

*First Evangelical Free Church exists to:*

**BRING** people into a relationship with Jesus, **CONNECT** them to God's family, **MATURE** them in their faith, and **EQUIP** them for ministry so God's name will be **EXALTED!**

Current Series:

*June 13-August 29, 2010*

### ***The God You Are Looking For***

Who do you think God is? Is He an unknown spirit floating through the cosmos? Or a creator with a hands-off attitude when it comes to His creation? Does He sit on a throne above the clouds waiting to zap you if you do something wrong? The Bible says that God is none of those things. He is in control, and at the same time He is right there for you. He knows everything and feels deeply. Join us this summer as we explore who God really is in our series called, "The God You Are Looking For."

Are You Looking For A God...

August 8—"Who Is Your Strength?"

August 15—"Who Is Righteous?"

August 22—"Who Is Patient?"

August 29—"Who Is With You, Not Against You?"

### ***Contact Us!***

The staff at First Free would love to hear from you today!

#### ***Pastoral Staff***

Senior Pastor, Joel Sutton ([joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org))

Worship & Connecting Pastor, Eric Twietmeyer ([eric@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:eric@firstfreechurch.org))

Youth Pastor, Mark Meyers ([mark.meyers@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:mark.meyers@firstfreechurch.org))

#### ***Ministry Staff***

Children's Director, Beth Brown ([beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org))

Director of International Ministries, Sam Song ([songo110@umn.edu](mailto:songo110@umn.edu))

Parish Nurses, Delores Huanca & Maureen Juarez ([parishnurses@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:parishnurses@firstfreechurch.org))

Intern, Phil Hintz ([phil.hintz@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:phil.hintz@firstfreechurch.org))

#### ***Administrative Staff***

Facilities Technician, Scott Beckett ([scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org))

Office Administrator, Olivia Lueth ([olivia.lueth@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:olivia.lueth@firstfreechurch.org))

Administrative Assistant, Karna Anderson ([karna.anderson@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:karna.anderson@firstfreechurch.org))



**WELCOME**  
where the difference is... the relationship

## Sunday Mornings (Summer Schedule):

### Creekside Friends

Nursery & Preschool, 9:30-10:30 AM

Kids remain in service. Activity bags are available in the foyer for them to use.

\*All children move up to their next grade level in the fall.\*

*Normal Children's and Youth programming will resume September 12!!*



Have you misplaced a jacket, Bible, or even pair of glasses? Check out First Free's **Lost and Found**, located below the stairs at the North entrance. Unclaimed items will be purged tomorrow, August 9.

## Sunday Mornings:

### **Adult Bible Fellowships**

#### 9:30 AM

**Life (Room #104)** ~ Jeff & Andrea Spranger  
*Singles, Couples & Parents with Young Children— 30s*  
**Parents of Teenagers (Room #103)** ~ Jim & Joyce Friesen  
**Sojourners (Room #105)** ~ Vince & Heidi St. Clair  
*Singles, Couples & Families – Late 30s, 40s, Early 50s*

#### 11:00 AM

**Metamorphosis (Room #109)** ~ Wayne & Julie Danielson  
*Post High School, College & Early Career*  
**Seekers (Room #108)** ~ Audrey Sollie, Bob Gu, & Steve Mondy  
*Multi-culture Class*  
**Seniors (Room #105)** ~ Char Boyles & Bob Chapman  
*Singles & Couples – 65+*  
**Agape (Room #103)** ~ Mark & Deb Holman  
*Singles & Couples – 50s & 60s*  
**Makarios (Room #104)** ~ Eric & Susan Stabnow  
*Singles, Couples & Newlyweds in their 20s*  
**Prayer Group (Library)** ~ Facilitator: Grace Elasky

**Adult Bible Fellowships will meet again starting September 12!**

*Seekers ABF continues through the summer.*



**August 28**

Lunch & Dinner

More Information/Sign up at the Welcome Desk or Call the Church Office!  
Q? Contact: Diane Laitinen (612-721-7360)

**Quarterly Business Meeting**

*Tomorrow, August 9  
7 PM*

Fresh Encounter  
Wednesday, September 1  
6:30 PM

**PRAYER.**  
*conversations with God*

### ***This Week @ FEFC...Aug. 8-14***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>8</b> <u>9:30 AM</u> Worship Service 11 AM Baptism & Church Picnic 5 PM Outreach Commission 5:30 PM Commissions 7:30 PM Council	<b>9</b> 7 PM Quarterly Business Mtg. 8:30 PM Men's Basketball	<b>10</b> 9 AM White Cross 7:30 PM Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 6:30 PM Youth Leader Mtg. 6:45 PM Prayer	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

### Church Picnic

Please join us at Lake Nokomis after the Baptismal service today. Those with **last names A-O**, please bring a salad to serve 10 people; **P-Z**, please bring a dessert to serve 10 people. Lawn chairs and games are welcome! Grilled meat, beverages, condiments, and dinnerware will be provided.



Women are invited to learn to make prayer shawls and work on their own craft projects at Postons', August 12, at 7 PM.  
5644 11 Ave. S.  
Call Nancy @ 612-722-8453.



### Family News~

Congratulations to **Philip & Elissa Michaelson!** Thomas Beckett joined his big sister, Genova, on July 21st!

Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of **Orville Ayers**. Orville passed away on August 5. A visitation will be held at 10 AM tomorrow at First Free, with a funeral service to follow at 11 AM.

### First Free Work Day!

Saturday; August 21, 2010  
9 AM to Noon

- Cleaning exterior windows
- Window wells – clearing out trash and weeds
- Back stairway – relocating essential items, throwing out the rest
- Removal of the fence and brush along 5155/parking lot property line

Qs? Contact Charlie Sawyer at  
(612) 825-9418



**Committed:** \$262,740  
**Received:** \$68,030



### Fiscal YTD Giving: July 25, 2010

Local Ministries: \$178,294  
Budget: \$220,076  
Outreach: \$46,794  
Budget: \$53,321

Designate Outreach funds by marking it on your check or giving envelope.

## EXALT

"A Mighty Fortress"  
(Hymn #26, Vv. 1-4)

"I Sing The Mighty Power Of God"  
(Hymn #59, Vv. 1-3)

"You're Worthy Of My Praise"

### Offering

"When I Think About The Lord"

### Welcome

### Prayer

### Message

Pastor Joel Sutton  
"Are You Looking For A God...Who Is Your Strength?"  
*Isaiah 41:1-10* (Pew Bible Pg. 702)

### Communion

"Oh Lead Me"

### First Time Visitor?

If you are new to First Free, we extend a special welcome to you today. We hope that you will find the following information helpful:

**Information Request:** We ask each attendee to *fill out the enclosed Welcome Card* and place it in the offering plate each week. Our church uses this information for First Free communications only...plus, we would just like to get to know you! *Information will not be shared with outside sources.*

**This Morning's Offering** is for those who call First Free their church home. You are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to participate.

**Restrooms** are located below the foyer and across from the gym. A handicap accessible restroom may be found by the nursery near the North Entrance.

**Nurseries, Classrooms, and Children's & Adult Ministry:** Stop at the Welcome Center for maps! Class times and locations are located on the inside of this bulletin.

**A Gift!** We invite you to also stop by the **Welcome Center** to receive a gift and additional information about our church. *Thank you for joining us today!*

## ...Who Is Your Strength?

Isaiah 41:1-10

## Sermon-Based Discussion Questions

(For Small Groups, Adult Bible Fellowships, or Personal Use)

"Do not fear" – Isaiah 41:10

Five Promises for Fearlessness:

- I am \_\_\_\_\_.
- I am \_\_\_\_\_.
- I will \_\_\_\_\_.
- I will \_\_\_\_\_.
- I will \_\_\_\_\_.

The power of the promise . . .

. . . is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the promise.

- God is the \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 1)
- God is the \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 2-3)
- God is the \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 4)

While their gods need \_\_\_\_\_, our God, the eternal Lord of nations and history, promises to \_\_\_\_\_.

Take Home Idea: We can live with an \_\_\_\_\_ because God is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Coming Next Week:  
...Who Is Righteous?

\*Pastor Joel Sutton; August 8, 2010

What stood out to you from the sermon? Pinpoint an idea or a thought that made an impact on your heart; share with everyone else.

Read again Isaiah 41:1-7. Who is God speaking to? What is He asking them to do with Him? How does He demonstrate who He is?

The "one from the east" in vv. 2-3 is Cyrus the Great (refer to Isaiah 44:28), the founder of the Persian empire. What point is God trying to make here? Why do you think Isaiah does not identify here who this ruler is?

Look at vv. 5 – 7. Do you think Isaiah is using sarcasm here? Why or why not? How are we sometimes like those nations and craftsman? What things (idols) do we find it easy sometimes to trust in?

Notice the transition in vs. 8 with the word "But you." How is Israel different? How are we as believers like Israel?

Look again at the five promises of vs. 10. God is with me; God is my God; God will strengthen me; God will help me; God will uphold me. Which of those five is the one that resonates with you the most? Why?

When do you experience fear? How can holding onto to those five promises make a difference for you when fear comes your way?

Pray for each other that you might each trust in the one who gives us the promise to give us His strength.

## Baptism Participant Testimonies

We rejoice with those who have chosen to publically declare their faith through baptism this morning. Please take a moment to read their stories of God's faithfulness in their lives.



### Jacob Sutton

It was a typical Saturday night, and I was doing my typical Saturday night bath. I was eight years old. So I asked my dad how I could have eternal life, and he told me to pray to accept Jesus into my heart. And at that very second I became a Christian. I want to be baptized so that everyone knows I'm a Christian and to show my love for Jesus. Also, Jesus did it when He was here on earth, so it is good for us to do it too. My favorite book of the Bible is Genesis.

### Charlie Rose

When I was younger, I wanted to be part of God's family and bring glory to Him. I learned from my parents that I could receive salvation by confessing my sins and testifying that Jesus is God's son. When I was ready, I took Jesus' death as payment for my sins. I want to be baptized because Jesus commanded it and to show my faith in Him. I want to be baptized in Lake Nokomis because Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river.



### Beth Birkeland

There are no words to express the depth to which Jesus has taken over my heart. Someone once shared with me that the most sacred moment is when someone is in the "pigpen" (in reference to the prodigal son). It is in this place that we are faced with nothing but ourselves. When I was finally willing to face the truth of who I was – I had a choice to make. "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.'" (Heb 3:8) This scripture has become my life verse; I lived too many years where I chose to ignore the voice of God because I was afraid to face the reality of my sinful nature. I wasn't willing to trust that simple faith in Jesus was enough to forgive my depravity. In the pigpen, I made the decision to yield – to go home to my Father acknowledging who I was. Through this baptism, I want to testify to all of you that I have trusted my heart to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. He has become what my heart so desperately sought: love, freedom, peace, and most of all joy. I finally came to see that God loves me – not for anything that I could ever do or say, or even be – He loves me simply because He is my Father. I have come to know in my heart that Love is sufficient.



### Wan Feng Yan

以前，我对主没有什么认识，近几年女儿女婿孙女对我传福音，让我对主有了认识。来美后每个星期天孩子们就带我一起走进教会。学习《圣经》，共同赞美创造万物并主宰宇宙的神耶稣基督。有幸接触与奥缙等一批虔诚的基督徒。从他们的言行中，体现了我主的教诲，仁慈与真爱。他们尊老爱幼，诚恳待友，关心他人胜于自己的种种美德，使我深受感动。启发我敢于大胆地去亲近天地之父；先后阅读了《游子吟》，《中国教会史》，《信仰问题解答》等书，感谢神通过读物给我启发，也感谢他对我祷告的应许。深信耶稣基督才是这世界上唯一的真神。

耶和華我的主啊！請求接納我成為您的門徒，幫助我淨化心靈，從罪性的邪惡中解脫出來，走向您的光明永恒的道路。今後，我要更加努力地學習《聖經》，因為“他是生命的基石，是我們行事為人的準則”。8月21日，我將返回中國。回去以後，我會向親友傳播您的福音。願主與我同在，開啟我愚鈍的心，主宰我的生命。讓我能逐步成長為主能喜悅的人。阿門。

万峰岩 2010 6-30



I didn't know much about Christ until these recent years. My daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter shared the Gospel with me when there is a chance. Since this March I came to America, I stepped in church on Sundays; learning about Bible, joining the worship to the Lord and Creator of all things. Jesus Christ impacted on me and made me think. I was also very blessed to get to know many faithful Christian friends like Audrey Sollie in church. From their behavior and conversations, I found reflection of God's teaching--mercy and love. They are friendly; and they have respect and sincere concern for others. I am deeply moved. It inspired me to take courage to be closer to our Father in Heaven. I finished reading Chinese Christian book my family gave me, "Song of a Wanderer," "Church History of China," "Faith Questions and Answers," and other books. Thank God for inspiring me and opening my eyes through these readings, and also for repeatedly answering my questions and prayers. I was convinced that Jesus Christ is the world's only true God and Savior.

My Lord my God! Please accept my request to be your follower; help me purify my heart, free me from the sin of evil thoughts and free me into the eternal light of your path. In the future, I want to study Your Bible every day, because "It is the cornerstone of life"; it is the words and standard You want us to follow. August 21, I will return to China. Then, I will share Your Gospel to my friends and relatives. May You be with me, strength me, open my foolish heart and lead my life. So I may gradually grow to be a daughter who is pleasant in Your eyes. Amen.