



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool
5051 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
www.bethanysaginaw.com
Phone: 989-793-9579

Thank you to the 170 athletes who attended Bible Soccer Camp.
Check Out the Photos and Video.

Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

Vigilance For the 4th ~ July 4, 2015

May the Savior empower us to live in defiance of the enemy!

[Online Version & Archive](#)

Happy birthday, America! And may our Savior keep us safe this Independence Weekend from all those who wage war against us. *You do know that we're supposed to be on high alert this weekend, right?*

Americans need to remain vigilant to the threat of a terrorist attack heading into the Independence Day weekend... (USA Today news)

The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation issued an alert this week asking local authorities and the public to remain vigilant for possible threats following recent calls for violence by leaders of radical Islamist group, the Islamic State. (Yahoo news)

If we are to be vigilant, we need to know our enemy and how he operates. So, how well do you know your enemy?

Today, as Americans celebrate the Fourth, Islamists published photos and video of Islamist children using handguns to execute 25 Syrian soldiers. These to-the-back-of-the-head executions were held in front of a gathered crowd. Although our nation's mainstream media appears to be burying this appalling news, I'm telling you because we need to know about the insane wickedness of the enemy, and how these brutalities are being propagandized around the globe. *Are you aware of the enemy's method of propaganda?*

In what western military leaders admit is a powerful weapon of jihadists, these gruesome photos and videos are no doubt being tweeted around the world, as others frequently are, to promote more terrorism.

ISIS doesn't just have strong, organic support online. It also employs social-media strategies that inflate and control its message. Extremists of all stripes are increasingly using social media to recruit, radicalize and raise funds, and ISIS is one of the most adept practitioners of this approach.

It's especially because of this social-media propaganda that our government is concerned that a "lone-wolf terrorist" within our borders will be prompted to act this Independence

Weekend. Therefore Americans are urged to report to authorities any activity they find suspicious, such as someone setting down and then abandoning a backpack in a crowded venue. Remember the Boston Marathon bombing?

Will this news about terrorism, and especially the alerts issued in connection with this holiday weekend, cause you to change your behavior? Or, will it simply lead you to be more alert as you defy the enemy and celebrate our nation's birthday in the same way you always have?

We Christians are well practiced at living in defiance of the enemy, while being vigilant and alert. Or at least we should be, because God has spared no effort to teach us about Satan and his kingdom.

Our greatest enemy is not the jihadists who parade children before an arena of spectators to teach these kids how to murder their captives. Nor is our greatest threat from a lone-wolf terrorist within our borders bent on killing and maiming Americans. No our greatest enemy is the one whom Islamists and lone-wolf terrorists serve—one who doesn't bleed. **“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand”** (Ephesians 6:12-13).

Against this enemy we stand our ground, we stand defiantly. We stand defiantly, armed by God himself, as we trust in the Savior Jesus. He in essence is our “full armor of God” for he has already defeated Satan and his axis of evil. Jesus did this when he bled divine blood at the cross and then rose back to life, so that we now live under him in his eternal kingdom.

The Apostle Peter points to Christ to empower us to move about victoriously and wisely as we live in this enemy-occupied territory: **“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.”** (1 Peter 5:8-1).

We who are Christians are the Americans best equipped to live in vigilance and in defiance of our enemies, because we live in the victory that Christ has already won for us.

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[House leaders warn Americans of July 4 terror threats](#) @ USA Today

[USA Marks July 4 Amid Worries Over Security](#) @ Yahoo News

[How ISIS Games Twitter](#) @ The Atlantic

[Slaughter In Roman Ampitheater: ISIS Children Excute 25 Syrian Soldiers](#) @ Daily Mail

[July 4th Terror Alert for Lone Wolf Attacks](#) @ CBS news

To become a recipient of Viewpoints, please email mike.nitz@bethanysaginaw.com and simply type the phrase "VP please" in the subject line. Or if you wish to no longer receive Viewpoints, type the phrase "discontinue VP" in the subject line. Thanks.

Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

