

CHURCH CONNECTION

JULY 2022



Symbols of Liberty

Remember being a kid in summer? You had been liberated and were for several blissful weeks free from classrooms and homework. You were free to do the things kids do in the summer. From a child's perspective, summer is and has been a symbol of freedom, even though a child would likely have trouble defining liberty.

Liberty and freedom are words that even adults often have difficulty defining. Any definition is likely going to be yet another abstraction of these abstract words. Thus, we look to concrete symbols to help us explain these important words. It is fitting during this month when we celebrate our nation's 246th birthday that we reflect on a few of these symbols.

Cast in London, **the Liberty Bell**, this famous symbol of America's freedom, arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in August 1752. It cracked while being tested and was melted down to make a second bell, which was also defective. Finally, a third bell was cast; and on June 7, 1753, it was hung in the tower of Independence Hall. On July 8, 1776, the Liberty Bell was joyfully rung after the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Tradition says this bell cracked in 1835, when it was rung in sorrow, tolling the death of US Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Significant words from Leviticus 25:10 are inscribed on its base: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all inhabitants thereof."

On July 4, 1884, the people of France gave us the **Statue of Liberty** as a symbol of friendship between the two nations. Today, this noble "Mother of Exiles" graces Liberty Island in New York Harbor.

Thousands of immigrants entered America through New

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Please Pray...

LEAD Wisconsin, our teen leadership and worldview camp, is July 10-15. Would you pray daily on July 10-15, for God's blessing on this camp? Over 100 teens will be with us for the week.

- Please pray for the teens' and staff's health and safety.
- Please pray for God to do a work in their hearts during the week.
- Pray they will catch a vision for how God can use them to make a difference in their world.
- Pray for our speakers, that they will be Spirit-filled and led as they speak to the teens.
- Please pray for wisdom for the staff as they work with and counsel the teens.

Thank you in advance and God bless you for praying.

STRENGTHENING,
PRESERVING & PROMOTING
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Gal. 5:1 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36

York Harbor. Often these folks related that upon first seeing this impressive Lady, they were overcome with emotion. They knew that this towering statue stood for freedom! And today, Lady Liberty continues to stand, guarding the harbor with the following ennobling words engraved upon her pedestal:

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me:
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Celebrating the **Fourth of July** in our traditional American way also symbolizes freedom and liberty. Shortly after the Declaration of Independence had been drafted, John Adams wrote his wife remarking that America's declaration of freedom from England *"ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore."*

This year as we watch fireworks rocket skyward, let us also be offering prayers heavenward as "solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty" because America certainly needs our prayers.

Of course, the greatest symbol of liberty is the **cross of Christ**, without which we would never know true freedom. We want to do our part to see that Wisconsin and America continue to be places where the Gospel can be freely preached and people can live and worship according to the dictates of their faith and conscience. May God grant that as we celebrate our nation's birthday, we will also honor the true Author of Liberty.



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Liberty: God's Gift to Us

Thomas Jefferson, our second President, wrote in 1781: *"And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever."*

God has blessed us with a form of government that recognizes liberty as God's gift, not something simply conferred by government. Like Jefferson, we, too, may indeed tremble for our country as we reflect on the truth that God is just. But God may, in His Providence, send revival. So to that end we pray and work, not primarily for the salvation of a nation and way of life, but for the redemption of souls. God has blessed us with liberty that we might use it for His glory and for advancing His Kingdom purposes. May God help us, by His grace, to be good stewards of the liberty we have, while we still have it.

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious freedom in our state.

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