

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; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

-Psalm 39:13-14

From the Pastor's Desk

As we enter into May, we all start thinking about summer, and the activities that are going to take place, and most of all, we start thinking about the warmth and sun!

With that thought in mind - I want to encourage you to also remember the Son!

Let's face it - we are all busy, and all too often, we allow our busy schedules to take president over our Lord and Savior.

We are reminded multiple times in the Bible that that is exactly what happened to the Nation of Israel - multiple times - and as a result they were carried off into captivity.

The Prophet Jeremiah pleaded with the nation to turn from their wicked ways - or they were going to reap what they sowed!

And it wasn't as if a light switch was flipped. No - there was a gradual, and steady movement away from the teachings of God!

In fact, the people thought they were doing great!

But we know that wasn't the case! And if we take an honest look around us, I wonder how many people think they are doing just great - but are really walking that wide smooth road that leads to damnation?

Jeremiah pleaded with the people of Israel, and he pleads with us today: Thus says the Lord: Stand by the crossroads, and look, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." But they said, "We will not walk in it." (Jer. 6:16).

Several important truths come from this exhortation.

The first thing to note is "Thus says the Lord." This means we

1) Listen, which reflects a belief that God communicates with us. If we want to know God's will for our life or in a particular situation, first we need to believe God is willing and able to communicate with us. God's will speak to us through the Bible, prayer, other people, even through God's creation. In Jeremiah, "Thus says the Lord," announces to us that what follows is very important for us to hear.

2) Stand implies we Stop and reflect. Most accidents that happen at intersections occur because someone is speeding or fails to stop at a red light. In the city, the joke is: Green means go, yellow means go faster, and red means proceed with caution.

When we find ourselves at a crossroads, we are at a place of decision, a moment when our future will be shaped by the direction in which we go. When we're at crossroads the thing to do is to stop and reflect and not to rush forward as fast as we can.

3) Looking implies Gathering Information. God says when we're at the crossroads we are to look as far as we can down the different roads which is a way of saying, we are to gather as much information as we can about the consequences of our decision. "The road is wet, there is a car coming quickly, I wonder what will happen if I pull out in front of it?" What are the likely results of going in each direction we might take? What will I think about this ten or even twenty years from now? Often times we don't look far enough down the road before we make a decision. Sometimes we cannot foresee all the possibilities, opportunities, or dangers that a certain way holds for us. That is why the next step is vital.

4) Ask for the ancient paths where the good way lies. Looking implies our action; we are doing the looking and using our powers of vision and discernment to help ourselves. Asking means seeking direction and guidance. Asking implies we are going beyond our own abilities, seeking the Lord's guidance. Asking implies we are humble enough to recognize there is wisdom beyond ourselves in God and in other people that may benefit us as we seek God's will for our lives. Sometimes we can stubbornly persist in going in a certain direction no matter what because we're so sure we're right, and we don't listen to God or anyone else.

5) While we live in a culture that worships at the altar of the new, the latest, and the cutting edge, Jeremiah invites us to ask for the ancient paths where the good way lies. The good way is not one that is hidden or obscured although it may not always be easy.

It wasn't easy for Jeremiah. The message God gave him to preach was a hard one that condemned religious and political leaders as well as the people for their disobedience, corruption, and worship of other gods.

Jeremiah struggled with God, cried all the time, was put on trial by his people, had the scrolls with his prophetic words burned, and he endured opposition right up to the end of his life.

Jesus even tells us (Matthew 7:13-14): Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow & the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

6) God tells us - Ask for the ancient paths where the good way lies and "Walk in it." Once we have looked and listened and received instruction and guidance then it is up to us to Take action, to take responsibility for the direction of our life. Jeremiah reminds us of our own responsibility for our fate. He warns the people of his time and they refuse to listen. They looked to blame their enemies, God, even the prophet himself, anyone but themselves. Unwilling to hear, they were heading toward catastrophe.

7) The Result of listening to the Lord, standing and reflecting, looking and gathering information, asking for direction and guidance, and then taking action is when we will "Find rest for our souls." This is similar to when Jesus invites us to himself saying, "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Sadly, Jeremiah's people would not follow this advice and they paid dearly for taking the wrong path at the crossroads. God knows we all take wrong turns. We end up at dead ends or in a bad part of town and wonder how we got there or if we'll ever get out. God's grace is so great - that even when we are disobedient, God keeps trying to speak to us and to direct us on the right path!

When God's people failed to listen, God ultimately sent Jesus to make the way plain. Jesus called people who didn't follow God's ancient, good path "lost." Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He came to help us find and stay on God's good path that leads to joy and abundant life.

It seems to me you can tell by the way people are living that many are unsure of where they are going or don't know where they want to go; that they are in several senses of the word, lost. Many people seem to be accelerating down the road to nowhere at faster and faster speeds,

forgetting that if we're lost, going faster only gets us further away from where we need to be.

It has always been and always will be the role of Christians and churches to help those who are lost to find their way to Jesus and life. Those of us who are unsure of what God wants us to do, those of us who are unsure which road to take, may need to humble ourselves and stop and ask God for directions.

God will not send us in the wrong direction!

Do you know where you're going? Where do you want to go?

As we enter into spring - let's not forget to keep Jesus as a guiding light!

God Bless.

Feeding the Flathead

Hats off to Karen and Ed Van Scoten for planning, shopping, cooking and serving the meal to our grateful guests on Monday, April 25th!

As Karen said, " this was out of their comfort zone", especially if you haven't served in this way, but praise be to God for allowing them to do this service and enjoy it too! They served 54 meals to families from two years old to seniors who are definitely appreciative.

The menu was sloppy joes with cheese, fresh carrot sticks, chips and homemade cookies and water. Many thanks to Vicki W., Darlene A., and Judy K., for sharing your baking skills with the recipients for Feeding the Flathead.

It's just wonderful to have others from the congregation step up to help! Thanks Sherri with your lists!!

We will continue to hold this important ministry up in prayer.

Thank you everyone!

Our next evening to serve is Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th. Shelby and I plan to cook for this one.

Serving Jesus by serving others,
from Lori

After-School Program

You can tell that the weather has changed since the students are coming every day now asking when we can get outside and working very hard to convince us that it is not too windy, and therefore they do not need jackets. Many of them are participating in spring sports and one family is expecting a new baby! So, our numbers have dwindled slightly, but there are still enough rambunctious kiddos to keep us on our toes. We have been reading a new Bible Story book, and they are loving it. They are glued to every word as the amazing stories from the Bible come to life for them. We will forever be so thankful and indebted to all of our helpers, snack providers, and bus drivers. Thank you all for all you do!

Sherri Scavo & Rachel Timmerman

Christian Ed Report

Mark Your Calendars for VBS 2022!!

A Sanctity of Life VBS: Returning to the Value of Life



July 25th – 29th

9:00am – 12:00pm

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

May Featured Recipe:

ANGEL PIE

*1 Large Package Marshmallows
1 Cup Milk
1 Large Can Crushed Pineapple,
Strained*

*½ Pint Whipping Cream
Graham Crackers*

Dissolve marshmallows in milk in double boiler until melted. Crush the graham crackers and cover the bottom of a 9x13 pan, reserving some for topping. Whip the cream and fold with pineapple into the melted marshmallows. Pour onto graham cracker crust and sprinkle a little more graham crackers on top. Refrigerate for 6-8 hours and enjoy!

*Jeanette Bray
Grandma Charles (in memory)*



Women's Missionary Federation

We met on April 21st at Hattie Stahlberg's home. There were 14 women present. Hattie opened with devotions, and Lori did our Bible Study titled "Behold Christ's Kingdom". Judy gave the treasurer's report. \$729 from the WMF Pancake breakfast went to the national WMF. The balance in the bank is \$681.50. General fund this month is to help all members of WMF. We went over a few prayer requests: Travel safety for Joe, Bryce, and Rachel, Ronna's daughter, Joanne leaving for Uganda, Bob Stanton in the hospital, Justin Gronley in Colorado, Mike Horn-cancer, Julie Brubaker assisting Leo, Josie, Bryce's Mom, Bob King-surgery, and Gunner and family. Sherri prayed for all of the problems of our family, both medical and emotional problems.

Please protect all who were mentioned.

Easter Breakfast was a great success. Thank you to the youth group for serving. We discussed our women's tea on Saturday, May 7th from 12-2. Please try to attend and bring a guest. We will be having our yard sale on May 20th and 21st. If you are bringing items, please put them on designated tables as we will be getting donations instead of pricing each individual item. Elaine will start on Friday morning with Susan Shea helping. Other women are encouraged to help also. We will start between 8 and 8:30 and go until 4 PM. You can drop off items during the week. The doors will be open after 9 AM until 5 PM.

Next month's meeting will be in the Activity Center on May 19th at 10 AM. Judy Karboski will be our host and Rachel T. will be our co-host. Darlene will have our Bible Study titled "Behold the Just One", and Sherri will have devotions. Hattie and Judy Hogan served a very delicious lunch. Thank you, Hattie, for opening your beautiful home for our meeting. Hope to see all of you next meeting.

Submitted by, Elaine Lessor: Secretary

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Welcome to the beautiful month of May everybody, glad you could join me (unless you haven't turned your calendar). I was just in North Dakota, or as some call it the promised land, about a week ago, and instead of milk and honey, they got snow and snow. After having to snowshoe to my parents igloo, I was very thankful for this tropical Kalispell weather! Not only does the weather always get nicer in May, but there's always so many fun holidays for everyone – Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Star Wars Day (May the fourth be with you), and the day where they celebrate all the sinkholes (Sinkhole De Mayo). Times are obviously busy, but when we think about it, aren't all times busy. Certain aspects of a "full plate" can go in waves, but as people in society and community, there's always something going on. I have talked about this a lot in previous newsletters and sermons, but lately I have felt a spiritual conviction of lacking devotion time, and more often than not, I blame "busyness" for that. Now that's simply an excuse, because, as I just mentioned, realistically, we're always going to be busy, but if our devotion and personal growth time are truly a priority, we can work around it. As Christians, we are called to go and be fishers of men, disciples to the nations, but how can we properly do that if we're not taking the time to grow ourselves. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Matthew 6:33a tells us, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," and we see examples throughout the Gospels where Jesus would withdraw from places to go and pray and be with God. To wrap up this mini sermon (no, this doesn't count as going to church), let us not forget to listen to God's instruction and simply spend time with Him. When we grow spiritually ourselves, then we can help others grow spiritually as well! SPEND TIME IN HIS WORD, ok now I'm done yelling, here's what youth ministry look like at Stillwater right now!

Over the last month, we have enjoyed an average of eleven kids every Wednesday night and have been able to participate/help out with a couple different events. In terms of weekly youth group, we are still studying the book of John, and by this point, I would say the teens are definitely smarter than the Pharisees, they at least know the difference between John the Baptist and Jesus, so if you know of any temple openings where they're looking for some new priests, the youth kids are ready. Normal youth group, or as normal as we get at least, will finish up June 1st, with summer group happening starting a couple weeks after. The different events the youth got to partake in started with serving Easter breakfast on you'll never guess what day, yup, you nailed it, Sunday. After Easter service, a few youth served some delicious egg bakes, and what I believe people call, fruit, to about a hundred people who came to celebrate the

resurrection of our almighty Savior! An Easter egg hunt was also provided for them afterwards, thank you very much Christian Ed board, and I'm pretty sure you could probably still find some eggs in the sanctuary if you wanted. A short four days later, Rachel, Charlotte, and I took our very own, Joe Karboski, to the AFLC's school (Free Lutheran Bible College) in Plymouth, MN for a campus tour! Campus Days is what the school calls it, and it's a time for high schoolers to check out the facilities and what school there would be like. The four of us were able to rent a car (I'm not sure my truck would've made it to Columbia Falls) and drove all the way Thursday and Friday and drove back Sunday and Monday. It felt like there was about 28 minutes where we weren't in a vehicle, but it was a wonderful time had by all, and a great experience for Joe! The youth group has many upcoming events during the month of May, mostly fundraisers, but other fun outreach activities as well where we're not just asking for your money. We will be handing out May Day baskets out to different people on May Day, shocker we picked that day to do it, and I would like to add a big thank you to Karen Hartle for making the baskets and driving us around as well. Our upcoming fundraiser events include splitting firewood to sell to whoever needs some on May 14th and selling hot dogs and snacks at the church rummage sale May 21st. We have two camps this summer, FLY Beyond at the ARC in Osceloa, WI July 17th-21st, and our own joint camp with our sister church Faith in Buffalo, WY in early August. I know I just about preached a whole book about busyness right before this, but this is the good kind, where we get to grow as a youth group, both spiritually and together, praise God for all these opportunities we have!

Please continue to be in prayer for all of our young people, not only in this congregation, but the community, nation, and world as well. It's crazy to think about, especially since I still haven't grown up yet, but these teens and young adults truly are the future of Christianity and this country, and right now it feels like the prince of darkness is moving more and more every day. So, join me in prayer for the youth and all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, that they would hold fast to the Word of God, and be true lights for these next generations. Have a blessed month and don't forget what our calling as Christians is, happy May!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Building Committee Report

Matt's work on the North Drive-Thru Portico has now been completed. When weather permits Hagestad will paint the rafters white to match the Eastside entry. He has been swamped with work so not sure when this will happen. The rain gutters have now been installed. Kalispell Electric will install the lights after the painting is completed. The acoustical ceiling panels for the activity center have been ordered, 28 in number, 4 ft. by 8 ft. by 2 inch in size. The lead time for delivery is 3-4 weeks. Matt will install these. Rachel has samples of the EcoCore insulation and the DMD khaki2 color fabric that the panels will be wrapped in.

Matt's latest estimate for constructing the patio roof is \$ 100K. The cost of materials has increased dramatically, some as much as double and triple since his original estimate of two years ago. The funds have been promised for this last phase of the building project! He is not sure when he can begin work because of his present workload and the fact that he has recently lost two of his crew. Matt's estimate does not include Kalispell Electric estimate which was \$ 5,019.00 in March 2020. I am sure with increased material costs this estimate has increased also. We can reduce these overall expenses if Rick Martinez and his volunteers are available and willing to install the metal roofing. As always thanks for your prayers and support and feel free to contact me with questions or concerns relating to our building project.

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 Youth Group
Stillwater & National WMF
Feeding the Flathead
After School Program
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship



General Prayers

Marriages and Families
Our Country and Leaders
Workers in the Harvest Field
Military and First Responders

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

Health Concerns

Sylvan Herset
Joyce Banzet
Jeremy Hartle
Leo Gallis
Mike Horn
Stan Stroisch
Stephanie Reynolds: cancer (WGM Engineer)
Michael Poston (Linda McGrew)
Justin Gronley (Joel and Cody Bartholomew's son)
Betsy Nelson (Elgins)
Ed & Shirley Poe
Jeanette Bray
John and Karla West
John Farhang (Ed and Karen)