

Voice of Westminster



July 2025

The Joy of TRUE Freedom

What is your definition of freedom? Most likely it contains some of the following dimensions:

“Freedom, in its most basic sense, is the ability to make choices and act without unnecessary restrictions or constraints. It encompasses the power to think, speak, and act according to one’s own will, while also acknowledging the rights and freedoms of others. Freedom is often associated with liberty, autonomy, and independence.” For many it means being able to do **what** “I” want to do, **when** “I” want to do it, and **how** “I” want to do it, without anyone hindering me. Yet we have often defined sin as the **“I”** in the middle (SIN). We have further noted that we live in a culture if **“I”** doltary; in other words, life is first and foremost about me, and what I want to do. Unfortunately, due to our innate tendency to make sinful choices, our freedom often ends up putting us into **spiritual slavery**.

True freedom from a biblical perspective, paradoxically, comes from **submission to Christ** who by his death has freed us from sin, death, and the grave. We have been **freed from** these, so we are **freed to** live a life in service to God, and our fellow human beings, the only way we can have **TRUE JOY**. Paul summarizes this well in **Galatians 5:13-14 NLT: *13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”***

Pastor Roger



DID YOU NOTICE?

In June the Property Committee had two trees removed from our west parking lot. One was by the alley and the other was by our electronic sign. Both these trees were half dead. Removing them has opened up the visibility from the alley to the warning signage around the canopy, and increased visibility of our electronic sign from all angles.

We also had two abandoned cars towed away from our 14th Street parking lot. Finally, the city has planted several new trees along 3rd Ave., replacing trees lost during the derecho. - WPC Property Committee

Pictures are the before and after of the 2 tree removals. Quite the difference especially for our electronic sign.



SPRING CLEANUP

On Saturday, June 21 several volunteers showed up to brave the heat and help pickup trash, spray weeds, clean up the bushes around the building and many other tasks. We thank those who came out in the oppressive heat and helped clean up the church property.



WPC PICNIC AND CONCERT

Thursday, July 26 marked the beginning of Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival. The Metro Mix Sweet Adeline's contacted WPC and wanted to do their kickoff to the festival concert at Westminster. Once the concert was approved by Session the hospitality committee decided it would be a perfect time to have a member picnic with the opportunity to attend the concert. The picnic was a complete success according to those who attended the event. The food and fellowship were great and the picnic was attended by 39 people. The concert was a complete success also with a packed house. It was truly a special evening here at WPC.

FREEDOM FESTIVAL CONCERT PICTURES



LOAVES AND FISHES REOPENS

Tuesday, June 24 L & F opened their doors here at Westminster. Nineteen volunteers showed up to help with the first day. Thank you to the 7 members of Westminster that were a part of the 19. In total they served 31 people, Not a lot but enough for the volunteers to get an idea of how things will work and where improvements need to be made. It will be a work in progress for awhile. There may have been a low number this week that showed up but word of mouth will spread quick that Loaves & Fishes is back!



Calendar: Special Events

- July 4 - **Independence Day**
- July 4 - Don Thomas Celebration of Life 2pm
- July 6 - Communion Sunday
- July 7 - Deacons 5pm
- July 10 - First Lutheran Senior Lunch 11:30 am
- July 10 - First Lutheran Widowers Support Group 2pm
- July 13 - Warren & Pam Feerer's Reception
- July 14 - Property Meeting 1pm
- July 14 - Finance Meets 4:30pm
- July 14 - Mission Meets 6:30pm



This Month's Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Jim Boardman | July 3 |
| Jim Shanklin, Jr. | July 7 |
| Sara Tyler | July 11 |
| Samantha Johnson | July 11 |
| David Leeper | July 14 |
| Pam Richardson | July 17 |
| Sharon Dewey | July 17 |
| Dick Trotter | July 21 |
| Don Damsteegt | July 31 |

July 15 - Session Meets 6:30pm
July 24 - WPC Gathering @ Ellis Ski Show 6pm
July 24 - First Lutheran Bible Study 9:30am
July 25 - B.O.L Community Outreach BBQ 3pm
July 26 - B.O.L Community Outreach BBQ 3pm
July 27 - Sunday Supper Fellowship 5pm
July 31 - First Lutheran Bible Study 9:30am

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry will be every Tuesday from 2:30 - 5 p.m. at Westminster.

Access the updated WPC calendar at crwpc.org/calendar

Calendar: Regular Events

Sundays

Worship 10am - Sanctuary
Beacon of Light 11:30am - Chapel
EGPC-1:30pm - Old Dining
NA (Face Anything/Fear Nothing) 5pm - Atrium

Mondays

Bridge 11 a.m.-4pm - FLC
Marion Gospel Hall Youth Group 7pm - Atrium

Tuesdays

L&F Pantry 2:30 - 5pm - Downstairs
Beacon of Light (100 in 24) 6pm

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m. - Atrium
Prayer Shawl Ministry-1 & 3 Wednesdays
9:30 a.m. - Small Parlor

Thursdays

NA (Face Anything/Fear Nothing) 5pm - Atrium

Fridays

Office Closed

Saturdays

Office Closed
NA (Steps in the Right Direction) 11am - Atrium
EGPC 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Old Dining



This Month's Anniversaries

Jack & Nancy Evans July 29

ATTENTION - If your birthday or anniversary does not appear in the specific month please contact the office so we can get your information updated.

Liturgist Schedule for July

July 6 - Barb Mumford
July 13 - Ed Mumford
July 20 - Pam Richardson
July 27 - Heather Wagner

Greeters

1st Sunday - Jim Fine
2nd Sunday - Terry Perkins
3rd Sunday - Brian Read
4th & 5th Sunday - Kupka's or Neubauers

Greeters please be in foyer between 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.



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