



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."

Throwing out the old yeast and

Keeping the Festival

Lent and Holy Week can become a bit of a blur. For six weeks, we gather together for worship *twice* a week. At the end of all of it, we meet for worship four times in the span of eight days! Throw in a Spring break, Easter brunches and get-togethers with family and friends, and it's easy to collapse into a chair at the end of all of it and think, "It sure is good to get back to normal life!"

I hope you don't! Consider what God said through the Apostle Paul: *Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast-- as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth* (1 Cor. 5:7-8).

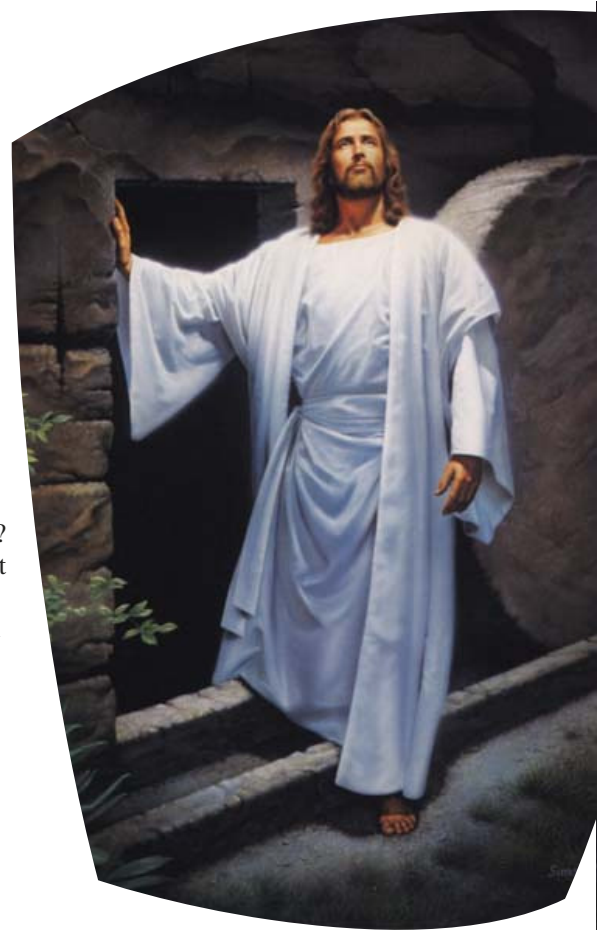
The first Easter took place at the beginning of the Old Testament Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Israelites were to remove all the yeast from their homes and live that way for seven days. They were to "keep the festival." By the Spirit, Paul applies that to our lives. *Yeast* is a picture for *sin* (just like yeast, sin always spreads and grows).

Now that "Christ, our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed," we get to "keep the festival." This isn't a matter of cleaning out our kitchen cupboards to make sure there isn't any yeast. It's to look at the other "cupboards" of our life and get rid of our sins.

What does Christ's resurrection mean about our "normal lives" from now on? Paul gets pretty specific. Over the next few chapters he describes what a Christian life is like. He calls us to get rid of "malice" - any desires to hurt others around me. He directs Christians to settle their disputes with each other peacefully and calmly. He calls us to use our bodies in a holy way—not in immoral thoughts or by having sex with people that we aren't married to. He opens our eyes to a life lived with a Christ-like love for others.

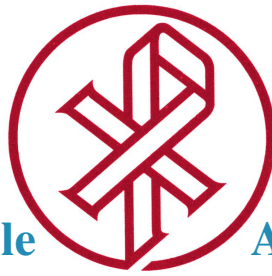
His point is really very simple: Christ saved you from sin, because sin is your enemy. Since he saved you from sin, don't let it be part of your lives anymore! Live instead in "sincerity and truth."

The Feast of Unleavened Bread was a joyous time for the Israelites. As we reflect on the glorious truths of Easter Sunday, may God grant us all joy in



our new lives that we live for him. And may the Lord richly bless those lives, so that when others see our joy and the reflection of Christ's love in our lives, they come to know about the Savior who lived, died and rose for them.

God's blessings as you never return to your "normal lives" again.



The Prayerbook of the People

A closer look at our hymnal

Hymnals have often been called “The prayer book of the people.” We usually think of the hymns that become near and dear to our hearts—words that often come to our mind even more quickly and memorably than some words of Scripture because of their rhyme and music. The hymnal, though, is much more than just hymns. Every month, this article will take a look at a different portion of our hymnal (Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal) in hopes of casting light on some of its often-overlooked blessings. (For those who don’t have one, copies of the hymnal can be ordered through Northwestern Publishing House at www.nph.net.)

The Christian Church Year

Spring, summer, fall, winter. The change of the seasons shape our lives—they dictate what we wear and what activities we take part in. The weather and sunlight even shape our moods. While living for a year in Phoenix, it surprised me how the lack of “Midwest seasons” made me feel. Who would have known I could *miss* snow?

The Church Year serves some of the same purposes for our faith lives. For the last 2,000 years, Christians have used seasonal observances to annually walk through the greatest truths of our faith. Just like the seasons of our weather, the seasons of the Church Year are marked with different colors and events, and even shape the mood of our worship. Much of what we talk about and sing about in worship is influenced by where we are in the Church Year. Understanding the ebb and flow of the Church Year helps us better prepare—and get more out of—our worship.

Some of those seasons and holidays are undoubtedly familiar to you. It seems impossible to think of a Christian who had never heard of Christmas or Easter. But the Christian calendar goes far beyond those two holidays. Page 157 through 166 in the front of our hymnals gives information on the Church Year. Here’s a summary and explanation of what you’ll find there.

The Seasons of the Church Year

On pages 157-158, you’ll find a listing of the Sundays of the Church Year, grouped together by season. After each one, you’ll also see the traditional color of the paraments (altar cloths) we use during that season. There are a few things that maybe helpful to know. A new Church Year always begins four Sundays before Christmas Day. Since the date of Easter moves every year (it’s based on a *lunar* calendar), the season of Epiphany changes in length. (Sometimes it’s as short as three weeks; this year we celebrated all eight Sundays.) The seasons of Advent through Easter make up what we call “The Festival Half of the Church Year.” During those six months, we focus on the *life and deeds* of Jesus. After Pentecost (usually in May or early June) we enter into the “Non-Festival Half.” During this portion of the year we focus more on the *saying and teachings of Jesus*. (Sometimes those two parts of the year are also called, “The Half Year of our Lord” and “The Half Year of the Church.”)

The Minor Festivals

On pages 159-160 is a list of “Minor Festivals.” Throughout the ages the Christian Church has celebrated countless other festivals apart from the normal Sunday focuses of the Church Year. Many of these deal with events from the life of Christ (for example, the Annunciation of Our Lord on March 25 focuses on when Mary was told she would give birth to the Savior). Others remember faithful believers from the past (the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene on July 22).

Unlike the Sundays of the Church Year, these festivals all fall on the same date every year. At times, some churches have special evening services to celebrate those festivals. Other churches may celebrate those festivals when they happen to fall on a Sunday (for example: this year *the Festival of St. Philip and St. James, Apostles*, falls on Sunday, May 1). Celebrating the Minor Festivals allows us to focus on sections of Scripture that don’t normally occur in our regular Sunday readings, and give special thought to the way God worked in the lives of believers just like us. While celebrating them isn’t as common as it once was, many of our churches are showing renewed interest in and appreciation for these festivals. (Over the last year, Shining Mountains celebrated the festivals of *St. Michael and All Angels*, *The Sunday of the Holy Innocents*, and *The Confession of St. Peter*.)

The Calendar Dates of the Church Year

Besides Christmas Day, all the Major Festivals of the Church Year have movable dates since they are set to a lunar calendar, not the solar calendar that we’re accustomed to. Page 162 lists the dates of key Festivals through the year 2040.

The Lectionary

Over the years, Christians have developed a set of specific readings from the Bible for each Sunday of the Church Year. We call such a schedule a *lectionary*. Four different lectionaries are found on pages 163-166.

Next month, this article will explain where those lectionaries come from, why we use them, and how they may find a place in your growth in God’s Word at home.

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.”

Step by step, Shining Mountains is pursuing a new church home to carry out that mission. We seek to have that building project be not just a new structure, but a way of better carrying out the mission that unites us as we grow in his Word, gather around it together and go with that Word to others.

Where have we been?

The Building Committee has been looking at this issue for a number of years. (Many thanks are due to those who put in long and faithful hours.) In recent months, at the Council’s recommendation and the Voters’ approval, our congregation has contracted with Massmann Studios for a “conceptual phase.” This phase has included presentations on “The Theology of the Worship Space” by Massmann’s liturgical consultant. The Church Council and representatives of key areas of our ministry (Sunday School, Women’s Fellowship, Altar Guild and Music) met with representatives from Massmann to let them know our current needs and our hopes for future ministries. The surveys completed by our members were also reviewed during this meeting.

What’s next?

Massmann’s architect is currently putting together a number of options for us to consider. All of the buildings are designed to meet our needs. The chief difference will be the interior of the sanctuary—our seating pattern and the way we gather around the means of grace. Those plans should be ready to put before Council in our May 10th meeting. The Church Council will have a chance to give some initial feedback. Massmann’s representatives will come back to present those designs to the congregation as a whole, most likely in early June (watch future bulletins and calendars for an exact date). That presentation will also include some general ideas on costs (more exact costs can’t be known until we settle on a site and make final decisions on building size and materials).

While this is going on, Shining Mountains is continuing to investigate other possible sites. We currently own seven acres west of town on Valley Center Rd. Other options in town are also being explored. Any potential sites will be presented for the congregation’s consideration when information becomes available.

How can you take part?

Up to this point, the Church Council and Building Committee has been providing Massmann with some basic information about our ministry. The type of information that’s been shared has focused on the number of people we’d like to seat in worship, the number of classrooms we need, etc. As the consultants from Massmann led a presentation on church architecture, they sought to get a sense of what “fits” with our congregation from the questions and comments that you made. But a church is more than square footage. The shape of our building, our floor plan for seating, the appearance of our worship space is something that we want member input on. How will that work?

- Watch for more information on the date when our consultant will be back in Bozeman to present the four building concepts. Come to the presentation and share your questions and comments.
- After the presentation, don’t hesitate to come to pastor or a member of the Church Council with your thoughts
- If we move into the next stage of the process (a *schematics* phase in which more concrete decisions will be made about rooms, design and furnishings), we’ll be enlisting more help in a Building Committee. Please consider serving if asked.
- Watch the newsletter and bulletins for other announcements. A process like this is time-consuming and a lot of work, but is also very exciting and important. Staying informed and an active part of the process is a wonderful way to serve your congregation.
- Keep the process in your prayers. Every blessing and step forward that we take is a gift from God, accomplished by his grace and love far more than by our work or efforts. Don’t hesitate to come boldly before his throne of grace in prayers for our mission.

May the Lord bless this work!



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Pastors' Conference in Bozeman

A pastors and delegate conference will be held for the churches in Montana and Canada on June 14th. This one-day conference is held in anticipation of the Synod Conference that will be held in Watertown, WI this summer. The conference provides an opportunity for churches throughout the Synod to give input on the issues that will be discussed when the Synod as a whole meets. It's an important way for the members of our church body to take an active part in the work of the church. Shining Mountains will be represented by Pastor and one other delegate.

To save on travel costs, this conference will be held in two locations—one in Bozeman, one in Canada—with participants communicating through webcams and conference calls.

While this conference will be small—there will only be a dozen or so people meeting in Bozeman—there will be a unique opportunity for our members. While times and dates aren't set yet, there will be a special worship opportunity for the pastors and delegates as they prepare to set about the work. Members of our church are certainly welcome to take part in this worship opportunity.

Additionally, as one of the two "host" churches, Shining Mountains may be called on to provide a light meal or other refreshments. If you're willing to serve in this way, watch for more information.

Sunday School corner

As our Sunday School teachers work to share the truths of our Savior with our youth, parents serve the most important role yet. They get to do all week long what the teachers get to work at for forty-five minutes, as they continue to talk about the week's lesson and help their son or daughter connect it to their daily life.

To help you as you do so, here are the lessons that the students will be working on over the coming weeks:

Sun, May 1:

God's Servant Stephen (Acts 6-7)

Sun, May 8:

Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40)

Sun, May 15:

The Conversion of Paul (Acts 9:1-31)

Sun, May 22:

Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10)

Sun, May 29:

Peter's Escape from prison (Acts 12)

(May 29th will be the last day of our Sunday School for this school year.)

Many continued thanks for both our Sunday School teachers and the parents who faithfully continue that work at home.

Divine Call Accepted

Pastor David Ruddat has served our churches in Circle, Terry and Wolf Point for the last seven years. He recently announced his acceptance of a Call to serve Redeemer Lutheran in Pierre, SD. Praise be to God for the work Pastor Ruddat did with his saints in Montana, and may the Lord richly bless his ministry in South Dakota.

In other Call news, Pastor Justin Cloute, serving Mt. Zion Lutheran in Missoula, has received a Call to serve Christ Lutheran in Juneau, AK. Please keep Pastor Cloute in your prayers as he considers where he might best serve our Savior.



Serving Us in May *Thank you to those who served in April!*

| | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Refreshments</u> | <u>Flowers</u> | <u>Cleaners</u> |
|------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 5/1 | J Becker / S McGough | Gustafson | Gustafson | Armbrrecht (5/2-5/8) |
| 5/8 | A Pruitt / A Bublit | <i>open</i> | E Baker | Baker E (5/9-5/15) |
| 5/15 | D Gustafson / D Gentry | <i>open</i> | <i>open</i> | Baker L & V (5/16-5/22) |
| 5/22 | J Hammer / B Thiede | <i>open</i> | Linn | Ballard (5/23-5/29) |
| 5/29 | J Newton / L Hunziker | <i>open</i> | <i>open</i> | Becker (5/30-6/5) |

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**



marvel at the **miracle** of **christian** marriage

A Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Best Western Grant Creek Inn
5280 Grant Ck Rd, Missoula, MT 59808

Friday, June 17th (6pm-8pm)
Saturday, June 18th (8:30-1pm)

Breakfast for all beginning at 7:30 am

\$60 per couple for seminar (see below for Hotel Arrangements)
* Fee includes materials, breakfast, and offsite child care if needed

Fri

6 pm Opening Introduction and Devotion
6:15 pm Session One: Christians Not Only Believe in Miracles,
We Rely on Them

Sat

7:30 am Breakfast begins at Best Western
8:30 am Session Two: Through the Word, Christ Works the Miracle of
Christian Marriage
10:00 am Break
10:15 am Session Three: It Takes Christ's Miracle to Strengthen a
Christian Marriage
11:30 am Break
11:45 am Session Four: It Takes Christ's Miracle to Model a Christian
Marriage
12:45 pm Close and Reaffirmation of Marriage Vows

Presenters
Mark and Colette Zarling

Pastor Zarling spent many years in the parish ministry before accepting a call to teach at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

He co-authored a book on marriage and currently serves as President of Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN

Sign us up! Please return registration form and \$60 to Mount Zion Lutheran Church, 402 Strand Ave, Missoula, MT
by Tuesday, May 31st

couple's names _____

address _____

phone _____

email _____



☐ Childcare needed. Please provide your child's name and age.

name _____ age _____

name _____ age _____

name _____ age _____

name _____ age _____

For room reservations on Friday night please call Best Western at 543-0700 before **May 23rd** to get discounted rate. Rooms are reserved under "Mount Zion Lutheran Church."

Upcoming Messages

Throughout May we celebrate the *Easter Season*—seven weeks of rejoicing in what Christ’s resurrection means for us. Below is a list of both our Sunday worship themes and our midweek worship opportunities.

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

Sundays in May

May 1 *The Second Sunday of Easter* (Ac 10:34a, 36, 39-43; 1 Pe 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31)

May 8 *The Third Sunday of Easter* (Ac 24:10-21; 1 Pe 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35)

May 15 *The Fourth Sunday of Easter—Good Shepherd Sunday* (Ac 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60; 1 Pe 2:19-25; John 10:1-10)



May 22 *The Fifth Sunday of Easter* (Ac 17:1-12; 1 Pe 2:4-10; Jn 14:1-12)

May 29 *The Sixth Sunday of Easter* (Ac 17:22-31; 1 Pe 3:15-22; John 14:15-21)



325 N. 25th Ave
BOZEMAN MT 59718

May 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 9:00 Sunday School/Bible class 10:00 Worship | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Pastors' Conference in Aberdeen, S.D. | | | | | | |
| 8 9:00 Sunday School/Bible class 10:00 Worship (Mother's Day) | 9 | 10 6:15 Church Council Meeting | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 6:30 Confirmation Class | | | | | | |
| 15 9:00 Sunday School/Bible class 10:00 Worship (Good Shepherd Sunday) | 16  | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 6:30 Confirmation Class | | | | | | |
| 22 9:00 Sunday School/Bible class 10:00 Worship | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 6:30 Confirmation Class | | | | | | |
| 29 9:00 Sunday School/Bible class 10:00 Worship | 30 | 31 | | | | |