

# Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

**-Isaiah 9:6**

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### **Peace on Earth?? Good will toward Men???**

As December starts, it brings with it the anticipation that Christmas is just around the corner!

The shopping, and decorating, and family gatherings all point to Christmas.

But, as you all probably know, I don't do so well during this time of year. I am reminded (and I remind everyone else) that I have a Grinch like attitude all during this season.

It is because I never seem to get caught up, and always feel that there are things that needed to get done but didn't.

Add to that the overall increase in just stuff going on, and it seems my Christmas cheer just doesn't get up to speed.

And this year, I heard the song "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" and it really got me thinking. The words go:

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

It seems to me that this year, there seems to be a lot of uncertainty and fear. An almost physical oppression dampening this joyous time!

The economy is struggling, and costs continue to rise. Our government is divided, and it seems the only decisions that are made are bad ones.

It kind of makes the Angels Announcement "Peace on Earth and, goodwill toward men!" sound kind of hollow, doesn't it?

The lyrics continue:

And in despair I bowed my head:

"There is no peace on earth," I said,

"For hate is strong and mocks the song

Of peace on earth, good will to men."

The reason there is so much hate, and the announcement sounds hollow, is because we are more focused on our will, than the will of God!

To see the will of God, and restore the Joy and wonder of the season we need only look at the first part of the announcement -

**Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

First off - we see that this news is for all people! And secondly, we see that the news that brings us peace on earth is not the kind of peace that we think - it is more important, because the peace is between us and God. We have a Savior born to us! Someone to reconcile us with God!

And finally, as we celebrate the season, and look ahead to the New Year - we can rest assured that God is in control! He tells us: **For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 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, I will be found by you, declares the LORD.**

So Merry Christmas! I pray all will have a Blessed Season with Joy and comfort knowing we celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Savior - a gift given to all peoples, and also that God is indeed in charge, so we can face the new year with confidence, and hope!

God Bless & Merry Christmas

Pastor Craig

## *After-School Program*

For the month of November, the kids memorized John 3:30. This verse has been a great way to remind them, and myself, that we must daily die to self and let Jesus rule on the throne of our hearts!! I have incorporated a felt story board into our time together and they love it, especially the kiddo that gets to help put up the story that day!! We have added one more precious kindergartner to our group to bring our total group number to 19! As you can imagine that's a whole lot of energy!! As always, we covet your prayers for all aspects of this program especially as we're in full blown germ season!! 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

### **Friday Fellowship**

At Friday Fellowship on December 2<sup>nd</sup> there was much brainstorming about ways we can gather, teach & and learn from others, while making good use of our activity center which is proving to be a wonderful blessing. Some ideas included offering classes, as well as hosting a Christmas bazaar next year. Possible instructors and people who have already offered to teach were identified. Gayle Lantto and Marie Harris agreed to further develop the ideas, by contacting the people who spoke at the recent Vision Planning Meeting, as well as others who have expressed an interest in leading classes. Numerous great ideas surfaced, such as baking, art classes/painting, weaving, knitting just to name a few. This subject will be presented to the church council, as well as at the annual meeting in January. There was an emphasis on advanced planning, logistics, and ways to publicize events. Contact Gayle or Marie with your ideas if you are willing to teach or help teach a class or if you have questions.

# Book Club

Stillwater Book Club Update: Our first book discussion will be on *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak on Friday, Jan. 6, at 10:30 AM in the Kid's Club Room in the Activity Center following Coffee and Conversation. After discussion we will have time for fellowship, enjoy our own sack lunches and eat a yummy dessert by the hostess of the month. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join us. Meri has checked out a book kit from the library and will have extra copies of this book available if you are interested.

**Christian Education team** – Equipping kids to know, grow, and show God's love.

**You're Invited!**

Sunday, December 18 at the 9:30 worship service, will be this year's Children's Christmas program.

Come hear the children as they speak, sing and perform a short musical "Glory to God in the Highest" that celebrates the coming of the Christ child.



This is a perfect opportunity to invite your family, friends, and neighbors. A time for fellowship will follow the service with coffee and cake!

# Stillwater Thankful Tree

Thank you to everyone that left a tag of Thankfulness.

Here is what we are **THANKFUL FOR** –

- My husband x2
- Grandchildren and great grandchildren
- Pastor Craig x5
- Pastor Bryce x3
- Loving grand children
- Our God that knows/understands our human suffering
- Anyone that has beat cancer
- Bryce and Charlotte
- Our energetic congregation
- Prayers that hold me up
- The Way, The Truth and The Life
- Supportive friends and family
- A warm house
- My beautiful children
- An extra job during these times
- My dog
- Holiday season to see family
- Life x3
- Free life insurance thru Jesus' gift
- Warmish weather
- That I'm a child of the Triune God
- Ed and Karen, Pastor Craig, baby Charlotte and Bryce and Rachel
- Car, house/shelter
- So very many things
- Mommy and Daddy and Ben
- Freedom x2
- Friends x4
- God and country
- Miracle of Eternal Life
- Family x10
- Food and shelter given from the Lord
- Church/Stillwater Family x5

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

## December Featured Recipe:

### *N*ORWEGIAN KRUMKAKE

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*½ Cup Butter*  
*1 Cup Sugar*  
*2 Eggs*  
*1 Cup Milk*

*1½ Cups Flour*  
*½-1 tsp Cardamom*  
*½ tsp Vanilla*

Cream together butter and sugar. Mix in eggs with a spoon. Add milk, flour, cardamom and vanilla; mix well. Heat a krumkake iron. Put 1 tablespoon batter on the grill and close the lid. Remove from iron when ivory-beige in color. Roll onto cone while still hot. Continue with remaining batter. Eat them plain or as ice cream cones. May dip in chocolate or fill with whipped cream or pudding.

**Note:** This is a delicate waffle cookie enjoyed by generations of Norwegians. It is a popular treat at Christmastime. May also be made using an Italian pizzelle maker.

*Ruth Horn (in memory)*



## *Women's Missionary Federation*

Karen Berosik opened our time with devotions from 2 Corinthians 4:8-9. Thank you, Karen. We met at the church on November 17<sup>th</sup> and had 11 ladies present. Gayle then led us in our Bible Study titled, "Behold our Shepherd King". There was great discussion. Thank you, Gayle, for filling in for Sherri, who was unable to attend. Our prayers are with you, Sherri.

There was much discussed during our business meeting. Elaine read the minutes, and Judy gave the treasurer's report. We will be having our Christmas party on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. We will reveal who our prayer sisters are. Please bring a small gift to exchange for one of our games. It will be a potluck dinner. We hope you are all able to make it.

Our Bible Study books have been ordered. They will be \$13.00 each. Please pay Judy Karboski for your book. We will be having a baby shower for Megan Tutvedt, Bryan and Suzanne's daughter, the date is still to be decided. She is expecting twins in February. Congratulations to the expecting family. We will be getting new WMF booklets and there are several changes. Elaine will have your prayer sister's name to you by the end of December. Birthday money will be sent to Barb Schierkolk in the amount of \$150.00. She is one of our missionaries.

A very delicious lunch was served by Lori Switzer. Thank you, Lori! Our next meeting will be January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Darlene has left for the warm weather in Arizona. Be comfortable and enjoy the warmth. We miss you.

Submitted by,  
Elaine Lessor: Secretary



# Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Hello everyone, welcome to the season where it's ok to have flashing lights behind your car because they're probably Christmas lights (if they're not, I'd pull over immediately). I know I can be kind of sarcastic sometimes, no I'm not being sarcastic about that, but this really is just a fun time of the year with everything that lines up together. For some, these holidays of late November to early January are times with family, friends, and more food than a single person should safely eat by themselves. Unfortunately, it may not be that way for everyone, and others may be struggling in ways we don't even know, or maybe we don't know how "to fix it". We cannot fix people's brokenness and deep spiritual and mental troubles, we can sure help and be an instrument, but the real reason for this Christmas season is the only One who can. Whether people want to admit it or not, I feel very confident saying that John 3:16 is one of the most cliché Bible verses around. That's not a negative comment at all, I love that verse and it's one of the most well memorized for a reason, it sums up the very doctrine of Christianity, but I really like verse 17 that follows right after. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." There is sin in this world, it is fallen, so even though we are coming to an amazing time of year, there's still going to be pain and sin all around. You may stress yourself out thinking about how you are going to try to fix and save others, but just remember, pain does not come from God, salvation does, and that's the best way you can help others this season (and anytime). Pray for these people, and if the Lord opens an opportunity like He does so often, tell them about this loving Father who will never leave them nor forsake them. Things and even loved ones will let us down, God Almighty will not, and that simple, yet so profound message is the best gift we can tell others about and receive personally. Also, if you're looking for other gift ideas, I'm a size 11 mens, 13 in womens, but God's gift is the best!

Our youth group has had an incredibly busy, non-busy schedule lately, and now that you're more confused than a blind man at silent movie, let me explain. We only met twice for normal youth group in the month of November, due to holidays and roads that were icier than a freezer burnt popsicle but were still able to meet weekly for other events on the schedule. On Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, we had our annual "youthsgiving" meal out at our house on Lake McGregor, and it didn't have the biggest attendance we've ever had, but probably still cooked and ate as much food as a full-grown family of rhinoceros. This year we were able to package up 15 extra plates to hand out to members of the congregation and community, which were greatly received by all and praise God for all the willing youth hands that made it. Since we're already down the food road, we'll take a sharp left at Pie-ville, which happened Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>

when we served pie after the Thanksgiving Eve service. Another good turnout from the youth group and congregation as we gathered to reflect all the blessings and undeserved grace that God truly gives us. The month of December also has more events and fundraisers, which primarily involve, yup you guessed it, food (maybe this is a sign for me to go on a diet). We will be selling Christmas cookie trays every Sunday after service from the 4<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, so feel free to bring some cookies by if you want, or come eat some, or both if you're feeling a little crazy. We will have our end of the year Christmas party on the 14<sup>th</sup> and take the next two weeks off for Christmas break. As a simple reminder, youth group is grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and everyone is welcome!

Please join me in prayer for our congregation as we go through a busy, stressful season. It should not be that way as we are celebrating our Omniscient Lord sending down His only son, but I think a lot of times we get very distracted from that by miniscule details and monotonous tasks. Just remember the love Jesus has for us and always will and let's share that with others through tough and busy times in their lives as well, Merry early Christmas!

God Bless,  
Bryce Timmerman

## *Feeding the Flathead*

Many thank yous to the Rowdy Ropers 4-H club!! The group cooked and served Chili, cornbread muffins and homemade cookies to very appreciative guests at Bethlehem Lutheran in Kalispell on Thursday, November 28th.

We applaud Suzanne Tutvedt who organized the group (25 total!) and directed the enthusiastic students! I hear they had many seconds given out, hence ran out of the Chili! They also served coffee, juice and milk supplied by Kalispell Creamery.

Our next time to cook and serve is December 26th. I understand another 4-H group may head this one up.

Please look ahead to the New Year to see if there is a month that you can organize, cook and serve the meal. We are scheduled on the last Monday of every month.

Again, Thank you for the dedication to serve in the name of Jesus,

from,  
Lori

## *Building Committee Report*

Work has begun on the construction of the patio roof and Matt hopes to complete this phase of the project in the next few months, weather permitting. He said his estimate of \$ 100K should be close for completing this last phase of the building project. Some material costs have increased, some have stayed about the same and a few have actually decreased in recent months. I met with him and Mark Van Derveer (Kalispell Electric) recently to review their plans and estimates. Mark said Jeff Timlick's estimate of \$ 5K for the patio should cover the electrical work. Together with Pastor Craig we are meeting with Matt to review plans for installing a large screen television in the activity center. Matt will be constructing the protective closure for the TV like the one at our sister church Faith Lutheran in town. The subject of installing a large digital clock in the activity center which was presented at last month's council meeting will be revisited after the first of the year. Mark has agreed to install the power requirements.

As always thanks for your prayers and support! Please contact me with questions related to the project. Wishing you all a most blessed, peaceful, and joyous Christmas. Remember, Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Respectfully submitted by Ed Van Scoten

# Prayers for December

*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  
The Hartle Family at the passing of Jeremy  
Our Country and Leaders  
Workers in the Harvest Field  
Military and First Responders

- David Bruyer (Askvig)
- James Gelormino
- Jonathan Gelormino

## Health Concerns

Sylvan Herset  
Joyce Banzet  
Stan Stroisch  
Michael Poston (Linda McGrew)  
Justin Gronley (Joel and Cody Bartholomew's son)  
Ed & Shirley Poe  
Michael Bray  
Bob Stanton (cancer)  
Sherri Scavo  
Bruce Hogan