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## For Freedom We Are Set Free

- Pastor Sorenson

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1). These words began the Epistle lesson on June 30<sup>th</sup>. How appropriate to hear this on the eve of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July when we will celebrate the freedom we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America. As we gather together with family, friends, and fellow citizens, freedom and those who gave their lives in defense of our freedom will certainly be on our minds.

At times like this it is good to reflect on what it means to be free and what it means to have freedom. It may sound pretty simple or rather silly to think about such things, but it is easy to twist freedom into something that it was never meant to be. In fact, you may often hear such confusion when people talk about the freedom we enjoy in this country. “It’s a free country, I can do whatever I want,” is an all-too-common phrase people utter which highlights this confusion.

For many people freedom is exactly that: an opportunity to do whatever they want. In this way, freedom becomes solely about the individual. It is a self-serving activity by which people think of themselves first and everybody else second. When this is the case, freedom is a kind of a savior that has released a person from any obligation that does not benefit him or make him feel good. In other words, if freedom is understood only to mean the ability to do whatever you want, whenever you want, and however you want, then freedom has become an idol. Freedom has become your god.

If this is our understanding of freedom, then the words of Paul in Galatians 5 make no sense. Why would Christ set us free for freedom, for an idol that we would worship instead of Him? Of course, the answer is He would not do such a thing. So then, we plainly see that our understanding of freedom is wrong and we would do well to let Scripture guide us to a right understanding of being free.

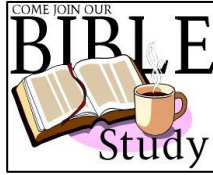
By God’s grace, the true understanding of freedom is not far away from Paul’s exhortation in Galatians 5:1. In verse 13 of chapter 5, Paul lays it out clearly for us saying, “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

This is true freedom, that we who are set free would seek to love and serve our neighbor instead of ourselves. For if we are free, then we have all that we need. We have no obligations laid upon us. We have no use for climbing the ladder or stuffing our coffers because there is nothing more for us to earn. To use our freedom only on ourselves is pointless. It is like a king only acting in his best interest when these actions will destroy the lives of all those in his kingdom. He may be the king for a time, but soon there will be nothing left to rule.

So it is for us who are set free in Christ. Our Lord has set us free not to serve ourselves, not to allow us to do whatever we want to do, but to love and serve our neighbor. This we do, not out of obligation, but because we see the great need of those around us. For we once were in great need and Christ came to suffer and die to set us free. So, let us stand firm in this freedom, dear brothers and sisters, and love and serve our neighbor, for that is what being free is all about.

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:**

From 10:15-11:15 a.m. following our worship service, join us for study of the Gospel of Matthew.

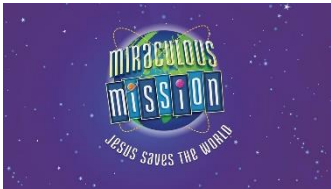


**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:**

Wednesday night Bible study will be on summer break the month of July.

**BOOK OF CONCORD:** Pastor’s study on the Book of Concord will meet on Sunday, July 14th at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share for a light supper following our study.

\*Our next quarterly voters’ meeting will be held Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> immediately following our worship service.



“Miraculous Mission” will be the **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** theme this summer! Mark your calendars for the evenings of July 22-26 and sign up your children on the bulletin board in the hallway of the parish hall. Invite you friends or neighbors! Children of all ages are welcome. More information about specific times and volunteer needs will follow.



**GAME NIGHT** was a lot of fun! So much so that some have asked that we have it more often. Mark your calendar for Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> for the next one and watch your bulletins for more information.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!** - As we move through the summer months, now is the time to begin thinking about Sunday School. Sunday School will begin right after Labor Day. If you would like to teach Sunday School or be an assistant in a classroom, please speak to Kevin Schultz or Pastor Sorenson. Ideally, we would like to have two adults per classroom along with some substitute teachers as needed. Included in this is the need for a **YOUTH GROUP LEADER**. We will have a meeting coming soon to discuss more details concerning the upcoming Sunday School year.

**YOUTH CATECHESIS (Confirmation)** - Youth Catechesis (confirmation) classes will be beginning soon. If you have a child who has already begun Catechesis, or if you have a child you would like to start this year, please contact Pastor Sorenson as soon as possible. If your child will be going through classes at White Creek, please contact Pastor Sorenson as well, as he would like to have all of our catechumens (confirmands) together in class so they may grow with one another and so he may get to know them and they may get to know him. Thank you!

**ELECTRONIC DONATIONS:**

Some members have indicated that they would be interested in contributing their weekly/monthly offerings through an electronic funds transfer. To set up this process with your bank, you will need the account number(s), type of account, and routing number for our church accounts. Please call or stop in the office and Amy can get you the information that you need. Each bank’s process may be a little different, so we will work together to get this set up for anyone interested.

**www.stpeterwaymansville.com**

Pastor Sorenson has been working on updating our church website and making it a useful place for church information again. Visit our website for worship times and information about special events and programs. The church newsletter will also be posted there each month. Things like an events calendar and recordings of sermons are being considered. Useful tools will continue to be added as the website is further developed!

If you are looking for **CHURCH PUBLICATIONS** such as Portals of Prayer and other church magazines, they can be found in the library of the Parish Hall.

# St. Peter Lutheran Church & Preschool Calendar

July 2019

**Usher:** Ernie Rotert

**Acolytes:**


July 7 – Joe Acree

July 14 – Tristan Crowe

**Communion Set-Up:** 7/7 & 7/21 – Lynnette May

July 21 – Mackenzie May

July 28 – Laurie Schultz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 9 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 - Adult Bible Class	8	9	10	11  5:30-Elders' Meeting 7:00-Church Board Meeting	12	13
14 9:00 – Divine Service Following Service – Voters' Meeting & Adult Bible Class  5:00 p.m.-Book of Concord Study	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Class	22  VBS	23  VBS	24  VBS	25  VBS	26  VBS	27
28 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Class	29	30	31		Upcoming Dates: Friday, August 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Game Night	

