

# Ripples

## Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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# JANUARY

*“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”*

*2Peter 1:2-4*

## *From the Pastors Desk*

As the New Year opens before us, we all tend to be filled with a renewed hope and joy. And we do indeed have a lot to give us Hope and Joy!

We have completed a new well for our new building, and have successfully completed a Capital Campaign. We have been working on a site plan, and a Certificate of Subdivision Approval (COSA), as well as finalizing building drawings!

There is a lot to be hopeful and joyful!

And – of course – as we begin a new year, we make new goals, and resolutions that we want to accomplish.

So, as we begin this new year of 2018, I would like you to take a moment to look at what Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians (5:15-17). Paul says:

Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Paul gives us three lessons in these verses we can carry with us as we go through this New Year.

First, we need to take heed how we live, because our time here is limited.

The Psalmist wrote, "Show me, O Lord, my life's end & the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life" [Psalm 39:4].

We need to live our lives wisely. All too often, we embark on one plan or another, only to find out that it was the wrong thing to do. We tend to jump into things without very much fore thought, or even asking for guidance from God. That is not how we live wisely.

God desires us to develop a heart of wisdom, so we may live our lives as wise. To develop said heart, we **MUST** look to the Word of God and apply it to our lives.

Next Paul tells us that we need to make the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

These days there are many demands on our time and many things that need to be done. But there are just 8,760 hours in this year, just like last year, and we need to make the most of every opportunity!

So, as we move through this “New Year”, let’s not get so caught up in the here & now that we fail to deal with the eternal, the things that will last forever.

We all know people who either don’t know Jesus, or are struggling with who He is, and it is our mission to Share Jesus with our Neighbors, so let’s get to it, and make the most of every opportunity!

Then Paul tells us to understand what the Lords will is. What is God’s will for you this New Year?

Do you think He wants your mind so saturated with worries & anxieties that you can’t think spiritual thoughts? Do you think He wants your calendar so crowded that you don’t have time for the important things?

Let me make a couple of suggestions.

- First of all, establish your priorities. Your relationship with God, through Jesus Christ, should be the most important and placed at the top of your list. You should tell yourself, "This will affect my decisions, my scheduling, my relationship with others, & my whole outlook on life."
- Next, you need to schedule some definite time each day to pray & to read His Word. Pray for yourself & for your family & for people around you. Pray for the church, & for the missionaries.
- And let’s not forget our Families! We must spend time with our families and loved ones. Build some memories that will last a lifetime.

In conclusion, we need to live a life that reflects our Christian beliefs.

Paul tells us in Romans 13:11-12, "The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So, let us put aside the deeds of darkness & put on the armor of light."

*Happy New Year,*

*Pastor Craig*

# Free Flyers Youth Group

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



## Winter Youth Calendar



Jan. 3rd (Wed.) - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

Jan. 6th (Sat.) - Night Skiing @ Whitefish Mtn. from  
4-8:30. Meet at church @ 3pm.

Jan. 10th (Wed.) - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

Jan. 17th (Wed.) - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

Jan. 24th (Wed.) - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

Jan. 31st (Wed.) - Youth groups 6:15-7:45

Thank you so much to the after and before school program volunteers! You play a vital role in this ministry and are very much appreciated! We could still use volunteers throughout the year, even if it's one day here and there. After school hours needed are from 3:45-6, Monday-Friday.

Many of you signed up for cookie trays for the youth group fundraiser. With your help the youth raised \$396! Thanks for your time and support!

We have our annual Valentine's dinner coming up on Saturday February 17th at 6pm. Tickets for the dinner will be available at our annual meeting on Jan. 21st. Details still to come.

Questions or concerns please contact Danny @ 261-8004



As we begin 2018, and wrap up 2017, let's take a moment to thank everyone for making the year great!

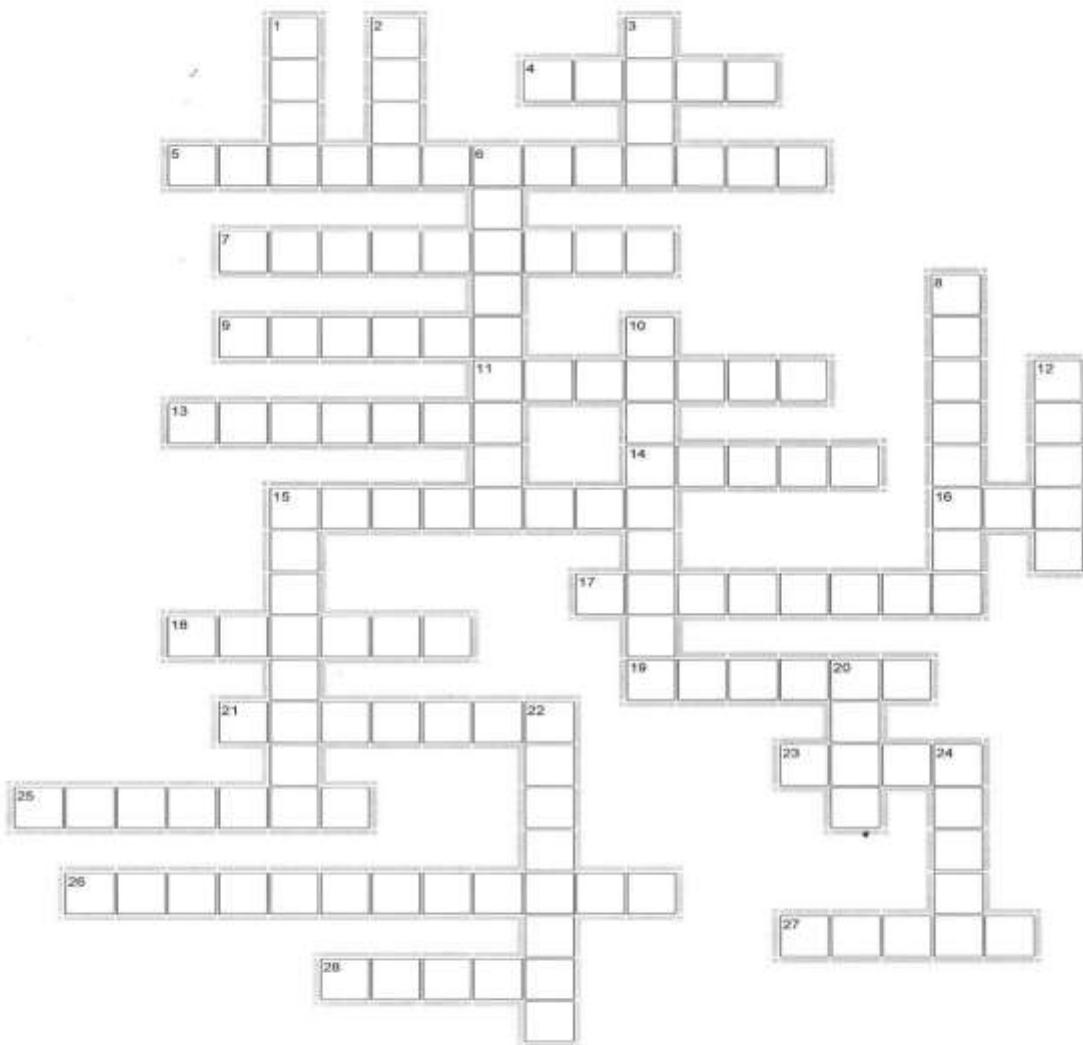
Some of the many things Stillwater did this year were hosting VBS, which by the way had some excellent attendance. We had 3 very successful yard sales and raised money for our new building. We kicked off our capital campaign and organized a raffle for the car that was donated to us. We put our raffle car in the fair and sold tickets, thank you Gerry Banzet for bringing the car every day!

Thank you everyone who signed up to volunteer your time to the church. Cleaning for the month, spring cleaning, teaching Sunday school, doing the puppet shows in the summer services, making dinners for AWANA, cooking or serving at Feeding the Flathead, and going caroling are only some of the things that we were able to accomplish this year because you gave your time!  
Thank you!

In the next year, please search your heart and pray about how you can serve God and your church. We need everyone in order to do the exciting things that are coming up!



## Proverbs 2



EclipseCrossword.com

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)

## Proverbs 2

### Across

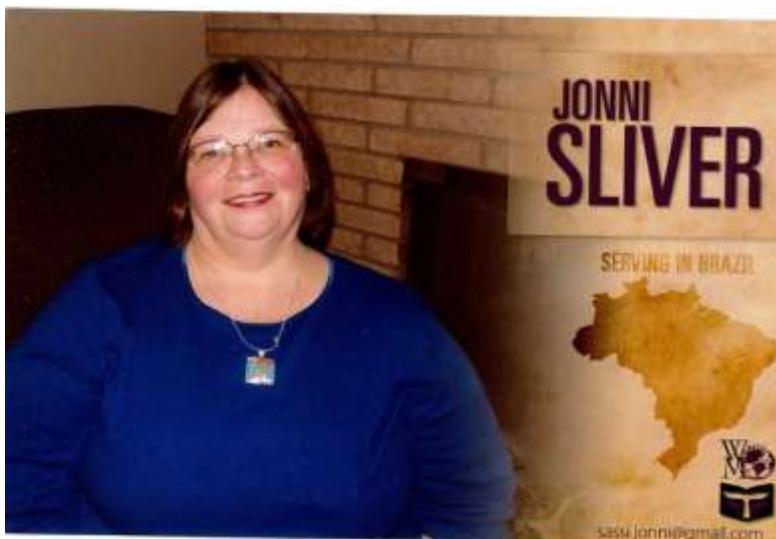
- lifest up thy \_\_\_\_\_ for understanding (2:3)
- out of his mouth cometh knowledge and \_\_\_\_\_ (2:6)
- Yea, if thou criest after \_\_\_\_\_ (2:3)
- preserveth the way of his \_\_\_\_\_ (2:8)
- For the \_\_\_\_\_ shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it (2:21)
- To \_\_\_\_\_ thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things (2:12)
- For her \_\_\_\_\_ inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead (2:18)
- When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_ unto thy soul (2:10)
- So that thou incline thine \_\_\_\_\_ unto wisdom (2:2)
- Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the \_\_\_\_\_ of her God (2:17)
- He layeth up sound \_\_\_\_\_ for the righteous (2:7)
- If thou seekest her as \_\_\_\_\_, and searchest for her (2:4)
- Whose ways are \_\_\_\_\_, and they froward in their paths (2:15)
- None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:19)
- he is a \_\_\_\_\_ to them that walk uprightly (2:7)
- My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my \_\_\_\_\_ with thee (2:1)
- He keepeth the \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment (2:8)
- To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her \_\_\_\_\_ (2:16)

### Down

- For the \_\_\_\_\_ giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge (2:6)
- Then shall thou understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD (2:5)
- and \_\_\_\_\_ the knowledge of God (2:5)
- searchest for her as for hid \_\_\_\_\_ (2:4)
- Then shall thou understand righteousness, and \_\_\_\_\_, and equity; yea, every good path (2:9)
- That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the \_\_\_\_\_ (2:20)
- apply thine \_\_\_\_\_ to understanding (2:2)
- Discretion shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee, understanding shall keep thee (2:11)
- Who rejoice to do \_\_\_\_\_, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked (2:14)
- Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:13)
- But the wicked shall be cut off from the \_\_\_\_\_, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it (2:22)

## **Please pray for Jonni Sliver during the month of January!**

Believe it or not, it is time for me to get a new visa, which means that I will soon be in a church near you! Well, I hope to be, anyway. In January and February I will be Amtraking across the northern states (leaving the icy roads in the hands of professionals). In March and April I will be in the Midwest and would love to hear from you if you would like a visit!



### **Contact Information**

To receive monthly newsletters and prayer requests:

AFLC World Missions Attn: Jonni Sliver

3110 Medicine Lake Blvd

Plymouth, Mn, 55441

sassi.jonni@gmail.com

**To make a financial contribution:**

Address in Brazil:

Jonni Lynn Sliver

CP 641

Campo Mourao, PR Brazil 87300-970

WJMF

## *December 21<sup>st</sup>*

We had a wonderful Christmas Party this year; thank you Bonnie for hosting us!

We shared stories from our past Christmas' and sang carols together. What a wonderful way to get to know each other! We also revealed our prayer partners. There were some who were totally surprised and some who had a pretty good idea of who their partner was. Next we had a white elephant gift exchange. If you have never done one of these you are missing out! There were so many neat things that the ladies brought from their homes.

We now have 27 women on the secret prayer partner list, and we drew new partners for 2018. It is so exciting to get to know each other through prayer and also exciting to know that someone is praying specifically for you.

There were 21 ladies at our party. Bonnie, Linda M, Elaine, Julie H, Nicole, Rachel B, Sherri, Rachel S, Sharon, Sierra, Vicki, Aspen, Suzanne, Lusha, Judy, Neila, Vivian, Sue, Heather, Hattie and Lavonne. What a gathering! Some brought snacks and goodies to share, which were all very good.

Please join us on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the church for our next meeting, a gathering of women with a faith based purpose is so uplifting!  
We have new bible study guides "A Study on Hope" and will begin our first study then.  
If you would like one of the guides, please contact Linda McGrew!

## *Building Committee Report*

The committee met with our architect Ted Clarke and civil engineer Stephanie Reynolds on December 30 at the church. Many members from the congregation were also present. We emphasized to Ted that we want to move beyond the conceptual stages of the project and into the actual drawings of what our new building will look like inside and out.

Stephanie presented site plans showing options of where the pavilion could be located in relation to our new building, as well as playground and parking areas. Miles Erickson gave an update on our new well project which we hope will be connected to our existing building this spring. He reported water tests from our new well came back from MELab (Montana Environmental Lab.) with excellent results (i.e quality outstanding). He also reported quantity of water supply very satisfactory for our needs.

Please keep the building project and committee members in your prayers. We encourage you to speak to any member of the committee with your questions or concerns. We're looking forward to continue working on the project and see what God has in store for us in 2018.

-Ed



**January 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Between Services**

Please plan to attend and help to make the decisions that will affect your church!

# **GOOD MEDICINE REPORT**

## AFLC Parish Ed

Contributions received by the Parish Ed department this year went toward the publication of the new Sunday School Ambassador Series, Reformation resources, Confirmation curriculum, a new Youth Bible curriculum, the Heritage Series by Dr. Monseth, Footprints of the Faithful by L. Dyrud, and the Bible Study we use at our WMF meetings each month.

The study for 2018 is on HOPE by Joyce Erickson, an AFLC pastor's wife, and mother of 2 daughters and 6 sons. Her purpose in writing this for AFLC women was that we might grow in hope and faith, become confident in hope, and more eagerly anticipate the fulfillment of our hope as we become firmly established in God and His Word. All ladies are welcome to attend our Stillwater WMF and join us in this study. We contribute 75% of our offering in April and July to Christian Education which includes Parish Ed.

Selected educational and devotional resources for all ages are available from AFLC Parish Ed or through the AFLC web site [www.afcl.org](http://www.afcl.org). And click on Ambassador Publications. It is the prayer of the Board of Publications and Parish Ed that our AFLC materials consistently reflect the pure message of the good news of Jesus Christ and His Cross.

Learn more about this when you attend the national AFLC conference in 2018. Check it out!

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