

# Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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**“Let all that you do be done in love.”**

1 Corinthians 16:14

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Here we are, February already! How many of you automatically think of Valentine's day when you think of February?

It's kind of hard to miss, with stores displaying cupids, hearts filled with chocolate, and great big stuffed bears with ribbons as soon as you walk in!

February is sometimes considered the month of Love. So, how many of you are focusing on love right now? Or are there other things taking the spotlight?

Let's face it – No matter what your stance on Politics, the economy, and society in general is - the start of this year has been a whirlwind of crazy events.

Who would have thought, even in their wildest dreams, that there would be a group to storm the Capital building in Washington DC??

But, if we are honest, it is only one more crazy event in an already traumatized society! When we look at the news around the country and see schools, restaurants, businesses, and churches that are still closed – after nearly a year, with unattainable demands being given before things can open – is it any wonder there seems to be insanity in the streets?

Then there are the ongoing riots and civil unrest – that everyone thought for sure would stop the moment the current Administration got into office! And not only do they continue, but now, most people just ignore them (unless you live there) even though millions in property damage have occurred, and no one is held responsible!

So, are you thinking about Love this month? Or are there other feelings that are taking precedent? Feelings of fear, anxiety, frustration, and maybe even anger?

When I get to feeling this way – I am prompted to ask a simple question. Who are you?

Ironically when we watched the film "Overcomer" that was a question asked of the coach – Who are you?

And even more ironically – the answer was written on my white board in my office this morning!

So – ask yourself – Who are you?

There are many possible answers here. Father/Mother, Husband/Wife, Athlete, Student etc. So, take just a moment and answer that question before you read on.

Ok, did you answer the question?

If your answer didn't include follower of Jesus, or Christian, or some form of that in the very first part, it is time to ask why it is so far down the list!

Do you realize that the further down the list the thought of Jesus being Lord of your life, the scarier the world looks around us!

Remember, Jesus told His Disciples that bad stuff was going to happen, but they could have Peace in spite of it! He said: "In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

The note on my white board says: Remember who you are in Christ Jesus! You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you!

What a wonderful reminder after a long, stressful week!

I think the fact that we all succumb to these feelings of fear and doubt and inadequacy is one of the reasons why Paul, in writing to Timothy, says: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Tim 1:7).

This means that the Spirit of God lives in each born again follower of Christ! And, because He lives in us, we are enabled to walk in power, to love as God loves, and to act with divine wisdom. God calls us to be controlled by the Spirit He placed in each of us.

A couple of things to note:

1<sup>st</sup> note where this Spirit comes from – it is God given! This doesn't mean we aren't sometimes fearful or afraid, what it means is that we have the Living God – Creator of EVERYTHING not only on our side, but living in US!

To illustrate this, we see, Jesus and His disciples crossing the Sea of Galilee when a terrifying storm swept down on them. The boat was being swamped by the waves, but Jesus slept, untroubled by the wind. But - the disciples woke Him and pleaded, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." Jesus' response was not what they expected, for He first rebuked them, asking, "Why

are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then, the Master stood in the face of the raging seas and the violence of the storm and with one word, “Hush!” the wind immediately ceased blowing and calm settled on the sea.

Having witnessed His power, the disciples ask “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him” [MATTHEW 8:27; this incident is also recorded in MARK 4:36-41 and LUKE 8:22-25]?

What sort of man is this, indeed! And what sort of Spirit does He give to those who follow Him? Not one of timidity and fear, but one of POWER, LOVE, and SOUND MIND!

We all need power in our lives, but true strength does not come from relying on our own capabilities but on Christ! He has promised that His grace is sufficient for all the difficulties and dangers of life we may have to face. He tells us that His strength is made perfect in our weakness - for when we are weak in our own abilities then we become strong in the Lord and in the power of HIS might.

Then comes Love. We all need and want love in our lives, but true godly love is not something that we struggle to produce through our own efforts! It can only be produced in us as spiritual fruit - as we abide in Christ and He in us.

Then come sound judgment. I think this tends to be the first to go in our lives!

And we cannot get it back by self-effort and worldly learning! The more we look around – the more we see that the world has it backwards, so in order to have sound judgment, we look to Jesus and submit to the on-going training of the Holy Spirit within!

When we do - we will experience an inexplicable, inner peace that passes all understanding!

I will close with a quote from Corrie ten Boom – a woman who understood the trials that life could give, and yet never gave up! She said - Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline!  
Happy February!

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

## February Featured Recipe:

### WINTER FRUIT BOWL

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3 Med. Grapefruit or 3 c. Grapefruit Sections in Juice	½ c. Orange Marmalade
¼-½ c. Sugar (depending on sweetness of grapefruit)	2 c. (8 oz.) Fresh or Frozen Cranberries (discard spoiled)
	3 Med. bananas

Section grapefruit, using a long, thin-bladed knife. Cut off ends and remove core; cut off peel in strips and remove membrane. You should have about 3 cups. Drain juice and add water to measure 1 cup. In medium saucepan, combine juice, sugar and marmalade. Bring to boiling, stirring to dissolve sugar. Reduce heat and add cranberries. Cook 5-8 minutes until cranberries pop. Add grapefruit, cover and chill. Just before serving, add sliced bananas. May garnish with mint leaves. Makes 6½ cups or 10 servings.

**Note:** Makes a lovely brunch addition or serve with pastry.

Gayle Lantto

# Free Flyers Youth Group

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

A giant welcome and you betcha (that's how we say hello in North Dakota) to every wonderful person reading this, and happy February! At our annual meeting in January, everyone was asked if they actually read the monthly newsletters, and now that I know that you do, I'll start writing normal stuff and using English. I just finished planning my New Years party which means we're probably entering February, but no matter what month it is, I'm thankful to be here and serve this congregation! As we navigate another month of busyness and weather that gets you more frustrated than a Norwegian without lutefisk, I pray we remember our purpose and end goal. It's easy to get down or discouraged in whatever we're doing, but life as a Christian is not supposed to be or get easier, in fact quite the opposite. Though, as just mentioned, it's easy to get down, it's also easy to think of our life and treasures in Heaven, a place that is absolutely, indescribably better and infinitely longer than our life on earth. In Matthew 6:19-21, we read, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Let us put our hearts and thoughts towards a paradise unimaginable, and remember what is written in I Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." Let us declare his praises and everything He has done for us while we're on this temporary home before we get to our glorious permanent one! Speaking of things unimaginable, let us look at what the youth group has done in the month of January.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, our last youth group Christmas party was on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and we did not meet for a whole year after, which means we took two weeks off and started up again on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Sorry for the dad joke, but I have to start practicing now that Rachel and I have been blessed with a baby due in July, praise the Lord! There's so much to be thankful for, especially for the exciting news of precious new life that I just shared, but also the steady number of youth coming every Wednesday to hear about the amazing message of Jesus! We kept our average of twelve throughout the month of January, and were able to meet all four Wednesdays. Only one

youth has been injured during that time, and it wasn't even at youth group (which I didn't find out until I accidentally threw a ball at this student, they were very good at hiding their cast), but these kids are such a great blessing. We have several activities coming up in February and the beginning of March, including falling down a dark hill together (night skiing with our sister church Faith) Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> at Whitefish mountain, Valentines dinner fundraiser on Valentines Day, I know it's a crazy day to pick, and a lock-in Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Though we have all these exciting events and adventures coming up, we also did receive some unfortunate news concerning our biannual trip to the FLY (Free Lutheran Youth) convention in Estes Park, CO. FLY 2021 has been postponed to 2023 due to the high unlikelihood of being able to host the event because of Colorado's COVID restrictions, especially in the county of Estes Park. It was a really tough decision for the committee that I've been serving on for the past two years, but after lots and lots of prayer and then some more, we felt it was the right decision for this year. I am actively planning and brainstorming some sort of possible substitute for this camp that meant so much to so many kids, but please keep all these kids, youth leaders, churches, FLY committee members, and everyone affected in this decision in your prayers. Lastly, we have been back into the swing of things with confirmation, meeting every Sunday, and for the last several weeks, going over the ten commandments, and exploring the purpose of the law and the Lord's perfect commands. We have a total of three students, all as first year confirmation students, so I'm very happy we're building the activity center so we can finally all fit in one room.

I may joke a lot I've been told, but I couldn't be more serious when I say what a blessing and privilege it is to worship and serve at this church. Rachel and I so much enjoy this wonderful body of Christ, we've felt right at home ever since we moved here, we get loved and made fun of all at once, it's like my family reunions. Also, I am so grateful we still get to openly worship and share Jesus with our neighbors, many places and countries do not have that privilege, so let's not take it for granted, let us witness in everything we do! Have a great February!

God Bless,

Bryce Timmerman

# Prayers for February

*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 Team  
Stillwater Men's Group & Youth Group  
Stillwater & National WMF  
Feeding the Flathead  
After School Program  
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship  
Child Bridge Ministry & Foster Families

## 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

Sylvan Herset  
Justin Latta (Herset)  
Joyce Banzet  
Jeremy Hartle  
Cindy Houtonen (Jorgenson)  
John Cluba (Shea)  
Kelly (Stahlberg)  
Bob Cartwright  
Steve Seinknecht (Elgin)  
Chris Trost (Shea)  
Cindy (Askvigs)  
Luke Heupel (Tutvedt)  
David Reed (Stahlberg)  
Deb & Jonny (Timmerman)  
Eric (Cartwright)  
Linda Hoover  
Carl (works at Vets home- stage 4 cancer)  
Donald Lessor – Shoulder Surgery  
Betty – Lori Switzer's Mom  
Tressa (Karboski)  
Timlick Family at the passing of Jeff  
Joe Lanegan & Family – House fire  
Dennis Morgan (Shea)  
Gerry Stahlberg  
Warner Family at the passing of Ed  
Andy Bauer (Jorgenson)  
Kerry Guffy (Stantons)



## *After-School Program*

*Please continue to pray for this ministry.*

## *Feeding the Flathead*

What a wonderful way to serve others!

We served 56 to-go meals of Shepard's Pie, a roll, carrot sticks and a cookie! Thank you to Susan Shea, Michael Meyer and Haylee Meyer for helping to serve at Central Christian Church on Monday, January 25th. They also enjoyed some hot coffee and cold milk!

Much Thanks also to all those who donated items, The Potato mashers, Sherri, Bonnie and Karla! The yummy bakers, Rachel and Jeanette.

And those that donated the rolls, green beans, tomatoes and carrot sticks, Ed and Karen, Suzanne, Vicky and Neila.

Many hands do make light work!

Our next date to serve dinner to all those appreciative folks is Monday, February 22nd.

We are in need of someone to cook. Talk with Susan or I about helping out in February!

With Love and Thanks,

from Lori and Susan



## Sunday School & Wednesday Evening



As we explore God's word each Wednesday evening, the children will hear about people such as Daniel, Jeremiah, Ezra and Nehemiah and how God used each of them. Lessons also include A Nativity Night, Wise Men Worship, Jesus' Baptism and Temptation, Jesus Calls Disciples and a Wedding in Cana.

Please continue to pray for each child that comes to our Wednesday evening program and the leaders that show how Jesus is central to every lesson.

In His Service,  
Karen Van Scoten

*Did you Know:  
The Word Love is mentioned over  
300 times in the Bible!*

## *Building Committee Report*

With the restrooms under construction and soon to be completed along with our new septic system I would like to focus this month's report on funding and the steps ahead for the project. I am in the process of developing a funding plan for 2021. Together with our contractors the plan is to breakdown the remaining steps of the project into smaller parts with estimates for each. This will be unlike Phase One and Phase Two when we constructed the activity center for an estimated cost of \$438,000. and the North, South, and East additions for an estimated cost of \$278,000.

The estimate for insulating the outer walls of the building is \$10,000. and the estimate for installing the (7) remaining doors is \$14,314. Sound suppression material's such as wall carpet and quilts have been donated and will be installed after the doors. We also need to construct or purchase sound boards to improve the acoustics in the activity center.

There were many transactions in the building fund account this past year. Our total weekly gifts were approximately \$448,345.00. This included a few large gifts of \$100,000. and larger. It was noted in Nicole's 2020 annual financial report that we paid out approximately \$718,685.00. This does not reflect the balance in the fund at the end of 2019, nor the approximate \$100,555. paid out the last two months of that year. Payment for all work is on record in the church office!

The estimated \$77,636. to complete the restroom's is in the building fund. Insulation work is scheduled to start February 3 by independent contractor Chad Guyman. Amazing Drywall is scheduled to start work February 8.

I am confident within the next week we will have the \$10,000. to do the entire insulation job and then we can focus on raising the funds to install the doors. The lead time for delivery of these is approximately six weeks from date of order. Matt has agreed the doors could be installed in March if they are available. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. To God be the Glory!

Submitted by Ed Van Scoten



## *Women's Missionary Federation*

Eight women got together on January 21<sup>st</sup> at the church. Bonnie opened with devotions on Grace – for the moment, 1 John 4:4. Elaine read minutes from the last meeting as well as the treasurer's report for Linda, who was absent. We are starting our new study book about 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy written by Jeannette Berntson. Our next meeting will be lesson 2 titled "Jesus came to save sinners". Neila gave information from our missionaries, Steve and Glenda Kvali, who are Bible translators for Wycliffe. She also asked for prayer for Juilana her co-worker. Our money this month for missions will go to Home Missions.

We then went over upcoming events. Movie night at 4:00 next Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Please plan to attend. Meet and greet at Craig and Sherri's house at 2:00 on February 6<sup>th</sup> for outgoing and incoming members of the board. February 14<sup>th</sup> the youth will put on a Valentine meal at the church. Please let Bryce know if you plan to attend, so he can plan for the meal.

Our next meeting will be Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. Judy Hogan and Linda McGrew will be host and co-host, with Bonnie doing Bible study, and Elaine doing devotions. Elaine did Bible study today and Sherri served a very delicious lunch. Thank you, Gayle, for filling in as President. We are looking for someone else to fill this position as Gayle has resigned. Please pray for this position to be filled and keep all our WMF ladies in your prayers. We will serve a meal for Ed Warner's funeral on Friday. Thank you to all the ladies for helping.

Submitted by,  
Elaine Lessor: Secretary