

Ripples



Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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JANUARY

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

– 2 Corinthians 5:17

From the Pastor's Desk

As we look to the year ahead - how many of you are filled with excitement and can't wait to see what the year is going to bring?

How many of you are in dread? How about somewhere in the middle?

We can really look at it two different ways, can't we?

We can approach this new year as it stretches ahead looking for new experiences and adventures. Looking for new friends to make and building old relations. Seeking fresh opportunities to serve Christ and grow to be more like Him.

Or... we can be bitter about the way things are going. Angry at the world because things are tough. Even afraid of what ever unknown thing is coming.

The choice is yours!

BUT... ..

God tells us in Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

As we enter the new year, the question is NOT what can I do for God? The better question is: What does God desire to accomplish in and through me this year?

I recently saw this quote, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Unknown).

Think about that for just a moment.

After considering that statement for a bit, I concluded that sometimes we want a complete do over in our lives, but really what happens is that we don't really start over; but we begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives.

As a believer in Christ, it is not about saying I will do this, and I won't do that and then falling short.

It is more about asking the Lord to help us each day, to fall into a deeper and deeper relationship with Him. This way our focus will be set on the things of heaven and not on all this earthly stuff.

If I were to make a New Year resolution, it would be to have a deeper commitment, a deeper love, and a deeper worship for the Lord.

He wants our undivided attention in spite of the distractions and temptations that are everywhere in the world around us.

How Intimate do we want to be with the lover of our soul?

That word scares most of us! It brings to mind all kinds of scary thoughts and squishy feelings!

I looked it up, and the meaning is to be close, familiar, very personal and private. Are you willing to get Closer to Jesus? How familiar are you with Him?

Do you desire an exciting new year this year? Are you looking for something New??

Then maybe all it will take is to build your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ!

If you feel stagnate in your relationship with the Lord, then now is the time to rekindle the love affair with Him. He calls us to Himself and says, "Come away my beloved." Can you hear Him? He is tugging at your heart.

So, this year, before you make any plans, or resolutions, maybe engage in some serious self-evaluation.

Look and see if there are some habits or practices that could be removed. Habits that compromise our walk with Christ. Doubts that keep us from using our gifts to fully

serve Him. And especially guilt and regret over past failures and sins.

Just a few verses after God promises to do new things, we see His promise to not only forgive our sins when we repent, but never think about them again. And neither should we.

Look and see if you need to build and strengthen some habits or practices! BUT as we look at our lives, don't forget two important facts:

God's love for us is dependent on His grace and not our performance. Scripture makes this very clear in Romans 5:8- God demonstrates his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. God's love for us was settled by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

And secondly, this life is not about what we can do for God, but what He can do in and through us. God does not need us (see Acts 17:25), but He still desires to use imperfect instruments like us to accomplish His God-sized purposes.

Happy New Year

Pastor Craig.

Feeding the Flathead

We served 32 to go meals on Monday, December 27th. With the cold night, they all enjoyed a hot meal of roasted herb chicken drumsticks and potatoes. We also served buttered green beans and homemade corn muffins and some mandarin oranges. Of course the hot chocolate hit the spot too. The guests are all very appreciative! As the numbers were down and we planned for 50-55, the police station gladly took the leftovers. They use it for their staff at night and give to those they encounter throughout that evening.

Thank you very much to my hubby Shelby for helping to carry the heavy pans down the stairs. He put together the trays while I served upstairs. I must say, John from Lakeside, who was in town, ministered to me about Jesus! He was overflowing with Joy!! What a blessing!

Our next service date is Monday, January 31st. (always last Monday of the month)

Will you please consider planning, shopping, cooking, and serving one month this year?

It would be great to have some new hands for this long standing and valued ministry!

To God be the Glory! Great things He has done!

With much appreciation to our congregation,

From Lori



Christian Ed Report

The Children's program is now getting back into the swing of things after this holiday season. We will begin meeting again on Sundays for Sunday School, following the service, and on Wednesday nights for our Kid's Club program. Everyone is welcome, and we hope to see you there!

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

January Featured Recipe:

*F*RIED WONTONS

<i>Cooking Oil</i>	<i>2 Cups Fresh Bean Sprouts</i>
<i>Garlic</i>	<i>1 TBSP Soy Sauce</i>
<i>Fresh Ginger Root</i>	<i>2 TBSP Molasses</i>
<i>2 Cups Pork, Chicken or Shrimp</i>	<i>1 TBSP Brown Sugar</i>
<i>1 Cup Celery or Cabbage</i>	<i>1-2 tsp Chinese 5 Spice Powder</i>
<i>6-8 Mushrooms</i>	<i>3 TBSP Cornstarch, dissolved in 4</i>
<i>6 Green Onions</i>	<i>TBSP water</i>
<i>½ White Onion</i>	<i>Wonton Wrappers</i>
<i>6 Water Chestnuts</i>	

Finely chop garlic, ginger root, pork, celery, mushrooms, onions, water chestnuts and bean sprouts. Use more, less or omit items as desired. Prepare all ingredients. Heat a small amount of oil in large pan or wok over medium-high heat. Add garlic and ginger root in pan for flavor—remove and toss. Cook meat, stirring frequently. Either add 5 spice powder to meat or dissolve with cornstarch when adding sauce. Add remaining chopped ingredients in order. Combine soy sauce, molasses, sugar, spice powder, cornstarch and water. Add to mixture until thickened and thoroughly combined, but do not overcook. Allow mixture to cool before assembling wontons. Fry wontons in hot oil until browned.

Carrie Taylor



Women's Missionary Federation

We had a wonderful time at our WMF Christmas party this year! We met on December 10th at Suzanne Tutvedt's home. There were approximately 18 women in attendance. We had a delicious potluck meal. Thank you to all who brought food. We revealed our prayer partners and had plenty of laughs with our white elephant gift exchange. We sang Christmas Carols, and a few women shared stories of memories past. It was such a wonderful uplifting time. Thank you to all the women who made it out and especially to Suzanne for opening her beautiful home to us. We hope to see you all next year.

After-School Program

We want to praise God for His ongoing provision for Stillwater's after School Ministry. We are grateful God has given us the opportunity to pour into the lives of 14 young people. We've witnessed wonderful growth & maturity not only in their physical life, but their spiritual life as well.

There are often 3-4 students vying for the prayer time & it's like listening to an acapella choir as they sing from memory the books of the bible.

Please continue to pray for not only the students, but the staff & helpers of this ministry that God has blessed us with.

Rachel has been working on the 10 commandments with the kids on Wednesday's & Sherri has been working on 1 Thess. 5:11 & the Christmas Story in the different gospels.

What a joy to watch as the kids are searching scripture with their little hands & describing what they just read.

Thank you to Karla Cartwright for your service & all the volunteers. We couldn't do it without you.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Scavo

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Happy new year everybody, one of my resolutions for this year was to make my newsletters longer, so buckle up, this is the only one I haven't broken yet (which is kind of sad because I'm technically still writing this in 2021). Ok, I won't actually make them longer, I don't know if there's enough trees around to cover all that paper, but I do want to talk about the idea of being made new to go along with the new year. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of the word restored? Maybe if you're a car person, the first thing you think of is something vintage or classic, like a '63 corvette or a moldy green '95 Kutlass Oldsmobile (that was my first car, but I'm not biased, most people would've put that on the list). If you're computer's always broken, like mine and Craig's, maybe you think of a software restoration. Jokes aside though, what really is the first thing we should think of when we hear that word? What makes us restored, who restores us? For the last two years I have been serving as Devotional Life Secretary on the FLY committee, (FLY stands for Free Lutheran Youth, we're not an airplane company), and our job is to plan the FLY convention, our Association's big youth camp every other year in Estes Park, Colorado at the YMCA of the Rockies. Unfortunately, this last year (2021) was supposed to be the summer of our camp, and we were forced to postpone due to cooties/covid restrictions. Our theme for 2021's convention, which we started planning in 2019, before any of this covid stuff had even come up, was Restored. God's plan is so great, and surpasses all worldly understanding, that we named it Restored before we even knew there was going to be a major necessity for a national restoration. The theme verse that goes along with the name is found in Revelation 21:5-7 and reads, "And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ⁶ And he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son'." Verse five hits it on the head when Jesus tells us that He is making all things new. As we head into a new year, it's easy to get caught up in the "new year new me" and "I'm seriously going to change" slogans, and there's nothing wrong with eating healthier or less screen time, those of course are good things. However, the most important restoration that we always need to be going through, is through Jesus, our Savior. He restored us when we came to Him, like He told Nicodemus, we are born again, we are new! We are also constantly restored when we lay down our sins before Jesus with a heart of repentance and contrition. When we seek forgiveness from Him, He restores us. If we are truly walking with Him, we are living under His restoration, and that is such an awesome covenant. Let me step off of my pulpit now, throw on some sweats, and get my youth pastor hat on, here's what's new!

There has also been lots of restoration going on in youth group, both spiritually and physically! We have been diving into the book of John head over sheepskin sandals, learning about John the Baptist paving the way for the ultimate restoration to take place, the Gospel coming to atone for our sins. We have also tried to restore the carpet in the youth room several times, but all the ground in cheese balls and loose push pins give it character (and also encourage people not to walk barefoot like hippies). In the month of December, we hosted regular 87 unleaded youth group, a three week fundraiser, a Christmas party, and a Christmas program! The youth all baked cookies for our cookie trays December 1st at youth group, and did a phenomenal job, I had to get all their autographs before the Food Network signed them. We then sold those cookies and many more that the congregation generously donated, the 5th-19th, and raised a total of \$578.22! Thank you to everybody who donated cookies and bought cookie trays, it really was like the entire congregation, so thank you all so, so much! December 15th was our end of the year youth group Christmas party, and we had 18 in attendance, though it kind of felt like 81, but in a good way! They played games, built/demolished gingerbread houses, had a gift exchange with their secret santas, and most importantly discussed what the true meaning of this holiday is! The other major event was our Sunday School Christmas program: *Chris-Myth Busters*. Eleven Sunday school students took part in the program and did a wonderful job memorizing all of their lines and portraying the reason for the season! They all played their parts well, and brought many tears out, I of course was just sweating from my eyes, but other people were crying, I'm sure. Youth group resumes on January 5th, after Christmas break, and confirmation resumes January 9th. If you are youth group age, or know of anyone who is, come find me, I'm not going anywhere, I'd love to have a talk with you/them and get them involved!

As I watch the different ministries here at Stillwater, it is definitely plain to see that there are people praying for them. Praying for the participants, the leaders, and the church as a whole, and I want to thank/encourage all those who do keep us in their prayer lives and walk with Jesus. Without the Lord, nothing is possible, but with Him, like Philippians 4:13 tells us, all things are. So, when we bring praises and requests before God, remember that this is our omniscient Savior who makes all of this a reality. Lets keep up the prayers and keep sharing Jesus Christ with our neighbors! Happy New year to all!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Building Committee Report

Proposed 2022 Project Plan

- Complete the kitchen including all electrical, plumbing and trim-out
Note: Plumbing is included in Matt's \$ 50K estimate, but not KEI electrical.
- Contact state and county for Health and Building Inspections before we can apply for Full Occupancy Permit. We are operating under a Partial Occupancy Permit now.
- Continue work on North Drive-Thru roof structure
Note: Matt's estimate of \$ 45K includes concrete pad, but not KEI electrical
- Install carpet tile in classrooms – Ken hopes to begin installation soon.
(Paid in Full)
- Install folding door in classrooms. (Need Estimate)
- Install wall carpet in activity center/gym. (Donated)
- Finish the floor at the North entry-way. (Estimate \$ 1K)
- Approve and implement Pastor's AV Plan for installation in activity center
Note: Council has agreed to pay this expense from the Memorial Fund, not Building Fund.
- Install Fire Alarm System
Note: Two estimates received to date – each is approximately \$10K.

- Develop a plan for improving acoustics in activity center.
Note: Two estimates received to date – each is approximately \$20K.
- Review and update Matt’s estimate for constructing Patio Roof.
- Revisit plan and cost for paving parking lot.
Note: Donor said first estimate of \$ 252K is too costly.
- Continue landscaping around our new building and extended property.
- Develop a plan for installing a lighted programmable sign along Church Drive South of new building. (Need Estimate)

Naming our new building will be on the agenda for the annual congregation meeting on January 23rd.

Pray that God will continue to bless our project with another successful year as we move closer toward completion. Additional fundraising will be required if we expect to complete the tasks listed above as our building fund is fast being depleted.

Respectfully submitted by 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
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

- Andrew West
- Isaac Saenz
- Aaron Burns

Health Concerns

Sylvan Herset
Joyce Banzet
Jeremy Hartle
Deb & Jonny (Timmerman)
Leo Gallis
Mike Horn
Stan Stroisch
J.J. (Mike Hirtes' supervisor)
Stephanie Reynolds: cancer (WGM Engineer)
Tammy Lucas: cancer (Elaine Lessor)
Elaine: cancer (Meyer's neighbor)