

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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Isaiah 61:11 “For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.”

May
2023



From the Pastor's Desk

Here we are May already! How many of you are ready for Summer?? I know I am! Sherri and I didn't get to take our trip to California last month, so we are planning on going camping this next weekend!!! It will be our first-time camping in Glacier Park. We figured, since we live here, we should spend at least one weekend there 😊.

As we get into May, the first thing most of us think about, besides flowers, is Mother's Day.

Mother's Day is celebrated in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May.

Our version of the holiday began in the early 20th century at the initiative of Anna Jarvis, who organized the first Mother's Day service of worship and celebration at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. The church serves as the International Mother's Day Shrine – something I didn't know even existed!

Interestingly, Mother's Day has been criticized for having become too commercialized. Jarvis herself, who began the celebration as a liturgical observance, regretted this commercialism and expressed that this was never her intention. She even spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar.

Mother's Day is a day to honor moms. Clearly a good thing. Honoring parents is not only biblical, it's one of the 10 laws God gave to us.

Interestingly, have you ever noticed the influence mothers have on their children's lives?

When a football player waves to the camera, he always says, "Hi Mom!" Dad may have taught him to play football, but mom is the big number.

Moms give unselfishly, and sometimes go without themselves so that their families don't. They seem to have enormous amounts of time and energy to make sure that all are provided for and that the children are brought up correctly.

Mothers also teach us:

- * about foresight: "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."
- * about logic: "If you fall out of that tree and break your neck, don't come crying to me."
- * about religion: "You better pray that comes out of the carpet."
- * about time travel: "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
- * They even teach us about the circle of life: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

Mothers are our first teachers, and what they teach is of immense value! Mothers teach us morals, values, and above all else, Mothers teach us about having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Paul tells us in his second letter to Timothy that mothers teach us about faith.

Paul says: (2 Tim 1:5) I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Paul is telling Timothy that He thanks God, night and day, whenever he thinks of him and is reminded of his great faith.

But this faith that is seen in Timothy was first seen in His Grand Mother Lois, and Mother Eunice!

And how did they teach him?

They taught him by living their faith!

When we live our lives in faith – others see it, and you parents know – children are always watching. They seem to see and hear EVERYTHING!!!!

Someone once said: A Christian mother's most vital task is passing the faith on, not only by what she SAYS, but by what she IS!

Mothers always seem to have the best interests of their children at heart – don't they! They always want the best for them – even when it seems otherwise!

G. Campbell Morgan, a British preacher whose four sons all became pastors, influenced millions with his preaching, teaching, and writing.

One day, when his young son Howard finished preaching, a reporter asked him, "Since you have five Pastors in your family who is the greatest preacher?"

Expecting the son to give the honor to his father, Howard surprised the reporter by saying, "My Mother!"

Often people do not realize that a mother's love, concern, and teaching are often far more influential on people than anything else, yet we see in Scripture that Moms are some of the most influential people in the world!

Happy Mother's Day!

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

We are only one week away from one of my favorite days/holidays – “May the Cinco de Mayo be with you”, (I think that’s right), so it must be May! I would explain that joke for those who didn’t get it, but I don’t really understand it either (I combined May the Fourth be with you and Cinco de Mayo). Charlotte’s getting to the age where she has to explain her jokes to me because they’re a little above my head, so now I’m in the joke explaining habit. Lately, I have been thinking a lot about being spread too thin, which normally just makes me hungry for buttered toast, but is a very relevant topic today, and the way that the Holy Spirit laid this on my heart, I do not think I’m alone in this struggle. Being stretched out or just simply exhausted can stem from lots of things – you have trouble saying no to things, you take on more than you think you can handle, your current life situation is just hectic, etc. I could go on with that list for a long time, and everyone’s problems are individualistic to an extent, but the root is still there, “I feel like I have more than I can handle”. Speaking first to the problem of struggling saying no or biting off more than you can chew, Jesus has a very wise insight in Matthew chapter 5. Jesus is giving the sermon on the mount, and in this particular passage, He is preaching about oaths. Jesus is warning about the danger of “false oaths” or “empty words” and in verse 37 He sums up His entire point, “Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.” He is telling the disciples and others around that they should not have to swear an oath, their words themselves, even as simple as yes and no, should be believable without an oath. So, if you’re one who struggles with taking on too much and saying no to things, remember that your word is your truth. We should always remember that as Christians because we should be speaking THE Truth, but this same ideology applies here as well. Do not answer before thinking, or consulting with those it might affect, and if the answer is yes, stick to your word not only for your sake, but for the ultimate Savior whom you represent. Lastly, maybe your situation is the latter of which I described earlier, where life is just hectic, you didn’t even necessarily choose it, it’s just a situation that you’re in. These are the scenarios where anger and frustration often arise because it doesn’t make sense, and in modern day terms, it’s just not fair. These situations are where I do my best to remember and meditate on 1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” In this passage, Paul is specifically talking about temptation, but this is still applicable in times of exhaustion. When we feel too stretched or burned, like I just mentioned, more often than not, there are feelings of anger, but that is also a temptation. God does not give us more than we can bear, and He always provides a way out, that way out is Him. Maybe none of this applies to you at your stage in life right now, but this simple message should

– God is always the answer, and He is never-changing. Cast your worries and cares upon Him, that is where true relief is.

In terms of the youth group, things have been pretty quiet this past month, and I honestly think that is the first time I've used youth group and quiet in the same sentence. Through the month of April, we've averaged 10 students, with lots of new faces! One of my favorite parts of youth ministry is forgetting names, and not because I don't like remembering things, but that means there's new people to memorize, always a blessing! During this month, we also had six youth help serve Easter brunch after Easter service, I know, crazy time to do it. It has definitely been a blessing to see more youth involved with church itself lately, and a thank you to the congregation for encouraging our young people and allowing them to be a part of this awesome church body! We also have youth selling concessions and participating at the 4v4 "Senders Basketball Tournament"! At the time I'm typing this, it has not taken place yet, so I'll just put a place holder sentence in for now. The tournament went very well, money was raised, youth helped out, and people played basketball! Our last school year youth group will be June 7th and that will bridge us into summer group. During summer group, we meet once every other week and participate in different activities such as paintball, hiking, camping, swimming, extinguishing small grass fires when we forget to put out the campfire, fun stuff like that. Our big event coming up this summer is still FLY, and praise God, we might need a two fish and five buses miracle to get down there! Ok, maybe it's not that bad, but there are lots signed up between us and Faith, with 12 coming from Stillwater and an estimated 23 coming from Faith to give us 35 total: awesome news! Another blessing, God has sure given me a lot of those here, is that out of all the youth going from Stillwater, every single one of them has enough in their youth account to pay for the whole thing without any charge to the families! However, we never turn down fundraisers and opportunities to help others and share God's love, so if you have any fundraiser ideas or just projects for the youth, let me know, and we'd love to work with ya!

In closing, from the bottom of my funny shaped heart, thank you all in this wonderful congregation for all your donations, spiritually and financially! God has used you to help get these kids to a life changing camp in the Rockies for one whole week, free of charge to them! You truly never know who needs it and what exactly God is doing, but by praying for these kids and showing up to their previous fundraisers, and donating money to them, you could've very well been the instrument God used to save somebody's life! Let us always look to God and where He calls us, and you guys just keep being your awesome selves, Happy May!

God Bless,

Bryce Timmerman

After-School Program

For the month of April, the kids memorized

John 3:16. What a great verse for last month as we celebrated Easter, and I was able to really focus our “study time” on what the Lord did for us to pave the way to salvation and eternal life with him!!



Just as soon as we started to see the sun more regularly and were able to get the kids outside during free time, Montana threw 4th and 5th winter at us!! We are ALL looking forward to more consistently sunny/warm days!!

There are 7 weeks left in the school year/after school program, so it is time for me to put a little tick in your ear about next year!! Next year we will see a change in the time schedule for the program. The program will now run 3:00-5:30 with volunteers only needing to be there from 3:30-5:30!! I am also in need of volunteers for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays!! Please be in serious prayer about taking one day a week during the school year to help me and the program. Please see me with any questions!!

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 and for those who provided snacks!! The time and food are very appreciated!!

Thank you all and God's blessing! ~Ashley



Stillwater Library News



We hope you are taking time to peruse the reading offerings that are in our church library. We have some great reads available! Just take the books you are interested in and return them to the box on the bottom shelf when you have finished reading them. No deadlines, due dates, or delinquent fees for keeping

a book too long. But do please return them so others can check them out. Putting them in the box also gives us an idea of which books are being read. Thanks for your help!

Gayle Lantto has donated a book, **The Boys** by Ron Howard and Clint Howard. Malcolm Gladwell states: "I have read dozens of Hollywood memoirs. But **The Boys** stands alone. A delightful, warm, and fascinating story of a good life in show business." Thanks, Gayle!

Marie Harris has donated a large type edition of a Reader's Digest condensation of Nora Roberts book, **Angels Fall**, and a Donna VanLiere book, **The Christmas Promise**. In **Angels Fall**, Reece Gilmore, on the run from a traumatic past, is the only witness to a brutal murder, yet the police can uncover no evidence of the crime. Will anyone believe her when she can barely believe herself? (RD) With 2 authors this book will be shelved under the first author's last name.

The Christmas Promise: After a family tragedy had shaken Gloria Bailey to the core, she moved and built a new life by caring for people in need. But when she is forced to take in a suspicious and disagreeable neighbor, her faith and patience meet their ultimate test. (RD-- both excerpts taken from the Reader's Digest)

The Florence Prescription by Joe Tye, Florence Nightingale faced a healthcare crisis at the Scutari Barrack Hospital in 1853-4 and over a 2-year period she defined the nursing profession and created a blueprint for the hospital as we know it today. A comment noted on Amazon.com stated, "While it (the book) is geared toward healthcare, the

lessons can be applied in any industry or any walk of life.” A definite read.
(TheFlorenceChallenge.com)

Marie also donated the following books that will be placed on our self-help/reference bookshelf to the left of the desk. Thanks, Marie, for all your donations!

Me, Myself and Lies by Jennifer Rothschild, deals with our destructive, unrealistic, self-talk. The author explores the power of self-talk, ...and teaches us to practice godly and biblical soul-talk. (LifeWay)

Crazy Love by Francis Chan asks “Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. ... It’s falling in love with God. “
(davidccook.com)

The following books will be placed in the Bible Study hanging shelf, to the right of the desk.

Expecting to See Jesus by Anne Graham Lotz is a study guide that teaches you how to listen as it leads you through a series of questions. The questions enable you not only to discover for yourself the eternal truths revealed by God in the Bible, but also to hear God speaking, personally through His Word. (Zondervan.com) This book will be placed on the hanging bookshelf to the right of the desk.

Becoming a Woman of Excellence by Cynthia Heald “is a study guide that leads us into a discovery of how God’s Word applies to our inner lives to challenge our commitment to excellence, to deepen our communion with God, and to prepare our hearts to proclaim the excellencies of Him...” (navpress.com) This book will also be found in the hanging bookshelf to the right of the desk.

Women of Faith Study Guide Series, **Cultivating Contentment, Managing Our Moods, A Life of Worship, and Encouraging One Another,** are titles of four separate study guides, good for individual reflection and growth, or as small group study. These books will also be placed on the hanging bookshelf to the right of the desk.

(Library News cont.)

Another book that was donated anonymously is **The Brown Bag** by Jerry Marshall Jordan which is full of sermons for children.

Baxter Family Firstborn Series by Karen Kingsbury

This is a five-book series about family, hope, forgiveness, and how God leads in all situations.

There is a secret in the Baxter family that Mom and Dad believe they must not reveal for the children's sake, but God has His own plan and timing.

Their children, grown up now, have their own fears, worries, and weaknesses. Judgment is often selfish or personal and they must learn to stop and listen to God. They need to learn that there must be forgiveness (of ourselves as well as others) before we can find peace.

Katy had a life all planned but fate changed that. She is struggling with doubts and weaknesses. She must learn to truly listen to God's will and desire for her life.

Dayne has fame and money but has always felt something is missing and he is full of anger. Follow his search for hope and his desire to be loved and to belong.

The Baxter's learn how strength and hope from family and deep faith can get them through anything.

- Thanks to Susan Shea for this great review. Be sure to check out a book from this series.

We would love to have other reviews of books you have read from our library. Please send your review to Meri Putzler at mputzler13@gmail.com so we can get it in the next newsletter.



Building Project Report

The following is a revised version of the report I presented to the church council on April 20. The council voted not to replace the sidewalk around the church. I plan to present a proposal for a fire/burglar alarm system at the May 18 council meeting.

LAST PHASE OF OUR BUILDING PROJECT

- Paint Patio Cover (Hagestad Estimate \$ 7,388.00) Retainer Fee \$ 1,477.60. – Paid. Balance Due \$ 5,910.40 (**Signed Contract**)
Paint underside - Stain and seal logs and beams.
Also reseal North and East entrance logs and beams.
- Wiring and installation of patio lights (Kalispell Electric Estimate \$ 5,000.00)
- Install rain gutters and downspouts on Patio Cover (Gurgis Gutters Estimate \$ 1,346.) **Signed Contract**. Trent Neumann will connect the downspouts to underground drain lines and NW drywell as he did on the North and East sides of the building. (Estimate \$ 8,000.00)
- Construct concrete (flash barrier) wall around transformer (Matt's Estimate \$ 1,850.00) **Required by State Fire Code**.
- LHC estimate for paving the parking lot is \$ 115,224.00. **The contract was signed by Darryl and approved by the council in September 2022**. This includes paving around the church, the area between the buildings up to Church Drive and north and west to Lone Coyote Trail Road. The road to the west will be 18 ft. wide allowing for two vehicles to pass. A culvert will be installed on the west end onto Lone Coyote Trail Road. LHC said it will probably be June at the earliest before they can start on our project.

Please contact me with questions and as always thanks for your prayers and support!

Respectfully submitted by Ed Van Scoten



Women's Missionary Federation

Hatti opened with devotion. We were asked to pray for all youth who are discussing Transgender. Our young people really need our prayers and compassion for what they are going through.

Gail did Bible Study for Lori Switzer, titled Tamar from Genesis 37:12-36 and Genesis 38. Thank you Gail for filling in.

Judy Karboski gave treasurers report. We have \$340.00 in the bank. Our offering will go to Christian Ed.

We will have a luncheon on May 12th at 12-2. We you contact Neila if you have your dress from when you got married as she is doing a show on Brides and will have girl modelling. If you could have a picture of you with this, she would appreciate it.

We will be going back to our groups that are listed in our yellow book. Group leaders will call. Groups: 3) will set up; 2) serving; 3) clean-up.

May 4th is National Day of Prayer. We will have movie night at 4 pm on Sunday, April 30th. Bring a treat to share and popcorn will be available.

We had 12 ladies present. Thank you to Hattie for being host and Judy Hogan as co-host. Thank you for opening your beautiful home and for a delicious lunch that was served.

Our next meeting will be May 18th at Judy Hogan's with Rachel as co-host. Darlene will have bible study and Sherri Scavo devotions.

We will do lesson 5 titled Rahab, a lesson in kindness. From the book of Joshua. Please try to attend.

Submitted by Elaine Lessor, WMF Secretary

Sherry Mork wrote this recently... I loved it. She is the secretary for our Bible College.

“I recently visited my mom in a nursing home, and I found I needed to ‘lean in’ to listen to her voice to grasp what she was saying to me. What does it mean to ‘lean in’ and are we listening to the Lord in such a sway? Are we listening wholeheartedly, being fully attentive, embracing what the Lord has to say?

Students at FLBC have been given this opportunity as they study God’s Word. They are learning to ‘lean in’ and be fully attentive to embrace and understand God’s Word. This time of *leaning in* becomes what they will *lean on* for a life of faith and faithful service in His Kingdom.

One of the thoughts the Lord has given me this week is not only do I need to lean in to hear him, but he wants me to know he does the same...he leans in when I share my heart with him. It’s my comfort.

“Prayer is locking our shields and making our appeals with other warriors on someone else’s behalf.” Sharon Jaynes

“The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: **thy mercy**, O LORD, endureth forever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.” Psalm 138:8

Submitted by Lavonne West, WMF President and Stillwater member



Thinking about going to Annual Conference???

Lavonne is willing to take two or three of our church members with her to Sioux Falls, SD in June!

Stillwater Book Club Update for May



Our next book discussion will be ***Orphan Train*** by Christina Baker Cline on Friday, May 5, 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 Susan 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.

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

A special thank you to Meri Putzler and Karen Berosik for oranges and Elaine Lessor and Rachel Timmerman for cookies.



We provided 37 meals inside Bethlehem Lutheran and 29 were taken to go.

We served burritos, Spanish rice, chips with salsa, oranges, and a cookie.

Thank you, Michael Meyer and Ann Martinson, for helping serve and Heather Meyer for helping cook and roll the burritos.

If you have never been involved, you might want to come out and see how everything comes together.

Serving others, together in the name of Jesus.

Susan

- 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

You are invited to participate in
Hope Pregnancy Ministries'
Bottles for Babies Campaign!

lives changed



*Bottles
for
Babies*



EVERY LIFE MATTERS.
EVERY PENNY COUNTS.

Pick up a baby bottle
and put
your change into
action!

Campaign runs
**Mother's
Day** through
**Father's
Day**

Look for the display in the Entry Way with available
bottles beginning on Mother's Day, May 14th.

Prayers for May

"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
Intersivity Christian Fellowship
The Gideons
CarePortal

General Prayers

Marriages and Families

- John, JayCee, Emily and Lorenzo Krickeberg
- Brester Family

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

JayCee Krickeberg

Steve Beck (Van Scoten/Scavo)

Sherri Scavo

Mike Brubaker

Grayson Parker (Early McWhorter's nephew)

Carol Hogan

Sylvan Herset

Joyce Banzet

Michael Bray

Michael Poston (Linda McGrew)

Justin Gronley (Joel and Cody Bartholomew's son)

Ed & Shirley Poe

