



The Philippian 2.0

St. Philip Lutheran Church

June 2025

DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor's Message:

BE HIM, BE THEM, BY GOD,
BE SOMEBODY

Men are greatly challenged to respond to old and new threats imposed on us daily by the shift in our society. We face headwinds that challenge all of our rights. I dare say, there is a concerted effort to have us go backwards. We can only move forward. Dr. King once said, if can't run, walk, if you can't walk then crawl, by all means keep on moving.

Relatedly, to a man we must position ourselves as defenders, problem solvers and beacons of liberty wherever we stand. It could be at the grocery store, the gas station, waiting for the bus, standing in line to vote, marching in the streets. BE HIM, BE THEM, BE SOMEBODY.

Our women and children have the right to be respected and to feel safe. When we share space, make sure your presence piety and power is pronounced like a series of bass notes. Bass is low key, it is vibe, it maintains a beat that sets the tone for the groove.

BE HIM, BE THEM, BE SOMEBODY.

Having a sense of Somebody is not bravado. No, it is a call to be relevant wherever you go, wherever you stand. It's a look of confidence. A concentration of core values that matches the moment you are in, the moments we are in.

To put a fine point on the matter, to BE HIM, TO BE THEM, TO BE SOMEBODY is the anti-thetical version of Sean Combs aka notorious P. Diddy. His children can no longer look up to him, by association, the house that he built, his brand and image are in ruins, because he wasn't that kind of man.

YOU BE HIM, BE THEM, BE SOMEBODY, the father, the son, the brother, the uncle, the grandfather, the friend that others pattern themselves after your walk. Drip with substance, like Denzel Washington's character Melvin B. Tolson in the Great Debaters.

Let us distinguish ourselves everyday, despite taking notice on Father's Day.

The times call for disciples of discipline, content, character and sturdy belief in God. BE HIM, BE THEM, BY GOD BE SOMEBODY.

**“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”**

— Colossians 3:23

In our busy world, it's easy to cut corners. The temptation to rush through a task—to get it done rather than do it well—can be strong, especially when we're juggling work, family, church, and community commitments. But as people of faith, we are invited into a different rhythm—one of intentional care, steady diligence, and trust in God's provision.

The Lutheran tradition teaches that vocation is not limited to church leadership or mission work. Martin Luther emphasized that every honest task—whether sweeping a floor, milking a cow, or governing a city—is a calling from God. When we undertake our work thoroughly and faithfully, we are participating in God's ongoing care for creation.

Thoroughness, then, is more than just a personality trait—it's a form of discipleship. Whether we are writing a report, preparing a meal, teaching a class, or serving in a ministry, doing our work with care and integrity is one way we honor God and love our neighbor.

Of course, thoroughness can feel overwhelming when we believe it all depends on us. That's where the promise of God's provision enters in.

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

— Philippians 4:19

God provides what we need—strength, clarity, time, even rest. When we approach our responsibilities with prayer and humility, trusting that God is with us in both the process and the outcome, we are freed from perfectionism and drawn into grace-filled excellence.

Let us be a people who take our commitments seriously—not out of fear or pressure, but out of joy and reverence. Let us be known as a congregation that does things well, thoughtfully, and thoroughly, because we believe our work matters to God. And in the moments when we feel stretched thin, may we remember that God's provision is not just for our survival, but for our flourishing.

A PRAYER FOR DILIGENCE AND TRUST

Gracious God,
You are the source of every good gift.
Teach us to approach our tasks with care,
our responsibilities with faithfulness,
and our lives with a spirit of gratitude.
When we are weary, give us rest.
When we are unsure, give us wisdom.
Help us to do all things as though we are serving you—
with love, attention, and grace.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

On June 19th, we celebrate Juneteenth—considered America's Second Independence Day. Why the 19th? Because it marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to formally announce to the remaining enslaved people that two and a half years earlier we had been released from forced bondage via the Emancipation Proclamation, signed into law by President Lincoln.

The significance of this holiday is particularly important when measured against the current backdrop of freedom rollbacks and aggressive attempts to erase our history in and vital contributions to this country.

What we are witnessing today -voter suppression; attacks against civil rights and free speech; domestic militarism; marginalization of people outside of the dominant culture; forcible suppression of opposition and attempts to over-throw our judicial and educational systems are hallmarks of Fascism.

Fascism, with its far-right, authoritarian political ideology and dictatorial power threatens our freedom and indeed our democracy, so we must remain aware, vigilant and joined together with those that are resisting and fighting for our values, freedom and beliefs

We are resilient people—we've overcome worst, but we can not afford to rest on the laurels and gains of our ancestors. Those of us still able must stay in the fight and pass these teachings on to our next generations, lest history repeat it-

self. As this day approaches, I hope that every one of us will commemorate this sacred day by attending ceremonies and events, virtually participating in some, or just sharing family histories with our next generation, so that they may pass it along to future generations of our people.

Here are a few of the events taking place in the city:

June 18th - the Ohio Statehouse will hold a flag-raising ceremony at 10:00 a.m., kicking off the festival's events

June 19th - the Ohio History Center will host a Jubilee Day Festival at its museum (800 E. 17th Ave.) from noon to 4 p.m.

June 19th - the Lincoln Theatre is holding an Underground Railroad Quilt Workshop, a community drum and dance class and a "culture tasting lab". There is a full itinerary of activities for all ages from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is required and can be completed through [Eventbrite](#)

June 19th - the Maroon Arts Group is holding its fourth-annual FREEDOM WORKS: a Juneteenth Fireworks Presentation which starts at 8:45p.m. It is recommended that viewing take place at Columbus State Community College, 550 E. Spring Street

June is Men's Health Awareness Month. A month designed to raise awareness about preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. This month emphasizes the importance of physical and mental well-being for men and boys. We can show our support in many ways: by encouraging early detection, which includes regular checkups and screenings for conditions like prostate cancer and heart disease, promoting the importance of mental well-being and encouraging men to seek help when needed and providing resources to advocacy and education. And a clearly simple, but sweet initiative is the:

“Wear Blue” Campaign:

Everyone is encouraged to wear blue on Fridays in June to show support for Men's Health Month and related initiatives.

Let us give the men and boys in our lives the care and attention we know that they deserve and a special shout-out to the men of our congregation for their unwavering dedication and support of St. Philip Evangelical Lutheran Church.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mark your calendars

Pastor Mark will be hosting, *or at least on the grill*, 🍖 a cookout on the last Saturday of this month, June 28th. The time will be announced this week. Bring family, friends, acquaintances and anyone else you think might enjoy some good food and fellowship. Let's build our community.



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