

# Ripples



Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

1401 Church Drive  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 257-4614  
E-Mail Address: [stillwtr@cyberport.net](mailto:stillwtr@cyberport.net)  
[www.stillwaterlutheranchurch.com](http://www.stillwaterlutheranchurch.com)

Pastor Craig Scavo  
(406) 253-7003  
Associate Pastor Bryce Timmerman  
(701) 319-8295  
Office Hours: 8:30-1:30 Tues – Fri



January

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Giving Glory to God

John 17:4-8

As we begin a new year, the idea of new beginnings and starting something new comes to mind. So this year, let's begin by giving glory to God.

As you read that last sentence, what went through your mind?

Did you think to yourself – sure, that sounds like a wonderful idea? Or maybe you thought – of course, I always do. Or maybe you didn't even think about it, and just read on.

Do you realize that most Christians will nod their heads agreeably when you speak about giving glory to God! BUT most have no idea what it means to actually do it!

In the Gospel of John, in the section that is commonly called Jesus' High priestly prayer, He give some explicit, practical terms in how to Glorify God!

John 17:1-8 - When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

Note in this text that Jesus is speaking of glorifying God on earth. Sometimes we as Christians, think that Glorifying God is some mystical thing that only happens when we are in the proper position, and mental attitude, saying the right words, or something like that.

It seems that the key to this passage and the key to giving Glory to God is found in the verb – Accomplished. It is work for God that glorifies God! And, the work of Christ was to reveal God to us.

And so, if this passage is going to have any relevance today, we need to ask the question: What is it that we are called to accomplish?

What work has Jesus given to us – his disciples to do?

A few verses further on in this discourse, Jesus spells out very clearly the “work” we as Christians have to do. John 17:18 - As you have sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. The disciples were sent to proclaim a message. Jesus entrusted them with spreading the Good News:

And in Mt. 28 Jesus gave them the Great Commission: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Mt. 28:18-19)

The Work we have been given – to Give Glory to God is to “make disciples”

And in the reading, Jesus reveals three requirements - for the disciples to be able to fulfil this command.

1. They need to know the message and the source of the message (Jn 17:6), 2. They need to be committed (Jn 17:6-8), 3. They need to be faithful (Jn 17:15-17).

The first requirement for preaching the Good News was that the disciples need to know what the Gospel is and where it has come from.

Jesus, speaking about the disciples said this to the Father:

For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them (Jn 17:8) and “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me” (Jn17: 6)

I suppose it goes without saying – but we can’t preach a Gospel until we know what it is and where it has come from.

The second requirement to be able to preach the Good News is that the disciples needed to be committed. It is no use simply being “involved in Church” we need to be “Committed”

St Francis of Assisi has been credited with saying: “Preach the Gospel at all times – and use words when necessary”

And what he was saying was that we will preach the Gospel by the way we live. Jesus in our Gospel reading said this about the disciples: “For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them” (Jn 17:8)

In the ancient world, belief was not simply intellectual assent to a proposition. It was more than that. If you believed in someone it meant you adopted his or her teaching as your lifestyle. So, if you are a disciple Christ, you apply his teaching to your life.

The third requirement to preach the Good News is the need to be faithful, so Jesus prays for us to be protected from evil.

How often has the Gospel been dragged into disrepute by the fallibility of our ministers?

No wonder the Lord taught his disciples to be aware of evil and pray for protection from it. Jesus says: My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one” (Jn17: 15)

So, as we start this New Year – lets practice what we Preach and Give Glory to God by what we do – Make disciples!

Remember we need to: 1. Know the message and where it has come from, 2. Be committed to following Christ ourselves and, 3. Pray for protection from evil that we too will not fall.

Happy New Year!

Did you know?

In 1918, Clarence Gilbertson was paid \$10.00 a year to do general work such as starting the fires in the church.

Cookbooks are still available!  
See Nicole to get yours  
\$10.00 each and all proceeds go to the  
Activity Center

## January Featured Recipe:

### CRANBERRY ORANGE NUT BREAD

---

<i>1 Cup Fresh Cranberries (halved)</i>	<i>1 tsp Vanilla</i>
<i>2 Cups Flour, Sifted</i>	<i>½ tsp Cloves</i>
<i>1 Cup Sugar</i>	<i>¾ Cup Orange Juice or Buttermilk</i>
<i>1½ tsp Baking Powder</i>	<i>2 TBSP Grated Orange Peel</i>
<i>1 tsp Salt</i>	<i>¼ Cup Butter, melted</i>
<i>½ tsp Baking Soda</i>	<i>1 Cup Chopped Walnuts</i>
<i>1 Egg, Slightly Beaten</i>	

Preheat oven to 350°. In large bowl, combine dry ingredients. Add juice, peel, butter, egg, clove and vanilla. Mix until blended. Fold in nuts and cranberries. Pour into greased Bundt pan. Bake 55-60 minutes. Cool in pan, then invert on rack. Dust lightly with confectioner's sugar.

*Judy Hogan*



## Free Flyers Youth Group

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone, my resolutions are already broken, and I still have to buy Christmas gifts, but thank you Jesus for another year in your creation. Times are still busy, but the day times won't be busy will be the same day the Vikings win a Super Bowl (don't show Rachel this joke). Busyness is a good thing though, as long as we always remember the ultimate goal we're striving for, to further His kingdom and eternally reside in His kingdom.

David reminds us in Psalms 73:28, "But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works." No matter what situations or busy times come our way, let us draw near to God and tell others all He has done. I pray we all have that mindset heading into this new year that the Lord has given us, and as the new year comes that means we have new memories to make and new things to break in youth group!

During December, the youth group had an average attendance of twelve, which in the room we have now, really makes me and my nose thankful for the new building coming, but I truly am so thankful to get to see new smiling faces each week!

We held normal youth group from the 2nd to the 16th, with cookie baking for our fundraiser on the 2nd and our Christmas party on the 16th. Baking cookies went very well and very messy, unfortunately I did have to utter the phrase, "keep the flour out of your hair" too many times, but all in all a very fun bonding experience, and the cookies were edible and delicious. The youth had our annual cookie sale every Sunday from the 6th through the 20th and were able to raise \$373.50, so a huge thank you to the congregation for your amazing support!

Our Christmas party was also a success that consisted of games, gingerbread house building contest (some of those houses could have been on HGTV), and a white elephant gift exchange, another huge blessing from God that we have the ability to host all these events. We took off youth group the 23rd and 30th and will pick back up again on the 6th, with confirmation also picking back up again on the 3rd.

Lastly, our Christmas program, "Back to the Manger," took place on the 20th and there was no produce thrown at the kids, so I think they did a great job, and they really did. Nine kids and three adults participated in all four practices including the

dress rehearsal, and the program itself obviously, and everyone did an awesome job, and put on a fun program.

As we get ready to head back into normal activities, if that's a thing anymore, never forget the importance and power of prayer! Please keep all the church ministries in your prayers, as well as the people involved in them, that hearts would continually be transformed, and HIS message would be spread. Have a happy new year and lets fish for all mankind!

God Bless,  
Bryce Timmerman



## *Women's Missionary Federation*

We met on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the church for our annual Christmas party at 5:30 pm. There were 17 women present. We all brought a potluck item and shared a fantastic dinner together. Sherri gathered us together to share a Christmas memory from years past. It is always so fun to hear everyone's memories and get to know each other better every year. Next our secret prayer sisters were revealed, and new ones chosen. This is such a great ministry to have someone to pray for. You get to know that person so much better and it makes our congregation stronger.

Finally, we played a gift exchange game. In years past we have called it a white elephant, but our version is very open, some gifts are new, some are used, and some are homemade. A gift can be stolen only twice and we draw numbers for our turn, so you never know what you might come home with!

Our next meeting will be on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00. Sherri is our hostess and Bonnie co-hostess. Neila will present on a missionary family. The meeting place has not yet been determined, so you will know when we choose where to meet.

Submitted by Nicole





## *After-School Program*

*Please continue to pray for this ministry.*

## *Feeding the Flathead*

We serve on the last Monday of each month.

Thank you to our Church family for continuing to support this ministry. If you can help serve let me know! Since we plan our menu, please ask Susan or I what is needed if you wish to donate items.

Lori Switzer



**Sunday School & Wednesday Evening**



**Wednesdays we have dinner together at 5:30, if you would like to volunteer to make a meal please let Sherri know.**

**We have class from 6:00-7:30. We are always welcoming our volunteers to help teach a class or lead game time, if you have questions about how you can help, please contact Karen V. or Sherri.**

**Sundays the children meet with a leader in the classroom and learn the lesson of the week, which also is the lesson that is taught on Wednesdays. Volunteers are always welcome!**

## *Building Committee Report*

Many of you might recall that in 2016 the building committee proposed to the council and congregation a “Five Year Goal or Plan”. It was to construct a new building and have it completed and ready for occupancy by the end of 2021. It was approved by the congregation and we are now entering that final year. Although we have quite a way to go before the building will be 100% completed the activity center has been in use now for several months. We were granted a partial occupancy permit this past June. It is important to note that all site development work including grading for the parking area and stormwater ponds must be completed by September 24 when our 3 year COSA expires. However, this does not require us to have the building completed!

As of this report the classrooms, offices, coatroom, storage room and kitchen have all been framed. The restrooms are under construction and should be completed and ready for use soon. The estimated cost for the restrooms is \$75,000 plus \$5,500 for electrical trim-out. Ken West’s flooring estimate is \$3,000 (to be completed later) The electrical rough-in for the entire building has been completed at a cost of just under \$20,000 The new septic system is under construction and is estimated to cost \$25,000 plus \$2,500 - \$3,500 for civil engineering and inspection fees. Our General Contractor Matt Lee has estimated it will cost \$10,000 to insulate the walls and ceiling. We are proceeding cautiously with all this as the building fund balance is quickly being depleted! About half of the septic expenses have already been paid and a portion of the restroom expenses as well.

After the restrooms are completed Matt would like to install the insulation and the (7) remaining doors off the activity room. This is necessary to have access to these rooms even though they will not be completed. The major

work that was identified as Phase One and Phase Two is now complete. Matt is now estimating and invoicing his work in smaller units such as, Classroom/Kitchen Framing ready for insulation (est. 12-7-2020 \$17,259.60). This estimate includes the \$ 10K for insulation. Also, the Activity Center Doors (est. 12-14-2020 \$14,314.00), and Restrooms as stated above.

Our prayer is that we can keep the project moving forward and not have to stop due to lack of funds. The congregation made it clear at the start of this project that we would only build as funds are available. We believe we have done well in following this mandate! We also pray that God will grant you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year, a year in which we can find new ways for using the activity center to praise God and share Jesus Christ with our neighbors.

At the time of this writing the building fund balance is approximately \$73,000. Ironically, that was about the same amount in the fund when it was decided to revive the building committee in 2015. We have been tremendously blessed with individual gifts, both large and small, but perhaps it is now time we consider applying for grants as we develop a funding plan for 2021! More about this later!

In His Service, Ed Van Scoten

# Prayers for January

*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 Gro  
Stillwater & National WMF  
Feeding the Flathead & After School Prog  
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

## General Prayers

Marriages and Families  
Our Country and Leaders  
Workers in the Harvest Field  
West Valley Fire Department

## Military

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



## Health Concerns

Sylvan Herset  
Justin Latta (Herset)  
Joyce Banzet  
Maverick Bench (Jorgenson)  
Jeremy Hartle  
Cindy Houtonen (Jorgenson)  
John Cluba (Shea)  
Kelly (Stahlberg)  
Bob Cartwright  
Steve Seinknecht (Elgin)  
Chris Trost (Shea)  
Charina Haynes' Dad  
Cindy (Askvigs)  
Luke Heupel (Tutvedt)  
Jenny Stupack  
David Reed (Stahlberg)  
Deb & Johnny (Timmerman)  
Eric (Cartwright)  
Linda Hoover  
Gerry Banzet  
Carl