



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

JUNE AND JULY 2017

Ask for the Holy Spirit BY JOEL SUTTON

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23; ESV)

On Sunday mornings, we have been studying the fruit of the Spirit. Some have asked, how can this fruit be ours? How can we develop these qualities in our lives? It is simple. We need to ask for the Holy Spirit to fill us. And then yield to Him.

In Luke 11, after Jesus has given his disciples a lesson on prayer he says, “And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:9-13; ESV, underline added).

Did you catch that last line? He is talking about praying with a great boldness.

As you and I bring our spiritual requests to the Father, we know that He is ready to help us. He longs to work in us and He longs to supply the Holy Spirit in us to meet our needs. You need joy. You need peace? God says, “Ask, and I will give you my Spirit who is the peace giver.”

So what are the barriers to asking like this?

The first barrier is doubt. Three things Jesus tells us to do: Ask, seek and knock. Jesus says, “Ask,” and we say, “Possibly”. So then Jesus says “Seek” and we say, “Maybe”, and so Jesus then says, “Knock” and we say, “We’ll see”. And then Jesus says, “For everyone who asks, everyone who seeks, everyone who knocks, they will receive, they will find and they will have the door opened.” The everyone includes you. When we have doubt – then we don’t do any of those things.

A second barrier is fear. We say, “I am not sure about this.” Jesus says, “Don’t be afraid to ask.” And then He uses the analogy of father with a son. Never once when my son or daughter have asked for scrambled eggs for breakfast have I said, “Well, you asked for an egg, but here try this scorpion instead.” Even as evil as I am I would never do that to my children.

Jesus then asks, “Why then would you be afraid to ask your Heavenly Father for the good gifts that the Holy Spirit provides?” Don’t be afraid to ask.

A third barrier is inadequacy – a feeling of not being worthy to receive. I hear people use the excuse, “I haven’t been a Christian long enough.” Or “You don’t know what my life on the inside is really like.” But Jesus doesn’t say, “How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who have been a Christian for a very long time.” No, Jesus says, “How much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him”.

Have you asked Him? If you want the fruit in Spirit in your life, ask him! And then yield to Him.



VBC 2017: JUNE 26-30

Register online at firstfreechurch.org/vbc

**WORK DAYS: COME WHEN YOU CAN;
SNACKS PROVIDED!**

June 8th: 9:00 am–2:00 pm

June 15th: 9:00 am–2:00 pm

June 22th: 9:00 am–2:00 pm

The week before VBC, check in with JoAnn and Kari to see what else is needed! Email vbc@firstfreechurch.org.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES

Thanks for serving with us! Come to one of the volunteer training sessions:

June 14th: 6:30-8:30 pm or

June 15th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Let JoAnn and Kari know if you are unable to attend



CURRENT SERIES | FRUIT: IT DOES THE BODY GOOD

JUNE 4	Peace	JUNE 18	Gentleness
JUNE 11	Faithfulness	JUNE 25	Self-Control

In July we will start our summer worship schedule with one worship gathering at 9:15 a.m. Join us as we look at characters of the Bible and learn from their stories.

OUR MISSION:
TO HELP
INDIVIDUALS
BECOME
CHRIST-CENTERED
& CHRIST-SENT
TOGETHER

WANT MORE INFO?

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SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org

Annual Celebration Recap

Scripture talks a lot about celebrating. God commanded Passover to be celebrated by the Israelites. He has ordained us the church to celebrate His death and resurrection in the Lord's Supper. When the younger son returned, the father told the older son, "But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:32). And of course there is a wedding feast that we will celebrate with Jesus in heaven.

This past May we celebrated! At our Annual Celebration we looked back and saw how God has moved in and through us here at First Free to build His Kingdom. We worshipped together. We heard stories of how different people are "Living on Mission." And we thanked Dee Huanca for her ministry among us as she retires as one of our Faith Community Nurses.

We also looked forward. We elected new members to our Council and Commissions. We accepted a new budget (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018). And we prayed together, asking God to continue to lead and guide us. It was a morning of celebrating together how we as a church body continue to live out our mission - helping individuals become Christ-centered and Christ-sent together - in both big and small ways.

Celebrating the Year in Numbers:

Christ-Centered

13 baptisms
 Average Sunday attendance: 524
 45 youth and leaders went to the EFCA Challenge Conference

Christ-Sent

39 homebound people were visited each month
 We supported 30 missionaries around the world
 106 people committed to our congregational goal of having one meal a month with someone who is far from God

Together

We gained 20 new members
 70% of adults are connected in community
 Over 100 children attend Creekside Clubs on Wednesday nights

Summer Worship Schedule

Join us for our Summer worship schedule! We'll be having one worship gathering at 9:15 a.m starting July 2 through September 3. There will be no adult community groups or K-12 classes. Nursery and preschool will be available 9:15-10:30 a.m.

Church Family News

June is a month of milestones for long-time members of First Free, Don and Gen Erickson. Don will be celebrating his 90th birthday on June 24th. Their wedding anniversary on June 15th will be an occasion to look back on 68 years of loving commitment to each other, to their family and to faithful service in the body of Christ and beyond. Congratulations, Don and Gen!

Congratulations to Drew and Heather Mooney on the birth of their son Dylan Mooney, who was born on May 5th.

7 children were dedicated on May 14th:

Andy & Jamie Kvamme dedicated Odin Kvamme
 Danah & D.J. O'Neil dedicated Simon O'Neil
 Jonathan & Glenda Sannes dedicated Audrey Sannes

David & Gabriella Hauge dedicated Lydia Hauge
 Pete & Erica Lehner dedicated Everett Lehner
 Matt & Kim Lawrence dedicated Jackson Lawrence
 Heather & Drew Mooney dedicated Dylan Mooney

Congratulations, class of 2017!

Cianni Burks - Washburn
 Aaron Brown - Washburn
 Megan Cupersmith - Washburn
 Ellie Fergus - Washburn
 Gabe Flomo - Washburn
 Matt Kuchar - Washburn
 Nick Larson - Washburn

Chloe Nelson - Homeschool
 Jaiene Perez - Washburn
 Emma Peters -Chanhassen High
 Luke Bearden Peterson - Washburn
 Maria Sorensen - Washburn
 Mitchell St. Clair - Washburn
 Jacob Sutton - Washburn

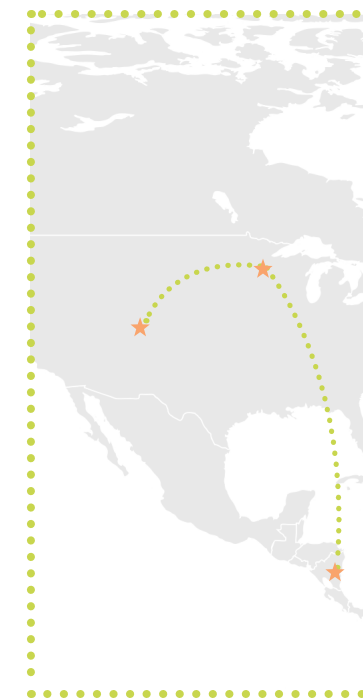
Pray for our Students!

This July, students from our youth group students will be going on two different trips: one to Colorado and one to Nicaragua.

Lead the Cause in Denver, Colorado will prepare students to share their faith and disciple others. Students will also have a chance to go white water rafting before coming home! They'll be driving to Colorado on July 9th and return July 16th.

Our group is also partnering with Praying Pelican Missions for a mission trip to Nicaragua. They'll be serving in Sebaco alongside Nicaraguan Christians. They fly out on July 22nd and return July 29th.

Please pray for safe travels, good health, positive experiences, and growth in faith for our students and leaders. And thank you to all who gave at Terrace on Chicago to make these trips possible!



This Month @ FIRST FREE

JUNE

College/Career Potluck: June 3

All College and Career folks (graduating high school seniors too) are invited to a potluck on June 3rd at 6 p.m. at the Boyum's (2704 Isle Royale Ct. Burnsville). Bring a side item or dessert to share. Contact Carrie Boyum with any questions: 612-237-3619.

Electives: June 4, 11, 18, and 25

Two adult electives will be offered Sundays in June: "Suppressed Science Series: Scientific Evidence for Creation and the Flood" and "Merit & God's Forgiveness" The same lessons will be offered both hours to give everyone an opportunity to attend.

Vacation Bible Camp: June 26-30

VBC is June 26-30 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, for kids entering grades K-6. Sign up online or learn more at firstfreechurch.org/vbc. Questions? Contact our VBC directors at vbc@firstfreechurch.org.

VBC Training Days: June 14-15

VBC volunteers: attend one of two volunteer training sessions! There are a lot of details to know and we will have fun! Join us June 14th at 6:30 p.m. or June 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Farmers Market: June 14-September

Come enjoy locally grown food in our neighborhood starting June 14th from 4:00-8:00 pm. Be sure to come back for more Wednesdays from June 14th through September 28th. Located in our church parking lot. If interested in helping represent First Free, contact the church office at info@firstfreechurch.org.

Marketfest: June 28

This year we are partnering with the Nokomis Farmers Market to put on this this outdoor, community event (formally known as Streetfest) on Wednesday, June 28th, 6-8:00 p.m. All are invited! Enjoy the farmers market, food trucks, inflatables, free drawing for prizes, and more with our church family and our neighbors!

JULY

Worship at the Falls: July 23

Join us for worship at Minnehaha Falls on Sunday, July 24 at 10:30 a.m.