



○ September | ○ 2010

# 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."

*God gives his Word to be a blessing to his people—and that starts from the inside-out*

## Bound to the Word

*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)*

God spoke those words to the Israelites through his servant Moses. And the Israelites did something interesting: they did exactly what God told them to—literally! Over the years, many Israelites began to put small sections of Scripture in little boxes—called phylacteries—that they would “tie on their hands” and “bind on their foreheads.” They were literally bound to God’s Word.

Of course, God was calling on them to do something far different than that. He was telling them to be “bound” to God’s Word in a different way. He wanted *his* Word of Life to be a constant part of *their* lives. He didn’t just want his Word to be *near* them, but *in* them.

That’s still part of God’s will for us today, too. God promises us that true peace, joy, contentment and hope are gifts that he gives to us in his Word. And he wants his children to have and enjoy those gifts!

How will that be true for you? Bear in mind God’s Word to the Israelites—but avoid the mistake of just “outward worship.” Make it your goal for God’s Word to be “upon your heart.” Talk about it with your family. Resist the urge to have the TV on immediately after (or even during!) a meal. Carve out time to read a few minutes of Scripture, and talk about what it means with your family. Don’t tie Bible passages to your hands or forehead, but let the deeds of your hands and the thoughts of your mind reflect what God says in the Bible.

There are plenty of other ways as well. If you haven’t been to a Bible class for a while, make now the time you start again. Talk about God’s Word with your fellow believers. Bring your children (or friends or neighbors) to Sunday School. Let your goal be to ever grow in your understanding of God’s love and will for you.



It’s easy for us to fall into a religious life that’s all about what’s on the outside—the number of times we come to church or the way we talk. These things are important, but God’s will for us starts with what happens on the inside, as we grow in faith and take his Word to heart. May God bless you as you grow in his truths!



# The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels

*A service giving thanks to God for the ministry of his angels—September 26th*

How often didn't Jesus point believers to remember the work of the angels on our behalf! They watch over us during our earthly days; they carry our souls home to heaven.

They sang praises to God as he formed this world; they will be there when Christ comes on the clouds to usher in the next world.

How often do you think about the part that angels play in your life? How well do you understand it?

As early as 400 years after

**Michael the archangel, the guardian of the people of God, has been held in honor since before the beginning of Christianity**

Christ, the Christian church found value in setting aside a day every year to thank God for the ministry of his angels. The Lutheran Reformers recognized how valuable this was and chose to carry on the tradition.

According to the calendar of the Christian Church, September 29<sup>th</sup> is set aside as "The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels." Michael is the name of the archangel, a leader among the angels. This year, Shining Mountains will celebrate the festival on Sep-

tember 26<sup>th</sup> (the nearest Sunday).

Our worship will include Scripture readings and hymns that remind us of the role that angels play in our lives.

A service like this isn't a time to worship the angels. Rather, we focus on the way God shows his power and love through his angels, and give him thanks for their work in our lives.

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**For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. Psalm 91:11-12**

## Builders for Christ Coming to Shining Mountains

On October 2-3, a representative from "Builders for Christ" (BFC) will be in Bozeman. BFC is a division of WELS Kingdom Workers, a group that works in cooperation with our church body's Board of Home Missions.

BFC's goal is to assist mission churches build new facilities at a reduced cost. The group has a membership of over 350 volunteer men and women from 17 states. These volunteers—most of whom have extensive experience in construction—travel across the country to help build churches and parsonages. Since it is a volunteer group, their involvement tends to eliminate most labor costs from a building project.

As Shining Mountains continues to look for ways to advance our ministry, BFC agreed to travel here and meet with our congregation at no charge to us. A representative will meet with the leadership of our church on Saturday, Oct. 2, and with the entire congregation on Sunday, Oct. 3. The goals of the meeting are to establish whether or not BFC would be able to work with us on a new facility, and how much such cooperation could reduce our costs and make a new facility feasible. The meeting in no way obligates SMLC to work with BFC.

BFC does not charge for its work. The organization is made up of men and women who choose to give of their time and abilities to assist churches as they share the gospel. Volunteers tend to stay in their own RVs or campers near the project site. The host congregation generally provides one meal a day for the workers and often helps out with site clean-up at the end of each day.

May God use this meeting to open more doors for our ministry to grow, reminds us of the great blessings that God gives through our Synod, and lead us to give him thanks for our brothers and sisters in faith who give so freely of their abilities to further his Kingdom!





# In-Home Small Group Studies

*A chance to grow in God's Word and with your fellow Christians*

In September Shining Mountains will be restarting its small group in-home Bible studies. These studies—held in members' homes and led either by Pastor or by a trained member—give us a chance to meet in smaller groups to discuss God's Word and the way it applies to our lives. It also gives us a chance to get to know each other in a different setting than Sunday morning worship and Bible study.

Since our members live across the Gallatin valley and have different schedules, having multiple classes provides opportunity for as many of us as possible to become involved. This year we aim to have three locations—one each in Bozeman, Bel-

grade, and Manhattan. The study groups meet once a month on the day and time that works best with the schedules of the people in that particular group.



This year's study begins with a look at the book, "What in the World Is Going On?" published by our Northwestern Publishing House. Through six chapters, Pastor David Thompson (ELS) leads us through a Scriptural discussion of the differing *worldviews* that exist in our culture. He lays a foundation of understanding the Confessional Lutheran worldview, and then discusses the many other worldviews that we are exposed to in modernism, post-modernism and spiritualism. At the heart of the study

is the question: "How much does the world we live in affect our faith?"

Participants are encouraged to buy a copy of the book (about \$12) to help them get the most out of each study, but doing so isn't required. (A sign-up sheet for the books will be posted soon so Pastor can order them.) When they meet, groups will discuss the current chapter and study other relevant portions of Scripture.

Locations and sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board and announced in the worship folder soon.

May God bless this chance to grow in our knowledge of his Word and our fellowship with each other.

## What is Liturgical Worship?



Pastor Seifert occasionally posts articles online that may be of interest to both our members and those who are just looking for information on our church. Currently, there

is an article on our website talking about the heritage of "liturgical worship" we have as a Christian church.

The liturgy has come under fire in some circles in recent decades, while at the same time there has been a tremendous amount of interest in the liturgy from younger generations.

The Lutheran church has a strong relationship with the liturgy, and has long treasured it for both its strong and clear focus on the life and work of Christ, for its usefulness in teaching the truths of the faith and the way it connects us to Christians of every time and place. For another look at the liturgy, look for the article online



## Vacation Bible School Summary

Shining Mountains hosted a Vacation Bible School for our members and neighbors on Aug. 9-11th. A total of 21 children took part in the three-evening VBS that centered on the Biblical account of Noah and the flood.

Special thanks to our teachers and assistants (Amy Barans; Joe and Nikki Becker; Kaylee Kountz; Marilynn Linn;

Kate, Sarah and Mary Newton; Rachel Pruitt; and Carly Seifert), as well as all of those who donated food or craft items.

Our neighbor participants (about half of our enrollment) have received follow-up visits and invitations to take part in Sunday School and our church life. Please do keep an eye out for them and welcome them!

# The CELC

*Brothers and sisters in faith around the globe*

Do you ever, well, *feel lonely* as a WELS Christian? While there are a lot of us—over 400,000—that doesn't seem like much of a drop in the bucket compared to the population of America. It's easy to feel like the portion of the invisible Church that holds faithfully to the pure Word of God is such a small and insignificant thing.

That's not the case.

The Wisconsin Synod has been joined in fellowship to the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) since that body was founded in 1993. The CELC is a group of twenty-one different

church bodies from around the world that all express the same confession of Scripture that we do.

Who are these other Lutherans? In the CELC, we are joined in faith and doctrine with Lutheran church bodies in:

- Bulgaria
- Nigeria
- Mexico
- Latvia
- The Czech Republic
- Russia
- Finland
- Puerto Rico
- Germany
- Peru
- Australia

- Indonesia
- Cameroon
- Malawi
- Zambia
- Portugal
- Sweden
- Norway
- Japan
- Ukraine

Thank the Lord for the way his Word is bearing fruit around the World, and for the unity of faith we have with so many people we may never meet until heaven.

May the Lord continue to bless the spread of the Gospel!

## MISSION NEWS:

### Taking the Word to the World



In Pakistan 23,000 students are now enrolled in the Bible Correspondence and Teaching courses. Most of these numbers are children being trained in Christian schools of various denominations, although close to 2,000 of these courses are distributed to villages by workers via bicycles. This work, begun in 2006, has now distributed 65,000 pieces of literature.

The requests for our materials have been huge since no other mission agency has provided materials for children that have the Urdu translation and graphic illustration like those provided through WELS Multi-Language Publications.

Our contact in Pakistan and his wife recently finished instruction and have made the decision to switch from Anglican to Lutheran Christians. Their desire is to plant a Lutheran Church in this country.

We are continually uplifted by the courageous witness of the Christian community in Pakistan in the face of heavy Muslim opposition.

As Shining Mountains' Church Council prepares a 2011 budget for voter approval at the end of this year, it's a fitting time to reflect on the work that our mission dollars accomplish around the globe, and give thanks to God for the chance to share in that gospel ministry.

May God bless and keep those Christians in Pakistan until the day when we finally meet them at our Savior's feet in heaven!

## Shining Mountains Is on Facebook<sup>®</sup>



Shining Mountains now has its own Facebook page.

For those unfamiliar with it, Facebook is a form of "social networking" on the internet. Individuals or groups create their own "page" filled with information about themselves and updates. Other Facebook users can choose to "follow" a page and automatically receive any updates that are posted.

Why bother with a Facebook page? While it is a useful tool for keeping ourselves informed on upcoming events, there's perhaps a more powerful use. If you're on Facebook, you can easily forward updates and invitations to special services, events, and Bible classes to everyone who follows your page. While some people may feel timid at times about inviting a friend or two to worship, with just a click of a button you can let your dozens (or hundreds!) of "Facebook friends" know about what's going on in your church home.

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

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
9/5	T. Linn / P. Marozick	Gustafson / Linn	Gustafson	Baker, E.
9/12	D. Gustafson / D. Gentry	Wilcox / OPN	Bucholz	Baker, L. & V.
9/19	D. Pruitt / M. Joecks	OPEN / OPEN	Linn	Becker
9/26	J. Hammer / B. Thiede	OPEN / OPEN	OPEN	Bucholz

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# September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:30pm Church Council	3	4
5 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship (with Lord's Supper)	6 7:00pm Worship	7	8 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	9	10	11
12 9:00 Bible Study / Sunday School 10:00 Worship	13 7:00pm Worship	14	15 Public School confirmation class ( <i>time yet to be determined</i> )	16	17	18
19 9:00 Bible Study / Sunday School 10:00 Worship (with Lord's Supper)	20 7:00pm Worship	21	22 7:00pm Choir rehearsal Public School confirmation class ( <i>time yet to be determined</i> )	23	24	25
26 9:00 Bible Study / Sunday School 10:00 Worship (Festival of St. Michael and all angels)	27 7:00pm Worship	28	29 Public School confirmation class ( <i>time yet to be determined</i> )	30		

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# Summer Sermon Series

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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!

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

- August 29    *The door to heaven is narrow*
- Sept. 5      *The first will be last... humble yourselves*
- Sept. 12     *Count the cost of discipleship*

## ***The Believer Grows in Christian Character***

- Sept. 19     *Christians love the lost like Christ*
- Sept. 26     *The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels*
- Oct. 3        *Christians find real wealth in heavenly treasure*
- Oct. 10      *Christians do their duty*



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