

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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“I have come as Light into the world so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”

-John 12:46

From the Pastor's Desk

Here we are in October, and in just a few short days we are going to be having our Harvest Dinner (Sunday October 9th)! YAAAA!!! I hope to see everyone there!

I was surprised the other day when I walked into Michaels, and noticed they already have Christmas stuff out! Wow - what happened to Halloween?

Some of the Afterschool kids can't seem to stop talking about the candy and stuff that they are going to get. One of the kids even asked where I live, to see if I was going to be stopping by their house!

But I was recently reminded that there is an even more special focus for October than Halloween, and I'm not talking Thursday night football!

I'm referring to Reformation Day! As a reminder, that's the day in 1517, when Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses or disputes on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany and started what we now call the Reformation.

The theses were written against the teachings of indulgences, purgatory, and other beliefs and practices of the church that were inconsistent with the clear teaching of the Bible. And as a pastor, Luther was concerned about the fact that the church was selling God's FREE gift of the forgiveness of sins!

Luther's resistance to these practices was seen as a threat by the leaders of the church and eventually he was labeled as a heretic and was excommunicated.

The Reformation movement and indeed the whole Christian church are founded on the biblical teachings he championed:

Grace alone:

At the center of the Christian faith is the assurance that salvation is based on the unearned free gift of God's grace. Though we are sinners, disobedient children, deserving of God's wrath and anger, we receive the riches of his love and forgiveness.

Faith alone:

God's gift of grace is received through faith in what Jesus has done for us. Our good works and the good things that we do flow out of having a right relationship with God, but these good things do not have the power to make us right with God. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians he says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (2:8-9). This is the teaching that separates Christianity from all other world religions. Other religions point to what we have to do in order to be made right with God. Christianity points to what Jesus has done for us to make us right with God.

Scripture alone:

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It alone is the source for what we believe and what we practice in the Christian church. All other gifts that God has given to us and to the church such as tradition, experience, and human reason function to serve our understanding of the Holy Scriptures. Moreover, the Scriptures are used to judge the validity of these things, not the other way around.

Christ alone:

Our basis and assurance of salvation is the person of Jesus Christ, his life, death, and resurrection. Christianity is both inclusive and exclusive. The Gospel writer John tells us that, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have

eternal life" (3:16). Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).

Glory to God alone:

It is professed that because salvation is of God and has been accomplished by God, it is for God's glory and that we must glorify him always. We must live our entire lives before the face of God, under the authority of God and for his glory alone. It is denied that we can properly glorify God if our worship is confused with entertainment, if we neglect either Law or Gospel in our preaching, or if self-improvement, self-esteem or self- fulfillment are allowed to become alternatives to the gospel.

So, during this month, I encourage you to take some time to remember Reformation Day, and the core teachings of Christianity that were preserved by God through Martin Luther.

Be comforted that God continues to work through people, just like you and me, to turn people from sin so that they might turn to Jesus Christ alone! And remember, God continues to help us grow in Grace and Mercy through the teachings as given in His Word!

As Luther said in stanza two of his famous hymn, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God: "Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing: Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same, And He must win the battle. (Lord Sabaoth means Lord of heavenly Hosts)

In Christ,

Pastor Craig.

Feeding the Flathead

We served 20 people on Monday, September 26th. We met a man named Nate who came for the first time. He was reading a book about Psalms while he waited for dinner. A young gal named Bre came with her mom to eat and helped serve as well. Maybe you've served with her there before. We gave out 20 to-go meals.

Thank you to everyone who helped make food! Neila Elgin, Lavonne West, Karen Berosik, Vicki, Danny, and Gretchen Wilhelm helped to make either 2 pans of apple crisp or cornbread muffins. We suspect Lori or someone else helped make cornbread muffins as well. We served chili, cornbread muffins with butter, corn, string cheese, apple crisp, lemonade, milk, and coffee. Thank you, Vicki, for remembering the milk! The apple crisp smelled so good warming in the ovens.

We brought the leftovers home and dished out to family and co-workers the following day. The Feeding the Flathead guests told us that they had been served lunch at the Warming Center and there was also supper that evening at Calvary Lutheran in Evergreen. They guessed that's why the numbers were down that evening. Hope it wasn't my cooking. 😊

Thanks to Vicki, Danny, and Gretchen for serving. Thank you, Lord, for food, life, strength, forgiveness and the hope of heaven! We have much to share!

From Sharon

After-School Program

Our afterschool program is going strong a month into the school year. Our 18 children, ranging from Kindergarten up to 5th grade, definitely keep us on our toes!! September saw the kids memorizing Psalms 107:1 and teaching that God is good and His love for them will last forever no matter what!! We have implemented a brief quiet time to start our time together where the kids reflect on their day then share with the group what they did that made Jesus smile!! It's been heartwarming to hear the kindness they show others in their day! We continue to covet your prayers (for the leader, volunteers, and children alike) as we shower these children with Jesus and His love!! Thank you SO much to those who continue to bless with their time and for those who have provided snacks!! The time and food are very appreciated!! Thank you all and God's blessing!

~Ashley

Christian Ed



We have had a wonderful start to our midweek program! Many new and old faces have attended. We have learned so much already about stories from the Bible and have had a wonderful time playing games. If you would like to attend, we serve supper at 5:30 and kid's club begins at 6. We hope to see you all!

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

October Featured Recipe:

CHICKEN BREASTS IN VESTS

*1 pkg. Boneless, Skinless Chicken
Breasts
Cream Cheese*

*Garlic Powder
Smoked Bacon Slices
Paprika*

Preheat oven to 350°. Separate chicken breasts or strips. Pound chicken if necessary to even thickness to make rolling easier and to ensure even cooking. Cut a slice of foil wrapped cream cheese and place in the middle of each breast. Sprinkle with garlic powder. Roll chicken into cylinders and wrap a slice of bacon around each. Place in baking pan. Sprinkle with paprika for color. Bake 45 minutes, until done, but still moist and bacon is nicely browned. Serve whole or cut into portions.

Early Rhodes McWhorter



Women's Missionary Federation

On September 23rd and 24th we had our annual women's retreat at Early's home. It was very well attended this year. 18 women came on Friday night for a delicious meal of steak, potatoes, green beans, and so many delicious desserts provided by Gayle, Karen, Susan, Lori, Early, and others. Lori provided a "get to know you" ice breaker, and Karen did a wonderful devotion. 13 women spent the night and woke up to a delicious breakfast of yogurt parfaits and pastries.

7 more women joined us on Saturday for a total of 20. Alishia gave a presentation on her and her husband's upcoming mission work in Japan. Susan Shea led us in a fantastic Bible Study on Surrender by Laura Story. We were able to have some great discussion on the struggles of life and how, although not always easy, it is so rewarding to surrender it all to God.

Lunch was another nourishing meal of soup and salad with more dessert. Following lunch, Early took everyone on a hike to show us her property and all of the amazing things that God has blessed her with. Thank you to all of the ladies who provided food, activities, lessons, planned, cleaned, and opened their home to us. And thank you to everyone who came to make it such a fun weekend. It was such a treat to get away and be refreshed for a weekend!

Our next meeting is October 20th in the church. Linda McGrew is our host and Judy Karboski is our co-host. Hattie Stahlberg will lead our Bible Study, and Rachel Timmerman has devotions. We hope to see you all there!

Submitted by, Rachel Timmerman

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Good morning, October, I'm writing this very early in the morning, in fact there's only 12 minutes until morning runs out, so I thought I'd greet October that way while I still could. It's definitely starting to get to that pretty fall weather right before the season where outside looks like someone dumped out a bag of flour and didn't clean it up. This October marks the three-year anniversary of Rachel and I moving and starting our awesome journey of ministry here, and I'm even more proud because I finally remembered an anniversary all on my own! As I think about the wonderful few years we've spent here and ministry in general, I've been thinking about the harder questions. I've done this long enough now to have a group of accountability brothers and sisters, to know the area that surrounds me, to understand certain aspects of ministry that I didn't before, but with new realizations and learnings, comes new questions. One of the "crossroads" I've been at recently is how do I effectively minister to a person who doesn't want to hear about Jesus at all? It seems like a common question, and unfortunately it is, I'm sure we all have someone in our lives like that, but what's the best way to approach it? Is ignoring a person going to show them the love of Christ or is annoying them going to open their heart, it's a difficult question. The major prophet Jeremiah dealt with the same question, but on a much larger scale, like the whole nation of Israel large. Now we just simply don't have enough paper in the church to write down all the verses and chapters that Jeremiah is pleading with God's people to listen, but for a miniscule rundown, the most common words I've found are "hard-hearted", "stiff-necked", and "deafened and blinded". Jeremiah was actually known as the weeping prophet because of his many, what seemed to him like futile, attempts to witness to these cold individuals. Though it seemed hopeless and Jeremiah himself was out of answers, one thing remained, God's faithfulness. Jeremiah 29:11 is a very popular verse, and for good reason, but I immensely enjoy the verses following, v. 12 and 13 especially. "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." A few chapters later, God is talking to Jeremiah and gives him what I've always called, God's phone number, Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." Jeremiah was in this exact situation and the Lord Himself kept telling him, come seek me, call me and I will answer. We cannot save anyone, and though we say and know that, I think, at least for myself personally, I still try to. We're a people who want to be right and want to see things through, but God tells us in Jeremiah, look to Him and call on His name. I don't have the mathematical equation and foolproof answer to this question, nobody does, but what I do have is a God so mighty that nothing is impossible. Whoever this person may be in your life or ministry, keep showing them

the love of God, keep witnessing and showing them what a Christian really is, and most importantly trust in God, He can take care of the rest.

Well now that more than half the page is gone thanks to that sermon so I can give you the “sparknotes” paraphrase for the youth section. Youth group real good and I like it real good, the end. I think I’ll give you the Bryce Timmerman paraphrase instead though, should only be the rest of the sheet. We have been rolling with school year youth group that started on the 14th, with an average of 14 students through the first three weeks. This year, for our incentive program, we have emphasized Scripture memorization and church attendance. The points system gives you five for memorizing the monthly verse, three for bringing a friend, two for going to church, and one for just showing up kind of awake! After every month, the points are reset, and whoever led that month, wins that one. Whoever wins the most months by the end of the year, wins \$100 gift card to a place of their choosing, as long as it’s ok with mommy and daddy. We are studying the Book of Acts through the AFLC’s youth curriculum *Acts of the Apostles*, and we’ve already made it through one chapter, so I think that means we’re all ordained. The youth group just got back from a trip to Sheridan, Wyoming which we took with our sister church Faith to a lovely resort named Spear O’ Wigwam! We had nine students, four adults, and three kids, depending on which category you’d like to put me in, for a total of 16 altogether. During this weekend retreat, we played lots of games, enjoyed the beautiful weather, and were led in a Bible study by Tim Herset entitled “what the heck is a disciple”? It was a great weekend of learning the meaning and root of discipleship, and what exactly it looks like. The youth group has a pretty relaxing next couple of weeks before our next fundraiser of helping some congregants build a retaining wall on their property. Our two confirmands have left the nest, they can now fly (spiritually, don’t actually push them off anything), but John and Matti Hartle were confirmed Sunday, September 11th and it was a great privilege to be able to watch them grow in the Lord these last two years! I currently have no confirmands this year, but if you know a 7th or 8th grader who you think is maybe interested or who you’d like to see in this awesome program, you know where to find me!

To close with a little reflection, as I mentioned, it’s already been three years serving at this home, that’s exactly what it feels like, home, and we are just beyond blessed to get to grow with all of you. Thank you for your unceasing prayer, unwavering support, and very apparent love that you show Rachel, Charlotte, and myself every day, we love it here, and don’t forget to always look to our gracious Heavenly Father daily, happy October!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Building Committee Report

Trent Neumann has completed the groundwork including the removal of the dirt piles and installing the culvert for the drive-thru to our north property. Ken West has finished laying the plank floor at the north entrance to the activity center which will make for easier access from the drive-thru portico as the weather changes. LHC has placed us on their calendar for paving the parking lot but due to their workload they will not start any work until next spring. Matt hopes to begin work on the patio cover before the end of October. This will be the next big step in the building project.

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 October

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
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)
Sherri Scavo
Bruce Hogan