



# 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."

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:17,20)*

## EndTimes

"We believe in the Holy Spirit."

"We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church."

"We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

Those three statements go hand in hand with one another. The Spirit-worked faith that we confess not only recognizes that God has created a holy people—his Church—by the blood of Christ; we also firmly set our eyes on the day when this world ends and God remakes a perfect heaven and earth for his people.

But the objections come quickly, don't they? It's not rare to hear that Christians are *too heavenly-minded to be of any earthly good*. More often than not, we hear the cry that the true purpose of churches on earth is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and comfort the aching.

In the season of EndTimes (four Sundays that occur from the end of October through November), we remember that our true purpose is something far different. Let there be no mistaking it:

the purpose that Christ gave to his Bride, the Church, is to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The purpose of the Church is to spread the news of the coming age. The purpose of the Bride is to look to her Bridegroom, Christ, and joyfully say, "Come!"

And so we do! We gather together in worship around those two truths that create and sustain faith: the law and the gospel. The message of our sins and God's loving forgiveness. We recognize that the sin that is natural to us and to this world will not be cast out from this world by even our best efforts; rather, we, by God's grace, will be brought out from this world. We hear that message, we invite others to hear it, and we go to share it with them.

Does that mean that Christians do no good for the suffering in this world? Far from it! We share the water of life, the message of God's love. And may we never forget: if we share the water of life and bind spiritual wounds, may

that same love move us to share cups of cool water with the thirsty, earthly bread with the hungry and to bind fleshly wounds, too.

We look forward to a world to come. It's God's promise. And by his will, we are here now. So God grant that we hold to his promises, grow in faith, and live—and serve—with joy.



# Updates from the Building and Childcare Committees

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1)*

The Voters of Shining Mountains have established a Building Committee to explore possibilities for a new house of worship, and a Childcare Committee to explore options for a self-supporting childhood ministry to reach out into the community.

The Building Committee has explored a number of options for a new church home, including the purchase of Fellowship Baptist Church (Durstion Rd) and the possibility of building a new church structure. Recent developments (the fall in construction costs and the savings that our church could realize by working together with *Builders for Christ*) have once again focused the Building Committee's efforts on new construction.

The Childcare Committee has also explored a wide range of options such as full-day care, preschool, and a blending of the two. The Committee is currently preparing two options to present to the Council—a large scale plan and one of a more moderate size.

Where do we go from here? The Childcare Committee is seeking to present their options to the Church Council by the December meeting, looking for the Council's direction, questions, or changes. God-willing, the Council will have a recommended proposal for congregational consideration in a special January voters' meeting. The voters could either request more information or give approval to take the next steps forward towards implementing a plan.

These developments are the result of countless hours of work that both committees have been carrying out over the last few years at the voters' direction. If you have any questions, you may direct them to Pastor Seifert or the members of either committee. In the meantime, please continue to pray for the committees, thank and encourage them, and above all, ask the Lord's blessing that this work might be used for the salvation of many souls.

## Advent Party

For most of us, December is a time to get ready for the busyness of Christmas—the shopping, cooking, cleaning and wrapping that all need to be done in advance of the *big day*.

*Advent* is a reminder that there's something more important to be concerned about. During the four weeks of Advent, we focus on what it truly means to be prepared for Christ's coming, so we focus on his coming to us through his Word, his coming in the flesh at Bethlehem, and his coming again in glory at the end of all time.

To help celebrate that time together, the members and friends of *Shining Mountains* are invited to an Advent Party after church on Sunday, December 5th. We'll share a meal, work together to decorate our church home for our Christmas worship, and take part in a gift exchange. Bring along your children—there will be activities for them to take part in, too.

May the Lord grant us hearts ready for him and united in love and fellowship for one another!

## Remembering the Saints in Glory

On Sunday, November 14th, we celebrate the *Sunday of Saints Triumphant*.

Scripture uses the word "saint" to describe those who have been called out of this world to be holy and set apart for God. It is a word applied to all of the followers of Christ, living and dead, for as members of his body we have been made saints" (holy, righteous) by the blood of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Since at least 900 AD, the Christian Church has set aside a Sunday every year to give thanks to God for all those believers who were called home to their

eternal rest over the past year.

We remember those who were called to glory during the last year in a special way during this service. Between two of our Scripture readings, we will join in responsive readings of God's promises in Scripture. The names of the members of our congregation who have been called home to heaven during the last five years will be read.

God grant that as we remember those whom he has called to glory, we rejoice all the more in the triumph that awaits us!





# WELS Area Lutheran High Schools

*Equipping Christians for lives of faith-led service*

October's newsletter highlighted the work of our Synod's two *preparatory schools*—high school's whose main purpose is to prepare students to pursue further studies for the public ministry.

In addition to these schools, the individual churches of the WELS also operate twenty-four *area Lutheran high schools* (ALHSs).

The WELS ALHSs have a broader focus—to provide a Christ-centered education that prepares students for college or the workforce. Even though these schools have a broader focus, about

nine percent of their graduates enroll in the educational track at Martin Luther College.

While the preparatory high schools are partially subsidized by our Synod, the area Lutheran high schools are supported by groups of congregations in the area (federations).

One of those ALHSs is found in the *Dakota-Montana district* to which Shining Mountains belongs.

Since 1996, Great Plains Lutheran High School has existed on a 40-acre campus in Watertown, South Dakota. There are currently more

than 120 students enrolled in GPLHS, with about 70 of those students living in the campus dormitory throughout the week. The high school is supported by a federation of 48 congregations, with a total of about 7,300 members.

Thanks be to God for their work! While our congregation benefits directly from those ministries (a number of our members are graduates of an ALHS), we also realize that we benefit indirectly as those schools prepare countless Christians to better function as *salt* and *light* in this world.

## MISSION NEWS:

Taking the Word to the World



### SECURITY CONCERNS

Several countries in which we carry out mission work have been identified as high risk for problems like kidnapping and possible execution by criminals and extremists. Included among these are Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Sudan.

The insurance companies that carry the liabilities connected with our work are requesting that extra and more costly security measure be taken in order to reduce the possibility of harm and lower the cost of premiums.

This year our expatriate team in Mexico was moved to a new location for safety reasons. Insurance for travel to Pakistan will not be offered at all. Travel to Nigeria is problematic.

These developments have put our administrative committees in an extremely difficult place. Carrying on a program with significant added expense for safety measures could soon become cost prohibitive to our work in certain countries. The Board for World Missions is working with our insurers to determine what is "acceptable risk" and a process that can provide reasonable protection as cost-effectively as possible.

The early missionaries to Germany, England, France, and many other places often faced the threat of death for their work, yet their work resulted in the gospel being passed down to millions. May God bless our missionaries who labor faithfully today!



## Thanksgiving Worship + Wed., Nov. 24

On Wednesday, Nov. 24, we gather together at 7:00 pm for a special service of *thanksgiving* for the Lord's goodness to us in body and soul.

As we give thanks for God's blessings *to* us, we remember that God also seeks to give blessings *through* us. To help us do so, *Shining Mountains* is holding a food drive.

On the bulletin board in the narthex are paper cut-outs of different food items. If you wish to donate food, please take one of the cut-outs. Bring the indicated food to church between the 21st and 23rd. The food will be used to decorate our altar for our Thanksgiving service, and will be taken to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank on Thanksgiving Day.

While the Food Bank has identified a strong need for fresh fruits and vegetables, canned and dry goods will also be accepted.

## Serving Us in November *Thanks to those who served in October!*

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
11/7	T Linn / P Marozick	Gustafson / Linn	Gustafson	Linn
11/14	R Buchholz / P Agenten	Buchholz	Buchholz	Marozick
11/21	J Thiede / D Thiede	P Pruitt / <i>open</i>	P & D Pruitt	Newton
11/24	D Pruitt / M Joecks	<i>Thanksgiving Worship, 7:00 pm</i>		
11/28	J Kohler / <i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	D & P Pruitt

# 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!

## ***Christ’s Love, Our Calling (EndTimes)***

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

## ***Thanksgiving Worship***

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 7:00 pm.



325 N. 25th Ave  
BOZEMAN MT 59718

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# November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 7pm—Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> (No confirmation class)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9am—Bible Class / Sunday School 10am—Worship (w/HC)	<b>8</b> 7pm—Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> (No confirmation class)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9am—Bible Class / Sunday School 10am—Worship	<b>15</b> 7pm—Final Monday evening worship service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30pm—Confirmation class	<b>18</b> 6:15pm—Church Council meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9am—Bible Class / Sunday School 10am—Worship (w/HC) 7pm—Small Group Study (Bozeman location)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7pm—Thanksgiving Worship  (no confirmation class)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
Bring Food Drive donations to church or parsonage						
<b>28</b> 9am—Bible Class / Sunday School 10am—Worship (w/HC)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

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