



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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God's Simple Mission BY JOEL SUTTON

What was God's mission?

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

"The Son of Man came to seek and save that which is lost."

Simple. Straightforward.

Our All-Church Challenge for 2020 is also very simple: Each person who calls First Free home will know how they have been shaped by God's story so they can share God's story with someone else.

One of the profound truths of God's story is from the beginning. He was on mission to seek and save the lost. In Genesis 3, we hear God's first missionary call, "Adam, where are you?" In Genesis 12, we hear another when God made His covenant with Abraham, "all people on earth will be blessed through you." Wherever we go in

God's story we hear his heart—to seek and save the lost.

So how can we join God on His mission? Let me suggest three ways:

1. Shift our thinking from self-centeredness to God-centeredness. We must move from our selfish goals, ambitions, dreams, needs, thoughts and plans to seeking and asking what God's agenda is for our life. There is nothing more important than being in love with Jesus Christ and letting that love for him be put on display.

2. Shift our thinking from temporary values to eternal values. When we believe what the Bible teaches about hell and that there is no second chance after death, suddenly our perspective changes. When we begin to talk about the eternal destiny of millions of people, a lot of things suddenly become

insignificant and irrelevant. People need the Lord.

3. Shift our thinking from security to service. Mark 8:35 says, "For whoever wants to save his life (security) will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel (service) will save it." Look for opportunities to move out of your comfort zone to serve God and others.

During the weekend of March 14-15, as a church we will be focusing on Christ's mission to reach the lost in our city. We will be able to hear from and interact with several different ministries right here in our backyard: Transform MN, Arrive Ministries and New Life Family Services.

My challenge is to ask yourself simply: how can I join God on His mission?

Read past editions of First Word at firstfreechurch.org/newsletters

CREEKSIDE ICE FISHING



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

WANT MORE INFO?

Web: www.firstfreechurch.org
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Outreach Weekend

MARCH 14-15th

Key Note Speaker:

Zack Szyman, is the Outreach Coordinator for the SALT team with Arrive Ministries. He is passionate about welcoming refugees, and loving and making disciples among the nations that God is bringing to Minneapolis. He has a Master of Ministry degree with the Antioch School in Ames, Iowa and lives with his wife and son in the East Phillips Neighborhood of South Minneapolis.



Panel Speakers:

Carl Nelson has been the President of the Transform Minnesota since 2005, a regional evangelical network where church leaders engage complex issues from a Biblical perspective. He previously was Executive Director of Arrive Ministries' refugee resettlement program, and earlier taught English in Russia for two years. Carl and his wife Kari live in North Minneapolis and have three school-aged children.



Wendy Meyering is the Director of Refugee Life Ministries, a program of Arrive Ministries that empowers teams and individuals from local churches to befriend our new neighbors. She loves simultaneously serving alongside local believers and meeting new refugee families. Recently she traveled to Kakuma Refugee Camp where she saw firsthand the refugee experience. She hopes to use this opportunity to better equip volunteers as they welcome new families to our communities.



Tammy Kocher has been the Executive Director of New Life Family Services, a licensed adoption agency and one of the oldest, largest and most comprehensive pregnancy centers in the country for more than 10 years. Tammy is an active leader in the state of Minnesota, working with other pregnancy center directors to establish a strong network of support. She is passionate about cultivating excellence and empowering leaders to confidently live out their God-given calling. Tammy and her husband Brian have been married for 25 years, and have three teenage/young adult sons.



SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Brunch and Outreach Panel. Each missionary will give an overview of their work. This is an opportunity to get to know them and their ministries.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH

Sunday Morning

Zack Szyman, will be speaking during both worship services. The Missionaries will give elective style presentations at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

This Summer
@ FIRST FREE

VACATION BIBLE CAMP
JUNE 15-19TH



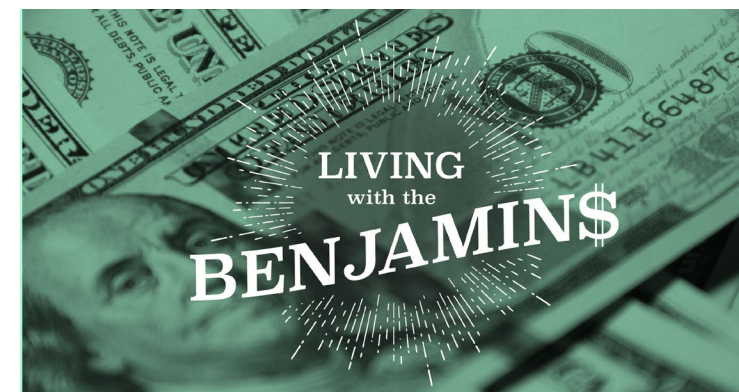
NEIGHBORING 12:31
AUGUST 20-22ND

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
on March 8th!



CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
LIVING WITH THE BENJAMINS



MAR. 1 A Wise Investment—Luke 16:1-13
MAR. 8 Grace of Giving—2 Cor 8:1-15

Missed a sermon? Catch up online at
firstfreechurch.org/sermons

This Month
@ FIRST FREE

EASTER & LENT VISUAL ARTS

Calling artists of all ages and skills to submit artwork for our 2nd Annual Lent and Easter art gallery. We want to encourage people in our congregation to consider how they might be able to visually portray the themes of the season including selfless love and sacrifice, Christ's passion and faithfulness, and the hope of resurrection and renewal. Contact Worship Pastor Paul Anleitner for more information.

CAMP SHAMINEAU SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS

First Free sees the tremendous value in camp for kids! Scholarships are provided for summer camp for all students who attend a First Free kids/student program. Complete a discount form at firstfreechurch.org/camp. Talk to Beth Brown or email summercamp@firstfreechurch.org for more information.

WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS

In the event of inclement weather, visit our website (firstfreechurch.org) for information related to cancellations of services, activities, or other events. A notification will appear on the home page, as well as the News and Events page.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

Have you moved recently? Contact the office so that we can change your address in our system. Email info@firstfreechurch.org

Church Family News

Congratulations to Nicole and Eric Black on the birth of their daughter Kylie Ann Black!

Welcome New Members!

- Sean & Kristin Thomas
- Nathan & Kathryn Schroeder
- Jim & Judy Burns.



SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org