

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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The word "June" is written in a large, purple, cursive font. The letter 'J' has a blue swirl above it, the 'u' has a yellow swirl above it, and the 'e' has a green swirl below it. A long, green, wavy line underlines the entire word.

“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.”

-Psalm 103:13

From the Pastor's Desk

Pentecost Sunday is June 5th this year. Pentecost is 50 days after Easter and marks the beginning of the Christian Church.

Its origin is rooted in the Feast of the Weeks (Leviticus 23:15-21). It's the time on the Christian calendar when the Church observes the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Pentecost event, recorded in the Book of Acts 2, and the period that follows are vivid reminders of the role of the church.

On the day of Pentecost, people gathered from a wide variety of places. They are "all together in one place" (Acts 2:1). Then, the Holy Spirit descends, spreads through the crowd, and those assembled begin speaking in different languages, as the Spirit gives them ability.

Scripture tells us that about 3,000 people put their faith in Jesus Christ that day. But what happens after they accept Christ and join the church? The Pentecost event and the surrounding season can serve as a reminder for Christians.

First, this early religious community is worshipping the Lord. There's a sense of awe among the faithful in the fellowship because of God's holy influence on their souls. We see that they "believed," "spent much time together in the temple," and they are "praising God" (Acts 2:43).

They're worshippers! Scripture describes expressive types of worship, but ultimately, worship comes directly from the heart.

John 4:23-24 tells us: "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

God is looking for worshippers who sincerely love him and are not "fair-weather" worshippers. God is looking for authentic

worshippers, who will give praises throughout all the changes and variations of life.

Second, the Pentecost account demonstrates that the Holy Spirit empowers the Church to use its resources to meet the needs of its community.

The Church testifies to a spirit of commonness.

"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds[a] to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home[b] and ate their food with glad and generous[c] hearts" (Acts 2:44-46).

The activities surrounding Pentecost can bring to mind the local church's mission to consider and meet the needs of its neighborhoods.

And third, Pentecost calls attention to the church as an evangelistic community.

The days following Pentecost do not explicitly reference evangelism. However, it's implied: "And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47b).

Unlike Peter's message earlier (Acts 2:14-36), verses 43-47 do not mention a preacher or a sermon. And yet, day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Without diminishing the pastor's job of preaching and teaching the Word, evangelism is the spreading of the Gospel by public preaching or personal witness.

The implication in the text is that folks witnessed the manifestation of the Holy Spirit at work. The community of believers "were together" and "had all things in common."

Folks outside the community watched those in the community make sacrifices for one another and provide for others' needs. They witnessed the community enjoying the heartfelt and genuine

fellowship of each other as well as praising God and enjoying "the goodwill of all the people" (Acts 2:47).

And because of what they witnessed from outside the community, they wanted to join the community.

They wanted to know about this Jesus Christ, who can change hearts and minds.

They wanted to join this Christianity movement. It is true that, sometimes, "action speaks louder than words," and there are times when "it's better to see a sermon than hear one."

It's the witness of the church that can draw people to the church. In case we have forgotten, Pentecost can remind us that we are the church.

Happy Summer!

Feeding the Flathead

On Memorial Day, Sharon W., Shelby, and I served 45 to go meals. We made Cheeseburgers with lettuce and tomato, cubed watermelon, homemade potato salad, and a cookie. We also had lemonade. The guests were very appreciative and enjoyed the meal! They are a Joy to serve!

Many thank yous to Vicki W., Rose A., and Elaine L., for making delicious potato salad!

Also the cookie makers, Judy K., Meri, and Amber, Thank you All! Your contributions are such a great addition to our service, many hands do make light and fun work!

How wonderful that Sharon W., could come and help hand out meals, her smiles and welcoming spirit were enjoyed by all, Thank you very much, Sharon! Naomi came by on her bike, and we talked about how long this ministry has been around; over thirty years!! How great is that. God has blessed us all by working to aid others!

Our next date to serve is Monday, June 27th.

Sincerely,

Lori

Mark Your Calendars for VBS 2022!

Zoomerang

Returning to the Value of Life

July 25th – 29th 9:00am – 12:00pm

We are blessed to have FLBC Joshua Team Members- **Vicky Dávalos, Katie Strommen, Matthew Helland** and **Soren Grotberg** lead our VBS this summer. With the team here, our congregation is responsible to provide housing, meals, (typically lunch and dinner) and some Kalispell sightseeing and hospitality! Thank you to Darryl and Rose Askvig for opening their home and housing the team for the week. In the next few weeks, your Christian Education team members will be looking to fill these needs.

⇒ Ways that you can help -

- Provide a meal, whether at your home, at church or at a local restaurant.
- Host the team on an outing in the afternoon after VBS or in the evening.
- Make a difference in a child's life, be a volunteer during VBS.

- Prayer.
 - Pray for the team as they travel this summer.
 - Pray for our church that we can be a light shining Jesus' love and compassion to others.
 - Pray for the children and their families that will come to Stillwater during VBS.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration to our needs.

Serving Him,

Kim Clarke, Marie Harris, Karen Hartle, Karen Van Scoten

After-School Program

The month of May showed us again how flexible the children are as they saw another changing of the guards in leaders. The children have been learning Philippians 4:13 this month, and they can each find it in the Bible and recite it perfectly! They continue to show great interest in the Bible stories being read each day. It is a joy to see the genuine eagerness and interest when the story book comes out! We learned about the Great Shepherd the other day, and it brought tears to our eyes as we looked at each of the children's faces knowing they are so loved by our Lord!

We've all been so thankful for the windy but nicer weather that has allowed us to get outside and enjoy God's creation and develop our friendships. We are quickly closing in on the last days of school and you can feel the excitement and readiness in the children. It has been such a privilege to bring the Word of God to these precious little ones.

As always, a huge thank you to a gracious volunteers Lavonne, Judy K, Lori S, Karen B, Linda M and Susan S. You're helping hands in all areas have been such a blessing!

Please continue to keep the staff, this ministry and especially each of these precious souls in your prayers.

Ashley Dieterich and Rachel Timmerman

Cookbooks are still available!
See Rachel T to get yours
\$5.00 each and all proceeds go to the
Activity Center

June Featured Recipe:

*L*EMON BARS

Crust:

1 ¾ Cups Flour
1 Cup Butter

⅓ Cup Powdered Sugar
Lemon Zest (optional)

Mix flour, butter and powdered sugar. May add lemon zest for additional lemon flavor, but is not necessary. Press into 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes or until lightly browned.

Filling:

4 Jumbo Eggs
2 Cups Sugar
½ Cup Fresh Lemon Juice

¼ Cup Flour
½ tsp Baking Powder

Beat together eggs, sugar and lemon juice. Add flour and baking powder. Pour egg mixture over hot crust and bake at 350° another 25 minutes. Sprinkle lightly with powdered sugar to serve.

Julie Hanson
Norma Hanson (in memory)



Women's Missionary Federation

We met on May 19th and opened with prayer. Judy gave the treasurer's report. We have \$353.09 in the bank, and our offering this month goes to World Missions. Any money we receive from funerals will be kept in a separate account to fund future funerals. The funds we receive from the rummage sale will be going to Joel and Cody Bartholomew's family and to Justin. We discussed future events. The 29th will be a movie night, please try to attend. The 12th of June the graduation quilts will be presented to our 3 graduates: Haylee Meyer, Gretchen Wilhem, and Joe Karboski. Congratulations to the three graduates! Anyone wanting to purchase cookbooks, they are now \$5.00! Pastor Craig, Sherri, Bryce, and Rachel will be gone starting the 12th of June to go to annual conference. The office will be closed. Vacation Bible School will be July 25th - 29th. We need volunteers to provide meals for the VBS team. There are 4 students coming. Judy and Rachel served a very delicious lunch. We did not have Bible Study as we were getting ready for our rummage sale. We will do both Bible Study 5 and 6 at the next meeting, on June 16th. Darlene will be our host and Neila our co-host. Judy Hogan will have devotions, and Neila will do our Bible Study.

Submitted by, Elaine Lessor: Secretary

NATIONAL WMF

1 Thessalonians 5:17. Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.

I have just come from Wednesday morning coffee at the church. There were around 12 of us there, sitting around 1 table drinking coffee and we grabbed hands and prayed for one of our regular gals who couldn't be with us due to a new cancer diagnosis. During our seated prayer, a 62 year old gal passed out and was leaning on the shoulder of next gal. We called 911, and she slowly became alert but was sweaty and clammy and was taken to the hospital. It is such a vivid picture to me that she didn't fall on the ground, or pass out driving in her car, or fall from the sewing machine where she had previously been working, sewing quilts for missions. She fell into our huddled hands of prayer and she is always in God's hands. We are concerned but we are trusting the Lord who she loves to watch over her. And that is what the WMF is about. Women ministering faithfully, through the word and missions and fellowship. Lord, we pray that our WMF Day brings you glory and we definitely join our hand in prayer as we turn our WMF Day into Your Hands. Thank you for this Board who believes in the power of prayer. Thank you Lord for your faithfulness to the WMF. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

- Margie Lee

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

The month of June is here, so after lots of prayerful consideration, and deep thought, I have decided to take the snow plow off of our four-wheeler, my apologies if it snows in the next couple days. Overall, this upcoming season is an exciting time for all, ministry and life-wise. For most of us, I'm sure the summer consists of family vacations, summer camps, weekend activities, and third degree sunburns the first day it's nice because we've had a whole year to forget about how uncomfortable bathing in aloe vera is. All the different activities we're blessed to be able to do are wonderful, but when we're doing these things, are we being good stewards? For those who don't have a dictionary in their pocket at the time of reading this, the technical definition of stewardship is the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving. In youth pastor terms, stewardship is being responsible and fruitful with the gifts and blessings God has given us. When we go camping, are we being good caretakers of this beautiful earth He's allowed us to roam? Are we using our spiritual gifts for the glory of God and the furthering of the Kingdom? We can look at this idea in all facets of our lives, spiritually, financially, even physically, for just a few examples. The first step, I believe, is realizing the countless blessings that He gives us, and you can plug those examples I just stated in the previous sentence here, good health, a bonus check, whatever it may be. If we're taking for granted the gifts that He gives us, then we're probably not going to show stewardship over those gifts. In my life, it's definitely an underrated attribute that I need to prioritize more. So, for this month's encouragement, I encourage you to join me and grow in the area of stewardship, let's be Godly, responsible stewards with the endless gifts God has given us!

If you're still awake by this point of reading, congratulations, and as a reward, I'll tell you what the best, rowdy youth kids on this side of the Flathead have been up to! The past month for the youth group has been full of exciting opportunities and activities, ranging from making advertisements with items from the garage sale (you'll have to ask me for the videos, those kids sure know how to sell finger splints) to splitting wood and selling hot dogs – two separate events. For two different outreach projects, we hosted a National Day of Prayer gathering on the National Day of Prayer, I know crazy, and secondly, cooked a meal for Intervarsity's Bible camp in Bigfork. We had a decent turnout for both, and on each occasion, nobody got any sort of food poisoning from either, so major success there! Most importantly though, it was great to see the youth serving others! The youth also had two

different fundraisers in the month of May to save up for our camps we have this upcoming summer/fall. On Saturday, the 14th, the youth came out to our house on McGregor to get in a fight with a log, also known as wood splitting. We had a large ponderosa break up with itself last November when the wind was moving faster than my mouth, and had about fifty feet of tree, brush, and branch all over the place, but after the youth split it all, we ended up with about three cords of firewood! We were able to sell all three cords in two days for just under \$400, praise God! For the second fundraiser, five of the youth sold hot dogs, chips, candy bars, cookies, and drinks at our church rummage sale! As mentioned previously, the youth have two camps this summer – FLY Beyond in Osceola, WI, and our own retreat with our sister church Faith at the Spear O' Wigwam resort in Buffalo, WY. Please pray for safety and good attendance for both! As we look towards summer, our last “school year youth group” will be June 1st, and summer group will start on the 22nd. Other news rounding out the school year is that two of our own youth have done something I’m still working on, graduated high school! A big congratulations to Joe Karboski and Hunter Waltman as they prepare for the next chapter of serving God in their lives! With summer group starting soon, which is just activities every other week for those who don’t know, if you know somebody who would like to join a youth group or is interested in what we do, let me know, I’d love to talk to them!

The seasons are obviously changing, and life always is as well, but one constant is the power of prayer and our Savior who hears every single one offered up to Him. Please join me in prayer for all of the graduates this year, as they prepare for a new chapter of life in a very sin-accepting world, pray that they will always remember and see the lamp at their feet and the light to their path. Pray for the youth group as they embark on camps and adventures this summer, for growing in their faith, comradery, safety, anything you can think of. As mentioned, we live in a dark world, that has permanently been tainted by sin, but we serve the God who already defeated sin and darkness, all we need to do is trust in Him, and He will handle what we can’t! Have a wonderful June everybody, don’t forget that sunscreen exists, and never cease praying!

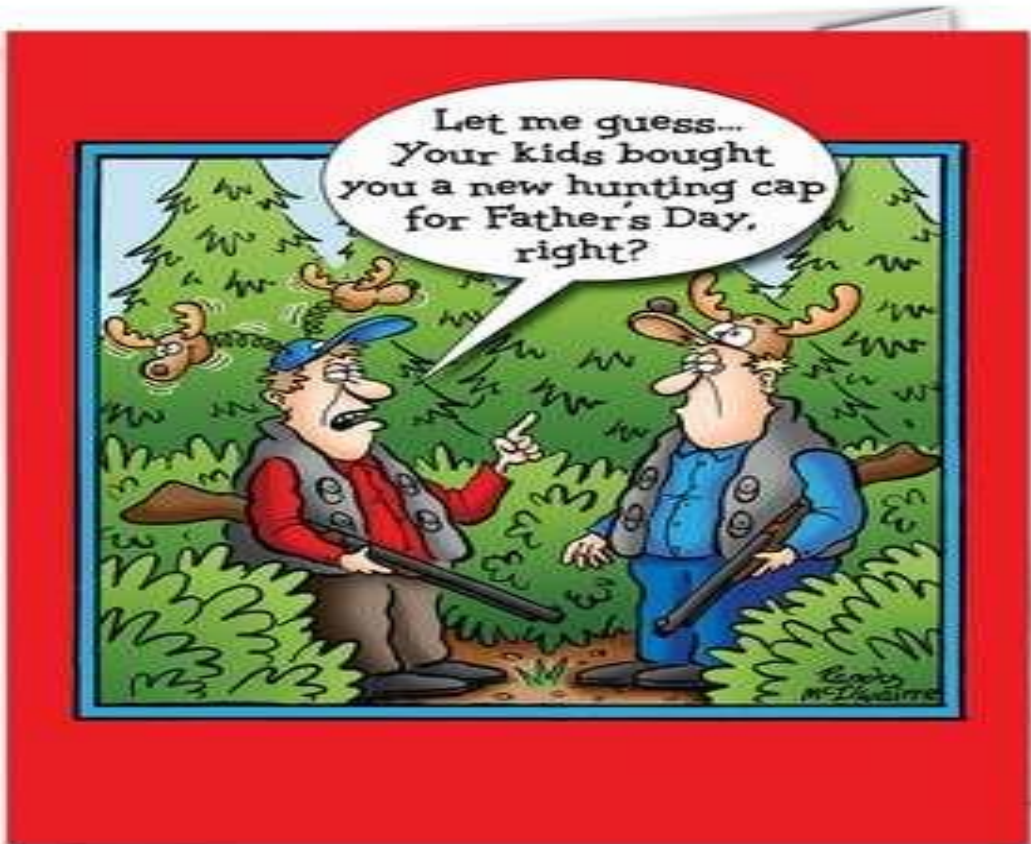
God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Building Committee Report

The work on the North Drive-Thru Portico is completed except for painting which is now in process by Hagestad and should be finished in the next few days. Early is scheduled to return to Kalispell June 20, at which time she hopes to set in place the boulders around the activity center. Matt also hopes to begin installing the acoustical ceiling panels sometime this month. I am in the process of revisiting the subject of adding two RV hook-ups which was discussed more than a year ago.

As always, thanks for your prayers and support.

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
The Gideons



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
Stan Stroisch
Michael Poston (Linda McGrew)
Justin Gronley (Joel and Cody Bartholomew's son)
Ed & Shirley Poe
Jeanette Bray
John and Karla West
John Farhang (Ed and Karen)
Bob King (Elaine Lessor)
Michael Bray