

The logo for the newsletter, featuring the word "spirit" in a large, white, lowercase, cursive font, with "NEWSLETTER" in a smaller, white, uppercase, sans-serif font below it. The background is a dark blue gradient with a faint, stylized starburst pattern.

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
July 2019

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Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday, 10AM-1PM

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)

Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People

Pastor.....Brad Ross

Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac

Organist.....Edith Schatt

Council President.....Dale Kirk

Council Vice-President.....Bonnie Piskac

Council Secretary.....Bill Weidman

Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Not gonna lie, Fourth of July...eh. Fireworks? I'm indifferent. I'm not usually a fan of the temperatures being above 70 degrees, so that could have something to do with it, too. The chaos of parades doesn't do it for me, either. The one thing I tend to look forward to the most is watching the musical *1776*, which historians believe is a relatively accurate telling of the Second Continental Congress proceedings (minus the singing, of course).

Nevertheless, I do remember one early July celebration, of sorts, that still sticks with me. When both Sarah and I lived in Columbus, we decided to go to their version of the national birthday pomp and circumstance: Red, White and Boom (yes, C-bus tends to kick it up a notch with the booming blasts in the sky). Instead of driving to wherever downtown, we walked from Sarah's apartment down alongside the Olentangy River and sat on one of the bridges with a bunch of complete strangers (which tends to happen with the national holiday renditions). And just before the fireworks commenced, a guy, who brought along his radio, cranked up one of the local stations that was providing music to go along with the booms; not in the sense of "You're gonna listen to *my* music, whether you like it or not!" Instead, as if he wanted to share it with the rest of us...complete strangers.

It may not seem like a big deal, but as much as we insist on teaching children to share toys, attention, food, etc.; sometimes we adults don't like to share, either. Yes, it could be our "toys," attention, food, but it also includes gifts, talents, money. Sometimes the independence thing makes us a little protective of our own "life, liberty and the pursuit of [our] happiness." Lest we forget, the ultimate freedom that came from God in Jesus Christ (not the U. S. of A.) against sin and death, was not meant to make us do everything possible that no one mess with our new life in Christ. No, Christ set us free that we may follow his holy momentum out of the tomb, too, including the tombs we create for ourselves



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

in terms of fear, not recognizing the beauty of God universally (with other people along with it), and plenty of others that make us not want to test the comfort and security we have on the inside.

After all, Christ shared his own holiness with us, his own death-defying love, his own beyond-our-
imagination grace and mercy...with us! The "us" that God does not consider to be strangers, but as if we are
God's own children. And day in and day out, God sets off works of a booming Holy Spirit in our own hearts
and even complete strangers around us. Sometimes we need to consciously turn up the spiritual music within
our soul to raise our awareness of the eternal celebration going on right in front of us, but don't worry, God isn't
stopping anytime soon; actually...never. For the ultimate freedom to set us free to love God and serve our
neighbor without worrying about any eternal consequences whatsoever, we give thanks to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad



Dale and Linda Kirk have let us know that they no longer have enough time to fulfill the custodial needs at Triune. First, we give thanks for their service for these last nearly two years of great work! Secondly, we want to offer the position to anyone you know and trust to be able to take care of the building either Friday or early Saturday on a weekly basis throughout the year (8 hours/week for \$15/hour). The Kirks will continue to serve in the meantime and will provide the training. Contact Dale Kirk for more information.



We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Jenny Bennett
Bev Deitrick
Cathy Gallagher
Richard Jakubcin
Joann Loede
Matt Loede
Mary Phillips

Hazel Schwab
George Tomaselli
Trudy Weidman
Mardell Weiss
Clara Wilcox
Dave Wilcox

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church

office, and we will be sure to deliver them.

6th Joann Loede
13th Jim Shimko
15th Heidi Bailey
20th Pastor Brad
22nd Clara Wilcox
22nd Bill Weidman
25th Aaron Bailey
28th Alan Siggelkow



19th Dave & Edith Schatt

Our Monday afternoon Bible study group, beginning *God Breathed*, weekly at 1pm. Newcomers always welcome (with more books available)! We will not meet July 1.



Faith, Freedom and Compassion: Lutherans and Civic Duty

(originally published June 28, 2018, LivingLutheran.org)

Freedom is a quintessentially Lutheran and American ideal. Yet as ELCA members approach Independence Day, it's important for us to acknowledge where Lutheran and American notions of freedom diverge.

A founding parent of the United States, Benjamin Franklin, said, "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Franklin's vision of liberty may inspire one to strive for complete and absolute freedom, nevertheless it should be interpreted in the context of civil life and emancipation from a colonial power. On the other hand, Martin Luther spoke of freedom in terms of liberation *from* something and *for* something. In his 1520 treatise, *On the Freedom of a Christian*, Luther wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." As members of the ELCA, how can we reconcile this tension between our political and theological understandings of freedom?

Freedom or liberty, in a political or civil sense, is the ability to speak, act, live and think without restrictions. Therefore, in the American Revolutionary War of the 18th century, the famous Patrick Henry quotation, "Give me liberty or give me death!" shows revolutionaries believed there was no viable option but freedom. Freedom was understood by many in the 13 colonies as a gift from God. As they struggled to free themselves from the British colonial rule, the early Americans used this divine sanction to justify the American Revolution as morally righteous and virtuous. Thomas Jefferson, another founding parent, wrote of a "God who gave us life [and] gave us liberty." Luther's theological contribution to Christian thought and practice is reflected in this ideology, albeit, I believe the founding parents' individualistic understanding of freedom is devoid of Luther's concern for the well-being of others.

Luther's understanding of freedom and liberty is grounded on his understanding of God's grace. He would agree with Jefferson that God gave us life and freedom. Yet Luther would argue that Christians are freed *from* sin, death and the devil—the realities that get in the way of our communion with God and each other. Moreover, he believes we are freed *from* this trinity of evil *for* the sake of the world.

While he might agree with our founding parents that freedom is a gift from God that enables us to experience life without restrictions, Luther would ask, who benefits from our liberty? For Luther, the answer is our neighbors, not ourselves. We are no doubt beneficiaries of God's gift of freedom, but, as I have heard in some congregations, "we are blessed to be a blessing for others." This concern for others, in Luther's view, is not limited to the welfare of the nation but rather the whole world. Therefore, Christians have been called by God in baptism to serve in the nation in which they live but not at the expense of other nations or peoples. Just like we are called to be subject to all, *for* their sake, we are freed in our baptism to proclaim in word and deed the cosmic love of God for all nations.

Luther started his critique of the medieval Roman Catholic Church precisely because there was no freedom of conscience and thought within the ecclesiastical structures at the time. Here lies another parallel between the Reformation and the American Revolution. The pursuit of freedom to openly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ led Luther to question the indulgences and the authority that sanctioned them. His concern though, was not just about individual rights but about the purity of the church's ministry and practice. Luther, like American revolutionaries, raised his voice against an oppressive institution.

Luther believed freedom is a gift from God, not just for our sake but for the sake of the world. As Lutherans, we believe we are free so that we can free others. We are called to experience this freedom of movement, thought and speech so that others within our nation and abroad may also experience joy, happiness and the pursuit of freedom. But we need to be mindful that freedom, or our version of freedom, is never meant to be imposed on others. If we do, we become agents of slavery and domination.

This Independence Day, let us celebrate freedom as Luther would have us ... not with fireworks but by serving our neighbors with a faith active in love. Amen.

Nelson H. Rabell-González is associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lodi, Calif. He was born and raised in Puerto Rico and is a graduate of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (2002). Rabell-González is married to Dr. Fabiola Ramos. They have two children: Hiram Rabell-Ramos (18) and Sofía Rabell-Ramos (16). Their dog's name is Lucas.

Minutes of Triune Lutheran Church Council Meeting of 16 June 2019

Meeting opened 6:07 PM with a prayer by pastor, after which there was review of minutes of the last meeting of 13 May 2019.

Jack reported the checking account balance of \$1,605.96, and a mutual fund balance of \$150,258.

Jack also reported that glass has been replaced in pastor's office and at the side of the altar.

It was discussed that the roof leak persists, and it now appears that the source is from the steeple area. There is the question of whether the flashing in that area was done well enough during the last roof repair work.

Bonnie reported hall rental for 22 June and 03 August with a couple of inquiries at present, but that hall rentals, in general, are slower than in this time period last year.

Bonnie and Jan have donated a new eternal candle for us. This takes the away our problem of having a supplied candle with the requirement that we buy oil for it periodically when we have an oversupply of oil on hand.

Pastor reported that the Uhlir family asked if there is anything for our church to which they could make a contribution in memory of Ed.

The printer malfunction is scheduled to be checked out by a service person on 18 June.

Tim Mize will be delivering the personal items which have been collected for them to the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry men's shelter at 2100 Lakeside.

Pastor reported he will be on vacation 17 through 24 July.

Dale Kirk let us know that he and Linda will not be able to continue doing janitorial work for Triune because of personal work requirement increase, but they will continue until we can find replacement and will be willing to train whomever that might be. We discussed letting the congregation know we are looking for someone, in case members can give us leads. This to try to get a replacement through personal contacts.

Pastor said the survey given to us by Pastor Smith from the Northeastern Ohio Synod would be brought to the attention of the congregation to try to get as many as possible to fill it out. It is to gauge members' attitudes and ideas about our congregation toward leading to plans for continued sustainability and vitality.

Meeting closed at 6:30 PM.

Next Meeting at 6 PM Monday 08 July 2019



JULY 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Oaks Service @ 3:15 pm	2	3	4 Happy 4 th of July	5	6 <u>WORSHIP</u> <u>@ 5 PM</u> <u>TIM MIZE</u>
7 <u>WORSHIP</u> <u>@11 AM</u>	8 <u>Bible Study</u> <u>@ 1 pm</u> Council Meeting @ 6	9 AA @ 7pm	10	11 AA @ 8 pm	12	13 <u>WORSHIP</u> <u>@ 5 PM</u> <u>PASTOR BRAD</u>
14 <u>WORSHIP</u> <u>@11 AM</u>	15 <u>Bible Study</u> <u>@ 1 pm</u>	16 AA @ 7pm	17	18 AA @ 8 pm	19	20 <u>WORSHIP</u> <u>@ 5 PM</u> <u>TIM MIZE</u>
21 <u>WORSHIP</u> <u>@11 AM</u> <u>SUPPLY</u> <u>PASTOR</u>	22 <u>Bible Study</u> <u>@ 1 pm</u>	23 AA @ 7pm	24	25 AA @ 8 pm	26	27 <u>WORSHIP</u> <u>@ 5 PM</u> <u>PASTOR BRAD</u>
28 <u>WORSHIP</u> <u>@11 AM</u>	29 <u>Bible Study</u> <u>@ 1 pm</u>	30 AA @ 7pm	31			



If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.