

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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From the Pastor's Desk

Faith ALONE!!!

Here we are – October already!!! And what comes to mind when we think about October??

Well, there's the Harves dinner! And of course, there's Halloween. But, how many of you think about the Reformation when October rolls around?

The 31st of October is the day we celebrate the reformation of the Church, that started when Martin Luther hung his 95 thesis on the castle door in Wittenberg, Germany.

What actually started the Reformation was the fact that Luther had a had a hard time receiving and understanding the love of God in his own life.

Luther knew God's commandments. He knew what was expected of him. And He knew that he had often failed to live his life as God expected.

Although Luther desperately sought the love and forgiveness of God, his thoughts were focused on the punishment that he deserved for his failure to live according to God's will for his life. As a result, he felt unworthy to be a servant of God, and the love and forgiveness he sought, evaded him.

Then, Luther came to experience the unmerited, all-forgiving love of Jesus!

In his study of Scripture, Luther came to a passage from Paul's letter to the Romans, and God opened his heart, and he was finally able to receive the grace of God!

This one passage changed his life forever. The passage comes from Romans 1:16-17 - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Luther found that Faith is the Key!

And Faith is a Gift from God.

Paul says in Ephesians (2:8): For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

Notice how we receive this Gift...

Paul says (Rom 10:17): So Then Faith Comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God!

So – we get this gift of Faith – Now what???

Well – God intends for this gift to grow in our lives!

It is almost like the phrase – Use it or Lose it!

So – How is faith to Grow???

Paul tells us three things in order for this gift of faith to Grow!

Paul Says: We Must Know it!, We Must Sow it!, We Must Show it!

Paul says in Romans 10:14a - 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?

In order for our Faith to Grow – we must hear the Word of God!

It is amazing how little people know about the Word of God, especially here in America where virtually everyone has access to the Bible!

The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge but to change our lives. Colossians 3:16 tells us: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Sow it - Romans 10:14 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

You Know what this means?!?!?!? It Means EVANGELISM!!! That one word that strikes fear into the boldest Christian!

Sharing our Faith only makes it Grow!

So we Know it (The Scriptures), And We SOW it (Spread the Word)

And finally we... Show it! The Word of God MUST be Lived!

Romans 10:15 - And how shall they preach, except they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Our Lives should show our faith! Does your faith show???

James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

In order for our Faith to Grow we must Know it, sow it and Show it!

So, as we go through this month – looking ahead to the Reformation – remember to grow your Faith!

God Bless.

Pastor Craig



Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Another month, another newsletter, man just 29 days, 11 hours, and 16 minutes ago, it didn't even feel like I had wrote my last one, time flies. I haven't had to watch Craig shovel the sidewalks again or let Rachel start my cold truck in the morning (it's one of her favorite things, so I let her), so we're just going to say it's still summer, and I love summer! At the same time, we're so immensely blessed as God's creation, that I try to love anytime, because I have a faithful God I serve and an incredible family! Also once we get in to colder months, it just means that I have summer to look forward to! I have definitely noticed this in my life and habits, I'm sure you all have too, this feeling of anticipation and excitement, having something to look forward to. I obviously just used summer as an example, but for those of who know me, I am a large football fan (figuratively speaking, I'm still waiting for my growth spurt). Now that we're back in football season, I find myself getting excited during the day, either when I'm bored or maybe frustrated, sometimes I just think, "but I get to watch football tonight, yay!". This of course is just an example, my biggest and much more frequent excitements are getting to go home to my family every night, or getting to do a youth event, but these feelings are sprinkled throughout my days. Two things come to my head when talking about future anticipation, one, it's a good thing to think ahead and plan, but don't let that turn negative. It is still ok to live in the day and don't start stressing about every little detail of what is to come, Jesus tells us this very clearly in Matthew 6 when He says he even takes care of the birds in the air, will He not take care of us? Secondly, all the examples I've given about getting hopes up, like seeing my family or leading church activities, though are wonderful, should not be the most important thing in my life. My relationship with Jesus should be number one always, which should be the best feeling of hope! It's ok to be excited by things going on in life. Just because this is a fallen world with many, many struggles does not mean God wants us to live a miserable life, in fact the opposite. He wants us to live for Him and that should be our biggest and most frequent excitement! Romans 12:13 reads, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." To get a little more context, right before this verse, Paul is quoting prophecies and scriptures from Isaiah, and verse 12 reads, "And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles in him will the Gentiles hope." This was the hope they had in the Old Testament – a Savior coming. In our day and age, our Savior has already come and bestowed the gift of gospel upon us, a free gift of eternal life. So when we are at a place of

frustration, confusion, or even despair, let the excitement and anticipation of Paradise with our Creator and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ fill us!

Back to one of the things that always brings joy (and the reason I have a job), our awesome youth group! We're officially back in session, as of September 6th and have already had 4 youth groups, and a youth led Sunday service! So far we have had a weekly average of 72 (minus 62) for a total of ten. The youth have been very good about bringing their friends again and so far there have been 18 different students through the doors, praise God! This year we have started a new curriculum through a program called LeaderTreks that specializes in Bible based teaching focusing on student leadership. That was a theme and a goal I set for the youth group this year, and so far, they all have different leadership roles in the youth group whether it be handing out Bibles for lesson time or greeting and befriending the new students that come, it's a great way to emphasize our Christian role of leading others to Him! I have also added a young adult leader to help me with the youth group (I thought it was time we got an adult involved), Mr. Joe Karboski, who has been a great help and addition to the youth ministry team! The youth have a couple of big fundraisers coming up, and then some of our fun, annual events in the month or two afterwards! First, on September 30th (which I'm guessing will have already happened by the time you're reading this), we will be down in Missoula parking cars for the Griz game at the WGM parking lot, which Sharon Wilhelm graciously got us an opportunity to participate! Then the next weekend, they will be at the Karboski's helping stack wood, no idle hands here! Confirmation has also started, on the 17th to be exact, and there are four students total, again, hallelujah! We are just starting in on the Ten Commandments, but should have all of them memorized by the end of the year, as well as the three ecumenical creeds. I've just noticed how many exclamation points I use almost at the end of each sentence, but I really am just excited for everything going on in the young people's ministries here at Stillwater, so you can read this in a happy, loud voice also if you want to! As the days get shorter, but also seem longer, please join me in prayer for energy and strength for the church staff. This can be a tricky time of year, but so can any time if we let negative thoughts and perceptions sneak into our heads. Let's remember to keep that hope and excitement in Jesus and live like we have the most amazing gift to look forward to because we do! Have a great October everyone and thank you for being such a great congregation!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Harvest Dinner Prep will Providing a Great Time for Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to lend a hand at preparing food for our Harvest Dinner.

We'll gather on

- **Friday, October 13** at 10a, to form and fry up the meatballs.
- **Saturday, October 14** at 10a, it's time to make Lefsa!



Please join us for our Harvest Dinner on

Sunday, October 15, 2023 beginning at 11 am.

Along with our Harvest Dinner of meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, roll and assorted pies we will also be dedicating to Gods glory our Activity Center.

Special Guest - Mike Brandt



Movie on the 5th (Sunday)



Come on out at 4p on Sunday, October 29th for "Movie on the 5th (Sunday)." Bring your lawn chair, if you like, a snack to share and we'll watch "***Love Comes Softly.***" Popcorn is provided.

Stillwater Library News

Have you been in the library since we got a new bookshelf for our nonfiction books? If not, please take time to check it out! We have some fantastic books just waiting for you to pick them off the shelves. Many thanks for all the donations. We also have a new DVD movie carousel to the right of the desk, courtesy of a friend of Judy Karboski, and new DVD movies from Judy to put in it. That will free up space on the shelves for the fantastic new books that are being added. Another thing to check out when you come to the library!!

Do you have a VHS cassette player? Do you watch VHS movies? Please let us know if we should keep them on our shelves.

New to our nonfiction shelves:

Heaven and the Afterlife by James Garlow and Keith Wall. “What happens the second we die? If heaven is a real place, who will live there? If hell exists, where is it located? What do near-death experiences mean?” These are just a few of the questions and ideas explored in this book. (Bethany House Publishers)

You and Your Problems by Charles Swindoll. “... we are not immune to many of the same battles that everyone else faces. Problems like anger, depression, inferiority, loneliness, resentment, and other practical difficulties hassle the people of God and therefore need to be addressed.” (Chuck Swindoll)

The Age of Promise by Randy Robison “When we learn from the past and apply it to the present, we determine our future.With the light of Christ shining on the shadows of the past, we develop a more complete perspective and discover a deeper, more powerful relationship with the eternal Father who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Nelson Books)

Finding Peace by Charles Stanley. “In this book ...Dr. Charles Stanley shows the way to life-changing peace of mind...but from only one source—God.....**Finding Peace** offers you the tools for resolving past failures and regrets, for facing present concerns and for soothing apprehensions about the future.” (Thomas Nelson)

Prayer, Faith and Healing by Kenneth W. Caine and Brian P. Kaufman Cure your body, heal your mind and restore your soul. Part 1: Power of Prayer, Part 2: Paths to Prayer, and Part 3: Prayer Prescriptions from A to Z. (Caine and Kaufman)

(Library News cont.)

Broken Things by M.R. DeHaan, M.D. “Many Christians have experienced the scarring effects of lost employment, crippling disease, or the death of a loved one. ..The message of this book brings hope and peace through the healing principles of God’s Word. “ (Discovery House Publishers)

When Prayers Are Not Answered by Elizabeth Rockwood This author “helps you gain practical answers to difficult questions about prayer. As you read, you will find new strength to trust God when His purposes don’t seem clear and to realize that He is never far away.”(Guideposts)

Anxious for Nothing by John MacArthur “Grounded in the Scripture, the author...reminds us that God understands our struggles and has equipped us with resources to not only face, but also to truly triumph over our anxieties.” (Victor)

Confidence in the Bible by Harold J. Sala Dr. Sala presents fascinating evidence, personal stories and illustrations that demonstrate why the Bible is unique...is interconnected... and shows how to bridge the distance between your heart and God’s word. (Sala)

Outlive your Life by Max Lucado This book “is a roadmap for your life journey that will leave you few regrets and will inspire you to be all that God intended. This is one of those rare books that can change your life.” (Richard Stearns)

How to Listen to God by Doug Hill “God wants to speak to us. He can, and He does! All the time. The problem is we don’t always hear what He’s saying... Sometimes He whispers, other times, He shouts. Sometimes He sends angels to our doors,..or plants ideas in our heads. “ He speaks in a variety of ways as shown in this collection of personal stories of how God has spoken to people. (Guideposts)

When Life is Hard by James MacDonald How do we make sense of suffering? “God uses suffering to change our conduct and shape our character...Don’t assume He’s abandoned you...Open yourself wide to what He wants to do in your life. “ (Moody Publishers)

Divine Interventions by editors of Guideposts Heartwarming stories of answered prayers (Guideposts)

Never Lose Heart by Joyce Meyer A collection of devotional encouragements and Bible verses when you feel in need. (Joyce Meyer)

Glimpses of Heaven, and **More Glimpses of Heaven** by Trudy Harris, RN A collection of inspiring true stories of hope and peace at the end of life’s journey.

The following are **children's chapter books** for readers 8-12 years of age. These are thrilling adventure stories introducing Christian heroes of the past.

Quest for the Lost Prince

Traitor in the Tower

Danger on the Flying Trapeze

The Thieves of Tyburn Square

The Betrayer's Fortune

The Fate of the Yellow Woodbee

The Warrior's Challenge

The Prodigal Father

The Times of Joshua and the Judges

The Chimney Sweep's Ransom

Attack in the Rye Grass

Escape from the Slave Traders

Imprisoned in the Golden City

Spy for the Night Riders

DVD Movies:

Beyond the Gates of Splendor

Jesus of Nazareth

Amazing Grace

The Nativity Story

One Night with the King

Countdown to Armageddon

Jesus

Mercy Streets

Left Behind Tribulation Force

Walking on Water

War Eagle

The Christmas Shoes

Babar and Father Christmas

The Journey Home

The First Days of Christianity

The Case for Christ

Courageous Honor Begins at Home

The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven

Weapons of Worship

Miracles of the Passion

Removing Hindrances

St Peter

Duma

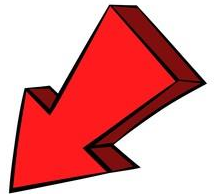
Daniel and the Super Dogs

The Christmas Blessing

Little Women

The Star of Christmas

Class C



Join Us For Our Midweek Programs

Wednesday evening, we offer a midweek programs for ages Kinder - 105!

- 5:30p - 5:55p Dinner is served
- 6p - 7p* Kids Club! *(note NEW time)
 - K - 2nd grader will meet with Miss Mary
 - 3rd - 5th graders will meet with Miss Lenka
- 6p - 7:30p Adult Bible Study
- 6p - 7:30p Youth Group

Attention all Crafters and Shoppers!

We have an exciting new opportunity for you to sell your handcrafted items and to shop for unique Christmas gifts.



Stillwater Christmas Shoppe Saturday, December 2nd from 9a-3p

We have room for approximately 36-38 vendors. Approximate costs to sell will be \$30-40, depending on table space. If you wish to consider selling but don't feel you have enough to sell, consider buddying up with a friend.

Vendors will need to submit a few photos to ensure quality, that products are in keeping with Stillwater's Christian values, as well as ensuring a show that offers a nice variety for shoppers. Specific details will follow.

Mark your calendars for this fun-filled event!

See Suzanne Tutvedt, Karen Berosik or Gayle Lantto with questions.



First Class is in the Books!



Our cake decorating class held on September 24, was a lot of fun.

I had 5 ladies come to learn basic skills on mixing frosting and using 4 basic tips.

I taught them how to fill and hold the deco bags and showed them a few samples. By now they were ready to go. They had their own ideas and were decorating. At this point I was giving suggestions on how to get the results they wanted (and remind them of the proper bag angle and to turn their cupcake).



In the end we had our basic borders, drop flowers, sunflowers, and poinsettias, but we also had candy corn, Christmas trees, Rudolph and even a Grinch for Pastor Craig!

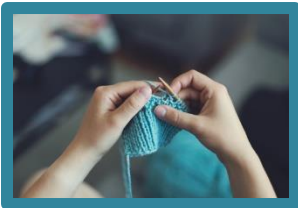


Susan Shea, Instructor
A fun time for all!!



Next Class Set for October 15th

Have you always wanted to learn how to knit or crochet? Maybe, you just need a refresher on what you learned years ago? Karla Cartwright will lead a class following the Harvest Dinner on Sunday, October 15.



After-School Program

We are now in full swing with the after school program and things continue to go strong! We have a great group of kids this year including some rather lively little boys! They keep us young right?!! We have been enjoying getting to know the new kiddos this year as well as strengthening the relationships made with the returning kids! We are continuing our study on the armor of God and this month we are memorizing Ephesians 6:11. The kids have Ephesians 6:10 down perfectly!! I have implemented a prayer jar this month where the kids can write out a prayer request, put it in the jar and I take it home to pray over them specifically that week! Please continue to pray throughout the school year that the word of God is planted and will continue to grow in little hearts! Also, please be covering the kids, my volunteers and myself in prayer as we enter the dreaded "season of various illnesses"!!!



Gods blessings~Ashley

Feeding the Flathead



Thank you to Ann Martinson, Darlene Askvig, Meri Puzzler, Pastor & Sherri Scavo for serving 86 meals this month. The meal of sloppy joes, chips, pork & beans & finished off with brownies was well received.

Serving Him,
Sherri Scavo

Stillwater Book Club

Our next book discussion on Oct. 6, at 10:30 a.m. will be **One Thousand White Women** by Jim Fergus. This book is based on an actual historical event that took place in the 1870s.



Our year is coming to a close and we have almost completed the first year of book club! We have had 6-9 people attending each month! That's a great success! We have had great discussions. Often someone will remember things either I had forgotten or have a different interpretation of an event or character. We learn from each other and get so much more out of a book. Please feel free

to join us any time, even if you can only come once or twice.

In planning year 2, please bring at least 2-3 book title (and author) suggestions to the October meeting, for books you'd like to read in 2024. Meri will check availability through the Imaginelf library, our church library, and Thrift Books for the cost to purchase. With that information then in November, the group will select which books they would read and when (which month). We will also discuss the meeting dates and time, and whether or not to have lunch (or snacks).

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

Nov. 3 **The Boys in the Boat** by Daniel James Brown,

Dec.1 **The Beautiful World** by Susan Rohrer

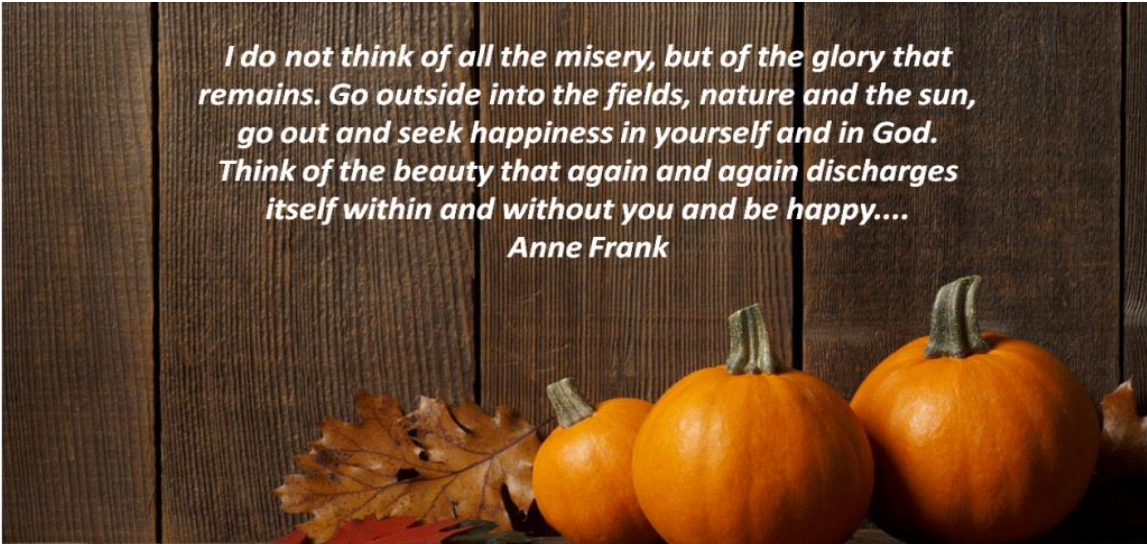
Happy reading, happy Fall, and God's Blessings,
Meri Putzler

Building Project Report

Hagestad Painting has completed painting the patio cover and resealing the logs and beams. Hagestad recommends the beams and logs be resealed every 2-4 years. Gurgis Rain Gutters have installed patio rain gutters and Kalispell Electric plans to install the lights before the end of September. LHC has agreed to do the asphalt patch work under the well cover and around the two boulders at the Drive-Thru. I am in the process of researching digital clocks to install in the activity center gymnasium (types, costs, sizes etc.) with (T.E.S.T.) Total Education Solutions Technology. Hopefully, I will have something to present to the council on this subject at their October meeting. I also hope to have the final state building inspection before the dedication on October 15. At that point we will receive a full occupancy permit. As you might recall we are still operating under a partial occupancy permit. Susan Shea and Neila Elgin plan to design and construct hanging banners for the activity center to improve acoustics.

Please contact me with questions or concerns related to the building project. We are near the end of our building project! Praise God! He has blessed us beyond measure with financial gifts from many donors, as well as the safety of the workers and all things related to this project. As always thanks for your prayers and support!

Ed Van Scoten



I do not think of all the misery, but of the glory that remains. Go outside into the fields, nature and the sun, go out and seek happiness in yourself and in God. Think of the beauty that again and again discharges itself within and without you and be happy...
Anne Frank

Women's Retreat – 2023



This year at our annual women's retreat, 32 women joined for an especially meaningful time of fellowship—nine for the first time!

Saturday, JayCee shared heartfelt personal experiences, teaching us how to use spiritual journaling to work through issues. She used Psalms as an example. Like David, at times we may cry out to God in despair, BUT we also praise Him. Blessings and prayer requests were shared, as well as a time to let go of our burdens. Neila helped us make necklaces and encouraged us to insert our names into John 1:6 and 7 "There was a woman sent from God whose name was [your name]. She came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe."

We appreciate Early once again sharing her beautiful Standing Bear Cabin. Also thank you to Sherri, Susan and Judy H. for organizing food and gift bag drawings, to those who brought food, and to Karen B. and Lavonne for our "cake" guessing game and spelling bee with prizes. A big thank you to Neila for another creative craft project.

After moving to Montana and not jumping in to find a church my sister told me, "I think you are missing out." It didn't take me long to realize she was right. Perhaps women who have not attended the retreat are also missing out. Everyone is welcome and you may bring a friend—make a plan to join us next September.

Gayle, Stillwater WMF President



Thank you all for the love and support
for our granddaughter.
Whitney and Lavonne appreciate
everything you gave for Peyton.



And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...” -Mark 12:28-30

What do you “*love with all of your heart?*” There are a couple of factors to consider before we can really answer that question. What do I mean by love, and what do I mean by “all of my heart?”

When Jesus answered the scribe, He was in essence defining what it means to be one of His disciples. He tells us to “love,” using the Greek word *agape*, which is God’s unique type of love. A love that is a decision of the will. A love that is unconditional, not considering gain or cost, but a commitment to do whatever is best for the one being loved. It is the way that God loves us and the way that He empowers us to love, by His indwelling Holy Spirit. It is however, our continuing decision to choose to *agape* love.

With “*all of our heart,*” is a phrase used many times in scripture and its meaning becomes clearer when we understand that to the Hebrew mind, the heart wasn't just the organ that gives physical life, but the place where you think and make sense of the world, where you feel emotions and make choices.

So, to “*love God with all of our heart*” means to choose to love Him from the very core of our being, regardless of our emotions, the circumstances, the cost, and with our every decision. In other words, it is a commitment unlike any other. But, it is a commitment that is matched and exceeded a thousand fold when we consider that the God of all Creation *agape* loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son to die for us, paying the price for our sin, and empowering us to believe and trust in Him. Allowing us to know His forgiveness and grace and to not only receive *agape* love, but also express it towards Him and our neighbor.

Friends, we live in a world that is desperately seeking real love, but it can only be found in Jesus Christ. Our call and privilege as His disciples is to be a witness of this love to the circle of influence God has given us. May I challenge you to consider this great invitation to be a light that shines on those that God has placed you near, a light that reveals Jesus in you and is transforming you day by day? This is the first call of those who are true disciples of Jesus. Let us choose to make this our daily commitment, in His power, and to His glory. Amen.

In His Love,
Pastor Randy Nelson

Prayers for October

"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
After School Program
Stillwater Youth Group
Kids Club
Stillwater & National WMF
Feeding the Flathead
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
The Gideons
CarePortal

General Prayers

Marriages and Families
Our Country and Leaders
Workers in the Harvest Field
Firefighters and Support Staff
Travel Mercies
Caregivers
Military and First Responders

- Mace Breamer
- David Bruyer (Askvig)
- Arron Burns
- James Gelormino
- Jonathan Gelormino
- Gage Triplett

Health Concerns

Linda McGrew
Joyce & Gerry Banzet
John, Susan Shea's brother-in-Law
Steve Beck (Van Scoten/Scavo)
Gerry Stahlberg
John Kruger
Carol Hogan
Sylvan Herset
Justin Gronley (Joel and Cody Bartholomew's son)

