



# Epistle



S T . J O H N L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

“ O F C A B B A G E S A N D K I N G S ”

(about freedom and government and what do Christians have to say)

1. **“In those days there was no king in Israel.”**

We read this 4 times in the book of Judges. (Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; and 21:25) This is after the people of Israel went into the promised land with Joshua; and after they had settled there.

What did it mean to have no king? Again the book of Judges says, “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 17:6; 21:25) On one hand the Israelites were free to work how they wanted, move and live where they wanted, and so on. This is the good part. On the other hand, many forgot about God and faith and morality. This is the bad part.

It is interesting how many similarities there are between their time and ours, how similar are the problems and the issues of freedom.

2. **The elders of Israel came to Samuel and said, “appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.” (1 Samuel 8:5) God said to Samuel “they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.” (8:7) “Only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king” (8:9)**

Samuel did warn them: He will take the best of the crops, the best of your flocks and herds, and the best of the land, your sons for soldiers, your daughters to serve in the palace, and so on and so on. That is the way of the king. (1 Samuel 8:11-18)

It happened, as the people of Israel learned to their dismay over and over again. It’s in the nature of kings. “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” (John Dalberg Acton, first Baron Acton) But how does it corrupt? Where does it all go wrong?

Recently I heard someone say this. The more power a ruler has the more he will assume he knows what is right, not only for himself but also for others. He will believe he has the right to control even the smallest things – not only what effects him but the things in other people’s personal lives.

So it happens around the world. Rulers with complete power believe they know better than others and begin to command smaller and more private parts of people’s lives. The king (in the 1700’s) demands a tax be paid on tea, and tells the citizens what they can and cannot buy and sell. In the middle ages the noble could tell the peasant where to plant, what to plant (cabbages, wheat, grapes, etc.), and how much he could keep; how to raise their children; who would go to school; and what religion to believe.

That’s why the title. It ends up being down to the least little thing. If the king can tell you how many rows of cabbages to plant, how much freedom do you have? So today we would say that kings are a really bad idea. That’s why we don’t have one.

But what about that part of 1 Samuel 8:7 where God says, “they have rejected Me from being king over them”?

3. **“On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘King of kings and Lord of lords.’ (Revelation 19:16) This is the vision of Jesus returning to reign forever and ever. He is our King, with absolute power over our lives.**

This is the difference: Normal earthly kings and rulers cannot fully know your abilities and potential. They cannot know what you can learn or what you would love to do.

But our King Jesus . . . He knows you. He sees all the way deep inside your soul. Read Psalm 139:1-6 (. . . You have searched me and known me! . . . You discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path . . . and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, . . . You know it altogether. . . .“)

With earthly rulers, if they presume to decide what is right for you they will get it wrong. The only question is whether they will get it a little wrong or terribly wrong.

But our King Jesus – He is able to guide your life. And when He leads you and steers your life what happens? You are at your best. You are more completely you than any other way of living. You live to your greatest potential, and He brings you to the things that actually give the greatest joy.

Earthly rulers seek their own glory and greatness.

But our King Jesus – What He has decided He wants is for you to be transformed “from glory to glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18); “who will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body by the power that enables Him to subdue all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:21) and who says, “but I have called you friends”. (John 15:15)

He is able to be your King because He knows you so well that He knows what is truly right for you.

#### 4. **It’s Independence Day this weekend.**

Enjoy the freedoms you have been given. They are from God. And remember that true freedom can only come through your relationship with the Christ who said, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8)

Pastor Mark



### **C A L L I N G   A L L   A R T   A N D   H I S T O R Y   E N T H U S I A S T S   . . . V A T I C A N   S P L E N D O R S :   A   J O U R N E Y   T H R O U G H   F A I T H**

We are planning a trip to the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis on Wednesday, July 28, to explore the extraordinary works by artists such as Michelangelo and Bernini, and objects marking the most significant moments in the history of the papacy and the Vatican. This exhibition is comprised of nearly 200 rare artworks, historical objects, and cultural artifacts from the collections of the Vatican, many of which have never before been allowed outside of Rome. The collection includes mosaics, paintings, frescoes, works by well-known sculptors, intricately embroidered silk vestments, precious objects from the Papal Mass, historical maps and documents, as well as historical objects from three major basilicas in Rome. You may have seen information on this showing on some of the St. Louis news programs.

The cost for an unguided group tour of 1 – 1-1/2 hours is \$17.50 for adults and \$15.00 for seniors (62 and over). We will be leaving the lower church parking lot at 8:15 A.M. and returning after lunch at The Boathouse in Forest Park (at your expense). We will also have extra time to look at the other free exhibits at the museum such as the fantastic Charles Lindbergh exhibit.

Please stop by the church office with your check (sorry, ladies, you’ll have to admit to your age) made payable to “St. John Lutheran Church” by **Monday, July 12**. Please call 774-2936 with any questions. –Mary Stallman

**F O C U S   O N   Y O U :   P A U L   A N D   M A R Y   S T A L L M A N**  
**B Y :   E I L E E N   G O R D O N**

The Stallman(n) family has been an active part of the St. John Lutheran Church family since its early days beginning when Frederich and Dorothea Stallmann immigrated from Hanover, Germany, with their children in 1859 and settled just north of Chester on land still farmed by the Stallman family. For the past 60 years, at least one of their descendants has roamed the hallowed halls of St. John School for all but one or two years. One of those descendants was Paul Edward Stallman, son of Paul Christian and Henrietta (Beck) Stallman.

Like his father and brothers Don and Steve, Paul grew up singing with the choir and active in Walther League. Paul first met Mary at one of his Walther League activities, though she attended St. Mary's Catholic School and St. Vincent's High School. When she transferred to Chester High School as a junior, they shared a mutual respect for the use of a sharp pencil for guaranteed success any time one is working with numbers, so his sharpening her pencils when she walked into Algebra II class became a daily routine. Little did they know that this little running joke would eventually develop into a lifelong relationship. (They both had their own "steadies" at the time.)

Paul and Mary also shared a fondness for their Math teacher, Mr. Gene Reiman, so they happened to both be visiting with him at the annual American Legion Picnic several years later. Paul offered her a ride home, and they walked together to his car parked at the Chester Grade School. After a Coke at Sani-Cream and a "cruise" around town, he asked where she lived. She sheepishly replied, "About a block from the American Legion on William Street." And so began their courtship. Oh, the guiles of women...

Mary is the daughter of John and Helen (Lamb) File, former editor and owners of the Chester Herald Tribune. There was quite an age difference with John being a widower when they married, so he was 60 years old when Mary was born. Mary's fondest memory of her father was his running alongside to steady her on her first bike when she was 11 (you do the math). Many of you may also remember Helen from Vines Department Store. Mary had an older brother John William, and a half-brother Lucien who later took over the newspaper with his son Johnny (all now deceased).

Mary graduated from Barat College of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, IL, with a degree in Mathematics and Chemistry...those sharp pencils really worked...and Paul was in the second graduating class at University of Missouri—St. Louis receiving a B.S. in Physics and Mathematics. They were married in October 1968. Mary was teaching Mathematics at Parkway North Junior High in St. Louis, and Paul began teaching Physics and Physical Science at Eureka High School. His teaching career was abruptly interrupted during his first year when he became the last man from Randolph County to be drafted for military service. With God guiding their life, Paul's orders for advanced training for Vietnam were changed to an assignment at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, NH, when his background in Physics was noticed in his file. Mary and Paul still have fond memories and close friends in that area of the country through their involvement with the small Lutheran church they attended there.

Upon his discharge, Paul passed up an assistantship at University of Missouri—Rolla to return to Chester to be near their families. After farming with Bob Hershbach near Jacob for a number of years followed by working with his brother at Ace Hardware, he was encouraged to apply for the Math and Athletic Director position at Chester High School. He held this position for nine years until he accepted the Science opening...this time encouraged by his wife because the number of classes meant the necessity of his retirement from the many hours required by the A.D. position.

What happened to Mary? Well she was a stay-at-home mother until their children were all in school and then began to substitute teach, served as a teacher's aide at Chester Grade School, became the school secretary at St. John for a number of years, and then moved upstairs to teach Science, English, and self-contained 5<sup>th</sup> grade at St. John. She "retired" in 2000 when the grandchildren began arriving by threes and fours a year.

Paul and Mary's children include Paul Christian, II, (40) who lives in Chicopee, MA, with his wife Tricia and three sons (one pair of twins). He owns a web design and marketing firm and last year was named to the "Top 40 Under 40" for business owners in Western Massachusetts. Karen (38) is married to Richard Hall, and they have one daughter and two sons. Karen taught Mathematics in Litchfield before they started a family and is presently the Principal at Christ Lutheran School in Jacob with a wedding videography business in her "spare time". Adam (33) lives in Herrin with his wife Susan and their son and two daughters. Adam is the head programmer for Pepsi Mid-America in Marion.

Paul and Mary's youngest son Ian (31) resides in beautiful historic Lafayette Square in St. Louis where he has served as chairman of the annual spring home and garden tour for the past two years. His girlfriend Amanda shares his love for restoration and acted as hostess and decorator when he opened his home for the 2009 Christmas Parlor Tour. Ian is a mechanical engineer for the Farnsworth Group in Webster Groves serving as the pipeline integrity supervisor.

Over the past years, Paul and Mary have both served on various boards and as different officers of the congregation and are members of the Fellowship Club. They have also been involved with both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the community, as well as with the Popeye Race Committee for many years. For the past several years they have served as coaches for the Chester High School cross country team, and Spring finds Paul officiating junior high, high school, and college track meets, while Mary stays out of the weather in the booth doing the computer scoring of the meets. While Paul continues to sing with the choir and his men's quartet (with Wally Decker, Don, and Paul all being original members since 1961), Mary has been active with Stephen Ministry, the Braille workers, and Vacation Bible School and serves on the Advisory Board for RSVP. She is looking forward to turning over the Congregational Treasurer's position to Paul the end of June and searching out other interesting trips for our adventuresome members to enjoy.

What will Paul's recent retirement from teaching bring? Probably not slowing down too much, because everyone knows that "retired" really means "tired again". Hopefully it will include some traveling, more track officiating, maybe a little assistance for the new cross country coach, helping Steve on the farm, and a lot more time to spend with the nine grandkids. Their devotion to their church, their family, and each other is always foremost in their minds. Their guiding force has been Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

**A T T E N T I O N ! ! ! T H R I V E N T F I N A N C I A L M E M B E R S A T T E N T I O N ! ! !**

Please look thru all Thrivent correspondence you receive, magazines, etc. (even if it looks like junk mail). You may be eligible to direct Thrivent to donate a certain amount of "Thrivent Choice Dollars" funding to St. John. More information will become available in the future but in the mean time please be watchful for this opportunity.

**C A R E E R S F O R C H R I S T W E E K E N D**

High school sophomores, juniors and seniors who are considering church professional vocations are invited to Concordia University Chicago for Careers for Christ Weekend on November 5-7, 2010. Join us for a weekend of special activities where you will have the opportunity to:

✦ Learn more about CUC's Church professional programs

-Director of Christian Education (DCE)

- Pastoral Ministry ( Pre-Seminary)

- Lutheran Teacher Education (LTE)

- Deaconess

- Director of Parish Music (DPM)

✦ Benefit the community through a service event

✦ Enjoy an outing to vibrant downtown Chicago

✦ Tour CUC's beautiful 40-acre campus

Questions? Visit us online at [CUChicago.edu/C4C](http://CUChicago.edu/C4C) or call 708-209-3100.

**T H R I V E N T**

Thrivent members will meet on July 18 at 2:00 p.m. for cards and a light meal at the Parish hall.



**A N S W E R T O L A S T M O N T H S B I B L E T R E A S U R E**

**Answer:** Barnabas - Acts 4:36-5:10

**OUR 2010 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL STATUS AS OF  
6 / 24 / 10**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$512,988.08	\$480,141.14	(\$32,846.94)
Expense	\$521,988.08	\$524,134.02	(\$2,145.94)
<b>2010 (Income - Expense)</b>		(\$34,992.88)	
<b>2009 (Income - Expense)</b>		(\$64,755.72)	
<b>Total (Income - Expense)</b>		(\$99,746.80)	
<b>Debt</b>	\$62,846.50	<b>Mortgage</b>	\$52,351.37
<b>Average 2010 Attendance per Week: 308</b>			

**Your church needs your help.** Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help this situation.

**N E W F A C I L I T Y F U N D**

Be watching for another footprint on our sign out front. Thanks to some recent donations, the New Facility Fund is up to \$287,361.23. Please consider a tax-deductible donation this summer and be a part of the future of St. John Lutheran School.

**F a m i l y N e w s**

- June 2 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Marion Clevenger
- June 3 84<sup>th</sup> Birthday of June Cash
- June 5 Wedding of Morgan Gross and Cody Bendorf
- June 8 36<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Gary and Pam Knop
- June 9 Baptism of Travis Schroeder
- June 9 Baptism of Chasity Schroeder
- June 9 Baptism of Gavin Ray Schroeder
- June 9 Baptism of Konner Joseph Schroeder
- June 13 Adult Confirmation of Pam Johnston, Rich Johnston, Chasity Schroeder, and Travis Schroeder
- June 17 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Ken and Mildred Young
- June 18 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Don and Beverly Bollman
- June 19 Baptism of Nolan Michael Knop
- June 20 51<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Marvin and Irene Dierks
- June 27 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Paul and Collette Powley
- June 27 Public School Confirmation of Krista Downey and Jeff Wingerter

**B I B L E T R E A S U R E H U N T :**

Solve the clue to discover the treasure, a Bible person, place, or thing.

Answer will be in the August Epistle.

The word from Paul was that he should,  
While living there in Crete,  
Appoint some elders in each town  
Where congregations meet.





### ACOLYTES

Sat July 3 6:30 p.m. Stormie Zweigart & Lindsay Hammel  
 Sun July 4 7:45 a.m. Jaclyn Colvis & Katelyn Rader  
 10:00 a.m. Nicholas Gross & Jared Johnson

Sat July 10 6:30 p.m. Madison Kueker & Anastasia Valleroy  
 Sun July 11 7:45 a.m. Matt Smith (Mead) & Austin Welge  
 10:00 a.m. Natasha Pulliam & Deanna Hohgreffe

Sat July 17 6:30 p.m. Kara Mehrer & Matthew Myers  
 Sun July 18 7:45 a.m. Stormie Zweigart & Kate Fricke  
 10:00 a.m. Sarah Liefer & Mallory Westerman

Sat July 24 6:30 p.m. Ellen Blechle & Nicholas Gross  
 Sun July 25 7:45 a.m. Josh Bierman & Matthew Smith (Smith)  
 10:00 a.m. Tyler Redeker & Austin Redeker

Sat July 31 6:30 p.m. Hunter Cushman & Nicholas Rinehart  
 Sun August 1 7:45 a.m. Alyse Bollman & Sydney Levan  
 10:00 a.m. Sarah Hecht & Ashley Wagner

### GREETERS

Sat July 3 6:30 p.m. Tammy Crawford  
 Sun July 4 7:45 a.m. Collette Powley  
 10:00 a.m. Linda Egge

Sat July 10 6:30 p.m. Mary Webster  
 Sun July 11 7:45 a.m. Linda Sympton  
 10:00 a.m. Paula Willig

Sat July 17 6:30 p.m. Angie Welge  
 Sun July 18 7:45 a.m. Darlene Gentsch  
 10:00 a.m. Mildred Young

Sat July 24 6:30 p.m. Karen Miller  
 Sun July 25 7:45 a.m. Tammy Grah  
 10:00 a.m. Marilyn Ehlers

Sat July 31 6:30 p.m. Wilma Kothe  
 Sun August 1 7:45 a.m. Sue Klindworth  
 10:00 a.m. Shirley Roth

### USHERS TEAMS

Sat July 3 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun July 4 7:45 a.m. Don Gentsch  
 10:00 a.m. Rick Casten

Sat July 10 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun July 11 7:45 a.m. Ron Rathert  
 10:00 a.m. Randy Campbell

Sat July 17 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun July 18 7:45 a.m. Gary Duensing  
 10:00 a.m. Don Stallman

Sat July 24 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun July 25 7:45 a.m. Roger Kattenbraker  
 10:00 a.m. Gary Eggemeyer

Sat July 31 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun August 1 7:45 a.m. Don Gentsch  
 10:00 a.m. Rick Casten

### WEEKEND JANITORS

July 3/4 Dennis Mott  
 July 10/11 Randy Campbell / Ron Rathert  
 July 17/18 Chris Urquhart  
 July 24/25 Duke Snider  
 July 31/ August1 Rick Powley

### ALTAR GUILD

Larry & Sharon Congleton

Marlene Seymour

Virginia Natho

Fred & Barb Fricke

Dr. Stephen & Diane Platt

Ron & Anne Rathert

Mike & Barb Welge

### RADIO ANNOUNCERS

July 4 Chris Urquhart  
 July 11 Steve Egge  
 July 18 Richard Janssen  
 July 25 Mardell Granger



### WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 6:30 p.m., Sunday 7:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship Broadcast on KBDZ 93.1 FM and KSGM 980 AM

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office, 302 W. Holmes, Chester, IL 62233  
 Phone 618-826-3545  
 Phone Meditation 618-826-2135  
 Internet Address [www.stjohnchester.com](http://www.stjohnchester.com)

### ALUMINUM CANS

June 28- July 3 Larry McDonough  
 July 5- July 10 Steve Egge  
 July 12-July 17 Gary Knop  
 July 19-July 24 Ron Sheely  
 July 26- July 31 Steve Young



### CHURCH E-MAIL

Pastor Willig- [pastorwillig@stjohnchester.com](mailto:pastorwillig@stjohnchester.com)  
 Kelly Walls- [secretary@stjohnchester.com](mailto:secretary@stjohnchester.com)



**M I S S I O N   F A I R**

The Mission Fair Committee met last month and are in the process of organizing a wonderful event. There will be displays on Guatemala, Haiti, Taiwan, South Africa, Children's Christian Concern Society, and our outreach to the deaf, blind, and imprisoned. Foods from the different countries will be available and three short children's programs are being planned. In the middle of the Parish Hall will be a 12 foot pyramid filled with artifacts and activities about Egypt. The theme, "Go Tell About Jesus" had been chosen to demonstrate what the Lutheran Church is doing in these areas. Keep the date, Oct 17 open for a special afternoon for the whole family. Want to get involved in this exciting project? Call Jill Arbeiter at 826-2578.

**W A N T E D**



We are looking for someone to organize and run the Popeye Hamburger Stand this year. If you or a group of people would be interested please call or stop by the Church Office.

We are looking for someone to organize and run the Popeye Crafts in the Parish Hall this year. If you would be interested please call Mary Webster.

**C O M M U N I T Y   B I R T H D A Y   C A L E N D A R**

The LWML are taking orders for the Community Birthday Calendar for next year. The cost for the calendar is \$4.00 and listing names for birthdays, anniversaries, or in memory of cost \$.20 each. To order call Shirley Roth 826-3366 or Irene Dierks 826-2505. Please order your calendar by July 16.



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church  
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Chester, Illinois 62233

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JESUS LOVES:



*July*