



# THE LAMPLIGHTER

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 69 No. 4

July/August 2023

## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

### Five References to God in the Declaration of Independence

It always amazes me when otherwise intelligent people are unable to find evidence of God in our governing documents. The Declaration of Independence, the signing of which we commemorate July 4th, alone has five references to God—two in the first paragraph, one in the middle, and two in the last.

“When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.” Who is responsible for “the laws of nature” but God—certainly not man nor nature itself? The second reference to deity is “of “Nature’s God,” an explicit reference to God.

The third reference to God is the word “creator” found in the second paragraph. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” This boldly identified our base for at least three unalienable rights as God, and the Founders identified this truth as self-evident. So passionate were they with respect to these three “God-given rights” that such was identified as the purpose of government. “That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”

The fourth and fifth references to God are found in the last paragraph. The rightness of our cause was left to God as judge. “We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown...”

The fifth and last reference to God asks for his divine protection in our revolutionary course of action. “And 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.”

by **Dr. Harold Pease**, an expert on the United States Constitution, is a professor of history and political science at Taft College. He has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers and applying that knowledge to current events.

### Happy Birthday

07/14-Barbara Roberts

07/15-Dee Yoder

07/18-Robert R Scopel

07/23-Anita Kroner

07/26-Erik Wistoff

07/29-Angela Sargent

07/30-David Dembishack

08/02-Donna Green

08/05-Mary Ellen David

08/06-Kathy Brewer

08/11 Karen Benjey

08/14-Roger Martindill

08/13-Alyce Larsen

### Happy Anniversary

08/06-Neal & Cathy Quarles

08/16 Robert & Cathy Newhard

08/23 Dayton & Cheryl Hughes

3451 30<sup>th</sup> Ave N St Petersburg, FL 33713

Phone 727-526-3265 Email christstpete@aol.com Website www.christstpete.org

## **Status Report #1 - Exterior Wood Arch Renewal**

By: Bob Newhard

### **Sanctuary INTERIOR – Overview**

Our beautiful sanctuary was built in 1975 – nearly 50 years ago ! If you take a look up at our wood ceiling, you'll agree it's rather fantastic woodwork ! We have 7 inch thick laminated wood support 'arches' that span 78 ft across the church to a center height of 24 ft. These arches are spaced 16 ft apart with 4 inch thick interlocking pine roof boards across with insulation and roofing above all. Everything is in premium condition with the exception of a small area above the choir where the roof leaked years ago.

### **Sanctuary EXTERIOR – Overview**

This same wood ceiling continues outside, painted. There we have 2 smaller wood arches, 5 inches thick, near the Narthex entry doors. They span 47 ft across and support the roof overhang above the Christ statue and the small roof area above the entry doors. They are an architectural match to the interior arches. We have the original construction drawings & specifications and these arches are identified as 'exterior grade'.

### **Problems**

Despite being rated 'exterior grade', these exterior arches have not held up well. They have been painted and repainted and most recently coated with a marine epoxy. The 'foot' of each arch was reconstructed 22 yrs ago when lower rotted wood was replaced with steel plates and new concrete pads.

Nevertheless, over time, despite best efforts to protect the wood, the lower portions of these arches are completely rotted and teeming with insects. We suspected termites but see no evidence. Research tells us spraying the arches with copper naphthenate will resolve the insect situation for many years and we did spray the 'dry' East arch. The West arch, however, is still drying out and wrapped in plastic in a manner allowing air circulation. When dry, we will spray the West arch with the same copper naphthenate.

### **Resolve**

Property Committee members Dave Besel, Don Eelman, Dean Hottenroth, Joe Kingsley, Bob Newhard, and Erik Wistoft have finalized what we feel is the best functional, affordable fix. We had considered adding steel posts *alongside* the existing arches or cladding the arches with taller steel plates. But, in the end, we believe building concrete block piers *around* the arches to provide vertical & lateral support is best overall. It will be a different 'look' for us out front but with stucco and paint they will match the sanctuary. Each pier will measure 2 ft x 3½ ft x 8½ ft tall. The wood arch portions visible *above* the piers will require renting a 'lift' to complete prep & paint work which we will most likely contract out.

### **Building Permit**

Codes are clear that *"The demolition of any structure supporting a roof load shall require a permit."* Our thinking is that we are simply building a block pier *around* the existing roof support, not altering or removing it. We discussed this with the masonry folks doing the work and they are comfortable proceeding without.

### **Cost**

Our original estimate was between \$ 8,000 and \$ 18,000 for both piers. The higher number reflected city entanglements and permit costs.

Craig Koshler of Masonry Structures, Inc. has already completed the necessary slab extension work for the block piers "free of charge" ! And, he is hoping to get Carrolls Building Materials to donate the 144 concrete blocks and said he will build the block piers as a donation to the church ! This is a rare benevolence these days for sure! Accordingly, at this point, we have no written estimates and will report more in days ahead.

### **Funding**

Church Council has set some money aside for this – it's been a known need for years. We don't know what the final cost will be and a Fund Raiser may be required. We just don't know yet. All to report next Lamplighter !

## Women of Spirit

### First Monday of Each Month 5 PM

The WOS group has begun a 12 month study of the Book of Revelation. The Life Lessons with Max Lucado series brings the Bible to life with intriguing questions, inspirational stories and poignant reflections that take us deeper into God's Word. We will explore 4 key themes: 1) God has a plan and a future for the world; 2) God will be ultimately victorious over evil; 3) There will be a final accounting for our faith and our lives; and 4) There is a better world in store. Working through all 22 chapters of Revelation we will explore The Seven Churches (1-3), the Images of Final Judgement (4-19) and the Images of a New World (19-22).

Come join us! Through prayer, study and listening, we are able to live, love and learn together.

***"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4)***

## FOND FAREWELL & GODSPEED

We pray for God's blessings upon John and Anita Kroner as they journey to a new home and life in the Philippines, Anita's native country. John & Anita have been members at Christ Lutheran Church since 2015. We will surely miss them in our midst and know that God will go with them in their new adventure.



## "PUN"ISHMENT

CLC's own punster, Dean Bolvin, is taking a summer hiatus. . . so from the Q&A archives.

How long did Cain hate his brother?

As long as he was Abel.

Where was Solomon's Temple located?

On the side of his head.

Why did Samson try to avoid arguing with Delilah?

He didn't want to split hairs.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

Ruthless.

What sort of lights were on Noah's Ark?

Flood lights.

Who was the biggest financial wizard in the Bible?

Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

When is the first math homework problem mentioned in the Bible?

When God told Adam and Eve to go forth and multiply.

Why wouldn't the Pharaoh let the Hebrews go?

He was in 'de Nile.

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM  
Church office hours 9 AM—1 PM Mon-Fri (727-526-3265)  
[www.christstpete.org](http://www.christstpete.org)



### **IN MEMORY**

**James Sidney Peel**  
**October 12, 1938 — May 10, 2023**

passed from this life at his home in Hebert, Louisiana on May 10th, 2023, following a short illness. Jim was a member of CLC since 2018 and served as a lay reader at Sunday worship services. Born in Hebert LA, he dedicated his life for over 50 years to teaching. He started in Morgan City, Louisiana, traveled to Mississippi, then to Pennsylvania where he later retired and moved to Florida. His passion was traveling overseas teaching foreign languages for many years. He had recently moved back home to Hebert LA, to be with family before passing.

We miss Jim being with us on Sundays—his affable smile and his great singing voice on the hymns he loved and knew so well. He is with His Lord and we rejoice!

### **Would you be a “Phone Pal” in Christ?**

**Awakening Lives to World Missions ([www.alwm.org](http://www.alwm.org))** exists to equip congregations for purposeful obedience to God's Call to make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8) ALWM International carries out ongoing, fruitful, life changing ministry in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Belarus & Tanzania through our missionaries and ministry partners in each country. We also are developing growing partnerships in other countries to take the gospel of Christ to those who have not heard.

One of our missions is a **Web-based English Conversation ministry for nurses and medical professionals in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.** We are looking for volunteers who will invest an hour a week to build cross-cultural relationship & friendship, sharing the Love of Christ your Christian faith if, and as the Lord gives opportunity. For more information and application information, please write us at [EFECCoordinator@alwm.org](mailto:EFECCoordinator@alwm.org) or visit our website at [www.alwm.org](http://www.alwm.org).

THE LAMPLIGHTER – JULY/AUGUST 2023

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

3451 30<sup>TH</sup> AVE N

ST PETERSBURG, FL 33713