

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church
“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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From the Pastor's Desk



As we step into October, our attention seems to be directed toward Halloween. We see scary decorations and candy on display in all the stores, calling for our attention. For many people, October 31st is a day to dress up in costumes and go door to door in their neighborhoods asking for candy. And if you are "in the know" you know which house will give you the full-size candy bar 😊, and which one gives apples 🍏.

In some traditions, it is even required that kids tell a joke before they can receive their candy!

But, for many Christians, especially those of the Lutheran tradition, October 31st holds another meaning - Reformation Day.

As many of you likely know, on October 31st, 1517 - 500 years ago - Martin Luther nailed 95 theses or disputes on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

The theses were written against the teachings of indulgences, purgatory, and other beliefs and practices of the church that were inconsistent with the clear teaching of the Bible. And as a pastor, Luther was concerned about the fact that the church was selling God's FREE gift of the forgiveness of sins!

Luther's resistance to these practices was seen as a threat by the leaders of the church and eventually he was labeled as a heretic and was excommunicated.

The Reformation movement and indeed the whole Christian church are founded on the biblical teachings he championed:

Grace alone:

At the center of the Christian faith is the assurance that salvation is based on the unearned free gift of God's grace. Though we are sinners, disobedient children, deserving of God's wrath and anger, we receive the riches of his love and forgiveness.

Faith alone:

God's gift of grace is received through faith in what Jesus has done for us. Our good works and the good things that we do flow out of having a right relationship with God, but these good things do not have the power to make us right with God. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians he says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (2:8-9). This is the teaching that separates Christianity from all other world religions. Other religions point to what we have to do in order to be made right with God. Christianity points to what Jesus has done for us to make us right with God.

Scripture alone:

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It alone is the source for what we believe and what we practice in the Christian church. All other gifts that God has given to us and to the church such as tradition, experience, and human reason function to serve our understanding of the Holy Scriptures. Moreover, the Scriptures are used to judge the validity of these things, not the other way around.

Christ alone:

Our basis and assurance of salvation is the person of Jesus Christ, his life, death, and resurrection. Christianity is both inclusive and exclusive. The Gospel writer John tells us that, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish

but have eternal life" (3:16). Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).

Glory to God alone:

It is professed that because salvation is of God and has been accomplished by God, it is for God's glory and that we must glorify him always. We must live our entire lives before the face of God, under the authority of God and for his glory alone. It is denied that we can properly glorify God if our worship is confused with entertainment, if we neglect either Law or Gospel in our preaching, or if self-improvement, self-esteem or self-fulfillment are allowed to become alternatives to the gospel.

So, during the month of October, I encourage you to take some time to remember Reformation Day, and the core teachings of Christianity that were preserved by God through Martin Luther.

Be comforted that God continues to work through people, just like you and me, to turn people from sin and error so that they might turn to Jesus Christ alone! And remember, God continues to help us grow in Grace and Mercy through the teachings as given in His Word!

As Luther said in stanza two of his famous hymn, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God: "Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing: Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same, And He must win the battle.

(Lord Sabaoth means Lord of heavenly Hosts)

In Christ,
Pastor Craig

Free Flyers Youth Group

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



Youth Calendar



Oct. 4th - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

Oct. 11th - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

Oct. 18th - Youth group outing 6:00-8:00

Oct. 25th - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

We are still looking for after school volunteers. We ask that you don't bring additional children with you if you volunteer. Please talk to Alisha or myself. Even if you can only come on certain days, it would be much appreciated!

For youth group this year we are making an effort to get out of the building. Once a month we will try to go and do what we have been learning about in youth group. We started a series called "Shine". It was made by Dare 2 Share ministries. This series directly teaches and encourages us to share the gospel to others.

Questions or concerns please contact Danny @ 261-8004

After School Program News

We've gotten into the swing of things at the after school program! We have a very active and energetic group of 16 kids that come to our program. It has been such a privilege to get to know these kids and lead them through devotionals, games, homework and playtime. I am so grateful for those of you who have volunteered your time or resources for this program. We could still use some volunteers! If you're interested or curious about the program please talk to me! We appreciate your prayer support as we continue this ministry to the children of West Valley.

~ Alisha Kneeland



Fall Harvest Festival

Our annual harvest festival is on Sunday October 8th
after our 10:00 service!

Friday the 6th we will be making meatballs
and Saturday the 7th we will be making
lefsa, please sign up to come help out.

Many hands make quick work!

Also during our festival we will be
celebrating our two wonderful pastors!

The Armor of God

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17



Z N B Y Y D L A A S E Y G Y I
 B G Z N R S Y F H P H V D O R
 J B N O W B M F B W E I I Y D
 U O W D Y H U H U P A A E L J
 X S P M E F E E T L M I C L B
 S T A N D V G L H W L X S E D
 S U K M P J A M R F Y V N T D
 A D B U C K L E D L Q C N G Q
 L N M N N H A T M A E Y S O A
 V D U D B W H J T M J E Y S A
 A I O T X E W F F I D S M P R
 T P Y W P R L M A N L U Q E R
 I K A R M O R T I G J D P L O
 O U P B R E A S T P L A T E W
 N N S P I R I T H M C T U J S

HELMET	ARMOR	SPIRIT	SWORD	STAND
WAIST	SALVATION	BELT	FEET	FAITH
FULL	GOD	EVIL	FLAMING	PEACE
GOSPEL	BREASTPLATE	SHIELD	BUCKLED	ARROWS

Building Committee Report

David Tutvedt dug the final test pit for Stephanie this past week in the Northwest area of our property. This was required since we want our new drain field to be oriented to the North, which gives us the most space for any future expansion of our new building.

As reported earlier we accepted the bid from Joe Liss Water Wells, Inc in Eureka to drill our new well. As of this writing we have not heard when they plan to begin drilling, but we are told it should begin soon.

Please keep the building and committee in your prayers!

-Ed

"After the Fact" Rummage Sale News

You have already heard that the rummage sales we had in the tent netted over \$5400.00. Praise the Lord! Our hard work was worth it, wasn't it? For your information many others benefited from our rummage as well. I heard from many who helped empty out the tent afterwards (*Thank you!!*) and you brought boxes of goods to Hope Pregnancy, Ray of Hope, Samaritan House, the Senior Center, Calvary Church's Clothes Closet, Heart Locker, the Veteran's Store, Second Helpings and Lutherans for Life (for their sale)...passing on the blessings.

We look forward to our next sale in the spring!



September

There was no WMF meeting this month because we were all at the Ladies Retreat!

Twenty ladies got together for fellowship, fun and food for the body and soul. The theme of the retreat was “Contagious Joy.” We met in the evening on Friday the 15th at Early McWhorter’s beautiful and spacious log home. Our guest, Debbie Sorensen from Butte, gave her testimony and shared about the new AFLC congregation they’ve formed in Butte. She led our evening devotion time and more fellowship, fun and games followed.

Saturday morning was spent in the word, watching selections from the “Contagious Joy” Women of Faith DVD and sharing times led by Bonnie.

Each of us made a thank you card under the direction of Judy Karboski. Early led walks in the woods, we watched a portion of a Gaither Bloopers video and Sherri led us in prayer before it was time to go home.

Thank you to Sherri and Susan for the delicious meals that they planned and served, Early for her gracious hospitality, Judy for the craft, Debbie for the evening session, Lavonne for the Friday night game and all of the ladies who attended and shared their contagious joy. We were blessed!

Our next meeting will be on October 19th at 7:00pm at Bonnie’s house. After our meeting we will be having a baby shower for Laura Shea.

~Bonnie Upton

PS: See the pictures from the retreat on our church website!

Town Hall Meeting

Here is a re-cap of the town hall meeting that was held on September 17th, 2017.

Volunteers are always welcome and encouraged for all of our ministries.

We went over some of the things that have happened already this year. Sharon thanked everyone for the prayers and support for Serious JuJu. The after school program is in full swing, along with our AWANA program and the youth group. Adult bible study is on Wednesdays from 6-7 in the sanctuary. The car raffle is going well, we were at the fairgrounds in August and went to the Rumble in the Bay in Bigfork; don't forget to sell some tickets and raise money for our new building!

In October we will have the Harvest Festival on the 8th; this is an exciting Sunday for us! There will be one service at 10am and we will be honoring our pastor's for 'Pastors Appreciation Month' and our capital campaign will kick-off to raise funds for our new building. Our building committee has been busy over the summer! The DEQ approved our septic drain field plans and we are hoping to have the new well drilled before winter.

Our winter celebrations will include a Christmas Eve Day service at 10am, a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 & 9 pm and no Christmas Day service.

Our board is hoping to plan a family winter get-away over New Years; more information on this will be coming soon.

Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting and to all who work so hard behind the scenes to make our church successful! We appreciate you all!

GOOD MEDICINE REPORT

This month our focus is on the Charles Property. At one point in the conference we were given the option of walking down the hill from the conference hall and viewing a miracle.

There is a chunk of property directly below the administration building. Two smaller rental homes, an older house and a piece of lake front are included. This will square off the current boundaries.

The sky is the limit on how this will be used...

Please pray about your part in acquiring this. The homeowner wanted their neighbors to have it upon their death. The family is asking below market value. At this time \$300,000 has come in and another \$300,000 is needed.

I realize we are already stretching our giving here at Stillwater for our own building but you and I know God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. He gives to us good measure – pressed down, shaken together and running over.

AFLBS is going strong. Mark Olson is at work on accreditation. This will be an incredible blessing to our students. In 1982 I was able to transfer quite a few credits to St. Paul Bible College. This was one of the reasons I chose to go there to complete my education. With accreditation the students will have more options upon graduation.

Prayers for our own Francis Saenz who will be an AFLBS student this fall. Our board has agreed to give her \$100/ month. The kids graduating can count on our support for attending Bible School. We benefit from those students every summer when we get a team for VBS. The last student we had attending from Stillwater was Dan Wilhelm and we all know how great that turned out to be!!!

Thanks again for sending Bonnie and I to AFLBS/AFLTS for the conference. It was very good medicine.

We'll see you in Dickenson!!!