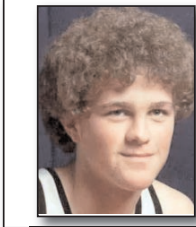


Community



Fourth of July

By Rev. Toby Teague
Leslie First Baptist Church

As a nation we are going to celebrate the Fourth of July. We remember the sacrifice of our Forefathers and celebrate with barbecues and fireworks. My only question is: Do we really remember their sacrifice and what does it mean today?

Freedom, a word that many people have given their lives to experience. Just last week you could see the Cubans who had rowed from Cuba to Florida in search of freedom. Millions have come to America to experience freedom. What many risk everything to gain, many times we who have it take for granted. We must not just remember the sacrifice that gave us freedom, but we must continue to sacrifice to make sure we keep that freedom.

I believe that freedom has a high price tag. Some people have fought for it, some have died for it. There is a hidden side to freedom that many people do not count on until they become free. This hidden side is simply called 'responsibility.' Can't you remember when you were growing up and couldn't wait to move out and be 'free' of those arbitrary rules your parents laid down. Yes, we got free from our parents but then we realized that now we were responsible for ourselves. If we made it, it was up to us. Everyone wants freedom but when they get it they have to make a life for themselves.

Americans today have lost the since of responsibility that we must have to remain free. Many times we depend on the government and let them be responsible for us and our problems. We have to remember again that we are each responsible for ourselves and that if we are to make it in this world it is up to us. I personally believe that the Bible teaches us to take this responsibility a little

further. Jesus told us to "Go the second mile" and to "Love not just your friends, but your enemies also." We are responsible to each other. I want to emphasize that we are not responsible for each other but to each other.

There is a big difference in these two things. I am responsible for my kids until they grow up and move away. Then they are responsible for themselves. I believe that until kids are grown their parents are responsible for them, good or bad. On the other hand I am not responsible for my neighbors. If they get into trouble, the blame cannot be laid on my shoulders. But, I am responsible to my neighbors. I am responsible to go that second mile with them. I need to be a good neighbor by helping when I can, be considerate and courteous. We all know what it is like to have bad neighbors. There are few things that are worse. Remember we are all responsible to everyone else around us. We cannot live in isolation and be responsible.

Freedom is a costly idea and way of life. How have you sacrificed for the freedom you now enjoy? Remember that freedom means we become responsible for ourselves and responsible to all others who live under that same freedom that we do. The forefathers simply stated this by wanting the opportunity to govern themselves and become responsible for that right. Let this Fourth of July remind you that our freedom was because of the sacrifice of those who have gone before us. The freedom of those who follow us is dependent upon what we teach them and show them today.

Rev. Toby Teague
Leslie First Baptist Church



Leslie Area Church Directory

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New Life Fellowship
4691 S. Hull Rd.
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-9011 | Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall
5290 Churchill Rd.
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-8883 |
| Bunker Hill Seventh Day Adventist
3820 Williamston Rd.
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-0659 | Leslie First Baptist Church
204 E. Bellevue St.
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-8541 |
| Children of Christ - Israelite Society
100 S. Main St.
Leslie, Michigan 49251
(517) 403-4641 | Leslie United Methodist Church
401 S. Main St.
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-9211 |
| Child's Bible Church
3985 Crain Rd.
Onondaga, MI 49264
(517) 589-5731 | Maple Grove Baptist Church
6508 Cooper Rd.
Pleasant Lake, 49272
(517) 769-2220 |
| Congregational United Ch. of Leslie
114 W. Bellevue
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-5226 | Orthodox Monastery of Dormition
3389 Rives Eaton Rd.
Rives Junction, MI 49277
(517) 569-2873 |
| Faith Assembly of God
4020 N. Main St.
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-9121 | Rives Baptist Church
2800 W. Berry Rd.
Rives Junction, MI 49277
(517) 569-3147 |
| Felt Plains United Methodist Church
3523 Meridian Rd.
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-0217 | SS Cornelius & Cyprian Church
1320 Catholic Church Rd.
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-8492 |
| Grace Lutheran Church
212 S. Sherman
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-0250 | |
| Grand River Community Church
2443 Olds Rd.
Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-5448 | |

The Leslie Weekly Guardian provides this local church directory as a community service to local religious organizations. If you do not see your group listed, please send us an e-mail with the information.

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<p style="text-align: center;">All-You-Can-Eat Friday Night Fish Fry 4 - 8 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$9.95 <i>includes salad bar, potato and bread!</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All-You-Can-Eat Tuesday Pizza Bar 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$6.50 <i>includes side salad, bread sticks, pizza and dessert pizza!</i></p>
<p>Take Out Available (517) 589-5230</p>	
<p>Mon - Sat 6am - 8pm Sunday 6am - 2pm</p>	