



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."

Sharing God's Word with our children means thinking about what you do

When You Walk Along the Road

With a mighty arm, the LORD had brought his people out of slavery in Egypt. He made his will known to them and he promised to be their God. It shouldn't surprise us to hear what he said next: *Talk about these things.*

In Deuteronomy 6, he tells parents to tell their children what he had done for them: *Impress [my words] 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 (6:7).*

It makes you look at your day a bit differently, doesn't it?

How many hours do parents spend in the car with their children, making them breakfast, or tucking them into bed? How many moments do husband and wife spend sitting in a room watching TV or flipping through a magazine? Our Lord says, "Make the most of this time! Let these hours be ones in which you come to know me better and share me with the next generation!"

It's good that parents expect their church to be part of that process. When churches show special care for the spiritual training of our youth, that's a wonderful thing. But do you

see whom God expects to be the *primary* religious instructors for their children? Dad and Mom.

This summer, we'll take some time to give more thought to the ways we carry out that high task our Lord gives us. In a few evening discussion groups, we'll look at the task God gives us, the strengths of how we're carrying it out now, and ways to improve the partnership between church and home. All of our members—regardless of whether or not you have children—are invited to take part. Watch future bulletins for dates and times.

What should you expect from these sessions? After reviewing the task that God lays in front of each of us—and the challenges that comes with it—we'll analyze our Sunday School program and other educational opportunities. What's going well? What can we improve? A large portion of our time will be spent simply listening to *you*. How can the church best help you? What kind of materials or guidance can your congregation provide that helps you grow in God's Word both while you're at church and when at home? How can we serve our youth at church in a way that *helps* us raise our chil-



dren in the Lord's Word—instead of just adding *one more thing* to the schedule?

May the Lord bless these efforts, and give all the more meaning to the time we spend with each other in church, at home, and everywhere in between.

NIV 2011:

Issues, Questions and Thoughts Part I

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.

Why the change?

The old saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." I'm sure countless people feel that way about the NIV translation of the Bible. None of the English translations of the last 100 years has ever come close to its popularity. Most people found it easily readable, yet faithful to the original text.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it" doesn't always apply well to language, though. Language is always changing. If you don't believe that, read the lyrics of some pop songs from the forties—or if you grew up singing those songs, try listening to the lyrics of today's music. Or consider the following passage, first in the King James Version, then in the NIV:

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21, King James Version)

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. (James 1:21, New International Version)

Both passages are faithful to the original Greek words, but one most likely communicates those truths to you better than the other.

That's always the issue with translations. Since we don't speak Hebrew or Greek, we need to translate the Bible into English. The goal of any translation will be, at its heart, to communicate the truths of Scripture as clearly as possible for the intended readers. And as language changes over time, it's fitting that translations reflect the changes of the English language while preserving the meaning of the original texts.

This isn't new. The NIV actually underwent one minor revision three years after it was first published. Every major English translation of recent years has been revised at least once. In fact, even though Martin Luther "finished" his translation of the Bible into German in 1534, Luther and a committee of scholars continued to work on revising his translation until his death in 1546. However, since the "NIV 2011" is a fairly significant revision to "NIV 1984", there are a number of issues that might call for our attention and discussion.

How does it look so far?

The NIV 2011 is already available online and in bookstores, and a team from our Synod (made up of college professors,

Seminary professors and a representative from our publishing house) has been looking at it since last November. They've given a preliminary report, and will give more information at Synod Convention. It's not yet clear whether or not the voters at this summer's Convention will be asked to make a decision on the translation, or if that discussion will be held off for another year while we continue to study it.

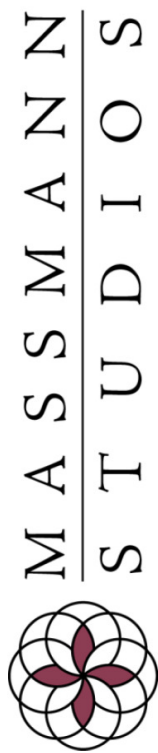
Here are some statistics from the first stages of their work:

- Roughly 40% of all passages have undergone some sort of change from NIV 1984
- Approximately 5% of words have been changed
- Having studied the changed passages, the committee determined that 222 of the changes were *significant improvement* over NIV 1984
- 2885 changes were *modest improvements*
- 3209 of the changes didn't make things any better—or any worse
- 920 of the changes were a *modest weakening* of the passages
- 116 of the changes were a *significant weakening*

While the majority of the changes were improvements, that doesn't settle the issue. If the relatively few changes that weaken the clarity and meaning of Scripture are severe, that may be enough to lead us to look for another translation.

So what were the major changes? The majority of the substantial changes center around two issues: *gender inclusivity* and *messianic prophecies*. Those are certainly important issues that we want to "get right."

Over the next few months, this article will dig into some of the changes and explore how we approach these matters in a way that is faithful to the words of God that he's given to us. May God bless the work of the committee members studying this, the delegates at Synod Convention who discuss this, and each of us as we take God's Word to heart and continue to grow in our knowledge and appreciation of it.



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.”

Our congregation’s work towards a new church home continues to take encouraging steps forward. Below is a summary of recent developments and planned steps:

- Mark Massmann, the owner of Massmann Studios (the firm that we’ve contracted with as we look at designing/building a new church home) visited Bozeman in early June together with his wife. They toured the properties the Council has been considering, investigated site prep costs and other issues with city/county offices, and spoke with the owners about selling costs.
- At the end of their visit, the Massmanns met with the SMLC Council to present the various cost scenarios at each property and answer any questions, with the goal of giving us a clearer picture of what it would take to build a church at any of the locations.
- The architect has begun another possible concept for the Council to consider, emphasizing starting with a workable sanctuary and instructional space, designed with the potential to be quickly and easily expanded.

In the near future, the Council and the Voters will be reviewing the scenarios, discussing ministry and budget impact, and proposing what would seem to be the best way forward. Please do keep these people and their work in your prayers!



National Conference on Worship, Music and the Arts

The Lutheran Church has existed for almost 500 years. The Christian Church has existed since the beginning of time. As Lutheran members of the Christian Church, we inherit a strong legacy of worship that focuses on Christ.

So in our place, in our congregation, what does that look like and sound like? As we look towards a new church home, how does our *theology* shape our *worship*?

Four of our members will be given the chance to dig into these questions in a deeper way this summer. Due largely to a \$1600 scholarship, four of our members (Joe and Nicki Becker, Veronica Baker and Sarah Newton) will take part in the WELS *National Conference on Worship, Music and the Arts* this July. To serve our church, the four of them are giving up the better part of a week (and the comfort of their beds!) to drive to Minnesota and learn more about the rich heritage that’s ours as Lutheran Christians.

Over the course of the Conference, they’ll attend a number of “model” worship services that show what Lutheran worship can be like at its finest, including celebrations of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, and Good Shepherd Sunday. They’ll also each be involved in a number of workshops on topics such as:

- “Teaching Worship in the Mission Field”
- “Worship and Outreach”
- “Sing and Play the Kodaly Way” (aimed at improving Christian music education for young children)
- “Hymnology Ideas for 21st Century Lutheran Teachers”
- “Designing and Building for Worship and Outreach”
- “The Art of Furnishing the Lutheran Chancel”
- “Worship Art Experiences with Children”, and many others.

Thank them for this work on our behalf and the time they’re giving to the efforts of our ministry here, and keep their work and travel in your prayers!

Dollars & Sense

Small steps that make big differences

On our offering envelopes at Shining Mountains is a blank that says “Missions and Ministerial Expansion.” That little blank serves a pretty big purpose.

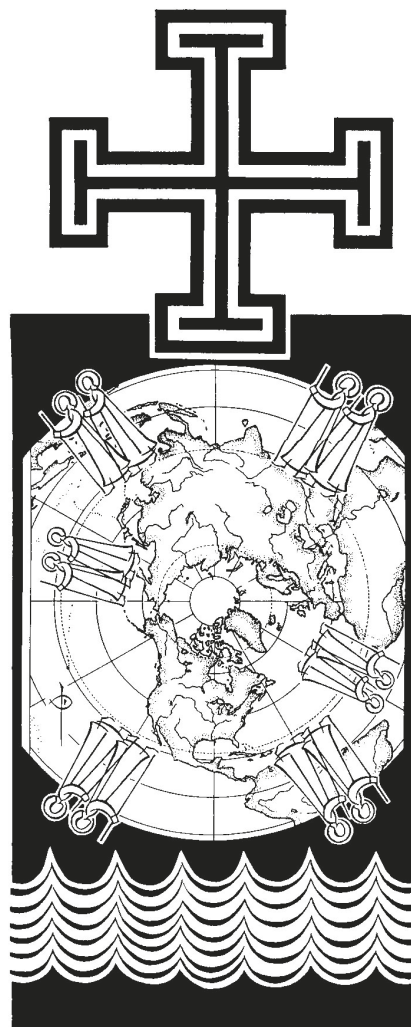
As we work together as part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), we carry out important work. Together, the churches of the WELS send missionaries across the world and train our future pastors and teachers. None of our churches could carry this out individually. To a large extent, this work is funded through our *Congregational Mission Offerings* (CMOs). Shining Mountains dedicates more than 5% of our budget annually to our CMO and has been working to steadily increase it.

Synod-wide, however, CMOs struggle to meet the costs of educating future called workers and sending out missionaries. To better be a blessing to our Synod and a model for other congregations to follow, Shining Mountains has for a few years been encouraging members to give an extra dollar or two a week in their offerings. To do so, simply make our your check for one dollar more than your offering, and indicate the extra dollar in the blank on the front of the envelope. Any amount that’s listed there will be sent on to support our Synod *over and above* what we’ve committed to give in our CMO.

Even when times are lean, there aren’t many of us who would miss a dollar or two a week. Over the past years, however, this has added up to *thousands* of extra dollars sent on to support the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. And if others throughout the Synod followed this example, it could easily result in additional \$8-9 million dedicated to telling the good news of Christ to those close to home and far away.

No matter where God has placed us and what gifts he’s given to us, he allows each of us to have an impact on others—in fact, usually a far greater impact than we can see at the time. If you choose to take part in this practice of an extra dollar or two a week, may God bless those gifts so that many others will stand with us in heaven!

**JESUS
SUMMONED THE
TWELVE AND
BEGAN TO SEND
THEM OUT
TWO BY TWO.**





Serving Us in July *Thank you to those who served in June!*

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
7/3	J Thiede / D Thiede	<i>open</i>	E Baker	Seifert (7/4-7/10)
7/10	J Becker / S McGough	Becker	V Baker	Kohler (7/11-7/17)
7/17	L Baker / B Ballard	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Lauersdorf (7/18-7/24)
7/24	A Pruitt / T Franck	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Linn (7/25-7/31)
7/31	R Buchholz / P Agenten	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Marozick (8/1-8/7)

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**

July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 Bible class 10:00 Worship	4  *** NO MONDAY EVENING WORSHIP ***	5	6	7 6:15 pm Church Council Meeting	8	9
10 9:00 Bible class 10:00 Worship (Meeting after church for Worship Conference participants)	11 7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:00 Bible class 10:00 Worship	18  7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:00 Bible class 10:00 Worship	25 7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 Bible class 10:00 Worship 11:30 am Voters' Meeting						

Upcoming Messages

As we enter the *Half Year of the Church* in July, the focus of our readings describes the very nature of Christians. Below is a list of our Sunday worship focuses.

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

Worship in July

- July 3 *The Christian Finds Strength in God's Promises*
- July 10 *The Christian Longs to Please God*
- July 17 *The Christian Preaches Christ in Spite of Persecution*
- July 24 *The Christian Loves God above All Things*
- July 31 *The Christian Finds Rest in Jesus*

