

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Psalm 139:13-14

From the Pastor's Desk

April showers bring May flowers.

Most people are familiar with this saying, but I often wonder how true it is – especially here in NW Montana. It seems that our showers don't officially start till June!

It doesn't really matter, because the month of May is filled with the sounds of birds and the smell of fresh grass and flowers. The month marks the end of frosty nights and the growing anticipation of barbecue's, outdoor activities and the last days of school!

It is also the month that we take a day (the second Sunday) to celebrate our Moms!

But did you know that May is also the month of the following observances:

* National salad, barbecue, blood pressure, Hamburger and Older Americans month. All of these are observed all month long along with Foster care month and Date your Mate month.

* Weekly observances include: Nurse's - first week, Wildflower - second week, National Bike - third week, National Police - third week (I wonder how much publicity this one will get this year?), and Medical Emergency Medical Services week - fourth week

* Day observances include: May Day, Loyalty day, Renewal day, National Missing Children's Day, Armed Forces Day, National Day of Prayer, and Memorial Day.

Instead of doing a specific "Mother's Day" article, I figured I would do one that could benefit us all, taken from a Scripture that is often overlooked.

Life tends to be a series of seasons. There are good seasons, and difficult seasons. Times when we are overwhelmingly happy, and times that we are so low, that we feel we could play handball off the curb!

It is often in times like these that we wonder about our purpose in life or even question it if we ever knew what it was.

As children, we often dream about what we want to be when we grow up (except for Bryce – who just wants to grow up!). When we were dreaming, it seemed we could do just about anything – and that is so true, but as we get older, we seem to start doubting the roles we are in. Questioning if we are where we're supposed to be.

Esther found herself in the same predicament.

Here we have a young girl who suddenly found herself in a role she never expected. She first finds favor with the king, then seems to have lost that favor.

And, at a most critical time, while feeling completely unqualified, she is called to something remarkable!

We sometimes feel that way, don't we? Think back to your first day of class in college, or your first job.

In Ester 3 and 4 Haman's conspiracy becomes known, and Ester agrees to help the Jews.

Verse 4:14 is a pivotal verse: "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

This is a question we should all ask. Perhaps this is the moment for which you have been created — this is God's purpose for you.

This encouraging truth is applicable in so many of our roles. It doesn't matter if you are a man or a woman, young or old, whenever we feel inadequate or unqualified, we must remember that God will prepare us and position us in the calling He has for our life.

He will also equip us with everything we need to fulfill the plan He has for us.

It sometimes seems that so much of our walk with God is spent in preparation and waiting. It might seem like we are stuck, not able to do anything. That our lone voice means very little.

And during these times, we often wonder what God has planned. We wonder if maybe God has forgotten us.

Can you imagine the thoughts of Esther? The fear of knowing what was coming down the pike?

We might wonder: Is my life leading to something great? Will I make it through another day? Why am I going through all of this? We must always remember that God has a purpose for us, and we are told that:” ... in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Rom 8:28).

He is working out details behind the scenes to prepare us for the calling He has for our lives.

So, when you are questioning Gods calling in your life, especially during the trying times, or even the dull, mundane times – remember these three truths from Esther’s life:

1. You were **CREATED** by an awesome God for a powerful purpose.
2. You are **CALLED** to a very important assignment even if you don’t realize what it is at the moment.
3. You have been **CROWNED** with God’s favor for such a time as this.

We are here now, in this particular place and this particular time, to bring glory to God!

So, as the month opens before us – into wonderful possibilities – let’s look for opportunities to Share Jesus Christ with our neighbors, and share the Peace of God, that Surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:6-7)!

God Bless!

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

May Featured Recipe:



*B*AKED CHICKEN WITH MAYONNAISE

*4 Chicken Breasts
1/3 Cup Mayonnaise
1/3 Cup Bread Crumbs*

*1/3 Cup Parmesan Cheese
Salt & Pepper*

Put mayonnaise on a platter to dredge the chicken breasts. On another platter combine bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese and salt & pepper. Dip each piece of chicken into the mayonnaise, then into the crumbs. Place on a baking sheet. Bake at 425° for 30 minutes.

Karla Cartwright

Free Flyers Youth Group

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

Greetings all, happy May to everyone! I hope everyone had a wonderful April with sunshine, snow, rain, and any other natural droppings that fell out of the sky (Montana weather is moodier than me in the morning). The Lord has given us countless blessings, including the great gift of happiness and laughter, I try to be a “keg is half full” kind of guy, but there is still a lot of lost and hurting souls out there who don’t know what true happiness feels like. Though we ourselves cannot save people, we have an almighty God who can, and guess who He uses to guide those people to Him. In my old age (compared to most toddlers, yes, I am old), about ninety-five percent of testimonies I’ve heard included somebody else witnessing to this new child of God, whether it be inviting them to church, praying with them, handing them a Bible, living out their faith in front of that individual, and the list goes on. Something we as Christians discuss a lot, and this is me included, is furthering the Kingdom, and starting revivals right where we are, but how do we do that? I think the answer’s kind of simple, you don’t even need to look at the test next to you to get this one, just DO. It’s one thing to talk about these things, but let’s go out and further the kingdom by going and talking to that neighbor who you’re not sure is a Christian or invite a coworker to church, whatever you’ve been thinking about doing, let’s go out and do it! James, in his letter to the church, writes in 1:22, “But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” He goes on later to say in chapter four verse seventeen, “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” It simply boils down to acting on our faith and the “pushes” we feel from the Holy Spirit that sometimes we try to brush off and excuse as a wild, outlying thought, myself definitely included in that one. Another thing James reminds us (man it sounds like James is writing this newsletter) is that faith without works is dead, so let’s not just talk about being God’s ambassadors, which is good, but more importantly, let’s do it. Speaking of going crazy for Jesus, or just maybe a little crazy in general, here’s what our awesome youth group has been up to.

The past month has been pretty quiet; the youth have not, but I love that, I’d fall asleep if they weren’t. We have kept an average of about ten to eleven, it really comes out to ten and a half, but none of the kids in youth group are that short, so we’ll call it eleven. We have had regular youth group 6-7:30 the entirety of last month and will keep it up until May 19th which will be our last youth group before summer group. Summer group will start on June 9th and happens every other week, normally meeting for three hours or so with several different activities such as swimming, paintball, mowing my lawn and cleaning my gutters, whatever sounds most fun to them. During April, besides normal youth group, the

youth participated in two separate activities, first, serving breakfast at our Easter service, which I think was an overall success. We also helped out a family, the Waltmans, whose boys have been attending youth group for a year or so now, move some dirt for the foundation of their new house and garage they're building. That was an overall success too until the kids' youth leader accidentally tipped a tractor onto the Waltmans house. I don't know who their leader is, but I'm going to have a talk with him about driving. To round out this month, we have officially finished our curriculum of *Journey Through the New Testament*, as we are now practicing our skits until the talent show which takes place on the 16th and will be going through a book in the Bible for summer group. Coming up the youth are going to be busier than a psychiatrist at a Timmerman family reunion, starting with handing out May Day baskets to different members of the congregation, on May Day, who woulda thunk. Big thank you to Karen Hartle and my beautiful wife Rachel for driving the kids around to drop off the flower baskets. The next day, on the 2nd, we will start selling ten-dollar tickets for the talent show, which will be their next event on May 16th. During the summer, between summer group, we have two camps, one at Flathead Lake July 5th-9th and the other at the Spear O' Wigwam resort in Buffalo, WY, August 20th-23rd. Praise God for all these great activities we get to partake in! Confirmation ends on the 16th, and the kids are definitely ready to move onto year two, so definitely another praise to the Lord that we've been able to grow together through His perfect Word!

As always, thank you so much to the entire congregation and community for supporting these ministries, and not impeaching myself or the secretary, we thank you greatly. Please continue to be in prayer for all the kids involved in youth group, confirmation, and all church activities, that they would continue to seek our omniscient Savior and talk to someone, whether it be myself or Craig or another church leader, if they have any questions, we are here to serve you all! Have a wonderful, hopefully snowless May, and don't forget to stay in HIS Word!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman



Women's Missionary Federation

Ten women met at Hattie Stahlberg's house on April 15th. Hattie opened with a devotion, and Rachel led us in our Bible study. It was titled "God's desire for the church" (part 1), and we had a great discussion on our role as a Christian church in a sinful world. Elaine then read our minutes from the previous meeting, and Linda gave the treasurer's report. We have \$323.01 in the bank, and our money this month is going to Christian Ed. Which will then be used towards the Sunday School curriculum updates or in any way the Parish Education Board deems necessary.

Following the reports, we went over upcoming events. We will be having a women's tea on May 8th from 12:00-2:00. Please bring a teacup if you have one. Sherri will be doing a devotion on the many types of "hats" women wear, and Neila will be doing a fashion show. We discussed possibly having a picnic in July or August. There is a cleaning sheet posted in the foyer. Please sign up for what you are able to do. To close out we spent quite a bit of time praying for those in our congregation who are struggling, as well as for their friends and family. Please always remember to hold others in your prayers.

Our next meeting will be at Darlene Askvig's house on May 20th at 10 AM. Judy Hogan will be our co-host. Thank you, ladies, for volunteering to serve. Gayle will have Bible study which will be part two of "God's desire for the church". Hattie and Judy served a very delicious lunch. Thank you, Hattie, for opening your beautiful home to us, and, Judy, for taking the time to prepare such an amazing meal. We had wonderful fellowship during lunch and enjoyed the view immensely. We look forward to seeing everyone in May.

Submitted by,
Elaine Lessor: Secretary

After-School Program

Please continue to pray for this ministry.

Feeding the Flathead

On Monday, April 26th, we served 68 meals to very Thankful people. They do look forward to that assistance, especially warm and homemade food! Kalispell Creamery continues to donate 2 gallons of milk, which is well received.

Our menu was Shepherds Pie, warm buttered roll, salad with dressing, a homemade treat and mandarin oranges! (They were excited about those!) Many Thank yous to Susan Shea as she helped serve and made 10 pounds of mashed potatoes, which goes on top of the beef and vegetables. Thank you to my husband, Shelby for assisting in the kitchen, carrying the heavy loads and serving.

Thank you to Sherri as she also made good smooth potatoes and helped get others to participate. Yes, Sherri, we love you with your 'lists!'"

Thanks to Darlene A., Stephanie T., and Lindsey E. as their homemade treats are appreciated by our guests!

Our next service is Monday, May 31st, Memorial Day. Our menu will be hamburgers, potato or macaroni salad, and cut watermelon. If you would like to donate/ make any of these items, please see Susan. She will be coordinating this meal.

Serving one another, Together!

From Lori and Susan

Vacation Bible School 2021



Outlaws for God:

An Adventure in the Wild West and the Word!



- Monday, July 19th – Friday, July 23rd
- 9 am – 12 noon

Howdy! Welcome to a rowdy Western adventure romp through the pages of history and the Bible. This summer's Vacation Bible School program will take us through a series of Bible stories that highlight characters who were "outlaws," defying norms (and sometimes even laws!) if that's what it took to follow God and hold fast to righteousness. Along the way, we will enjoy making fun cowboy crafts, sampling some tasty snacks, playing some "galloping games," and practicing our frontier skills!

Would **YOU** like to make a lasting impression in the lives of our VBS participants this summer? Then talk with any of our Christian Education team members - Kim Clarke, Karen Hartle, Marie Harris, Hattie Stahlberg or Karen Van Scoten to see where your God given talents can be best used.

Giddyup!

Building Committee Report

For some time now I have been developing a funding plan for 2021. This is to ensure funds are available as the project progresses. I am now developing a project calendar along with our general contractor Matt Lee and his subcontractors. This will identify steps in the project yet to be completed and the months in which we hope they can be completed. The goal is to complete the interior work before the end of the year. Exterior work such as site development must be completed by September 24 the date our COSA expires. It is a costly and time-consuming process to get a new COSA from the state.

We will soon be reviewing Ted's kitchen plan along with the related details our members recommended three years ago. After this an estimate for all kitchen furnishings will be presented to the congregation.

As always thank you for your prayers and support and please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns related to the project. Mark your calendars for the July 31st church picnic. Julie Brubaker is the chairperson for this event. We have great plans for our new building and will be celebrating many of them at the picnic. More on that later!

Respectfully submitted by Ed Van Scoten

Prayers for May

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
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 and First Responders

Health Concerns

Sylvan Herset
Joyce Banzet
Jeremy Hartle
Deb & Jonny (Timmerman)
Family of Steve Sienknecht
Dave Elgin
Leo Gallis
Bonnie Upton
Dorothy Switzer (Switzers)
Julie & JP Rodriguez (Hersets)

