

# Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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February

*“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*

*Psalm 37:4*

# *From the Pastors Desk*

Here we are, already February 2018. And as we enter this month our thoughts turn to Valentine's Day. That one day when we set our loved ones apart and tell them how much we love them.

I heard a story recently, how one husband neglected to give his wife a card on Valentines day, so he wrote her a letter and explained that he loved her every day so how could he possibly remember one day over another – because they were all Valentines days to him.

Makes a good point doesn't it?

But – we do take one day out of the year to recognize that special someone – our Valentine.

So, as we stop and remember our loved ones – the thought comes to mind - Have you ever thought of writing Jesus a Valentine's letter?

I'm not talking about sentimental gush, but a deep and thoughtful love letter, from the heart. I wonder how often we really let Jesus know how much we love Him, and what He did for us?

Basically, telling and showing Jesus that we love Him is what it means to worship. To refresh Him with our adoration and devotion.

There is an old book written in approx. 1420 by Thomas à Kempis called The Imitation of Christ. It is a handbook for spiritual life and is possibly the most well-known devotional books ever written.

This book was known to “Fan the Flames of Love for Jesus”. So much so that one author adapted and personalized one section into a Valentine letter to Jesus.

I have printed it here to maybe stir our hearts to a greater devotion to our Lord and Savior...

Dear Jesus, when you are present to me, all is good and nothing seems difficult; but when I forget you, all is hard and empty.

Jesus, your voice to me is the most precious sound in existence. If I don't hear you speaking inside my soul, all other comfort is worth nothing, but if you speak but one word to me I am greatly comforted. I recall that Mary rose immediately from the place where she wept, when Martha said to her: "The Master is come, and he calls for you" (John 11:28). Yes! What a happy moment it is – no matter how difficult my situation is – when you call for me!

Oh, how foolish I am when I go into any situation without having you on my mind Jesus. What vanity for me to desire anything outside of you. The world without you profits me nothing. To be without you is grievous hell; and to be with you Jesus is sweet Paradise. When you're with me no enemy can hurt me. To find you is to find the real treasure – the Good above all good – and to become the richest person on earth. But to lose you is to lose more than the whole world and to be left in abject poverty.

Oh, Jesus it is the greatest skill to know how to hold familiar conversation with you! Lord, teach me this skill! Oh, to know how to keep you in my consciousness at all times – this is the greatest wisdom! Please, dear Lord, tune my heart to your presence with me at all times. If only I would be humble and peaceable then Jesus you'll remain with me. If only I would be devout and quiet then you'll stay within me.

But I fear that I may soon drive you away Jesus, that I'll turn to outward things and lose the favor of your presence. If I turn from you and lose you Jesus, where will I go? Who else can I turn to as my friend? Without a friend I cannot live well and Jesus you are above all a Friend to me – my one Soul Friend – and without you beside me I'd be sad and desolate.

You are the One, Jesus, who I trust and rejoice in above all others! I'd rather have the whole world against me than to have you offended with me. Among all those who are dear to me you stand out Jesus. You are the One that I especially love.

Jesus, I love all people for you, but I love you for yourself. You are the Christ, the unique Son of God, and you are, singularly, my Beloved. You are good and faithful above all friends. For you and in you, I let my friends and my foes be dear to me and pray that they would come to know and love you.

I don't desire to be singularly commended or beloved, for that position belongs to you only Jesus – you are God and there is no one like you! Neither do I desire that the heart of any person would be set on me. Nor do I set my heart on the love of anyone. Jesus, my one consuming desire is that you would be in me and in every person who calls on you.

Yes, Lord Jesus, I long to be pure and free within, devoted entirely to you, and not entangled with any creature. Help me to carry my heart pure toward you so that I can be free from all worldliness and can see clearly how good you are. Oh, to be drawn into you by your grace, to see your glory, to attain to that heavenly happiness, to be emptied of all but you, to take leave of all but your kingdom, to be with you alone Jesus and to be made one with you.

Lord Jesus Christ, when your grace comes to me I am made strong and able for all things. But without your grace I am poor and weak and the best I can hope for is your discipline to re-awaken me to seek your face. And when I do need to be disciplined by you please help me not to be discouraged, but to stand with my thoughts fixed on you, enduring whatever hardship comes upon me for your glory.

Jesus, you know that I want always to be in the springtime of enjoying your love, but sometimes I need the winter season. Sovereign Lord, you have ordained the seasons, including those that don't feel good, and I love you for this too! Help me to remember that after winter comes spring, after night comes day, after the storm comes a great calm. More than that, help me to trust that all seasons are good when I live them with you Jesus.

I love you Jesus! You are the best Friend I could have!

Happy Valentine's Day! God Bless.

*Pastor Craig*

# Free Flyers Youth Group

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



## Winter Youth Calendar



Feb. 7th (Wed.) - Helping out at AWANA 6-7:30 (no youth group)

Feb. 14th (Wed.) - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

Feb. 17th (Sat.) – Valentines Fiesta Dinner Fundraiser 6pm

Feb. 21st (Wed.) - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

Feb. 28th (Wed.) - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

We have been studying the ministry of Jesus. Specifically how He would relate to people and sharing the Gospel. He drew people to Him. Met people where they're at. Spoke the truth, even if it was against the thought and culture of the day. Thank you Jesus for giving to us your Word!

We have our annual Valentine's fiesta dinner coming up on Saturday February 17th at 6pm. Tickets for the dinner will be sold in advance by youth group members. A donation is the price of the ticket. Menu is beef and chicken enchiladas, rice, and beans. Dessert will be a surprise!

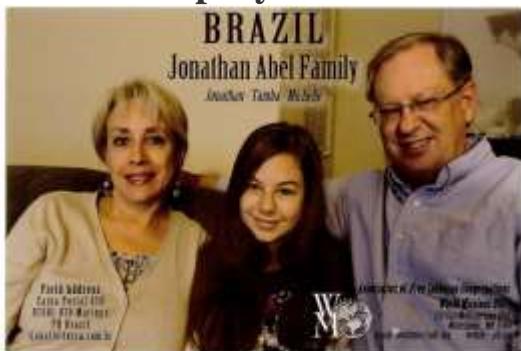
Questions or concerns please contact Danny @ 261-8004

We would like to invite you to receive our newsletter via email!

In order to save on printing costs we are now offering our newsletter through email. If you aren't already receiving it digitally already, please contact the church to be put on our email list!

Thank you

**Please pray for the Palmer and Abel Families for February!**



WWMF

# JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

We met at the church at 10:00 am, Bonnie was the hostess and Elaine was our co-hostess. Elaine opened with devotions and then read the last month's minutes, they were approved. Linda gave the treasures report and we talked about the cost of our new bible study booklets.

We discussed the Valentine dinner which will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the church and will be hosted by our youth.

We also talked about the upcoming Easter Brunch. We will be having a light 'continental' style breakfast with fruit, doughnuts and pastries, juice and coffee.

While we eat, the youth are going to perform the 'Everything Skit.'

Our bible study was lesson 1, HOPE: Your Future Expectation from our new study guides by Joyce Erickson. Bonnie led us through the study and it was very uplifting.

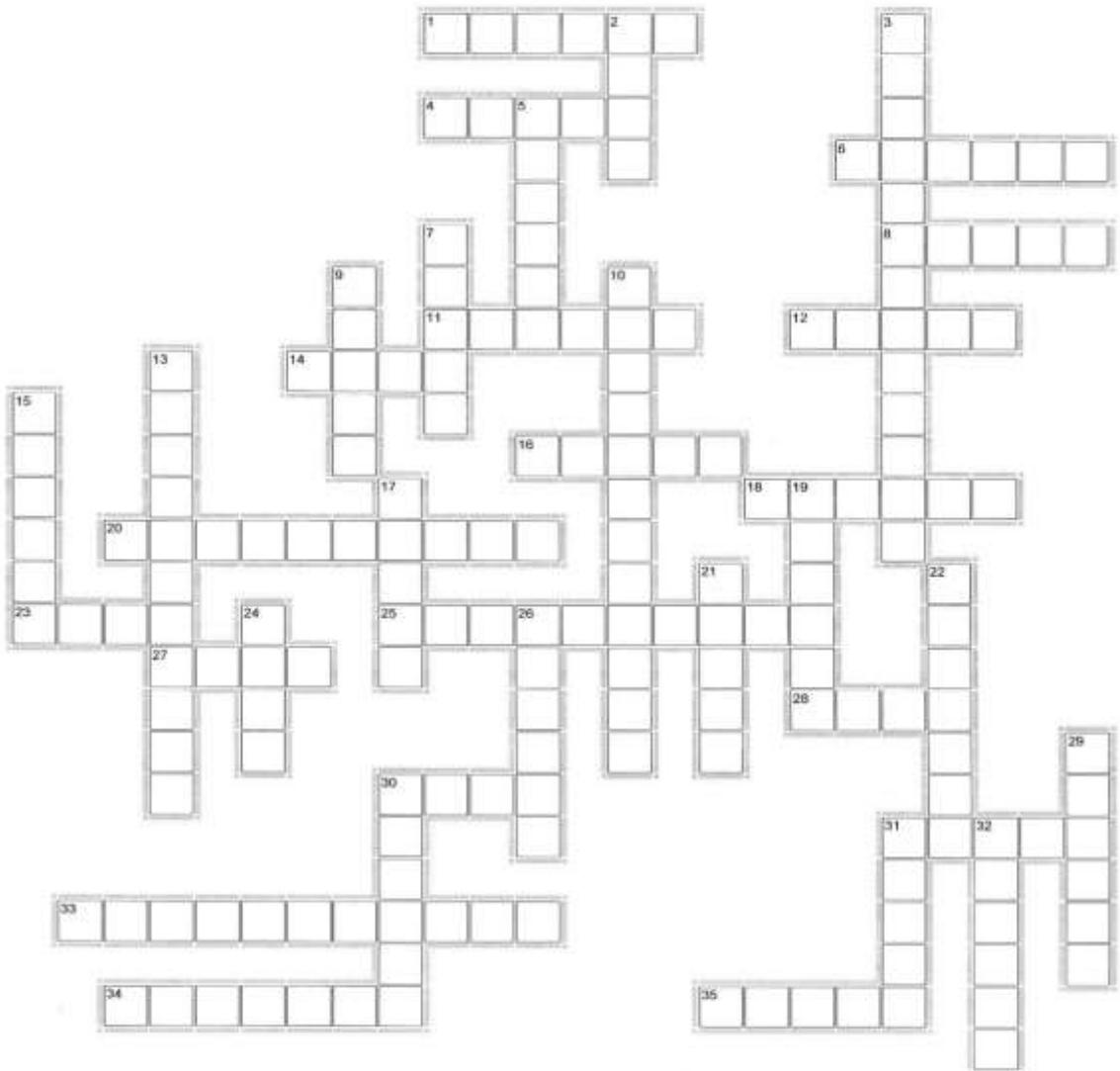
Bonnie and Elaine served an excellent lunch, thank you!

Our next meeting will be on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Sherri Scavo's home. Sherri and Linda McGrew are hosting.

~ Stillwater WMF



## Proverbs 3



EclipseCrossword.com

## Proverbs 3

### Across

- For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of \_\_\_\_\_, and the gain thereof than fine gold (3:14)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD is in the house of the wicked; but he blesseth the habitation of the just (3:33)
- It shall be \_\_\_\_\_ to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones (3:8)
- When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid; yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be \_\_\_\_\_ (3:24)
- My son, let not them depart from thine eyes; keep sound \_\_\_\_\_ and discretion (3:21)
- Surely he scorneth the scorers; but he giveth \_\_\_\_\_ unto the lowly (3:34)
- She is a \_\_\_\_\_ of life to them that lay hold upon her; and happy is every one that retaineth her (3:18)
- Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are \_\_\_\_\_ (3:17)
- So shall thy barns be filled with \_\_\_\_\_, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine (3:10)
- For the LORD shall be thy \_\_\_\_\_, and shall keep thy foot from being taken (3:26)
- So shall they be life unto thy \_\_\_\_\_, and grace to thy neck (3:22)
- My son, despise not the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction (3:11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways (3:31)
- Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no \_\_\_\_\_ (3:30)
- Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and \_\_\_\_\_ again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee (3:28)
- bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine \_\_\_\_\_ (3:3)
- Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the \_\_\_\_\_ of all thine increase (3:9)
- by understanding hath he established the \_\_\_\_\_ (3:19)
- The wise shall inherit \_\_\_\_\_; but shame shall be the promotion of fools (3:35)

### Down

- Be not wise in thine own \_\_\_\_\_; fear the LORD, and depart from evil (3:7)
- Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own \_\_\_\_\_ (3:5)
- She is more precious than \_\_\_\_\_; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her (3:15)
- Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the \_\_\_\_\_ of thine hand to do it (3:27)
- The LORD by wisdom hath founded the \_\_\_\_\_ (3:19)
- My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my \_\_\_\_\_ (3:1)
- In all thy ways \_\_\_\_\_ him, and he shall direct thy paths (3:6)
- length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand \_\_\_\_\_ and honour (3:16)
- Let not \_\_\_\_\_ and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck (3:3)
- For \_\_\_\_\_ of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee (3:2)
- So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and man (3:4)
- Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not \_\_\_\_\_ (3:23)
- Devise not \_\_\_\_\_ against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee (3:29)
- For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his \_\_\_\_\_ is with the righteous (3:32)
- For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a \_\_\_\_\_ the son in whom he delighteth (3:12)
- By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the \_\_\_\_\_ drop down the dew (3:20)
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding (3:13)
- Be not \_\_\_\_\_ of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh (3:25)

All Clues are taken directly from the 1611 edition of the King James Version (KJV).

Crossword Bible Studies: Daily Proverbs (KJV) © 2017 Christy Bower

These puzzles are reproducible if you purchased the book.

[www.CrosswordBibleStudies.com](http://www.CrosswordBibleStudies.com)

## *Building Committee Report*

The committee met on Saturday January 20. Several members of the congregation were present, as well as our engineer Stephanie Reynolds and Roy Beekman, project manager from Meredith Construction Co. We reviewed Ted Clarke's updated narrative and provided responses to his questions regarding our new building. We recommended hiring Meredith as our General Contractor and also approved Stephanie's most recent site plan (posted on the wall in the narthex). Both of these matters were presented at the annual congregation meeting on January 21 and approved.

Ted, Stephanie and Roy will now be coordinating efforts to move our building project forward. Some members of the congregation have suggested we should start building this year, at least pour the slab to show signs of progress. Whether this becomes a reality or not depends upon a number of factors.

Stephanie's goal is to submit the COSA package to MDEQ and the county in February and hopes to receive an approval by April. As always feel free to contact any member of the committee with questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the project.

-Ed



*Please join us for the  
Annual youth valentine Dinner!  
February 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm @ the Church  
We will be having enchiladas, rice & beans!  
See a youth or Danny for tickets  
Price of tickets is any donation*

# **GOOD MEDICINE REPORT**

## *Home Missions*

This is the “American” Mission Field – here in our home.

Our church has had the privilege of helping the Gateway gathering in Mesa, AZ. This is a church plant in Mesa with support from Pastor Al Monson and Calvary. Keep praying for Ryan Tonneson and his family there.

As I write this some of our church family will be making plans to attend the Home Mission retreat in Calvary this Feb. 5-8. This is another home mission congregation near and dear to our hearts; as the youth spent a week there doing some service projects.

Two of the newest home mission sites are our own Butte, Montana – The Butte Gathering with Rev. Joel and Penny Walde and in Honolulu – The Waikiki Beach Gathering in Hawaii with Brady Arneson.

There was quite a long discussion at the annual conference regarding the budget for home missions. They settled on a lesser amount than the leadership was hoping for but the budget analysis committee seemed to think they were asking for too much and the conference agreed.

Many cool answers to prayer were shared – especially in regards to FLAPS the air plane donated etc. This will affect the church in Alaska where our beloved Jeff Swanson ministers. You could ask Alisha Kneeland about her experiences there as she served on a VBS team up there last summer (2017).

Those of you who are interested should sign up for Knee Mail weekly, it has a devotional, updates and prayer requests.

Keep praying for the 16 congregations on the home mission list as well as the 9 parish builders. Also very encouraging were 4 Alaska summer teams and 2 Barnabas teams from AFLBS who were able to encourage those mission churches here in the USA.

God is Good! See You in Dickenson!!!  
Do you want me to make you a hotel reservation????

Lavonne

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