

Ripples



Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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JANUARY

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

– 2 Corinthians 5:17

From the Pastor's Desk

Being a Light

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

During the fall and early winter, we were looking at the Gospel of John, both in our Sunday Worship and mid-week Bible study. We noted that John uses recurring themes as he presents Jesus to the world around him, and one of the most powerful themes is contrasting light with darkness.

With winter in full swing and the days being so short, I am reminded of the importance of not only light but being a light to those around us.

It has been said that evil is the opposite of righteousness, just as dark is the opposite of light. In a sense that is true, because evil is really corruption of what is good. It has no existence in itself, just as darkness is nothing more than the absence of light.

Our "Being a light" is to simply show Jesus Christ in what we do and say. And, it is really important to note that in the darkness even a little light can be enough to see by! So, the question we must ask is, "What is it that others see when they watch us"?

Is it the light of the world?

John Chrysostom (345-407AD), Known as the "Golden Mouthed" teacher said, we must be careful of our "walk and conversation" — because others will certainly be watching. No matter what the world thinks, the Gospel light cannot be hidden.

We are to let our light shine naturally in all we do. But sometimes the things of this world and the desires of the flesh block our illumination! That is what is meant by covering your light with a basket.

So, as we continue “enjoying” this Winter – remember we are a Light for the world to see, so let your Light shine to those around you!

Just to note a few things going on:

Adult Sunday School will be studying the book “Heaven” by Randy Alcorn

Adult Mid-Week Bible study is looking in-depth at the Gospel of John

There will be a Bonfire and Hayride at the church on Sat Jan 21st from 6-8pm.

The Annual business meeting for the church will be on Jan 22nd – right after service.

Sunday Jan 29th will be a Movie Night at church. We will be watching the first two episodes of “The Chosen”

God Bless and Happy New Year!

Pastor Craig.



You're invited to a Baby Shower honoring Megan-Tudvedt- Reese and her twins on Saturday, January 14 at 10 am in the Activity Center.

[Amazon.com/baby-reg/megan-tutvedt-march-2023](https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/megan-tutvedt-march-2023)

Come on out on Saturday night, January 21st from 6-8 pm for a time of fellowship and fun.

Darryl is buildin' a bonfire and he'll have hot cocoa and coffee and Ed will have his trailer loaded with straw for hayrides around the church.

So bring your friends and a treat to share.



Watch for details on the upcoming Youth Group's Valentine's Dinner and Auction, being held in February.

They will be looking for donated items to auction off, so start thinking of something that you could bring to support our youth!

The following are the notes taken from our Vision Planning meeting that took place in October. As we begin this new year, let's look at some of the ministries we hope to begin or enhance here at Stillwater. See where you might want to plug in. Feel free to contact Pastor or a council member with any comments or suggestions you may have.

Vision Planning Meeting 2022

10-20-22 at 7:00 p.m.

There were 22 participants at the meeting. We looked at the ministries of Stillwater with the idea of DONE, BEGUN & ENHANCED OR SUSTAINED. We looked at ways to measure those ministries with the idea of "what you can't measure you can't manage."

Some of the ideas or things discussed were as follows:

- Create specific places for activities & their supplies (Karen Berosik coordinator)
- Acknowledge volunteers in the area such as teachers, fire fighters, & first responders (Rose Askvig coordinator)
- Communion more than once a month
- Technology & the need for an AV Tech
- Youth group, doing great & thankful for Bryce
- VBS, possibly in the evening this next year
- Feeding the flathead going great & thankful for all the volunteers (Lori Switzer coordinator)
- FVCC intervarsity
- Greeters, would like to see a greeter at the beginning of service
- Shut-ins in need of a coordinator to help organize assistance for shut-ins
- Youth/Adult Mission trip in the future, need a coordinator
- Church camping trip in the spring, need a coordinator
- Warming Center & assistance from Stillwater

-Activity Center & use of:

Youth & kids Bible club on Wednesday's

After School – going great & thank you to Ashley & all the volunteers

Book Club – (Meri Putzler Coordinator)

Friday coffee Hour -going great 8-15 average attendance

Christmas concert by the local schools

Classes to be held at the activity center (Kim Clarke & Gayle Lantto coordinators)

Art, Bread Making, Card Making, Cake decorating and many other classes discussed

Visual Fun, Food & Fellowship possible motor cycle show, paired with a craft fair & food served. Need a coordinator

Movie Night

Come and join us on January 29th at 4:00 p.m. for movie night. Bring your lawn chair, if you like, a snack to share and come enjoy. This month we will be trying something different. We will be watching season 1 episode 1 & 2 of The Chosen. You will be introduced to Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew & of course Jesus.



We have more movie nights throughout the year. It is the 5th Sunday of the month. April 30th, July 30th, October 29th & December 31. Please let Sherri know if you have any suggestions.

After-School Program

For the month of December, the kids memorized Psalm 19:14. This verse has been a great way to remind them, and myself, that it's not only the words that we speak but also the thoughts in our hearts that need to be continually pleasing to the Lord!! I continue to incorporate the felt story board with our daily Bible story!

This past month saw many children and myself absent due to illness so as always, we covet your prayers for health along with all other aspects of the program. A continued thank you to those who bless with their time and for those who provided snacks (we seem to go through those snacks quickly with 19 growing and active kiddos)!! The time and food are very appreciated!! Thank you all and God's blessing in this New Year! ~Ashley

Friday Fellowship

We are grateful for the regular participants such as, Elaine Lessor, Meri Putzler, Gayle Lantto, Susan Shea, Sherri Scavo, Rick Prestbye, Linda McGrew, Ed Van Scoten Sr., Vicki Wilhelm, Marsha Burns and Linda and Sylvan Herset. Others like Marie and Ed Harris often attend when they are not working. Forgive us if we forgot to name someone!

There is always much fellowship and discussion about how the activity center can be used to promote our mission of "Sharing Jesus Christ with our Neighbors." The use of our kitchen is often a hot topic. Recently Gayle instructed Vicki and Gretchen Wilhelm on how to make pot pies. They were hoping to share them with our construction crew and the participants could take some home. Rachel wanted to be a participant, but Charlotte had a fever, and they could not make it. This was a trial class with hopes of more to come for example Susan Shea would like to conduct a baking class sometime in the future. She and Tom will be heading south soon to spend the winter. We will surely miss her! Meri Putzler has started a book club that will meet on Friday January 6 at 10:30 after the fellowship gathering. This was another idea that came from the fellowship group.

Darlene Askvig, a regular attendee has left to spend the winter at her home in Arizona. She initiated the idea with Gayle for starting a fellowship group here at Stillwater like the one she enjoys in Arizona. We meet at 9 AM each Friday for coffee and fellowship in the activity center classroom. There is always room for more so come join us!

Stillwater Book Club

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 our discussion we will have time for fellowship, enjoy our own sack lunches and eat a yummy dessert provided by Meri this month. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join us. We have our book discussion the first Friday of each month. It's not too late to join in. Contact Meri Putzler (503)830-7267 with questions.

The following is a list of the books we have scheduled for the rest of the year.

February	<u>Nefertiti</u>	by Michelle Moran
March	<u>The Beautiful World</u>	by Susan Rohrer
April	<u>The Wedding Dress Sewing Circle</u>	by Jennifer Ryan
May	<u>Orphan Train</u>	by Christina Baker Cline
June	<u>The Lady's Mine</u>	by Francine Rivers
July	<u>Trash</u>	by Andy Mulligan
August	<u>Julia's Hope</u>	by Liesha Kelly
Sept.	<u>The Lincoln Conspiracy</u>	by Brad Meltzer
October	<u>One Thousand White Women</u>	by Jim Fergus
November	<u>The Boys in the Boat</u>	by Daniel James Brown
December	<u>Women of the Silk</u>	by Gail Tsukiyama



Women's Missionary Federation

The 2023 Bible Study books "Women of Redemption" have arrived. Throughout this Bible study, we will learn that God's perfect plan does not depend on your perfect obedience but on God's perfect Sovereignty. We will look at these Old Testament women who lived imperfect lives and yet God's plans still prevailed. Be encouraged that God's will is sovereign no matter how flawless we are. Just like the women of redemption in this study, God rescues us from our sin, we are restored to a relationship with Him and through His faithfulness, we are redeemed.

The books are \$13 and Judy Karboski would love to take your money!

Our first Bible study, business meeting and luncheon will be on Thursday, January 19th, at 10 am being held in the Activity Center. Judy Karboski and Marie Harris will be our hosts, with Elaine Lessor as our Bible study leader and Marie Harris will have a devotion.

There will be a baby shower for Megan Tutvedt-Reese on **Saturday, January 14**, at 10 am in the Activity Center. They are registered at [Amazon.com/baby-reg/megan-tutvedt-march-2023](https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/megan-tutvedt-march-2023)

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Happy new year all, in case you didn't watch a giant ball drop, or just woke up now, it is 2023 I'm pretty sure; I just stopped writing 2021 on my checks, so I bet that means it's 2023 (also, the wrong date is the only reason my checks are bouncing, I promise). My resolution this year, was to get my newsletters on time, and my other resolution was to stop making resolutions, so I think we'll go with the latter this year. The new year is always the stereotypical/traditional time that we make resolutions, and normally by mid-January we forgot what it was we even said we were going to do. I believe, for the most part, a lot of these "abandoned resolutions" are due to the fact that we are set in our ways. Like it or not, we are very habitual creatures, so what are your habits? I recently was in a very physically painful state, some people who don't try to sound sophisticated like me would say, sick. It got to the point where I was very faint and not thinking very straight, but during that, I just remember praying and asking God for relief and comfort. It was out of habit, and though lots of people think, "God is always there, I can talk to Him whenever works for me" or "I'm young, I've still got time, I can have a deeper relationship with God later", we do get set in our ways and schedules. Is God a part of your schedule? He definitely hasn't always been a part of mine. I can remember times when I was in similar situations as this recent illness, whether it was injuries or stress or whatever, when I really just wanted comfort, but the ultimate Comforter was not who I called upon. Jeremiah 33:3, or as I call it "God's phone number" reads, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." There is no such thing as unanswered prayer, the answer might not always be yes, but God says it right in that verse: "I will answer you." I encourage you all to call upon God daily, with thanksgiving, requests, petitions, whatever is on your heart, make it a part of your habits. We may be in a new year, but we serve the same God, He hears you, just talk to Him.

During the month of December, the youth group only met twice because their youth leader decided to go see all of his family over Christmas (whenever I found out who their youth leader is, I'm going to have a talk with him). Over the two weeks, we averaged 14 students, had one party, and held a three "Sunday-long" fundraiser. The first meeting, which took place December 7th, was to bake Christmas cookies for the Christmas cookie fundraiser that was just mentioned. The kids really just proved to me

that I do not know how to bake because I would've done the opposite of what they did on almost all of their recipes, and their cookies turned out fantastic! The second gathering, on the 14th, was our annual youth group Christmas party, with just too many fun activities to fit into one newsletter. The youth participated in both white elephant and secret Santa gift exchanges, which are two very separate ways to give and receive presents. One of the gift exchanges included candy, new nerf guns, and lots of hot cocoa, while the other had an old apple and Depends; I'll let you decide which one was from Secret Santa and which one was from white elephant. Ultimately though, we reflected on the most underrated gift of all time, one that will never expire until we do, Christ's birth and the beginning of the ultimate Sacrifice. It was a great way to send the youth off into the new year. Thank you to all the congregation for the awesome participation and financial support you showed during our fundraiser! Over the three weeks, the youth were able to raise \$514 total, so thank you so much! The youth will continue to fundraise throughout the winter and spring as they prepare for our trip to the FLY Convention this summer! Our upcoming events have the calendar as full as me off a Stillwater potluck – youth group starts back up on the 11th, open gym on the 13th, night skiing on the 20th, and our Valentines dinner fundraiser the weekend before Valentine's Day! In all honesty, there is only so much I can bring up in these newsletters, something about other people needing room on the paper, so I encourage you to come and talk to me about everything that's happening with our young people; we really do have wonderful teens in our youth group.

I always like to take this last paragraph to welcome and encourage people to pray with me, and this time, I would like you to join me in simply praying for those who don't know Jesus as their Savior. We all know somebody who is not walking in the true Light, and as I mentioned earlier about crying out to God, especially in times of distress, a lot of people don't use that option, or think they have it sadly. Pray for strength to God's instrument and witness and pray for that person's heart and soul, that they could see who truly gives us value and meaning in life. Have a blessed January, and remember who we owe it all to!

God Bless,

Bryce Timmerman

Feeding the Flathead

We thank the B&F Livestock 4-H club for cooking and serving the meal on December 26th! Sandy Evanson headed up this group. They cooked spaghetti and served 18 inside and many more meals for take away.

Hats off to our congregation for keeping this ministry active by participating in cooking and serving. For this year, the need for a family/group to take a month is needed.

As of this note, January, February, March, November and December are the months without a leader. Our Church's service is at Bethlehem Lutheran on the last Monday of the month.

If you are led to help, please see Sherri or Lori to sign up!

"And to Godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love."

2 Peter 1:7

With appreciation,
Lori and Sherri

Looking for a way to serve here at Stillwater?

We are looking for additional hands to serve on our Alter Guild. A small commitment can be very rewarding.

Talk with Linda McGrew or Karen Van Scoten with questions.

Building Project Report

As we finish 2022 and look forward to 2023 it is good to review where we have been and where we hope to go in the new year ahead. My annual report covers much of this subject. Following is the plan I proposed at the start of 2022 with an update of what is completed.

Proposed 2022 Project Plan

- Complete the kitchen including all electrical, plumbing and trim-out. (*DONE*)
- Contact the state and county for Health and Building Inspections before we can apply for a Full Occupancy Permit. (*INSPECTION NOT REQUIRED*)
- Continue work on North Drive-Thru roof structure. (*COMPLETED*)
- Install carpet tile in classrooms (*DONE*)
- Install folding door between two center classrooms. (*NEED ESTIMATE*)
- Install wall carpet in activity center/gym. (*DONE*)
- Finish the floor at the North entryway. (*DONE*)
- Approve and implement Pastor's AV Plan with large screen TV for installation in activity center. The council has agreed to pay this expense from the Memorial Fund, not the Building Fund. (*IN PROCESS*)
- Install Fire Alarm System/Smoke Detection System (*TO BE DECIDED*)
Note: Two estimates received to date – each approximately \$10K. (See Ted's notes)
- Develop a plan for improving acoustics in activity center
(*SOME PANELS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED – ADDITIONAL ONES MIGHT BE NEEDED*)
- Review and update Matt's estimate for constructing Patio Roof
(*UNDER CONSTRUCTION*)
- Revisit plan and cost for paving parking lot. (*CONTRACT SIGNED WITH LHC-
WORK TO BEGIN IN THE SPRING*)

- Continue landscaping around our new building and extended property. (*IN PROCESS*)
- Develop a plan for installing a lighted programmable sign along Church Drive South of the new building to publicize our events, Friday open gym nights, Friday coffee fellowship etc. (*NEED PLAN AND ESTIMATE*)

Additional fundraising will be required if we expect to complete the tasks listed above as our building fund is fast being depleted. Throughout 2022 the donations continued and therefore we were able to complete the tasks as noted above.

Hopefully, the patio roof construction will be completed within the next few months weather permitting. Hagestad will do the painting in the spring. Kalispell Electric will install the electrical work upon completion of the roof structure. Matt plans to construct the concrete wall around the transformer which will serve as a fire flash barrier and is required by the fire code. Additional things to be decided in the coming months are, do we want to install a folding door between the two center classrooms? It is part of the original plan, and the reinforced framing has already been built into the walls and ceiling. Another item to be decided is whether we want to install a fire alarm system/smoke detection system, or not. The state fire marshal highly recommends we do this for the safety of people and property. Our general contractor Matt Lee and electrical contractor Mark Van Derveer do not think it is necessary. My research on the subject indicates it is advisable to have a smoke detection system, but a complete fire alarm system would be too complex and costly and is not necessary.

As always, thanks for your continued prayers and support! There is no question we would not be where we are today with the project without them!

Ed Van Scoten

Prayers for January

"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

- 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
Bruce Hogan