



The Evangel

Newsletter of Messiah Lutheran Church

July-August 2022
our 212th year

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." (Galatians 5:1)

Freedom is a word we will be hearing a lot this month as we celebrate Independence Day. Most, if not all, of the time, it will refer to the liberties we enjoy as citizens of the United States. No other country or people have valued freedom more than we have.



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

From beginning to end, the Scriptures also speak of freedom. In the Old Testament, the Lord set the Hebrews free from bondage in Egypt. In Israel, slaves were set free every fifty years (the Year of Jubilee). At the same time, debts were canceled, setting the debtor free from financial obligation. The New Testament speaks of the work of Jesus as setting us free from the bondage to sin. Certainly these ideas inspired the Founding Fathers as they established a new nation.

Too often today, freedom is taken to mean absolute or unbound freedom. In short, "I can do what ever I want, and you can't do anything about it." Freedom is taken to mean the absence of duty or obligation to anyone else.

But this is not the case. Freedom brings responsibility. As *free* citizens, we have the responsibility to be *good* citizens. This includes voting, serving on boards and commissions, and holding leaders accountable for administering our laws.

As free Christians, we also have responsibilities. The Apostle Peter instructs us, "Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God" (I Peter 2:16). And Paul exhorts us, "Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13).

We are free. We are set free in Christ to serve God and one another. As we celebrate and give thanks for our freedom this month, let us also remember and celebrate what we have been set free for.

Pastor Eric

Deadline for the next issue of *The Evangel* is **Sunday, August 14, 2022**. Have all items into the church office by that date for inclusion in the next issue.

JULY BIRTHDAYS	
2	Chad Martin
3	Campbell Kolak Addalyn Kolak Laura Nace
7	Glenn Arnold
9	Gabe Turner
10	Ginny Wagner
12	Nada Kennedy Jim Woods
15	Barb Woods
18	Kim Taylor Samuel Eppley
20	Kevin Kolak
24	Randy Tressler
26	Betty Reisinger

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	
1	Kayla Stambaugh
5	Aaron Seidel
6	Mary Jane Trout
16	Elsie Berger Judy Schalles
18	Patti McLaughlin
19	Piper Stambaugh Kim Stitzel
23	Ron Shambaugh John Parson
24	Brooks Reeder Jane Simonton
28	Ben Dum Jr.
29	Ella Hinkle

JULY ANNIVERSARIES	
6	Brooks & Carolyn Reeder (1968)
12	Woody & Jane Simonton (1975)

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES	
15	Andy & Ashley Kolak (2009)
17	Dave & Patti McLaughlin (1984)
20	Randy & Sherry Tressler (1977)
29	Jim & Jane Stambaugh (1981)

*Please inform the church office of any corrections or omissions to the Birthday & Anniversary Lists.
Thank you!*



A special Birthday celebration was held on June 19 to honor and give thanks for Doris. We are so grateful for her many years of service in our music ministry.

Miscellaneous Notes:

- We collected \$266.00 for Heartbeat Ministries through filling the baby bottles with loose change. Thank you for your generosity.
- There will be a special offering for Property on September 11.
- The Youth Group is doing a sneaker drive through GotSneakers. the shoes can be in any condition, they just have to be athletic shoes. Just place them in the bin in the narthex.
- Council meets Tuesday, July 12, at 7:00 P.M.
- Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 24, 2022, at 8:30 AM. Come to church early!

Vacation Bible School was held June 6-10, 2022. Nineteen children learned that When life is scary, When life changes, When life is good, and When life is sad, God is good! Our Bible stories were the Ten Plagues, Crossing Red Sea, Crossing the Jordan River, and Jesus' Death and Resurrection.

Materials for Baby Kits for Lutheran World Relief were collected throughout the week, and were assembled on Friday as our mission project. A total of 20 Baby kits were made from VBS collections, a Thrivet donation, and contributions by church members.



Learning the motions to those great VBS hits!



Working on crafts.



Crossing the Red Sea on dry ground.



Gathering stones from the Jordan River to build a memorial.