

# Ripples

Stillwater Free Lutheran Church

“Sharing Jesus Christ with Our Neighbors”

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# Being a Light

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

With summer in full swing, and the activity level increasing (as if that was possible!), and the population in the valley seeming to triple, I was reminded of the importance of being a light to those around us.

This summer, during our worship services under the tent, we have been looking at John's first letter. He uses two recurring themes; Love of each other and contrasting light with darkness.

With the activities we all have going, and with family and visitors all around us - I was considering the walking in the light idea that John stresses in the whole first part of his letter. And as I contemplated that, I got to thinking about us being a light, and how those two ideas merge.

It has been said that evil is the opposite of righteousness, just as dark is the opposite of light. In a sense that is true, because evil is really corruption of what is good. It has no existence in itself, just as darkness is nothing more than the absence of light.

Our "Being a light" is our example to the world. It is not to enlighten or teach, even though it may do both.

It is to merely make others able to see. We cannot do the seeing for them! This is where the two before mentioned themes merge. Not only do we walk in the Light (Christ), but we also are the light!

And, it is really important to note that in the darkness even a little light can be enough to see by! So, the question we must ask is, "What is it that others see when they watch us"?

Is it the light of the world?

John Chrysostom (345-407AD), Known as the "Golden Mouthed" teacher said, we must be careful of our "walk and conversation" – because others will certainly be watching. No matter what the world thinks, the Gospel light cannot be hidden.

We are to let our light shine naturally in all we do. Our "light" is to shine so the world will know how great God is, not what great Christians we are.

We don't need to shove the light in the faces of others. It isn't a religious exercise. It is to show the world the glory of God.

But sometimes the things of this world and the desires of the flesh block our illumination!

That is when we cover our light with a basket. But notice; you can't put a basket over the light unless it's empty. And, the "things of this world" are just empty promises, with no substance! But Jesus and His light bring true freedom and happiness!

And, His "Light" will eventually fill all the earth!

So, as we continue enjoying this Summer – remember we are a Light for the world to see, so let your Light shine to those around you! And, have a great Summer!

God Bless  
*Pastor Craig*

# Free Flyers Youth Group

*The Free Flyers are committed to serve the community through our strength in Jesus Christ.*



## Summer Youth Calendar



*July 31st- Aug. 4th – VBS @ church 9:00-12:00, always need volunteers!*

*Aug. 2nd (Wed.) – Youth group with VBS team. Afternoon through evening*

*Aug. 23rd (Wed.) – Youth group 6 – 7:30*

HERE'S THE  
NEWS

VBS

JULY 31 – AUGUST 4



## *Youth & Afterschool News*

Starting Wednesday September 6th, youth group will have different times and format. Youth group will start at 6:15 middle school group will start first. At 6:45 high school youth will come and join in for announcements, prayer, and game time. At 7:30, middle school youth group will end. High school youth will start at 7:30 and dismiss at 8:00. Here is an outline of the evening:

6:15 - Middle school (6th-8th) youth group starts.

6:45 - High school (9th-12th) youth starts and joins middle school for games and prayer.

7:30 - Middle school youth are dismissed, High school starts youth group.

8:00 - High school youth are dismissed.

### **Update on our after school program!**

We have hired Alisha Kneeland for our part-time after school facilitator. She will arrive the third weekend in August. She is a graduate of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School (AFLBS) in Minneapolis. While there, she traveled around the country on a VBS team for two summers. She has completed two years of college and looks to continue her degree online. Alisha lived here for eight years while her dad (Paul) served as Stillwater's and Faith's youth pastor.

FYI - We still have 5 openings for after school program.



July 20<sup>th</sup>

Elaine opened with devotions from Our Daily Bread titled “A Time For Everything.” Linda McGrew gave the treasures report; we have \$96.00 in the bank. Our money this month will go to Christian Ed.

Bonnie led our bible study titled “Encouraging Acts” lesson #7

If you are going to be gone and have items for our yard sale, you can leave it at the church storage shed or take it to Bonnie’s house to be stored. Our sale is on August 26<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 5pm in the tent at the church. There will be fliers and also an ad in the Interlake and Mountain Trader.

Vacation Bible School starts on July 31<sup>st</sup> and goes through August 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon. Our annual picnic will be on Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup>. Sharon Wilhelm will be starting us off with a bike race at 9am, kids activities will be supervised by Neila after the race and our BBQ will be at 12:30. We will be selling tickets for the Chevelle Laguna, have a basket raffle with many fantastic baskets that were donated by Karen Hartle and a pie auction to help raise money for our new building.

Please try to help with VBS and the picnic if you have extra time.

Next month our meeting will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the church with Nicole as host and Neila as co-host. Julie Hanson will lead us in the bible study titled “Obedient Acts” lesson #8 and Hattie will have devotions. Nicole and Linda McGrew served a very delicious lunch. We had 8 ladies present.

~ Elaine Lessor

Secretary

## Guide to contributing to our Rummage Sale

Hopefully this information will be helpful to you in deciding what to donate to our church's rummage sale. Some items just don't sell...old televisions, for instance, entertainment centers, sauder furniture.

If you bring items like this and they don't sell, or if you requested that we not sell your donated item for less than a desired amount—if it doesn't sell, you will be responsible to take it back. Antique items are probably better displayed on your computer (New and Used Flathead). We will accept items you wish to have people bid on instead of pricing it. Please don't donate clothes that are stained or missing buttons, and we workers would appreciate if you would not throw your clothes in a trash bag for us to take out, fold, and try to make presentable. As you find clothing you want to donate, wash it, fold it, and lay it in a grocery bag or box. (A HUGE help to those who are displaying things). If you are bringing old appliances, note if they work and be sure they are clean. Dust the items you've had sitting around that you are donating. Hangers are always welcome. With each sale we have we learn more about what works best. We appreciate delivery of your donations at the time specified. PLEASE don't wait until the day of the sale! Any other questions, contact Neila Elgin.

The sale is August 26, in our tent, and as before there will be a bake sale, the youth will sell hot dogs, the car will be on site for raffle, as well as a smaller raffle item.

Many volunteers will be needed the day before AND the day of the sale. Mark your calendar!

### *Annual Tent Sale!*

August 26<sup>th</sup> 8am – 5pm

Rent a space:

10x16 on the  
lawn \$15  
Tables \$10



10x10 in the  
tent \$20  
Chairs \$2 each

## *Building Committee Report*

The (3) perc tests have been completed and Stephanie is evaluating the results, which she hopes will be favorable for the church. She will then factor these into her design engineering of the sand mound drain field.

As reported earlier we accepted the bid from Joe Liss Water Wells, Inc. in Eureka to drill our new well. As of this writing we have not heard when they plan to begin drilling.

Please keep the building and committee in your prayers!

-Ed



## Book report

Gracia Burnham, author of In the Presence of My Enemies, was the speaker at the WMF service at our national AFLC conference in Minneapolis. Gracia and her husband, missionaries in the Philippines, were kidnapped by a terrorist group while on a weekend get-away and spent a perilous year in captivity in the Philippine jungles along with twenty others. Gracia shares her story of struggles and fears, hope and faith. This revised book includes the fate of the kidnappers and life in the Burnham family today. The book is now part of our church library.

Bonnie Upton



AWANA Starts Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup>!!



5:30 Dinner

6:00 – 7:30 Class & Games

### **RICKETY UNCLE**

(Mrs. Dockrill, Craik)  
(Mrs. A. Park, Spring Valley)

1 cup brown sugar  
2 cups rolled oats  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon vanilla.

Mix. Press into a greased pan, size 8" x 8". Bake 10 minutes in hot oven. Cut in squares and leave in pan until cool.



Our annual picnic is on Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> this year. Friday evening the pork will be prepped and put in the pit to cook overnight. We will be having a bicycle race Saturday morning at 9am followed by kid's activities and the closing ceremony of our week at VBS. In the afternoon there will be a BBQ with pulled pork sandwiches, salads, baked beans and chips. There is a sign-up for food in the narthex of the church, so please volunteer to bring some food. Also, while you are in the volunteering mood, please sign-up to bring a pie (or a few!) to auction. All proceeds from the picnic will go towards our new building!

## *Good Medicine Report*

The theme for the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was “Here I Stand”- Romans 1:16-17.

One speaker shared that we need courage to stand in these trying times.

The Lord will give us courage to speak up

step up

& shake up!

Another speaker shared a devotion that really spoke to me. It was based on Psalm 37:24 - “Though [not if] he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand.”

He mentioned that with his 3 small children under the age of 5, there are ½ of those knees bruised and bandaged. Everywhere they go one of the toddlers will trip and fall. I had the same experience when I was home visiting my niece. Her daughter was taking us to see the cats in the barn and got going too quickly and took a tumble.

As a believer we know our journey can be rocky and we too will stumble and fall. It is good to know who holds our hands! He will pull us up and dust us off, just like we would for our children.

In the next year Bonnie and I will be sharing some of our lessons learned and encouraging your prayers for our AFLC.

This annual conference was at the Bible School on Medicine Lake Boulevard. I took several walks along the lake and being there was ‘good medicine’ for me.

Thanks for sending us; and think about your attending next June!

- We'll see you in Dickenson!