to present a tribute to the ingenuity of *man*, which has erected the astounding, great, glorious, and richly blessed edifice of this Republic, then you will, of course, be disappointed in me.

There are indeed innumerable advantages and benefits by virtue of which our newly adopted fatherland surpasses all other countries, showered upon it especially since the venerable Declaration of Independence. I would be worse than blind if I did not recognize this.

For, the country that we have chosen as our new home stands before our eyes, and the eyes of an admiring world, as the greatest miracle—a tree grown high beyond comparison, laden with the golden fruits of human industry, and also covered with developing blossoms that promise to bear continually the greatest new fruits of human endeavor.

Under its protecting, widespread branches, ever-increasing multitudes from all tongues and nations are gathering, a conflux of people from all tribes, that here exchange their talents and experiences. Thus, the gifts and attainments of all nations are brought together here, to make our nation the greatest on earth.

But, I am a Christian! As highly as I value the gifts and virtues of this Republic, by which its founders have rightly earned lasting fame in the history of nations,



Dr. C.F.W. Walther (1811-1887) was one of the pastors who led the Saxon Lutheran immigrants from Germany to America in 1839, settling near St. Louis. This group was the catalyst for formation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1847, with Walther as its first President. He served concurrently as the first President and leading professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Due to his great love for the church's youth—this article was originally an address to a youth gathering on the Fourth of July—the "Walther League" Lutheran youth group was named in his honor.

and which are reflected in the Constitution under which we live as citizens, nevertheless as a Christian I could never give praise and thanksgiving for all this to mere mortals.

For, as a Christian I know and believe that *God the Lord* alone has given success to every accomplishment, and granted His blessing to every achievement. Only God the Lord governs the destiny of nations, and bestows success and prosperity. It was He who gave wisdom and power to prompt and bring to fulfillment a new national government in this land, under which our people live in prosperity and peace. So, in considering this Union of States today, I do so as a theologian, Christian preacher, and servant of the Church, and naturally look at it in relation to religion, Christianity, and the Church.

It is quite fitting that State and Church, the civic and religious life, are here in this land separated from one another, in such a way that the State does not inquire how its citizens come to God, or what they trust for their salvation. For, a religion that is compelled to call upon the arm of a temporal power for protection, propagation, and subjection of its enemies admits that it no longer has a world-conquering power in itself—because the sword of the Word of God is not in its hand. Therefore, it is not the true religion, and will not be able to bring the kingdom of heaven and its eternal treasures to the world. So, instead it corrupts the Church by mixing it with worldly kingdoms.

A State is certainly not an institution of God by which its citizens are to be led to eternal life. The State is rather a limited arrangement of God for this life, established for order in the world, so that what is mine and yours should be protected, that justice and righteousness be meted out, that each one may live quietly and undisturbed with his family.

As regards religion, the State is concerned only that no one seeks by force to hinder the other from honoring and worshipping God according to the conviction of his conscience. I maintain that this religious freedom is one of the brightest stars in the banner of our new fatherland!

Sadly, it is also true that under the protection of our religious liberty the voices of deceitful false teachers likewise sound loud and clear, and thousands of innocent hearts are offended, poisoned, and misled, and scores of immortal souls are being hurled into the abyss of destructive errors! However, as great as this evil is, nevertheless it is heavily outweighed by the blessings that religious liberty brings.

Thrice blessed be this day! For, on it the foundation of a State was laid in which freedom of religion and conscience has been made a principle of government. Blessed is this land in which we enjoy this freedom! Only let us make use of this freedom faithfully, for God will ask us to give strict account of how we have taken advantage of this incredibly great gift for the exercise of our faith.

As this country offers freedom to religion, so may religion bring to it heavenly blessings. And as citizens of this country, let us work zealously, fight bravely, and, if need be, shed our blood willingly, that

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this country may remain free, and that it may, above all, retain religious liberty as the most precious jewel in its crown of freedom, and thus be and remain a refuge for all who are exiled for Christ's sake from nations around the world.

May the Lord of nations, who up to now has so evidently ruled over and blessed this nation, continue to let His face graciously shine over our Republic. May He confound all attacks which the enemies of this Union may make upon its freedom, and raise up in this land, to His glory, a pious, free, and happy people. And may He always place as leaders over us virtuous men of wisdom and fearless, strong action.

Hail to thee, America! Hail! Hail!

Sermon Topics for July



Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our church web site, www.trinitylcms.org/sermons, as podcasts under "Kevin Vogts" in the iTunes store, online at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com, or at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com/mobile for mobile devices. Printed copies of the current Sunday's message and those from the past several weeks are also available in a small literature rack in back of the church.

July 2 (Outdoor Service)

"Government—God's Servant"
Romans 13:1-7

July 9

"St. Paul Had the Same Struggle"
Romans 7:15-25

July 16

Rev. Roger Schepmann
Guest Minister

July 23

"The Parable of the Yeast"
Matthew 13:33

July 30

"The Pearl of Great Price"
Matthew 13:45-46

Page 2



Outdoor Worship July 2

We will celebrate Independence Day weekend with an outdoor worship service in our Shelter House at the normal time of 10:00am on Sunday, July 2.

Pastor Vogts' message will be "Government—God's Servant" based on Romans 13:1-7. The special order of worship will include a children's sermon and favorite patriotic songs.

This is a great opportunity to invite family, neighbors, friends, and holiday visitors for worship! All invited—everyone welcome!

July Communion Change

Because of the outdoor service in our Shelter House on July 2, Holy Communion in July will be celebrated on the second Sunday of the month, July 9, rather than the usual first Sunday of the month.



We are having a potluck picnic lunch for those who wish to stay following the outdoor worship service in our Shelter House on Sunday, July 2. Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert, and also your own drinks and table service. All invited—everyone welcome!



Guest Minister July 16

To commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation this year, Rev. and Mrs. Vogts will be on a Luther Study Trip in Germany from July 10-20. The tour is being led by Pastor Vogts' niece, who is the German teacher at Lutheran High School of Kansas City. Also going on the trip will be his brother and sisters and their spouses and Mrs. Vogts' sister and her husband and their son.

In Pastor Vogts' absence on July 16 our guest minister at Trinity will be Rev. Roger Schepmann. You may also contact Rev. Schepmann (913-764-4859) for pastoral care while Pastor Vogts is out of the country.



Pondering the Parables

Summer Bible Class on Parables

This summer we our study in Adult Bible Class is *Pondering the Parables*. Approximately 35% of Jesus' teachings recorded in the Gospels is in the form of parables. Although these parables seem simple on the surface, the messages they convey are actually very deep and central to the teachings of our faith. They also offer Jesus' followers many practical life lessons.

Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow for *Pondering the Parables*!



You are invited to help provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park on Sunday, July 2. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length. We begin at 1:30pm at North Point and then go to Medical Lodge for the second service.



Each month we remember in prayer in our worship services—and you are encouraged to remember in your personal prayers—specific missionaries around the world who are supported by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.

July 2

Johanna Heidorn
Hong Kong

July 9

Rev. David and Jennifer Preus
Dominican Republic

July 16

Sean Harlow
Philippines

July 23

Rev. Michael and Jen-Yi Paul
Taiwan

July 30

Alexandria Rappe
Vietnam

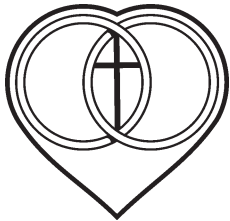


Birthdays & Anniversaries

Our records of birthdays and anniversaries may not complete. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the Church Office at 849-3344 or email Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton at trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com.

- July 1 Emily Wolf
- July 3 Brandy Allen
- July 3 Molly Hermann
- July 3 Karen Windler
- July 5 Joshua Bunch
- July 5 Samantha Prothe
- July 6 Ryan Morton
- July 7 Regan Boyer
- July 7 Shelly D'Amato
- July 7 Kennedy McMullin
- July 7 Tamara Mitchell
- July 10 Wanda Stagg
- July 11 Ken Debrick
- July 11 Darlene Heater
- July 11 Dennis Prothe
- July 12 Joshua Sombke
- July 12 Steve Warner
- July 13 Steve Grother
- July 13 Duane Prothe
- July 13 Don Warring
- July 14 Sheryl Holtz
- July 14 Rayden Berry
- July 15 Karen Kaiser
- July 16 David Johns
- July 16 Debbie Oberheide
- July 16 Brittannie Ritch
- July 17 Ann Davis
- July 18 Keith Prothe
- July 18 Madison Snider
- July 19 Clint Kettler
- July 19 Cathy Tesar
- July 19 Janet England
- July 19 Annabelle Ducey
- July 20 Mallory Tharp
- July 20 Norma Peckman
- July 21 Dan Hieber
- July 21 Chance Mueller
- July 23 Lillian Kettler
- July 23 Taryn Jones
- July 24 Zachary Davis
- July 24 Darrell Peckman
- July 24 Margo Rodewald

July 24 Marcie Reyelts
 July 25 Shannon Fanning
 July 26 Stephanie Bivins
 July 27 Matthew Barnett
 July 27 Denna Jones
 July 27 Curtis Kettler
 July 27 Marla Prothe
 July 29 Lonnie England
 July 29 Barbara Herra
 July 29 Cody Weaver
 July 31 Barb Dillenbeck
 July 31 Colleen Richardson
 July 1 Dannie & Elaine Stewart (45)
 July 7 ... Andrew & Brianna Chapman (5)
 July 8 Earl & Darleen Medlin (42)
 July 15 Adam & Lorri Jenson (22)
 July 18 Paul & Karen Brack (36)
 July 22 Charles & Kathy Hall (39)
 July 26 John & Kathy Gerken (48)
 July 26 David & Carol Wray (37)
 July 27 .. Phillip & Morgan Richards (15)
 July 29 Chris & Sherri Webb (28)



Susan Henry & Mike Schmitt
 United in Marriage
 June 16, 2017

"And the two will become one."
 Matthew 19:5



After Church Snacks

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? Most of July is still open! The sign-up sheet is by the table with the snacks. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

July 2
Outdoor Service

July 9, 16, 23
Need Volunteers

July 30
Ruth Gaffney

Trinity's Fifth Annual



Blocktoberfest

Saturday, September 16
Noon–6:00pm



Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service
Sunday, September 17, 10:00am
In the Shelter House

Come Join the Blocktoberfest
Fun for the Whole Family!

