

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with our Neighbors”

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From the Pastor's Desk

The Prayer of Faith

One of my favorite Scripture verses comes out of the book of James (5:13-16). Many of you have heard me recite these verses, when we had gathered for a word of prayer – usually before some kind of medical procedure.

James tells us: Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

I just love these verses!

But there was a time, that I just couldn't wrap my mind around them.

You see, the last verse just stumped me, every time I read these verses. I just couldn't get past the idea that:

First off – I am most definitely NOT a Righteous man.

Second – why would God be concerned with me, and my small problems. Especially when you look around at those who have some real problems!

Third – I think I was afraid, because what happens if God decides to NOT answer my prayer? What happens to my faith??

Now, maybe this isn't something your Pastor should be admitting, but like I said – this as a time in my life that I struggled with what God was saying.

Then someone shared with me that I am not Righteous in my own might. It is only by the Power of God and the Blood of Jesus – and because of that I am indeed Righteous!!!

In Fact, Paul tells us in Romans 1:16-17: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

So, as we remember the Resurrection and enter into Spring and Summer up here in the beautiful Flathead valley, I want us to do so with a renewed spirit and a revitalized hope for all that is possible when we faithfully place our trust in The One who was raised from death to life!

During this time, we are embarking on a new Study called “Prayer” by Ole Hallesby.

Ole Hallesby was one of Norway’s leading Christian teachers and devotional writers. During WWII he was imprisoned because of his resistance to the Nazi regime.

In this study, we are going to look at what Prayer is and what it is not.

We are going to look at some of the difficulties of prayer and why we wrestle with prayer.

I am hoping that this study will have a positive impact on those of you who are already strong prayer warriors, and that it will encourage those of us who struggle!

Also, I am sure that most of you have noticed that the remodel/improvements are almost complete. Thank you all who have helped and put in extra time and effort!

There are still a few things that need to be completed, and some things that we still want to accomplish!

As we enter into the Spring and Summer, lets also not forget that there are still lots of opportunities to minister to those around us – even if we just take time to pray!!!!

Praying God's blessing on all of you!!

Pastor Craig

We Welcomed New Members



Some very familiar faces made it official during service on Sunday, March 3 and added their names to the family here at Stillwater! From left to right: JD and Luanne Metcalf, David Clarke, Tim Nuce, Gayle Lantto and Wayne Franklin. Welcome!

Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

You know the classic saying, there are three things certain in life – “Death, taxes, and the Stillwater Newsletter”, and since this is April, you should really get on top of two of those (reading the newsletter and paying your taxes in case that was confusing). I love that you’re reading this though because it means you’re somehow attached to Stillwater, and praise God for that! We’re currently on our 7th spring and 3rd winter, and even if it may be frustrating to put on sunscreen and a parka at the same time, praise God we’re getting some moisture! Like this weather, life can be fast fluctuating and hard to keep up with, but another praise that God has given us the tools to get out of it. First of all, 1 Corinthians 10:13 reminds us, “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” God is faithful, He will not give us more than we can bear, but when we are tempted, when we are struggling, He will provide a way out. What are some of the means and tools He uses for these ways out? To give a Sunday School answer right away, I can think of one tool He’s given us, probably the most powerful – being able to talk directly to Him, whenever, wherever. For those who like to listen to the Christian radio station, or if your rig is like my old F-150, the radio display doesn’t work and you can’t change the station, but there’s a song that’s been out for a while that I hear quite often. The title and artist elude me at the moment, but the chorus of the song simply states, “I met Jesus in a parking lot”. I think about these lyrics all the time. In this song, the artist is specifically talking about the time he met Jesus and entered a relationship with Him, but this example speaks to the availability that we always have when we have Jesus. Wherever we are, no matter what is going on – the middle of a meeting, can’t fall asleep, long drive, short drive, and the list goes on, we can bring our worries, stresses, and temptations to Jesus at all times. Paul puts it great in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “pray without ceasing”. Another tool that has greatly helped me is the fellow brothers and sisters in Christ that He has surrounded me with. Those who can come beside me and help encourage, help discern, help pray (another tool we just talked about). Recently, I was in a situation where I truly did not know which choice to make. Both options seemed to have equal pros and cons, and I was really just at a loss and was doing a bad job of giving it all to God, allowing myself to get stressed. I shared this with a few accountability brothers and all they simply did was pray for and with me, and I walked into the situation with just a different clarity that was truly from the Holy Spirit. Really this whole “mini-sermon” is just a reminder that the Lord truly loves and

cares about you and wants you to reach out to Him and cast your cares and worries upon Him! He's given us lots of tools, so don't forget to give it to God!

Busy, exciting, crazy, wild, awesome March at youth group, so pretty normal month. In our last four youth groups we have had an average of 17, while welcoming two new students, praise God! I always say that one of the biggest blessings is being able to forget a student's name, because it means we have new ones and I get to talk to them! The youth have also graduated from junior high lessons to high school lessons, and not just because I ran out of junior high lessons, but I really can see them spiritually maturing. The youth had one major event in March, and even though my body was still recovering from the 2023 one, the annual lock-in waits for no youth leader. It was that time of the year where we finished our winter time youth gauntlet (night ski, Valentine's dinner, and lock-in) and we finished it with a bang! Not literally, there were no explosives allowed this year. Like always we invited our sister church Faith and they brought 12 students and four chaperones to laugh and learn with us Stillwater folk. This year we had a total of 36 students and 8 chaperones, and thankfully they did not overtake us. It went from the evening of March 22nd starting at 7 pm to the morning of March 23rd ending at 8 am, and it truly was a wonderful time of fellowship and memories. Emily Herset, Faith's youth leader and our very own old man high school senior, Nate Wilhelm, led us in worship and we got

to dive into the importance of having absolute truth in our life. There was also lots of games, games, candy, and games, but again, thank you for your prayers! There were no injuries and really no problems, especially for having that many students, easily the most we've ever had, God is good! The next big upcoming event we have is campus days, which is a fun kind of camp-like weekend at the Free Lutheran Bible College where both Rachel and I graduated from way back in the day! I have three boys signed up, so we will be leaving to roadtrip there April 11th and will roll back into town April 15th. Confirmation is also rolling and even on track to finish early thanks to the students doing a great job at their homework and sermon notes! This might be the first time I've ever been early with anything and I'm very excited!

All the ministries here seem to be thriving, and I say this not to gloat or boast, because first, it's nothing we've done, it's all God, and second, let's keep praying for growth, not numerically, but spiritually. Growth is wonderful, but if you have a church where there's 500 people and only 14 of them know Jesus or a church with only 30, but 25 of them know Jesus, which one is truly thriving? I pray for all of us as we continue to share Jesus Christ with our neighbors like so many of you have been faithfully doing. I pray that we

have the boldness of the Holy Spirit and faith that can move mountains, with those, there is nothing that can stop us! Please join me in this prayer and also have just a wonderful April, He is Risen!

God Bless,

Bryce Timmerman

After School Program

We are coming off a much-needed Spring Break and are now ready to hit the ground running this last round of school! Last month saw the kiddos fitting their feet with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace and now they will be learning about taking up the Shield of Faith to help protect them from all the enemy will throw at them. This month the kids will memorize Ephesians 6:16!! We continue to see a steady attendance of 14 kids as illnesses seem to be held at bay!! We definitely have a full classroom some days!



Again, I want to thank our regular volunteers (along with the occasional stand in from Pastor Craig) for faithfully helping Debbie and me each week! We could not run our program without you!! As in past months I humbly ask you to continue to pray the word of God is planted and will grow in little hearts and also to please continue to cover us all in prayer for good health!!!

God's Blessings ~ Ashley

NO potluck after Communion service on Sunday, April 7th.

Plan to join us for Adult Sunday School following worship. We will begin our study of the book "Prayer" by O. Hallasby.



WMF met on March 22, 2024. Seventeen beautiful women were in attendance! Sherri began our time with prayer, asking for open hearts and minds. Ronna followed with devotions, reminding us Luke 11:33-36 and Romans 2:19 say each of us is like a star or lamp—a light to those in darkness. Put on a bright face and gladness will surely come. Karen B. led lesson 4 of our Bible study on Philippians, Exuberant Joy! We discussed how suffering builds character by testing our faith. Dying is gain, when we will be relieved of our burdens and forever live with Christ.

Judy K. gave the treasurer's report. We have a balance of \$357.88. Our missionary birthday fund is \$43. There are a few women who owe \$14 for study books. This month's offering goes toward World Missions.

Gayle read the secretaries report. Two corrections were made. Primetimers was held on February 24th and Judy's class was tentatively scheduled for May 25th.

*Karen VS reviewed the church calendar. Holy Week begins this Palm Sunday. There will be a palm branch processional to signify people waving branches to welcome Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem. It is to remind us to welcome Jesus into our hearts and be ready to follow him. Holy Week will include a Good Friday service with Faith Lutheran Church, with a co-service at 6 PM. Flowers may be brought to the church by Friday for our Easter garden. Easter Sunday will include services at 7:00 and 9:30 AM, followed by a light brunch of egg casseroles, fruit, link sausage and assorted pastries—sign up to bring something to share for this time of fellowship and celebration. A fun-filled Easter egg hunt will be held for kids with Rachel, Maddie, Emily, Lenka and Simona hiding eggs. Karen reminded us to pray for Pastor Craig during this very full week.

*There will be no potluck Sunday, April 7th, however, Adult Sunday school will begin with a new book titled, Prayer, by O. Hallasby.

*Sherri reminded us lots of people have their hands in lots of “stuff” at the church and activity center. Therefore, it is important to label items with its purpose and if appropriate include your name and/or date—especially food!

* We are blessed by more children in our congregation! Two new booster chairs were purchased; please wipe them down after use.

*Fire extinguisher locations in the church and AC were reviewed. A need for an AED in both locations was suggested and work is underway to secure a donation by Flathead Electric. Tina Marie also suggested classes in how to use the device. It was suggested a wheelchair be made available and a donation of one is being considered.

*Judy K’s class on salve making, using backyard plants for healing will held in the Activity Center on May 18th from 10a – 1p.

*ALFC national is in need of a vice president, treasurer and secretary—please be in prayer. The rally in Washington is April 13th with travel the 12th and 14th. See Karen B. if interested in tagging along.

*Prayer requests for psychological and physical healing were shared and individuals were remembered in prayer.

We closed our meeting with chicken wild rice soup, fruit cocktail salad and cake for dessert with Gayle and Elaine as hostesses. Next month WMF will be held at Hattie’s with Hattie and Judy H. as hostesses. Judy H. will lead the study in Gayle’s absence and Hattie will lead devotions. Please join us for lesson 5, as we joyfully grow our group in numbers!

Submitted by Gayle Lantto, WMF secretary

National WMF President Insight

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering. Phil. 3:10

I treasure this time of year. Our boys were born in spring. And now we have a granddaughter to enjoy. New life as a farm girl is so precious. It's been a while since I could claim that title but that's my heritage. Calves are born and chicks are hatching. We have some babies in our bird house already. There's a verse I love in Malachi 4:2 "But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall." It's quite a sight really and a picture of our thrill to KNOW HIM – and the power of His resurrection.

I'm jumping for joy as I jot this note. It's nearly Holy Week. I saw a cool T Shirt – It said "a lot can happen in a week." There were symbols of the crown and a palm branch as well as a cross and an empty tomb. I have too many shirts already but that one was tempting.

We may know Him. One song that I love lately says, "I'm fighting a battle – you've already won. No matter what comes my way. I will overcome. Don't know what you're doing. But I know what you've done. I'm fighting a battle you've already won. Shane and Shane

Pray for Karen Berosik and I as we journey to Ferndale, WA in a couple weeks. There's room for two more!!! Also pray for our women as we delve into Philipians. This year's study is unique as the author has asked us to read the whole book every month. (It takes twenty minutes) I have the Bible app – you version and have enjoyed a number of translations for this assignment. She also has a memory verse each month so that is a challenge as well. We will know Him better as we study it. I can hook you up with a copy if you'd like to take the time to know Him, too.

Lavonne West

Stillwater Library News

The library is undergoing construction! What a gracious gift from God! We are going to have double the space! Even space for an easy chair to sit in and read



something of interest to you! Thank you for your patience while we get the library put back together. Once it is done, please come and see our new space. It shouldn't be long!!!

Please hold donations until we are open again. Many, many thanks!

Darryl read a new book and then read it again. And again! Four times in all! He was SO impressed with it and saw and learned more and more details that he'd missed before! He thought the rest of the congregation would like it as much as he did so he is sharing the book with you. It's title? Journey Through the Ark Encounter.

Did you ever wonder just how it was organized, how could God get eight people and all those animals, food and water for all for over a year in that ark? If you just think about it, it was pretty amazing! God provided the knowledge of each animal's needs, skills to build, and time to construct such an amazing craft! You'll want to be sure to read this book and get answers to many of your questions. I did, time and time again.

This book I'd like to put on a 2-week checkout basis, so we know where it is. I'll leave it on the desk so it is easy to find once we get everything back in place. Just fill out the card on top of the book, leave that card in the box next to the book and take it home and enjoy! Please return it to the desk when you are finished with it for the next person to borrow.

Do we have a field trip to Kentucky in our future????

God's blessings and happy reading!!

Susan and Meri

Stillwater Book Club



Our next book discussion on April 5, at 10:30 a.m. will be *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate. A 91-year-old lady who began carefully decorating prayer boxes, one each year starting at age 10, records prayers over her lifetime of the hopes, wishes, fears, and thoughts of life, faith and love. The letters are found by a young single mother whose life is profoundly changed by them.

I have never been disappointed in any books written by Lisa Wingate. Her books compel me to want to keep reading and find out what happens. Please come and participate in our discussion in the far-end classroom in the Activity Center. We'd love to have you join us!

For all of you readers and enjoyers of literature out there I wanted to let you know that Flathead High School's Theatre Department will be presenting Shakespeare's "Macbeth", April 25, 26, and 27, 2024 at 6:27 p.m. and "Radium Girls", by Kate Moore, a true story about girls in the early 1900's who were exposed to radium in factories and their work to strive for better working rights as fatal poison claimed their lives. That presentation will be held also at Flathead High School May 8th & 9th, 2024, at 6:27 p.m.

I highly recommend attending both local high school performances. They do an excellent job with all of their plays and you truly will be entertained.

The schedule of books for the rest of the year is as follows:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| May 3 | Leota's Garden by Francine Rivers |
| June 7 | I'll Push You by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck |
| July 12 | Corelli's Mandollin by Louis De Bernieres |
| Aug. 2 | Nothing to Lose by J.A. Jance |
| Sept. 6 | The Sound of Light by Sarah Sundin |
| Oct. 4 | American Massacre by Sally Denton |
| Nov. 1 | The Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah |
| Dec. 6 | Radar Girls by Sara Ackerman |

Happy reading, and God's Blessings,
Meri Putzler

Digital Clock



Thanks to Matt Lee Construction Company (Matt, Sean, and Frank) and Kalispell Electric (Mark Van Derveer) for donating their time and material to install the new digital clock in the activity center.

Spring Concert Set!

Some of you might remember the group called BrassWerks Ensemble, a six-piece brass band who performed a Christmas concert for us in December. They will be returning **Sunday April 28** to perform a Spring concert. As of now it is scheduled for the afternoon from 3-5 PM in the activity center.

March Came in Like a Lamb, But Went Out Like a LION!



Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!

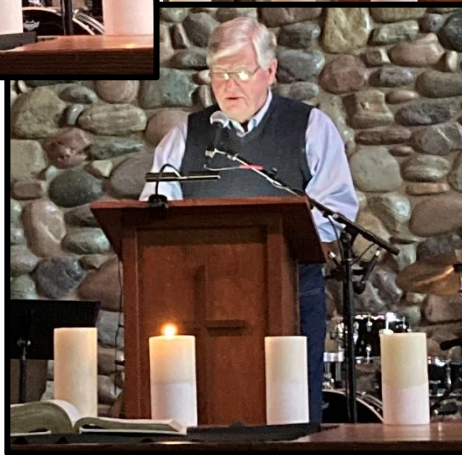


Good Friday Tenzbrae Service

Increase darkness by gradually extinguishing candle to symbolize the coming darkness of Jesus' death.



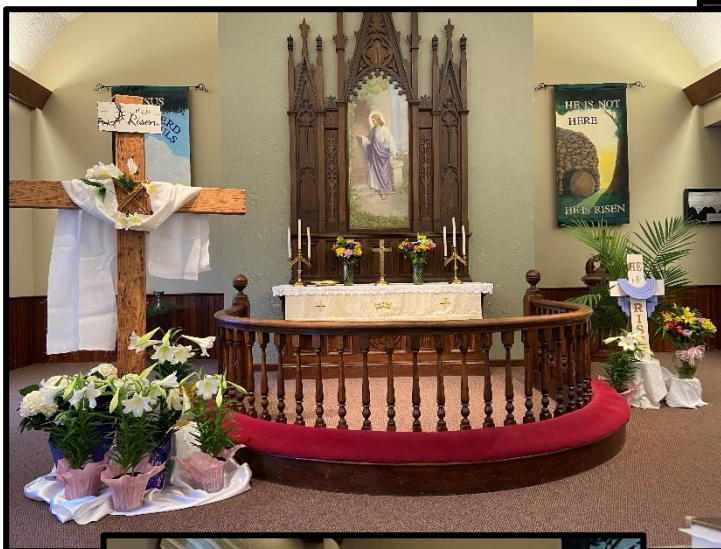
Readers



Pastor Craig, candle extinguisher (not pictured)

Resurrection Sunday Worship

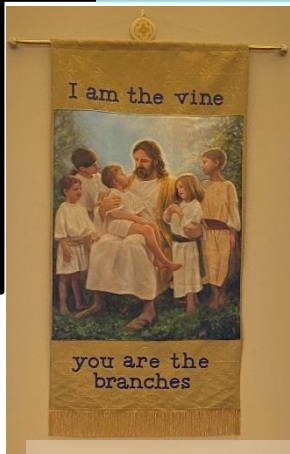
He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!



Pastor Craig preaching a fabulous message from the pulpit



Makenna, Matti and Emily Hartle



The new worship banners made their debut!

**Children's
Bell Choir**



Brunch and fellowship





Egg Hunts!







4 on 4 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

April 26-27th

Friday evening, April 26th - Saturday, April 27th
Stillwater Free Lutheran Church Activity Center

Fundraiser for Allee Meyer going on an Interior Design tour of Europe with Montana State University. Allee is a senior who will be earning her structural engineering degree this spring and hopes to finish next spring with a minor in Interior Design. Allee will also be going to Kenya with Engineers Without Borders again this summer.

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 24th. 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, cash or check. Questions, call Heather 406-871-3545.

Registration link - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesyLIZ3G-ydqq4pJpp5oS2WzVnCWjn-tkzsv5AJiVM-sBk9w/viewform?usp=sf_link



From the Board



Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe...praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:43-47

Awe struck is an accurate phrase to describe what it's like to serve on the Board of Directors of International Orality Institute. One of the joys of serving on the board is to see the Lord at work. His blessing upon this ministry is to hear reports of and seeing precious souls being saved and that disciples are being made as Jesus directs His church in Matthew 28:18-20.

The Lord has never failed to provide for Orality Institute whether in temporal matters or with people of the same heart. He does so through you as supporters of IOI and in those He leads to join our work.

Most recently He has guided Orality Institute board members to call former AFLC missionary Nate Jore to join us in this work. While on furlough from Uganda, Nate and Rhoda sensed a change in ministry focus leading them to resign from AFLC World Missions. IOI extended a call to Nate to join us.

His work will be primarily here in America, where many churches have asked him to assist them to develop their efforts of evangelism and discipleship, and training up church leaders. This ministry will be defined more clearly as Nate begins. We have called him to expand the work of building up Christ's church through the making of disciples alongside the church in America. His call will begin August 1st.

Thank you for your support. We thank the Lord for how He provides for our ministry through faithful disciples such as you. He gives us peace and assurance through your faithful support.

Because of Calvary, **The Orality Institute Board:** Greg Johnson, Marshall Nessa, Jim Rasmussen, Mark Antal, Nathan Monseth, Peter Ward

From the Jores



*Dear friends & family,
We know many of you pray for us, and we're so very grateful. How prayer impacts the heart and movement of God is a mysterious thing, but we believe He is attentive to His children, and it's a comfort knowing that there are people talking to Him about us.*

There has been much change for our family over these past 10 months in the States. We came back to the U.S. sensing there was a shift coming for our family and that God was perhaps redirecting us, but not knowing what that redirection might look like. We asked Him to help us to hold everything with open hands and to have the courage to step into whatever He asked of us.

In the past several months, a few doors have opened to our family that we've discerned are ours to step through. One of those doors was an invitation to join International Orality Institute, an organization dear to our heart that is based here in Minneapolis and works internationally to provide Bible training through storying. Their vision for reproducible discipleship mirrors the vision that Nate has had in the discipleship he's been privileged to be involved with in Uganda, and there's not much that gets him more excited.

Orality Institute follows Jesus' example of using storying and a question-and-answer teaching style as the primary mode of instruction. The invitation that Nate accepted from International Orality Institute (IOI) is primarily a Stateside teaching and equipping position, with the opportunity to travel occasionally to Uganda and to encourage the brothers there.

We will finish our service with AFLC World Missions at the end of July, and Nate will begin his new position with International Orality Institute the 1st of August (his birthday!). We're so grateful for our time spent serving under AFLC World Missions and for the support, leadership, and encouragement they gave to us during our 17 years in Uganda. For those who have supported us financially and would like to continue to do so, we will give information in a future update about transferring support to IOI. We will receive support through AFLC World Missions until the end of July.

Prayers for April

Please take this home and use it all week long.

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

Church Ministries

Sharing Jesus Christ with our Neighbors

Church Leaders, Staff & Worship Team

After School Program

Stillwater Youth Group

Stillwater & National WMF

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Orality Institute

The Gideons

General Prayers

Marriages and Families

- Hattie Stahlberg and family at the passing of her sister, Jeannine and nephew Michael Wagner at the passing of his son, David.
- Brester family

Our Country and Leaders

Caregivers

Missionaries

Military and First Responders

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

Health Concerns

John Kruger

Kinsley (Switzer)

Ina Clarke

John Hutchins (Christenson)

Jane (Putzler)

Jennifer (Banzet)

Carol Hogan

Bill Voerman (Burns)

Steve & Debbie Beck (Van Scoten/Scavo)

Sylvan Herset

Justin Gronley (Joel & Cody Bartholomew's son)

