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The Steeple



June 28, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Independence Day

As we approach the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, we take this from our history books:

After the Revolution the 1785 General Convention directed that a service be drawn up for Independence Day, and "That the said form of prayer be used in this Church, on the fourth of July, forevermore!" The Proposed Book of 1786 contained "A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the inestimable Blessings of Religious and Civil Liberty" to be used on the Fourth of July. The presiding officer however, William White, was opposed to the service since many of the clergy who remained in America after the War of Independence had been Loyalists and were against the Revolution.

Thus the General Convention of 1789 supported White and the service was withdrawn from the 1789 BCP! One hundred and forty years later propers for this day were finally published in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, but it was not a major feast. It wasn't until the 1979 BCP that Independence Day was listed as one of the "Other Major Feasts," and that provided a collect for the day (pp. 190, 242). Eucharistic propers were also provided as well as propers for the Daily Office.

When observing the Feast two collects have been handed down to us to pray. They are as follows:

(For the Nation) Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(Independence Day) Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this

country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

You'll notice that the themes within the collects speak to righteousness, justice, freedom, and peace – two of which the psalmist makes clear are the foundations of God's throne (89:14). It bears further reflection that along with righteousness and justice the psalmist also says that, "love and truth go before God's face."

As citizens both of this world and next the pairing of righteousness and justice go hand in hand with love and truth. For what is justice without love and righteousness without truth? As you reflect upon those truths that are self-evident, our way of life, and our calling as disciples of Jesus may you also take time to reflect on perhaps, one the most central truths we claim as Christians as you hold them both together:

St. Paul writes – "You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Eph. 2: 1-10)

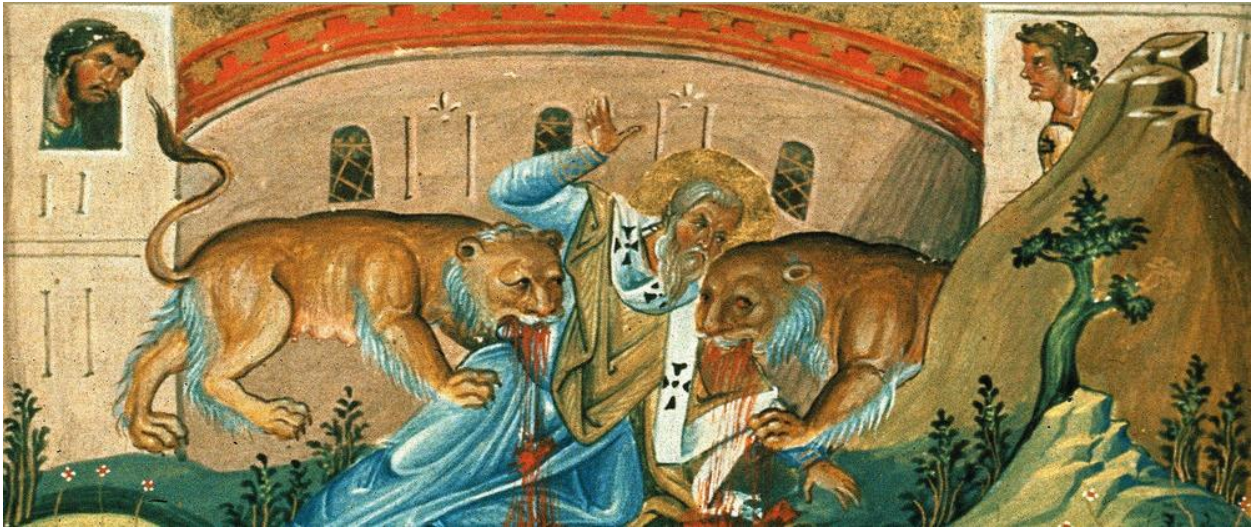
May God bless you as you do the work that has been given you to do and indeed, may God bless America.

Sola gratia.

Nick+



Church offices will be closed July 3rd & 4th for the Holiday. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!



Theologian's Corner: Ignatius of Antioch

Ignatius of Antioch, martyred in 115, had a profound sense of two ends—his own, and the consummation of history in Jesus Christ. In ecstasy, he saw his impending martyrdom as the fitting conclusion to a long episcopate. He was accounted the second Bishop of Antioch in Syria.

Seven authentic letters, which Ignatius wrote to Churches while he journeyed across Asia Minor in the custody of ten soldiers (“my leopards,” he called them), give valuable insights into the life of the early Church. Of certain Gnostic teachings that exalted the divinity of Jesus at the expense of his humanity, Ignatius wrote: “Be deaf. . . to any talk that ignores Jesus Christ, of David’s lineage, of Mary; who was really born, ate, and drank; was really persecuted under Pontius Pilate; was really crucified and died in the sight of heaven and earth and the underworld. He was really raised from the dead.”

In another, he condemned a form of biblicism espoused by some as the method of historical interpretation and the only rule of Church practice. He wrote: “When I heard some people saying, ‘If I don’t find it in the ancient documents, I don’t believe it in the Gospel,’ I answered them, ‘But it is written there.’ They retorted, ‘That has got to be proved.’ But to my mind it is Jesus Christ who is the ancient documents.”

Ignatius maintained that the Church’s unity would always spring from that liturgy by which all are initiated into Christ through baptism. He exhorted: “Try to gather more frequently to celebrate God’s Eucharist and to praise him . . . At these meetings you should heed the bishop and presbytery attentively and break one loaf, which is the medicine of immortality . . .”

Ignatius regarded the Church as God’s holy order in the world. He was, therefore, concerned for the proper ordering of the Church’s teaching and worship. He wrote: “Flee from schism as the source of mischief. You should all follow the bishop as Jesus Christ did the Father. Follow, too, the presbytery as you would the apostles; and

respect the deacons as you would God's law . . . Where the bishop is present, there let the congregation gather, just as where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church."

Together we pray: Almighty God, we praise thy Name for thy bishop and martyr Ignatius of Antioch, who offered himself as grain to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts that he might present to thee the pure bread of sacrifice. Accept, we pray, the willing tribute of our lives and give us a share in the pure and spotless offering of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please pray for: Terry Piper, Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Sanawbar, Diana Farris, Cindy Moffitt, Joel Hahn, Stacey & Butch Webster, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, Katie Rolielard, Debbie French, Jody & George Bracken, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Dorothy Buchanan, Peggy Kauffman, Colleen, Shawn, Ryan Kiesel, Tony Clapper, Bruce Neiswander, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tim, Shania Smith, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Estelle Sams, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Tom Martin, Audrey Foote, Skip Birkner, Don Doty, Maria Dawson Luke Karel, Janice Lonski, Radomir & Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, David & Charlotte Delahay, J D Brooks, and Nancy & Joe Norton.

Luke's Place June 29th– July 5th, 2023

June 29th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
Pub Theology, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's
July 2nd Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
July 3rd Office Closed
July 4th Office Closed

Baptism

Congrats Desmond!



The Return of Potato Chip Casserole

borrowed from the Diocesan Newsletter

The infamous potato chip casserole was a staple dinner meal at St. Crispin's for many years. This summer they are bringing back the beloved casserole and the verdict is in, it is still loved! The dish created by long-time camp director Georgia Gates, has touched hearts and stomachs for decades. The casserole contains chicken, cream of chicken soup, cheese, veggies and of course potato chips. Many have fond memories of the casserole, it takes them back to a hot summer day at camp with a rewarding potato chip casserole to end the day.

Fr. Bob Gates, shared with us some memories of the casserole and Georgia. "I really enjoyed seeing the kids eyes light up when that dish was on the menu...so simple, and yet so satisfying. The simplicity of the recipe makes it a "go to" dish for me yet to this day. Ultimately, memories of Georgia and St. Crispin's come quickly to mind...and knowing this staple dish is making a return makes my heart full and a legacy that continues!"

Summer Camp Director Teresa Phares shared with us the impact of the casserole on the camp community, "There are so many things we do at St. Crispin's Summer Camp to help build the camper community, and our shared meals are amongst those things. Bringing back some of the traditional meals like the potato chip casserole, helps us build community with our past campers as well. We were so excited that St. Crispin's offered to put it back on the menu this summer, and its been a hit with all ages!"

Here is the recipe , curtesy of Fr. Bob Gates:

Potato Chip Casserole

6-7 Servings

2-3 boneless chicken breasts baked and diced

1 16 oz pkg "cut broccoli" (NOT chopped)

2 10 oz cans cream of chicken soup

Water from 2 cans of cream of soup

Sliced American cheese

Lays Wavy potato chips

Mix together the diced chicken, soup, water, and broccoli

Turn mixture into a greased 9 x 13 baking dish and layer sliced cheese over entire mixture, cover with potato chips

Bake uncovered for 35 to 40 minutes @ 350 degrees or until bubbly

Serve and enjoy!

Birthdays and Anniversaries, July 2nd – July 8th, 2023



Birthdays

Chaz Cervený (7/3)
Margaret Holden (7/3)
Katherine Powell (7/3)
Dolores McCreary (7/8)
Martha Reyburn (7/1)



Anniversaries

Janice & Robert Lonski (7/6)
Keeli & Tom Droege (7/7)

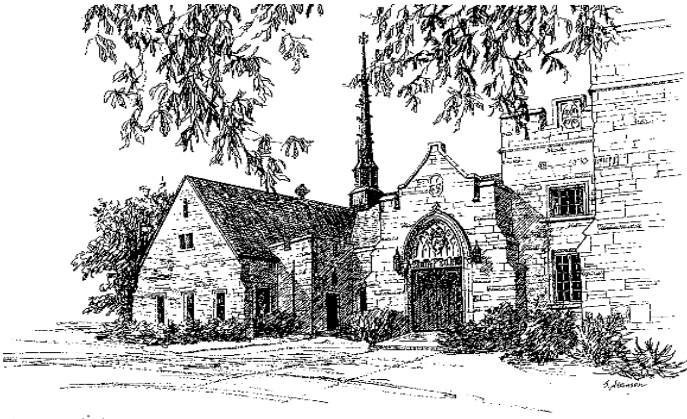
If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!



Pub Theology will be Thursday, June 29th, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's and since it is the Feast Day of St Peter and St Paul, we may even discuss the two saints' relationship and ministry- maybe.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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