

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

– Isaiah 41:10

From the Pastor's Desk

I was reminded recently that we need to take time and remember who we are and what we stand for!

This was a timely reminder with the school year running full steam ahead, schedules starting to get complicated, and of course, complications of the global pandemic!

So, in the busy time, if someone was to ask you who you are and what you stand for - what would your answer be?

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 16: Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

The New Living Translation puts it this way: Be on guard. Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong.

In this verse there is a demand for vigilance. To watch means to be awake, alert, constantly on guard, never sleepy or sluggish.

It's important to be reminded to stay alert, because all too often, especially when our schedules get full, we stop looking to God, and our attention slips toward the world around us!

This thought is repeated by Peter in his first letter (1 Peter 5:8): "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour:"

So, if both Peter and Paul are reminding us to stay vigilant, there must be something there to heed!

So, what are we to be watchful and vigilant about?

We need to take a look at some of the things we are allowing to influence our lives and decisions. With classes, sporting events, band practice, homework, work, chores, and just the overall busyness of the season, we have a tendency to "Relax" our guard and "Allow" things into our lives that we may not normally allow.

We think - just this once, because I'm just too tired, or I need a break, or any number of other reasons, and before you know it - it has become part of our routine!

Then we find ourselves saying and doing things that make us ask - how did I get here! It's much easier to just Watch in the first place! Take that extra moment just to keep your guard up!

Paul continues with: "Stand fast in the faith". The idea is to stand your ground, be unmovable with your teachings. Look at what the Word says and DO IT! James says (1:22): Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Paul also says (1 Corinthians 15:58): "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Often, when we get busy, and stop watching, we also start to slide in what we believe. The progression is rather subtle, but before long, we find ourselves rewording the things we believe. Paul reminds us to return to the Bible regularly to build the faith.

Thirdly, Paul encourages us to be Courageous and strong! We need to take a stand for what we believe in and not change our beliefs, even when we face persecution!

Now, maybe we won't be beaten, or thrown in jail, or even killed, but we all know that there are other kinds of persecution. We need to stand true to the Word of God, even if it means tough times at school, or on the basketball court, or football field or even the office!

One of the problems with Christians in America is not that Christians aren't where they should be; the problem is that they're not WHAT they should be right where they are.

We need to keep a watch on the things going on around us - All of us need to be watching! At School, at Work, while we are out, and while we are in!

We MUST stand fast on what God says! As the saying goes - If you don't stand for something you will fall for everything!

We are also called to be courageous and strong! Sometimes that's not very easy, but Paul says: If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom 8:31). The obvious answer is of course - NO ONE!

Just a reminder as things get ramped up - Keep first things first!

Jesus says to: "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness..." (Matt 6:33).

God Bless!

Pastor Craig


Feeding the Flathead

With the cooler weather we switched to a hot meal this month. We had chicken and rice with corn, apples, and cookies, coffee, and water. Special thanks to Sherri for the apples and to Judy Hogan for making the cookies and helping me serve. Also, to Michael Meyer and Morrison Shea (my grandson who came to visit) for serving. We served 55 very grateful people this month and the rain held off for them, so it was a nice night to sit outside and eat, as they are still not allowed inside.

Our next meal is October 25th. We will be doing hot meals from now on, so it will take more hands to cook, prepare, and serve. Please let Lori know if you can help as I will be out of town.

From Lori and Sue

Missions

Missions Emphasis this month has been so special! A highlight was when Connie shared for special music! It's on our YouTube channel in case you missed it!!! Of course, you could say to me, "it's her thing because of her involvement with WMF". The M stands for missionary after all. But it's my heart cry and longing. Joan Korhonen reminded me that I am not a volunteer...in church "work" it's a calling. I gravitate towards kids' ministry. We say together as a church the piece of the baptism that we will remember them before God in our prayers, and to make certain, as far as possible, that they are brought up in the faith and fear of God. I've always taken this "charge to congregation" seriously. (Page 11 in the Ambassador hymnbook.) Our faithful Christian Ed board member Karen gave a plea for teachers that went unmet. Instead of staying off her new knee she came for both Sunday School and Wednesday night kids club this week. Dear church family...we need to be there for each other. Love on those children as we love on those new babies ... they need you to teach them to fear and love God. It's our "Home Mission." I heard the comment that said, "they want the programs but don't want to help". This is sounding like a letter to the editor. I can report that kids club started with 6 and added 1 the next week so that's a blessing. Prayers would be for Suraya, Jacob, Emma, Turner, Alexis, Emily, Noelle, Cooper, Kateri, and Eliana. We are enjoying using the new building. Just pray about your availability. We need all hands-on deck. "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14

Also, prayers for my trip to Minnesota for All Boards and again in November for the Reawakening Conference Arlington. Also, our son Andrew is in training for a deployment with National Guard 163rd combined. Serving our risen Savior...Lavonne West

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

October Featured Recipe:

*C*ABBAGE CASSEROLE

<i>1 16 oz. Can Kidney Beans (undrained)</i>	<i>1 Cup Chopped Celery</i>
<i>1 lb. Hamburger</i>	<i>1 Chopped Onion</i>
<i>1 16 oz. Can Tomatoes</i>	<i>1 tsp Chili Powder</i>
<i>2 Cups Chopped Cabbage</i>	<i>1 tsp Salt</i>
	<i>Pepper</i>

Brown hamburger, onion and celery. Drain fat. Add tomatoes, beans, 2 cups water, spices and cabbage. Cook until cabbage is done.

Note: Serve with mashed potatoes.

Bonnie Upton

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Welcome to October I think, I've lost track of the months, but everyone's commenting on our Halloween decorations we left up all year, saying we are such good planners by putting them up early, so October it is. September was such a blessing with youth group, confirmation, and all our midweek and Sunday school programs starting up again. The leaves are starting to change, farmers are harvesting, Charlotte is only thirteen years and ten months away from getting a job now, so many exciting things happening. I saw a sign the other day, and after Rachel helped me read it, the sign simply said, "God is good". The inner Sunday school kid in me shouted out "all the time", and it's true, He is good all the time! Now obviously little signs and sayings like that are everywhere, but the Holy Spirit used this specific design piece as a reminder for me. God is good! If I were to ask a fellow believer if God is good, of course I'm sure they would say yes, but do we really understand and continually remember that He is the purest of good. In James, chapter one verse seventeen, James points out to us, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Everything that is good, comes from God, because He is the only true good in this world. In Romans 8:28 we read, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." As Christians, life is not easy, nor will it ever be while we're in this temporary home, but we serve a God who is never changing, like James tells us, and a God who is the authority on good. So never forget, God is good all the time, and all the time.... (you can shout it out wherever you are). Here's what God's goodness has looked like in our youth ministries.

Youth group picked up right where it left off on September 15th, with smiling new faces (I had to put sharpie on a pair of twins, so I could remember), interesting smells, lots of laughter, and most importantly, good studying the Word of God. There were 16 kids in attendance for the school year kick off, praise God! We're using the same points competition incentive we did last year; bringing a friend counts as three (imaginary friends don't count, and they have to be here under their own will), attending church is two, memorizing the weekly verse is two, and even just showing up is one. Whoever has the most points at the end of the year gets a \$100 gift card to any place of their choice as long as mommy and daddy say it's ok! The youth group also started a new curriculum this year called *Studies on the Go: John*, and you'll never guess what book of the Bible it has us studying. So far it has produced great discussion, and I truly can see spiritual maturing in these teens as I start my third year with them, another hallelujah! In terms of upcoming events, we have a friend of mine/chaplain from Braveheart ministry, Drew

Buckner, coming on Wednesday the 6th to give a Biblically based suicide awareness talk to the group. It's always a difficult conversation to partake in, but unfortunately as we see in our society and even local community, it's far too prominent, and we can't ignore Satan trying to attack us through these means. We need to combat his offenses with Christ's love and perfect Word, so please keep all the teens in our youth group, area, country, and world in your prayers. I know that's broad, like the entire planet broad, but the Lord hears all our prayers, and every single person, sinner or sinner is precious in His sight! We also have a fundraising opportunity Saturday, October 9th, talking to cars (directing a parking lot at a Griz game) thanks to Sharon Wilhelm who hooked us up with the gig. Confirmation continues to go strong, another blessing from our perfect Father, with class every Sunday, and the two kids completing the course in the Spring. If I had a nickel for every time the Lord blessed us in this ministry, I think we could afford three more activity centers, I know Ed Sr. would love that.

Like I said in the earlier paragraph, Rachel and I are now starting our third year of serving all you wonderful folks, and we've seen such awesome change; Craig was only 57 when we got here, my goodness how they grow up so fast. God really has blessed our youth group with growth, and we are beyond thankful and thrilled to get to spread the gospel with new and young believers, but with growth comes prayer, whether it be in ministry or your personal walk. The number one gift we have received, and continue to receive, as a youth group and congregation, hands down is prayer. I continue to ask for prayer though, for these teens' relationships with Jesus, their family, their friends, and everyone else they interact with. Prayers that they would find courage through the Holy Spirit to share the message of the gospel with the people in their lives, and that they would grow in their own spiritual relationship with our Savior. Thank you all for an amazing two complete years serving here, we look forward to many more, have a great October, God is good!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Christian Ed Report



Sunday School

Our children will explore the Bible through “**Enduring Faith**” curriculum that we will use each Sunday morning. This program nurtures lifelong disciples of Jesus as students learn all about their Savior, Jesus Christ and what their Savior means for them. Each week, students will hear, discuss and learn a Bible lesson and Bible verse through activities that will build skills to strengthen Bible learning.

Kids Club!

The Ten Commandments

We are excited to invite students in K - 5th grade to join us each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 pm. We will gather for an opening that transitions into our Bible time, activities, and games. In the first twelve lessons, we will be learning that there is no god like the Lord our God. He is the only one true God. The Ten Commandments are a gift from God. They help us to learn about God's Law and point us to the Gospel. They show us what is good and right. They show people how to live in a way that honors the Lord and His holy name. We will learn how God will help us follow and obey His commandments. Come along with us on this journey to learn more!

The evening concludes at 7:30 pm

K through adults have the option to come for dinner each Wednesday, provided by the members of Stillwater Lutheran Church from 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm in the basement of the church.

After-School Program

Our weather has been awesome, so the kids are able to go out on the playground here at Stillwater, although they love the new building. We're glad the bathrooms are finished and very accommodating. We want to welcome our newcomers: Bentley, Grey, Liam, Kensley, and Mason to the group. Can we ask for your continued prayers towards the kids and the program itself. Our church van had some issues this past week, turns out it needs a new water pump. A special thank you to the Switzers for the use of their suburban. We're asking Stillwater Lutheran for continued prayers for the after-school program and each of the kids listed below. Anytime we receive bags of apples, oranges, granola bars, cheese sticks, and yogurt for their snacks we are so grateful. The afterschool children are Ashton, Augustus, Bentley, Ella, Ellie, Gavin, Grey, Jack, Jackson, Kensley, Layla, Liam, Lexi, Mason, and Mitchell.

Sincerely Karla



Women's Missionary Federation

16 women met at Early's home on Friday, September 17th at 6:00 for a delicious soup dinner served by Gayle Lantto. Lori provided us with a wonderful ice breaker, which allowed us to get to know one another a little bit better. She also planned a game called telestrations, which brought so much laughter. Sherri led us in a little devotion on the hymn "When the Roll is Called up Yonder". 9 women decided to stay the night in Early's beautiful home.

Saturday morning, we woke up to a nutritious breakfast of yogurt parfaits, bread, and bacon. There was an amazing turnout of 26 people on Saturday. Sharon Wilhelm gave a wonderful lesson on "Christian Courage". Afterwards we were fed a refreshing meal of chicken salads, veggies, and scrumptious desserts. Following lunch Neila prepared a craft for us to do on Joshua 24:15. It was beautiful and so creative. Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a wonderful and refreshing weekend. Thank you especially to Early for opening her home to us, to Gayle for providing all the delicious meals, to Neila for the wonderful craft, to Sharon for the uplifting lesson, and to Sherri for all the planning and hard work she put into it. We had a wonderful time and hope to see everyone next year!

Submitted by,
Rachel Timmerman

Building Committee Report

I presented the following information at the Town Hall meeting on September 26. Trent Neumann Construction Co. completed site development COSA requirements prior to the expiration date of September 24, 2021. Our civil engineer Stephanie Reynolds, WGM Group will send a certification letter to DEQ for their stamp of approval. Praise the Lord!

Our General Contractor Matt Lee and I agree the project is about 90% complete. This does not include site work and paving of the parking lot. Due to his other projects, he said it might be the first of the new year before starting construction on the roof of the North Portico Drive-thru. Hopefully, Sandon Construction will complete the concrete pad/drive thru before the end of the year.

Trent and Stephanie are coordinating prep work for the parking lot. This will require removal and replacement of soil type; therefore, he does not think paving will happen this year. Progress at times might seem slow and that is usually due to contractors' workload, or delay in getting material.

Matt and Susan have added sound boards in the activity center and wall carpet is on order. We continue to search for ways to improve acoustics. Tile carpet for the classrooms is also on order. Trent has dug the storm water ponds and plans are to sod them soon. Matt Lee and Josh Haynes have committed to having the kitchen completed and ready for use by Christmas!

As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support. Please contact me with questions or concerns regarding our building project.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Van Scoten

Prayers for October

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
Intersivity 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
Mike Horn
Family of Bruce Wagner (Hattie Stahlberg)
Stan Stroisch
Dave Elgin
Scott and Family at the passing of Moses (Gerry Stahlberg's Nephew)