

# Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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**“I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”**

**-Psalm 121:1-2**

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the LORD; And in the midst of many I will praise Him. Psalm 109:30

Does it seem to you that the Thanksgiving holiday has lost its significance over the last 10 years?

It seems like it has become less and less about what we are thankful for, and more and more an opportunity to eat and watch football.

Now there is absolutely nothing wrong with the eating part, and football is ok (unless of course if you are a Minnesota Vikings or a Pittsburgh Steelers fan – then it's just wrong!), but seriously, the whole point is to take a day out of the normal hustle and bustle of our lives and be Thankful for the blessings we have in our lives. More specifically we are to be thankful for the Blessings God has given us!

Did you know that the Bible uses the word "Thankful" or "Thanksgiving" over 100 times. And in almost all of those instances we are encouraged to give thanks to God for the multitude of blessings He has given us!

There is a song in our hymnal called Count Your Blessings (#575) and the words are tremendous:

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by.

What a wonderful reminder to take the time to think about what God is doing for us. Too often we focus just on the horrid things – the devastation of natural disasters, the trials of the economy, the evil of the world.

But take time every day to verbalize or write all you are thankful for. You may want to use this outline. Doing so will revitalize your soul.

Begin With Thanksgiving. Psalm 100:4 tells us, “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.”

Thank Him for His patience and forgiveness.

Thank Him for the privilege of coming into His presence.

Thank Him for what He has done in and through your life in the last year.

List What He Has Done. Take time to list what God has done for you. Be specific. Think through every area of your life.

And then:

Become Still Before the Lord (Psalm 46:10).

Consider who God is (Psalm 103).

Praise Him for His attributes (Psalm 145).

Rejoice in your fellowship with Him and that He delights in you (Proverbs 15:8).

Read passages of scripture and pray them back to God (Psalms 146-150).

How many gifts have you given in the past that have left you with a sense of emptiness because you never heard back if the gift was appreciated or not?

Jesus asked, in Luke 17:17-18 ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?’”

How many times have you received a gift and neglected to let the giver know how much you appreciated it?

How often do we take all the blessings and gifts from the Lord for granted — we almost feel entitled to them. Far too many times.

As a final thought – as we give thanks to God for ALL our blessings – Lets be sure to thank Him again and again for the best gift of all – the Gift of His Son Jesus who gave His all for us, so we could become Children of the Father!

God Bless and Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Pastor Craig.

# *After-School Program*

For the month of October, the kids memorized Matthew 22:37. This, combined with our daily Bible stories, has provided great teaching opportunities about loving our Lord with all we have and seeing God's blessing for doing so!! I have been giving the children opportunities to help me with the program, from helping to pass out snacks to reading the Bible story and helping with our memorization games! The kiddos really do enjoy being given these responsibilities!! This month we also saw the God orchestrated opportunity of getting a Bible into the hands of one of the children! It was so heartwarming! As always, we covet your prayers for all aspects of this program!! 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

We are watching the world series. I am sharing some hits and home runs for our after-school program. It was begun with a need for school kids at West Valley.

Home Run... Strong beginning – Alisha Kneeland joins us. Her gentle servant leadership and experience in this particular ministry were invaluable. Every volunteer that joined her team knew who she loved and served above all others.

Hit #1 ... Danny and Sharon move to Arizona.

Hit #2... Alisha decides to move home in June.

Home team steps up.... Sherri takes it on for 2018. There is church support. Together we fulfill our mission statement. "Sharing Jesus with our neighbors."

In 2019 Rachel takes it on, and we offer Friday mornings with Neila instead of full week before school care. This is phased out.

Hit #3... Our teacher Tracey was unable to fulfill her commitment.

Home team steps up once again.... Karla Cartwright agrees, with Rachel Wednesdays as she already had a cleaning contract for that day. Her knowledge of the West Valley community was so special. She connected with the parents on a different level than Alisha.

Hit #4 With COVID we take a hit – no longer the convenience of a bus drop off. The attendance was such that our van could do the pickups. How does it continue to run is a God thing for those of us who have the opportunity to drive it from time to time.

When she leaves Sherri takes it on and then hands off to Ashley in May of 2022. Another home run has been the fiscal responsibility there. The kids no longer pay "per day." Families pay for the month so our teacher, vehicle, snacks, etc. can be covered. It was operating in the red for the first 4 years.

Stillwater family, Thanks so much for your support of this ministry. I started with the World Series. Our after-school program is impacting our world in a serious way. We can love on those precious boys and girls who have come and gone through our doors since 2017. I stand in awe

really as I see how the Lord has protected this ministry through the years. You meant it for bad but God meant it for good. That's what Joseph was able to declare, and we do too. God is good. Support is felt with your gifts to this ministry. Your understanding when the church wasn't perfectly clean, your patient volunteering when needed, your snacks and donations for "toys", etc. and especially your prayers. When God is for us who can stand against us, right? It's a win win for Stillwater for sure. Lavonne

## Church Library

The library is now ready, come check it out! We have fiction books shelved by author, children's books shelved by approximate reading level and nonfiction by subject. No need to sign out books, there is a return box.

We have several incomplete book series. If you have of the books listed below and would like to donate to complete the series, please give the books to Meri or Susan or leave on the library desk.

**Author:** Beverly Lewis

Series: "Abram's Daughter" Books 1 & 5: "The Covenant", "The Revelation

Series: "Annie's People" Book 1: "The Preacher's Daughter"

Series: "The Heritage of Lancaster County" Books 2 & 3: "The Confession", "The Reckoning"

Series: "The Courtship of Nellie Fisher" Books 2 & 3: "The Forbidden", "The Longing"

**Author:** Michael Phillips, Book: "The Heather Hills of Stonewycke"

**Author:** Karen Kingsbury, Books: "One Tuesday Morning", "A Time To Dance", "Waiting For Morning", "Sunrise", "Someday", "Sunset"

**Author:** Jan Karon: "Mitford Series", Books: "At Home in Mitford", "Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good",

**Author:** Bodie Thoene: "The Saga of the Sierras Series" Book 6: "The Year of the Grizzly"

**Author:** Judith Pella: "The Russians Series" Books: "The Crown and the Crucible", "A House Divided", Travail and Triumph"

Enjoy the library and feel free to offer any suggestions.

Thank you.

Susan and Meri

## Book Club

Interested in reading? Come join us for an organizational meeting Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11 AM in the kid's club room in the Activity Center. If you can't come that day please give Meri a call at 503-830-7267. Please bring the titles of two books you would like to recommend we read. We will set up a schedule for 2023 and try to meet once a month. Zoom works well when we can't meet in person. Please join us for fellowship and discussion.

# Christian Education News

Each Wednesday, from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm, children in kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade gather to hear and learn about our loving God and the people that He chose to spread the Good News!

During the month of November, we will learn about:

- The Weakened Judge - Samson
- The Faith-Full Family - Ruth
- The Chosen King - Saul
- The Fearless Shepherd - David

We will not have Kids Club, Youth Group or Adult Bible Study on Wednesday, November 23. Instead, please join us at 7:00 pm for our Thanksgiving Worship Service with a pie social to follow.

## ➤ Ambassador for Christ Needed

Your Christian Education team members are looking for adult or two to "direct" this year's children's Christmas program. Contact Karen Van Scoten with questions.

### Children's Christmas Program Practice to Begin

Our Children's Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 18 during our 9:30 am worship service. Beginning Sunday, November 20, all children and youth (Preschool thru High School) are invited to our first of five Christmas program rehearsals. Rehearsals will take place in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour, 10:45-11:45 AM on Sundays

November 20, 27, December 4, 11 with a Saturday dress rehearsal on December 17 (time to be determined).

If your child is unable to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal but would like to be included, please call Rachel Timmerman in the church office, and let her know.



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

*November Featured Recipe:*

## *O*ATMEAL BUTTERBALLS

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*2/3 Cup Butter*

*3/4 Cup Sugar*

*3 TBSP Cocoa*

*1 TBSP Water*

*1/2 tsp Vanilla*

*2 Cups Instant Oatmeal*

Cream butter, add sugar gradually and cream well. Add cocoa, water, vanilla and rolled oats, blending well; chill. Shape into small balls. Roll in powdered sugar and store in refrigerator.

*Susan Shea*



## *Women's Missionary Federation*

21 women met in the church basement on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Sherri led us in our Bible Study titled "Behold God, Holy in Power, Justice and Mercy". We had wonderful discussion on the holiness of God. Rachel did a devotion on seeing God in the details. Sherri then led us in prayer, and we did our business meeting.

Judy gave our financial report, and Elaine read the minutes from our September meeting. Gayle brought up that the terms for president and vice president are done, and we are in need of new leaders. Karen Berosik was voted in as the new vice president to work alongside Gayle and learn the role of president. We then had discussion on whether we would allow the homeschool co-op to meet in the Activity Center and if we were ok meeting in the church. We all agreed that we enjoy meeting in the church, and it may even be necessary with our numbers. We discussed ideas for our women's retreat in 2023. We discussed possibly doing a brunch on Saturday instead of two meals. Sherri mentioned that she has a binder in the Activity Center for us to keep track of how much food is provided for our events and how much is used as well as how many people we have attend. Suzanne Tutvedt will host the Christmas Party December 9<sup>th</sup>, and Elaine is taking care of prayer sisters for next year. We will purchase two new dishwasher racks, a funnel, and a pastry brush. We have agreed to continue with the WMF Bible Study book for this upcoming year.

Our next meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup> in the church basement. Sherri Scavo will be our host and Lori Switzer will be our co-host. Sherri will be leading our Bible Study and Karen Berosik will lead devotions. Linda McGrew and Judy Karboski served a delicious lunch of soup and rolls. Thank you, ladies for the wonderful food and a big thank you to all who came! It was a wonderful time of fellowship.

Submitted by, Rachel Timmerman



# Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Well, I've seen Christmas lights and heard Mariah Carey tell me exactly what she wants for Christmas 12 times today already, so I'm guessing it's officially November! The first snow is also here (I can neither confirm nor deny that I am writing this later than I should be), meaning, time to get your snowblowers fixed! For some reason, it feels like there should be a holiday in between now and Christmas, someone should really tell the radio stations. In case there's not a calendar in front of you or you have a memory like I do, Thanksgiving is less than four weeks away! Not only does time fly, but it also means it's time for that "cliché" newsletter article about thankfulness. So instead of simply telling you to be thankful, which I can do until I'm blue in the face and look like papa smurf, let's talk about why we should be thankful. It's one thing to realize all the material objects we possess, shelter, automobiles, technology, etc, and it's good to be thankful for those blessings, but it's a whole other awakening when we come into the realization of our mortal purpose, and that is to serve God. Unfortunately, so many lost people in this world go through life never feeling true satisfaction or gratitude because they never understand or won't admit to a higher Deity. We get to be thankful because we are saved by His grace. His blessings that He rains down on us materially are truly that, a blessing, but the biggest blessing is the free gift of grace and the constant renewal of our souls. I will leave you with a wonderful verse to remind us to be thankful for what God does daily. 2 Corinthians 4:15-16, "All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

Over the last month, the youth group has had an average of 16, with three good ol' regular 87 unleaded youth groups, one fundraiser, and one party where kids got taped to doors (I'll explain later). For our weekly youth meetings, we're still exploring the book of Acts through the Acts curriculum from Ambassador Publications! We just had our first student led lesson on the 19<sup>th</sup> from our very own John Hartle, who I can't say did too good since I would like to keep my job, but in all reality, he rocked it (all glory to God), and was very encouraging to see the youth stepping up into leadership roles! Our fundraiser was going over to Darryl and Rose's and getting splinters for money aka splitting and stacking wood for winter, and seven youth showed up to help serve, another blessing! On the 26<sup>th</sup> we had our reformation party, and since I was not allowed to shave people's heads like monks, we had a costume competition, pumpkin carving, taping people to the wall competition, and a reformation history lesson on the life of Martin Luther. October was a crazy, fun busy month that is leading us right into the crazy, fun

busy month of November, where we will hold our annual “youthsgiving”, serve pie at the Thanksgiving eve service, and as always, grow in Him!

Thank you to each and every one of you reading this and those involved with the congregation for just the wonderful, and, in my mind, undeserved pastor appreciation that you showed Craig and myself over the month of October. We are beyond grateful to serve you at this special place and cannot thank you enough for how you have spiritually taken care of this month (and all the rest of them too). You are all appreciated, and may God bless you like you’ve blessed us, happy November!

God Bless,  
Bryce Timmerman

## *Feeding the Flathead*

We served 21 thankful guests indoors at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Monday, October 31st. There were also 17 meals made for take-aways. Our menu was Shepard’s Pie, Carrot sticks and ranch dressing, Hawaiian rolls, and homemade cookies. Much thanks to Darlene Askvig and Meri Putzler for making delicious cookies! Of course, they enjoyed them.

I really appreciate our wonderful group to help serve and clean up. It was definitely a lighter group than normal, sometimes that is the hard part. The numbers have been mid-30s to 97 one time! But basically, we try to cook for 60 or so. Thank you so much to Meri Putzler, Susan Shea, and Shelby Switzer. Could not have done it without you!

Our next service date is Monday, November 28th. It has been just great this past year with other families stepping up to plan, shop, cook and serve this meal. We are in need of a cook and servers for this month and December 26th. Let Susan or I know.

Serving others Joyfully in the precious name of Jesus!  
Lori Switzer

## *Harvest Dinner*

A big thank you to all who attended our annual Harvest Dinner! We had a wonderful turnout and an abundant amount of food. We served 85 people and still had enough left over for 15 meals to go to others who could not make it out. Darryl won our candy corn competition, so if you have a sweet tooth give him a call. It was so great to see so many familiar faces, and we hope you are all able to make it back next year!

## *Building Committee Report*

I was recently reminded that we are still operating under a partial occupancy permit in the activity center and was asked what is required to get a full occupancy permit. I know there are still a few things required by state codes for example constructing a concrete fire barrier around the transformer outside the kitchen. This is required by state fire code! I am in contact with the state building inspector to determine what else might be required. He said I should contact him when the patio cover is finished, and he will stop by to review the project and decide the status of the occupancy permit. Reed Platke, Ken West's nephew is sending us an estimate for building the wall, but he cannot do the work until December. Matt said he can also build this wall when he is working on the patio cover. I am hoping we can soon get the edge of the step at the east entrance painted for safety reasons. Matt is following up on this matter. He also hopes to have the logs and beams for the patio cover delivered this week and start work shortly thereafter.

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

### *Friday Coffee Fellowship*

The Friday Fellowship Group has been meeting now for quite some time. We average between 6 to 12 in attendance, sometimes more. We meet in the activity center beginning at 9 AM and usually conclude by noon or earlier. Come and go as you please! There is no agenda, just sharing of ideas and conversation in general. If there is a heartfelt need for prayer that happens also. Several of the ideas presented at the Vision Planning Meeting on October 20th came from this group.

### **Stillwater Historian**

Rick Prestbye has expressed an interest in becoming the Historian for Stillwater Lutheran Church. He presently volunteers at Columbia Falls Historical Society, and he can trace his family name to the founding of Stillwater congregation. Anyone interested in working with Rick on this subject please contact him by calling (406) 897-4420

# Prayers for November

*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)
- 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