

Ripples



Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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September

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

From the Pastor

As I have been driving around the last few days, the one thing that stands out is that it is harvest. The combines are out cutting the wheat and canola, and those working in the fields are busy from sunup to well past sundown.

It all brings to mind what Jesus tells us in Luke 10:1 - The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

We all know that this text is talking about evangelism, and how we are to go out into the world sharing our faith, but, we sometimes forget who it is Jesus is talking to.

As we drive around and see the combines and trucks in the fields, we tend to forget about all the support workers keeping the combines and trucks going! The cooks, fuel truck drivers, silo operators, and countless others – all helping with the harvest.

Unfortunately, that is the way we sometimes think about Evangelism. We think that it isn't my gift, so I don't do it. Or, we leave it up to the "Professionals". The combine drivers and maybe truck drivers – the Pastors and other church staff. But that isn't the way God designed it!

That is why Jesus sent out the 72 "others". It wasn't the 12 Apostles. It wasn't any of the inner circle of followers. It doesn't even seem to be those who were relatively close to Jesus. It seems they were just every day, normal people, who had accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. It's interesting to note - the term Jesus uses for "appointed" means anyone sent on a mission with a message.

Jesus chose these others to show that we are all appointed to a mission with a message to show Jesus to the world. Whether we drive the combine, cook the meals, or just run errands; we are to do it for Christ – so that people can come to the knowledge of the truth – That Salvation is by belief in Jesus Christ Alone!

And that is especially true in these trying times! Interestingly, according to a recent survey on how people come to know the Lord: .0001% - TV or Crusade, 1-2% - Street evangelism, 2-4% - Church program, 3-6% Sunday School, 4-6% - Walk-in, 6-8% Pastor or Minister, 74% - Friends and relatives.

Our mission field consists mostly of the people you see every day. There is a plentiful harvest to be had; but, how often do we actually reach out?

Sometimes its because we are afraid to get "caught up" in all the Drama. But, evangelism can be messy!

There was a teacher who was helping one of her nursery school students put on his boots. She pulled while he pushed, and the boots just wouldn't go on. The teacher worked and finally got them on when the little fella said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." Pulling them off wasn't any easier than putting them on. Once they were on the correct feet the little guy said, "These aren't my boots." The teacher bit her tongue as she took the boots off again. Once off, the little guy said "The boots are my brother's boots. My mom made me wear them." Biting her tongue yet again, the teacher finally got the boots back on. When she finished, she asked him, "Now, where are your mittens?" The little boy replied, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots."

Outreach is a bit like that teacher putting on the little guy's boots. It seems things never go as planned, but God can use every occasion.

Sometimes we are reluctant to get involved because we think that it won't matter. We think that just one person won't make any difference!

Thinking like that is like the old farmer, ragged and barefooted, sitting on the steps of his tumble-down shack, chewing on a stem of grass. A passing stranger approached him seeking a drink of water, and attempting to be friendly, the stranger asked, "How is your cotton coming in this weather?" --- "Ain't got none." --- "Didn't you plant any?" --- "Nope, afraid of weevils." --- "Well, how is your corn?" --- "Ain't got none. Afraid there wasn't going to be no rain." --- "What did you plant?" --- "Nothing, I jest played it safe!"

Are you playing it safe? Are you maybe not reaching out because you think you might fail? Well --- "If you risk nothing; you gain nothing!" And besides, all we are called to do is share the message. Salvation comes from the Lord!

As Paul Harvey used to say – And now, the rest of the Story - The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

So, what is your Joy? Are you joyful at doing the work of God? Or are you more concerned with the things of the world? Remember the world is passing away – but those who do the will of God abides forever (1 John 2:17).

We are called, as followers of Jesus, to be lights to those around us! And in these trying times, with COVID, fiery but mostly peaceful protests, political division, hate, and

unrest, that light is needed more than ever!

And, you aren't necessarily being sent far away. Most often our mission field is right here in our own backyard.

So, as we look at the harvest going on around us – let's remember that Jesus is calling all of us to be lights for Him, and messengers of the Gospel, so that ALL my come to the knowledge of the truth – Salvation in Christ Jesus!

God bless!



Women's Missionary Federation

12 women met on August 20th at Sherri's house at 10 a.m. Gayle began our meeting and Hattie gave devotions from Billy Graham. We need 4 things to survive: water, air, food and light; Jesus is all 4!! Elaine read last month's minutes, and Linda gave the treasurers report. The August tithes will go to World Missions. Karen Van Scoten gave a missionary report on Matthew and Ednay Abel in Paraguay.

September 18 & 19 is our Women's Retreat at Early's house. Sherri and Sue are planning the food, Nicole will plan the games, Early is our guest speaker and Neila will put together a craft for us!

At the October meeting we might have a Zoom baby shower for Jessi Wisner, she is registered at babylist.com/baby-jessi-wisner. There is a town hall meeting on September 20th after service, so please try to attend. The Christian Ed Board is planning a new Wednesday night program that is planned to start September 16th.

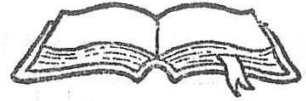
We shared prayer requests and updates and Sherri led us in prayer. Linda led us through our bible study and Sherri served us an excellent lunch. Our next meeting will be October 15th at the church.

Submitted by Nicole

FLASHBACK from September 1986!!

FROM THE DESK OF.....Pastor Jeff Swanson

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
Hebrew 4.12



God's Word is alive and is active in the lives of those who have ears to hear it. It is not dull and ineffective but is sharp and is able to reach our innermost beings and to make us see ourselves as we should. It judges our thoughts and our intentions, our motives and shows our need to repent of sin and to trust in Jesus for forgiveness on a daily basis. This is the life God desires for each of us. This is the life of daily repentance we each need so that we might walk with our God in peace and in the joy of His presence. God's Word is an essential ingredient in our daily lives if we are to experience this "walk" with God. Listen to the words of George Muller, a 19th Century Saint.

"The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts. I solemnly state this from the experience of fifty-four years. Great has been the blessing from consecutive, diligent daily study. I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God."

This month we begin Sunday School for all ages. Our midweek study of God's Word continues, each Wednesday evening. We also will be publishing daily Bible readings in the bulletin each Sunday, on which the sermon the following Sunday will be based. This may be added to your daily devotions or may be a place to start for many of us.

May we rally together around God's Word so that He may do in our lives what He desires and so that we might experience growth together for our own spiritual good and for God's glory.

Building Committee Report

Our contractor Matt Lee recently said all tasks listed under Phase One and Phase Two should be completed by the end of September. Phase Three includes finishing the bathrooms and the earliest he can begin work on this would be sometime in October or November. After September 1, a decision will be made on who will construct the septic system. This step is separate from Matt's contract. Kalispell Electric is also billing us separate from Matt's contract which saves us his 10% overhead cost.

Fundraising continues to be a major focus as we move forward with our project. If you have not already made a faith commitment, we ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. The forms are available in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Van Scoten

The following pictures were taken by Hagestad painter Danny Gonzalez



Free Flyers Youth Group

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

Happy September to all, and to all a happy September, if we all keep wearing swim trunks and sunscreen, maybe summer won't go away, but since I'm not allowed to come into work like that anymore, I'll accept fall is right around the corner. This is such a beautiful time of year, with the natural landscape the Lord has blessed us with starting to change, and all of our weekly church programs picking up again! We, of course are still in weird times, especially considering all of my youth have told me they're excited for school, but there's blessings in everything, to kids getting to socialize again and parents getting to send their kids to school a couple days a week; we can always be thankful for what the Lord has provided us! A verse and wonderful reminder from God's Holy Word that has stuck with me recently comes from Hebrew 12:28, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,". What's the greatest gift anyone could ever receive (no it's not getting to send your child back to school)? Our gracious Savior has given us the amazing, indescribable gift of eternal life through undeserved grace, so no matter what, we always have something to be thankful for, praise Him!

Even though summer is slowing down, it definitely does not mean that the youth are. This last August we had three activities and two jobs helping out different congregants who needed it. Our youth group meetings have consisted of a day at our house at Lake McGregor on August 5th where I did my best Nemo impression and swam in circles because one of my floaties popped. Our next gathering, which happened the 19th, took place at the church where we baked our own pizzas and made sure everyone knew it was BYOFE (bring your own fire extinguisher). Our other activity happened on the 6th of August with the four boys who had participated in all of the fundraising activities for camp, but were unfortunately not able to go, going to Big Sky waterpark in Columbia Falls (I think all of the boys drank every slushie that that establishment has ever owned). All these boys and myself are very grateful to all of our members who hired them and donated money so that we are able to go to camps and activities together, ginormous thank you to all of who have generously helped us in that way. During the summer, we have gone through "current event" lessons if you will, that the Lord has laid upon my heart, and we will continue this curriculum until our last summer group on September 2nd. Starting September 16th, we will be back into the regular youth group schedule, except starting at 6 this time, and still going to 7:30, so if you're 6th grade to high school, or just immature, the

Stillwater Youth Group welcomes all! Along with youth group, we will hold a young adults Bible study once again, going from 7:30-8:30. I would love to talk to anyone who's interested or have questions, just reach out to me if I accidentally haven't reached out to you, and I invite anyone who considers themselves a young adult. I will also be teaching confirmation this Fall, and hopefully the whole year, every Sunday at 10:45 starting September 27th. If anyone has any questions about any of the ministries starting up again, or would just like to talk, my number and email are in the church directory and most likely on the front of this newsletter, I'm here to help if I can!

I've realized as I've gotten older (never thought that was going to happen), being busy never really goes away, making it important to prioritize our faith and prayer life, not just because we have to, but because it makes that busyness less stressful and we grow in our relationship with the Lord when we truly try. So please keep the youth, the congregation, the church leaders, the nation and its leaders, and anything else you can think of in your prayers! This world may have many, many problems, but we have the Creator to turn to, let us never forget that and have a splendid September!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Feeding the Flathead

Our next Feeding the Flathead is September 28th. If you would like to help, please contact Susan or Lori.

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

Did you know...

Martin Nbrdtome hand-carved the ornate altar, altar ring, pulpit, baptismal front, and pews around 1911! And the picture of Jesus on the altar cost \$50.00.

Prayers for September

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 & Worship Tea
Stillwater Men's Group & Youth Group
Stillwater & National WMF
Feeding the Flathead
After School Program
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 (Shea)
Sylvan Herset
Eric (Cartwright)
Justin Latta (Herset)
Joyce Banzet
Maverick Bench (Jorgenson)
Jeremy Hartle
Cindy Houtonen (Jorgenson)
Jim Meyer
John Cluba (Shea)
Kelly (Stahlberg)
Bob Cartwright
Bonnie Upton
Steve Seinknecht (Elgin)
Pastor Mike McCarlson (Scavo)
Chris Trost (Shea)
Charina Haynes' Dad
Kyona Yeager (Bray)
Cindy (Askvigs)
Abby Isakson (Jorgenson)
Luke Heupel (Tutvedt)



National WMF

Battle for September

“Your son has been in an accident. He is being air lifted to KRMC. He has a head injury and broken wrist for sure.”

First God moment: my phone was charged 100% and sitting right next to me. Those of you who know me know my phone is often in my purse in the car. I rarely answer it at work.

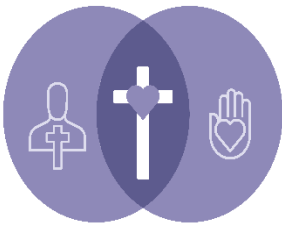
The ER – The waiting room was exactly as you might picture it. In every corner someone was hurting. Baby crying, someone retching, one gal moaning, and a couple of scared teenagers sitting next to me. In a non COVID situation I would have reached out. I questioned social distancing. I prayed fervently behind my mask. It was freezing. Second God moment: there was a sleeping bag in my car. I wasn't allowed in to see my son. I had to pray and wait but I was able to wrap up in that sleeping bag as if I had a hug.

I hadn't been sleeping well all week as I was preparing for a trip to Wisconsin to be with you. But after he was taken into surgery for his head (third God moment) I fell asleep. I was the only person in the entire surgery waiting area. They quickly kicked me out because of COVID. Thankful for my church family and friends and family. Super supportive. What do people do without that lifeline?

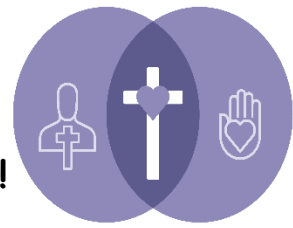
Wrist surgery day was very stormy, and I just kept walking/pacing and praying. The song that Casting Crowns sings came to my mind. It's called, “I Will Praise You in This Storm.” And the storm clouds lifted, and I wondered if I should catch a plane to Wisconsin after all.

God's timing...I trust Him. God's presence...I felt it. God's peace...perfect. Thank you for your prayers. The battle belongs to the Lord.

And a shout out to the dream team for 2020. Anne Presteng, Karen Floan, Deb Benson, Deanna Larson, and Dawn Johnson. You ladies just carried on and “took one for the team.” Stepping up and standing in the gap. There is sweet Victory in Jesus. I Jn. 5:4,5 in the Amplified. “For everyone born of God is victorious and overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered and overcome the world – our {continuing, persistent} faith {in Jesus the Son of God}.”



Sunday School Kick-Off!



On Sunday, September 27th we kick off our 2020-2021 Sunday School hour for children through adults beginning at 10:45 am.

Our children will explore our new Bible curriculum, "**Enduring Faith.**" that we will use on Sunday mornings and reinforce what they heard again at our Wednesday evening midweek program. This program nurtures lifelong disciples of Jesus as students learn all about their Savior, Jesus Christ and what their Savior means for them. Each week, students will hear, discuss, and learn a Bible lesson and Bible verse through activities that will build skills to strengthen Bible learning.

Wednesday Evening Bible Exploration

We are excited to invite students in pre-K - 5th grade to join us each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 pm starting September 16th! We will gather for an opening that transitions into our Bible time, activities and games. The evening concludes at 7:30 pm

PreK through adults have the option to come for dinner each Wednesday, provided by the members of Stillwater Lutheran Church from 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm in the basement of the church.



Upcoming Events

Fall Rummage Sale
September 18-19 – Women's Retreat
September 20th – Town Hall Meeting

After-School Program

School has started again for the West Valley!

There was a bit of confusion as the school year drew nearer and nearer, but we are working through this time of unknown.

Karla has begun the After-School Program and has found almost enough volunteers for the week. If you are available even once a month, please contact Karla or Nicole.

Bus services are not currently available from the school, so Karla is using the church van to bring the kids to the church each day after school.

Please continue to pray for this ministry!