



# 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."

By God's grace, Luther cut to

## The Heart of It All

Stained-glass windows were once used to preach sermons. Since many people were illiterate when the great churches of Europe were built, the windows were designed as a way to teach them Bible history and to "preach" the Word of God to them through pictures.

Martin Luther realized the value of that. He wanted all people to know what the Word of God said, so he even devised his own personal "seal" — shown partially at right — to put his theology into picture. As we prepare to celebrate the Lutheran Reformation at the end of October, it's a fitting time to review the meaning of the seal. Below is Luther's explanation:

*The first (symbol) should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive.*

*Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does*

*not give peace and joy like the world gives. That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels.*

*Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed.*

*And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is the summary of my theology. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen.*

With a few pictures put together, Luther summed up the key truths of the Christian faith. May we always cherish them and live in the joy that they give!

Celebrating the Reformation also reminds us that God's pure Word can easily be lost if we're not each committed to growing in our knowledge of his truths. Two such opportunities are referenced in this newsletter:

- A new monthly Bible class begins



this month. Read about it on p. 2!

- If you have a child in Sunday School, use the chart on p. 4 to not only stay informed about your child's lessons, but reinforce them and discuss them at home.

The Lord bless you richly as you continue to hold to the truths of Scripture!



# LET THERE BE LIGHT!

## *A new monthly Bible Study at Shining Mountains*

Beginning Thursday, October 20th, Shining Mountains will begin offering a new, once a month Bible study. Over the course of eight months, we'll review the first five books of the Bible—Genesis through Leviticus.

The Bible class follows a different format than what we're used to. Our goals will be to *encourage and enable home devotional readings, give participants a working knowledge of early Old Testament history, and answer some deeper questions on the Old Testament*. To accomplish this, each month the class participants will have a light amount of Scripture reading to do at home. When we get together, we'll both discuss your questions and thoughts, as well as study a few deeper issues.

What should you expect to get out of each class?

- We'll begin by *reviewing* the chapters you read at home. Your questions and thoughts are welcome!
- We'll take a *deeper view* of a few questions raised by your reading. For example, if we're reading about the life of Abraham, we may discuss the practice of polygamy in the Old Testament, or if we're reading through Leviticus we may discuss why bloody animal sacrifices had such an important role in the worship life of the Israelites.
- Finally, we'll *preview* the section of Scripture you'll be reading over the next month. Pastor will spend 15-20 minutes giving your reading some context and direction to make it a more beneficial experience.

The study is meant to be a bridge between spiritual growth at home and group Bible study at church. Each month you'll receive a set of notes and helps to take home. The notes will guide you through your readings, explain the sections that might be harder to understand, and provide some thoughts for home devotions with your family.

The first five books of the Bible lay the foundation for all the other truths in Scripture: *sin, death, the Savior, forgiveness, worship, obedience* and many concepts. If you'd like to meet with us, join us at church from 6:45 pm until 8:00 on Thursday, October 20th. (If you'd like to have childcare arranged on-site, please speak to Pastor.) To get the most out of our first study, consider re-reading Genesis 1-5 before you come!

## Women's Fellowship Project

Shining Mountains' *Women's Fellowship* group has sponsored a project for our worship: purchasing stoles for use in our services. Shining Mountains currently owns one stole (for the season of Advent); funds for another stole have been dedicated from the Tommy Meister memorial fund. The women's fellowship group would like to complete the set with a purchase of a final stole or two.

Stoles are part of the traditional vestments of the Christian Church, and generally match the color and symbolism of the altar paraments. For example, the color of Advent is blue, so pastor wears a blue stole calling to mind the night sky in which the angels appeared to announce the good news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. The star on the stole also calls to mind that night sky, as well as the way Scripture refers to Jesus as "the bright morning star" (Rev. 22:16).

While the stole seems to have its roots in the scarves that Roman politicians wore as a sign of their rank, it has had a special meaning in the Christian Church. The stole is a stylized version of a yoke. People put yokes on oxen and other beasts of burden to limit and direct where they should go. In the same way, ministers of the Gospel are called not to speak their own thoughts, but to faithfully "go where the master directs" as they proclaim God's Word. The Apostle Paul refers to another minister as a "loyal yokefellow" in Philippians 4:3. For these reasons, the stole has long been regarded as a symbol of the pastoral office.

If you wish to donate to this project, please speak to Veronica Baker or simply put a separate check in your offering envelope labeled "stole."



NIV 2011:

# Issues, Questions and Thoughts Part III

*While we don't have an "official translation" of the Bible, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod does use the New International Version (NIV) in all our official publications. It's the translation most commonly used by our people and our congregations.*

*The publisher of the NIV has released a revised translation ("NIV 2011") and, beginning next year, will no longer allow us to print from the older version in our bulletins, catechisms, hymnals or Sunday School materials. Our Synod is discussing whether to adopt the NIV 2011 for our publications or recommend another translation. Over the next few months, this article will be used to share some of the issues and concerns involved in that decision.*

**Note:** The following is reprinted from the "Together" e-newsletter sent out from our Synod president, Mark Schroeder. It provides an update about our church body's decisions and thoughts as we examine the revised New International Version of the Bible. It specifically addresses the question of whether or not the WELS should—or is able to—produce its own translation of the Bible.

The publishers of the New International Version of the Bible have produced a revision of the 1984 version (NIV1984) currently used in our synod. The NIV1984 will no longer be published and will soon become unavailable for purchase. And while it will still be possible to use quotations from the NIV1984, any publications making extensive use of the NIV will only be permitted to use the new version (NIV2011). That has made it necessary for our synod to make a decision regarding which translation will be used in its publications.

The synod does not choose an "official" or "recommended" translation for use by congregations. A translation does, however, become more or less "official" when it is used in the three major types of publications (hymnal, catechism, and Bible history/Sunday school materials). This means that the choice of a translation for publications takes on great significance, since the translation used in those major publications will, through usage and by default, be adopted by the vast majority of WELS congregations for the next generation or two.

In 2010 the Translation Evaluation Committee (TEC) was appointed by the Conference of Presidents to evaluate the NIV2011 and other available translations and to report its initial conclusions to the 2011 synod convention. The purpose of this evaluation was to determine which, if any, existing translations would be suitable for use in our synod.

The TEC brought its initial findings to the 2011 convention as requested, reporting that it had reached a preliminary conclusion. The committee reported that the NIV2011 contained both positive and negative changes. After weighing those changes, it reported that it had reached consensus within the committee that, while some of the changes were not positive ones, they were not sufficient to prevent the NIV2011 from being adopted for use in our synod. The committee concluded that, while not perfect, the NIV2011 was the best and most suitable translation for use in WELS.

This report was received by the convention delegates with expressions of thanks for the committee's work. Some delegates voiced support for the conclusions; others expressed concern about some of the translation choices in the NIV2011, particularly in areas involving gender-inclusive language and messianic prophecy. After extensive discussion, the convention directed the committee to continue its work of evaluation and to lead continuing discussions regarding translation issues. It resolved that a final decision on translations should be made by a 2/3 plurality vote at the district conventions in 2012.

The convention recognized the importance of the translation issue in a church body that is committed to the Scriptures as the inspired, inerrant Word of God. The decision made in the coming year will impact our congregations and members for a generation or more. Because of a desire to strive for the very best possible translation, suggestions were made that we should consider the option of producing a new or revised translation if it would result in a translation that is more suitable than others now available. For that reason, the convention also directed that a committee should be appointed to study the feasibility of producing either an entirely new translation or a new revision of one or more existing translations. The committee was also asked to consider the feasibility of producing a study Bible if the NIV2011 is chosen.

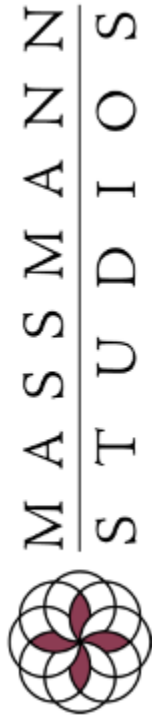
The Translation Feasibility Committee has now been appointed. Committee members are Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary professors John Brug and Daniel Leyrer; pastors Phil Hirsch, Michael Jensen, John Koelpin, Jonathan Schroeder, and Paul Janke; and Northwestern Publishing House editor Curtis Jahn. In considering this option, the committee will address the questions such as our ability to produce a quality translation; the costs, time, and manpower involved; and the process by which such an effort could be carried out. The committee will bring its conclusions and recommendations to the district conventions in the summer of 2012.

Serving in Christ,

Mark Schroeder



# Building project update



**“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.”**

As we continue to pursue a new ministry home, a number of important dates are coming up. They are:

## **October 2nd**

**Bible class hour:** We will examine a concept for a new church home during our Bible class period (beginning at 9:15). This concept will allow us to react to the size of the building; amount of worship, classroom and fellowship space; style of seating and other key issues that we’ll need to make a decision on.

**Following church:** After our worship, the entire congregation’s invited to an open forum. In this forum, the Council will present the steps it will take to make the building project a reality. While the plan won’t be up for a vote at this meeting, there will be time for congregational questions and reactions. Materials will be provided for members to take home and consider together with their families. At the meeting, Council will also have a recommendation for a change to our Valley Center listing.

## **October 16th**

After church we’ll have one of our quarterly voters’ meetings. This meeting will include a first look at our proposed ministry plan and budget for 2012. Depending on the reactions and thoughts of the congregation at the October 2 forum and other developments, the Council may also have building project-related motions for the voters’ consideration.

This project is part of the work that Christ has given into the hands of our congregation. If you’d like to learn more, please do come to the meetings or speak to your council members (Lance Baker [chair], Dan Gustafson [secretary], Michael Joecks [financial secretary], Aaron Pruitt [treasurer], Paul Agenten [evangelism], and Jim Lauersdorf [elder]) or to Pastor Seifert.

## Reformation Book Order

As we prepare to celebrate the Lutheran Reformation at the end of October, take some time to share the history and message of the Reformation with your children, or spend some time with Luther’s writings to meditate on the truths of the Gospel. Below is an order form for three different books that are available from our *Northwestern Publishing House*. If you return the order form with payment to Pastor Seifert by Sunday, October 9th, he’ll place an order on behalf of the congregation and put the book(s) you ordered in your mailbox at church.

### **The Story of Martin Luther (\$9)**

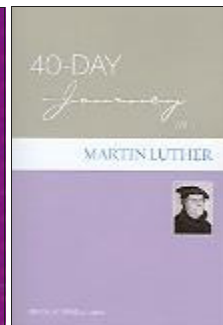
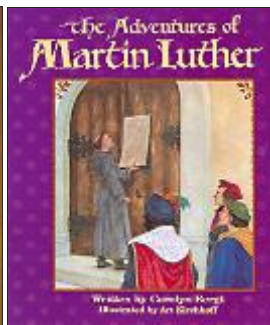
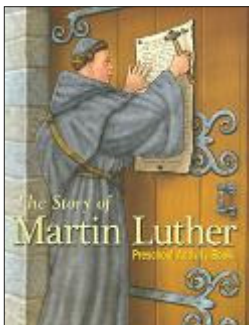
This activity book talks about Martin Luther for Preschool age children. There are 10 pages of activities, 2 pages of stickers and 2 pages with songs.

### **The Adventures of Martin Luther (\$7)**

This sixteen-page illustrated book is a fitting way to explain the history and meaning of the Reformation to children in Kindergarten through the middle grades.

### **40-Day Journey with Martin Luther (\$14)**

A collection of forty devotional writings by Martin Luther. Each devotion is 2-3 pages long, and allows you to focus briefly but deeply on a key truth of Scripture.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book order:

\_\_\_\_ copies of *The Story of Martin Luther* (\$9 each)

\_\_\_\_ copies of *The Adventures of Martin Luther* (\$7 each)

\_\_\_\_ copies of *40-Day Journey with Martin Luther* (\$14 each)

Total amount included \_\_\_\_\_

# Growing in Christ

Shining Mountains provides a Sunday School program to partner with parents in raising our children in the truth of God's Word. Each month, parents can look to this page of the newsletter and see their student's upcoming lessons, memory work, and updates about when the children will next sing in our worship services.

Date	Lower grades (Miss Newton)	Middle grades (Mrs. Giese)	Upper grades (Mrs. Baker)
10/2	<b>God saves Noah and his family</b> <i>"God wants all people to be saved" (1 Ti 2:3,4)</i>	<b>God gives the Ten Commandments</b> <i>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith (Eph 2:8)</i>	<b>God gives the Ten Commandments</b> <i>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast (Eph 2:8,9)</i>
10/9	<b>God answers Abraham's prayer for a son</b> <i>"Ask and it will be given to you." (Mt 7:7)</i>	<b>The Tabernacle</b> <i>For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them (Matthew 18:20)</i>	<b>The Tabernacle</b> <i>For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them (Matthew 18:20)</i>
10/16	<b>Jacob sees a beautiful dream</b> <i>"Do not fear, for I am with you." (Is 41:10)</i>	<b>The Twelve Spies</b> <i>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23)</i>	<b>The Twelve Spies</b> <i>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23)</i>
10/23	<b>God takes care of baby Moses</b> <i>"I am with you always." (Mt 28:20)</i>	<b>Moses' Sin and the Bronze Snake</b> <i>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)</i>	<b>Moses' Sin and the Bronze Snake</b> <i>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)</i>
10/30	<b>God leads his people through the Red Sea</b> <i>"Call upon me in the day of trouble. (Ps 50:15)</i>	<b>The Israelites enter Canaan</b> <i>Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20)</i>	<b>The Israelites enter Canaan</b> <i>I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will seem him with my own eyes – I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me (Job 19:25-27)</i>

Sunday School children sing "Jesus Loves Me" in worship (10/30)

## Serving Us in October *Thank you to those who served in September!*

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
10/2	J Becker / S McGough	Miller	McGough	L&V Baker (10/3-10/9)
10/9	L Baker / B Ballard	open	Bev Gentry	Ballard (10/10-10/16)
10/16	A Pruitt / T Franck	open	L&V Baker	Becker (10/17-10/23)
10/23	R Buchholz / P Agenten	open	E Hammer	Buchholz (10/24-10/30)
10/30	D Gustafson / D Gentry	open	Gustafson	Giese (10/31-11/6)

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
**Psalm 84:10**

# Upcoming Messages

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During the month of October we begin to bring the “half year of the Church” to a close. As we do so, our worship focus on the nature of the Church, the nature of God, and finally a celebration of the Reformation. May the following schedule help you as you prepare for worship or look for opportunities to invite a friend!

## *Worship in October*

Oct 2 (Pentecost 16): The Church fulfills her role as her brother’s keeper

Oct 9 (Pentecost 17): The Church forgives as God forgives



Oct 16 (Pentecost 18): Our God is incomprehensibly gracious

Oct 23 (Pentecost 19): Our God wants us to repent and live

Oct 30 (First Sunday in Endtimes): The Festival of the Reformation



# October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible class 10:30 Worship w/ H.C. 12:00 Open Forum	7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship 	6:30—8:00 pm Confirmation Class (at church)	6:15pm Church Council meeting			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible class 10:30 Worship 11:45 Ladies' Fellowship meeting	7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship	6:30—8:00 pm Confirmation Class (at church)	6:30pm Elder meeting	6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study: <i>Gems from the Old Testament</i> — <i>The Book of Jonah</i>		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible class 10:30 Worship w/ H.C. 12:00 Voters' Meeting 	7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship	6:30—8:00 pm Confirmation Class (at church)		6:30 pm <b>Let there be Light!</b> Monthly Bible study meets at Church		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible class 10:30 Worship	7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship	6:30—8:00 pm Confirmation Class (at church)	7-8pm Faith Foundations Bible study at the club house of King Arthur's Court			
30	31					
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible class 10:30 Worship (Reformation Sunday)	7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship					