

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



“Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, ‘I will try again tomorrow.’”
- Mary Anne Radmacher

Pastor's Thoughts

As we enter into May, and look ahead to the summer, and all the activities that are going to take place, I felt it important to give a reminder to keep Jesus as the center of our lives – wherever we are and whatever we are doing!

We too often allow our busy schedules to take president over our Lord and Savior. This is what happened to the Nation of Israel, just before the Babylonian captivity! The Nation was secure in the riches they had obtained, and had turned more and more away from God. It wasn't a sudden thing that just occurred – it was slow and crept up on the people without them really knowing what was going on! The prophet Jeremiah had the difficult task of admonishing the people to return to the Lord, from whom they had wandered.

Note the prophet's plea.

Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." But they said, "We will not walk in it." (Jer. 6:16).

Several important truths come from this exhortation.

The first thing to note is "Thus says the Lord." This means we

1) Listen, which reflects a belief that God communicates with us. If we want to know God's will for our life or in a particular situation, first we need to believe God is willing and able to communicate with us. God will speak to us through the Bible, prayer, other people, even through God's creation. In Jeremiah, "Thus says the Lord," announces to us that what follows is very important for us to hear.

2) Stand implies we Stop and reflect. Most accidents that happen at intersections occur because someone is speeding or fails to stop at a red light. In the city, the joke is: Green means go, yellow means go faster, and red means proceed with caution.

When we find ourselves at a crossroads, we are at a place of decision, a moment when our future will be shaped by the direction in which we go. When we're at crossroads the thing to do is to stop and reflect and not to rush forward as fast as we can.

3) Looking implies Gathering Information. God says when we're at the crossroads we are to look as far as we can down the different roads which is a way of saying, we are to gather as much information as we can about the consequences of our decision. "The road is wet, there is a car coming quickly, I wonder what will happen if I pull out in front of it?" What are the likely results of going in each direction we might take? What will I think about this ten even twenty years from now? Often times we don't look far enough down the road before we make a decision. Sometimes we cannot foresee all the possibilities, opportunities, or dangers that a certain way holds for us. That is why the next step is vital.

4) Ask for the ancient paths where the good way lies. Looking implies our action; we are doing the looking and using our powers of vision and discernment to help ourselves. Asking means seeking direction and guidance. Asking implies we are going beyond our own abilities, seeking the Lord's guidance. Asking implies we are humble enough to recognize there is wisdom beyond ourselves in God and in other people that may benefit us as we seek God's will for our lives. Sometimes we can stubbornly persist in going in a certain direction no matter what because we're so sure we're right and we don't listen to God or anyone else.

5) While we live in a culture that worships at the altar of the new, the latest, and the cutting edge, Jeremiah invites us to ask for the ancient paths where the good way lies. The good way is not one that is hidden or obscured although it may not always be easy. It wasn't easy for Jeremiah. The message God gave him to preach was a hard one that condemned religious and political leaders as well as the people for their disobedience, corruption, and worship of others gods. Jeremiah struggled with God, cried all the time, was put on trial by his people, had the scrolls with his prophetic words burned, and he endured opposition right up to the end of his life.

Jesus even tells us (Matthew 7:13-14): Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow & the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

6) God tells us - Ask for the ancient paths where the good way lies and "Walk in it." Once we have looked and listened and received instruction and guidance then it is up to

us to Take action, to take responsibility for the direction of our life. Jeremiah reminds us of our own responsibility for our fate. He warns the people of his time and they refuse to listen. They looked to blame their enemies, God, even the prophet himself, anyone but themselves. Unwilling to hear, they were heading toward catastrophe.

7) The Result of listening to the Lord, standing and reflecting, looking and gathering information, asking for direction and guidance, and then taking action is we will “Find rest for our souls.” This is similar to when Jesus invites us to himself saying, “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Sadly, Jeremiah’s people would not follow this advice and they paid dearly for taking the wrong path at the crossroads. God knows we all take wrong turns. We end up at dead ends or in a bad part of town and wonder how we got there or if we’ll ever get out. God’s grace is so great - that even when we are disobedient, God keeps trying to speak to us and to direct us on the right path!

When God’s people failed to listen, God ultimately sent Jesus to make the way plain. Jesus called people who didn’t follow God’s ancient, good path “lost.” Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He came to help us find and stay on God’s good path that leads to joy and abundant life.

It seems to me you can tell by the way people are living that many are unsure of where they are going or don’t know where they want to go; that they are in several senses of the word, lost. Many people seem to be accelerating down the road to nowhere at faster and faster speeds, forgetting that if we’re lost, going faster only gets us further away from where we need to be.

It has always been and always will be the role of Christians and churches to help those who are lost to find their way to Jesus and life. Those of us who are unsure of what God wants us to do, those of us who are unsure which road to take, may need to humble ourselves and stop and ask God for directions.

God will not send us in the wrong direction!

Do you know where you’re going? Where do you want to go?

As we enter into the Summer Season – let’s not forget to keep Jesus as a guiding lite!

*God Bless,
Pastor Craig*

Free Flyers Youth Group

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



May Youth Calendar

May 3rd (Wed.) – Youth group 6 – 7:30

May 10th (Wed.) – Youth group 6 – 7:30

May 17th (Wed.) – Youth group 6 – 7:30

May 20th (Sat.) – Paintball outing with Faith, details TBA

May 24th (Wed.) – Youth group 6 – 7:30

May 31st (Wed.) – Youth group 6 -7:30

June 4th (Sun.) – “Pray for Me” campaign kicks off!

We need all youth to be there so they can choose their prayer champions.

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 Pit BBQ pork!

May Youth News

Thanks to all the youth and parents who helped for Easter brunch! We served about 80 plates of food. Thanks to those who donated to our youth group as well. It is greatly appreciated!

After Easter, we did a couple of studies on what happened after the resurrection of Jesus. We looked at the road to Emmaus, and Jesus appearing to the disciples and Thomas wanting physical proof.

On June 4th after the service we will be moving forward with our "Pray for Me" campaign. Three adults of different generations will be asked to pray for a youth, by a youth. May 7th at church we will show a video explaining this in more detail.

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 April

COMBINED YOUTH GROUP

Jr. & Sr.

April 5th	5
April 12th	4
April 19th	6
April 26th	6



April 20th

Hattie opened with devotions titled “Do not be Afraid” and also prayer. Elaine read last meetings minutes and they were approved. Linda McGrew gave the treasurers report; we have \$309.00 in the bank.

We made \$1600.00 from the rummage sale on April 1st. Thank you to everyone who donated and to those who helped set up and put everything together. Please start collecting items for our sale in August under the tent.

Thank you to all who helped with the Firefighters Banquet. The firefighters were very appreciative of the dinner and recognition of their work.

Friday May 12th we will have a ladies salad dinner at 6:30 pm to celebrate Mother’s Day. All mothers, daughters and women are encouraged to come. Please sign up in the foyer if you are planning to attend so we know how many to expect. Please bring a salad for the supper. If you can help with set up and clean up please contact Sherri Scavo. Please ladies; let’s have a good turnout for this special dinner. We always have a great time. See you there.

We will serve dinner to Serious JuJu on May 21st at 4 pm, please sign up to help.

On June 4th we will start our summer services in the tent.

Next month we will hold our meeting at Bonnies at 10:00 am on May 18th. We will do lesson 5 titled “Compassionate Acts.” Bonnie is our hostess with Joyce as co-hostess. Bonnie will do our bible study and Sherri will have devotions.

~ Elaine Lessor

Secretary

Building Committee Report

The committee met with Miles Erickson and Stephanie Reynolds on Saturday, April 22. We reviewed the plans that DEQ recently approved for us to drill a new well. Much discussion took place as Stephanie answered questions related to the engineering of the well and site layout and Miles provided answers to questions directly related to the construction of the well.

Miles has agreed to take the lead on this phase of the building project and he will coordinate with Stephanie, the well driller and the committee as we move forward. He will be getting bids from several well drillers and present us his recommendations, at which time we will contract with one of them. On behalf of the committee and congregation we say “thank you Miles” for your willingness to take on this effort!

Later that same day David Tutvedt used his backhoe to dig several holes for Stephanie to get soil samples in the area where our new septic and drain field system will go. Thanks again to the Tutvedt family for providing this service and supporting the project in this way.

-Ed

Book report

Songbird - Under a German Moon

By: Tricia Goyer.

See how God works in the lives of two individuals, a USO singer and an Army photographer, as they navigate through the past. Discover what the future might hold & the mysteries of the present. All set in 1945, post war Germany.

The Easter Celebration with Serious JuJu at Woodland Park was very fun. Other skaters were there and some participated in the competition. The service was titled “Skating Away from Tragedy” and the Road to Emmaus was the topic of discussion. Communion was offered and Steve Echols played for the worship music. He had given some of our members guitar lessons when we began to have two services. The food was awesome and even Easter candy was provided.

It is our turn for a meal and fellowship this time. We had discussed the timing of our dinner and some of you mentioned not summer because of summer activities. Some said not winter because of the snow and ice and having to drive in it, so we are choosing to have our ‘Spring Fling’ BBQ with Serious JuJu on May 21st from 4-6 at Woodland Park. We hope that many of you will join us to eat and worship and skate (optional).

HUMAN THERAPY ON HORSEBACK
 PRESENTS:
OPEN BARN EVENT FUND RAISER
 PLEASE JOIN US IN A FUNDRAISING CELEBRATION!
 COME SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!
**OUR NEW ARENA AND
 THE REMODEL OF A GREAT OLD BARN**

MAY 6 TH
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

PRAY REMEMBER COMFORT

Memorial Prayer Walk

2017 on US Highways 93 & 2 for Safety

In Flathead County - Sat May 13, 8AM-12:30PM

Seek the welfare of the city, and pray to the Lord on its behalf for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7

PRAYING ONSITE WITH INSIGHT FOR:

- SAFETY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIRE FIGHTERS AND EMS WORKERS
- FAMILIES WHO LOST LOVED ONES IN HIGHWAY TRAGEDIES
- SAFETY OF ALL WHO DRIVE OUR ROADS.

8:00-8:45am	9:45-11:45am	11:45-12:30pm
OPENING CEREMONY (8:00am-8:45am)	PRAYER WALK	CLOSING CEREMONY (11:45am-12:30pm)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome at Home by Liaisons who lead to prayer service • Pray for families of EMS workers • Sing in praise of Jesus • Walk the route for all the prayer walk participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants transported to walk • 15 miles of prayer walk route • Pray for the Safety of Law Enforcement, Fire, Highway Dept, EMS and all who travel on our roads • Make a note of prayer led highlights along prayer walk • Pray for families of individuals impacted by our roadways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship service • Pray for families who lost loved ones in highway tragedies • Fellowship and prayer for families lost in tragedy in prayer walk • Closing prayer

For more info or to sign up:
hwprayerwalk@evadconnection.org | 406 250 6991 | www.prayerwalk.net

*Stillwater Free Lutheran Church
1401 Church Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901*