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This year, the U. S. of A. celebrates 250 years of freedom! 250 years of being free as a nation. It is truly something! But in this celebration, we know that freedom isn't free. Over the last 250 years, so many people have fought to protect our freedoms. Sacrifices had to be made - sacrificing time, health, relationships. On top of that, the ultimate sacrifice has been made by about 1.3-1.4 million American soldiers over the last 250 years (according to a Google AI Overview).

Yet, for all of these freedoms that people have fought and died for, for all of the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans, we still find ourselves slaves. Slaves to sin. Slaves to something that we can't fight a war over to free ourselves from. We are slaves to the sins of the world, sins of the neighbors, and our own sins. Try as we might, on our own power, we cannot free ourselves from this slavery.

There are times perhaps that we feel particularly less sinful than other times. Maybe conquering an addiction or making good choices for ourselves or others. But then we open up the Good Book and see a dozen or so other ways that we have been enslaved to sin. And that binds us; convicts us.

We stay enslaved to our sin, bound to continue on in our sin until we hear His promise given to us. The promise that Jesus Christ became sin, was hung on a tree, and took that sin to the grave with Him. As we are baptized in Christ, as Paul says in Romans 6, we are baptized into a death like Christ's. That is, we, in our sinful self (yes, even as infants) were put

to death. But the Scriptures don't stop there and neither does Jesus. While the wage of sin is death, we are raised to new life with Christ as He rose on the third day! It is in this promise that we are truly free!

5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.... 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. - Gal. 5:1, 13

Christ died for you. He died because you needed Him to. Because you (and I, and everyone else) are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. You see, even in Christ, freedom isn't free. It is free to you; don't get it twisted. Jesus Christ freely gave up His life to save yours. He gave the Ultimate Sacrifice for people who constantly spit upon Him, mock Him, and reject Him. People who think they can do it on their

own. Even people who think that if they just live a good enough life, then they won't owe Jesus quite so much.

Jesus Christ paid the price. Once and for all.

As we celebrate America and her 250 years, let us hold firm to the true freedom that Christ has given us. Freedom to enter into heaven because He has made a room for us there. Let us serve one another not out of godly obligation, but out of love for one another that has first been given to us.

Let freedom ring!

This is most certainly true.

Pastor Max Whitehead

Calendar

Wednesday, July 1
2:00 PM Bible Study

Sunday, July 5
8:00 AM Council Mtg.
9:00 AM Worship Service

Wednesday, July 8
2:00 PM Bible Study

Sunday, July 12
9:00 AM Worship Service

Monday, July 13
2:00 PM Church Circle

Wednesday, July 15
2:00 PM Bible Study
6 - 9:00 PM Community Worship & SMASH Burgers in the park

Saturday, July 18
5:00 PM Red Book Service @ OSLC

Sunday, July 19
10:00 AM Community Worship Service @ Glood Park
11 AM - 1 PM Recovery Breakfast @ Glood Park
5 - 7:00 PM Root Beer Floats (Community Center)

Wednesday, July 22
2:00 PM Bible Study

Sunday, July 26
9:00 AM Worship Service

Wednesday, July 29
2:00 PM Bible Study

Worship Helpers

Sunday, July 5
Reader Karen Larsen
Acolytes Summer Hiatus
Communion Helper Summer Hiatus
Stream Youth
Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, July 12
Reader Dawn Kludt
Acolytes Summer Hiatus
Stream Youth
Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, July 19 - Danish Days
Reader NA
Acolytes Summer Hiatus
Communion Helper Summer Hiatus
Stream NA
Organist/Pianist NA

Sunday, July 26
Reader Faydra Christensen
Acolytes Summer Hiatus
Stream Youth
Organist/Pianist Praise Band

Scripture Readings

July 5 - Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67, Psalm 145:8-14, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12 - Genesis 25:19-34, Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19 - Genesis 28:10-19a, Psalm 86:11-17, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26 - Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Ushers & Cleaners

July Ushers

Matt and Michelle Sorensen
Morris and Lynn Elcoock
Jason and Alaina Mathiesen

Cleaners June 28 - July 11

- ❖ Julie Hartman,
- ❖ Kara Edelman,
- ❖ Kelsey Larsen,
- ❖ Brandi Eli

Cleaners July 12-25

- ❖ Linda Larsen,
- ❖ Ashley Larsen,
- ❖ Kayla Larsen

Cleaners July 26-Aug 08

- ❖ Kim Flint,
- ❖ Deanna Gall,
- ❖ Janet Munkvold,
- ❖ Anna Munkvold



Looking Ahead to August



Sunday, August 2

8:00 AM Council Mtg.
9:00 AM **Worship Service**

Wednesday, August 5

2:00 PM Bible Study

Sunday, August 9

9:00 AM **Worship Service**

Monday, August 10

2:00 PM Church Circle

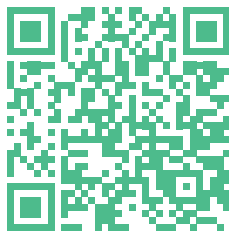
Wednesday, August 12

2:00 PM Bible Study



Vacation Bible School July 20 - 23 • 8:30-11:30 AM

- Join us at Spring Valley Lutheran Church as
- we step through the mist into Rainforest Falls,
- overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees
- and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of
- chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids
- plunge into a life-long adventure, discovering the
- nature of God, and exploring what it means to
- be rooted in relationship with their creator, a safe
- place in life's storms. Register now at
- <https://vbspro.events/p/events/spring-valley/>



Thank you
VOLUNTEERS
WE APPRECIATE
YOU!



To give on-line, please visit
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8FH/home>
or scan this QRCode:



PLEASE HELP END HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Any Food Pantry contributions are greatly appreciated. We have fridge and freezer space for items like meats and cheeses. Current needs include: Canned fruit, canned corn & peas, white and brown sugars, cookie mix, cake mix & frosting, canned tuna & chicken, Ketchup, BBQ sauce, spices, long grain white rice, cooking oil, mayonnaise, PB & jelly, Shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste & toothbrushes, deodorant, and toilet paper. Thank you in advance for your support!

Spring Valley
LUTHERAN CHURCH
44707 289th St
PO Box 98
Viborg SD 57070



Community in Christ: A Night of Praise & Worship

Join us on July 15 from 6-9pm @ Glood Park as we kick off Danish Days with an evening of joyful praise, heartfelt worship, and gratitude to God.

VCIS will be grilling up delicious smashburgers as a fundraiser to help send their students to Boston—come hungry and support a great cause while we worship together!



ROOTBEER FLOATS FUNDRAISER

Cool off with a classic treat during Danish Days!

The Junior League will be serving ice-cold root beer floats at the Community Center:

❖ July 19 from 5:00-7:00 PM

Bring your friends, enjoy a delicious float, and help support the Junior League's work in our community!



PANCAKE FUNDRAISER

Community Worship @ Glood Park on July 19 at 10:00 AM. We will have hymn favorites, scripture, and a sermon. All followed by a breakfast served by the VCIS (recovery breakfast). Pancakes, eggs, bacon, and sausage. Free Will donation to support the trip to Boston.