



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH  
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## *Becoming Apprentices of Jesus* BY PAUL ANLEITNER

Over the course of my life, I've consumed a considerable amount of Star Wars content. My sense of wonder with the fictitious universe began as a boy when I walked into my neighborhood friend's house where he was watching the final act of *Return of the Jedi*. From that point on, I was all in. Expanded universe novels, comic books, and even official encyclopedias—I've consumed them all. Admittedly, my love for Star Wars has waned in recent years and I may no longer be able to dominate a hardcore game of Star Wars trivia, but feel free to test my nerdy knowledge at any time.

Sadly, I must report to you that despite all of the books, movies, and TV series I've absorbed over the course of my life, I am no closer to being a Jedi Knight than I was as a young boy. Every effort to use the "Force" and telekinetically pull the television remote into my grasp when it was out of reach, and I was too lazy to get up and grab it, has failed.

The inability for my consumption of facts to change who I am isn't just relegated to Star Wars either. My consumption of ancient history information has never turned me into a Spartan warrior. My love for all things Batman-related has not turned me into a billionaire vigilante. Most sadly of all, I have found consuming endless amounts of information about Jesus has not automatically made me more Christ-like.

Obviously, I jest about hoping to become a Jedi Knight or the Dark Knight, but I do that to illustrate a deeper point. The insights of modern behavioral science and the ancient wisdom of the earliest followers of Jesus are in agreement on this—we do not automatically become like someone by merely consuming information about them. This is why the earliest followers of Jesus were called followers of "The Way." Disciples of Jesus were not just like modern college students sitting in a lecture hall and taking

notes. That has its place, but the kind of discipleship they undertook was much more like a modern trades apprenticeship where a young plumber follows a master plumber and simply does everything the master does.

While we are in a sermon series on the Gospel of Matthew to start this calendar year, our goal is not to merely consume information about Jesus, but to allow the story of Jesus in the sacred Scriptures to call us to practicing The Way of Jesus. Don't get me wrong—if someone says to us, "Jesus is like this," we want to be able to identify if they are right or wrong. But what we are after is not to win Bible trivia contests. We are after the transformation of our character into Christ-like conformity.

So, this year we will be stretching and growing as a community in how to be apprentices of Jesus, practicing the disciplines of Christ-like formation, and learning how to live in The Way.

## SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE ANNUAL STUDENT MINISTRY FUNDRAISER DINNER

# *Terrace on Chicago*

## ON MARCH 15, 2025

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in volunteering,  
scan this QR code to register →



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## QUARTERLY CELEBRATION (BUSINESS MEETING)

### FEB. 24 ON ZOOM | 7 P.M.



## Our Mission:

TO HELP  
INDIVIDUALS BECOME  
CHRIST-CENTERED &  
CHRIST-SENT TOGETHER

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# MEN'S RETREAT

@ CAMP SHAMINEAU / FEB 28 - MAR 2

### A Note from Pete Lehner

Recently, Pastor Paul encouraged us to start wearing names tags every Sunday morning because knowing each other's names is important! Spending time together is the next step to deepen relationships in our quest to know and be known. One way to make that happen is by attending the upcoming Men's Overhaul Weekend Retreat at Camp Shamineau in Motley, MN.

The men's retreat has something for everyone. From axe throwing, to ice climbing, to basketball, or just sitting around a fire in conversation. For me, it was a mix of all of these things; doing activities with guys I knew and getting to know a few new guys.

In my experience, the morning and evening chapel times were also significant. There was a time for worship, followed by a speaker who challenged us to slow down, reflect on our relationship with God, and assess our life's impact on others.

Men's Retreat is a chance to get away from the normal day-to-day and be with just men. It's also an opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member. I can't wait to head back there this year! Oh, did I mention the absurd quantities of good food and snacks?

I would like to invite all men to join me this February 28—March 2 at Camp Shamineau. We are joining 300-400 men from other MN area churches. See you there!

Sign up at [Shamineau.org](http://Shamineau.org) or use this QR code



List "First Free Church Minneapolis" as the church name so we are placed in the same cabins together.



Retreat46 at Camp Shamineau is a weekend retreat for kids in grades 4-5. It's a great time for kids to spend the weekend doing lots of fun activities, and hearing great messages about God. Kids are welcome to invite friends to go along! **REGISTER HERE**



# Outreach Weekend

## FEBRUARY 8 & 9

## SUPER SERVE SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8

### LEGACY THRIFT

9:30 A.M. - 12 P.M. | CRYSTAL

Sorting and cataloguing books, housewares, furniture, toys; general cleaning; getting spring clothing ready; fixing and testing electronics.

### DOROTHY DAY CENTER

9 A.M. - 1 P.M. | ST. PAUL

Preparing the lunch meal, serving it, and then cleaning up.

### UNION GOSPEL MISSION

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. | ST. PAUL

Set up, serve, and clean up noon meal.

### NEW CREATIONS FOOD SHELF

10 A.M. - 12 P.M. & 12 - 2 P.M. | MINNEAPOLIS

Assisting with running the food shelf for clients from 10-2 in two different shifts.

### IN-HOUSE VOLUNTEERING

9:30 - 11:30 A.M. | FIRST FREE GYM

Creating birthday bags and welcome bags along with other activities.

## Outreach Sunday



Join us in the gym during Community Hour to hear from Ronn Kreps about his work with Legacy Thrift and how it supports the mission of reaching Eastern Europe for Christ, through MCEE (Minnesota Coalition for Eastern Europe).



Then head upstairs for Worship at 10:30 where we will hear from Tom Ives about partnering in God's continuing work to bring the good news about Jesus to the world.