

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

1401 Church Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 257-4614
E-Mail Address: stillwtr@cyberport.net
www.stillwaterlutheranchurch.com

Pastor Craig Scavo
(406) 253-7003
Associate Pastor Bryce Timmerman
(701) 319-8295
Office Hours: 9:00-2:00 Tues – Fri



From the Pastor's Desk

Giving Glory to God

As spring SLOWLY creeps into the flathead, thoughts of summer and summer activities start to move to the front.

And as we think about getting back outdoors, into Gods Great creation, I can't help but Praise God and Give glory to Him at what He has given to us!

Just look around – and you see the absolute Glory of God in all this creation!

And as we think about giving Glory to God, have you ever thought what it actually means for us to Glorify Him?

In the Gospel of John, Jesus, explains very explicitly, and tells us in practical terms how to give Glory to God.

In His High Priestly prayer Jesus says (Jn 17:4-8): I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me, and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

First off - note that Jesus is speaking of glorifying God on earth. This is not some mystical thing that only happens in heaven, but it actually happens here with us.

Secondly, Note the verb: completing. God is not glorified in half-done, slipshod work. Paul tells us that whatever we do – we are to do it to the Glory of God (1Cor 10:31). He means that whatever the task – we are to do it to the best of our ability, doing it for God Himself!

And thirdly, it is work for God that glorifies God; the work of Christ was to reveal God to us. Our work is to reveal Christ to others!

Notice how the disciples reacted:

First, they obeyed. Obedience is the footing of faith. If you will not obey, you cannot have faith. Your pride will prevent it. Jesus says – if you love Me, you will obey what I command.

They also accepted the word. The phrase literally means to take within. The idea is that the word has become a part of them.

They also knew with certainty just who Jesus is. The foundation of all relationships is in knowing the other person.

Would you bring glory to God?

Then heed this example:

Accept and obey the word given to you.

Complete the work — whatever it is — that God has given you to the best of your ability.

Remain — with certainty — in the personal relationship you have with Jesus.

This will bring Glory to God in all you do!

God Bless and Happy SPRING!!!

Pastor Craig

✚ Pastor Craig will be out of the office April 5th - April 19th.
If you have a need, please contact one of the Deacons -
Darryl Askvig, Rose Askvig, Elaine Lessor, Susan Shea, Bob Stanton,
Danny Wilhelm.

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

The months are kind of like the breakfast foods on Charlotte's plate at this point, all blending together and I'm not really sure what's what, but let's just say it's April! Normally for April Fools, I like to say that I'm pregnant (through means of Rachel of course) or that all my hair's gone gray, but at this point, both of those answers are getting too realistic, so for April Fools this year, we'll just say that I'm working! Though bad dad jokes are a gift I've been given, I love the ability to smile and laugh that God has given to all of us, don't forget to do one of those today! As I'm typing this, a couple days before April, the news of the school shooting in Nashville has just broken, and to be honest, it's gut-wrenching for several reasons. As a new parent, it is truly unimaginable and beyond heart breaking to even think about having to receive a phone call like the one those parents did. It's also very disheartening that it seems like we are becoming "numb" to these headlines due to there being so many of them. How do we deal with these things, how do we respond to true evil? This is a question that I don't truly have the answer to under my own power, but like all unanswerable questions/obstacles, the best thing we can do is look to Jesus. How did our personal Savior, who came to this sinful, broken world and bore the flesh, handle things like this? There are several examples of Jesus' responses to shocking events in the New Testament. Craig just preached on this passage last Sunday, but how about John 11, when Jesus' friend and Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus, passed away. When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had already passed. When the two sisters met Him outside the village, everyone was weeping and asking why this had happened and why He couldn't have come sooner. That's when the shortest verse in the Bible comes into play and gives us a glimpse into Jesus' heart of mercy. First, John says that He was overcome with emotion, and then 11:35, "Jesus wept". Our King cried, it was a heartbreaking situation and it saddened Him, but the passage doesn't stop there. Though Jesus is different than us for obvious reasons, (and this is not me saying don't try to be like Jesus), He still trusted in God. Though He wept and let the emotions come out, He did not give up, or spread hatred, He trusted in His Father, who is also our Father, to fulfill His divine plan. I believe that is one of the answers to this question I previously asked. There are many examples during Jesus' three years of ministry that we can pluck and learn from, His Father's house being turned into a market, the temptation in the desert, His own crucifixion!

Now, I am not trying to compare any of these events to another, that is not the point, the point is that evil has been around since the Fall, and unfortunately, will continue to be until Jesus' return, but out of all these examples, Jesus never responded with hate. He never threw pity parties. Jesus answered with emotion, with righteous anger, and most importantly love. When He was hanging on the cross dying in the most brutal way known to man at the time, He asked His Father to forgive the people. 1 Corinthians 13:6 says, "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." It is ok for us to be sad and righteously angered at this tragedy, but we need to respond in love, and love is not found in hatred, retribution, or violence. Pray for the victim's families, pray for the students, and staff that were present, lift everything up to God in prayer. Most importantly, show your neighbor love, be Jesus' light to people, you just don't know how much one person might really need it at a particular moment.

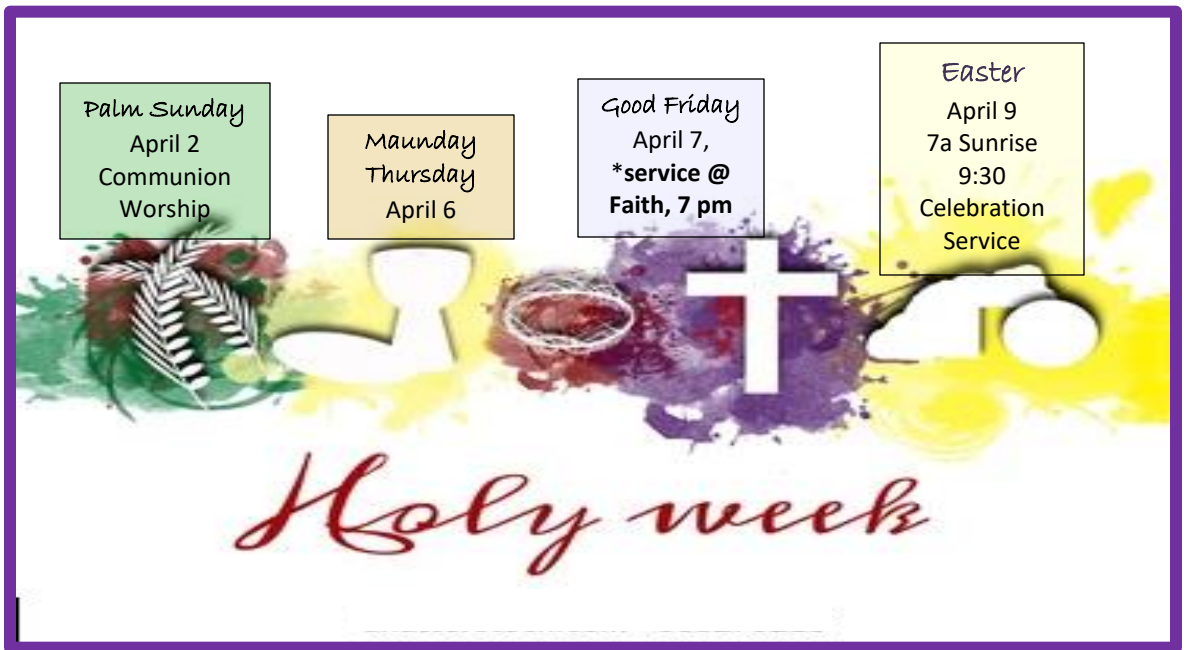
Due to the first paragraph being a longer section than normal, which I'm glad it was, I really felt the Holy Spirit lay it on my heart as I struggled with how to respond, I will give you the "movie" version of what's been going in youth group! The youth group's major event this month to finish the "late winter gauntlet" as I like to call it (I just came up with it now), was our annual lock-in! On Friday evening, March 4th through Saturday morning, March 5th, Faith Free Lutheran joined us again this year just like last year for a night of really anything but sleep. In total, there were 19 students accompanied by seven adults, counting Darryl and myself, throughout the night: praise God for awesome numbers, both student and adult-wise! Faith's youth leader, Emily Herset, graciously led us in worship early in the evening, and I gave a lesson about what faith (the gift, not their church), truly means – there may have been a diaper and a blindfold for the object portion of the lesson, but I can neither confirm nor deny, the point is they learned stuff. This year was also the first year there were no major injuries, and that one I can confirm and deny, hallelujah! I pretty much just woke up now from it, but all in all, it was an awesome time of learning and fellowship for all! In terms of regular weekly meetings, we met every Wednesday in March and averaged 9 students, we had a total of about 15 different ones, but somebody must have cooties because we can never seem to get them all together on the same night. Nonetheless, they've been perfect numbers to continue to explore the book of Acts in our weekly Bible studies! There are a few upcoming events/activities in the month of April, which keeps the youth engaged outside of just Wednesday gatherings and makes me look busy as well, what a

win for everyone! First, on April 9th, also known as Easter, the youth will be serving breakfast after the second service, so please bring something for us to eat while we serve! Lastly, the Free Lutheran Bible College, or just FLBC if you don't have ten minutes to say the whole name, is hosting their annual springtime campus tour, also known as Campus Days! Last year we took one student over there and just had an amazing time, and it's also where I met Rachel – one of us definitely hit the lottery, I'll let you decide who's who! In essence, it's a weekend full of hanging out with other teens from different youth groups, getting to see what campus life is like and what the classes consist of, etc. There are a few interested from Stillwater, and if we get firm commitments, we may just carpool with Faith, we'll just trust in God to see what happens! Regular midweek 87 unleaded youth group will continue until the end of the school year which will then transform into summer group, so as always, busy times ahead, but am very excited for it!

As we go through the month of April, please don't forget to pray, and love (throw an "eat" in there and you've got the movie that Julia Roberts beat me out for), it is so necessary in this dark world! Our youth are not immune to this evil either by any means, so please join me in prayer for them and their families as well! Prayer and showing the love of Jesus truly is one of the many things that this congregation thrives at and helps put more tushies in the seats, which means more people hearing about this perfect love, so keep it up Stillwater! Don't forget to thank Jesus either, for all the countless blessings we overlook every day! Happy April!

God Bless,

Bryce Timmerman



*Good Friday service will be at Faith Lutheran Church

- **Easter! He Is Risen! Sunday, April 9**
 - 7 am Sunrise Service
 - 9:30 am Celebration Service
 - 10:45 am Brunch served by the Youth
 - Children's egg hunts

WMF Spring Rally, Arlington, WA

What in the world are you doing?

That question was posed to us by Pastor Jeff Swanson at our district WMF meeting. It was held in Arlington WA this year. When Sherri first announced it at our meeting there were no takers for the trip this year. With her health concerns and preparation for their Easter trip she wasn't coming either. I decided to take AMTRAK and lovingly Karen Berosik decided to come with me. Her good friend Lori Willard was gracious in hosting and we were scheduled to depart at 10:30 pm on Thursday evening. However, we left at 3:00 in the morning instead. After a quick trip to the parsonage, we went out for Thai food. And then enjoyed some great conversation over our "wuhan" tea. The Saturday trip to Arlington was a visit with one of Calvary's members. Her story is so special and her and Bill are working behind the scenes there. Calvary has recently lost a couple families. They took nine of the Sunday school kids with them so prayers for the Lord to fill those holes would be appreciated.



Our time with the women of our district was so special. Our sweet Betty Blacken gave a



devotion where she reminded us that we are sheep and need to "follow the Shepherd." His call can be a complete U turn for many. The verse for the day was Mark 8:34 with the theme of "I Will Follow Jesus." I took lots of notes on the messages from Pastor Jeff Swanson. It was so good to see them. Prayers for his health would be appreciated with his Parkinson's diagnosis and a neurology appointment in July. They plan to travel to Brazil to see Hannah very soon. That night Lori took us to Arnie's for seafood and a beautiful view of Puget Sound. The next morning, we got a text that said our train had been canceled. Probably should have hopped on the phone immediately in hindsight but we enjoyed Sunday School, church, and potluck with our fellow believers there. Karen said the Monday train was already full so after some deliberation, we decided to stay for a couple more nights. (My work was ok with covering me) Lori Willard was in "The Chosen" she was so happy to show us some of season three. We also went with her to water aerobics, the mall, and walks in the spring sunshine. Not as

many things were blooming but they were already mowing their lawns over there. If you have an opportunity to go with us to the next district rally, I'd recommend it. Karen is on the nominating committee. We will need a secretary and vice president. And be sure to join our local WMF group. We support missions and pray and read God's Word together. So, when asked what in the world are you doing? We can respond – punching holes in the darkness. Just like the lamplighters used to do.



Women's Missionary Federation

Rona opened with Devotion. Karen Berosik did our Bible Study titled "Leah" from Genesis 29:14-35. Thank you, Karen.

Our money this month will go to home missions. Judy Karboski gave our treasurer report, we have \$264.50 in the bank.

Karen Berosik and Lavonne West went to Washington for the District W.M.F. Spring Rally. Thank you, ladies, for going.

There will be a Rummage Sale on March 29th and 30th to help pay for Allee's trip this summer overseas. Bring your things on the 28th.

We will have 2 services on Easter Sunday. Sunrise at 7 am and then our regular service at 9:30 am. Bryce will be preaching that day.

April 30th we will have movie night at 4 pm, please try to attend.

We had 12 ladies present. Gayle and Elaine served lunch. Gayle made lemon bars for dessert. They were very delicious. She brought lemons home that she got from Darleen Askvig, in Arizona. We need the recipe in our newsletter. Thank you, Gayle.

Our next meeting will be April 20th at Hattie Stahlberg's home with Judy Hogan as co-host. Gayle will lead our Bible Study and Hattie will have devotion. We hope to see you there.

Submitted by Elaine Lessor, WMF Secretary

After-School Program

For the month of March, the kids memorized Joshua 1:9. What a good verse to store in young hearts (and adults too!!) as we face such uncertain times. I want these young ones to know they are never alone and they can be strong and courageous knowing God almighty is always with them!! It has been such a blessing to see the sun on such a regular basis and it has definitely brought out the spring fever in everyone!! Thank the good Lord we finished the month off with a much-needed week off!!



Please continue to keep these little hearts in your prayers!! It's such a big world and they need to know that having Jesus is the only way to traverse this life!!

As always, a huge thank you to those who bless with their time (Lavonne, Judy, Debbie, Meri, Lusha, Karen B. and Lori....I could NOT do this without you!!) and for those who provided snacks!! The time and food are very appreciated!!

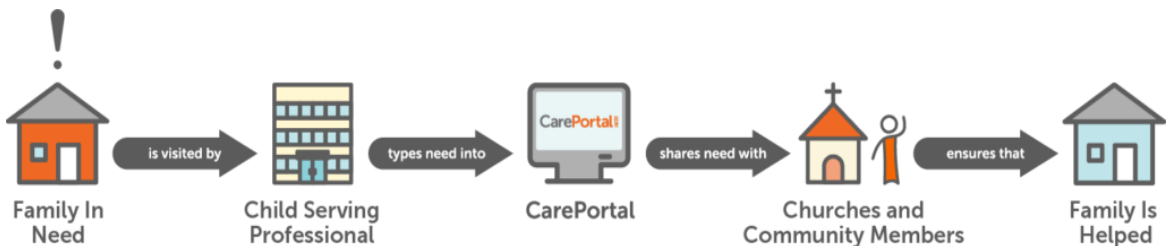
Thank you all and God's blessing! ~Ashley

Building Project Report

For the most part Matt and his crew have finished their work with the building project! They are putting finishing touches on things now like adjusting doors etc. They will build the flash barrier wall around the transformer when the ground thaws and the weather is warmer. This is required by the state fire code. If and when we pour new sidewalks around the church, he will be assisting Sandon Concrete Construction with that job. Hagestad will do the painting of the patio cover and staining/sealing of the logs when the weather gets warmer and after that Kalispell Electric will install the lights. We still plan to pave the parking lots sometime this year. LHC has us on their schedule and will contact me when they plan to start at Stillwater!

Ed Van Scoten

Care Portal



CarePortal is a technological platform that has served over 100,000 children and Promise686 is the implementing partner in Montana. Via a simple email request, CarePortal provides entry-level opportunities to connect a network of caring people in churches to the vetted, physical needs of families in their community. This network can provide preventative support for struggling families before foster care is a necessity. When the intervention of foster care *does* become a necessity, CarePortal also supports the foster families who are welcoming these children.

Stillwater Book Club Update for April

Our next book discussion will be *The Wedding Dress Sewing Circle* by Jennifer Ryan on Friday, Apr. 7, at 10:30 AM in the After School Kids' 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 Vicki this month. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join us, or just come to hear about it to see if you would like to read it in the future. Please join us!



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

May 5	<u>Orphan Train</u>	by Christina Baker Cline
June 2	<u>The Lady's Mine</u>	by Francine Rivers
July 7	<u>Trash</u>	by Andy Mulligan
August 4	<u>Julia's Hope</u>	by Liesha Kelly
Sept. 8	<u>The Lincoln Conspiracy</u>	by Brad Meltzer
Oct. 6	<u>One Thousand White Women</u>	by Jim Fergus
Nov. 3	<u>The Boys in the Boat</u>	by Daniel James Brown
Dec.1	<u>The Beautiful World</u>	by Susan Rohrer

Feeding the Flathead

March's cooks were Sherri and Pastor Craig Scavo with Meri Putzler and Vicki Wilhelm helping them serve the meal to 60 individuals, 31 ate inside and 29 took the meal to go on Monday, March 27. Their meal consisted of bean, rice, and cheese burritos, with homemade salsa, tortilla chips, an orange and a homemade cookie. Many thanks to Karen Berosik, Meri Putzler and Sherri Scavo for stuffing and rolling burritos after the WMF meeting.



Generosity is synonymous with Stillwater and we are thankful for Meri Putzler and Hattie Stahlberg for providing cookies, Lori Switzer for supplying oranges and cheese and Meri Putzler for the tortilla chips.

We are serving indoors at Bethlehem Lutheran on the last Monday of the month. Please consider signing up to cook and serve. **We are in need of someone for the months of May and December.** There are many in our congregation who will help with the shopping and serving too.

Serving others.. together in the name of Jesus.

Come on Out for Movie Night!



Join us April 30th at 4 pm 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.

Stillwater Library News

Our book selections are growing!



The Dieterich family made a large donation of books to the children's library: Bedtime stories, pop-up books, chapter books, parent read-alouds, Leap Reader books, poetry and nursery rhymes, Highlights

High 5 magazines, Ranger Rick and Ranger Rick Jr. magazines. Be sure to check out these wonderful additions to our children's library. Many, many thanks, Dieterich family!!



Also, new additions to the adult section of the library have been donated by Lori Switzer and by an anonymous person. Thanks, to both of you! Be sure to check the new books out. There are some great reads!!

The Lord is Come by Colleen Reese and Anita Donihue, is a book that will "transform your home (at Christmas time) from 'holiday hectic' to 'peacefully pleasant,'" ...as you "celebrate God's perfect gifts..and share Christ's birth with the world" (Barbour Publishing, Inc.)

Are You Ready to Change by Michael Frisina who has been a pastor, teacher, and leadership expert "shares key truths from the Holy Bible and practical tools that will empower anyone seeking change to part ways with old habits, thoughts, and emotions and attain a life of spiritual transformation. (Westbow Press)

Shattered is a compilation of authentic life stories. The facts are true and the events are real. These storytellers have dealt with crisis, tragedy,

abuse and neglect and have shared their most private moments, mess-ups and hang-ups in order for others to learn and grow from them.” Names and some details have been changed to protect their privacy. (GCP)

These three books will be placed on the self-help/reference book shelf to the left of the desk.

The Secret River by Kate Grenville is a historical fiction novel about “a banished English family who wrested a new life from the alien terrain of Australia and its native people” (Cannongate Publishing) “Magnificent, and sheer gorgeousness of the territory being fought over...” in speaking of the authors words. (The New Yorker)

The Last Checkmate by Gabriella Saab, a WW II historical fiction novel, tells the story of a young woman... who is a member of the Polish resistance in Warsaw, is captured and imprisoned in Auschwitz, and it tells of her fight to stay alive by playing chess. (Harper Collins Publisher)

The Sisters of Auschwitz by Roxane Van Iperen is a true story of two Jewish sisters’ resistance in the heart of Nazi territory. “Risking arrest and death, the sisters help save others, sheltering them in the woods... but are eventually betrayed” and head to Auschwitz. “A story of heroism and moral bravery, --and a reminder of the power each of us has to change the world.” (Harper Collins Publishers)

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein is “a heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope, ..as only a dog could tell it!” (Harper Collins Publishers)

The Wild Inside by Christine Carbo takes place one night in Glacier National Park ...when something unimaginable happened..a grizzly bear attacks the

father. Twenty years later there is another similar death, and it is investigated by an agent for the Dept. of Interior. A suspenseful mystery! The 1st of 4 novels about Glacier National Park that are rated 4 ½ stars on Amazon.

The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff is a story of a teenage girl's heroism who hides a Jewish baby while she hides out with a circus troupe during WW II.

The Woman with the Blue Star also by Pam Jenoff is a story of an 18 yr. old girl in 1942, who is forced to seek refuge in the sewers beneath the city. She and a young Polish girl become friends, but their friendship is threatened by the situation of the war.

Beyond All Dreams by Elizabeth Camden tells the story of a map librarian and her quest to solve the mystery of a ship that disappeared at sea. She enlists the help of Luke, a powerful congressman.

The Chase by Clive Cussler is a historical thriller. In 1906 the U.S. Govt. hires a detective (Isaac Bell) to capture a bank robber. A train engine is found in Flathead Lake, which leads Bell to travel far and wide to pursue this sociopath. This is the first of 13 books in the Isaac Bell Adventures by Cussler.



Friday Coffee Fellowship



What are those Friday Fellowshipers up to, anyway? Well...we always seem to have some kind of goodies to nosh on, as well as unlimited coffee and tea. There is no agenda or expectations of attendees. Anyone may drop in anytime and leave anytime. We start about 9:00 and end when we're tired of having fun. This week we learned from our newest attendee, Leonard, Smokey Bear's middle name is not "the" after all...it was only added to the song written in 1952 to maintain the rhythm. On a more serious note, the group has become very meaningful to many of us. It provides not an only opportunity socialize, but to really get to know fellow parishioners. We truly care about the well-being of others in the group. Please consider joining us on a Friday morning soon.

Primetimers

The primetimers met for fellowship and lunch on Saturday, March 18 in the activity center. There were 27 in attendance including the two musicians. A delicious meal was served, and the musical entertainment was enjoyed by all! Many thanks to those that set up, tore down and prepared and served the meal. This is the first time the primetimers met in the activity center. In the past they met at different local restaurants where they could seat a group of approximately 20 or more. It was suggested we meet in June on the patio. Please contact me if you have questions related to the primetimers.

Ed Van Scoten (503) 351-8523

Senders -

Allee Meyer is studying structural engineering at Montana State University. Allee will be leading a group to Kenya this summer with Engineers Without Borders, where they will begin the construction of a library. Although Engineers Without Borders is not a missionary organization, we believe God will be working in and through Allee throughout this endeavor.

Wednesday, March 28 and Thursday, March 29 a group of Allee's supporters from Stillwater, manned a rummage sale to raise seed money for her trip. At the close of the sale they will be able to present Allee with a check for \$2,000, close to half of what she needs. Thank you, Lord!

Thank you to everyone who was able to set-up, bring items, work the sale, purchase an item or two, and clean-up.

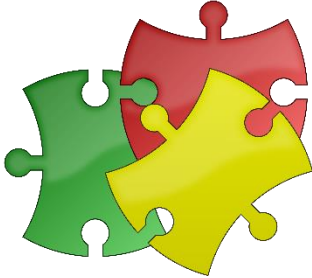
4 on 4 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT April 28-29th

Fundraiser for Allee Meyer
Stillwater Free Lutheran Church Activity Center

Games will start Friday evening and run through Saturday. Each team guaranteed 2 games. Teams will be sent a bracket once registration closes on April 26th. Concessions will be available. Register as an individual or as a team. Teams can be co-ed, but not required. \$15/player (\$5/spectator, kids under 5 free) pay at the door. Questions, call Sharon 406-261-1626.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" *Romans 10:14-15*

Bits and Pieces



- NO POTLUCK in April. Join us for Easter Brunch on April 9, about 10:45 am.
- Feeding the Flathead needs a volunteer or two to cook and serve on May 29th and December 25th. If this is something that you can help with, contact Sherri Scavo, Lori Switzer or Susan Shea.

Prayers for April

"Whatever you ask in prayer with faith, you will receive." Matt 21:22

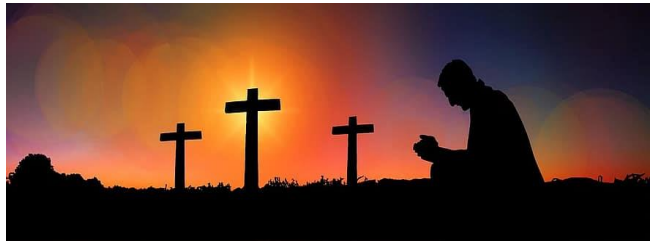
Church Work & Ministry

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
Switzer family at the passing of Dorothy, Shelby's mother
Charina Haynes and family at the passing of her mother
Karla West and family at the passing of her brother
Tammy and family at the passing of Justin Latta
Our Country and Leaders
Workers in the Harvest Field
Caregivers
Military and First Responders

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



Health Concerns

Steve Beck (Scavo/Van Scoten)
Sherri Scavo
Mike Brubaker
Jim Gerdeen
Todd Lantto
Carol Hogan
Sylvan Herset
Joyce Banzet
Michael Poston (Linda McGrew)
Justin Gronley (Joel and Cody Bartholomew's son)

Michael Bray
Ed & Shirley Poe