

Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with our Neighbors”

1401 Church Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 257-4614
Email 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

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
2024



From the Pastor's Desk

As we Enter into the Month of May, up here in Northwest Montana, most people are looking ahead to warmer weather, and maybe even planting a garden. We also start to look to our moms, and Mother's Day.

We had a family in our congregation that their kids came back to the state every Mother's Day and they planted their moms flower garden. It was a special time for them, and a wonderful gift that was remembered, at least, for the summer and fall!

As we look at Mother's Day and all that moms mean to us, I want to remind everyone of the influence that moms have in their children's lives? Even after they are Grown and out of the house!

Notice, when a football player waves at 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!"

* And even the circle of life: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

Seriously though, 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!

So, as we go through this month, let's not just remember and honor our moms and grand-moms one day, let's remember all the lessons they have taught us over the years!

Happy May and Happy Mother's Day!

Pastor Craig



"I Will Sing unto the
Lord" around the
campfire!



Stillwater Youth Groupies

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

Hello everyone reading this – whether on the computer, at home, in the middle of the wilderness fighting off a hungry pack of wolves with a rock, wherever it may be, welcome to May! Last newsletter was right around Easter time, but I did not truly remember that until I was all done with the newsletter, so I made sure to scour the month of May for holidays and events coming up, and I found two! I did not have a good message for Cinco De Mayo however and the other National day was the National Day of Prayer which is May 2nd. Prayer is always a great message, but it's exactly what I wrote about last newsletter. Good thing God is wiser than I am (I hear that a lot) and has graced me with lots of topics and ideas all from Him! When one is in a position of leadership, there are lots of "pitfalls" for lack of a better term. For our youth group curriculum, we've been going over a leadership series, because all Christians should be leaders, whether or not you've been given a gift of public speaking or the spirit of an extravert, you can and should be a leader no matter what. I say this with the idea that we have a message we need to spread. It's the last command that Jesus gave His disciples while on this earth in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." How we choose to spread this message can come through our own spiritual gifts and convictions. The common cliché of "You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips" is a cliché for a reason, because it's true. Being a leader for Jesus does not mean you have to be a pastor preaching in front of the hundreds every Sunday, it can be as simple as setting a good Christian example in your life so that those who you influence (everyone influences someone whether you realize it or not) can take note. It's hard to make disciples like Jesus tells us to if we're not leading by example, or like our mission statement says, it will be very difficult to share Jesus Christ with our neighbor if we're not living for Him by word or action. "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." That comes from 2 Timothy 2:15 and reminds us not to be ashamed of our message, but instead to be an approved worker. So, ask yourself, would God approve of the way I uphold myself and live my life? Lastly, I mentioned earlier that there are lots of pitfalls in leadership, something I experience and struggle with myself. Maybe you're not great at making decisions fast, or struggle listening to others for advice and constructive criticism. Whatever it may be in your own personal walk, just remember verse 20 from the Great Commission, "I am with you always to the end of the age". God is not only our loving Father, but a friend and the ultimate role model and mentor, He is always with us! Don't be afraid to go out and lead for Him today!

Youth group is still rolling strong, even without getting free food every Wednesday (now that Kids Club is over), but we have still averaged 10 over the last month. Like aforementioned, wow

that word is way above my paygrade, we are still going through LeaderTreks, the series teaching the students how to be a Christian leader even when it's difficult. In the last several weeks we have learned extensively about Jonah, King Josiah, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Benny and all the uncomfortable situations they were in and how they each handled it. The Bible is just chalked full of real people's examples in all different facets of life and is so helpful for teaching, and praise God, it appears that these kids are soaking it all up! We will finish out the year with this curriculum until June 5th, which will be our last school year youth group before we start summer group, which meets once every other week! We have had two major events in the month of April, but at the time I'm typing this, only one has happened, which was a trip I took with three boys called Campus Days! Campus Days is a weekend tour of the Free Lutheran Bible College in Plymouth, MN, the AFLC's own Bible teaching college. I also happened to go to school there and met a real cute girl (yes, I am talking about Rachel, I don't want to get in trouble), so that school is very near and dear to my heart. In total I had two high school boys, John Hartle and Sam Elgin, and an extra leader, Joe Karboski, who headed out to the cities with me Thursday, April 11th. The event itself was April 12th -13th, and was a weekend of getting to know future classmates, learning about what kind of Bible classes are taught at the school, and lots of fun games and raffle drawings. Our very own Sam entered one of these drawings and even won a \$1,000 scholarship which would be usable at any point if he decided that's where the Lord was calling him! It was a very short, long trip, but one we'll all never forget, hopefully in a good way – praise God for His travel mercies, and thanks all for your prayers! The other event is our 4 on 4 basketball tournament, taking place April 26th and 27th, and the youth group has a team once again this year! That has not taken place at the time this is being written, but to still cover it, here's a safe, blanket statement: there were people and it was in a gym and there were basketballs, some even went in the hoops, great time! Our other weekly commitment/gathering, confirmation, is still going very well also, and will finish with an end of the year test on May 26th. If they all pass, I know their teacher pretty well, he's kind of a softy, I'm sure they all will, then all four will move on to year two, starting in September. Praise God for His mercies and blessings on all these groups!

In closing (yes, those sweet words), keep all of Stillwater in your prayers to keep our guards up. Right now, ministry and the church seem to be thriving, thanks to all of you for your faithful attendance and witnessing, but that is always when Satan attacks. Just like in our Christian walks, we should never get complacent with where we are at, not to say that we shouldn't be content, we should be very thankful towards God for all of the blessing He's given us, but we need to keep up His good work! Don't forget to take everything to Him in prayer and go to your accountability brothers and sisters when you are struggling. Have a great May and we'll talk to you next month!

God Bless,
Bryce Timmerman

Quilting

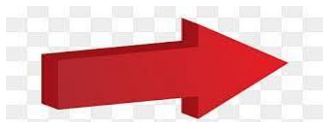
- Are you looking for something to fill some empty time at home?
- Does your schedule keep you too busy to come quilt at church?



- Our quilting group has shrunk and our fabric has multiplied!

We make quilts for our High School graduates, Hope pregnancy center, Ray of Hope, and Prayer quilts.

We are going to be sorting fabrics and would love to send assortments to be cut into squares by someone and also send squares home for others to sew. Then we will back, tie and finish them allowing more completed quilts to donate.



If you would like to be a part of this fabulous ministry, please talk to Linda McGrew or Susan Shea.

- ✓ Many thanks to Darryl for initiating the church remodel project and to those that completed it, Matt Lee Construction Company, Phil's Plumbing, Kalispell Electric and Ken West.
- ✓ Thanks to Kalispell Electric we now have electricity and lights in the shed

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 12th.

VBS 2024



June 17-21

9am-12pm

4's - 5th grade

Each day, our children face many big questions: Did the mighty creator shape everything? Why does adversity exist? Did Noah's Ark truly sail? What's the significance of salvation for me? Can the scriptures be relied upon?

At this VBS, your kids will delve into these questions through a thrilling escapade from Genesis to Revelation. Amidst sloths, butterflies, river dolphins, and dart frogs, your children will voyage on an exciting jungle expedition, making stops at seven significant landmarks.

These spots represent the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation.

Children will uncover how these pivotal moments shape our world, bridging the Bible to their daily experiences.

Get ready to dive into a world of excitement on The Great Jungle Journey!

Register on-line stillwaterlutheranchurch.com or in the church office - Stillwater Lutheran Church 1401 Church Drive Kalispell 406.257-4614

Stillwater Book Club



Our next book discussion on May 3, at 10:30 a.m. will be *Leota's Garden* by Francine Rivers. An emotionally compelling story (Library Journal) about the devastation secrets can unleash on a family and the power of grace to bring second chances. (Amazon) Please come and participate in our discussion in the far-end classroom in the Activity Center. We'd love to have you join us!

Just an FYI (For Your Information) "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 at Flathead High School May 8th and 9th, 2024, at 6:27 p.m.

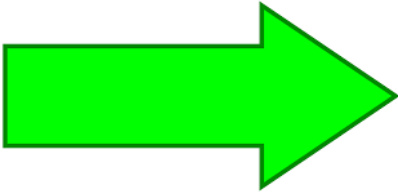
I highly recommend attending this local high school performance. Flathead Theater department and students do an excellent job with all of their plays and you truly will be entertained.

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

June 7	I'll Push You by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck
July 12	Corelli's Mandolin 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

Stillwater Library News



Come check out our new space!

The **Ark Encounter** has been checked out but the check-out pad is clipped to the clip board so you can see who has it. Let them know you'd like to read it when they are done with it. Then please be sure to sign the check-out pad for us. Enjoy!

God's blessings and happy reading!!
Susan & Meri

Unshakable Hope by Max Lucado. Max states, "I've discovered that nothing lifts the weary soul like the promises of God." Could you use some unshakable hope? In this book Max shares twelve most significant promises, equipping us to overcome difficult circumstances, experience lasting security, and make wise decisions. (Thomas Nelson)

Jesus Calling by Sarah Young . A book of devotions for every day of the year. Please consider taking this book and using it for the entire time.

God is in the Small Stuff at Christmas by Bruce and Stan. " Keeping Christ in Christmas can be difficult. Perhaps we need to see Christ in more than just the church pageant or the nativity scene on the mantel. ...Each chapter in this book addresses a single element of the Christmas story or a particular tradition or symbol of the season.... It is our prayer that the hectic pace of your life this Christmas will slow enough that you can see God in the details of the season." (Bruce & Stan)

Powerful Phrases for Dealing with Difficult People by Renee Evenson.

"Over 325 ready-to-use words and phrases for working with challenging personalities. In this book you can learn to resolve conflict in a positive way.

"Some of the subtitles: Basic rules when confronting a coworker. How to deal with a backstabber. How to deal with a bully. How to deal with a credit taker. How to deal with a know-it-all. And the list goes on. There are some difficult people out there that you have to deal with daily. This book gives you many situations and ways to deal with them. Read only what applies to you and your situation for great suggestions. (American Management Assoc.)

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver of Whitefish, MT. "Find intimacy with God in the busyness of life...Joanna shows how all of us... can draw closer to our Lord, deepening our devotion, strengthening our service and doing both with less stress and greater joy." (WaterBrook Press)

Uninvited, Living Loved When You Feel Less Than Left Out and Lonely by Lysa TerKeurst. Lysa shares her own deeply personal experiences of rejection...With biblical depth, gut-honest vulnerability, and refreshing wit, Lysa will help you stop feeling left out ...that you are handpicked by God. Know exactly what to pray... for to steady your soul and restore your confidence. (Nelson Books)

Christmas Stories for the Heart compiled by Alice Gray. "Christmas seemed so much simpler when I was a child...Somehow in the passing of time, the thrill of those childhood Christmases began to fade. I began to think of Christmas as season of extra demands and stress.... Now? I want to go back. I want to rediscover... the wonder and ...focus on the Truth behind the wonder. " (Avalon)

Raising Money Wise Kids, lessons and activities for 8-12 year olds. By Crown Financial Ministries. Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. Each topic is broken down into multiple sections: Memory verse, Bible story, Biblical Principle, practical teaching, and activity for you and your child, and a children's

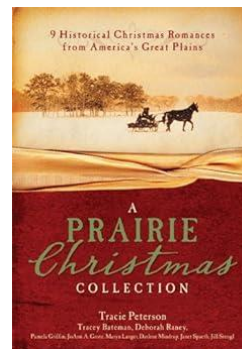
activity. This book is intended to give you a way to begin interacting with your child on the key topics of God and money. (Crown Financial Ministries)

Putting and X Through Anxiety Breaking Free From the Grip of Fear and Stress by Louie Giglio . Pastor Louie Giglio shares both practical and spiritual ways to live in victory. Find true rest in the Prince of Peace and break free from anxiety. (Passionpublishing)

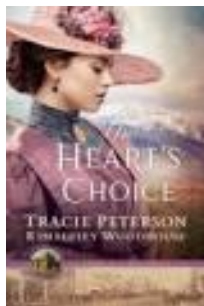
On This Holy Night, The Heart of Christmas, short stories by John Maxwell, Bill Hybels, Max Lucado, David Jeremiah, Rick Warren, and Jack Hayford. Each offers a wealth of insight, a penetrating understanding of God's Word, and an extra measure of storytelling skill. Each author shares his favorite Christmas message. (Thomas Nelson)

➤ **And 3 new fiction novels for our shelves:**

A Prairie Christmas Collection by Tracie Peterson, Tracey Bateman, Deborah Raney, Pamela Griffin, HoAnn Grote, Maryn Langer, Darlene Mindrup, Janet Spaeth, and Jill Stengl. Nine Historical Christmas Romances from America's Great Plains. " In this unique collection...readers will relive a prairie Christmas with all its challenges and delights. .." (Barbour Publishing)



The Healing Jar by Wanda Brunstetter. This story takes place in Lancaster, PA. Will the Amish schoolteacher ever find love? This is book three in the Prayer Jars Series by this author. If anyone has book 1 and 2, please consider donating it to complete our series.



The Heart's Choice by Tracie Peterson. This was last month's book pick for our book club. It takes place right here in Kalispell in the late 1800's where the first woman court recorder tries to prove a man's innocence in a murder trial with the help of the librarian, and save a family



On April 18th, 2024, 14 women and 2 girls met at Hattie Stahlberg's beautiful home to fellowship and study God's Word. Sherri opened us in prayer followed by Hattie, who did our devotion. She read from David Jeremiah's devotional and reminded us to affirm, accept, and love our children. Tell them about Jesus constantly. Don't criticize and tear them down. Love them as Jesus loves them.

Judy Hogan led our Bible study on Philippians 2:1-11, lesson 4 "The Way Up is Down". We talked about Jesus humbling Himself to come down to serve and save us. We are to walk in His likeness, empty ourselves selflessly, and humble ourselves to serve others. God exalted Jesus and will exalt us in His time.

Ashley gave the secretary's report. There were no corrections. Judy Karboski gave the treasurer's report. We have \$78 in our birthday fund and \$430.88 in our general fund. There is only one person left to pay for their study book. Thank you, ladies for your intentionality in paying early.

We went over upcoming events:

- Our WMF meeting in June was moved forward a week to June 27th, since VBS is the previous week.
- May 5th is our Potluck. Group 1 is serving, Group 2 is setting up, and Group 3 is cleanup.
- May 11th is our ladies luncheon from noon-2 pm.
Invite any ladies that you may know!
- There is a memorial service for Sally Christenson's brother on May 18th at 2 PM.
- May 18th Judy Karboski is hosting a salve making class in the activity center from 10 AM-1. There is a sign-up sheet in the church foyer.
- June 17th-21st is VBS! Watch for further details to see how you can volunteer this year. Contact Karen Van Scoten with any questions.
- Our church picnic is Saturday, July 27th from noon-2 with a church camp out beforehand on Friday, July 26th.

- Karen B. and Lavonne went to the WMF district rally and suggested that we host the rally next year in Kalispell. We discussed what this would all entail and if we would like to do it.
- Linda M. said Kila's Community Church is looking for donated items for a rummage sale (clothes, baby items, toys, books, kitchen items, sheets, blankets, etc.) Linda will pick up if needed. The items need to be donated by August 9th.
- Sherri passed around an issue of WMF Helping Hands with Lavonne's article of "Go Bless". These articles can be found online if you'd like to read them.
- Our next meeting will be held on May 16th at Judy Hogan's home. Please attend if you are able. It is a wonderful time!

We closed our meeting in a time of prayer for the needs of the church and the community. We had a delicious lunch of croissant sandwiches, chopped veggies, potato salad and pasta salad with cheesecake and caramel sauce for dessert. Thank you to Hattie and Judy H. for the delicious food and for hosting.

Submitted by Rachel T,
Vice President

**"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"
Women/girls Luncheon
Saturday, May 11th 12-2p**

**Come enjoy some fabulous friends,
food, fellowship and FUN!**

- **Invite a friend or two to join you.**



WMF NW Pacific District Rally

Triumph Lutheran, Ferndale Washington was the host of the NW Pacific District rally. (We still need a contact person for Kirkland Washington so if you know anyone who could help us that would be great.) There were ladies from Oregon and Montana joining the group this time. Triumph WMF president Norma Christensen opened the day. Lois Grothe gave the devotions and prayer time. Then we heard from Pastor Craig and Cathie Johnson. They shared about their recent trip to India. It was very informative, and we appreciate the ladies from Triumph who made bead bracelets with the wordless book colors for the ladies in India.

There was a card with scripture to accompany each bracelet and it was translated into telegu. There was offering collected and Lavonne gave an update on the National news. Then during our business meeting. Lois was re-elected and Mary Schroud, from Elim, is going to take notes as our new secretary. Prayers continue for outgoing secretary Lori Willard. We love and miss her very much.

In the afternoon our focus was Alaska. We heard from Pastor Jeremy Crowell. It gave us current news from the field as well as his call to bring up a new generation of missionary pilots. He was able to attend the national gathering for this ministry. This gives him possibilities for MATA and its outreach. Continue to pray for God to call a pastor full time to serve in Naknek. Thankful for those going as interim, most recent is Pastor Jeremy Larson.

Our theme was "rejoice in the Lord always." That's our desire. And I kept coming back to the verse where he leads us in triumph. II Cor. 2:14 We want to be a church triumphant; confident in our risen Savior and awaiting His return while we serve Him. Serving Joyfully with you, Lavonne West PS Those ladies collected over \$900 and it was dispersed to Alaska, MATA, and India for pastor housing. Each Pastor would be able to get housing for the year for around \$50.00.

Lavonne West,
WMF National
President



After School Program

Wow, it's May already and we are in the last stretch of school! With the finish line in sight and the sunny days upon us we find the kiddos have a bit more energy and restlessness! Truth be told I find this in myself as well!! It is also sports time which means attendance has dropped off some as the kids participate in cross-country, baseball, soccer and lacrosse! Last month saw the kiddos 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 6:17!! They will be putting on the last of their armor with the helmet of salvation and taking up the sword of Truth!!

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

BrassWerks Ensemble Concert in the Activity Center

All indications are that the BrassWerks concert on April 28 was once again a great success. There were 70 in attendance including the 7 band members. We are already planning to have them back again for a Christmas concert.



Nate's GRADUATING!!



PHOTOS BY: SHANNON HOLLMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



NATHAN WILHELM

Open House
1145 6th Ave E, Kalispell, MT
Sunday, June 2nd 2pm - 5pm

- Dan and Sharon would like to invite everyone to an Open House for Nate on Sunday, June 2nd from 2pm - 5pm.

Prayers for May

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

- Brester family

Our Country and Leaders

Caregivers

Missionaries

Military and First Responders

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

Health Concerns

Tilford Lowdermilk (Timmerman)

Dan Elgin

Lynda & John Cluba (Shea)

Dylans' daughter (Shea)

John Kruger

Kinsley (Switzer)

Ina Clarke

Jennifer (Banzet)

Carol Hogan

Bill Voerman (Burns)

Steve & Debbie Beck (Van Scoten/Scavo)

Sylvan Herset

Justin Gronley (Joel & Cody Bartholomew's son)