

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. The LORD is like a father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who fear Him.” -Psalm 103:13

From the Pastor's Desk

In our society today there is a lot of talk about being environmentally friendly and “Going Green”.

It's in the news – the Green New Deal. It's in advertising – Electric cars, solar power, wind energy, etc. It seems to touch on every part of our lives today.

And interestingly – this idea of “Going Green” has been around for a very, very long time! In fact, the early Church fathers even talked about it!

The “Going Green” the Early Church talked about wasn't their stand on being environmentally friendly, but more importantly on the Churches Growth in its walk with Jesus!

The color green symbolizes growth, and we as Christians are called to continual growth. Peter says (2 Peter 3:18) “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

And Paul says (Col 1:10): “And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”

So, as we enter into summer in the Flathead valley, we should ask ourselves “How can we effectively use our time to grow in the knowledge and wisdom of the Lord?”

Well first off, we need to reflect on the fact that we are members of the Body! That we are saved by the Blood of Christ! That Jesus gave everything for us, and that it cost us nothing!

So, as we grow, we seek to know more about Jesus and what He did for us. We do this by meditation, prayer, and Scripture reading.

Next, we reflect on our life as citizens and heirs of heaven. Ask – What am I doing for the Kingdom?

Paul tells us in Ephesians (2:8-10) “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

We all have work to do! Not for our Salvation, but because God has given us – His Children – a job to do!

Jesus tells us in Matthew 28 (19-20): “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Our job, as God’s children, is to spread the Gospel Message!

Also, as Fellow Heirs and citizens of Heaven, we need to ask ourselves, is our life an example to others?

Peter says (1Pet 3:15-16): “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

This time of year is a time set apart for Growth. A time set aside to look at the various phases of our Christian life.

So where are you in your walk? Are you growing?

Or are you like the Christians that the writer to the Hebrews was talking about; (Heb 5:12-14) “In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

As we enter into the summer season – I encourage every one of you to take some time and look at your life. See what areas need to be pruned and what areas need watering! Take some time to grow in our relationship with Jesus, grow in our proclamation of the Gospel, and Grow in our daily walk with our Lord!

Happy Summer!!!

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

June Featured Recipe:

*P*ITA POCKET BREAD

3 Cups Warm Water
1 Package Yeast
1 TBSP Sugar

1 TBSP Salt
9 Cups Flour
1 TBSP Vegetable Oil

Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water. Pour flour into a large bowl and add salt and oil to a small indentation in center of flour. Gradually add yeast mixture; knead until combined. Turn out onto a floured board. Shape into a long log; divide into 20 pieces; cover. Knead each piece until smooth and elastic. Let rise until puffy (1-1½ hours) flatten each ball and roll out to form 6" rounds. Cover and let rest 1 hour until slightly puffy. Gently lift and place ½" apart on baking sheet. Bake in 475° oven, 2" from bottom, about 5 minutes or until pocket forms and bottom browns lightly. Immediately switch oven to broil and bake a minute longer 4" from broiler unit. Be sure not to over-bake. Makes 20.

Note: Pockets may be frozen, thawed and reheated, uncovered in 300° oven 5-10 minutes.

Linda McGrew

Free Flyers Youth Group

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

Welcome to June in the Sahara everybody, it's been ninety degrees the last two days, and it's safe to say that I officially look like Bob the Tomato from Veggie Tales. Just like sunscreen, time itself also seems to evade me. It feels like we were just cleaning up from the Valentines dinner, and now everyone's getting out of school, I even took the batteries out of the clock, but weirdly nothing happened, so I guess June it is! At the end of May, Rachel and I were very blessed to be able to go on a trip to the east coast as a last "hoorah" before full time diaper changing for the next eighteen years (hopefully he'll be able to change his own in the older years), but it was an overall wonderful experience being able to get away with my beautiful wife. While in the area, we visited the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C., and came across a very eye-opening exhibit. Now of course the whole museum was awesome and uplifting with the history of the Bible displayed everywhere, but the Holy Spirit used this specific display to really speak to me. The room I stepped into was entitled "God's grace and forgiveness" (or something to that extent), and had several different stories playing on monitors all over the walls, from inmates in federal prisons to former drug addicts and all sorts of different people who came to Christ's open arms. The video that really jumped out at me was about family members of victims of extremely violent crimes, and I won't go into graphic detail, but one of the stories was about two parents whose daughter was murdered by her then-boyfriend. The parents talked about the intense grief and pain they experienced, but after a long, very difficult road, they realized that holding onto anger would get them absolutely nowhere, and that they also served a God who forgave the very people who killed His Son, and He did it instantly. The mom and dad publicly forgave the boyfriend, and also befriended his parents, remaining very close with them to this day. Two deep points really resonated with me: first, what encouragement as a fellow believer who also struggles with forgiving others and for issues far, far less extreme, and second, we serve such a loving Father that His grace and forgiveness, even compared to the couple just talked about, is immeasurable and far greater. Colossians 3:13 really simplifies it for us, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Forgiveness is a very tricky thing, and seems like a near-impossible decision at times, but remember Christ forgives all, and the best life we are going to get on this earth is when we

live Christ-like! So, speaking of not getting angry let's look at what our awesome youth group has been up to (they get angry at me, not the other way around of course).

During May, only three youth groups were held, but in that time, the youth did May Day baskets for congregants all over the valley, held a talent show fundraiser, and finished up confirmation, sounds like they could've done Rome in half a day. On May 1st, ten different families received flower baskets made by Karen Hartle and distributed by her, my wife, and the youth, and was overall a great success. All three youth groups held in May, which had an average of eight, or nine if you're bad at counting, were rehearsals for the talent show that we held on Sunday, the 16th. That was also an overall success, and a big thank you is due to all who showed up and supported us financially and morally! Walking tacos (just a taco bar, not actually a taco with legs, the council shot that down) were served for the lunch and was followed up by nine different individual and group talent acts ranging from brushing each other's teeth with arms behind one another's back to a drama about the effects of sin in our lives to pogo sticking, piano, dance, and shooting a bow! In total we raised \$867 for our camp on Flathead coming up in July, and after we complete two more mini-fundraisers we're doing by helping a couple different members with projects, we will hit our fundraising goal to be able to pay for all of the youth to go to camp with no expense to them at all. God is good! We have eleven youth for sure signed up for Beyond FLY July 5th-9th and tentatively the same number for our Wyoming camp at Spear O' Wigwam resort August 23rd-26th. Our last "normal" youth group was held May 19th, meaning we are officially in our summer group schedule with our first activity taking place on June 9th. In between the camps we will partake in an array of different group activities with lessons from *Ten Minute Talks* by Jonathan McKee. So far lined up, we have tubing the Flathead (I've blown up my floaties and am ready to go), paintballing, hiking (not including pushing the van when it breaks down), bowling, and more! Going along with youth group, we also officially finished up confirmation on Sunday the 16th, with an oral test on the ten commandments, definition of law and gospel, the creeds, and much more. They both passed with flying colors and our two awesome confirmands are now ready to move to year two, which we will start next September!

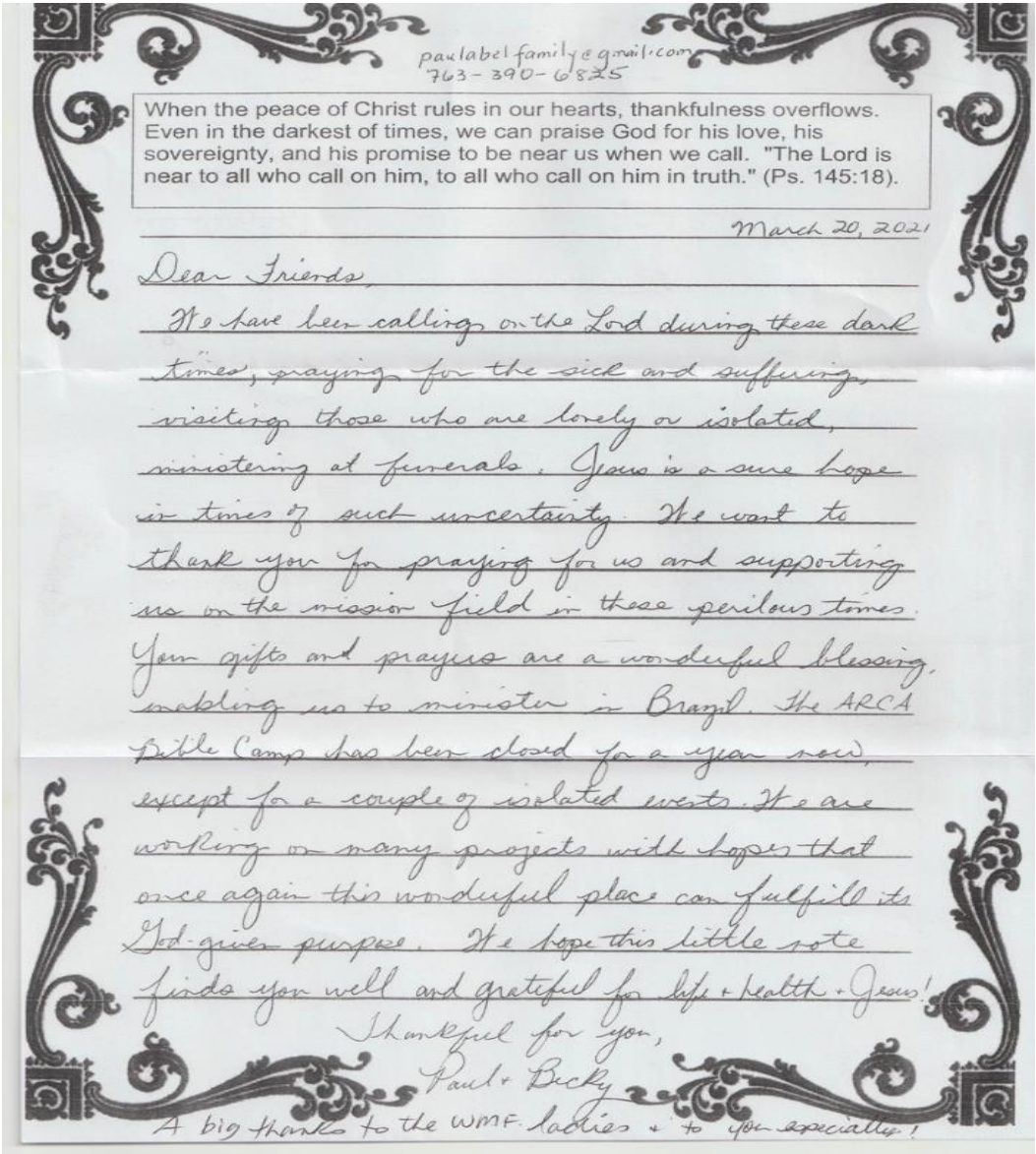
As we grow with Christ, prayer is obviously the number one way to do that along with spending time in His Word and with Him in general, so let's pray for the very busy summer coming for the youth group and church. We are grateful that we get to participate

in and host several activities, and we can show our graciousness by praising the One who made it all possible. I pray you all have a great June as well, and thank you for your great devotion to Him and Stillwater, enjoy summer!

God Bless,

Bryce Timmerman

A letter from our missionaries in Brazil:





Women's Missionary Federation

Ten women met at Darlene Aksvig's home on May 20th. Sherri opened with leading us in devotions. Gayle led us in our Bible study titled "God's Desires for the Church" Part 2 from 1 Timothy 2:8-15. It was so wonderful to discuss our roles as women in the church. Our June meeting we will do lesson 6 on 1 Timothy 3, titled "God's Desires for Pastors and Deacons." Elaine read our minutes, and Linda gave the treasurer's report. We have \$470.01 in the bank, and our money for this month is going to WMF expenses.

Following the reports, we went over upcoming events. Our next meeting will be June 10th at the new Activity Center, so we can go over the plans for the new kitchen. We will be having Vacation Bible School July 19th-23rd, from 9 AM until 12 PM. Graduation Sunday will be June 6th. We discussed moving our rummage sale to the fall, since the summer is so busy.

Our June meeting will be at the Activity Center with Karen Van Scoten and Neila Elgin being our host and co-host. Sherri will lead our Bible Study, and Judy Hogan will do a devotion.

Thank you, Darlene, for opening your beautiful home for our meeting. Thank you also to Darlene and Judy Hogan for the fantastic lunch that was served.

Submitted by,
Elaine Lessor: Secretary

After-School Program

The after-school program's last day is June 9th. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to keep this program running smoothly. Please continue to pray for all these families that we have had the opportunity to witness to.

Pray that the Lord will continue to work in their lives.

Feeding the Flathead

Thank you to Susan Shea and company; Michael and Makynlee Meyer and Judy Hogan for cooking hamburgers and serving 65 meals on Memorial Day. They really appreciate the good home cooked meals!

Hats off to Judy for making a huge bowl of macaroni salad, Bob and Julie Stanton for cutting up watermelon and Gayle Lantos and Heather Meyer for baking cupcakes! Thank you also to Lavonne for contributing the hamburger buns. This does take effort each month and what a blessing to have many hands willing to pitch in! Thank you to our fantastic Church family for continuing to be involved in this ministry once a month.

Our next service date is June 28th. Let Susan or I know if you'd like to help out.

Praise God from whom All blessings flow!

Sincerely,

Susan and Lori

VBS is 1 Month Away!

Pre-register online today.



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

The new septic system is now complete, inspected and approved for use along with our finished restrooms. Classroom work is in process with drywall complete awaiting tape, texture, and painting. After that Matt will install remaining doors. PTAC units along with baseboard heaters will then be installed as well as the completion of classroom electrical work.

We hope work in the kitchen can continue in July if funds are available. Gayle Lantto, Stillwater WMF President has agreed to be the contact person for collecting information on necessary kitchen equipment. Judy Hogan has agreed to assist. This would include items like type of ranges, freezers, refrigerators, sinks, tables, and the like. Also, number of outlets needed for crock pots, coffee pots, food mixers, toasters etc. Please contact Gayle or Judy with your questions and inputs. Rachel has copies of the proposed floor plan in the church office. Gayle plans to present her collection of information at the WMF meeting June 10th which will take place in the activity center. Hopefully, our contractors will be available to answer related questions.

Plans are still in place to pour the sidewalk and curbs in June. The carpet for the wall is in storage and Ken will install it after doors are in and trimmed. Hopefully, this will improve the acoustics along with the sound boards that Matt and Susan are constructing. At some point Ken will install flooring in the classrooms, two entryways and kitchen storage and utility rooms.

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. There will be food, fun, fellowship, and music for everyone. Please plan to attend and bring your family and friends.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Van Scoten

Prayers for June

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 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)
Leo Gallis
Bonnie Upton
Dorothy Switzer (Switzers)
Julie & JP Rodriguez (Hersets)