



# 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."

*Christ places Christians in the world at just the right place and time to serve his purpose and glorify him*

## "For Such a Time as This"

*"The only good way to serve God is to be a pastor or a teacher."*

That's what much of the visible church was teaching in Martin Luther's day. The priestly class taught that the only works God truly loved were the kinds done by monks in monasteries and priests in cathedrals.

The Bible led Luther to a far different conclusion. For people who wondered how they should serve God, he rightly wrote, "Consider *your place in life* according to the Ten Commandments." Are you a husband? Love your wife. Are you an employee? Serve your employer honestly. Are you a child? Honor your parents. Serve God where he's placed you—he didn't mess up by putting you where you are!

Over 450 years before the Christ was born, a Jewish woman named Ezra learned that truth. She had been chosen to be the queen of King Xerxes, the ruler of Persia. But then a member of the royal court hatched a plan to destroy the Jews. Not only would that genocide be a terrible crime in itself; it also would have wiped out the line of the coming Savior.

When Esther's cousin discovered the plot, he urged Esther to speak to King Xerxes on the Jews' behalf. To go into the king's presence uninvited, though, meant risking death—even if you were the queen.

What gave Esther the courage to speak? Her cousin urged her: "Who know but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" It was his way of saying, *Esther, you know God's will and the love we're to show to each other. Look at where God has placed you now. Don't miss this opportunity to serve him.*

What was true for Esther is true for us as individuals and as a congregation. Are you a father or mother, son or daughter, employer or employee, friend or neighbor? God has not messed up by placing you where you are. You have abilities and opportunities to serve him.

What opportunities has God placed in front of us as a congregation? God doesn't *need* us to carry them out—if Esther wouldn't have acted, the Lord would have raised up another deliverer—but he gives us the opportunity to serve him. If we let fear or concern for ourselves stop

us from serving him, he will give those chances to others.

We're united in love and thanks to God for the salvation he's given us in Christ Jesus. What's the best way to serve him? As individuals and a church, *consider your place in life*. How will God use me—me!—to do his will? Thank the Lord for bringing us to where we are for such a time as this!





# Calling All Musicians!

*Using our gifts to his glory and for the encouragement of others*

The Christian Church has a long and wonderful history of a richly musical worship style. King David was a master musician himself. The Psalms encourage us to praise God with a wide range of instruments: harp, cymbals, trumpets, tambourines, flutes, and stringed instruments are all listed by name.

What's true of the Christian Church has certainly also been true among Lutherans. Dr. Luther valued music above almost all of God's

other gifts. He saw music as a wonderful way to adorn the gospel with the best of our abilities. During the Reformation, he called for Germany's most talented musicians and poets to compose new tunes to sing the truths of God's salvation.

Early copies of Lutheran chorales are often decorated with artwork showing the instruments used in playing the pieces, including organ, trum-

"Music is God's greatest gift to man, second only to theology"  
- Dr. Martin Luther

pet, guitar, violin, flutes and other woodwinds, and all manner of percussion.

Why would we use all those different instruments in our worship? Not to make worship more "effective" - only the gospel can do that. Rather, since the gospel is the greatest gift God has given to us, we use our best gifts when we proclaim it. It's the same reason we seek to build beautiful churches or wear our "Sunday best." The way we proclaim his Word says a lot

about how we value his Word!

**Do you have gifts with a musical instrument?** If you've taken lessons for at least four years and would be interested in accompanying our worship, please speak to Pastor Seifert and let him know.

May God bless us as we offer him the use of the great gifts he's given to us!

## Confirmation Class

Confirmation class is the in-depth course of study that our 7th and 8th graders undertake in preparation for adult membership in our church. The class teaches them not only the truths of Scripture, but also gives them greater ability to read the Bible for themselves and understand God's Word. The course also serves as a preparation for taking part in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

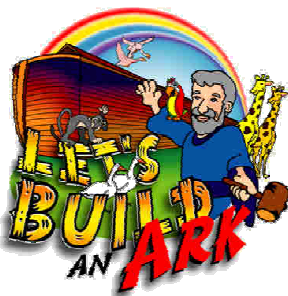
If you have a child in 7th or 8th grade, please let Pastor Seifert know as soon as possible.

It's important also to enter confirmation class with a working understanding of Bible history. If you have a child in 6th grade, please speak to Pastor Seifert about a possible 6th grade Bible history class.



## Vacation Bible School: Update

August 9-11th, 2010 + 6:00-7:30 pm



Plans for this year's Vacation Bible School are moving along well. On July 21st, 12 teenagers and three chaperones from Delano, MN, helped us in this ministry by distributing over 1,000 flyers in the areas around Shining Mountains.

Our thanks to those members who are taking an active role in teaching lessons, helping with music and crafts, or assisting in keeping the chaos to a minimum!

We could still use help with the following:

- Donating peanut-free cookies or other snacks
- Donating drinks
- An extra set of hands to help with management and clean-up each night.

Don't forget—our Vacation Bible School children and their families will be invited to our church picnic on August 15th. See you there!



# The Twelve Districts of our Synod

Over 400,000 Christians united in faith throughout the country

One of the highest blessings we enjoy as a Synod is *doctrinal unity*. Throughout our church body, we can be confident that the same truths of Scripture are being proclaimed.

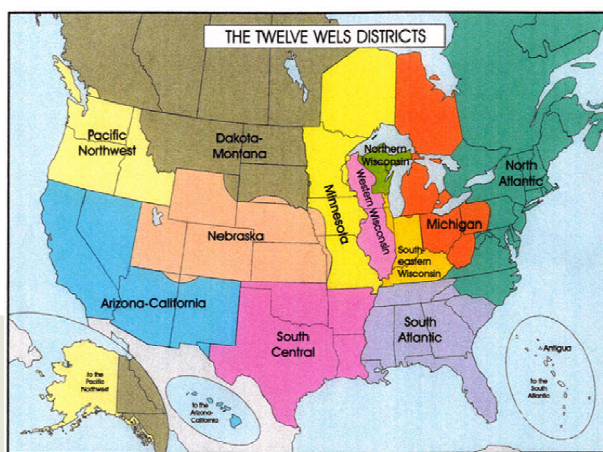
If you've paid attention to the news over the last few years, you may have noticed that this unity is a rare thing in church bodies these days. How is that unity preserved in a church body made up of nearly 1,500 churches?

One part of that answer is the role our *District Presidents* play. Our church body is made up of 12 geographic districts. Each district elects

a pastor to serve as its District President. In addition to assisting with Calls and synod administration, the Presidents are also responsible for doctrinal unity. They seek to correct pastors or

teachers who stray from the clear message of God's Word.

Continue to thank the Lord for the role these men play, and the unity we have in the truths of Scripture!



## Childcare Committee Update

For the last few years, *Shining Mountains* has given focused consideration to how we might better carry out Christ's Great Commission to *go and make disciples of all nations*. Recently, much of that discussion had centered around a child-care concept.

That work is continuing to progress, with some slight changes in direction. The Committee's discussions now focus around the possibilities of building a new church with a 3k-4k preschool with wrap-around daycare. Initial investigations and discussions with architects and builders seem to indicate that building a new facility may be even more cost-effective than buying an existing church, and would give more flexibility to our ministry and opportunities for later expansion. As the Committee assembles plans and seeks information from other WELS preschool directors, it seems that such an endeavor would be self-supporting. However, more research will continue over the next few months.

What can you do? Continue to pray that our church would have increased opportunities to share the Word of Life with people who don't know it. Encourage the Committee as they work faithfully on this project on our behalf. And stay informed: attend Voters' meetings and watch for information in the newsletter and bulletins.

## Serving Us in August *Thanks to those who served in July!*

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
8/1	J. Newton / L. Hunziker	OPEN/OPEN	P. Pruitt	Marozick
8/8	L. Baker / B. Baran	OPEN/OPEN	OPEN	Newton
8/15	A. Pruitt / J. Becker	Bucholz/OPEN	Bucholz	Pruitt, D & P
8/22	J. Thiede / D. Thiede	OPEN/OPEN	L & V Baker	Pruitt, A & R
8/29	R. Bucholz / P. Agenten	OPEN/OPEN	E. Baker	Thiede

## MISSION NEWS:

Taking the Word to the World



The work in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China continues at a breathtaking pace.

Close to 60 ESL teachers, many of them graduates of Martin Luther College, are teaching English by day in China's schools and witnessing their faith in off hours. With conversions and baptisms taking place, small groups are regularly gathering around the Word.

Seminary graduates have been placed in the country for the past three years to learn the Chinese language and mentor the teachers as they nourish small groups.

Asia Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong had its first graduation last November. The five graduates included some new pastors and some already in the ministry studying for advanced degrees.

A *Translation Working Group* is involved in an ambitious program to translate key Lutheran materials and books into the Chinese language and in transferable form to reach the vast numbers that thirst for spiritual nurture.

What can you do to support this ministry?

- Support it with your offerings. The monies you designate as *mission offerings* each Sunday go directly to such projects
- Pray to the Lord of the church that he would keep these new-born Christians (and the missionaries who care for them) safe from spiritual and physical danger

# Summer Sermon Series

---

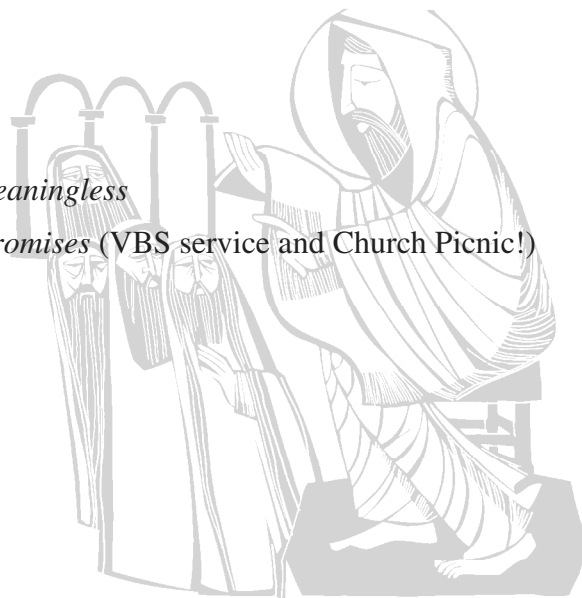
This summer our worship follows a few sermon series as God's Word speaks to the Christian lives he calls us to. May the following schedule help you as you prepare for worship or look for opportunities to invite a friend!

## ***The Believer Follows Christ:***

- August 1     *Followers of Christ Pray Boldly*
- August 8     *Followers of Christ Know that Earthly Wealth Is Meaningless*
- August 15    *Followers of Christ Find True Treasure in God's Promises (VBS service and Church Picnic!)*

## ***Words of Warning from a Loving Savior:***

- August 22    *The Word doesn't bring peace, but division*
- August 29    *The door to heaven is narrow*
- Sept. 5        *The first will be last... humble yourselves*
- Sept. 12       *Count the cost of discipleship*



325 N. 25th Ave  
BOZEMAN MT 59718