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Freedom: A Gift and a Responsibility

Grace, Mercy, and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I rejoice in the Lord exceedingly when I think of you as I lift you up in prayer before our Lord. May He keep you steadfast in His grace and fruitful in your walk with the Lord Jesus.

As we approach the 4th of July the topic of freedom and independence become foremost on the consciousness of most Americans. Celebrating Independence Day includes remembering the stories around the birth/founding of our country.

What is freedom? The dictionary has several definitions:

- 1) the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.
- 2) absence of subjection to foreign domination or despotic government
- 3) the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved

in the Bible the Apostle Paul addresses the concept and reality of freedom for the person who has become a believer in Jesus. Paul says in Galatians 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do

not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

Freedom from Enslavement to sin:

Romans 6:18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Romans 6:22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

Romans 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Freedom from being subject to the foreign domination of the kingdom of the devil

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Freedom to think, speak, or act as one wants without hindrance:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

We have an amazing freedom that has been given to us by God through Jesus Christ! It is a precious gift. Freedom from sin, from death, and from the power of the devil. The American definition of freedom to do what ever you want is not the type of freedom that the Lord has gifted to us. It is a freedom to love and service to God and to one another.

You have heard the phrases: Freedom isn't free and Your freedom has been purchased with the blood of those who fought for it. Those are true of our country and they are true of the freedom we have been given in Jesus. Jesus paid a big price for our freedom. Luther's explanation to the 2nd article of the creed is a great summary of the gift that we have been given.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a

lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

May God give us thankful hearts to live in the freedom that He has granted to us in Christ as we celebrate the freedoms that we have in this country. God bless your 4th of July Celebrations! Be Safe! And May God be with you.

In His Grip,

Pastor Jason

STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Gal. 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties: the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what we believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age has devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness: a

license to do what we want, when we want.

This license is a submission, again, to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires, slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our sinful desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity.

In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the

flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the church.

God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents to provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord. And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they

are no longer able to do so themselves.

God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel as well as repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

TACOS & T-BONES TAILGATE

Come join your church family and friends for a night out at the ball park! Tickets are now available for the Tacos & T-bones Tailgate to be held Saturday, July 14th at Community America Ballpark. Game time is 7:05 pm. Tailgate & Tacos at 5 pm. Tickets will

be \$11. To reserve your tickets, text or call Matt at 913-669-5101. Ticket deadline is Sunday, July 8th. Families, friends, and neighbors are welcome. See you there!



EDUCATION NOTE

Summer Sunday School continues and it is not too late to join us!!!

- ◆ Adult Bible Study in the Book of Ruth on Sundays at 9:15 AM
- ◆ High School and Middle School age is joining Wandering through the Wilderness with Pastor Jason
- ◆ Pre-K and Elementary Age Wandering through the Wilderness on Wednesday Nights Starting June 6 - July 25th (NO CLASS ON JULY 4th) 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

*Parents who are bringing kids to Wednesday nights Sunday school: stick around for a more in-depth look at walking through wilderness (summer series) with Pastor.

*Kids - Each week of summer Sunday school you bring a friend your name gets put in drawing for an awesome prize!

Mark calendar VBS is Monday, July 30-August 3 6:15-8:30pm. There are t shirts, hats and VBS music cd/download code available for purchase Sunday's in church foyer. VBS Sunday is August 5

Volunteers needed !!!

We will need lots of help to make VBS a success. Sign up to help with the morning VBS for the childcare from 9-11:40am and/or evening VBS 6:15-8:30pm.

VBS

Is coming soon!!



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Izzy Kelly | 18. Molly Franz | 30. Brett Leive |
| 3. Ginger Bouza | 18. Emilie Crowley | 31. Cindy Kaminski |
| 3. Carl Cavaness | 19. Melissa Giese | 31. Kade Tatkenhorst |
| 5. Keith Lambie | 20. Bob Mills | 31. Kurtis Tatkenhorst |
| 10. Jasen & Katie Currie | 20. Jason & Stacy Tatkenhorst | |
| 10. Clayton Kaminski | 23. Roger Kraus | |
| 11. Ava Buer | 24. Kenneth Rosche | |
| 12. Don Kile | 26. Kristopher & Desiree Kenny | |
| 13. Dorri Lambie | 26. Alex & Nick Verbenec | |
| 14. Dianne Gier | 27. Greg Leak | |
| 16. Tyler Rathe | 29. Sheri Mills | |
| 17. Carter King | 29. Gracie Hermreck | |



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Praise Team 7:15pm	4 Sunday School 6-7:30pm	5	6	7
8 Youth Group 6:30	9	10 Praise Team 7:15pm	11 Sunday School 6-7:30pm	12	13	14
15	16	17 Praise Team 7:15pm	18 Sunday School 6-7:30pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 Praise Team 7:15pm	25 Sunday School 6-7:30pm	26	27	28 EC meeting 3pm * 10-2pm
29	30 VBS	31 VBS				

* church is reserved for an event

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**GATHERING TO BUILD
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