

# Ripples

## Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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**“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people who He has chosen for His own inheritance.”**

**-Psalm 33:12**

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

It seems that Summer is finally Here!

I was up at Tally Lake this last weekend with my kids and grandkids - it was an absolute blast!!! Took my boat out for the first time this year!

I got into a conversation with a couple who were putting their boat in for the first time also. We talked about how it seemed like a long cold, gloomy, grey winter and Spring, and how grateful they were that the sun was finally out! I had to agree!

But as I was contemplating this article, I realized that the long, cold, gloomy grey winter and spring - reflect the condition of the world without Christ!

And, as we look to the warmth and brightness of the Summer, that reflects the world with Christ!

So, as we begin our time in the summer sun, I want to remind you what Jesus told us in Matthew 5:14-16 - "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Our "Being a light" is our example to the world. It is not to enlighten or teach. It is to merely make others able to see. We cannot do the seeing for them!

It is important to note that in the darkness even a little light can be enough to see by! The question we must ask is, "What is it that others see when they watch us"? Is it the

light of the world? Or the Light of the Savior shining through us?

John Chrysostom (345-407AD), Known as the "Golden Mouthed" teacher said, we must be careful of our "walk and conversation" – because others will certainly be watching. No matter what the world thinks, the Gospel light cannot be hidden.

We are to let our light shine naturally in all we do. Our "light" is to shine so the world will know how great God is, not what great Christians we are.

We don't need to shove the light in the faces of others. It isn't a religious exercise. It is to show the world the glory of God.

But sometimes the things of this world and the desires of the flesh block our illumination! That is when we cover our light with a basket. But notice; you can't put a basket over the light unless the basket is empty.

And, the "things of this world" are just empty promises, with no substance! But Jesus and His light bring true freedom and happiness!

So, as we begin our Summer festivities, let me point out 2 things to help us keep our lights shining through the darkness of the world around us!

First: Remember to keep an attitude of reliance and trust in Jesus as we go about our activities!

Matthew 8:23-27 gives us an account of the Disciples crossing the sea when a storm came upon them. It might help for us to remember that the Disciples were fishermen. They knew boats, they knew the sea, and they knew what they were doing.

And yet the text tells us that the disciples were scared. Even after seeing the Miracles that Jesus had performed in their midst and being with Him and hearing His teaching they were afraid!

The issue here isn't the fact that the Disciples were afraid - it was the fact that they were so secure in themselves that they turned their focus away from Jesus!

To apply this to our lives this summer - remember to keep Jesus in our lives.

Keep your devotion and prayer time and Bible reading going! Take time out of your day - everyday to remember that you belong to Jesus! Don't wait for a storm to rise up, to drive us to call out to Jesus - keep an attitude of trust and reliance on Him continually!

Secondly: Remember that you are a workman of God - working for His Glory!

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:6 (The Living Bible) - My work was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos' work was to water it, but it was God, not we, who made the garden grow in your hearts.

In this text, Paul points out that our job is to help lead and direct the church, but it is Christ Jesus who builds the church.

Jesus has promised to build the church, and our privilege, and Joy is to be a part of what God is doing!

It is said that a building is only as strong as its foundation.

If our foundation is anything less than Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, then it is weak and it will crumble when pressure is applied!

So, as we camp, hike, swim, and vacation in general - remember - We are lights to the world around us! And we cannot shine very brightly in our own power but help to illuminate the whole earth with the Light of Christ as we rely on Him!

Also, we are Gods workmen, called to plant seeds wherever we are!

Praying we all have a safe, fun, relaxing, Christ Centered Summer!

God Bless  
Pastor Craig

## **Vacation Bible School 2022**

July 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>      9:00am – 12:00pm

# **Zoomerang**

Returning to the Value of Life

Register on-line or at the church today!

## *Feeding the Flathead*

What a blessing on June 27, while we prepped for 72 we were able to feed over 80 people with leftovers. Sound familiar? Matt 14: 19 &20

The crowd enjoyed Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, salad, French bread & cookies, along with juice, tea & bottled water.

Thank you so much to Michael, Haylee & Makynlee Meyer for your help and a special thank you to Corentin, a foreign exchange student staying with Laura and family, he had a wonderful time and was a great help. (He volunteered to help again if needed however he leaves in another week or two). A special thank you to Hattie, Ashley, Laura & Sherri for supplying cookies & burger & to the Stantons for paying for the other ingredients for the meal. What a joy to have so many willing helpers and to see the smiles and appreciation from those we serve.

God is Good All the Time!!

Thankfully,

Susan

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

## *July Featured Recipe:*

### *O* RANGE DREAMSICLE SALAD

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<i>1 Small Box Orange Jell-O</i>	<i>8 oz. Cool Whip</i>
<i>1 Small Box Instant Vanilla   Pudding</i>	<i>14 oz. Can Mandarin Oranges,   Drained</i>
<i>1 Cup Boiling Water</i>	<i>1 Cup Mini Marshmallows</i>
<i>½ Cup Cold Water</i>	

In a large bowl combine orange Jell-O and boiling water. Whisk until Jell-O is dissolved. Add cold water and allow to chill 15 minutes in refrigerator. Slowly whisk in vanilla pudding mix until smooth and chill for another 15-20 minutes or until slightly thickened. Fold in Cool Whip, mandarin oranges and marshmallows.

*Juanita Hirtes*



## *Women's Missionary Federation*

We met on June 16<sup>th</sup>. There were six women present. Gayle opened with devotions. We all participated in doing our Bible Study, Lesson 6 titled "Behold the Rock of our Salvation." We took turns answering the questions. On July 21<sup>st</sup> Sue Shea will have Bible Study, Lesson 7 titled "Behold the Righteous One". Elaine read the minutes from the last meeting. We had a short meeting, and no treasurer's report.

We prayed for Pastor, Sherri, Bryce, and Rachel for safe travels to the national convention, and also for Lavonne who is the president of the women's group. We prayed for Theo for her eye surgery. We prayed for flood victims, Tom Shea, Joyce Banzet and for Jeremy Hartle.

We had a very delicious lunch served by Darlene and Gayle. Thank you, ladies! Our next meeting will be at Gayle's on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July with Susan Shea as our co-host. Hope to see you all there.

Submitted by, Elaine Lessor: Secretary

## *After-School Program*

Our afterschool program wrapped up last month, and many of the families mentioned that they'll be back next year and will be bringing another sibling with them who is now old enough to attend! God has blessed this program greatly, and much of it is thanks to your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for these children and all of the helpers as they enjoy these few short months off. Pray that they will continue to bless their families with the truths they have learned from God's Word while attending here. Have a wonderful summer, and we will see you next fall!

Ashley Dieterich and Rachel Timmerman



# Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Happy July everyone, I used to think these newsletters went so fast, I had just typed April's and then all of a sudden it was June's, but then I had a daughter, and now I really know how fast things go. She's already got as many teeth as me and is catching me in strength and maturity level, so she'll probably be typing these newsletters for me in a couple months. Nonetheless, now that I'm done with my "old dad" rant, welcome to July, the month of legally blowing stuff up, and lots of skin warping sunburns. During these summer months, there are all sorts of activities happening and taking place, camping, vacationing, summer sports, etc, and for the most part, they all have one thing in common: they involve other people. Whether those other people are just your family, or maybe they're people you've never met before, but when you're spending time with these other individuals, what kind of mark do you think you're leaving? Do you think either group of these people know you're a Christian by the way you act? It's easy to say that we're believers and followers of Christ, and most of the people I ask that question to either answer yes or tell me a church that they go to, but does just saying it make it true? In the book of James, chapter 2, James, the author (I wonder how they got the name for the book), talks about faith without works being dead. In 2:14, he informs, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?" When James talks about the combination of faith and works here, he's not talking about doing "good things" to get to Heaven, he's bringing up the fact that our actions speak louder than our words; you preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips. Are our actions, or works as James says, following our words and conversation? Enjoy this beautiful summer and God's amazing creation, and don't forget to shine HIS light to those around us!

June was very decently paced in terms of youth group activities, but it's kind of like a roller coaster when it's sitting at the top of the tracks right before it goes down extremely fast and you're screaming out of pure joy and terror (that's just a good comparison of youth group in general). I'll start with June I guess before I jump ahead to the month of July, where we'll probably get to sleep once. We had our last school year youth group on the 1<sup>st</sup> and finished out with a fun little party of blind drawings (I blindfolded them while they drew portraits of other people on a whiteboard, I've never seen so many drawings of people with three noses), and a game of meow that tune (yes, we sang kids famous songs, but we could only "meow" the tune). Our summer group, which is roughly once every other week June-

August, started on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and was kicked off right here at the church! It's the end of an era, a kind of funny smelling one, as the kids helped me move all the stuff out of the youth room in the church to the new youth room in the two big center rooms in the activity center. The "old" youth room is now my full-time office, and it looks so naked in here, but the youth did a great job decorating the new room and moving everything over! After all of that fun lifting heavy stuff, we played a giant game of slip and slide kickball which we did on two 30'x30' tarps laid out next to each other, and it was really just a fun time of falling and trying not to get soap in your eyes. In between all of this, Craig, Sherri, Rachel, and I headed east to Osceola, WI for the AFLC's annual conference, and had a wonderful time hearing about the amazing work that the Lord is doing in our church body. A big thank you to Craig and Sherri for generously letting us ride with them and not making me sit in the undercarriage of the RV, very sweet. Now for the fun, downward part of the rollercoaster, in July, there are two summer group outings, one camp in Wisconsin, and VBS right after! On the 6<sup>th</sup> (or possibly the 7<sup>th</sup> if I don't get out of jury duty), we are taking our annual trip up to Finger Lake to go hiking and cliff jumping. Since we are getting a summer team from the Free Lutheran Bible College for our VBS this year, I thought it would be fun for them to get to shoot paint at each other, so that's what we'll be doing with them and the youth group right after church on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Myself and three boys will be making the trek on the "Wisconsin trail", also known as I-90 east, from the 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> to attend FLY Beyond at the ARC (the same place we were just at for Annual Conference). Lastly, is our awesome Vacation Bible School, which will be taking place the 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, and hopefully will all have all sorts of ages there ready to learn about Jesus, you're never too old! Praise the Lord for all these awesome ministry opportunities and events!

Like I mentioned in the first paragraph, many words ago, please pray for the youth during the summer as well, as they face the same challenges and situations that we do. Please pray for safety with all the travels and activities taking place, and just pray for our young people in general. We live in a sinful and broken world, just the fact of it, it's a post-Fall earth, and there is lots of darkness around us, so join me in praying for these teens that they may be lights in this dark place. Don't forget to thank the Lord for all the countless blessings He gives us daily as well! Have an awesome July, and don't forget this thing called sunscreen, SERVE HIM!!!!

God Bless,  
Bryce Timmerman

## *Building Committee Report*

All work on the North Drive-Thru Portico has now been completed! Matt hopes to begin installing the acoustical ceiling panels next week. Our excavating contractor Trent Neumann will continue his groundwork this month, and he plans to move one of his machines to the church sometime during the next week. This includes finishing the drain ditch along the north property line, burying the rain gutter pipes, and installing the drywell. It also includes installing a culvert for a drive-thru to our North property. In addition, he will do the ditching for the two new RV hook-ups at the Northwest area of the property near the trees and set the boulders in place for Early while he has his equipment on site. He will also move the shed further to the West if we want him to do that. Ken West will finish the floor at the north entrance as soon as he can find someone to shave/level the concrete.

Please contact me with questions regarding this report. As always, thanks for your prayers and support.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Van Scoten

# Prayers for July

*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  
John and Karla West  
John Farhang (Ed and Karen)  
Bob King (Elaine Lessor)  
Michael Bray