



St Timothy's
Lutheran
Church

"Sharing the Bread of Life"

Epistle

July/August 2017

Pastor Daniel's Meditation:

CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another." Gal. 5:13

When Amanda and I were out driving the other day, we saw a bumper sticker that disturbed us deeply. It read, "Heavily armed, easily pissed." We began to wonder how this driver would handle a fender bender or what he might do if we cut him off in traffic. His bumper sticker implied that we would end up being featured on the evening news as Chicago's next victims of gun violence, excessively riddled with bullets in a road rage incident. It grieves me that this is the image of freedom so many people have. It also supports the stereotypes held by European foreign exchange students I've known, stereotypes that portray us as lawless cowboys and law-defying gangsters.

This image of freedom stands in stark contrast to St. Paul's description of the freedom we have in Christ, an image Martin Luther wrote so eloquently about in his treatise *On Christian Liberty*. For Paul, Jesus does not set us free to take the law into our own hands dealing out death and judgement as if we ourselves were gods. Jesus sets us free only to enslave one another. He does not unchain us from our old master so we can devour life. He unchains us only to re-chain us to a new master.

On July 4th, we celebrate our first taste of political freedom as a nation. But how do we use it? How should we use it? If we are our own masters then let all creation bow the knee to us and cater to our every whim. But if Jesus is Lord let the free bend the knee to him and be enslaved to the neighbor in love.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 07/04

Skokie 4th of July Parade

Gather at Skokie OCC parking lot on Lincoln Ave. at 10:45am

Friday, 07/14

NO Family Fun Night

On hiatus until September

Sunday, 07/16

Birthday Sunday

10:30am Sanctuary

Tuesday, 07/18

Council

7:00pm Choir Room

Friday 07/28

Sack Lunch Ministry

9:45am Fellowship Hall

TBD

Youth Day Trip

Tuesday, 08/15

Council

7:00pm Choir Room

Sunday, 08/20

Birthday Sunday

10:30am Sanctuary

Friday, 08/25

Sack Lunch Ministry

9:45am Fellowship Hall



SKOKIE 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Oakton Community College

Tuesday, July 4, 10:45am

Help share what the Spirit is doing at St. Timothy's by riding or walking in the parade! We will meet in the Oakton Community College parking lot (7701 N. Lincoln Ave.). Look for number 58! Contact Pastor Daniel if you'd like to walk or contact either Bruce Hildner or Dave Lindahl if you'd like to ride. Both will be driving their beautiful automobiles! Those who are walking will be passing out Coffeehouse postcards, pens, packages of veggie straws, and the new improved St. Timothy's trifold.

Put on your sunscreen and hat, and join the fun!

ISHARE PROJECT

During the Season of Pentecost

You have the opportunity to share what God has been doing in your life! Sign up for a Sunday, then meet with Pr. Daniel to prepare. Together find a Bible verse or story that connects with your story. Then prepare a 3 - 5 minute reflection on your story to share in place of a reading on your selected Sunday. Sign up during Coffee Hour this Sunday!

GARDEN UPDATE



In the picture above

The garden is growing! Tomatoes planted by the children from Cradles, Cribs, and Crayons are looking healthier than ever. We also have cucumbers in this bed!



In the 2nd picture above

Volunteers set up a rain barrel near the plant beds to save water and easily provide it to the plants anytime they need it.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night is taking a break until September. The next Family Night is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 16th. Stay tuned for more information!