

First Free News

First Evangelical Free Church
5150 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis
 Visit our website at www.firstfreechurch.org



July 2002

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 * **Carry God's Torch!** *
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Last February the focus of the world was on Salt Lake City and the Winter Olympic Games. In the Opening Celebration, the Olympics were officially begun with the lighting of the Olympic flame.

I remember watching the Olympic flame being passed from person to person over thousands of miles throughout the United States. A specific runner is selected to carry the torch for each mile of that trek. I have often wondered what it would be like to carry that torch. Think of the tradition. . . . the history you are holding in your hand. With each step you would carry a great sense of mission.

As Christians we carry a torch. We carry a flame of a much greater value. *"You are the light of the world . . . let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:14, 16)

These are the days **we** are called to carry the torch high. As those committed to Christ we need to run with passion and perseverance—sure of our mission.

Jesus Christ, as he walked this earth, lived with a mission, and he handed it off to his disciples. *"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."* (John 20:21) He was handing off His torch to them. Christ was sent into the world to make disciples—and today, we are called to be disciple makers.

Being a disciple of Christ is to live the way Jesus lived. It means having the same priorities, following the same principles, and developing the same patterns as Jesus. This is the light, the torch, we are to carry into this world! Let us carry the torch high!

— Pastor Joel Sutton —

- July Highlights -

Sunday, July 7th (Communion)

- Welcome to Our New Church Members
 Milton (Tom) and Lucille Bornholdt
 Mildred Hines, David Huanca, Janice Nielsen

Sunday, July 14th

- Guest Preacher: Rev. Bill Anderson

Sunday, July 21st

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Thursday, July 25th

- Picnic in the Park, 5:30-8:30 PM
- This picnic is sponsored by Hale, Page, Diamond Lake Community and will take place at Pearl Park (*note new location*).
- Plan to come, see the booths of many organizations, and mingle with neighbors of the church.
- We will have a booth with information on Vacation Bible School, free *Jesus* Videos and a magic show by Jack Nordin.

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 * **Something BIG is Coming!** *
 * • You don't want to miss this –so *
 * • Mark your calendars for Satur- *
 * day, October 12th —and *
 * • Meet at church and plan to grow! *

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, August 11th

Lake Baptism and Picnic

- ◆ Following Sunday morning worship on August 11th, you are invited to attend a lake baptism service and church picnic.
- ◆ The baptism service will begin at 11:00 AM at Lake Nokomis beach.
- ◆ If you have an interest in being baptized, please call the church office at 612-827-4705 by Friday, August 2nd.

School Supply Collection for St. Joseph's Home

As we did last year, we have decided to collect school supplies for the children at St. Joseph's Home for Children, which is a children's shelter just blocks from our church.

Children should bring donations during the week of Vacation Bible School.

Some members of our congregation may also want to participate, so starting Sunday, July 7th, we will have a rubber raft set up by the VBS registration table in the foyer to hold donated school supplies.

Here are suggested items:

- ⇒ Pencils, Crayons, Markers
- ⇒ Colored Pencils, Erasers, Glue
- ⇒ Notebooks, Children's Scissors
- ⇒ Small Calculators, School Boxes
- ⇒ Small Toys (Legos, Cards Games, or Matchbox Cars)

Thanks for your generosity!

- ⇒ The week of July 29th to August 2nd our church will be transformed into a river canyon for our **Son Canyon Adventure Vacation Bible School**.
- ⇒ Children from age 3 to those entering 6th grade will participate in activities, games, crafts, and snacks related to wilderness adventure.
- ⇒ Each day a different special story teller will introduce a Bible character who came through a dangerous adventure by acting wisely, and they will learn to trust Jesus as the Savior who will guide them and help them make wise life choices.
- ⇒ Jack Nordin, famous Christian magician, will use illusions to teach Bible truths, and Herb Bloomquist plans to bring Camp Shamineau's rope climbing equipment to our gym to provide a challenge.
- ⇒ You can be sure that with the hot weather we have plans to include water activities in our adventure.
- ⇒ Keep an eye out for Pastor Joel and Patty Mellema as they will be our head guides. See if you can recognize them!
- ⇒ We have many wonderful volunteers already committed to making this the best VBS ever. We also need everyone's prayers so God will be glorified and children will be won to His Kingdom.
- ⇒ **WE CAN STILL USE VOLUNTEERS**—even if you aren't available every day, we can use you! If you can help, call the church office and leave your name—**join in the adventure!**