



Tree of Life Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, English District

The church that cares, our roots are strong

Newsletter

Worship Services
Sunday - 10:00 am
Communion Weekly

Location
Whispering Pines Park
Recreation Center
1700 Forest Drive
Inverness, FL 34453

Mailing Address
2659 E Gulf-to-Lake Hwy #410
Inverness, FL 34450
Phone #352-566-7592
(leave a message)

Pastor
Pastor Karl Koch

President
Ron Hansen

Vice President
Rich Grable

Treasurer
Sharon Hansen

Secretary
Karen Huscher

Trustees
Rich Grable
Matthew Manchester

Elders
Bob Morris
Ron Fullerton

Christian Education
Kim Carrol
Kim Jackson
Sue Grable

Bible Class
Sunday - 9am
Whispering Pines

www.treeoflifelc.org



*"You have ears; then listen to what the spirit says to the churches.
Be victorious, and I will let you eat from the Tree of Life that stands
in God's Paradise." Rev. 2:7*

Message from the Pastor

Some Revolutionary Thoughts

A lot has been said about our nation as a Christian nation. My comments are deigned to say both Yes and No – and to offer comments on both responses. First, our official documents have made it clear that church and state shall remain totally separate from one another. At the same time our history demonstrates that, from its very beginning before the revolution our country has been influenced by the values and behaviors expected of Christians.

At the time of the revolution membership in Christian churches was 10% of the population. After the W.W. II the percentage rose to over 50%. The numbers reflect both the independence of believers and the continued impact of the same.

Whatever we make of the dispute about being a Christian nation there is no doubt that the Christian faith and our society have been in a continuing conversation and dialogue. Sometimes Christian beliefs and values won out. Sometimes they didn't.

Our role as good citizens is to be good Christian believers at the same time. The rules of this world will always need the rule of *God* (i.e. "The Kingdom of *God*") for their correction and renewal. *God* sends his kingdom rule to the world through the Christ and His Church. We are the ones who are expected to see and support the kingdom of *God* in the world.

Our view of this kingdom is a grace-filled view and understanding. It sets forth the path of repentance. It calls us, and the world's kingdoms, to repent of sin and to turn back to *God* in contrition over sin AND belief that *God*, for Jesus sake, forgives our sins now and for eternity. All of the kingdoms of this world will perish but *God's* is eternal. We will proclaim this always simply because we love our savior and because we love our country. It is a *God*-blessed land. Let us work to make that an eternal blessing.

Peace to all Pastor Karl

Martin Luther's Encounter With Satan



Satan uses many wiles to distract and deceive the children of *God*. Here is a description of how he tried to stop Martin Luther from reforming the church, along with Luther's stunning response.



In the conversations of Luther, which are in some measure a posthumous publication, we read, that . . . Satan, either in reality or in a dream, appeared in the depth of the night, and addressed him in the following terms: *"Luther, how dare you to pretend to be a reformer of the Church? Luther, let your memory do its duty - let your conscience do its duty: you have committed this sin - you have been guilty of that sin; you have omitted this duty, and you have neglected that duty: let your reform begin in your own bosom. How dare you attempt to be a reformer of the Church?"* Luther, with the self-possession and magnanimity by which he was characterized, (whether it was a dream or reality, he himself professes not to decide,) said to Satan - *"Take up the slate that lies on the table, and write down all the sins with which you have now charged me; and if there be any additional, append them, too."* Satan, rejoiced to have the opportunity of accusing, just as our blessed Lord is rejoiced to have the opportunity of advocating, took up a pencil, and wrote a long and painful roll of the real or imputed sins of Luther.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Luther said, *"Have you written the whole?"* Satan answered, *"Yes, and a black and dark catalogue it is, and sufficient to deter you from making any attempt to reform others, till you have first purified and reformed yourself."* Luther said, *"Take up the slate and write as I shall dictate to you. My sins are many; my transgressions in the sight of an infinitely holy God, are countless as the hairs of my head: in me there dwelleth no good thing; but, Satan, after the last sin you have recorded, write the announcement which I shall repeat from **1 John 1:7, "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin."*** Luther in that text had peace; and Satan, knowing the source of his peace, had no more advantage against him.

by Rev. John Cumming, 1854 (1 John 1:7 KJV)

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7 KJV)

NOTE: Satan frequently tries to discourage us and make us feel unworthy, by correctly accusing us of our many sins. This is what he tried to do in the encounter with Martin Luther, as described above. But the fact that "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin," means that even if we are guilty and unworthy as charged, it doesn't really matter, because we are cleansed by the blood of Christ. Our guilt is removed, through no effort of our own -- just faith. This is the reason why Satan hates the song, "O, *The Blood of Jesus*" and wants to run away whenever he hears it.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

2017 - Sunday Services Scheduled at Inverness Women's Club

July 16th, August 13th, November 12th, December 10th

Turn in your mite boxes on the last Sunday of every month!

Christian Independence Day

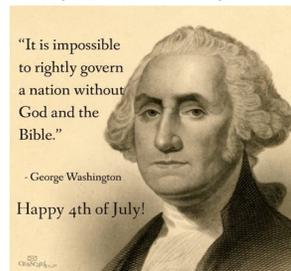
by Phil Ware (07/05/2004)



Independence Day is a yearly reminder and celebration of our national freedoms. It is also a time to ponder the cost of that freedom. There can be no doubt that freedom often comes at a high price — with the recent Memorial Day remembrances; the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.; the 60th anniversary of D-Day and the site of all those crosses on Normandy's hillside; and the ongoing issues in Iraq that continue to claim the lives of Iraqis, Americans, and people from other nations as well; this conclusion seems inescapable. The high cost of this freedom for those who signed the original Declaration of Independence is confirmation of this truth.*

Many are not from the United States. They often carry a different perspective on world events than those from the U.S. However, on issues of faith, we share deep bonds that transcend our geographical boundaries, primary languages, skin color, and national allegiances. We all know the high cost of our freedom as children of **God**. The release of *The Passion of the Christ* has once again confronted us very graphically with this incredible cost to **God** himself. Our freedom came at a huge price.

The early followers of Jesus didn't have a yearly celebration to mark this event. Instead, they celebrated their Independence Day each week. From all indications, the first followers of Jesus shared in the Lord's Supper as a gathered group at least every first day of the week. (*Acts 2:42-46; Acts 20:7; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34*) This day of remembrance became known as the Lord's Day among believers by the end of the first century. (*Revelation 1:9-10*) During The Supper, Christians remembered the Lord's death on the day of the Lord's victory over death and they anticipated the Lord's return and liberation from a world of decay and death. (*Romans 8:18-25; cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*) As they shared in this special time, they also recognized that they were the Body of Christ in the world; his people called to live his life for the world. They were challenged to recognize that each person in Christ's Body is vital to it actually functioning as the presence of Jesus in the broken world. They were reminded that their ultimate allegiance was to a higher calling and a heavenly community that is more important than national and ethnic allegiances (*Philippians 3:20-21*) and they anticipated the celebration that awaits when all of earthly differences are lost in the wonder and praise of heaven itself. (*Revelation 7:9*) Each Sunday, every Lord's Day, is the Christian's Independence Day. Each Sunday, every Lord's Day, is the Christian's Independence Day. Let's not forget to celebrate it. Let's not forget to remember the high cost of our freedom and to



anticipate the day of our ultimate and glorious experience of that freedom when we see the Lord face to face. Let's not forget that our church family crosses all of earth's boundaries and awaits the Savior of all peoples, languages, tribes, and nations. Let's be reminded that each believer, each brother and sister in God's Kingdom, is precious and vital to the work of the Kingdom in the world. Let's learn to more completely, more universally, more joyfully celebrate our Christian Independence Day and more fully demonstrate the character and compassion of our Lord and King who made this freedom possible.



REMINDER!

There will be a Voters' Assembly meeting immediately following services August 6th!

July Snack List	Prayer Chain Requests	Elder Visits	Lectors
7/2 Kim Carroll 7/9 Sue Grable 7/16 Sharlee Green 7/23 Sue Fullerton 7/30 Gladys Baker 8/6 Kim Jackson 	A list of those in need of prayer can be found on table at church entryway.  <i>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people</i> 1 Timothy 2:1	Elders are willing to visit the sick and home bound with prayer. Will also bring the sacrament of Holy Communion to either the hospital or home bound upon request.  Contact: Ron Fullerton: 352-344-0905 Bob Morris: 352-628-6452	July Karen Huscher Psalm/Epistle Bob Morris Gospel August Kim Jackson Psalm/Epistle Rich Grable Gospel September Sue Grable Psalm/Epistle Bruce Thornton / Ron Fullerton Gospel
Interested in bringing snacks? Contact Sue Grable 341-0074			

Send requests, suggestions for the Newsletter: to emlodge@yahoo.com / Website: webmaster@treeoflifecl.org