



Shining Mountains *news*

"IT IS OUR MISSION, AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD AND COMMAND TO GROW IN HIS WORD, TO GATHER AROUND HIS WORD, AND TO GO WITH HIS WORD."

You can stand firm, confident in the truth of God's love, your salvation, and truth itself

Stand Firm!

Sometimes I think about Martin Luther's knees. Maybe it sounds odd to say that, but I do find myself wondering: were they knocking together? Or his voice—was it firm and loud, or weak and trembling?

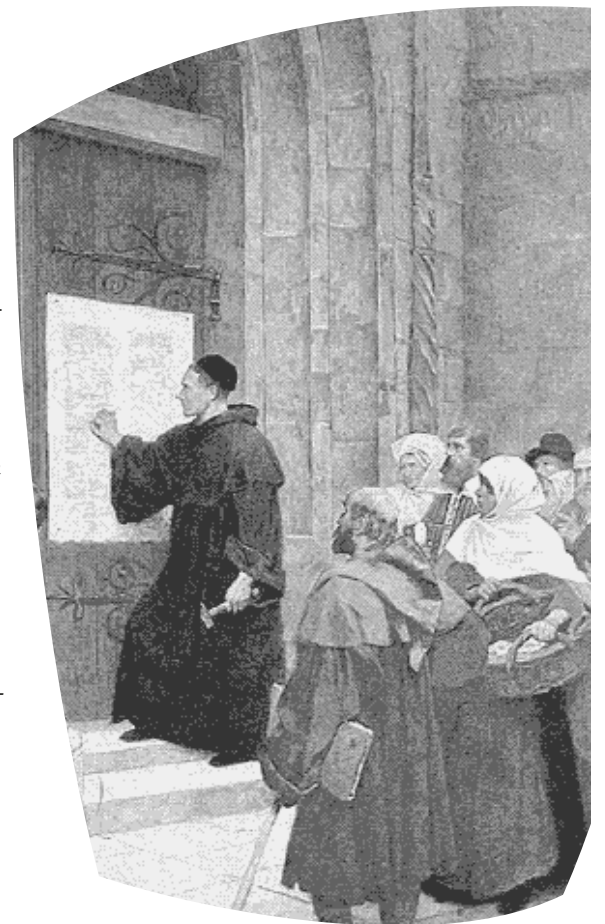
You see, Martin Luther had faced some difficult times before: he had faced poverty and hunger, he had gone through rigorous training, and, of course, there was that night when he was caught in a terrible thunder storm and, fearing for his life, said a prayer to St. Anne promising her he would become a monk if she would spare his life.

But this time was different. Luther was different now. He had been a catholic monk and priest and professor. He had studied the Scriptures. And along the way, he had faced the greatest fear of all. When he read God's Word, he recognized what God truly demands of his people: *perfection*. And he understood what God promised to every person that failed to give perfection: an eternity of suffering in hell. Luther took God at his Word, and he was filled with fear.

But that fear led him to search the Scriptures more and more until he realized it: the perfection God *demand*s from us? God also *gives* it to us. That message is found throughout the Bible, but stated so beautifully in passages like this: *But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus* (Romans 3:21-24).

What God demands from us, he also gives to us. That means that when we know God through his Word, he takes away our fears—even our fear of hell itself.

So what does that have to do with Luther's knees? In 1521, Dr. Luther stood before the religious and political leaders of his day and was commanded to renounce his teachings that man is saved by grace alone. To refuse meant risking a lifetime in prison or execution as a heretic. I suppose it doesn't



matter whether his knees were knocking or his voice trembling when he spoke his famous answer, "Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me, Amen." What mattered is that he found his confidence the same place you can every day—the clear words of Scripture.

God bless you as you take your stand there.

The Reformation

Two unique opportunities to celebrate the truth of God's Word

Reformation Lecture at Bozeman Public Library

The Lutheran Reformation changed the world. The impact of the Reformation that began in 1517 touched every aspect of life—it changed the German language, the role of music in worship and life, the political and cultural landscape of Germany. The Reformation is one of the reasons why there are so many different churches and denominations throughout the world today.

The greatest impact of the Reformation hasn't been on cultures or countries though—it's on individuals. The Reformation helped reclaim and proclaim the truth of Scripture that mankind is saved by God's grace alone.

On October 28th, we have a unique opportunity to both learn more about our Lutheran heritage and share it with others. Beginning at 7:00 pm, Pastor Seifert will be leading a presentation on the Lutheran Reformation and its impacts in the large community room at Bozeman Public Library. This event will focus on the historical context, the motivating factors, and the long-lasting results of the Reformation and will be open to the public.

The presentation won't be a Bible class *per se*. However, whenever we discuss these things, it's impossible *not* to talk about what lay at the heart of the Reformation—the divine truth of salvation by grace alone.

The hope behind this presentation is that we'll have a chance to explain what *Lutheran* truly means to our friends and neighbors—and to those who are struggling with what has been going on in the Lutheran church, especially in the last few years. Please do plan on attending, and passing the word on to your friends.

Joint Reformation Hymnfest at St. Paul's, Livingston

Lutherans love to sing. It's been that way since nearly the beginning. Luther was famous for saying that the Reformation succeeded, in part, because *they sung the gospel into the hearts of the people*.

On October 31st, we will celebrate the Reformation in our morning worship at Shining Mountains. Later in the day, though, there will be another opportunity to rejoice in the gospel and our Lutheran heritage.

At 4:00 pm, Shining Mountains joins with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Livingston and Apostles Lutheran Church in Billings for a Joint Reformation Hymnfest. The festival will be held at St. Paul's in Livingston (about a forty-minute drive from Shining Mountains).

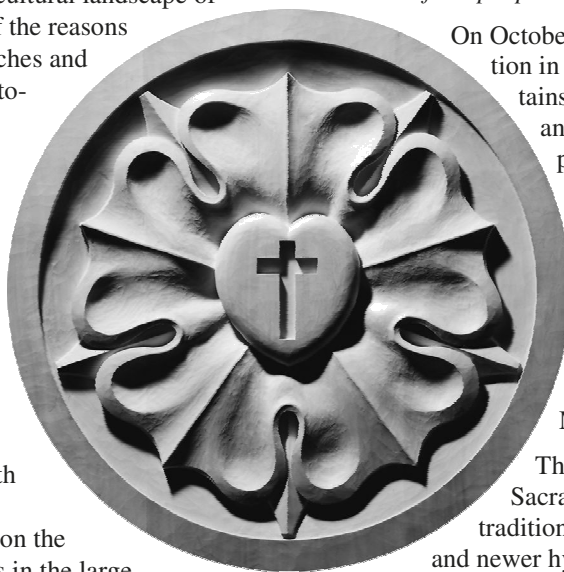
The festival will be a service of Song & Sacrament. It will include both the great traditional Lutheran hymns of the Reformation and newer hymns of the last few decades that also speak of salvation by grace alone. Our worship includes organ and piano, trumpets and flute, choir and soloists.

The service itself will feature Scripture readings that proclaim the truths of the Reformation. There will be no sermon, but as our three churches gather together to rejoice in our fellowship, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

A potluck will be held in St. Paul's basement immediately after the service.

St. Paul's is located at 1116 W Geyser St in Livingston. You can also get directions by calling St. Paul's at (406) 222-3372.

May God bless us as we gather together and rejoice in the gift of his grace!





Managing God's Gift of Our Time

Our new synod theme, "Christ's Love, Our Calling," was launched at the 2009 synod convention. Now it is heading to the highways and byways of our synod through a special four-year stewardship emphasis.

The word "stewardship" usually brings to mind encouragement to be more intentional with how we use our worldly wealth. However, there are other important aspects of stewardship as well. This year our primary focus will be on our time. *Love Takes Time!*

The *Christ's Love, Our Calling* theme intentionally begins with time. Consider the following:

If we spend no time with God's Word, then time is being spent actively starving our faith to death (Romans 10:17)!

If we spend no time at church in worship, why would we spend our money for its support?

If we spend no time with our family, will money ever fill that void in our children's hearts?

If we spend no time with our neighbors, will we readily spend money to support missions to reach those same neighbors?

Love Takes Time will look at the various relationships in our lives and then encourage us to carefully steward our time in those relationships. We will dedicate four weeks to this important emphasis. The first Sunday of this year's stewardship emphasis is October 31. Members who regularly attend Bible study will be happy to know that a companion Bible study will be presented during our *Love Takes Time* emphasis. We'll see you in church on October 31. Until then, know for certain that Jesus knows all about time: "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons" (Galatians 4:4-5). He entered into time—human history—to save us forever. That's love! That's our calling!

An update on the Valley Center Property

As you may know, *Shining Mountains* owns a parcel of nearly seven acres of land on Valley Center Rd. The congregation has been seeking to sell that land for the past few years in the hopes that the funds from the sale would allow us to move forward with a building project. Throughout that time, the congregation has rented out the house located on that property. The rent has largely covered our monthly mortgage.

Two recent developments are worth noting. Our current tenants have moved, leaving the us with a short vacancy period. Thankfully, the Lord has blessed us with a new tenant. The period of vacancy will, however, have an impact to our annual receipts of a few thousand dollars.

The property is also being considered by a potential buyer. As they continue to investigate our property, please keep our church in your prayers. Selling the property would seem to open the door for possible expansion of our work.

If you have any further questions, please speak to Pastor Seifert or a member of the *Shining Mountains'* church council.



Looking to the Future

As noted over the last few months, *Shining Mountains* will soon be visited by a representative from *Builders for Christ* (BFC) and a Mission Counselor.

The BFC representative will talk about how their volunteer group might help us significantly reduce costs for a possible building project. He will meet with our Council and committees on Saturday, Oct. 2, and then address our congregation as a whole

during the Bible class hour at 9:00 am on Sunday, October 3rd.

The Mission Counselor, Pastor Kruschel (currently serving in Las Vegas, NV), will help evaluate our overall ministry plans as we consider moving forward with a new church and a possible childhood ministry (preschool or daycare). He will spend the day with Pastor Seifert on Tuesday, October 5th and meet with our Council and committees that evening.

WELS Preparatory Schools

A unique way to prepare for the ministry

Where do our pastors and teachers come from?

God uses *many* different ways to encourage every future pastor and teacher. Their path almost always starts with the encouragements of parents and other congregational members. Perhaps their pastor or Sunday School teacher pointed them in that direction. Along the way their minds and faiths are shaped by experiences in their Lutheran elementary school or confirmation studies, their witnessing opportunities in their public schools or the interactions with friends.

Our called workers come from different backgrounds at the high school level, too, such as public schools and area Lutheran high schools.

A unique training tool in the Wisconsin Synod is the use of ministerial preparatory high schools. While our synod at one time operated as many as five of these schools, we currently operate two large "prep schools" - Michigan Lutheran Seminary (Saginaw, MI) and Luther Preparatory School (Watertown, WI). A portion of the *congregational mission offerings* that we send to Synod support these schools.

Our prep schools are boarding schools with a special emphasis on preparing for the public ministry. Regularly more than 50% of the graduates from these schools go on to study to be a pastor or teacher. The schools place an emphasis on training in doctrine and in languages to better prepare their students for studying for the ministry at the college level.

Please continue to keep in your prayers those people teaching or studying at our prep schools, as well as those whom God will lead into the ministry through other studies.

MISSION NEWS:

Taking the Word to the World



INDIA

India might not be the first country that you normally associate with Lutheranism, but by God's grace the work of the gospel is being richly blessed there.

With 7,225 members, the mission in India has the third largest number of souls among the traditional mission fields of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Below are some of the highlights of the work we as a church body are blessed to carry out there:

- All evangelism and other pastoral ministry acts are done by national workers.
- Sixty-one men are presently attending the seminary or pre-seminary.
- Lord-willing, ten men will graduate from the Seminary in July.
- In August thirty or more men will begin the first year of the two-year pre-seminary program.

India is the second-most populous country in the world with over 1 billion people, most of whom practice versions of the traditional Hindu religion. Yet our Savior died for all of these souls. Please keep the work of their native pastors and laypeople in your prayers so that many more can hear about their Savior's love for them.

Voters' Meeting Minutes & Update

The minutes from our July 25th voters' meeting have been placed in members' mailboxes. To leave more time for discussion at our next meeting, voters are asked to read through the minutes in advance and bring any corrections or questions to the meeting. At the beginning of our next meeting, corrections will be received and only *brief highlights* from the minutes will be read.

Our next voters' meeting is scheduled for October 24th, immediately after church. Included in that meeting will be key points and summaries of our visits with our Mission Counselor and *Builders for Christ* representative, as well as information about our ministry as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Serving Us in October *Thanks to those who served in September!*

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
10/3	J Kohler / OPEN	Kohler / OPEN	B. Gentry	Giese
10/10	J Newton / L Hunziker	OPEN / OPEN	L & V Baker	Gustafson
10/17	J Thiede / D Thiede	P Pruitt / OPEN	Ballard	Joecks
10/24	T Linn / P Marozick	Ballard / OPEN	E Hammer	Kohler
10/31	L Baker / B Baran	OPEN / OPEN	E Baker	Lauersdorf

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 1:00pm Church Council, Building Committee and Childcare Committee meet with BFC rep.
3 9am Sunday School and <i>Builders for Christ</i> 10am Worship w/ HC	4 7:00pm Worship	5 6:30pm Church Council, Building Committee and Childcare committee meet with Mission Counselor	6 6:30pm Confirmation Class	7	8	9
10 9am Sunday School and Bible Class 10am Worship	11 7:00pm Worship	12	13 6:30pm Confirmation Class	14	15	16
17 9am Sunday School and Bible Class 10am Worship w/ HC	18 7:00pm Worship	19	20 6:30pm Confirmation Class	21	22	23
24 9am Sunday School and Bible Class 10am Worship 11:30 am Voters Meeting	25 7:00pm Worship	26	27 6:30pm Confirmation Class	28 7:00pm Reformation presentation at Bozeman Public Library	29	30
31 9am Sunday School and Bible Class 10am Worship 4:00pm Reformation Hymnfest at St. Paul's, Livingston						

Upcoming Messages

We are nearing the end of the “half-year of the Church.” The month of October brings the “Sundays after Pentecost” to a close with focuses on our growth in Christian character. At the end of October and throughout November, we focus on our stewardship of the time God gives us under the theme, “Christ’s Love, Our Calling” that we follow throughout the season of EndTimes.

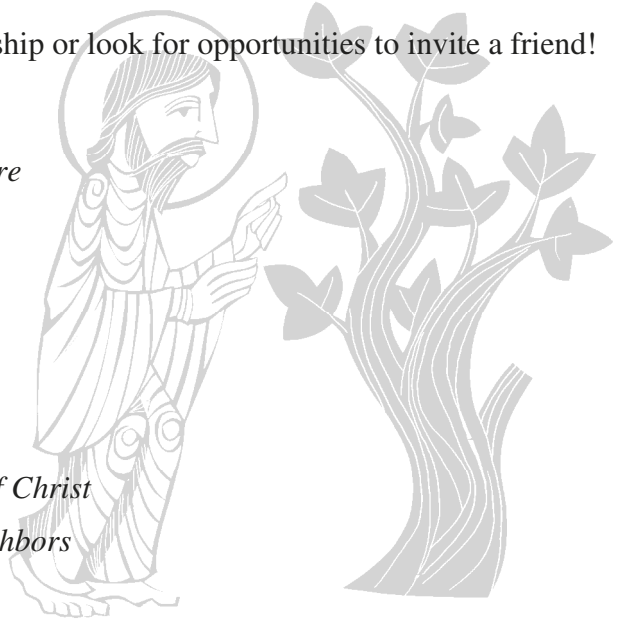
May the following schedule help you as you prepare for worship or look for opportunities to invite a friend!

The Believer Grows in Christian Character

- Oct. 3 *Christians find real wealth in heavenly treasure*
- Oct. 10 *Christians do their duty*
- Oct. 17 *Christians live a life of thanksgiving*
- Oct. 24 *Christians are persistent in prayer*

Christ’s Love, Our Calling (EndTimes)

- Oct. 31 *Reformation: Amazed at Christ’s Love*
- Nov. 7 *Last Judgment: Seeking Time with the Body of Christ*
- Nov. 14 *Saints Triumphant: Seeking Time for My Neighbors*
- Nov. 21 *Christ the King: Committed to Christ*



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