

# 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."

*A loving Savior calls us to*

## Be Watchful! Be Ready!

What lesson are you going to take from Harold Camping?

If you've been following his story over the last few months, I'm sure you've been torn between laughing and crying. Camping is the host of a Christian radio broadcast who's been very active in predicting the end of the world. He originally set the date for May 21st, 2011; when that day came and went, he revised the date to October 21st.

Dozens of Camping's followers quit their jobs to spend the last few months spreading the promise of the coming Armageddon around the country. Bank accounts were emptied in support of this ministry. Countless comedians and reporters found fodder for jokes.

What about you? What lessons should a Christian take from this?

There's something to be admired in the zeal of those Camping deceived. Jesus tells us the End *is* real; there is a day coming when he will return and judge the world. (In fact, that's one of the three most-repeated doctrines in all of the Bible!) That *should* change our lives. God says the knowledge of the coming End should move us to be faithful in worship (Hebrews 10:25); to live chaste, Christian lives as we turn from our sins (Luke 3:17); and to

always be watchful and ready ourselves (Matthew 25).

That gives us good reason to ask ourselves: *Am I focused on what I should be?* Do you continue to live untroubled by your sin, instead of turning away from it? Do you treat time in God's Word as unimportant? God calls us to turn from that behavior.

These last few months remind us of another truth: *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world* (1 John 4:1). There is no end of people willing to stand up and proclaim "what God says." Who's able to tell the difference between what's true and what's a lie? *You are!* Go back to Scripture and compare what they say with God's Word. (For instance, Jesus says clearly in Matthew 24:36 that *no one* will be able to predict when the end of the world will come.)

In November and December, we celebrate two unique seasons of the Church Year: End Times and Advent. In their own ways, both of those seasons focus on Jesus' return. The emphasis in both is preparing ourselves to meet our Savior—at his coming at the end of the



world and his coming as a baby in Bethlehem.

God grant that your time in God's house during these seasons is a meaningful way to focus past the issues of daily life, and find a focus on the glories of heaven that will never pass away.



# LET THERE BE LIGHT!

*A monthly Bible Study at Shining Mountains*

Last month we began a new monthly Bible study that walks through the first five books of the Bible in just eight sessions. By the end of study, participants will have a better knowledge of some of the key figures in Bible history, see God's grace in promising a Savior from the beginning of the world, and understand key Biblical concepts from a new perspective.

It's not too late to join! Our next study will be held from 6:45-8:00 on Thursday, Nov. 17th. We'll review some basic information from the flood and the life of Abraham and look a bit deeper at two questions:

- Did people really live for hundreds of years in those days? Why?
- Why was polygamy so common in the Old Testament? Was this allowed by God?

To get the most out of our study, consider reading Genesis 5-25 before we meet. Childcare will be provided on request.

## 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 4th. 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!

Thank you,  
Lord!



## Thanksgiving Worship + Wed., Nov. 23

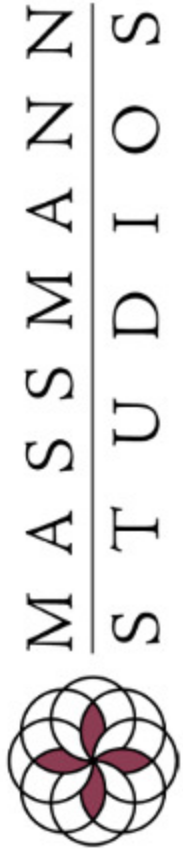
On Wednesday, Nov. 23, we gather together at 7:00 pm for a special service of *thanksgiving* for the Lord's goodness to us in body and soul.

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

On the bulletin board in the narthex you'll soon find 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 20th and 22nd. 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.

# 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 key steps have been taken, or are just around the corner:

## *Church concept and plan presented*

In early October, we presented a concept for what a future church home could be like—the approximate size and space, the amount of seating and classrooms, etc. The concept had been prepared for us by Massmann Studios. While the concept could undergo great revisions once our final site is chosen, it allowed the congregation to get a sense of the size of building we’re aiming for.

After church, a plan was presented showing how we had gotten to this point, why a building project is seen to be both important and feasible, and how we might actually accomplish it. If you haven’t seen a copy of the document presented there (“A Path Forward”), please ask Pastor Seifert for a copy.

## *Real estate developments*

In the October 2nd meeting, the voters gave the Council the authority to relist our property on Valley Center Rd with a new agent, at a new price, in the hopes of realizing a sale.

In the Oct. 16th meeting, the voters authorized the Council to place a contingency offer on the property on the corner of Baxter and Davis.

Both of the actions listed above were executed on October 25th.

A special voters’ meeting has been called for Sunday, Oct. 30 to discuss moving to a housing allowance system and listing the parsonage for sale. The move is expected to allow us to pay off our CEF loan, raise the amount of our Building Fund, and reduce our annual operating budget.

May our good and gracious Savior bless these steps forward, to the growth of His Kingdom!

## November Book Order

Advent is a time of focus, preparation and repentance as we consider Christ’s coming at Christmas. It can be an especially meaningful time to begin family or personal devotions.

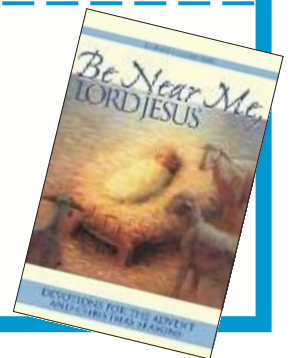
*Be Near Me, Lord Jesus* is a devotional book designed to help a Christian stay close to their Savior during the stress and busyness of the season. The book contains a devotion for each day between December 1 and January 6 (Epiphany). The devotions, each about 2-3 pages long and written by WELS pastor Richard Lauersdorf, do a wonderful job of bringing the purpose and promise of the Savior to bear on our daily lives. Each one begins with a short portion of Scripture and ends with a closing prayer.

Shining Mountains will place a group order for a copy of the book for anyone who would like, to save on shipping costs. If you’re interested, please fill out the form below and return it with payment to Pastor by Sunday, November 20th.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Be Near Me, Lord Jesus* for \$15 each.

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



# ADVENT

# 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.

Memory work that fits with each lesson is provided for parents to work on with their children at home.

Date	Lower grades (Miss Newton)	Middle grades (Mrs. Giese)	Upper grades (Mrs. Baker)
11/6	<b>God gives the Ten Commandments</b> <i>This is love for God: to obey his commands (1 Jn 5:3)</i>	<b>The Fall of Jericho</b> <i>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path (Psalm 119:105)</i>	<b>The Fall of Jericho</b> <i>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path (Psalm 119:105)</i>
11/13	<b>God Makes the Walls of Jericho Fall</b> <i>Nothing is too hard for God. (Je 32:17)</i>	<b>The Sun Stands Still</b> <i>Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Mt 6:33)</i>	<b>The Sun Stands Still</b> <i>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights (James 1:17)</i>
11/20	<b>God Speaks to Samuel</b> <i>Children, obey your parents. (Co 3:20)</i>	<b>God Chooses Gideon to Lead Israel</b> <i>In God I trust; I will not be afraid (Psalm 56:11)</i>	<b>God Chooses Gideon to Lead Israel</b> <i>He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again (2 Corinthians 5:15)</i>
11/27	<b>God Rescues Three Men</b> <i>Worship the Lord your God. (Mt 4:10)</i>	<b>Samson</b> <i>I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no Savior (Isaiah 43:11)</i>	<b>Samson</b> <i>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10)</i>

## Christmas Eve worship!

Parents, Sunday School teachers are beginning work with their students for our Christmas Eve worship. All students will take part in the songs together. Recitations will be done by the two older classrooms. Please begin working with your child at home on their parts! (Mrs. Giese's class will recite **Isaiah 9:2&6**. Mrs. Baker's class will recite **Luke 2:1-7**.) As Christmas gets closer, we'll schedule two opportunities to get together for practice.

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

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
11/6	J Hammer / B Thiede	open	Gentry family	Gustafson (11/7-11/12)
11/13	J Newton / L Hunziker	open	open	Hunziker (11/14-11/19)
11/20	D Pruitt / M Joecks	open	open	Joecks (11/21-11/26)
11/23	Thanksgiving service (7:00 pm) - Ushers: T Linn / P Marozick			
11/27	J Thiede / D Thiede	open	open	Kohler (11/28-12/3)
11/30	Midweek Advent 1 (7:00 pm) - Ushers: J Kohler / T Armbrecht			

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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The month of November marks the season of “EndTimes.” As the weather changes and the darkness lengthens, we remember that our earthly lives won’t last forever, and neither will this world. God’s Word prepares us to look for the end of both with confidence in his salvation.

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

## *Worship in November*

Oct. 30 (EndTimes 1: The Festival of the Reformation) The end is near, yet God’s Word is still pure

Nov. 6 (EndTimes 2: Last Judgment) The end is near, yet we need not be afraid

Nov. 13 (EndTimes 3: Saints Triumphant) The end is near, yet God’s people are triumphant

Nov. 20 (EndTimes 4: Christ the King) The end is near, yet Christ still reigns

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Eve service (Giving thanks to God for his grace throughout the year)

Nov. 27: The First Sunday in Advent

Nov. 30: Midweek Advent service and soup supper



# September 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	6:30 Confirmation Class	7:00 Bible Class at King Arthur mobile community	6:00 Church Council Meeting		
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
pool / H.C. (Judgment) 	7:00 Mon. eve. worship	6:30 Confirmation Class	7:00 Bible Class at King Arthur mobile community	6:30 Elder's meeting	
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
pool ( )	7:00 Mon. eve. Worship (last Monday worship for the year)	6:30 Confirmation Class	7:00 Bible Class at King Arthur mobile community	6:45 <i>Let there be Light!</i> Monthly Bible study at church	6:00 Youth study
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
pool / H.C. ers 	<b>No Confirmation Class</b>	7:00 Thanksgiving Worship			
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			
pool (n Advent)	10-2:00 Montana pastors' circuit meeting & study club (at SMLC)	6:30 Confirmation Class	7:00 Midweek Advent 1		