

# Ripples

## Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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**“Then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.”**

**– Leviticus 26:4**

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### The Transfer

Sherri and I sometimes watch the TV crime drama Law and Order. In this series, there is a fairly common theme where someone commits a crime (of course) and a family member or close friend confesses to doing it.

In this scenario, an innocent person with a good name, volunteers to take the place of the person who committed the crime.

Immediately, In the eyes of the law, all guilt and forthcoming punishment was placed on the one who confessed, and their total innocence was given to the one who was really guilty.

The guilt of the crime was transferred.

Did they deserve it? No!

Quite simply, the choice was made because of their love for the other. They did not want to see the person suffer.

Help was given, when no help was deserved, or really even asked for.

The Bible says, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends." (John 15:13).

This transfer of guilt for innocence, shame for honor, punishment for freedom, and yes - death for life is the most magnificent expression of love known to mankind.

And here's the greatest news of all - We are all beneficiaries of this great transfer!!!!

That's what Easter is all about! Showing us that God did indeed accept the transfer!

And here's something to think about:

When the Creator of all things, past, present, and future made the decision to rescue us - fallen mankind - He knew that there was only one sacrifice that would make the great transfer possible, His Son, His only Son Jesus.

God's love for us compelled Him to take action when we could not help ourselves. It is written,

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16).

The Bible tells us how that when Jesus was on trial, the crowd was given a choice to either let Him go free or the worst criminal & rebel Barabbas. They chose Barabbas, a man guilty of many crimes to go free. He was the first of us who was guilty of rebellion and many sins, to have his guilt transferred to Jesus, and the innocence of Jesus transferred to him.

The Bible says, "For He (God) has made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (Jesus)" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

God transferred our sin to Jesus on the cross and transferred His righteousness to us.

Incredible! What love!

As we accept this great transfer of love, we become as innocent, pure, and holy, in God's eyes, as Jesus. When God the Father transferred us into Jesus Christ, it was a sovereign act.

We didn't plan it, ask for it, or desire it. But like the guilty party when someone else confessed, Jesus Christ took our place. Just as we didn't deserve His righteousness, He didn't deserve our sin, guilt, shame, and punishment.

Yet, He took it. If He would do that for us, how much more so should we accept His offer of grace, mercy, and righteousness?

We who have accepted Him and know Him shall praise His name forever.

And for those who have not accepted Him, His nail-scarred hands, which should belong to you and me, reach out in love. He would say to you with a smile, "Come. Accept me. The great transfer has already been made."

Happy Easter!  
Pastor Craig

## *Feeding the Flathead*

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Bruce and I served Feeding the Flathead. It was a wonderful experience. The weather was perfect, and as usual, the folks were super nice and so appreciative of the meal.

We are still serving take out only. Bruce and I served from our car; it was very convenient.

The menu was: Hot Ham & Cheese Bunwiches, Fruit salad, a bag of chips, and Banana Cake Bars. 51 folks were served.

Praise God,  
Judy Hogan

## *After-School Program*

With spring break the month of March went by in a flash! The end is in sight, and it is very difficult to believe that we only have two and a half months left with these wonderful kids. They have soaked up so much Bible knowledge, and their memory is astounding. The first month of afterschool they learned about the book of Esther, and the other day we decided to do a surprise review for them without letting them prepare at all to see what they would remember. The details they could tell me was truly incredible and such a testament to the power of God's Word. Not a minute is wasted when you're in God's Word, and we plan to use all the time we have left to disciple these children of God.

Please continue to keep the students, staff & this ministry in your prayers.

Sherri Scavo & Rachel Timmerman

# *Christian Ed Report*



## **Kids Club! It's a Wrap!**

Wednesday, March 16 was our last night of Kids Club! for the 2021-2022 session. We worked together to review the first four commandments and answered fill in the blank questions about the Bible lessons we learned. Then it was time for BINGO, fellowship, and laughter.

We ended our evening saying "goodbye and God's speed" to Emily Hartle and Makynlee Meyer, as they "graduated" from Kids Club! and will join youth group in the fall.

**He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!**

Your Christian Education team will be hosting Easter Egg Hunts for the kids on Easter Sunday during our Easter brunch. Come enjoy some time of food and fellowship and see if the Easter Bunny makes an Encore appearance!

**Mark Your Calendar for VBS 2022!**

Vacation Bible School will be held here at Stillwater Lutheran Church on July 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 12 pm. This year's VBS is an Australian Theme - **Zoomerang** - Returning to the Value of Life. We are blessed to have a FLBC Summer Ministry Team coming to encourage believers, reach young people for the Lord, and make disciples of Jesus Christ through VBS!

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

## *April Featured Recipe:*

### *O*ATMEAL BREAD ---

*2 Packages Yeast*

*½ Cup Lukewarm Water*

*1½ Cup Scalded Milk*

*½ Cup Shortening*

*2 tsp Salt*

*½ Cup Molasses*

*4½ - 5 Cups Flour*

*2 Cups Oatmeal (uncooked)*

Mix together and bake at 375° for 40 minutes.

*Darlene Askvig*



## *Women's Missionary Federation*

We met on March 17<sup>th</sup> in the Activity Center. Gayle opened with devotions on John 18:36. Rachel then led us in our Bible Study titled “Behold God’s Ways”, thank you, Rachel. Our April Meeting will be at Hattie Stahlberg’s home with Judy Hogan as our co-host. Lori Switzer will lead our Bible Study titled, “Behold Christ’s Kingdom”, and Hattie will be doing devotions. This meeting will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 A.M.

There is a tree in the foyer with leaves on it with items still needed for the new kitchen. If you have any questions talk to Gayle or Sherri. If you can contribute any of these items, please put the money or check (made out to “Stillwater WMF”) in an envelope provided and note what item it is for. Every Friday morning we have a coffee get together just to visit and get to know other historic stories from individuals. This starts at 9:00 A.M. with no finish time scheduled. We have a ladies tea scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> of May from 12-2. There will be entertainment. We are scheduling a yard sale for the weekend of May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be tables set up for the different items like girls and boys clothing, baby, and household items, etc. in the Activity Center which will be open the week before. When you donate items, please put them on the designated tables instead of leaving them in boxes. Instead of pricing each item we will be doing free will donations. The sale is Friday and Saturday starting at 8 or 9. April 17<sup>th</sup> we will have a sunrise service at 7:00 A.M, and a regular service at 9:30, with a breakfast following served by the youth. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer, so please bring what you can. Our meeting adjourned and Elaine and Gayle served a very delicious lunch. Thank you, ladies!

Submitted by,  
Elaine Lessor: Secretary



# Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Hello to my favorite congregation with the name Stillwater located on Church Drive, congratulations on being first on that list, pretty prestigious! We can see the ground again, my whole driveway's a mud wrestling pit, and if you're going ice fishing right now, you better bring a dependable pair of floaties, so it must be April! With the new beautiful weather comes more opportunities to get outside and enjoy God's amazing creation! Once you're outside, enjoying said creation, you might run into what some people call, humans. These humans, who God created in His own perfect image, all have another wonderful thing, called opinion, and they all happen to have them, me included. Now this was a long way around the circle to get to what I'm talking about, but how do you witness to somebody who doesn't want to be witnessed to. One of the most effective ways obviously is by our actions. As Christians, as blunt as this sounds, we are the only people who have eternal hope, and because of that, our lives should reflect that hope and happiness. The cliché, "you preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips" is a cliché for a reason, people notice. Often times when we do this step of living out our faith, people will notice, and it can open doors to further conversations. My next point on how to witness to people who don't seem interested, is to keep that Christian mindset while talking. Have a conversation, not an argument. This is much, much easier said than done, but if somebody wants to get yelled at, they'll go and mess around in a Wal-Mart, people don't want to be scolded and proved wrong when you have a conversation about Jesus. In the book of 2 Timothy chapter two verses twenty-four and twenty-five, the Holy Spirit tells us, "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, <sup>25</sup> correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth." If we are going to teach and proclaim the kindness and faithfulness of Christ, then we have to show that when we witness. Do not be quarrelsome, endure evil, and show gentleness, and people will continue to see Christ! Speaking of never quarreling here's what's going on with the perfect (except when they're not) youth group.

During the month of March, we were able to meet four times, took off a week for spring break, and because of that Rachel and I were able to go and see Lake McGregor everyday, it was awesome (for those who don't get that joke, we live there). Through those four weeks, we had an average of eleven, and hope to keep growing that number as the

year goes on! The youth had one big event this month, our annual lock-in on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, which we invited our sister church Faith to, and had a total of 22 kids, thirteen from Stillwater and nine from Faith! Once we all locked them in the church, like the name says, Rachel and I took off and got the best sleep of our lives. Ok, maybe that's what I was dreaming about, but in reality, it was tons of fun (as long as you don't like sleep) and great fellowship for all. Faith provided us with worship for the evening, so a big thank you to Emily Herset and her crew for bringing all the wonderful kids from her youth group and leading us in some awesome worship. Another huge thank you to Darryl and Rose Askvig (who really are youth, in a good way), John Krickeberg, Danny and Sharon Wilhelm, and Tim Herset, who all volunteered part of their Friday night/Saturday morning to help out Rachel and myself! For the first time in the three years I've done this, we had help all around the clock, we pretty much just kicked back and let the helpers and Charlotte lead it! In terms of upcoming events, there's only two months left for normal youth group before we transition into summer group, with the last day being June 1<sup>st</sup>! FLY Beyond, which stands for Free Lutheran Youth, the kids don't actually learn to fly, is happening at the Association Retreat Center (ARC) in Osceola, WI July 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. We hope to take some youth over there and will start fundraising again soon, so let me know if you were about to throw some money away, we'd be happy to take out that garbage 😊. Continue to pray for every single one of the youth kids as the school year comes to an end, and for many, who will be entering high school, a new chapter begins!

I always try to dedicate this end paragraph to prayer because believe it or not, it's absolutely the strongest weapon we have! The fact that we can talk to the Creator of the universe whenever we want is amazing in and of itself, so let's take advantage of it, take everything to him in prayer. Since I ended that last sentence by saying "take everything to the Lord in prayer" you probably have that hymn stuck in your head, so I'll wrap this up so you can finish singing it. Be in prayer for this church family, this valley, this town, state, country, whatever you think could use the Lord's might, which really is everything, let us always keep prayer in the front of our minds and life! Have a wonderful April!

God Bless,  
Bryce Timmerman

# *Building Committee Report*

**Matt has resumed work on the north drive-thru portico and, as of this report, it is well on the way to completion. I hope to have Matt's estimate next week for constructing the patio roof, and we hope he can begin work on that soon thereafter. As for landscaping, Early will return June 20 and at that time she will place and seal the boulders. She said we should feel free to plant whatever we like at the entrances. I suggest the trustees/council develop a plan for landscaping the church property! In relation to that there are several piles of dirt that need to be removed, but for now we need to keep the topsoil.**

## **Activity Center Acoustics**

**Several members of the congregation have said we should make this a priority with our project. I have been researching this subject for quite some time along with two local sound engineers. They both agree by adding 4' x 8' sound panels on each side of the 16 ceiling lights will make a significant improvement in the acoustics. I have been collaborating with a company in Tampa Florida (AcoustiMac) that makes these panels, excellent quality and just what we need. Customer reviews give them a Five Star rating for their products and services. Our cost for the 32 panels is \$ 10K. Matt's estimate to install them is \$ 8K. This is \$ 7K less than the first estimate we received. We have the funds! We will have samples of the core material and fabric in the church office very soon. The recommendation is to go with Khaki 2 as the fabric color as it will be a good contrast to the beams in the activity center.**

**Thank you for your continued prayers and support and as always please contact me with questions or concerns relating to the overall project.**

**Respectfully submitted by Ed Van Scoten**

# Prayers for April

*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  
Switzer Family at the passing of Lori's Mom  
Military and First Responders

- Andrew West
- Isaac Saenz
- David Bruyer (Askvig)
- Thomas Tow
- Aaron Burns

## Health Concerns

Sylvan Herset  
Joyce Banzet  
Jeremy Hartle  
Deb & Jonny (Timmerman)  
Leo Gallis  
Mike Horn  
Stan Stroisch  
Stephanie Reynolds: cancer (WGM Engineer)  
Michael Poston (Linda McGrew)  
Margaret Triplett (Hersets)  
Justin Gronley (Joel and Cody Bartholomew's son)  
Roy Scivally (Stantons)  
Betsy Nelson (Elgins)