

Ripples



Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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november

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

From the Pastor's Desk

The Best Laid Plans ...

It sure seems that the end of the year is rushing toward us at a breakneck speed! Here it is, the end of October, and the first snow has already come – and I'm just not ready yet!

Opening day for General deer season is coming soon, and I'm just not ready yet!

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and following on the heels of that is Advent and Christmas – and guess what? I'm not ready yet!!!

It seems that the first part of the year was as slow as we could get, then everything just exploded! Almost like we were in a time warp!

Then, just when I thought I had things under control, and plans made – I tested positive for COVID 19. Talk about messing up my schedules and plans!

The saying “The best laid plans of mice and men, oft go astray” comes to mind!

That saying is actually a paraphrased line from a poem written in 1786 by Robert Burns' called “To a Mouse”. It tells of how he, while plowing a field, upturned a mouse's nest and the resulting poem is an apology to the mouse.

Today we use it to suggest that even the most careful planning doesn't necessarily ensure success. We also use it to lament when our plans have changed due to circumstances.

Funny how a line from some old poem seems to carry such weight. But the idea of lamenting over changing plans is a lot older than a just a few hundred years!

James wrote about it in the first century - James 4:13-15 - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

Solomon even spoke about it clear back in 930 BC, in Proverbs 16:9

The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.
The focus of both these Scriptures is of course – God. But, not just God in general,
but God being in control, even when things get tough.

One of the main reasons we struggle with a disruption in our plans is that we too
often, leave God out of the picture.

We get all caught up in the things we have to get done, in order to do the things we
want to do, and so we schedule and plan and when things go awry – we throw up our
hands and say “Why, God – Why Me?”

The funny thing is, we didn’t consult God when we started our plans, or even ask
Him if we were going down the right track, we just put everything together. And
then we get upset when things fall apart, and don’t go the way we planned!

Let’s take a moment to look at what James says: Come now, you who say, “Today or
tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in
business and make a profit.”

This is exactly what we do. We plan and schedule without consulting with our
Father in Heaven. We don’t spend time in prayer. We don’t look to the Word. We
just figure that God must want us to continue – and maybe that is true, but James
goes on to say: you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a
vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to
say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

James is telling us that we need to first look to God, then when we make our plans,
we should make them in pencil – because God can change things in a second!

And sometimes those changes will surprise us!

So, as we look ahead to all the things we think need to get done – remember – God is
in Charge, and we can schedule and plan, BUT God has the final plan, so we need to
let Him direct our steps!

Happy planning!

Feeding the Flathead

Our next meal service is Monday, November 30th. If you would like to help contact Lori Switzer or Susan Shea.

Did you know...

Anna Nordtome made a new altar cloth in 1953 which replaced the original that had been used for 40 years. That altar cloth was replaced in 2018, 65 years later, to preserve it. It is now in a shadow box at the front of the sanctuary.



Women's Missionary Federation

Our group did not meet this month. We will meet in November on the 19th at Nicole's house at 10:00 am. Sherri will video Jessi opening her gifts from us and we will watch the video at the next meeting. On November 10th Stillwater will host the Kalispell Ministerial Alliance meeting and provide a lunch for them.

Submitted by Nicole

Building Committee Report

As we enter this Thanksgiving season, we have much to be thankful for especially as relates to our building project. Just recently we received a nice gift which brought us over the top with our \$ 100K Fall Fundraising Goal which was established July 9. We thank the many donors that gave of their blessings to make this happen. Of course, all praise and glory go to our Father God the giver of all good and perfect gifts. As many of you know the basketball backboards are now installed and ready for use thanks to a special fundraising effort by a few families in the congregation. Our contractor Matt Lee is developing a plan to install the volleyball pole inserts soon.

We are hoping to get Matt's crew back on site shortly to begin work on our bathrooms. Jeff Timlick (Kalispell Electric) will be coordinating with Matt to get necessary electrical work done at this time also. Our excavating contractor Trent Neumann hopes to begin work on our new septic system within the next few weeks.

Although our Thanksgiving tables may not be graced with family gatherings as we have experienced in the past it is even more important to remember what God has to say about Thanksgiving. To begin with we know that our God is much greater than any virus! In 1 Thess. 5:18 we read, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". The Covid-19 virus may keep us apart physically, but we know we are together in the Holy Spirit so GIVE THANKS!

In His Service, Ed Van Scoten

Free Flyers Youth Group

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

Hello to everyone reading this, I suppose at this point in November you're already snowed in and have nothing better to do than read my newsletter, so I'll keep this letter like our youth leader, short, sweet, and humble.

When Rachel and I moved here last year, we were blessed with quite a mild winter, and have both been aware that that means the snow's going to make up for it this year, so we've had our parkas on since August. Like I just mentioned there are definitely blessings in every facet of our lives, and we especially need to remember all these blessings during these busy and stressful times.

Speaking of busy and stressful times, November 3rd is directly around the corner, and we all know that will be very hectic planning for the church rummage sale on the 6th and 7th, and it feels like there might be something else the day of the 3rd as well. All jokes aside, I think most of us can admit we have of course thought about the upcoming election, and could probably also admit we've been a little, or even a lot, fearful. Fear, unfortunately, is a mental reflex for lots of people, and if I'm being honest, I fall into that trap often, but then I remember one of the many, many blessings that the Lord gave me, my mom, who made it a point of emphasis for me to memorize Scripture when I was younger. Because of that practice, I have had my favorite verse, Joshua 1:9, memorized since I was in elementary school, which always reminds me, "Have I not commanded you be strong and courageous, do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

As we get into what seems like a scary time, I earnestly pray that we all remember that the Lord has given us countless blessings, including salvation by conquering death, and there is no reason at all to fear, the most powerful source in the universe is in control, cling onto His perfect message, and we'll be just fine. Never stop praising Him!

Since my last newsletter, we have had as many youth groups as my parents have perfect children, so one (like I said in the last paragraph, I'm humble). Also going off the last paragraph, unfortunately the church got hit with a wave of sickness and stopped our midweek programs twice and Sunday service once, but

praise the Lord for all the blessings that came out of this experience. Everyone who was affected has healed completely and we are back with even more of a hunger for

His Word, teaching the midweek programs and gathering once again for Sunday service. We were able to hold youth group again on the 14th of October, and it was a glorious reunion with games, learning, forgetting what was learned, and then re-learning it. We are all very excited to be back into the swing of things, at least I hope that's what the youth group would say, but we finished off the month of October with pumpkin carving at our in-town sister church, Faith, on the 21st, where the theme will be carving, "what it means to be a follower of Jesus".

Then on the 28th we will hold our Reformation party at Stillwater with games and a costume contest. These last two events have not yet happened at the time I'm writing this, but stabbing pumpkins and eating copious amounts of candy, there's no way we can go wrong or have a bad time.

To follow along on the blessing trend with youth group happening again and getting to partake in all these God-glorifying events, confirmation has been able to start again as well. So far there are three wonderful confirmands and are working to complete their thirty lessons from their Foundations of the Faith curriculum and their twenty sermon notes that are required by the end of the schoolyear. I am still looking and praying for anyone who is willing to teach high school Sunday school for our awesome high schoolers at church, so if you're interested in that ministry, or would just like to connect and pray together or anything else you might think of, text or call me at 701-319-8295, (it happens to be the same number on the front of this newsletter).

As you finish reading this, I ask that you say a prayer for this country, this country's leaders, this church, the church around the world, and anything else our gracious Lord lays on your heart. Our greatest weapon and defense will always be to pray, and never forget our blessings and the fact that we have no reason to fear, happy November!

God bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Prayers for November

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

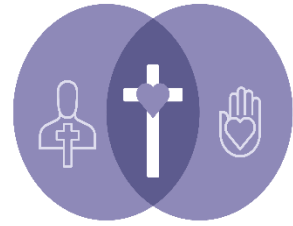
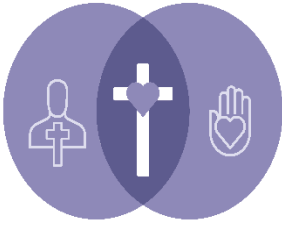
Military

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

Health Concerns

Al Pittman (Shea)
Sylvan Herset
Justin Latta (Herset)
Joyce Banzet
Maverick Bench (Jorgenson)
Jeremy Hartle
Cindy Houtonen (Jorgenson)
John Cluba (Shea)
Kelly (Stahlberg)
Bob Cartwright
Bonnie Upton
Steve Seinknecht (Elgin)
Pastor Mike McCarlson (Hirtes)
Chris Trost (Shea)
Charina Haynes' Dad
Cindy (Askvigs)
Luke Heupel (Tutvedt)
Ed Warner





Sunday School & Wednesday Evening

Children's Sunday School is in the classroom downstairs at 10:45 am (after service). We are using the Enduring Faith Curriculum. The Adult Sunday School is at the same time and meets in the fellowship hall to watch the Truth Project Series and have discussion following each lesson.

Everyone is invited to join us Wednesday evening! We have dinner at 5:30. The Enduring Faith Bible Exploration is for kids in Pre-K - 5th Grade and it is from 6:00-7:30. We also have Youth Group for 6th - 12th Graders and they meet in the youth room from 6:00-7:30. The adults meet for Bible Study from 6:45-7:30.

After-School Program

We are still in need of a couple volunteers to help with the program. Even if you can only dedicate one day of the month it would be so appreciated.

Please continue to pray for this ministry!

Contact Karla, Nicole, Craig or Bryce



Rummage Sale

We will have our sale on November 6th & 7th. Nicole is heading up the sale this year and can use many volunteers to set up on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday that week. Also, if you have any clothing racks that we can use please let her know! Goods can be brought into the church Activity Center starting on October 26th, please bring the items to the Northwestern end of the gym and if you have time, find the corresponding table to unload your items. We ask that you don't bring old TV's or large heavy Sauder furniture as they don't sell well.

Bible Facts

Serving Size 1 Book

Servings Per Holy Container 66

Amount Per Serving

Loving Gods 1 Requirements: Acts 16:31

% Daily Value*

Total Inspiration 100%

Original Inspiration 100%

Taken From Other Cultures 0%

Omnipotence 100%

Factual Information 100%

Unjust Behavior From God 0%

Unjust Behavior From Humans **Infinite**

Deaths by Satan Still Rising

Sin Forgiven 100%

Miracles 100% Moral Value 100%

Mercy 100% Love 100%

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. ~Hebrews 4:12



Thankful

**Bring your pies to the
Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 25th at 7:00.**

Your Youth Group will serve!