

JULY 2026
NEWSLETTER



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
CHURCH HERALD

Pastor's Devo...

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. *Galatians 5:13*

and...

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. *1Peter 2:16*

I was surprised to see in my search of the ESV, there were only 10 uses of the word "Freedom". And, only once is it found in the Old Testament, the Book of Leviticus, speaking to God's people about the treatment of a female slave. The two verses I reference above, from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians has it twice, as did St. Peter's first letter...freedom...what a concept...

And for us Lutherans, we also ought to celebrate the freedom we have...as our Church Father's left their homeland because they were not "Free" to worship the way they were led to believe was a "Good, Right, and Salutory" way to praise God. They found themselves restricted, no, forced is probably the better way to describe it, worship as members of the Roman Church, with all its inadequacies and misrepresentations, and down-right ERRORS in their theology. They felt so "Un-free" that they left their homeland and came to the "New World"...America.

Freedom...freedom to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit...God alone, not a group of Saints, or Popes, or even the Mother of Jesus...nope...God Only...Freedom to worship God just as His Word, and the Word made flesh, tells us to. Praise God that we can do these things, just as He led our church fathers to make that voyage, just as He raised up a leader to represent Him to Pharoah to free His people, who had been made to serve a people as slaves, who really, when you get right down to it, were just as bound as our predecessors in the Lutheran faith were to those who forced them to worship long dead Saints...

Yes, praise God we're "Free"...free to worship as Scripture directs...but not without understanding...understanding that it's not just about us being right with God...we're also called to be right with one another...not using our Christian Freedom to run over others, to live in "Cheap" grace, as we know it from good St. Paul, and our brother, Rev. Dr. Bon Hoeffler. Just as again, in the verses above, the people of Galatia, and the people St. Peter needed to also be reminded.

Freedom isn't "Free" we're regularly reminded, especially during these times we find ourselves in during the first few days of July, when America celebrates it's independence from England, and that our nation's continued existence as a place where so many people still want to come, because it's so special, as all the recent reporting displaying the reactions of some many foreigners here visiting for the World Cup soccer tournament, who must have been given a dismal prep of what to expect here, but instead are surprised by the freedoms we have, even if yours truly would prefer some of these "freedoms" be kept under wraps, (insert winking emoji here).

Read these words, from the 2nd verse from hymn #825 "Rise, Shine, You People"

See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.

We ought to remember what makes us truly "free"...and not use our freedom to hurt any of God's people, by turning the away from seeing what's truly worth having as a follower of "The Way" by misusing our Christian freedoms...remember..."Speak the Gospel at all times, and when necessary...use words". Amen...



JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Donna Burgin
July 6	Ruth Noren
	Ted Kalagian
July 8	Kathy Thureau
July 9	Rita Freitag
July 12	David Welles
July 17	Richard Rideout
July 25	Ashli Bunch
July 29	Susan Hanenkrath



July 13

Rev. John & Rita Freitag

Rev. Dennis & Jan Bennett

READINGS FOR JULY

July 1	Joshua 6:6-27, Acts 10:18-33
July 2	Joshua 7:1-26, Acts 10:34-48
July 3	Joshua 8:1-28, Acts 11:1-18
July 4	Joshua 10:1-25, <i>Joshua 10:28-22:34</i> , Acts 11:19-30
July 5	Joshua 23:1-16, Acts 12:1-25
July 6	Joshua 24:1-31, <i>Judg. 1:1-36</i> , Acts 13:1-12
July 7	Judg. 2:6-23, Acts 13:13-41
July 8	Judg. 3:7-31, Acts 13:42-52
July 9	Judg. 4:1-24, <i>Judg. 5:1-31</i> , Acts 14:1-18
July 10	Judg. 6:1-24, Acts 14:19-15:5
July 11	Judg. 6:25-40, Acts 15:6-21
July 12	Judg. 7:1-23, <i>Judg. 7:24-12:15</i> , Gal. 1:1-24
July 13	Judg. 13:1-25, <i>Ruth 1:1-4:22</i> , Gal. 2:1-21
July 14	Judg. 14:1-20, Gal. 3:1-22
July 15	Judg. 15:1-16:3, Gal. 3:23-4:11
July 16	Judg. 16:4-30, <i>Judg. 17:1-21:25</i> , Gal. 4:12-31
July 17	1 Sam. 1:1-20, Gal. 5:1-26
July 18	1 Sam. 1:21-2:17, Gal. 6:1-18
July 19	1 Sam. 2:18-36, Acts 15:22-41
July 20	1 Sam. 3:1-21, Acts 16:1-22
July 21	1 Sam. 4:1-22, <i>Acts 17:1-34</i> , Acts 16:23-40
July 22	1 Sam. 5:1-6:3, 10-16, Acts 18:1-11, 23-28
July 23	1 Sam. 6:19-7:17, Acts 19:23-21:14, Acts 19:1-22
July 24	1 Sam. 8:1-22, Acts 21:15-36
July 25	1 Sam. 9:1-27, Acts 21:37-22:16
July 26	1 Sam. 10:1-27, Acts 22:17-29
July 27	1 Sam. 12:1-25, Acts 22:30-23:11
July 28	1 Sam. 13:1-18, Acts 23:12-35
July 29	1 Sam. 14:47-15:9, Acts 24:1-23
July 30	1 Sam. 15:10-35, Acts 24:24-25:12
July 31	1 Sam. 16:1-23, Acts 25:13-27

For Your Consideration...

DONATIONS... Mooresburg Community Center is in need of BIG cans of veggies! Cash is also appreciated.

ELDERS MEETING... Tuesday, July 7th at 10:00am.

COUNCIL MEETING... Tuesday, July 14th at 11:00am.

SINKING SPRINGS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH...

invites anyone who would like to attend their 225th Anniversary of their church. Sunday, August 2nd. A luncheon will be served after the service. More information of this is on the Bulletin Board.

CONCERT... We continue our year-long series, "The Year of the Organ," commemorating the 40th anniversary of the installation of our Randall Dyer pipe organ. We are planning a gala concert on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 4:00 p.m. The guest organist is Josh Sumter. Mr. Sumter, a native of Knoxville, TN, is an accomplished organist, conductor, and collaborative musician. Currently, Mr. Sumter serves as Organist and Choirmaster at First United Methodist Church in Oak Ridge, TN, where he provides artistic and administrative leadership for a thriving music ministry. The program will consist of arrangements of Lutheran hymns as well as music by famous Lutheran organists like Bach, Buxtehude, and Manz.