

# Ripples

## Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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# March

*“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me, Restore me to the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me”*

*Psalm 51:10-12*

# *From the Pastors Desk*

## *Spring Time!*

When you think of spring, what comes to mind? It's kind of hard to imagine spring when the temperatures are in the single digits and there is still a lot of white covering the ground – But looking ahead – what do you think about?

I think we start to think about the trees budding, and flowers blooming, and new life starting.

Spring – gives us thoughts of renewal.

David says in Psalm 51 verse 10 – Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

He wrote this Psalm after Nathan the Prophet confronted him about his sin with Bathsheba and the killing of Uriah her husband.

As we near the Spring season – I am prompted to encourage each one to seek renewal. Seek to renew our relationship with God, our family members, our friends, and even those who we aren't so friendly with.

Renewal, begins with Salvation. Paul tells us in his second letter to the Corinthians: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

To renew our relationship with God, we must become a new creature.

And we get that through a personal relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior.

In Christ we are justified. Made New – renewed. Paul says: For our sake he (God) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

And: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (ROM 5:1)

And as we renew our relationship with God, we find ourselves replacing the old ways and habits with new ways that honor God.

Ephesians 4 gives us some practical changes - Speaking the truth in love, not allowing our emotions to lead to sin, not giving the devil opportunity, and replacing bitterness, wrath, and anger with kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness.

Can you imagine what would happen if everyone resolved to renew these?

Can you imagine the impact that we would have on our families, our jobs, our communities, and even the whole world?

Have you ever wondered what keeps us from Renewal? Apathy. That I don't care attitude. It is the greatest enemy of renewal.

Someone once said, "The worst sin toward others is not to hate them but to be indifferent to them".

And, let's add to that being indifferent toward God and His Word.

God says to give...but we don't care until we have a need. God's Word says to pray...but we don't pray until we find ourselves in corner with no way out! God's Word instructs us on the importance of training our children in His ways...but we don't care until our kids get into trouble.

William Howard Taft once said - "Too many people don't care what happens, so long as it doesn't happen to them".

So, how are we to be renewed?

First, Go to God. David says: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

Second – have a change of mind about yourself. Paul says: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

And thirdly – renewal comes from a commitment to Serve. Peter says: As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

So, as we get ready to have Spring explode around us – lets purpose to renew ourselves! My prayer for us is the same that David prayed:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

Happy Spring!

*Pastor Craig*

Lutheran's for Life Spaghetti Dinner & Silent auction

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church

12:00-1:30

# Free Flyers Youth Group

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



## Winter Youth Calendar



March 7th (Wed.) - Youth Groups 6:15-8:45  
Combined youth group with Faith Church  
- Leave Stillwater at 6:30 back at 8:45

March 14th (Wed.) - Youth Groups 6:15-7:30

March 21st (Wed.) - Youth Groups 6:15-7:30

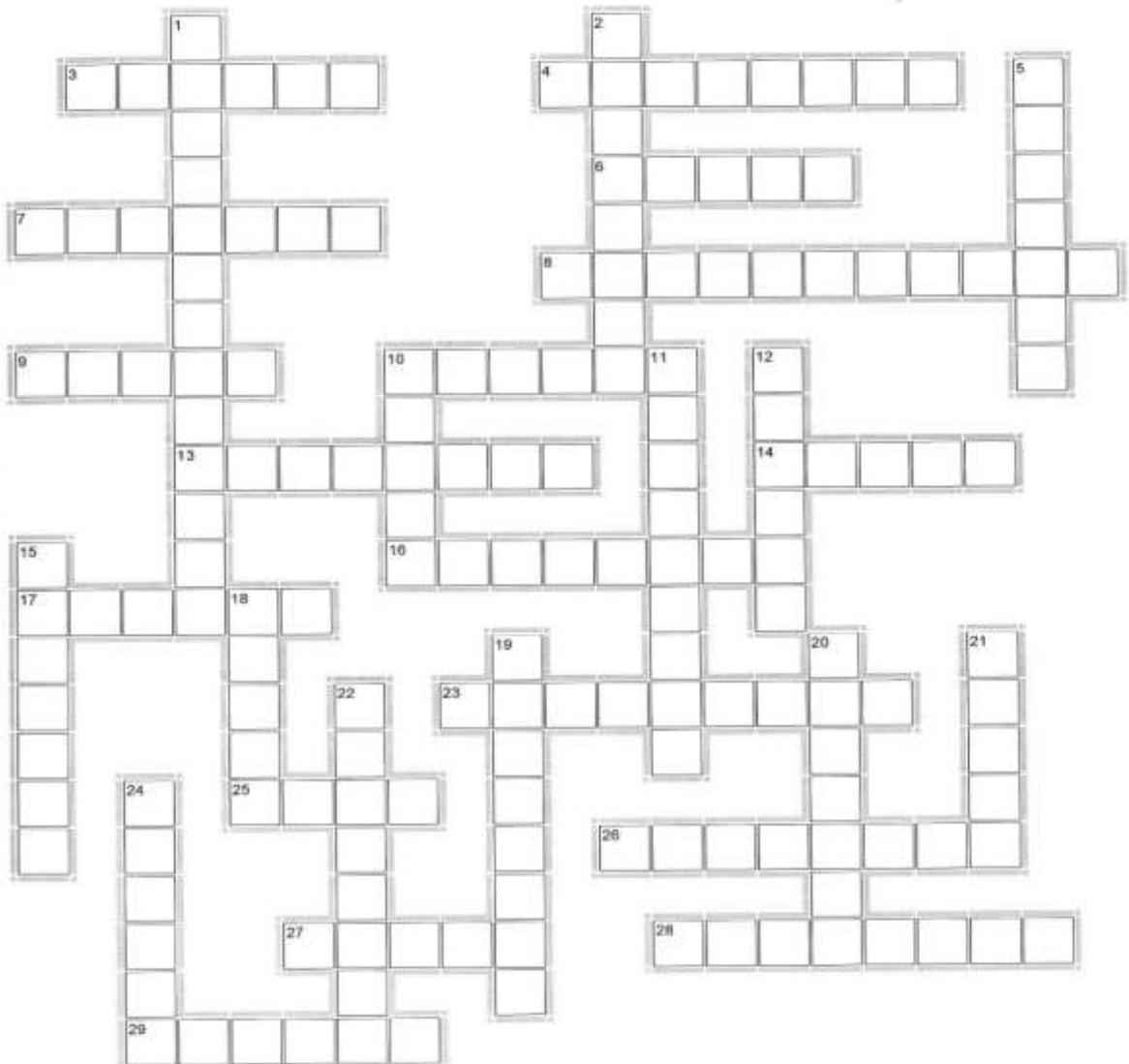
March 28th (Wed.) - No Youth Group, Have a great spring break!

A couple of students will be attending campus days in Minneapolis, MN. Our association's Bible school has campus days twice a year. It starts on Friday night and ends on Sunday morning. A quick weekend, but a great one! Please be in prayer for travel and while we are there. We will be gone from March 15th-19th.

Thanks for all who helped and supported our Valentine's fiesta dinner. We had to reschedule our original date to the weekend after. Crazy weather!

Questions or concerns please contact Danny @ 261-8004

## Proverbs 4



EclipseCrossword.com

## Proverbs 4

### Across

- \_\_\_\_\_ the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established (4:26)
- For they sleep not, except they have done \_\_\_\_\_; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall (4:16)
- But the path of the just is as the shining \_\_\_\_\_, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day (4:18)
- she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost \_\_\_\_\_ her (4:8)
- Take fast hold of \_\_\_\_\_; let her not go: keep her, for she is thy life (4:13)
- For they eat the \_\_\_\_\_ of wickedness (4:17)
- Enter not into the path of the \_\_\_\_\_, and go not in the way of evil men (4:14)
- For I give you good \_\_\_\_\_, forsake ye not my law (4:2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away (4:15)
- Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look \_\_\_\_\_ before thee (4:25)
- I have \_\_\_\_\_ thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths (4:11)
- Wisdom is the \_\_\_\_\_ thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding (4:7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil (4:27)
- The way of the wicked is as \_\_\_\_\_: they know not at what they stumble (4:19)
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of glory shall she deliver to thee (4:9)
- Forsake her not, and she shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee: love her, and she shall keep thee (4:6)
- For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my \_\_\_\_\_ (4:3)

### Down

- Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1)
- drink the wine of \_\_\_\_\_ (4:17)
- Exalt her, and she shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee: she shall bring thee to honour (4:8)
- He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my \_\_\_\_\_: keep my commandments, and live (4:4)
- Keep thy heart with all \_\_\_\_\_; for out of it are the issues of life (4:23)
- For they are life unto those that find them, and \_\_\_\_\_ to all their flesh (4:22)
- When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not \_\_\_\_\_ (4:12)
- Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine \_\_\_\_\_ (4:21)
- She shall give to thine head an \_\_\_\_\_ of grace (4:9)
- My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my \_\_\_\_\_ (4:20)
- Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy life shall be many (4:10)
- Put away from thee a froward mouth, and \_\_\_\_\_ lips put far from thee (4:24)
- Get \_\_\_\_\_, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth (4:5)

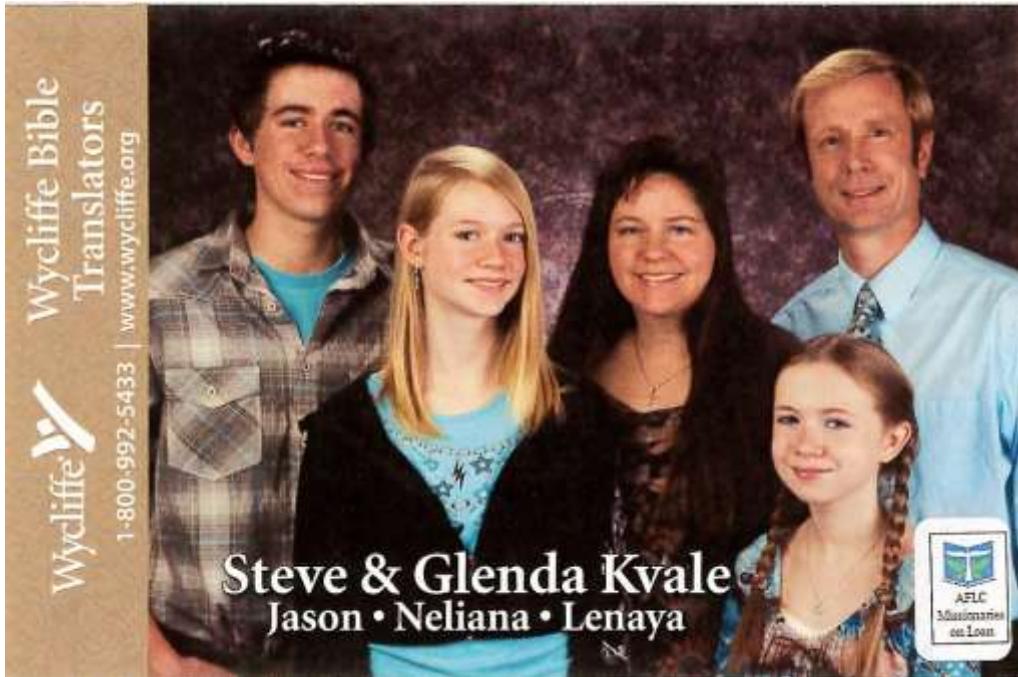
All Clues are taken directly from the 1611 edition of the King James Version (KJV).

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)

**Please pray for the Kvale Family for the month of March!**



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



# February 15<sup>th</sup>

Our meeting last month was at Craig and Sherri's home, Sherri was our hostess and Linda M. was the co-hostess. We had 12 ladies in attendance, as well as guest Jonni Sliver from the Miriam Children's Home in Brazil.

Bonnie opened us with a quick devotion and Linda gave the treasures report, 75% of this months offering will go to World Missions. Bonnie will soon be sending out invitations for all the ladies in the church, informing them of when we meet, what we do and why we do it. We hope to raise awareness in our congregation and welcome some more ladies to join us! The only birthday in February was Laura Horn, Happy Birthday!

We need more volunteers for AWANA and possible future leaders, please be in prayer about this and if the Lord is calling you to serve our young members please let someone in our council know. Our attendance is dwindling and we feel very strongly that it is important to keep the program going.

Our bible study was lesson 2, Without Hope: Hopelessly Lost, from our study book "A Study on Hope" by Joyce Erickson. Bonnie led us through the study.

Our next meeting will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at Julie Hanson's home. Please call the church or Julie for the address if you are interested in joining us.

Our guest, Jonni Sliver, blessed us with sharing the story of the Miriam Children's Home and gave us her testimony. She began with HOPE! "We all must be filled with it in order to make it through the world we live in. Heaven does await us, but we will have to walk through the deep water and the fire in order to get there. God is with us always and we are never alone. Jesus is our hope and He is in us."

27 years ago, in 1990, there was a small bible school in Brazil that took on new life. It got it's name from Moses's sister, Miriam. There is no foster care in Brazil and this bible school became the transitional housing to love the kids and plant the seeds of God's love in them while they were there. The home has a maximum of 20 kids and is available to girls up to the age of 18, and boys to 12 (when they are 13 and older the boys go to the Helping Hand home for boys).

Some of the kids stay at the home for a couple weeks, and some have stayed for a couple years but most stay 3-4 months. There is no limit to how many times the kids can return or how long they will need to stay while permanent housing is found. Usually an aunt, uncle or grandparent will end up caring for the child, but some go up for adoption.

The home has 7 'house moms.' 3 work during the days, 2 work during the nights and 2 stay the weekend. There is also a mandatory support team that consists of a psychologist, social assistant and coordinator. They also have a pastor and Jonni. She can fill in where she is needed, but her most important job is the 'house hugger!' She acts as a comforter, an ice breaker, a rock and an emotional sponge. She is one of the first people to interact with the kids when they are brought to the home and has never had a kid say they don't want a hug, most cling to her and feel safe for the first time in a long time.

Jonni thanks us for our prayers and support. There have been many miracles that God has blessed the home with! Their funding comes from many different places. The Brazillian Federal Government gives them money to purchase durable goods like refrigerators, beds, furniture, equipment etc. The State Government funds the salaries for the 3 mandatory positions in the home. The City Government provides funding for the house mom's salaries. The Brazillian AFLC and United States AFLC give funds that can be used to purchase food, clothing, doctors appointments and electricity. Our prayers offer a type of funding that keeps the home in good spirits and keeps their hearts open to love, protect and care for these kids.

~ Stillwater WMF

### *Building Committee Report*

Miles Erickson is hoping to get the pump installed and water lines connected from our new well in April if the weather permits. Ted Clarke is revising his drawings based on the committee inputs from our January 20 meeting. Stephanie still plans on submitting the COSA package to MDEQ and the county by the end of February. As always feel free to contact any member of the committee with questions or concerns about the project. Thank you for your continued prayers and support! -Ed

# **GOOD MEDICINE REPORT**

## *World Missions*

We were just privileged to have one of our missionaries working in Brazil in our area. Faith Church had an evening fellowship with her as the guest and speaker and the next day Stillwater WMF met at the Scavo's and she attended and told us all about her work in the orphanage there. Jonni Sliver is her name. Her position at the orphanage, she says, is chief "Hugger". What a delightful lady and how she loves those children! Remember to pray for the Miriam Home orphanage. The prayers of God's people avail much and when we don't pray they can tell that too.

Our missionaries regularly come back to the U.S. to visit the AFLC churches and keep us informed of their blessings and needs. Currently the AFLC is supporting John & Becky Abel, Jonathan & Tamba Abel, Matthew & Ednay Abel, and Jonni Sliver in Brazil. Todd and Barb Shierkolk in Mexico; Nate & Rhoda Jore, Brent & Emily Raan, and Micah & Famke Berger in Uganda; John & Hannah Lee in Asia; Justo & Patricia Pillman in Ecuador; Josh & Ruth Wagner in Sierra Leone; Ben & Adela Jore with Wycliffe Associates; and Andrew & Alexis Olson with Lutheran Bible Translators. Let's remember to pray for them and their families for wisdom, strength, health, protection, and blessings as they serve.

The AFLC Annual Conference is a good time to learn more about the work of our missionaries. This year it's being held in Dickinson. Ask Lavonne about hotel reservations! We are going, are you?

PS: Nicole posts newsletters on the bulletin boards in the hall downstairs for you all to read and enjoy!

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