



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."

For the times it's hard to see and remember

My place in the body

Do you ever feel out of place? You walk into a party and realized that you're incredibly over-dressed. You sit down in class at the first day of school, only to realize you're in the wrong room. It seems like everyone at the office is in on a joke but you. It's not easy to feel out of place!

Do you ever feel out of place at church? Some of your fellow believers seem to know far more of the Word than you do. You struggle with problems that others don't. You're not sure what your purpose is—or if anyone would miss you if you were gone.

God promises you that you do have a purpose and a place. Consider what He says through St. Paul:

¹² *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.* ¹³ *For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body.* ¹⁴ *Now the body is not made up of one part but of many....* ¹⁸ *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.* (1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 18)

Just like each part in the body is unique and has been put in just the

right place by its Creator, so the Lord has blessed you with your unique gifts, ability and yes, even needs, and put you just where he wants you to be. He does that so that you might be a blessing to his people, and so that they might be a blessing to you.

In the month of September, our worship services and our Sunday morning Bible classes will focus on that truth. For four Sundays, we worship and study under the theme, *Different Gifts, Same Grace*. Each Sunday's worship and study will focus on a different gift God gives to (and through) his people:

Sept 4: The gift of serving
Sept 11: The gift of encouraging
Sept 18: The gift of generosity
Sept 25: The gift of leadership

Whenever we study something like this, God grant that his wonderful truths stand out. He knows you and me, and he has a plan for each of us. He finds value in us. He calls us to serve him and when we do so, he uses us to serve each other. And when this truth is living and active, I never have to worry about being left out—because other parts of the body are caring for me.



This September, set aside special time to be present not only in worship, but in Bible study. And as you do so, may the Lord strengthen our congregation, His Church, our families, and each of his people so that we might rejoice in the truth: *I have a place in the body of Christ!*

NIV 2011:

Issues, Questions and Thoughts Part II

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.

Update from Synod Convention

The following is a summary of the discussion about NIV 2011 that took place at this summer's Synod Convention. It was originally printed in a "Together" e-news mailing that some of our members receive:

Delegates gathered Tuesday night for an open forum on a progress report presented by the Translation Evaluation Committee. This five-person committee was put together by President Mark Schroeder in 2010 to lead the work of evaluating the NIV 2011, a revision of the New International Version of the Bible. The Translation Evaluation Committee is charged with bringing recommendations on the use of the revised version or other alternatives—especially for publishing purposes.

In a report given earlier today, Rev. Paul Wendland, chairman of the Translation Evaluation Committee and president of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., shared that the committee felt that NIV 2011 could be used with a high degree of confidence by our church body.

The forum Tuesday evening started with two members of the Translation Evaluation Committee sharing thoughts on two major concerns with the NIV 2011—changes in some messianic prophecies and gender-neutral language. The committee concludes those changes are not "deal breakers," and members say that no translation is perfect in these issues—including the NIV 2011.

"Whatever translation you take has to be supplemented with good teaching," says Rev. Thomas Nass, a member of the committee and a professor at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.

Delegates felt passionately about this issue, with discussion lasting almost two hours. Many were concerned about the NIV 2011 translation saying that some of the changes are not acceptable and that more time is needed to make this decision. Others expressed agreement in principle with what the Translation Evaluation Committee was reporting, realizing that there is no perfect translation and this one would seem to meet the synod's needs for the future.

The Translation Evaluation Committee has spent the last year studying this issue, including examining several translations and leading a group of 40 WELS theologians around the synod in a careful review of the NIV 2011.

Translation Evaluation Committee members were thankful for the frank discussion of the issues. "This has been a wonderful experience for me to hear your questions. Underneath all the criticism, I think, is the concern for the Word of God," says Rev. John Braun, member of the Translation Evaluation Committee and vice president of publishing services at Northwestern Publishing House. "Thank God that that is still there in our synod. I don't think that there are many church bodies in this world where such a discussion can take place. Praise God that it does take place among us."

Rev. Thomas Jeske, chairman of the Bible Translation floor committee and pastor at Living Hope, Omaha, Neb., says he appreciates the discussion at the forum. "The message I heard is don't push through this without doing due diligence."

Some Updates and Thoughts

The end result of the Synod Convention was the resolution that each of the Twelve Districts of our Synod should study the translation over the next year and report their district's thoughts back to the Synod. The decision will be made at a Synodical level either in a special convention in 2012, or at the next regular convention in 2013.

How should we view all of this? The difficulties with this discussion is that it isn't simply about whether or not NIV2011 is a "good translation." Like virtually any translation, some of it's good and some of it has issues. It's better than the current NIV in some areas and worse in a few others. Like many translations, it's workable, but not without problems.

The discussion, though, isn't truly just about whether or not we'll use NIV2011. It's about what translation we *will* use once NIV1984 isn't available. A number of popular translations are being reviewed—all of which have their own strengths and weaknesses. Some have suggested that the WELS produce our own translation. This, however, would take the better part of a decade and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

This is a challenging process, but an important topic. It also gives us reason to give thanks to God for those who study this work carefully—and a worker training school that still treasures the ability to study the Bible in the original Greek and Hebrew that our pastors might have the tools to rightly study the Word of Truth.

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.”

The Lord continues to bless our exploratory work towards a new church home. Some of the work that’s currently taking place:

- Information reviews with the City’s Development Review Committee to investigate the feasibility of building a church home on the corner of S. 19th and Blackwood Rd
- Reviewing our listing of the Valley Center Property and considering what to do when our current listing expires at the end of August.
- Studied the financial and ministry impacts of possibly moving from owning a parsonage to supplying a housing allowance to SMLC’s pastors.
- Evaluating the balance between needs, wants and funding for a new church home. The Council has reviewed many different building plans, and has focused on one that seems to represent what our congregation needs at this phase that fits within budget limitations.

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.

Schedule change!

Don’t forget: starting **Sunday, September 11th** we move to a new schedule for our Christian education and worship. The schedule, changed by the voters largely to allow for more instructional time and music work with our Sunday School, is as follows:

- 9:15 am—Sunday School students meet in the sanctuary for a few minutes of music together before splitting off to our various classrooms
- 9:20 am—Adult Bible study begins in the sanctuary
- 10:30 am—Sunday morning worship begins

May the Lord bless our work, study and worship together!

Important changes to the tax code

When Congress recently acted to extend the Bush-era tax cuts, they also renewed a provision that impacts charitable giving for people in specific circumstances. If you are over 70.5 years of age, you are allowed to make *tax-free contributions to churches or other charities directly from your IRA*. That means if you qualify part of your minimum required distribution as an offering before it’s withdrawn, you avoid paying the income tax on it that you would otherwise incur. This law could allow people to either give more to the work of the Lord, or give the same amount as they’re used to and preserve more of their retirement savings for their own use.

To benefit from this provision, the distributions must be made directly from your IRA. To understand how this works, speak with your broker. Any questions about this can be directed to Mr. Ken Dierks, one of our WELS Christian Giving Counselors at either 507.321.5875 or ken.dierks@wels.net.

Growing in Christ

Sunday School at SMLC—Starting Sept. 11 at 9:15!

As we partner to raise our children in the truth, Lord-willing this page of the newsletter will help parents understand what their children are being taught—and be more equipped to discuss the lessons at home.

Each month, you can find on this page some notes about Sunday School, as well as information about what's being taught in their lessons. Take the time to review the lesson yourself, and ask your child questions. Reinforce and help them apply the truths of God they learn in Sunday School!

Our three year-olds will be learning basic Bible History from a simple lesson book. Each week they'll bring home a full-color sheet that reviews the lesson and has a thoughtful activity for parents and children to do at home.

The students from kindergarten through sixth grade will be digging into Biblical history and truths a bit more deeply. For the majority of the year, they'll study the period of history beginning with Israel's captivity in Egypt through the nation's exile in Babylon and return to the Promised Land. Beginning in March our focus shifts to the last days of Jesus' earthly ministry; his death, resurrection and ascension, and the first steps of the early Church.

Remember: Sunday School begins at **9:15** this year. Especially with the later start time, please make sure you child is in the sanctuary and ready to begin by then. May the Lord richly bless our year!

Sunday School Lessons: 3 & 4 Year Olds

9/11: God creates our beautiful world. *The lesson focuses on God's power in creating a beautiful and perfect world.*

9/18: God creates man and woman. *The lesson focuses on God's love in creating a perfect man and woman to live in peace with him and one another.*

9/25: Adam and Eve disobey God. *The lesson focuses on Satan's tempting, the fall into sin, and God's promise to provide a Savior.*

Sunday School Lessons: Elementary grades

9/11: Pharaoh does not obey God. *We see God's command to Pharaoh, and the dangers of hardening ourselves against God's Word*

9/18: The Passover. *God in love delivers his people from slavery in Egypt. The Passover Lamb points to Christ.*

9/25: God sends quail and manna. *Even in the middle of a dry wilderness, God can provide for his people. It's both a lesson of God's goodness and mankind's sinful grumbling.*

Montana Divine Call News




The Holy Spirit through the Church extended Pastor Jonathan Zimpelmann a Divine Call to serve God's people at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Columbus, OH, in early August. Pastor Zimpelmann returned the Call, and will continue to serve Apostles Lutheran Church in Billings, MT. Please keep the Zimpelmanns' service there in your prayers, and pray that the Lord would bless Lamb of God with another faithful shepherd soon.

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

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
9/4	T Linn / P Marozick	McGough	E Baker	Seifert (9/5-9/10)
9/11	D Pruitt / M Joecks	Buchholz/Wilcox	Buchholz	Thiede (9/12-9/17)
9/18	J Kohler / T Armbrecht	P Pruitt	Linn	Armbrecht (9/19-9/24)
9/25	J Lauersdorf / T Zulauf	<i>open</i>	Gustafson	E Baker (9/26-10/1)

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**

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:00 Bible class 10:00 Worship w/ H.C.	5 7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship 	6 6:15pm Church Council meeting	7	8 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study: Angels	9	10
11 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Adult Bible study 10:30 Worship	12 10:00-2:00 pm: Pastor's Circuit meeting (at church) 7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship	13 6:30—8:00 pm Confirmation Class (at church)	14	15	16	17
18 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Adult Bible study 10:30 Worship w/ H.C.	19 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Adult Bible study 10:30 Worship w/ H.C.	20 7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship 	21 6:30—8:00 pm Confirmation Class (at church)	22	23	24
25 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Adult Bible study 10:30 Worship	26 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Adult Bible study 10:30 Worship	27 7:00pm Mon. Eve. Worship 	28 6:30—8:00 pm Confirmation Class (at church)	29	30	

Upcoming Messages

During the month of September we step out of the normal Church Year pattern of readings to focus on the theme “Different Gifts, Same Grace.” This theme is part of a four year focus on stewardship (called, “Christ’s Love, Our Calling”) as we look at the gifts that God has given to us that make us so different from one another—and so important to one another. Over the four weeks, we’ll look at how God blesses us with individual talents and calls us to be a blessing to others with them.

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

Worship in September

Sept 4: The Gift of Serving

Sept 11: The Gift of Encouraging

Sept 18: The Gift of Generosity

Sept 25: The Gift of Leadership

Christ's Love,
Our Calling.

