

Shepherd's Staff

July 2018

We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.

"You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m. ~ Life Plus Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Independence

Have you ever been asked if there was a fourth of July in Europe? This is the type of question that comes up around July fourth in our nation. As we celebrate the Independence of our nation, some may quickly say "no" to the question. Yet the question must be answered "yes" to be correct as July fourth is simply a date on the calendar. As Americans, we have claimed the date for our celebrations. It is important though that we remember what we really are celebrating, our Independence!

The freedoms that we enjoy, even taking for granted at times, were very costly. The revolutionary war was not won because it was easy, but through the courage and determination of those who fought to earn the freedom we have still today. As we pause to enjoy the time with family and friends at parades, picnics, and firework displays we are reminded of the sacrifice by which we are blessed as a nation. The lasting freedoms we still enjoy have also carried a great cost through the lives of the many who have stepped up to defend our nation. For this, we should come with gratitude to this celebration, never forgetting what we are really celebrating.

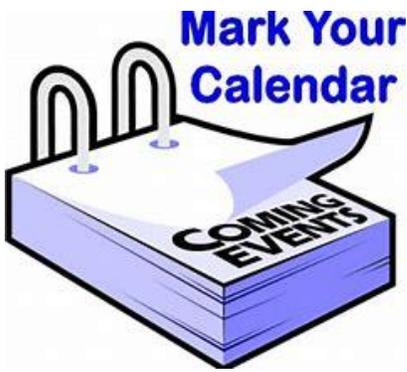
As Christians we also have an Independence that we can celebrate. Ours was also achieved through a hard fought battle that cost dearly. God sent his Son to bear the price for our Independence. While the challenge of our Independence is still on going, it is a victory that we can win. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is how we achieve the victory then as well as today. The once for all conquering of sin was for our benefit. The lasting effect is ours to claim.

Still today, the battle for souls is still being waged. Some turn away to other "gods" that may at best give a temporary comfort at the cost of entrapping our souls. The luxuries of life that we think we are entitled to build a sense of complacency that cause us to look outside ourselves less each day blinding us to the need we have for a Savior. We long for the peace that comes from victory yet we are more and more impatient, taking the temporary in place of the eternal.

This Independence day we should remember the cost of the freedoms we enjoy as a nation. But let us not forget the freedom we can claim as we hold to the victory our heavenly Brother has brought us. Life within the Kingdom of God in the bliss of heaven is certainly worth celebrating. Not with fireworks but with lives that live in obedience to God. Not with parades but with lives that pass on the love that is ours because God loved us so much that he gave his one and only Son for us. Not with picnics with all the summer treats but with the bread and cup of salvation reserved for the family that gathers at the table of God.

This year, let us all remember the true Independence we are called to remember and live out our lives as believers in Christ Jesus, the Son of God.

Pastor Rus



What: Butler County Relay For Life

When: Friday July 13th. 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Where: Butler County Fair Grounds

There will be:

--a parade of survivors

--luminaries with names of those who lost their lives to cancer and those who are survivors

--a constant walk around the track

--lots of food, music, and games

--a silent auction to raise money for the American Cancer Society for research.

There is a quilt in the fellowship hall that will be at the silent auction.

If you want to purchase a luminaries contact Marcia Allspach at 319-346-2200.



Red, White and Blue Dessert

- 2 packages (8 ounces *each*) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream, whipped
- 2 quarts strawberries, halved, *divided*
- 2 quarts blueberries, *divided*

- In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, sugar and extracts until fluffy. Fold in whipped cream. Place a third of the mixture in a 4-qt. bowl. Reserve 20 strawberry halves and 1/2 cup blueberries for garnish.
- Layer half of the remaining strawberries and blueberries over cream mixture. Top with another third of the cream mixture and the remaining berries. Spread the remaining cream mixture on top. Use the reserved strawberries and blueberries to make a "flag" on top.
- Yield: 18 servings.



July Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

7/3	Darrell Druvenga
7/3	Sylvia Jansen
7/3	Janet Johnson
7/8	Clarence Karsjens
7/14	Curtis Kalkwarf
7/14	Michael Mulder
7/20	Frank Pott
7/20	Marcia Allspach
7/21	Marjorie Aswegan
7/22	Luke Edeker
7/25	Lola Stirling
7/26	Kenneth Johnson
7/26	Mary Vry
7/26	Kamie Shepard
7/26	Amy Swanson-Haan
7/27	Gene Venenga
7/28	Joy Kneppe

Happy Anniversary

7/5	Dale & Angie Meester
7/23	Dennis & Sharon Schipper

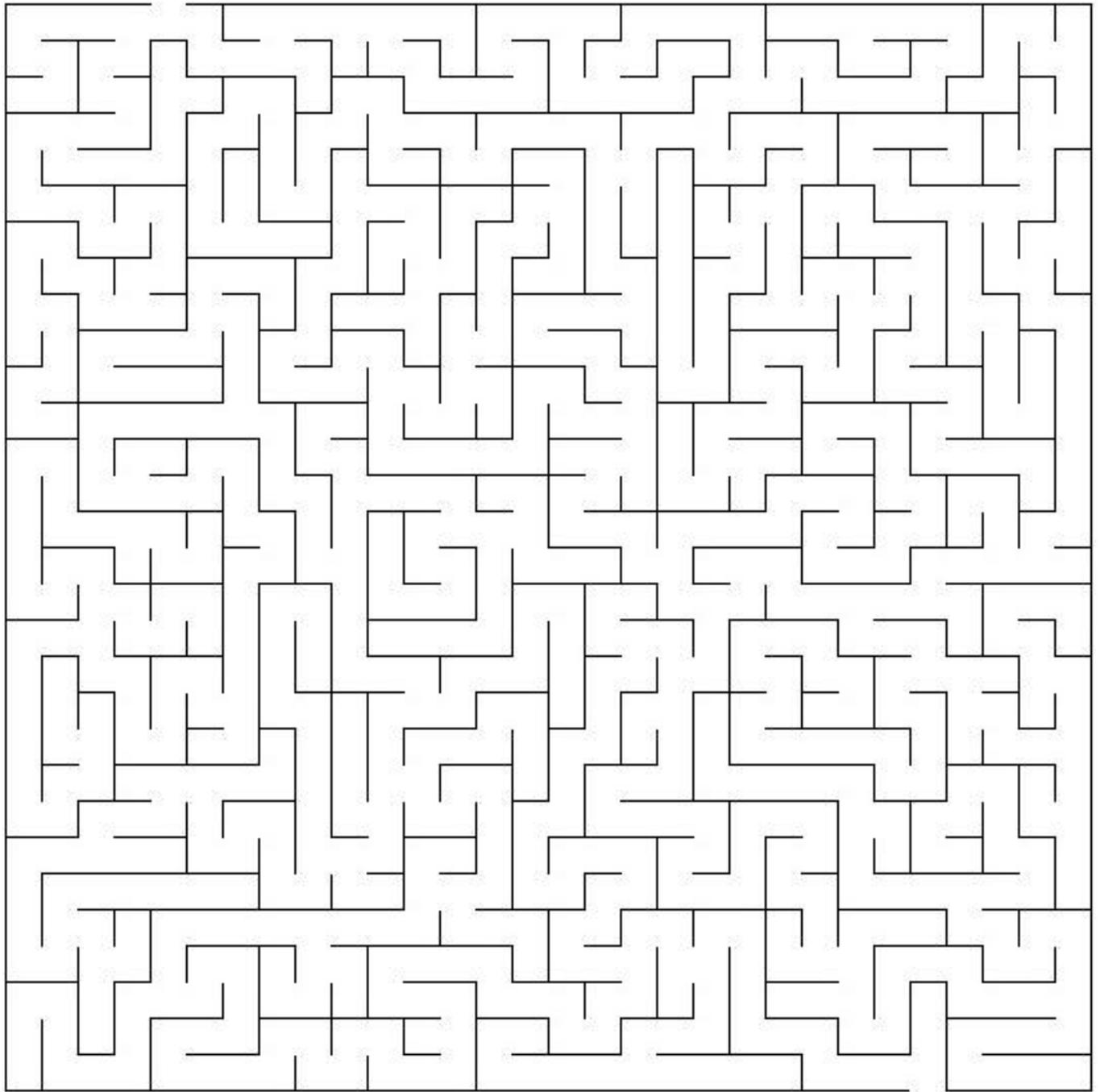


Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20th of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
7/1	Pastor Rus & Mary (N) Delbert & Sharon (S)	Gerald	Paul Haan's
7/8	Ryan & Stacy (N) Mark & Lanae (S)	Ken Meester	Dennis & Lois
7/15	Irv Haan Family (N) Paul & Darlene (S)	Mark Kramer	Joel & Brandy
7/22	Frances & Marj (N) Duane A. & Darrell (S)	Ken Johnson	Ryan & Stacy
7/29	Kevin & Shelly (N) Dennis & Lois (S)	Delbert	Kevin & Shelly

*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.



4TH OF JULY
MAZE

