

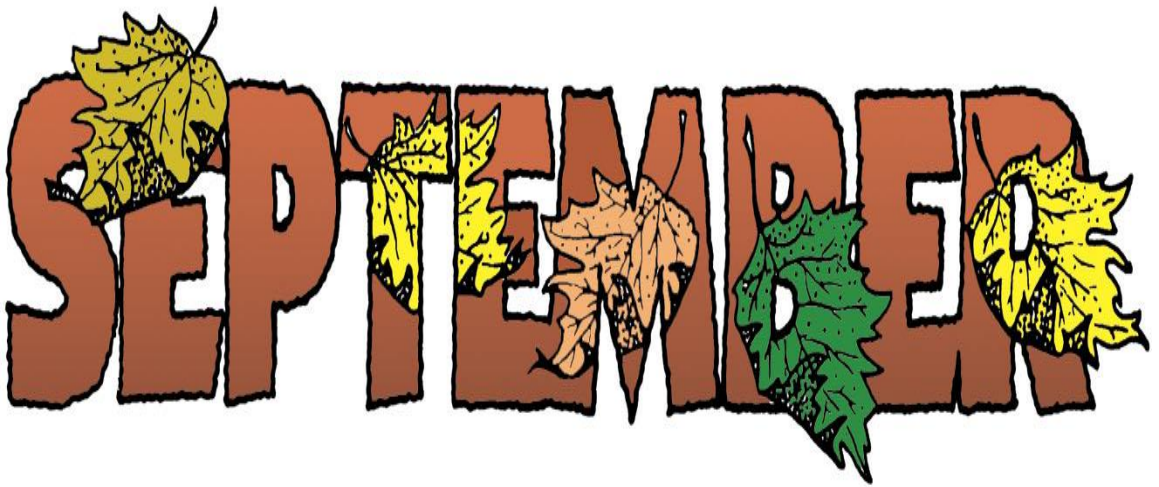
Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

-Proverbs 1:7

From the Pastor's Desk

As we move from the hectic pace of Summer in the Flathead to the frantic pace of fall, the thought came to mind that now is the perfect time to talk about Making Disciples.

A couple of observations about the word discipleship. First, it never occurs in the Bible. Next, it is at best ambiguous in English. It can mean my discipleship, in the sense of my own pattern of following Jesus and trusting him and learning from him. Or it can mean my activity of helping others be disciples in that sense of learning from him, growing in him.

The second meaning – helping others – does have a verb in New Testament Greek: mathēteuō, to make disciples. It can mean preach the gospel so that people get converted to Christ and become Christians and, thus, disciples.

For example, Acts 14:21 says, “When they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium.” So that “make disciples” is one Greek word there, and it means “get them converted to Jesus.”

Or it can mean the whole process of conversion and teaching the ways of Jesus as it is used in Matthew 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples.”

In that second meaning, it becomes a long process. It's almost like Jesus is telling us to get people converted, then spend a lifetime teaching them to obey all that Jesus said.

But that also gives us the imagery that there are stages to Christianity. The word disciple does not mean a second-stage Christian, as if there are converts, and then you become a disciple! That is NOT what Jesus was teaching!

A disciple in the New Testament is simply a Christian: “And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians” (Acts

11:26). Everybody that was converted to Jesus was a disciple. Everybody that was converted to Jesus was a Christian.

Disciple was, it seems, not a favorite term for Christian as time went by. Paul never uses the noun or the verb "disciple." In fact, neither the noun disciple or the verb make disciples occurs anywhere in the New Testament outside the Gospels and Acts.

So, I think what is important is not the terminology, but the reality. People need to become Christians and people need to be taught how to think and feel and act as a Christian.

That is, a disciple, a follower of Jesus, one who embraces him as Lord and Savior and Treasure.

The question then becomes, where and how should that happen?

Well, the conversion of people from unbelievers to believers or Christians or disciples, should be happening in any and every situation. There is no single strategy. There is no limit to the ways a person can be told the good news of Jesus. So, "discipling" in that sense is as varied as there are ways of telling the gospel message or living the gospel.

As far as training Christians how to think and feel and act as a Christian – that is, discipling in the sense of growing them into more and more maturity – that happens many ways in the New Testament. Here is just a grocery list of possibilities:

Titus 2:4 – Older women are to train younger women.

Second Timothy 2:2 – Paul trained Timothy to train others to train others.

Ephesians 6:4 – Fathers are to train their children.

Matthew 28:20 – Missionaries are to teach the nations everything Jesus commanded.

Hebrews 3:13 – All Christians are to exhort each other every day to avoid sin and to stir each other up to love and good works (see also Hebrews 10:24-25).

First Peter 4:10 – All Christians are to use their gifts to serve others.

Acts 18:24-26 – Priscilla and Aquila, on the spur of the moment it seems, explained the way of God more accurately to Apollos.

Every Christian should be helping unbelievers become believers by showing them Christ. That is making a disciple.

And every Christian should be helping other believers grow to more and more maturity. That is making a disciple.

And every Christian should be seeking to get help for themselves from others to keep on growing. And that is also discipleship.

And every church should think through how all of these kinds of biblical disciple-making find expression in their corporate life.

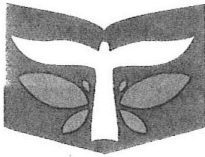
So, as we begin our fall journey – think on how you can help make Disciples!

God Bless!

Feeding the Flathead

On Monday, August 29th, Sherri, Pastor Craig, and Susan Shea served 65 meals at Bethlehem Lutheran. They made toasted ham and cheese sandwiches and had chips, pickles, muffins, and donuts. As always, the guests are very appreciative of receiving a homemade meal.

Thank you very much to you three for serving in Jesus's name. Thank you, Stillwater, for continuing to support this ministry. Our next service date is September 26.



The Lutheran Ambassador

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

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August 5, 2022

Dear Friend,

I love the Bible Project podcast. Perhaps you know it, too. Their tag line, “The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus,” perfectly encapsulates this non-profit’s mission. I first heard about the podcast from a friend who told me about “The Paradigm” series in which the hosts discuss the core ideas that shape the way the biblical authors intended the Bible to be read. I was honestly blown away by how much I learned in this series: how to read Scripture as meditation and wisdom literature, understanding how context and language should shape our reading, and how “a diverse collection of authors, literary styles, and themes can form one divinely inspired, unified story” (episode 3). And so much more.

This series has completely changed the way I read Scripture. What a joy it is to open the Book every day and discover aspects of His Word that were missed in previous readings. I still have so much to learn. And I will never exhaust His wisdom. But what a joy to read these pages and know that God’s people, thousands of years ago, thought about themes and language choices that would perfectly reflect God’s overarching mission to dwell with us. And today, people around the world are reading those words, discovering those themes, and saying yes to God’s invitation to salvation.

Thank you for your gift to *The Lutheran Ambassador*. We strive to reflect that same unified story of Jesus in our pages. May He continue to amaze you with His Holy Word.

Sincerely,

Ruth Gunderson, Managing Editor

**“...but these are written
so that you may believe
that Jesus is the
Christ, the Son of God,
and that by
believing you may have
life in his name.”**

John 20:31

*2022 Giving to
The Lutheran Ambassador*

\$18,374

The Lutheran Ambassador exists to educate its readers about the AFLC, to encourage the local congregation, to equip Christians for service, and to evangelize our neighbors and the world.



Christian Ed

Sunday School

Our children will explore the Bible through “**Enduring Faith**” curriculum that we will use each Sunday morning. This program nurtures lifelong disciples of Jesus as students learn all about their Savior, Jesus Christ and what their Savior means for them. Each week, students will hear, discuss, and learn a Bible lesson and Bible verse through activities that will build skills to strengthen Bible learning.

Kids Club!

The Ten Commandments

We are excited to invite students in K - 5th grade to join us each Wednesday evening beginning September 14. We will gather at 6 pm for some Bible time, scripture memorization and games. In the first six lessons, we will be learning that there is no god like the Lord our God. He is the only one true God. The Ten Commandments are a gift from God. They help us to learn about God's Law and point us to the Gospel. They show us what is good and right. They show people how to live in a way that honors the Lord and His holy name. We will learn how God will help us follow and obey His commandments. Come along with us on this journey to learn more!

The evening concludes at 7:30 pm

K through adults have the option to come for dinner each Wednesday, provided by the members of Stillwater Lutheran Church from 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm in the basement of the church.

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

July Featured Recipe:

*D*OUGHNUTS

3 Cups Flour

1/3 tsp Nutmeg

4 tsp Baking Powder

1 tsp Salt

1 Cup Sugar

3 Eggs (well-beaten)

2 TBSP Melted Butter

1 Cup Milk or 1/2 & 1/2

1 tsp Vanilla

Sift together dry ingredients. Add wet ingredients slowly and mix in well. Turn out about half on a floured board, mix until no longer sticky, adding a little more flour if necessary. Roll to about 1 inch thick, cut with cookie cutter and using small lid about 1 inch in diameter to remove center. Deep fry at 375° in hot shortening which is about 2 inches deep. Turn once, cook until light brown. Drain standing on edge on brown paper bag or several layers of paper towels. Cool. Makes about 3 dozen.

Anna Nordtome (in memory)



Women's Missionary Federation

18 women and 5 children met at Karen Van Scoten's home on August 18th. Elaine opened our time together with devotions. Gayle then led us in our Bible Study on Psalm 97: "Behold God Who Reigns In Power". We had a wonderful discussion on God's power and glory as seen in nature and thunderstorms. We closed with a time of prayer.

For our meeting we did not have a treasurer's report or a secretary's report. We spent the time discussing the women's retreat on September 23rd and 24th. Gayle and Sherri will head up the meals again. Karen Berosik volunteered to lead us in a devotion Friday night. We discussed doing a video series for our Bible Study on Saturday. Susan volunteered to look into this. Loris Switzer will provide a game this year, and we will forego a craft in favor of doing a nature walk. If you are available and able to attend the retreat this year please do! And please bring a friend with you.

We had a very delicious lunch of tacos and burritos served by Karen Van Scoten and a delicious dessert provided by Sherri. Thank you, ladies! Our next meeting will be at church on October 20th. Linda McGrew will be our host with Judy Karboski as our co-host. Rachel will have devotions and Hattie Stahlberg will lead our Bible Study.

Hope to see you all there.

Submitted by, Rachel Timmerman

After-School Program

Our afterschool program is back in full swing. With 18 children signed up, Ashley and our helpers are busier than ever! They have had a couple of busy days, and the children have already acclimated to the new school year so well that it sometimes seems like summer never happened. We are in need of an afterschool helper for Fridays and snacks for the students. But most of all we are in need of prayer! Please pray for these leaders and students as they both learn what God has to teach them throughout this school year. Thank you all and God Bless!

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

As the month of September comes upon us, we get ready to trade one “s” word for another, summer for snow, but the time in between can be confusing, so right now I’m wearing my ski coat with some Tommy Bahama swim trunks, I’m ready for anything. With school starting and our midweek programs getting ready to kick off, it really feels like summer officially is over, but instead of mourning over the past, look at all the accomplishments and memories you made, as one of my role models and mentors growing up, once said, “we did it, we did it, we did it yay!” – Dora the Explorer. I read a story recently, there were a lot of pictures, so I was able to power through, about a pastor’s son who went to school in Arkansas in the 1960’s. It was a quite lengthy article and had a lot of substance to it, but the Bryce Timmerman paraphrase would be, this young man, Greg, lived in a small town in southern Arkansas that was very looked down on because they were a Godly community of both white and black, which back in that day, would receive the derogatory nickname of “race mixers”. This small town didn’t have a high school, so Greg had to go to the bigger bordering town for school, who initially didn’t let anyone from Greg’s town in because of their association with African Americans, but after a lawsuit, they were required to. Long story short, Greg was mercilessly bullied his entire four years of high school, getting beaten up, tormented, and shunned constantly. The story ends with Greg getting invited to the 40-year reunion, and everyone doubting he will even show up, but he does! Not only did he show up, but he came with a smile and a message to let everyone know that he had forgiven them. Everyone had been so nervous that they had done some serious damage to him and weren’t sure what to expect, but Greg showed them the love of Jesus, just like he had throughout all of high school those many, many years ago. There were two quick takeaways I got from this story, the first being, Greg truly lived out his faith in the face of persecution that probably most of us have never experienced something that severe. One of the snippets from the article says, when one of the football players punched Greg directly in the face for no reason, he just stood there, not hurling insults, not fighting back maliciously, he simply turned the other cheek. The student who saw that event take place stated, “I saw a sermon that day.” The second point from that story was Greg’s ability to forgive, aka, Greg’s willingness to let the Holy Spirit dissipate his anger and resentment. Greg really took to heart Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Maybe this speaks directly to you right now, or maybe there’s no “beef” right now in your life, but these two characteristics, two major

foundation blocks in Christianity (Godly living and forgiveness), are always applicable, so don't forget to show compassion and forgive, just like Christ did for you. Now enjoy these awesome youth group memoirs (no way I used that word right).

Our summer group has officially wrapped up, as of Wednesday, August 31st, where we picnicked in Lawrence Park and then went and got the most important part of the food pyramid (ice cream) at sweet peaks. In between that activity and July, the youth group also got to go swimming at Big Sky waterpark, the boys camping at Sylvia Lake with me and the girls having a "girls' day out" with Rachel, and a little bit of fundraising for our past and upcoming camps. We averaged eight youth over this busy month, which I'm just thankful for one, so I'll always be overjoyed when I have eight students coming to hang out and learn about Jesus! Big Sky was what you would expect, lots of fun, wet water, and painful sunburns, the recipe to an awesome summer! The boy's weekend was also very rewarding, as six rugged young men trekked into the wild with me on an adventure to survive against nature's harshest elements aka tent camping at a camp site. One of the boy's dad joined us, and helped tremendously with meals, devotions, and making sure the boys didn't walk into the woods with raw salmon in their pockets. Our regular school year youth group kicks off with the rest of the other midweek programs on Wednesday, September 14th! The following day, a few Stillwater youth, myself, and Rachel will be accompanying Faith Free Lutheran's youth and youth leaders to Sheridan, Wyoming, where we have two cabins for the weekend at the Spear O' Wigwam resort. The next two Sundays in September (the 4th and the 11th) the confirmands are being questioned and confirmed, respectively, which makes me feel old (so did my 12th birthday a couple years ago though), but overall, very excited for John and Matti Hartle, who have been a blessing and a privilege to get to teach!

To continue to punch a dead horse, or however that saying goes, summer does feel officially over, but with all the new programs starting again, comes a whole new wave of ministry. The fall always brings new faces and families, so please join in me praying for these individuals, one, that they would be able to find a good church home, and two, that we would be able to correctly minister to these people, not just as staff, but the whole congregation! Thank you always for being a church of such great prayer warriors, and we look forward to continuing to serve you wonderful people!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Building Committee Report

Trent continues his groundwork and hopes to have it completed in early September including removing the dirt piles and leveling. Ken West and I met with Don Bennett, LHC representative and reviewed his plans for paving the parking lots. We made recommendations for changes that more closely meets our needs and still falls within the guidelines of Lot Layout drawing LL-01. His plan calls for installing two drywells between the church and activity center and grading, so the surface water flows to the north. On September 2 Darryl signed LHC's revised bid with options. It is substantially less than their previous bid. It will now be presented to the council on September 15 for their final review and decision. WGM engineering gave their approval for LHC to connect the two additional drywells to the one Trent just installed. Don said it is possible they could get to our job yet this year but with their existing workload it is more probable it will be next spring before they can get started.

We are hoping to hire someone in early September to shave and level the concrete at the north entrance so Ken can finish the floor. The person recommended to us has experience in this kind of work.

Matt still plans to start work on the patio cover in September. He is presently pricing materials and meeting with the structural engineer to review the plans for connecting the roof to our present structure.

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 September

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 (cancer)