



By Pastor Yukio Hamada

A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone." - On the Freedom of a Christian, Martin Luther, 1520

As we celebrate our declaration of our independence from British rule on the Fourth of July, I think it's appropriate that Christians also take time to remember God's declaration of our independence from the bondage to sin. In his treatise, "On the Freedom of a Christian," Martin Luther developed the concept

that as fully forgiven children of God, Christians are no longer compelled to keep God's law to obtain salvation; however, they freely and willingly serve God and their neighbors. In other words, **God's love is not a law; we don't have to love our neighbor. Because we know God loves us, God frees us to love our neighbor.** In his essay, Luther stated, "A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone."

Unfortunately, from recent political news, **it's apparent that some of our politicians don't understand what Christian freedom is.** If they think they can legislate morality, they haven't heard Jeremiah's prophecy, ""Behold, the days are coming... when I will make a new covenant... not like the covenant that I made with their fathers... my covenant that they broke... For this is the covenant that I will make... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts..." Martin Luther King, Jr. knew what Jeremiah meant. He said in a 1963 speech at Western Michigan University, "Now the other myth that gets around is the idea that legislation cannot really solve the problem and that it has no great role to play in this period of social change because you've got to change the heart and **you can't change the heart through legislation. You can't legislate morals....** Certainly, if the problem is to be solved then in the final sense, hearts must be changed.... But we must go on to say that while it may be true that morality

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Newsletter E-mail
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Newsletter Deadline is the Wednesday before the last Sunday of the month.

St. Timothy Web Site
sainttimothypdx.org



cannot be legislated, behavior can be regulated... It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me but it can keep him from lynching me and I think that is pretty important, also."

We can make all kinds of laws and post the Ten Commandments in classrooms or in front of courthouses but, if politicians and people don't have God's love written in their hearts, it's most certainly not of God. At best, it's pharisaic legalism which Jesus showed was oppressive and unjust.

As we celebrate American independence, in such a time like this, it is important and crucial that Christians take seriously our Christian freedom. **Because we live in a diverse and multifaceted culture, it seems that God is challenging us to see the world in new ways, to appreciate the kaleidoscope of color, race, and ethnicities.** Jesus certainly saw his world differently than the religious legalism of his time and he welcomed the outcast, the sinner, and excluded. Who are we challenged to welcome? **Because so much of humanity has separated itself from God, the fruit of that God-less spirit has resulted in division, futility, frustration, and hopelessness.** God doesn't want this. God wants the world to be free. God wants the world to know that God loves the world. God wants the world to have the fruits of his Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. When the world produces that kind of fruit, then we will have real freedom. But, who will go to proclaim this good news? In his time Isaiah enthusiastically answered, "Here I am! Send me!" Martin Luther said that Christian freedom means, "A Christian is the most free lord of all... A Christian is most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone." **We are called to serve. We are called to save the lost...**

Synod Assembly

Three members of St Timothy (Ray Whitford, Pastor Hamada, and myself) attended the virtual synod assembly on June 1st. We began with some informational presentation by agencies the Synod supports. Lutheran Community Services presented information on Safe Route Immigration, Ecumenical Ministries presented information on the NE Emergency Food project, Global Refugee shared their mission, Camp Lutherwood gave an update, Justice in Palestine and Israel Sumud (Steadfast), Luther House at OSU, PLU re health initiative, and Good Soil at UO. We are doing great work through these projects.

Reports were shared re members in attendance: 65% lay, 38% male, and 52% female.

Bishop report included information on congregational vitality is not determined by size.

We spent \$43,000 less than budgeted due to grants and a donor. Mission support from congregations has increased by 3.4%. We celebrate with 3 congregations their 125th anniversary.

The treasurer reported and we revised 2024 budget to increase by \$125,000 due to surplus income from 2023 and a large bequest from a deceased member. For 2025 all congregations are asked to increase benevolence by \$300 a year. This positive outlook allows for hiring of mobility/interim help to assist the 30+ congregations now in the interim/call process.

The keynote person was Rabbi Barnett. Bishop posed some questions with his responses including witnessing with each other and to be supportive, safe in relationships.

Resolutions: We passed a resolution for increased parental leave and the request from a congregation in NE Oregon to transfer to NW Intermountain Synod due to the congregation being closer in distance.

The convention was very organized, provided good worship, and ended early.

Thanks for allowing me to represent you, Sherry Willmschen

Social Concerns

Food Pantry: We have been very busy

helping the community with food and some personal care items. We received 800+ pounds of food from the Portland Food Project. Thanks to Cheryl, Marie, and Marcia for volunteering at the site and bringing the food to St. Tims.

Thanks as well to the crew who put the food away. The amazing thing is that we are running low on many items already! Thanks to so many shoppers for helping purchase food and volunteers who staff the pantry. We are gearing up for summer increases due to heat and school being out. Jean Whitford put information together from the Portland Parks re summer activities. Sherry put the information together for other food pantries in the area. Signage is still being worked on and we are planning to put hygiene kits together including personal care items.

Snow-Cap: We continue to collect clothes and empty egg cartons for them.

Cultivate Initiatives: We are planning

Gods Work Our Hands in September at their facility.
Sherry

Our Saturday work parties are cutting the growing grass and fighting the weeds. Join in from 9 am to noon for pruning, fixing and painting the facilities even if you can only stay an hour.



Thank you to Pastor Hamada, Sherry and Ray for attending the online Oregon Synod Assembly.

Thank you to our buyers for St. Tim's food pantry. We are issuing a challenge to congregation members—please bring one can of food any Sunday to help maintain the food pantry. Outreach efforts include work projects for God's Work, Our Hands on September 7 and Trunk or Treat on October 26.

Jean W.

July Worship Services

If you are unable to make your scheduled Sunday, please contact another person to take your place.

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28	
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	
Assistant	Ray W.	Sherry W.	Ray W.	Sherry W.	
Lector	Cathy H.	Cathy H.	Shannon H.	Sherry W.	
Usher	Gladys K. & Greta C.	Ernie R. & Allen P.	Steve & LeAnn T.	Gladys K. & Greta C.	
Sunday Sch. Helper	Daniel R.	Greta C.	Karen O.	Cathy H.	
Communion	Cathy H.	Elaine S. & Karen O.	Candace O., Gladys K.	Cathy H.	
Video & Sound	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	
Counters	Ray & Candace	Jean & Ernie	Elaine & Cathy	Ray & Ernie	
Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	
Care Coordinator	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.	

Looking for a Vacation Bible School?

Trinity in Gresham will have a VBS the first week of August.

August 5th through 8th

3 years to 5th grade.

All day, lunch provided

Trinity's address is 507 W. Powell (right at Eastman Parkway)

office phone:503-665-3197



WHAT'S FOR FAMILIES THIS SUMMER AT THE PARKS?

Lots of playing, arts creations, some free lunches, live music, movies and more!

Here is an example for a nearby park.

Events at Verdell Burdine Rutherford Park
1599 SE 167th Ave.

Monday, June 24th to August 23rd

Free Lunch + Play from 10 am—2 pm.

Meal times 11:30 am to 1 pm. Meals for 18 years and younger only. (no activities on July 4 and 5)

August 3rd 6:30-8:30 pm

Music in the park sponsored by Centennial Community Association, etc.

Salsa music by Barrio Mestizo, food carts, and information.

August 6th—9th

Arts in the Park activities 10 am - 2 pm

August 22nd

Portland Opera's Opera ala Cart

mobile truck 11:30 am to 1 pm

CHECK THE NARTHEX FOR SCHEDULES FOR PORTLAND PARKS' FREE EVENTS INCLUDING MOVIES AND SWIMMING

PLUS WE HAVE THE MUSIC MONDAYS LIST IN GRESHAM FOR JULY AND AUGUST



Relay for Life Luncheon

Here we are after lunch, awards and the funniest comedian; Sherry, Marilyn, Karen O. and Jean. Pastor Yukio took our picture in Gresham with the Jim Weston banner for their generous support for Relay for Life.

You know what we forgot? Our 'Jesus on a stick' companion!

You are invited to take a 'Jesus on a stick' on your travels thru the summer. Photo him at home, away from home, driving, flying, camping and swimming. Wait. Maybe swimming while he stays dry in a Ziploc bag.

Jean W.

LeAnn Tobias
Mary Sam
Ashley Nhun
Greta Christensen
Anthony Willmschen



July 2024

St. Timothy News July 2024

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 am—1 pm Office & Food Pantry	2 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry	3 10—1pm Office & Food Pantry 10– 1:30 pm Pr. H.'s office hrs	4TH OF JULY NO PANTRY TODAY	5 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hama-da's office hrs	6 NO WORK PARTY TODAY
7 Pentecost 7 9:20 am Choir practice 10 am Worship Zoom available Coffee Time After church	8 10 am—1 pm Office & Food Pantry	9 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm Council meets	10 10—1pm Office & Food Pantry 10– 1:30 pm Pr. H.'s office hrs	11 10am-1 pm Food Pantry	12 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hama-da's office hrs	13 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits
14 Pentecost 8 9:20am Choir practice 10 am Worship Zoom available <u>Celebrate birthdays at coffee Time After church</u> Bible Study at coffee time	15 10 am—1 pm Office & Food Pantry	16 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry	17 10am—1pm Office & Food Pantry 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hama-da's office hrs	18 10am-1 pm Food Pantry	19 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hama-da's office hrs	20 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits
21 Pentecost 9 9:20am Choir practice 10 am Worship Zoom available Coffee Time After church Bring a picture of a pet . Bible Study at coffee time 	22 10 am—1 pm Office & Food Pantry	23 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry	24 10 am—1pm Office & Food Pantry 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hama-da's office hrs	25 10am-1 pm Food Pantry	26 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hama-da's office hrs	27 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits
28 Pentecost 10 9:20 am Choir practice 10 am Worship Zoom available Coffee Time After church Bible Study at coffee time	29 10 am—1 pm Office & Food Pantry	30 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry	 CHURCH PICNIC August 11th, after the service Serving hamburgers and hot dogs Bring side dishes to share			

Summer Time Celebrations

At Saint Tim Coffee Time



on July 14



starting July 14



Bring a pet picture
on July 21

And picnic on August 11



On the Road

Enjoying nature
on vacations



Visiting family and friends



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Address Correction Requested

July
2024