

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”

-2 Peter 3:8

From the Pastor's Desk

Someone reminded me last week that the Fair was only 3 weeks away, and that marked the beginning of Fall!

I was thinking that Summer just started - and people are already talking about fall!

Where has the time gone?

Time seems to be flying by this year.

It seems to me that we just welcomed in the New Year, and boom, just like that we are at the end of July.

Time seems to be going faster and faster. Do you remember back when you were around ten or 11?

A day seemed like an eternity, and a week - well we just had a hard time comprehending all that time!

As I thought about how time seems to fly or even sometimes, when we are bored and time seems to just drag by, then I am reminded of a verse from Revelation. In Revelation 21:5-6 John records these words: "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Jesus sitting on His throne. He has already returned as the Conquering Lamb of God, having Michael, the Archangel capture Satan and thrown him into the Lake of Fire.

Jesus has judged all. Jesus rules over all. Then Jesus gives it all to His Father, so all in the universe is one with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus declares, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending."

As I pondered these words of Jesus, I was reminded of the power of this promise. Jesus is Lord. Jesus was with the Father creating all things at the very beginning, the Alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet. Jesus reigns until He brings in the fullness of His kingdom, destroying death, sin and evil, making all things new as Jesus brings us into the perfect love between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus is Lord over all that is in between. Jesus is the Omega, the last letter in the Greek alphabet.

We are living in the in between, with some of our days filled with blessings and some days filled with brokenness. Jesus is still Lord. On the days filled with blessings, like when a new child is born and is healthy, or you got a clean bill of health from your doctor, or everything just seemed to go right, Jesus is Lord. Jesus is walking alongside you, filling your heart with His love and joy.

On the days when our hearts are heavy and we feel the brokenness of sin and death, creating suffering and hurt in our hearts and in our relationships, Jesus is still Lord. Jesus is still walking alongside you. Jesus draws

near. Jesus draws you into His arms to give you comfort as He understands your hurt. Where there is brokenness from sin, Jesus makes you new as He declares His forgiveness, reconciling you to Him.

Jesus makes your relationships new as He fills your heart with His peace and love. With the power of the Holy Spirit, you are able to forgive as you are forgiven. Jesus walks with you even in the brokenness of suffering and death. Jesus is still Lord.

His love for you is greater than the forces creating your suffering. His love is greater than death or even sorrow for He has defeated death. He has promised to make all things new as He gives the gift of eternal life.

So even though some days and weeks and months seem to fly by at the fast pace we live now adays, Jesus is still Lord.

Jesus holds you in His love from the beginning through the ending until He makes all things new.

God Bless and Happy Summer
Pastor Craig

Vacation Bible School 2022

This years VBS theme "Zoomerang - Returning to the Value of Life" took our kids on an Aussie adventure. We were blessed to share Jesus' love for them with 29 kids during the week long adventure. Hope Pregnancy Center was our offering focus with a friendly competition between the girls and boys. Even though the boys prevailed in bringing in the most money, they girls were close behind. Hope Pregnancy Center will be receiving a check for \$146.22.

Thank you to the following people for sharing their time and talents with our VBS kids.

- Decoration team - Kim Clarke, Karen Hartle, Danny and Sharon Wilhelm, and Karen Van Scoten
- Snack and Science team or Team Hartle! - Karen Hartle, Jeremy Hartle, Debbie Hartle, Matti Hartle, John Hartle, Emily Hartle, Annie Hartle, Olivia, and Noelle
- Craft team - Neila Elgin, Kim Clarke, Elaine Lessor, Sherri Scavo, Susan Shea, and Dominick Meyer
- Helping Hands team - Addison, Marian, Marie Harris, Taylor, Maleah, and Joe

We are thankful for those that supported the Joshua Teams stay

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Feeding the Flathead

July began a return to the indoors and a new location for Feeding the Flathead. We also changed up our menu with pancakes, scrambled eggs, and sausage, cupcakes and iced tea. Everyone seemed to enjoy, of course it was additional preparation.

A special thank you to Linda M., Darlene A., Makynlee, and Allee M, Lori S., Vicki W., and Sherri S. for helping to cook over 200 pancakes and to Judy K., Julie B., and Marie H. for donating eggs.

With indoor serving more helpers were required. Thank you! Michael, Haylee, and Makynlee M., Sherri, and Craig and also Bea, after feeding 54 people were able to sit and visit with a few and hear their stories. We were reminded again “one step and one person at a time” and trust God.

God is Good All the Time!!

Susan



Women's Missionary Federation

We met on July 21st. Early opened with devotions. Susan did our Bible Study titled, "Behold the Righteous One", lesson seven. Thank you, Sue, for a very good job. It was very interesting.

Elaine read the minutes. We discussed our upcoming V.B.S. the week of the 25th through the 29th. We have students coming from the Bible School to teach. These are very nice students. The youth will also help with this. On July 30th we will have our community picnic. We plan to eat at 12:00, and there will be music at 1:00. We will be having our women's retreat at Early's on September 23rd and 24th. Ladies, please try to attend. There will be a Bible Study and a game, craft, and also very good food. There will be movie night at 4:00 P.M. on July 31st.

We had a special time of prayer for Karla West at the loss of her husband and also Anna Martinson at the loss of her husband. Keep these two ladies in your prayers.

We had 16 ladies and 3 children present. Thank you for the good turnout. Our next meeting will be August 18th at Karen Van Scoten's with Sherri Scavo as co-host. Elaine will do devotions, and Early will have Bible Study titled, "Behold God Who Reigns in Power", lesson eight. The meeting will be at 10 A.M. Hope to see you all there!

Gayle and Susan Shea served a very delicious lunch. Thank you, Gayle, for opening your home for our meeting.

Submitted by,
Elaine Lessor: Secretary

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

August Featured Recipe:

*A*NN'S ITALIAN MEATBALL SOUP

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| <i>3 Dozen Italian Meatballs</i> | <i>2 Cloves Garlic (chopped fine)</i> |
| <i>2 (14 oz.) Cans Beef Broth</i> | <i>1 qt. Canned Tomatoes or 2 Cans</i> |
| <i>2 (14 oz.) Cans of Water</i> | <i>Stewed Tomatoes</i> |
| <i>1 (15.5 oz.) Can of Great Northern Beans</i> | <i>1 Small Can Tomato Paste</i> |
| <i>2 1 lb. Packages of Green Giant Mixed Vegetables</i> | <i>1 Cup Red Cooking Wine</i> |
| <i>½ Red Pepper (chopped fine)</i> | <i>1 tsp Italian Seasoning</i> |
| <i>1 Bunch of Fresh Onions (including tops, chopped fine)</i> | <i>1 tsp Worcestershire Sauce</i> |
| <i>1 (4 oz.) Can Mushrooms, Stems & Pieces</i> | <i>1 Pinch Dried Red Pepper</i> |
| | <i>A Few Fresh Spinach Leaves</i> |
| | <i>Pasta of choice</i> |
| | <i>Grated Italian Cheese</i> |

Place all ingredients except pasta and cheese in large kettle and cook until vegetables are done. About one-half hour before serving, add as much pasta as you need for a meal. (If you are going to freeze part of the soup, remove portion for your meal and add pasta, and then freeze the rest). Cook gently until pasta is tender. Serve with grated Italian cheese, if desired.

Ann Martinson

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

STOP, STOP, STOP, is exactly what I've been saying to summer so far, I've had good practice from the youth kids as well. This last month has left us faster than the money in my wallet when I see a sale on bacon. It feels like I'm already shopping for school supplies, which is wrong in a few different ways, but simply put, summer always comes and goes so quickly. You want to know something that never leaves us though (besides back pain), the most precious being we could ever have a relationship with, our personal Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. About two weeks ago, I took three youth boys to a camp over in Wisconsin, don't worry, you'll hear about all those adventures in the paragraph below, but during the evening sessions that week, Pastor Ryan Tonneson of Glyndon, MN, led us in some absolutely awesome studies. One of the nights, during his "sermon", when He was talking about Christ being the solid foundation of our lives, he gave an example of a giant anchor on an even gianter (yes that's a word now) boat. I'm probably going to butcher this and get a stern talking to from Craig, but the Navy has an aircraft carrier, the Gerald R. Ford, that weighs 100,000 tons, and in case you can't count that high in your head, that's a lot of weight (200 million pounds to be exact)! The anchor on that aircraft carrier weighs 30,000 pounds, with each link in the chain weighing about 300 pounds itself. Now, that seems like a lot, and in human terms it is, if you weigh 30,000 pounds, it wouldn't be a bad idea to see what a gold's gym membership cost, but in terms of this giant piece of equipment, 30,000 pounds is only .0001% of the ship's weight. These sailors can have complete piece of mind with an anchor that's significantly less than one percent of the size of the boat that it's holding, but they still know it's going to stay. Hebrews 6:19 says, "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,". The hope that the writer of Hebrews is talking about is our only true hope: Jesus, and when we think about people putting their hope into something so small compared to something so big, it's the opposite with Jesus! We should have our hope in something so big (Him) compared to something so small (this earth and everything in it), He's a heck of a lot more control than .0001%. I encourage you to remember that in all seasons of life, not just the hot, busy ones like summer, but in everything – Jesus is our ultimate hope, an anchor that will never move!! Here's more on the camp and everything else this awesome group of kids we have has been up to!

In the month of July, the youth group has participated in one fundraiser, two summer group activities, one awesome camp, and a whole week of helping with VBS, whew, I need an inhaler just from typing that. To start with the two summer groups, because starting in order of how I just listed things would make too much sense, the youth went hiking/cliff jumping/slightly getting lost thanks to their youth leader up at Finger Lake on the 6th. Thirteen youth, myself not

included, all enjoyed the beauty of God's perfect creation, by hiking the mile long trail to the top of Finger Lake (about a mile and half after our accidental detour to Hole in the Wall Lake), but the teens were then rewarded with a nice cliff jumping area, and yes there was water underneath. A great time had by all, and we all had a very spiritually uplifting discussion about the importance of sticking up for your faith as well. The second summer group activity is what we in the youth ministry business like to call "redneck finger painting" AKA paintballing. We took the VBS summer team, as well as some youth from our sister church Faith out with us which amounted to 14 people, 72 welts, and countless fun (if you weren't the kids with 72 welts). A huge thank you to Tim and Marla Bartholomew, who always graciously let us use their backyard and repaint their old vehicles for them, truly a blessing to us. Another big activity that happened in the last couple weeks was a camp I was able to take three boys, John Hartle, Joe Karboski, and Matteo Brester to, called FLY Beyond. It was held at the same place we had Annual Conference this year at the Association Retreat Center (the ARC), in Osceola, WI, from July 17th-21st. There is just not enough paper in the church to detail how the entire week went, in a good way, but simply put, it was incredible to watch God work in the lives of all of the campers that were there, the three Stillwater boys included. I strongly encourage you to just come and talk to me, or one of those three young men if you're able, just so we can tell you all the things we learned, encountered, and grew in. A huge thank you to those guys parents who were so helpful in the preparation process and very understanding of all things, that week was very refreshing for all of us! As we finish VBS at the church and look forward to the other church/youth events coming up, it brings me great excitement that these ministries are so alive! In the month of August, the youth have a swimming activity at Big Sky waterpark and a camping trip with Rachel and I at the end. In September, we have two youth getting confirmed and a weekend retreat in Wyoming with Faith, along with regular youth group starting back up, God is so good!

No matter how you're feeling right now, stressed, tired, overwhelmed, happy, enthusiastic, whatever it may be, I guarantee you that it's a good time to go to the Lord in prayer. As a matter of fact, I could say that in any times or seasons of our lives and it would ring true, He is our anchor, and always hears us! Please join me in praying for the youth group and their personal lives, this dark world is a tough place to be a light, but the world needs it! Please pray for me as I have some decisions to make for the youth group for this school year, and please pray for all the ministries of the church! The biggest battles are fought on our knees, don't forget that, and have a wonderful August, I'll write you all in a month!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Building Committee Report

Our excavating contractor Trent Neumann will be moving his equipment to the church the first week of August to continue the groundwork. This will include burying the PVC drain pipes and drywell. He will also finish the ditch along the fence that borders our north property and install a culvert for a drive-thru to this property. In addition, he will bury the water line and power line to the additional RV connection in the NW corner of the property. I am hoping he will begin by removing the dirt piles by the patio and sound mound drain field. He will also set the boulders in place for Early. Gerry Banzet is in the process of getting a second bid for paving the parking lot.

As always thanks for your prayers and support. Please contact me with questions or concerns related to the project.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Van Scoten

Prayers for August

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 Farhang (Ed and Karen)
Bob King (Elaine Lessor)
Michael Bray
Bob Stanton