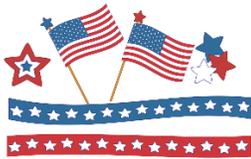
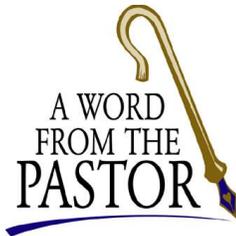


St. Paul's Lutheran School Newsletter



July 2021



Happy 4th of July! On July 4th, 1776, 245 years ago, the Declaration of the United States of America was signed including the final line, "... for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The founding fathers who signed the Declaration pledged a "firm reliance on the protection and divine Providence." They confessed a faith in "divine Providence." What was this "divine Providence?" While "some historians assert that the word "Providence" is interchangeable with "good luck," they are not considering the proper context and cultural use of the capitalized word at the time of this writing. George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and others of the time frequently used the capitalized form of the word interchangeably with that of God. The adjective *divine*, according to the first use of the word in Webster's 1828 Dictionary, points directly to God almighty. Likewise, the definition for *Providence* in the same dictionary points to God almighty. Thus we may conclude our founding fathers were looking to God almighty to guide and protect them.

Now come forward 15 years to 1791 and the adoption of the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Within this Bill of Rights is the freedom of religion; however, this has been relegated by the legislative and judicial branches of our government to freedom of worship through enacted laws and judicial interpretation. Thus we are virtually confined to our houses of worship and private homes for the profession of our faith. This, though, was not the original intent of the amendment. Read the words of George Mason, drafter of the Virginia

Declaration of Rights and co-father of the Bill of Rights with James Madison: "Religion, or the duty which we owe to our divine and omnipotent Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be governed only by reason and conviction...It is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other." Examples abound from quotes of our founding fathers that we are truly "one nation under God."

However, in our current situation of pluralism in which we accept any value or belief in the name of temporal peace, in our current state of reason and rationalism, we have moved from God our Father and the founding principles of our country. Of this Benjamin Franklin wrote: "If it had not been for the justice of our cause, and the...interposition of Providence... we must have been ruined." All would have been lost in the Revolutionary War; all *could* be lost today. To this Franklin penned, "May we never forget His goodness to us, and may our future conduct manifest our gratitude." And at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Franklin made the following motion: "I therefore move that henceforth prayers, imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business." Thus we pray "...in the name of Jesus Christ", not omitting Him, nor substituting some idol in His place. This was Franklin's call to prayer at the start of every day.

May we adopt the request of Benjamin Franklin and begin every day in prayer for our nation and its leaders. This 4th of July celebrate. Enjoy family and friends, enjoy the fireworks. But in your celebration, do not exclude the One who made all of this possible. As you gather, proclaim the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in prayer, boldly declare His holy Word of Salvation purely, and pray for all people that their hearts would be softened, that they turn to God almighty in his graciousness, that the Holy Spirit would move them to faith in the Triune God. May freedom reign in the name of God almighty in this great nation under God!

God's blessings to all,
Pastor David Reber, Jr.





Happy Summer! We have made it through another year. While that may not sound positive at first, it certainly is meant to be taken as a positive note. These last couple years with the Covid virus have certainly been a challenge. With God's grace, however, here we are, already looking to a new school year. Planning is already in the works. Rooms are already being prepared.

As we approach the upcoming school year, know that we will be totally focused on in-person instruction. With the exception of extreme emergencies, online, at-home instruction will not be offered this year. Additionally, a review of current curriculum is underway as we seek to update and stay current with our teachings. If we benefitted in any way from the Covid virus, it is that we have expanded our use of technology in the classroom. We will continue to use technology in the classroom to the benefit of the students.

With the new school year, we also welcome new additions to our faculty and staff, some of whom may be familiar to you. First, our new lady in the kitchen and cafeteria is one who has served previously, Tami Schowalter. I expect to smell good things from the kitchen. Sarah Siemen, mother of three of our students, will be coming on board as our new librarian. Joining us as our new 1st Grade teacher is Morgan Henry. Morgan is excited to join us at St. Paul's. She comes with some good ideas and vision for going forward. Heather Harbron is moving up to the 2nd and 3rd grades. Those of you who know Heather know that she will continue to bring our students to high levels of achievement as she sets her expectations high for her students. Finally, as Ms. LaBrue has chosen to slow down a bit, and take a well-deserved break, we welcome our new principal.

Richard Burdick is a man who brings with him excitement and vision and a desire to excel, that our students at St. Paul's will continue to be recognized as excellent students and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Having been active in sports throughout his life, Mr. Burdick will also be serving as our Physical Education instructor.

We look forward to the new school year with hope, anticipation, and excitement. Please keep our school and students in your prayers. May our gracious God continue to shine upon us. Be safe in your summer fun.

May God keep you all,
Pastor David Reber, Jr.



Please call the office (580.234.6646) or email Crystal @ splchurch@suddenlinkmail.com to schedule an enrollment appointment for anytime between July 26, 2021, and August 3, 2021.

Be sure to bring your completed enrollment packets, shot records, and birth certificates.

back to
School



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
Tuesday, August 11, 2020

5:30-7:00PM

We want to welcome everyone to our Back to School Night. We will begin in the church basement @ 5:30 pm with a welcome announcement from Pastor Reber and Mr. Burdick, our principal, followed by staff introductions. Following the welcome, introductions, and prayer, St. Paul's PTL will provide a meal of hotdogs, chips, fruit, and cookies. The teachers will then dismiss to their rooms followed by the students and their families. Students may bring all their school supplies to leave in their classrooms and also meet their teacher. We can't wait to see you!



FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE
July 1, 2021 at 3:30PM

Please have your completed application as well as a copy of your 2020 Federal tax return turned in to the office to be considered for financial aid for the 2021-2022 School Year.



PTL NEWS

Our next meeting will be **Monday, July 26th** at **6:30 PM** at 1810 E. Broadway. We will be planning for the Back to School Night and getting ready for a great year. We would love to see new faces and ideas. Feel free to contact PTL President Heather Orr if you have any questions. (580) 402-0524. Look for us on Facebook (St. Paul's PTL) to find out the latest PTL news and needs.

Dine Out

We need a Dine Out coordinator for the new year. This person would be in charge of finding and setting up a Dine Out opportunity each month. This is something that can be done in your own time from home on the phone. You can use the group for ideas and see what we have done in the past.

Contact Heather Orr if you are interested in serving in this way.



Don't forget to collect Box Tops and Best Choice Labels to support our school. Box Tops has moved mostly to the app now, so you need to download it and scan your receipts.



Clothes Closet

As the school year begins, don't forget to check out the clothes closet to fill in your uniform needs. Everything is \$2 and goes to support PTL. Donations may be taken to the closet or left in the office.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School Office will be closed on July 5, 2021.

Thank You

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has entrusted their child to us.

Every staff member takes their job very seriously. We all care about your child's spiritual, emotional, physical, and academic well-being.

It is a privilege to work with your child and with you, as we work together to do what is best for your child.

PLEASE tell others about our school. YOU are the best advertisement for St. Paul's Lutheran School.

When you refer a new student you receive a \$100.00 tuition credit after the student has been here one semester.

