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 In God We Trust - Do You?

**First Congregational Church of Fruitport**  
 3212 E. Pontaluna Rd. (across from Edgewood Elementary)  
 Rev. Michael Scott 231-865-3822

Communion  
 second Sunday  
 each month

Sunday School  
 & Church at 10:30  
 Coffee, Snacks & Fellowship  
 Before & After

Drop kids off at 10:15-10:30  
 & Pick up angels at 12:00




• **STORYBOARD ARTIST / ILLUSTRATOR** •



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**EDGEWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
 2525 E. Pontaluna Rd. • Fruitport, MI

9:00 a.m. Children & Adult S.S.  
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service



**Pastor Len Dahlgren**  
 Phone • (231) 865-3300

Communion  
 every Sunday  
 Barrier Free

**HYMN SING**  
 TRADITIONAL & GOSPEL  
 2nd Friday every month

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Purpose: To glorify the name of Jesus  
 and bring joy to the hearts of seniors!

**\*\* Eat FREE at 6pm \*\***  
**\*\* Music starts at 7pm \*\***

at Bethel Baptist Church  
 of Fruitport

For more information, contact:  
 Chuck Hackney 231-730-2859

Join us for  
**FRIEND DAY**  
 at  
**Calvary Bible Church**  
 4617 Grand Haven Rd. Muskegon, MI 49441

Invite a friend on  
**Sunday, May 21, 2017, 10:30 am**  
 for music by  
*The Counselors Quartet*  
 and  
 a presentation by  
*Chalk Artist*  
*David Teuling*

For more information, please contact us:  
 Email – calvary.bible@frontier.com  
 Phone – (231) 798-7411

Sunday School – 9:30am  
 Sunday Morning Service – 10:30am  
 Sunday Evening Service – 5pm

## Christian Perspective

### Patriotic Potpourri and a Prayer

Rev. William Randall

Old Fashioned Days prompts patriotic thoughts. The community residents, and others who come from far and wide, are thrilled on Memorial Day to see veterans in uniform carrying the stars and stripes. There is applause and expressions of thanks for those who served our country, coupled with sadness for men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

Some patriotic thoughts are included in this article, but first I want to share a prayer I wrote for this year's National Day of Prayer observance. The theme was "For Your Great Name's Sake, Hear Us, Forgive Us, Heal us." We sought to exalt the name of God and acknowledged that our hope was not in the President, was not in congress, nor in any political party, but in God.

*"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God almighty, hear our prayer for your great name's sake. We pray that your kingdom will come and that your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. We seek your help now because the world is so dark. There are wars and rumors of war. Help America to be strong, we can't drop our guard now. We want to keep the flag of freedom flying. We are asking you to defeat the philosophy and cruel aggression of Islamic terrorists. Please enable us to live quiet, peaceful lives in godliness and honesty.*

*There are problems in our own nation that confound us. Help us to see the way out. We confess that ours is a violent, immoral nation. We have in our own way worshipped the creature rather than the creator. Our society is bent on worshipping man instead of exalting you and your Son. We repent and ask for the forgiveness of sins. We wait upon you for your blessing today.*

*Heal our nation we pray in the name of Jesus, the Great Physician, our Lord and Savior, whose name you have exalted above every name. Amen."*

Faith and prayer foster patriotism. I am including a few lines from "America the Beautiful", by Dr.

Ben Carson.

*"Every time I see our magnificent Stars and Stripes, I think of the fortitude of those Americans at Fort McHenry who, although outnumbered and outgunned, never allowed that flag to lower in surrender. That should remind us of who we are: a people who never surrender, who never give up, who are historically rooted in a faith in God rather than in the vicissitudes of man, who believe in freedom, and who would rather die than abandon our beliefs in equality and justice for everyone."*

We know that our majestic national anthem was written by an amateur poet during the battle with the British Royal Navy at Fort McHenry. Rockets, smoke and blasts of armament was heard during the night, but at dawn's early light, Francis Scott Key saw the stars & stripes still proudly waving. Brave men repelled the fierce attack, which led to victory in the War of 1812. We should think of their sacrifice for freedom every time we sing "The Star Spangled Banner." It's more than just the prelude to the words, "Play ball!"

Throughout the years of our nation's existence, men & women of all walks of life have enlisted in branches of military service. Those who later rose to distinction in various professions once had the rank of Pvt. First Class. They cringed as Sargents belovved commands, often humiliating them during the process of preparation for service. If you could ask George Washington to name his profession he probably would say farmer-soldier, in that order. He led an army of men without previous military experience to victory over the most powerful nation of his day. Our nation's capitol bears his name and the Washington Monument points to God in heaven in Whom he trusted.

Our prayer for today should be that leaders in government of all levels will acknowledge dependence upon God, especially our President, congress, and our courts. Let the closing words of scripture be a motivation for patriotism and spirituality for leaders and for every citizen of the United States of America.

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." ~ Psalm 33:12*



## Lumber River Quartet

Will be presenting a concert of Gospel Music at

**First Congregational Church of Fruitport**  
 3212 Pontaluna Road, Fruitport, MI 49415

**6:30pm - Saturday, September 23, 2017**

The Lumber River Quartet is a well known Southern Gospel Ministry that travels and ministers all across the US and Canada. Ronald, Glenn, Greg and Les have appeared on TV, Radio, and are National Recording Artist. With smooth harmonies, live energetic style, and some good Christian humor, Lumber River gives the message God has given them in hopes of seeing people everywhere come to know Jesus as their personal Savior.