



FIRST FREE

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2018-2019 Budget – July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

SENIOR PASTOR

In Mark's gospel, Jesus tells an interesting story to describe the kingdom of God. He says, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-28; ESV, underline added)

When it comes to the kingdom of God there are some things that people can do and some things people cannot do. I love that phrase, "he knows not how." As God's people we should sow and harvest, but we cannot produce the fruit. We can sleep and rise, but we cannot make the harvest happen. The harvest happens, but we know not how. It is the "all by itself" principle.

At First Free, our mission is to help individuals become Christ-centered and Christ-sent together. But when it comes to how people grow as disciples of Christ, we have to admit, we don't know how that is exactly accomplished. Therefore, our focus continues to be on the environment of First Free. We focus on the quality – inspiring worship; Biblical and engaging teaching, authentic community, and outward-facing service. We seek to eliminate obstacles to spiritual growth by developing effective ministries for children, youth and their families. We plan and strategize, while at the same time recognizing that growth – spiritually and numerically – is God's domain.

Last fall, our church council and staff felt lead by God to identify our church vision: By the year 2025 we will see Christ put first in 500 homes within a 3-mile radius of the church. Personally, that is a very intimidating vision. It means that we will have to have alignment within the church family. It means that we will have to risk engaging and loving our neighbors. It means that we will have to meet people where they are at, with the purpose of seeing lives transformed by the power of the Gospel. It means that we are on mission together as God's people at First Free.

Whenever a guest visits the church, we send out a "First Impressions" card with three simple questions: What did you notice first? What did you like best? What did you like least? This past winter we received a card back with this comment: "Thank you for being a light in our neighborhood!"

This past year, as a church, we have specifically focused the second half of Jesus' greatest commandment, loving our neighbors. In the fall as we went through the book of Joshua, we started building a memorial to God. We took stones, representing people in our lives that we are praying for. Personally, I have three stones, sitting on my desk. Each one reminds me to continue to ask God for his work in a friend's life. When that friend receives Christ, I will bring my stone, praise God – and drop my stone in our memorial – reminding us that God is working.

In January, we launched our yearlong goal, "High Five", to love five specific neighbors. One hundred and fifty-seven people took the High Five challenge. In the foyer of the church, we have our "High Five" prayer list. That means we are loving on and praying for over 785 neighbors. Can you imagine the harvest God is going to produce in the next seven years?

Let me conclude this report by thanking the great people that I have the privilege of ministering with here at First Free. I thank my God with joy for Anne Peterson and Mary Quint in the office . . . for Pastor Jay, Pastor Jason, Beth Brown, Mike Graff, Maureen Juarez and Jeanine Bruen for their partnership in the gospel . . . for Scott Beckett and his diligent work taking care of our church facilities and for David Kriesel-Koll and his detailed work taking care of the business matters of the church.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 reminds us, "We ask you brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work." So I want to honor Jeff Dutton, the Chairman of our Council, and our whole church council. These individuals love Jesus Christ and love First Free. Their wisdom and heart and leadership are invaluable.

Would you continue to pray with me for the upcoming year – for God to move and for us to be ready when the harvest is ripe!

Joel Sutton, Senior Pastor

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessing (1 Cor. 9.19-23, NIV)

As I look back over the past year, and when I think in particular about what I see God doing in and through our church, I kept returning to this passage in 1 Corinthians 9.19-23. Here Paul delivers a passionate explanation of the lengths to which he will go in order that some might be saved. In this declaration we see evidence of Paul's strategy and its cost, but we also encounter his contagious excitement for sharing the gospel. Finally, we are reminded that while there is a cost in heeding God's call, it is only in being obedient to that call that we can fully share in the blessings of the gospel.

In order to reach Jews, Paul became like a Jew, in order to reach those without the law, he became as one without the law, in order to reach the weak, he became weak. What exactly is Paul doing? Is he engaging in play-acting or an elaborate charade? No. Paul has simply recognized that to reach a people, he has to be willing to go to them, to meet them where they are and to genuinely seek to understand them. And Paul does this, I suspect, because he believes that no matter who you are and where you come from, the gospel is good news.

I am particularly struck by how closely Paul's strategy and calling here mirrors our own. Over the past several years, and this last year in particular, as we have embraced God's call to our church to reach our community, we have also recognized the need for First Free to be a part of our community. To that end, we have continued to build our relationship with the Farmer's Market. So, this past year, when they expressed interest in having a party to kick-off the market season, we offered to do a joint event we called Marketfest. This gave us the opportunity to work more closely with the organizers of the market and produced an event that brought us into contact with more people from our neighborhood than in years past.

Later in the Fall, God brought another opportunity to our literal doorstep when a group putting together a South Minneapolis Art Fair asked for permission to use our parking lots. Here too we saw an opportunity to be a visible participant in the life of our community that was too good to ignore. So, in addition to giving permission for them to use our parking lots, we thought about how we might participate in a way that made our God look good. Anticipating that families might come to this fair, we offered to provide and supervise some inflatables for kids. This again gave those volunteering from our church the opportunity to meet and bless a tremendous number of people from the community.

It is worth noting that neither of these things came without costs of different kinds. When we made Marketfest a partnership, we lost the latitude to conduct the event exactly as we would on our own - we now had to compromise and work together with others. Both events of course had a financial cost. Both events required us, at least in some small ways, to meet our community on their terms. In all of that, we see an echo of Paul's own obedience to his call. And more importantly, we also share Paul's motivation. We didn't do these things, or anything, only because it was convenient for us, we did these things - and everything because the gospel compels us. We do all these things in the hope that we might save some, and thereby share fully in the blessings of the gospel.

This also ties in with some of the less visible projects I have been involved with this past year. As we engage with and reach out to our community, I have the expectation that God will continue to add to our numbers at First Free. And so with that in mind, I have been working to make sure that we are prepared for that to happen by trying to improve a couple of our key transition points.

First, I have been working with a few others to reboot our Small Group ministry with the specific aim of making it easier for people to find and join a small group. We believe that being connected in community is essential for the growth and health of all believers, and critical if we are to fulfill our mission of helping

individuals live Christ-centered and Christ-sent *together*. As a result, I have been working with others to make sure we are making small groups more accessible, and training new leaders to accommodate that growth.

Second, Pastor Joel and I have been working to improve our on-ramp for church membership. This has included changes both to how and when we conduct the church membership class (formerly Class 101, now Discovering First Free), and to the material we cover in that class. Again the goal is to remove the obstacles to membership for those committed to First Free and in agreement with our doctrine and mission. We both need and greatly value the wisdom and leadership provided by our members through our Council and Commissions, and want to make the path to membership easy for those who would call First Free their home.

I continue to be excited and energized by the work God is doing in and through our church. I cannot believe that it is a coincidence that these new opportunities in our community emerged in the years immediately following our adoption of our new vision. I have no doubt that as we continue to follow God's leading and direction that He will continue to open up new doors for the ministry of the gospel in our community. I pray that like Paul we might continue to do all we can in the hopes of reaching others for the sake of the gospel and reputation of Jesus our Lord.

Jay Pound, Associate Pastor

CHURCH COUNCIL

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! - Psalm 133:1 NIV

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. - Ephesians 4:2-3 NIV

**Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.
- 1 Peter 3:8 ESV**

One of the priorities we anchor on as a Church Council is unity amongst the leadership of First Free and unity in the church body. We pray for unity, we make decisions with unity in mind, and we seek a vision where unity will dwell in the First Free family. As the church it is God's desire for all believers to be unified in following Jesus Christ. It does not mean we need to agree on every detail or have the same likes or dislikes in fact there are times we as individuals have vastly different opinions on matters. Like a vine with many different branches - we embrace diversity and the unique perspectives each brings to the body. How ordinary would life be if we were all the same with all the same point of view?

I write this as a reminder to myself and all of us to pray for unity in our church. We have been blessed for many years with a body of believers moving in the same direction. We need this to continue as we move forward in the coming months and years. As we look to the future we see plans in motion, new neighbors arriving and a new vision to expand our Christ Centered/Christ Sent pillars. We also have changes ahead in worship leadership and the office staff. Change can be difficult. It takes us out of what we are used to, creates discomfort, and often creates differing views on how to proceed with the actions around the change. You may have already heard the words of 17th century theologian Rupertus Meldenus, but's worth repeating: "In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity." Join us in prayer as we embrace the future of our church. Please pray for the Worship Pastor search process and the team working on bringing our next worship leader to First Free.

We continue to introduce a new vision of ministry where First Free is the best church for our neighborhood, not just in our neighborhood. As Joel has stated "If the church closed tomorrow would our neighbors miss us?" We want to bless our neighbors and impact the area around 52nd and Chicago for Jesus.

I want to thank all of those who commit their time and energy to the service of our church. It takes many hands to make the First Free ministry and programs run every week. Just look around on a Sunday Morning or a Wednesday night and you can see our church body living the mission of service. Whatever part of the ministry you support whether out in front or behind the scenes please know our church leadership recognizes your service. Thank you!

This year we again have the privilege of welcoming many new members into the First Free family. We are excited to see these folks take an additional step of commitment to our church. To all of you - glad you are part of the membership!

As I close I want to recognize the commitment to ministry displayed every day by Joel, Jay, Mike, Jason, Beth, Scott, Maureen, Jeanine, Anne, Mary and David. Thank you for all you do to serve the Lord and the body of our church. We are fortunate to have you on our staff. I especially want to single out Mike Graff. Mike, thank you for your six years of leading worship at First Free. Thank you for your passion and the many things you have done to develop our worship ministry. We pray all the best for you, Kait, and the kids as you move into the next chapter of your career in worship arts. We will miss you. I also want to say thank you to Anne and wish her all the best and God's speed as she leaves us this summer to pursue graduate school. Thank you for your commitment and work in our office these past few years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Dutton, Council Chairman

CREEKSIDE FRIENDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Consistent leaders. Every week. Sharing Jesus.
I believe this is one of the main strengths of our children's ministry at First Free. The result is this- consistent children. Every week. Hearing about Jesus.
Let's continue to pray together for the provision of faithful leaders. And faith-filled kids!

SABBATICAL

This past year I was blessed to be able to take a 3-month sabbatical, from mid-May to mid-August. It was a time to focus on "soul care" and "self-care" and to visit other churches and children's ministries. As a result of this time I identified a few areas to focus on to improve our children's ministry at First Free. One area is safety. How can we make First Free safer for our children?

We are in process to start using an electronic check-in system. This will help meet the goal of encouraging safety. We hope to launch it by the summer.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP; VBC at FIRST FREE!

Maker Fun Factory

Thank you to JoAnn Burns and Kari Taylor and the entire VBC leadership team who led VBC in 2017. The average daily attendance was 276 boys & girls and 150 volunteers helped make it all go smoothly! The missions emphasis was on Nicaragua, as a group from our student ministry was going there in July for a missions trip. \$3,745 was raised and given to the church in Sebaco, Nicaragua to be used for their building and for food hand-outs to people in the community!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Our biggest challenge on Sunday mornings is the lack of space. We worked creatively this past fall to create more space for our elementary age classrooms. We also started using the gym on Sunday mornings for Base Camp, which is a gathering of K-4th graders for 20 minutes each Sunday. The kids loved having the gym to play games in and to sing songs! One highlight for our boys & girls this year was the children participated in a Christmas Choir/Children's Nativity in December. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to lead worship and to participate in the nativity, costumes and all!

CREEKSIDE CLUBS

There are ~100 boys and girls who come to Creekside Clubs on Wednesday evenings! There have been parties, service projects, and much more!

CAMP SHAMINEAU

We continue to encourage families to send their children to camp! We had our first "Love Shamineau" week in February where camp staff came on a Sunday and Wednesday during this special week to lead the children and student ministry in activities and to share about camp. 70 children attended summer camp at Camp Shamineau! 27 4th-6th graders attended Retreat46 in April.

Thank you for your support and prayers for *Creekside Friends*!

JOYFULLY Submitted,
Beth Brown
Children's Ministry Director

VELOCITY STUDENT MINISTRY



VELOCITY STUDENT MINISTRIES

This past fall we launched our new rebranding of the Student Ministry. We are now Velocity Student Ministries. Our mission reflects that of the whole Church, to propel students to become Christ-centered and Christ-sent together. The idea of velocity is one of movement. We want to be a movement for the gospel of Jesus.

LEAD THE CAUSE

This last summer, three youth leaders and eleven Sr. High students went to the Lead the Cause event put on by Dare2Share and SonLife Ministries in Denver, CO. It was awesome to see our students challenged to put their faith into action by sharing it with strangers on the streets of Denver as well as being challenged to text, write a letter and make a phone call to a friend back home who needed to hear about the good news of Jesus.

NICARAGUA MISSIONS TRIP

This last summer, four youth leaders and seventeen Sr. High students went with Praying Pelican Missions to Sebaco, Nicaragua for a week to run VBC-type program for the kids there. They had the opportunity to work alongside the local church, minister to kids in a Vacation Bible Camp-type program and provide food to those who have need on behalf of the local church both to be a benevolent blessing to those who have need as well as an outreach to those in the community who don't know the love of Jesus.

JR. HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP

This last summer, three youth leaders, two student ministry team students and thirteen Jr. High students went to Silver Birch Ranch in White Lake, WI and the greater Green Bay, WI area. We had opportunities to go horseback riding, zip-lining, white-water rafting and we had evening campfires and devotions to help bond us together and help us discover who we are in Christ.

STUDENT MINISTRY TEAM

This past fall, Shane Stacey and I kicked off our Student Ministry Team which is made up of twelve 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who wanted to go deeper in their faith and minister to their peers. We have been helped them develop core competencies such as spiritual practices, sharing the gospel and their own testimony, engaging in peer-to-peer ministry and becoming a servant leader among their peers. We gave them ownership in the student ministry by putting them in ministry team sub-teams with specific goals. These goals included welcoming peers, sharing a testimony, helping with setup, and running activities. This has been my biggest highlight this past year and is the thing that gets me out of bed in the morning. The student ministry team is actually propelling students to be Christ-centered and Christ-sent as we become a more disciple-making ministry.

TERRACE ON CHICAGO & SUMMER 2018

This year at Terrace on Chicago you all generously helped our Sr. High students going to Challenge and our Jr. High students going on the Jr. High Adventure Trip to Rock Ridge by raising over \$20,000. I am excited for the life-changing trips our students will get to experience this summer.

IN CONCLUSION

The thing that has gotten me most excited about student ministry has been hearing how our student ministry team students have been reaching out to their friends with the good news of Jesus and radically loving them. Recently, I took our Sr. High & Jr. High students through a series about their Identity in Christ as we talked about how they should find their identity not in their gender, skin color, political causes or who they are attracted to but in Christ alone. This verse has really stood out to me and is what I would like to leave each of you with as an encouragement to find your identity in Jesus alone as well. "Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us." (Colossians 3:10-11)

Jason Pensa
Student Ministry Pastor

WORSHIP MINISTRY

It's my honor to lead and serve our worship ministry volunteers, as well as our entire body of Christ. What a joy to be a part of a congregation that, as a mark of being Christ-centered and Christ-sent people, believes in worshipping passionately!

Here's a list of the multiple worship-ministry aspects that have seen movement this last year:

- The Christ-centered worship model has continued to serve our church well during each gathering, as we adore God for who He is, confess our need for His grace, are assured that we have what we need in Christ, and then respond through thanksgiving, prayer, and instruction from His Word. What a great way to ensure we continue coming back to this timeless transformational truth.
- The Deep has continued to grow in its importance to our Christ-centered mark of "praying like it matters". The Deep is a gathering for those who want to linger in the presence of the Lord through worship and prayer. The structure has continued to be shaped by the Lord as we've grown.
- We have officially hired Dan Fergus as our technical director for several hours a week to maintain and improve the technical aspects of the worship ministry. He is a great asset to the worship ministry and the church at large.

There is a lot of momentum in each avenue of the worship ministry, but my biggest thrill of it all is that the momentum is being carried by multiple members of our worship ministry instead of solely by myself; I have the privilege of equipping and mobilizing members of our body of Christ to grow in their God-given gifts and to disciple them in the process.

Thanks to everyone in the worship ministry family for faithfully walking through ministry with me. Thanks to our congregation, for a continued opening of your hearts to what God wants to do in and through us.

May we as a church be filled with boldness, peace, and discernment; may God give us eyes to see Him and ears to hear Him as we worship Him. May we embrace the sweetness of intimacy and relationship with our Abba Father. I'm looking forward to continually worship Him together with you.

His,
Mike Graff
Worship Pastor
First Free Church

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

Your faithfulness endures to all generations - Psalm 119:90

This year Dee Huanca stepped down from the Faith Community Nurse position. She continues to volunteer with selected activities. We are so thankful for her faithfulness.

Jeanine Bruen has taken the position vacated by Dee. She has prepared herself by taking a 40-hour course on Faith Community Nursing offered by the Faith Community Nurse Network. Jeanine also took the instructor course from the Red Cross in First Aid and CPR/AED. She taught CPR courses for staff and church members last fall. In March she taught a blended course incorporating computerized learning followed by a test out at church to four students which provided a two-year certificate for First Aid and CPR to the four participants.

Visitation continues to be a major focus since there were an average of 39 homebound and hospitalized people each month. Three people took the Visitation Class in 2017-18. The Faith Community Nurses, Pastors and 16 Trained Visitors made over 300 visits. In addition, we were privileged to come alongside many people who were not homebound, assisting them in their issues of concern. A supper was held for the church visitors.

Stepping On, a seven week fall prevention program was offered twice in the past year at church with Dee and Maureen facilitating. It will be offered for a third time outside of church by invitation of participants from past classes. There were 23 participants in the first two classes.

Additional Areas of Ministry which were overseen or carried out by the FCN's included the following:

- Monthly Blood Pressure Clinics were directed by Holly Doble with assistance from Margaret Jensen and Ruth Peabody. Support was provided for those with abnormal pressure
- The 2017 Blood Drive was not held but one will be held with the Red Cross on May 7, 1-7 PM.
- Gifts were given to new babies in the congregation. Support was provided to families as requested.
- Ten people participated in the Health Care Directives educational program.
- Expressions, a support group for those experiencing chronic illness, met twice a month with Karie Amstutz and Dee Huanca facilitating. An average of 4 participants attended each meeting.
- Five prayer shawls were distributed, made by two volunteers.
- FCNs Facilitated a card ministry to the homebound and those in need of encouragement through Girls Rock, Mary Kay Brown and Marie Mondy's Sunday School class.
- FCNs sent Christmas cards to the home-bound and sympathy cards to those who lost loved ones.
- The FCNs are Members of an Advisory group of Redeemer Health and Rehab Center.
- Staffing of the First Aid Station for VBC was organized
- FCNs are Members of the Caring Commission of First Free.
- A series of three classes on Alzheimer's and Dementia were offered by the Alzheimer's Association.
- A series of hymn sings at Minnehaha Senior living over a period of three months were organized.

The Wellness Advisory Team of the Faith Community Nurses met three times last year to provide support and encouragement. Holly Doble, John Lande, Gail Marchand, Phyllis Nordin, and Dee Huanca are present team members. Jerry Young stepped down in 2018.

Plans for 2018-2019

There are three major areas of focus: Visitation, Health Education, and Strengthening Families. Visitation will continue to be a priority and we will continue offering visitation classes for those who want to be church visitors. We plan to have suppers twice a year for the visitation team. We will continue to work with families, working with resource development, and supporting them as they request help.

The following people went to be with Jesus since our last report: Marcia Banks, Phyllis Brown, Nancy Nichols, Walter Ortman, and Ardis Sawyer.

Jeanine Bruen, FCN and Maureen Juárez, FCN

CARING COMMISSION

God has blessed First Free Church with such a beautiful congregation of people. The Caring Commission has the privilege of helping to care for those in our church body.

The Benevolent Fund continues to grow, thanks to the very generous contributors in our church family. The funds are given to families and individuals in our church family and who are in need of help. Many individuals and families have been blessed with financial assistance this year. At Christmas time \$3,250 in gift cards, mostly to Cub Foods, was gifted to those in our church family who could use an extra blessing. It is such a privilege to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to use the resources that have been so generously given by our committed church family to bless others in our church family who could use a little boost. The body of Christ sure is beautiful!

We are privileged to have First Free's two Faith Community Nurses, Maureen Juarez and Jeanine Bruin, as part of the Caring Commission. They have their hands on the pulse of people in need in our church family. They are a wonderful extension of the church in identifying who needs help and how the Caring Commission can assist them. They love, care, support and encourage countless people in our church body.

First Free excels in fellowship. Paulette Goodman and Erika Garcia keep the kitchen going, which tends to be the heart of our fellowship gatherings. Their crew of servers help to bring a piece of "family gathering" to our gym on Sunday mornings as we drink coffee and eat donuts. Phyllis Nordin and her serving crew also help provide a comfortable place of reception and fellowship following funerals at First Free. We had special fellowship times outside of our church walls this year including the Twin Cities Marathon, Minnehaha Park, and our annual Lake Nokomis baptism and potluck.

May God continue to bless First Free Church and the beautiful people in our church family.

Respectfully Submitted -
Carrie Boyum
Caring Commission Chair

OUTREACH COMMISSION

The founders of what became First Evangelical Free Church were poor Swedish immigrants. They came to America for both economic and religious reasons. They were convinced of several things: 1) salvation was by grace, through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ – not by baptism as an infant, 2) that their authority was the Scripture, not the church, 4) the Lord was coming back -- and it could be soon, 5) that the lost were in danger of hellfire and 6) the safest form of church government to prevent abuse of power was congregational.

In 1884, a group of 88 Swedish believers, 70 men and 18 women, many quite young in the faith, organized themselves as "The Scandinavian Church of Christ" and began meeting in Freja Hall on 5th and Washington. They later erected a church building on 7th Street and 12th Avenue.

Also in 1884, representatives from 27 Swedish congregations, including 21 pastors, met for a conference in Boone, Iowa. It was one of a series of meetings, beginning with a prophetic conference in Chicago in 1881 which was followed by another Chicago conference to discuss "God's Church" in 1883. The participating delegates in Boone decided to cautiously form an association of independent churches -- not a denomination or synod.

They banded together in order to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. One of the first things they did was to help support a missionary to China. A Danish seminary student, H. J. Von Qualen, had been evangelizing Chinese people in Chicago. The association of churches, including First Free, raised money to send him and two of his Chinese converts to Canton (Guangzhou), China.

A few years later in 1890, the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of First Free was formed by 15 young women in the church. They raised money to send Mrs. Renius to China where she served until her death in 1905.

First Free also recognized opportunities to evangelize in their own community. There were many recent immigrants from Sweden who were 7 day workers and only got off at 6:00 pm Sunday. They were hungry to hear something in their native tongue, even if they were not believers, so evangelistic services at 7:00 pm Sunday became a tradition. At its peak, there were up to 700 Swedes in the church Sunday evenings to hear the gospel in Swedish, both sermon and song.

The world has changed dramatically in the more than 130 years since that founding. The American church has lost interest in prophecy, perhaps due to the errors of those who thought they could name the day of the Lord's return. Yet the fact remains that Jesus will come and it is closer than it was at that time. Since then, a key prediction of Scripture has been fulfilled. The nation of Israel has been reborn. Do we, as they, look forward to that day that will be joy for believers but sorrow for the lost?

Have we failed to see the awfulness of sin and the inevitability of judgement? They were poor in 1888. We are wealthy by their standards and in comparison with much of the world. Prosperity leads many to assume that they have everything they need. Philosophical materialism convinces some that there is no supernatural and in reaction, others embrace a vague pantheism in which there is power at the disposal of those who know the secrets.

Thus the pagans might live next door and at the same time the people of the world have come to us. Latinos have come for some time, both legally and illegally. Southeast Asians began coming after the war in Vietnam. International pressure convinced the Soviet Union to allow Jews and evangelicals to immigrate to the US. Then came the refugees of the former Yugoslavia. Somalis, Iraqis, Burmese (Myanmar) and others have come fleeing war and chaos. Now Chinese students and scholars come, having even learned English as part of their academic preparation.

Are we as aware of the opportunities as our forbearers? Are we as committed to carry out the Great Commission as they were? Are we prepared to love our neighbors to Christ? Are we able to break the stereotypes they may have about Christians as hateful and ignorant? Can we answer the questions that they may not even be able to articulate about how there can be only one way to God? Can we continue to love them regardless of their response?

Ross Olson for the Outreach Commission

TREASURER

As we reflect on the church finances for the past year, we again have much to be thankful for! The budget increase last year was a 5.7% increase, and with each year represents a step of faith. What joy to see what God will do when the church body is in step with His Holy Spirit and gives generously "what the Lord has placed on their heart to give." *Thanks to each of you for your generosity and faithfulness to His leading!*

The church fiscal year through the first nine months ending March 31, 2018, has an operating surplus of \$6,654. Expenses so far this year are lower than projected by \$19,143 and contributions were less than projected by \$12,489 resulting in this net surplus. We will update the congregation with final financial and audit results once we close out the fiscal year on June 30.

Average weekly income is \$19,225 which is (\$320) below the budgeted weekly income of \$19,546. The cash balance on hand for operations on March 31, 2018 was \$102,455.

The "refresh" that began last year will continue with updated bathrooms next to the Youth room and new ceiling tiles, lighting and aesthetics improvements in the foyer. Challenge Funds previously contributed are being utilized for these projects along with the budgeted Capital Improvements funds. The only significant financial transaction during this fiscal year was the church van purchase and a loan with RBCU is the only outstanding debt at this time.

The budget being presented for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 is a 4.8% increase over last year. The major contributors to the increase include a slight increase in salaries and retirement contributions for full-time staff. In addition, we added a part-time Children's Ministry Assistant for Beth and kept a part-time Intern in the budget for the Student Ministry. We also have a part time Sound Technician for the Worship Ministry. We included \$5,000 towards the search committee for the new Worship Pastor and a part-time Interim Worship Pastor through December.

Caring Commission expenses increased to include the conversion over to biodegradable cups for the fellowship time. Nurture expenses were increased slightly to keep up with the growing number of children we minister to. The Student Ministry also increased slightly to accommodate the growing number of youth.

We kept in the budget \$3,000 for outside audit assistance. The biggest increase in F&P's budget is \$4,400 to add 4 hours of weekly cleaning after Sundays. We increased the Outreach Budget for missionaries by 2% and monies saved by missionaries retiring have been reallocated to the supported missionaries who haven't had an increase in a while.

If there are any specific questions that you have about the church's finances, join us for the First Free Forum on 4/28 from 9:00-10:00, or you can contact me or David Kriesel-Koll, Business Administrator.
Respectfully,

Julie Danielson
Treasurer

First Free Church | 2018 – 2019 Budget | July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

	2018-2019	2017-2018	\$ Change
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
60000 · PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATIVE			
60001 · PERSONNEL RELATED EXPENSES			
60009 · PERSONNEL			
60010 · Salaries	494,200.00	472,000.00	22,200.00
60020 · Employer Payroll Taxes	18,500.00	15,750.00	2,750.00
60030 · Workman's Compensation	7,500.00	5,350.00	2,150.00
60040 · Employee LTD Insurance			-
60050 · Retirement	25,000.00	22,175.00	2,825.00
Total 60009 · PERSONNEL	<u>545,200.00</u>	<u>515,275.00</u>	29,925.00
60059 · PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT			
60060 · Staff Conferences	8,500.00	7,300.00	1,200.00
60070 · Pastor Resource Material	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
Total 60059 · PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>8,800.00</u>	1,200.00
60079 · OTHER PERSONNEL EXPENSE			
60100 · Guest Speakers	750.00	1,000.00	(250.00)
60110 · Mileage - Faith Community Nurse	3,200.00	3,200.00	-
60120 · Mileage - Pastors	1,100.00	1,200.00	(100.00)
60130 · Staff Events	750.00	750.00	-
60140 · Professional Expense	2,900.00	2,500.00	400.00
60145 · Search Committee	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
60150 · Banking, Payroll, Account Fees	10,550.00	10,500.00	50.00
Total 60079 · OTHER PERSONNEL EXPENSE	<u>24,250.00</u>	<u>19,150.00</u>	5,100.00
Total 60001 · PERSONNEL RELATED EXPENSES	<u>579,450.00</u>	<u>543,225.00</u>	36,225.00
60157 · ADMINISTRATIVE RELATED EXPENSES			
60158 · ADMINISTRATIVE			
60161 · Communion Supplies	300.00	300.00	-
60171 · Qtr Business Meeting / Council	1,075.00	2,150.00	(1,075.00)
60175 · Miscellaneous Administrative	630.00	500.00	130.00
Total 60158 · ADMINISTRATIVE	<u>2,005.00</u>	<u>2,950.00</u>	(945.00)
60179 · OFFICE SERVICES			
60180 · Copiers	14,000.00	14,000.00	-
60210 · Paper Stock	1,600.00	1,100.00	500.00
60200 · Office Supplies	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
60220 · Printing - Outside	1,300.00	1,300.00	-
60230 · Postage Machine / Postage	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
60190 · Office Equipment	250.00	250.00	-
60240 · Office Equipment Maintenance	300.00	300.00	-
60260 · Advertising & Marketing	500.00	500.00	-
60265 · Website	650.00	650.00	-
60270 · Office Beverages & Member Fees	500.00	500.00	-
60250 · Computers & Computer Hardware	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
60280 · Computer Software	1,800.00	1,200.00	600.00
60290 · Computer Software Fellowship 1	0.00	3,250.00	(3,250.00)
60300 · Computer Support	1,500.00	750.00	750.00
Total 60179 · OFFICE SERVICES	<u>32,700.00</u>	<u>34,100.00</u>	(1,400.00)
Total 60157 · ADMINISTRATIVE RELATED EXPENSES	<u>34,705.00</u>	<u>37,050.00</u>	(2,345.00)
Total 60000 · PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATIVE	<u>614,155.00</u>	<u>580,275.00</u>	33,880.00

First Free Church | 2018 – 2019 Budget | July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

	2018-2019	2017-2018	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
60308 · COMMISSIONS			
60311 · FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES			
60330 · Faith Community Nurses	1,450.00	1,850.00	(400.00)
Total 60311 · FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES	<u>1,450.00</u>	<u>1,850.00</u>	<u>(400.00)</u>
60309 · CARING COMMISSION			-
60170 · Fellowship Ministry	12,000.00	10,500.00	1,500.00
60320 · Special Fellowship Times	1,000.00	1,100.00	(100.00)
61300 · Kitchen Supplies	2,000.00	1,750.00	250.00
60340 · Connecting Events	400.00	400.00	-
60345 · Administrative / Miscellaneous	100.00	100.00	-
Total 60309 · CARING COMMISSION	<u>15,500.00</u>	<u>13,850.00</u>	<u>1,650.00</u>
60359 · NURTURE - GENERAL			
60360 · ABF General	1,250.00	1,250.00	-
60380 · Small Group Curriculum	500.00	500.00	-
60390 · Small Group Leadership Training	500.00	400.00	100.00
60400 · CE Appreciation (Christian Ed)	1,250.00	1,250.00	-
60410 · Men's Ministries	450.00	450.00	-
60415 · Women's Ministries	450.00	450.00	-
60430 · Camp Scholarships	7,300.00	7,300.00	-
60370 · Background Checks	750.00	750.00	-
Total 60359 · NURTURE - GENERAL	<u>12,450.00</u>	<u>12,350.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
60339 · NURTURE - CREEKSIDE FRIENDS			
60440 · Sunday School Curriculum	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
60450 · Children's Church	1,800.00	1,800.00	-
60460 · Supplies (Consumable)	2,400.00	2,200.00	200.00
60470 · Creekside Clubs	5,500.00	5,500.00	-
60480 · Teacher Appreciation	1,400.00	1,400.00	-
60490 · Teacher Training	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
60500 · Vacation Bible Camp	7,500.00	7,500.00	-
60510 · Special Programs	1,700.00	1,700.00	-
60520 · Class Supplies - Non-Consumable	4,500.00	3,500.00	1,000.00
60530 · Nursery Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
60540 · Miscellaneous Nurture	500.00	500.00	-
Total 60339 · NURTURE - CREEKSIDE FRIENDS	<u>31,800.00</u>	<u>30,600.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
60549 · NURTURE - STUDENT MINISTRY			
60600 · Student Ministry Transportation	2,500.00	3,100.00	(600.00)
60570 · Sunday Student Ministry	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
60580 · Wednesday Student Ministry	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
60620 · Student Ministry Outreach	2,500.00	3,000.00	(500.00)
60560 · Student Leadership	1,500.00	1,000.00	500.00
60640 · Student Ministry Communication	1,500.00	1,000.00	500.00
60610 · Student Equipment	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
60630 · Scholarship / Retreat Subsidies	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
60660 · Adult Staff	4,500.00	4,500.00	-
Total 60549 · NURTURE - STUDENT MINISTRY	<u>21,000.00</u>	<u>20,100.00</u>	<u>900.00</u>

First Free Church | 2018 – 2019 Budget | July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

	2018-2019	2017-2018	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
60679 · WORSHIP COMMISSION			
60680 · Music / Subscriptions	2,500.00	2,500.00	-
60690 · Instrument Maintenance	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
60700 · Guest Musicians	1,250.00	1,250.00	-
60710 · Volunteer Appreciation	1,000.00	1,250.00	(250.00)
60720 · Equipment Repair / Replacement	1,250.00	1,250.00	-
60730 · Training Resources / Education	1,000.00	2,000.00	(1,000.00)
60310 · Welcome Force	300.00	300.00	-
60740 · Video - Enhanced Church Events	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
60760 · Church Decorations	1,250.00	1,250.00	-
60770 · Worship Expense	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
Total 60679 · WORSHIP COMMISSION	<u>16,550.00</u>	<u>17,800.00</u>	<u>(1,250.00)</u>
Total 60308 · COMMISSIONS	98,750.00	96,550.00	2,200.00

First Free Church | 2018 – 2019 Budget | July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

	2018-2019	2017-2018	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
60778 · FINANCE & PROPERTY			
60779 · BUILDING EXPENSE			
60780 · Property Taxes - Assessments	1,750.00	1,750.00	-
60810 · Insurance -- Multi-Peril	15,500.00	15,200.00	300.00
60820 · Insurance -- Umbrella	1,100.00	1,100.00	-
61010 · Build Materials, Repairs, Maintenance	7,000.00	7,000.00	-
61011 · Building Improvements	2,500.00	2,500.00	-
61013 · Building Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
61014 · Building Tools, Equipment	1,000.00	750.00	250.00
61012 · Contract Cleaning & Maintenance	10,900.00	6,500.00	4,400.00
60910 · Heating System Maintenance	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
60920 · Air conditioning Maintenance	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
60970 · Elevator Maintenance	3,500.00	3,500.00	-
60850 · Custodial Equipment	1,250.00	1,000.00	250.00
60990 · Custodial Supplies	3,500.00	3,500.00	-
60950 · Rubbish Removal	8,500.00	8,000.00	500.00
60830 · Lawn Care	750.00	750.00	-
60960 · Landscaping	1,250.00	1,250.00	-
60840 · Capital Improvements	20,000.00	20,000.00	-
60930 · Snow Removal - Parking Lots	3,500.00	2,700.00	800.00
60940 · Snow Removal - Sidewalks	1,500.00	1,000.00	500.00
Total 60779 · BUILDING EXPENSE	89,500.00	82,500.00	7,000.00
61019 · UTILITIES			
61020 · Electricity - 5150	19,000.00	19,000.00	-
61030 · Natural Gas - Heating - 5150	14,000.00	14,000.00	-
61040 · Natural Gas - Appliances - 5150	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
61050 · Sewer & Water (5150, Parking)	7,000.00	7,000.00	-
61060 · Telephone / Internet - 5150	3,500.00	3,500.00	-
Total 61019 · UTILITIES	44,500.00	44,500.00	-
61069 · HOUSE - 5147 CHICAGO AVE			
61090 · Sewer, Water and Garbage - 5147	1,100.00	1,100.00	-
61100 · Taxes - Assessments - 5147	130.00	130.00	-
61110 · Maintenance - 5147	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
61115 · Rental Income - 5147 Chicago	-4,800.00	-4,800.00	-
Total 61069 · HOUSE - 5147 CHICAGO AVE	-1,570.00	-1,570.00	-
61119 · HOUSE - 5151 CHICAGO AVE			
61140 · Sewer, Water and Garbage - 5151	1,200.00	1,200.00	-
61150 · Taxes - Assessments - 5151	130.00	130.00	-
61160 · Maintenance - 5151	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
61170 · Rental Income - 5151 Chicago	-9,000.00	-9,000.00	-
Total 61119 · HOUSE - 5151 CHICAGO AVE	-5,670.00	-5,670.00	-

First Free Church | 2018 – 2019 Budget | July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

	2018-2019	2017-2018	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
61179 · HOUSE - 5155 CHICAGO AVE			-
61180 · Sewer, Water and Garbage - 5155	1,200.00	1,200.00	-
61190 · Taxes - Assessments - 5155	3,200.00	3,200.00	-
61200 · Maintenance - 5155	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
61210 · Rental Income - 5155 Chicago	-13,200.00	-12,600.00	(600.00)
Total 61179 · HOUSE - 5155 CHICAGO AVE	-7,800.00	-7,200.00	(600.00)
61219 · SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS			-
61220 · 5167 (Parking Lot)	375.00	375.00	-
61230 · 5205 / 5209 (Parking Lot)	475.00	475.00	-
Total 61219 · SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	850.00	850.00	-
61239 · VAN EXPENSE			-
61240 · Insurance	2,300.00	1,300.00	1,000.00
61260 · Maintenance	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
61265 · New Van Monthly Payments	5,750.00	6,000.00	(250.00)
61270 · Gasoline	500.00	500.00	-
Total 61239 · VAN EXPENSE	10,050.00	9,300.00	750.00
61279 · SUNDRY			-
60350 · Receptions			-
61290 · Miscellaneous Charges	250.00	250.00	-
61280 · Offering Envelopes & Sundry	750.00	750.00	-
Total 61279 · SUNDRY	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Total 60778 · FINANCE & PROPERTY	130,860.00	123,710.00	7,150.00

First Free Church | 2018 – 2019 Budget | July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

	2018-2019	2017-2018	\$ Change
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
70000 · OUTREACH COMMISSION			
70001 · EFCA AFFILIATIONS			
70010 · EFCA Fair Share	5,004.00	5,004.00	-
70030 · Camp Shamineau / Bloomquist	5,004.00	5,004.00	-
70020 · North Central District Assoc.	3,204.00	3,204.00	-
Total 70001 · EFCA AFFILIATIONS	<u>13,212.00</u>	<u>13,212.00</u>	-
70039 · EFCA MISSIONARIES			-
70040 · David and Patsy Alfors	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
70050 · Rocky and Rachel Bliss	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
70060 · Mark and Athlee Bowman	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
70070 · Tim and Carolyn Dahlin	6,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
70080 · Bruce and Mary Damon	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
70090 · Katie Dudgeon	6,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
70100 · Enrique and Becky Fernandez	6,000.00	4,800.00	1,200.00
70120 · Andrew and Lorna Gilbert	6,000.00	4,800.00	1,200.00
70130 · Ernest and Donna Manges	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
70140 · Joseph Najem	6,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
70170 · Nubako Selenga	6,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
70180 · Jack and Beth Thompson	6,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
70190 · Heidi Tunberg	6,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total 70039 · EFCA MISSIONARIES	<u>68,800.00</u>	<u>44,400.00</u>	24,400.00
70209 · NON - EFCA MISSIONAIRES			-
70210 · Tom and Diane Axelson	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)
70220 · Dave Boeltl	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
70230 · Tom and Mary Bussard	2,400.00	2,400.00	-
70260 · G.P. and Nancy Foote	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
70110 · John and Wendy Gerhardt	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
70270 · Jim Grosz	0.00	4,800.00	(4,800.00)
70280 · Roy and Sue Haglund	0.00	4,800.00	(4,800.00)
70290 · Tom and Joy Harriger	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
70300 · David and Jan Harthan	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
70310 · Glenn Kenadjian	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
70330 · Rick & Becky Mackey	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
70335 · Rebekah Polland - Kids Alive	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)
70340 · Phil and Cindy Read	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
70341 · Ben & Debra Reece	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
70350 · Dan Reeve	0.00	4,800.00	(4,800.00)
70360 · John and Lori Robb	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
70370 · Charles Steen	3,000.00	4,800.00	(1,800.00)
70380 · David and Jul Stone	4,800.00	4,800.00	-
Total 70209 · NON - EFCA MISSIONAIRES	<u>52,200.00</u>	<u>71,400.00</u>	(19,200.00)

First Free Church | 2018 – 2019 Budget | July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

	2018-2019	2017-2018	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
70389 · ORGANIZATIONS			-
70420 · Salem Evangelical Free Church	4,008.00	4,008.00	-
70470 · Community Emergency Services	2,004.00	2,004.00	-
70460 · Prairie Bridge International	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
70410 · Transform MN - New Life Family	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
70400 · Transform MN - Damascus Way	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
70440 · Transform MN - Arrive Minnesota	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
70430 · City Life Center	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
70450 · Outpost Ministries	2,004.00	2,004.00	-
Total 70389 · ORGANIZATIONS	<u>15,516.00</u>	<u>15,516.00</u>	-
70479 · LOCAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES			-
70480 · Community Outreach / Evangelism	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
70490 · Special Outreach Programs	5,500.00	5,500.00	-
70390 · National Assoc. of Evangelicals	200.00	200.00	-
70500 · Social Concerns Literature	100.00	100.00	-
Total 70479 · LOCAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES	<u>10,800.00</u>	<u>10,800.00</u>	-
70509 · OUTREACH INVOLVEMENT-PROMOTION			-
70510 · Short Term Projects	7,500.00	9,000.00	(1,500.00)
70520 · Youth Mission Projects	2,500.00	2,500.00	-
70530 · Outreach Conferences	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
70540 · Training and Seminars	500.00	500.00	-
70550 · Missionary Christmas Gifts	3,200.00	3,200.00	-
70560 · Miscellaneous Outreach	100.00	100.00	-
Total 70509 · OUTREACH INVOLVEMENT-PROMOTION	<u>17,800.00</u>	<u>19,300.00</u>	(1,500.00)
Total 70000 · OUTREACH COMMISSION	<u>178,328.00</u>	<u>174,628.00</u>	3,700.00
Total Expense	<u>1,022,093.00</u>	<u>975,163.00</u>	46,930.00
		104.8%	