

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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August



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17 NIV

From the Pastor

Are you a Light??

While listening to the news, or even having conversations with friends or family always seems to go to the problems going on in our country today. There is COVID, Riots, Protests, Political unrest, Campaign smear adds, and the list goes on! I get so tired of it I could almost scream!!!

It sometimes seems as if we are living under a dark cloud, and it seems to be getting darker!

Do you feel that way? Is all the bad news seem overwhelming? Are you wondering if we will get out of these dark times?

Well, I guess the next question that should be asked is: What are you doing about it?

I'm not talking about protests, and social distancing, and the like. I'm talking about the darkness in our times.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:14-16 - You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

It has been said that evil is the opposite of righteousness, just as dark is the opposite of light. In a sense this is true, because evil is really corruption of what is good.

It has no existence in itself, just as darkness is nothing more than the absence of light.

Our "Being a light" is our example to the world. It is not to enlighten or teach. It is to merely make others able to see. We cannot do the seeing for them!

But it is important to note that in the darkness even a little light can be enough to see by! The question we must ask is, “What is it that others see when they watch me”? Is it the light of the world? Or, am I only contributing to the darkness?

In another verse (John 8:12) Jesus describes himself as the light of the world. This is not a contradiction. The light that shines in the world is His light!

Jesus has kindled the light of the world in us, and we are to keep it burning. Don't hide the light, but let it be seen.

John Chrysostom (345-407AD), Known as the “Golden Mouthed” teacher said, we must be careful of our "walk and conversation" — because others will certainly be watching. No matter what the world thinks, the Gospel light cannot be hidden.

We are to let our light shine naturally in all we do. Our “light” is to shine so the world will know how great God is, not what great Christians we are.

We don't need to shove the light in the faces of others. It isn't a religious exercise. It is to show the world the glory of God.

But sometimes the things of this world and the desires of the flesh block our illumination!

That is when we cover our light with a basket. But notice; you can't put a basket over the light unless it's empty.

And, the “things of this world” are just empty promises, with no substance! But Jesus and His light bring true freedom and happiness!

We pray that His “Light” will eventually fill all the earth!

Let's let the Light of Christ shine through us and all we do and say, so others can see in the darkness that seems to be all around us!

God Bless!



Women's Missionary Federation

11 women met on July 16th at Hattie's house at 10 a.m. Gayle began our meeting and Early gave devotions from the "Women of God Wonderfully Made" and 1Peter 5:7-8. Elaine read last month's minutes, and Linda gave the treasurers report. July's giving will go to the Christian Ed fund at the Bible School. Elaine gave a missionary report on the Lee family in Brazil. Next month Karen Van Scoten will present on a family of her choice. We reviewed the upcoming events and are beginning to plan the food and entertainment for the women's retreat on September 19th.

Sherri led us in prayer for many friends and families needing God's touch. Sherri also led us through our bible study and Hattie served us an excellent lunch. Our next meeting will be August 20th at Sherri's house.

Submitted by Nicole

Did you know...

Prior to 1939 there was no electricity in the church and gas lamps were used for lighting. No loudspeakers, projectors, fans, or music from CD!

For God so loved the world, that he gave his
only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth
in him should not perish, but have
everlasting life.

John 3:16



Building Committee Report

The metal roofing is almost completed thanks to Rick Martinez and his volunteer crew. Matt's crew has begun installing the siding and he hopes to have the concrete slabs poured at the East and North entrances within the next few weeks. We are also looking at joining these two entrances with a sidewalk. He also hopes to have the well connected to the new building in the next two to three weeks. Jeff is working on a plan to install all the exterior lighting. All exterior doors are now keyed and locked. In addition to all this we are hoping to raise the funds to match the \$ 75,000. grant we were recently given. If you, or a family member, friend or business associate can donate toward matching this grant we ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. Mark your calendar. Plans are underway for a church picnic on Sunday August 30 following 10 AM worship service. More on that to come. Contact me with any questions or concerns regarding our building project and as always, please keep this project and committee in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Van Scoten

Committee:

Ed Van Scoten, Chairman

Rick Martinez, Volunteer Coordinator

Lindsey Erickson

Shelby Switzer

David Tutvedt

Ken West

Free Flyers Youth Group

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

Greetings Stillwater, and for those who aren't named Stillwater, greetings as well, hope July has blessed you well, and I can't believe I'm saying that sentence, summer just started. To follow all protocols, I am wearing a mask while I type this, so no gloves required as long as the paper is germ-x'd before you pick it up. Just joking around of course, but I do pray for health and safety for the congregation, and this whole nation as well, we all constantly need you Lord! The lesson we just did the last youth group, we talked about what we do when we're stressed or scared, and of course if you've ever seen me sing, you've been scared, and if you have a pulse, you've been stressed. We have all experienced these feelings of fright or having no control, sometimes daily, but one of the great comforts the ultimate Comforter gives us is His relatability! When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples, Matthew 26:38 tells us, "Then he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me'." We see here that Jesus was very sorrowful, to the point of death Matthew says, Luke 22:44 goes on to tell us that "his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground". Jesus was in agony, but at the end of each of His prayers in Gethsemane, He gave us a true Christ-like example we need to follow, "your will be done". So, let us not push stress and nerves down and not think about them, we all face these feelings and predicaments, let us instead trust in the Lord, for He will make all our paths straight, and simply say "your will be done". Remember Jesus knows us better than we know us, and He was human, He's gone through it, He sweat blood, I only sweat when I go up and down stairs and to the fridge, and it's never been blood, He is a relatable Lord and always, always there for us! Now that we're done talking about sorrow and agony, let's jump into what's going on in youth group.

The youth had a decently busy July with two summer activities and a couple of hire-a-youth jobs. On the 8th, five youth and Rachel and I went hiking up to Finger Lake, and we even came back with three of them, so it was a very uplifting time. At the end of the hike, you reach Finger Lake and can cliff jump (they're really just big rocks but I'm telling all my friends they were cliffs) and all of us had a blast jumping/falling into the water, and there were no injuries; all in all, a very wholesome experience for everyone. The summer schedule has gone every other week, so the 22nd was our next gathering, which included a game at the church and a bonfire at one of the youth's house, the Bresters. When I say game at the church, it was nearly flooding the basement, but the kids had fun with our giant slip and slide kickball. We

got a giant tarp out on the north side of the church next to the shed, and covered it with water and soap, and attempted to run from base to base after we kicked the ball. It did look like we were all just learning to walk for the first time sliding all over the place, but it was a wonderful time and the youth did a very good job of helping clean everything up when they were all done. For the remainder of the night we enjoyed a bonfire hot dogs, s'mores, and a Bible lesson at Matteo (Brester's) house, and a big thank you to them. Our last summer group before we get back into the "normal" school schedule will be September 2nd, with a big, giant bash I've been planning (I'll have it done that Tuesday before), but the summer groups have been fun activities and learning for all so far! Unfortunately we were not able to attend FLY Beyond this year due to the unrest and uncertainty of all the problems this nation seems to be going through at the moment, but another big thank you goes out to this amazing, supporting congregation for all the hire-a-youth jobs and fundraising you assisted us with. It may not have worked out this year, but there will always be more camps and because of your support we can attend those and continue to enjoy different activities together, so thank you all! A total of \$1,250 dollars was raised, what a Godsend was raised, and we still have two more jobs to finish up for the program, a true win for everyone!

The only other thing this awesome youth group needs from this awesome congregation is prayer. The devil's always on the prowl, but we serve a God who's already beat the prince of darkness by overcoming death, let us all remember the might of the mighty God we serve as we head into August, have a great month!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Feeding the Flathead

Our next Feeding the Flathead is August 31st. If you would like to help, please contact Susan or Lori.

Serving in Jesus's name,
with love from Lori and Susan

You are invited to join us on Sunday August 30th at noon for a church picnic. Due to COVID guidelines and restrictions and especially the handling and serving of food, you are asked to bring your own picnic lunch. Musical entertainment and children's activities will be provided.



Upcoming Events

Fall Rummage Sale

Recipes for cookbook due end of August

September 20th – Town Hall Meeting

We would like to go as digital as we can! If you are not already receiving this newsletter via email, and are willing to go digital too, please contact Nicolø at the church!

Prayers for August

Please take this home and use it all week long.

"Whatever you ask in prayer with faith, you will receive." Matt 21:22

Church Work & Ministry

Sharing Jesus Christ with our Neighbors
Building Project and Committee
Church Leaders & Staff
Stillwater Men's Group
Stillwater & National WMF
Stillwater Youth Group
Feeding the Flathead
Before/After School Program
Worship Team
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

General Prayers

Marriages and Families
Our Country and Leaders
Workers in the Harvest Field

Military

David Askvig (Bruyer)
Issac Saenz
Katherine Elgin
Aaron Burns
Andrew West
Gauge Triplett
Johnathan Gelormino
James Gelormino

Health Concerns

Jean & Al Pittman
Sylvan Herset
Eric (Cartwright)
Justin Latta (Herset)
Joyce Banzet
Maverick Bench (Jorgenson)
Jeremy Hartle
Cindy Houtonen (Jorgenson)
Jim Meyer
John Cluba (Shea)
Bonnie Upton
Kelly (Stahlberg)
Bob Cartwright
Bonnie Upton
Andrew Van Scoten
Hartle Family
Bray Family



Back to 1995!!

Devotions...April 30, 1995

I've been reading "Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy" again. Barbara Johnson, in this book, tells about her vacuum cleaner. It inspired her to think how we are all like vacuum cleaners. We can spend our lives sucking in the dirt all around us, taking it up, putting it in a neat little bag to dispose of later, collecting more and more. We can collect misery, grudges, grievances, criticisms, depression, hate, crud we see on TV, holding onto past sins, turning it all into PRESSURE AND STRESS. We cling to it till our bag is full and then we dump it –usually on someone else.

Or

We can compare our lives to the gardener's tool that blows the dirt away and leaves a clean path where he has walked. We can BLOW AWAY all our negative thinking – asking God to remove it completely; let God blow away our stress, get it out of our path, out of our lives. He can replace darkness with His light, sweep us clean of unforgiveness, greed, social ambition and selfishness – and make a freshness in our hearts. Then we stand clean before Him with the assurance that He can keep us and can put a new song in our hearts.

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy Salvation and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.

THE SIDING IS GOING UP!!!



THANK YOU, RICK MARTINEZ AND ALL YOUR VOLUNTEERS, FOR GETTING THE ROOFING ON!

