Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

Ripples

"Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors"

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church
1401 Church Drive, Kalispell, MT 5990, (406) 257-4614

Pastor Craig Scavo: (580) 916-8544
Youth Pastor, Dan Wilhelm: (406) 261-8004

E-Mail Address: stillwtr@cyberport.net
Web Page: www.stillwaterlutheranchurch.com
Office Hours: 8:30-1:30 Tuesday – Friday

Three men were tried for crimes against humanity. Two committed crimes. One didn't.
Three men were given government trials. Two were given fair trials. One wasn't.
Three men were whipped and beaten. Two had it coming. One didn't.
Three men were given crosses to cary. Two earned their crosses. One didn't.
Three men were mocked and spit at along the way. Two cursed and spit back. One didn't.
Three men were nailed to crosses. Two derseved it. One didn't.
Three men agonized over their abandonment. Two had reason to be abandoned. One didn't.
Three men knew death was coming. Two resisted. One didn't.
One, two, three men died on the crosses. Three days later, two remained in their graves. One didn't.

- *Author Unknown*

Pastor's Thoughts

He is Risen!

You can tell that spring is in the Air! The snow is melting; the days are getting longer and warmer. Trees and garden seeds are on sale at the stores – all this points to the fact that spring is coming.

But the number one indicator that spring is coming – Danny and Nathan are wearing shorts!!!!

As we prepare for spring, one thing that we all should be looking ahead to is the one event that changed the world – the Resurrection of Jesus – Easter!

If you remember, the Angel told the women – Why are you here – He is Risen, Just as He said.

So, as we get ready for spring, lets also get ready to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

This is more than new clothes, candy and eggs – It is the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead – He is NOT in the Tomb!

Normally when something is empty, it is not good news.
An empty fuel gauge when you still have several miles to travel is bad news. And for some an empty coffee cup makes the day hard to bear.

But as we come to the Easter story, Empty is good News!

So, I would like you to examine 3 Empty Promises We Can Celebrate this Easter:

The first empty promise of Easter is the promise of an Empty Life. Jesus shows us that THE WAY TO BE FULL IS TO BE EMPTY. Real fulfilment comes when we're empty of our own desires and make Jesus our heart's desire!

Are you running on empty? If you're not experiencing intimacy with Christ on a daily basis… it may be that, though you feel empty…you're not empty enough!

Firstly: We need to be emptied of sin.

Now, of course we aren't sinless, but we SHOULD sin LESS!
True repentance is not perfection, but turning from sin and doing our best to head toward God.
We need to be empty of sin.

Secondly: We need to be emptied of self.
We will never find intimacy with Christ until we stop bowing down to ourselves! We need to put Jesus first, and leave room for him by removing ourselves.

Thirdly: We need to be emptied of substitutes.
Sometimes when we are looking for Jesus, we end up filling our lives with substitutes instead of the real thing.

The second empty promise that we have at Easter is the promise of The Empty Cross! It is important that we realize that the cross is empty! It is important that Jesus is no longer hanging on the cross, because the Good news of Easter only comes if the cross is empty.

THE EMPTY Cross Tells us that we ARE Forgiven of ALL our SIN…
because it was on that cross that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.

Finally, I want us to see the promise of the Empty Tomb.

In the empty tomb is the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise to every one of us that we too will be raised to eternal life.

To those who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior,
death has lost its sting – it is no longer something to be feared.

What fear is there when we have the promise that one day we will live forever with Him in Heaven?

Someone once said: The world gives us promises full of emptiness: God gives us emptiness full of promise!

So as we get ready for Spring – Lets also Prepare for the Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior!

God Bless,
Pastor Craig

Free Flyers Youth Group

The Free Flyers are committed to serve the community through our strength in Jesus Christ.

April Youth Calendar

April 5th (wed.) – Youth group 6 – 7:30
April 12th (wed.) – Youth group 6 – 7:30
April 16th (sun.) – Easter brunch between services. See below for details.
April 19th (wed.) – Youth group 6 – 7:30
April 23rd (sun.) – Confirmation questioning with the deacon board.
April 26th (wed.) – Youth group 6 -7:30

April Youth News

In youth group, we have started studying in the book of James. We are anxiously awaiting nice weather so we can play some games outside.

We have 7 youth and 2 adults going to FLY this July. Please be in prayer for us for travel down to Colorado; more importantly that we will be renewed and challenged in our faith to serve Him.

Our summer schedule will be a little different this year. We will be having youth group every other week instead of weekly this year. As it gets closer I will have more details for you all.

Thanks for the prayers and support.

Questions call Danny 261-8004

Wednesday Attendance for March

	COMBINED YOUTH GROUP Jr. & Sr.	Students	AWANA Leaders
March 1st	No youth group	26	11
March 8th	9	23	10
March 15th	8	24	9
March 22nd	8	25	9

Our ladies bible study group is still meeting every Tuesday at 2:00 pm, but we are now meeting at Ruth's new place! She has moved to Buffalo Hill Terrace at 40 Claremont Avenue in Kalispell; room #107. This month we are studying Genesis.

Congratulations Ruth on your move to Buffalo Hill Terrace!

Our Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 31st thru August 4th!

We will have the annual picnic on Saturday August 5th, with the VBS closing ceremony, games and activities, a bike race and great food including BBQ pork sandwiches!

March 16th

Bonnie Opened with prayer. Our mission money will go to World Missions. Elaine read last meeting's minutes, Linda gave the treasures report and we have $315.81 in the bank.

Kim Clarke did the design for the invitations to the West Valley Firefighters for our appreciation dinner that will be held on March 25th.

The spring cleaning list will be in the foyer as well as the sign-up sheet for our Easter Sunday Brunch. Linda McGrew will get the sausage. The youth will cook and serve, thank you youth. The brunch will be between services on April 16th.

April 9th we will have a potluck after church service. April 30th will be movie night at 4:00 PM. Our garage sale will be under the grandstands on April 1st. Please bring items on Friday the 31st. Thank you for all of your contributions. We can use more people to help with the set-up and sale.

Bonnie got things together for the firefighter's banquet, Hattie is doing decorations. Thank you everyone who helped make this a success and a special thank you to the firefighters in West Valley!

Our next meeting will be April 20th at Hattie Stahlberg's home with Elaine as co-host. Carol will do bible study #4 titled "Courageous Acts." Hattie will have devotions.

June 4th we will have our first service in the tent. It will also be Confirmation Sunday. Carol and Elaine served a very delicious lunch.

See you all at our meeting in April.

~ Elaine Lessor

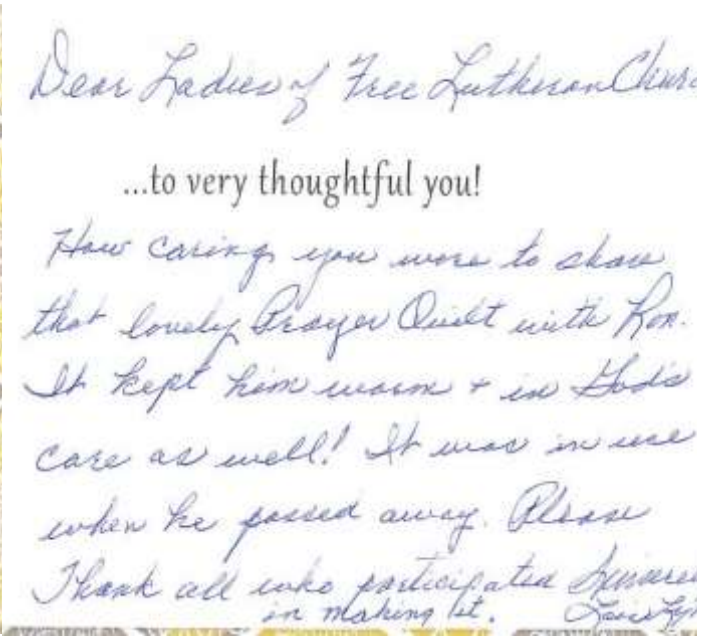
Secretary

Building Committee Report

Our civil engineer Stephanie Reynolds has resubmitted our plans for constructing the new well to MDEQ for their review and approval. This was necessary because there were some questions and issues that DEQ brought up from the first review. These have now been addressed by Stephanie. She has also been in contact with Miles Erickson about possible well drillers we might consider.

If you happen to be fortunate enough to receive a tax refund this year we ask you to prayerfully consider making a contribution to the building fund.

-Ed



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