



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."

Chances to

Rejoice in our Fellowship and Plan to share it!

I love this time of year. Students are heading back to school, summer vacations are done (and mostly cleaned up after!), and we slowly get back into the swing of things. The Lord brings autumn over the land and the evenings are seem made to enjoy.

In the business of summer and the return of the school year, it's easy to miss some of the blessings that are dearest to us—the date nights with our spouse that never happened, the hiking trips with friends that didn't get scheduled.

Over this next month, set aside some time to enjoy the blessing of fellowship with your church family. On Friday, October 5th, the Gustafsons invite us all to their house for an Oktoberfest Non-fire (the bonfire will have to wait for a greener year!).

The Gustafsons live at 8645 Bear Creek Rd, just north of Belgrade. Doors will be open at their place at 6:00 pm. The Gustafsons are providing brats, drinks and yard games; if you have a favorite German side dish or dessert, you're welcome to bring it. (If you're having a hard time finding their place, you can reach Dan at 599.1361).

As the night winds down, we'll enjoy a little trivia and fun.

That's one of the blessings that's ours—knowing each other as brothers and sisters in faith, who know the same Lord and hold to the same truth of Scripture. Come enjoy that fellowship with us!

And that's one of the blessings that's ours to share. In fact, that's one of the greatest purposes that Christ has called us to, one of the chief tasks of our congregation—and all Christians who cling to God's Word.

In early November, we'll get together as a congregation to start to discuss ways we can do just that. We'll hold a ministry planning meeting at church—all members are invited and encouraged to come. Watch for schedule updates in the bulletin.

The meeting will be a chance to ask in basic terms: What can we be doing better to serve our members and reach out to our community?

This is a chance to start forming a "congregational wish list" of how we'd like to serve our families and city as we look to share Jesus. Give some thought to where our strengths are as a



congregation and how we can take advantage of them; think also of weaknesses that we need to address. The goal of the meeting will be to identify a few concrete ideas and some people who are willing to help make them a reality.

I believe in + the Holy Christian Church +

In the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, we confess our faith in "the Holy Christian Church." Throughout our newsletters in 2012, we'll examine what this means. What is the Church? What is the difference between "the Church" and "churches"? What does it matter what church you belong to? What's going on among "Lutheran" churches? God's Word will guide our discussion as we talk about these questions.

What comes to your mind when you think of what it means to be "WELS"?

Shining Mountains is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. That brings up different thoughts for any number of people. What does it bring to your mind? The pastor who baptized you and your children? The style of worship that you took part in every week for decades of your life? The church that reached out to you when you were lost and searching? The family that was there for you when you buried someone you loved? Lord-willing, many of those things might come to your mind!

And sadly, a few others might, too. Perhaps you think of a congregation that didn't always function the way you wanted it to. A pastor who showed no tact or love when handling a difficult family situation, or taught something that didn't square with biblical truth. A church that didn't welcome the friend that you brought along to worship. Christians who didn't seem to have zeal to reach out to the lost.

What comes to your mind when you think of the WELS? Perhaps *both* of those paragraphs have some truth for you. Because we're a church body filled with sinful human beings who believe in Christ, there will be ways that we put Christ's love into wonderful action—and times that we fail in the worst of ways.

By being WELS, we are neither denying those sins nor pretending we have only successes. Instead, we're making a confession about what it is we believe.

Scripture alone + Christ Alone + Grace Alone

A foundational part of our confession is that we look to the Bible alone for truth. It's worth mentioning something: *virtually every church body says that*. So what do we mean?

It means that we believe the Bible has no errors and has complete authority in matters of faith and life. If God's Word says something that science or reason seems to contradict (such as Jesus' resurrection), we hold to the Word. If the thinking of our age or of mankind doesn't like what the Bible says, we still hold to the Word.

At the heart of that Word is the message that Jesus Christ, God's perfect Son, became man and offered his life as the atoning sacrifice for all of our sins. When we hold to the Word of God, we're holding to God's message of salvation by his grace alone.

Yet we hold to it as sinful people. This confession doesn't mean that pastors and church leaders never make mistakes—even doctrinal ones. At times, pastors and other leaders even need to be removed from office because of sinful false teaching or scandalous living. A congregations can lose their focus on that message and become lazy in their Christian life (the Bible is full of examples of this happening to God's people). That doesn't mean that our confession is wrong; it means we're not paying attention to it and need to remember where our true life is found.



The Lutheran Confessions

As a church body, we've confessed full agreement with the doctrines found in the Lutheran Confessions (Luther's catechisms, the Augsburg Confession and its Apology, the Smalcald Articles, etc.). We confess them to be a faithful confession of what Scripture teaches—and what it rejects as false. These documents are helpful in explaining clearly to others what the Bible says. They're also a tool for holding our own ministers and churches accountable to the Word.

A constant battle

While our church body will always be filled with sinners, our doctrinal confession is true and in line with the Word of God. Will it always be so?

It would be foolish to simply say *yes*. Over time, countless churches and Christians have wandered from the faith—churches in Germany, the home of the Reformation, are almost entirely empty! We can't say what will happen in years to come, nor do we have a need to. Rather, we're to ask ourselves every day: *Am I holding to God's Word?* God grant that when we do so, he blesses us with churches, ministers and people that are alive with the Gospel, so that when we think of what it means to be WELS, our first thought is simply of a Lord who saves us by his grace alone.

January	<i>I believe in the <u>Holy</u> Christian Church</i>
February	<i>I believe in the Holy <u>Christian</u> Church</i>
March	<i>I believe in the Holy Christian <u>Church</u></i>
April	<i>The joy of the Church</i>
May	<i>The mission of the Church</i>
June	<i>Orthodox and Heterodox churches</i>

July	<i>Do denominations really matter?</i>
August	<i>"So what if they're not WELS?"</i>
September	<i>What's going on among the Lutherans?</i>
October	<i>WELS: The confession we share</i>
November	<i>WELS: The challenges we share</i>
December	<i>WELS: The mission we share</i>

Bible Study



God promises us every blessing as we grow in His Word. Consider taking advantage of the following opportunities to study with your fellow believers:

SUNDAY MORNING: THE BOOK OF JOB

Hope and Suffering

For most of October and November, our Sunday morning study will dig into the book of Job. In its pages, God brings us face to face with the reality of terrible suffering in this world. He teaches us how to wrestle with it as believers and how to (and how *not* to!) speak to those who are going through suffering of their own. Each week, participants will be asked to do a few chapters of reading at home for discussion. Bring your Bible and join us at 9:20 am!

SPECIAL ONLINE STUDY: ROMANS

Led by Professor Paul Wendland, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Romans is one of the most important doctrinal books of the whole Bible, clearly and solidly proclaiming justification by grace through faith alone. On Wednesday evenings from Sept 12—Oct 17, anyone has the option of taking part in this study at either 5:30 or 7:30 pm. Simply visit www.wels.net/interactivefaith at the appropriate time.

Building project update: LAND SEARCH

The next major step towards a new church home that the Council's been working on is the search for a suitable site. Ideally, that site will be located close to many of our members, in an area with good visibility and accessibility, provide us with room to build and conduct ministry—and fit within our budget goals.

There are two parcels of land that seem likely to fit those criteria. As the Council gets closer to bringing a recommendation to the congregation, it may be beneficial for you to visit the properties. They are:

- Davis Rd, just north of Baxter: This piece has been on the congregation's radar for the better part of a year. It's fairly centrally located and has excellent visibility. It's close to a number of new subdivisions and Chief Joseph Middle School. A number of retail and office developments are being planned for the area. It seems like the area will be experiencing growth for years, and there is currently no church in the immediate area. However, the subdivision process for this land is a bit more complicated than most, and we'd not be able to begin building until late 2013 / early 2014.
- The southwest corner of Babcock and Ferguson: This parcel recently became available to us. Just one block north of Huffine and a few lots north of The Ridge athletic center, it also has high visibility and is surrounded by a great deal of residential development. While most of the area around this land is already developed, there will still be continued growth along Huffine to the west. Our Manhattan / Belgrade / Toston members will find that if they come south on Jackrabbit from Belgrade, it's virtually the same distance as our current church building.

The Council is continuing to get the details of each property before bringing recommendations before the congregation. That includes getting as accurate an idea as possible of the costs to engineer and prepare each site, and using Letters of Intent with the owners to better understand what type of offer would be acceptable. While we don't yet have a timeframe, steps are taken to get us closer each week.

What can you do? Prayer is certainly appreciated. Ask the Lord to bless our efforts and give us wisdom as we move forward. Visit the properties to see them for yourself; if you know of any other parcels we should be investigating, relay them to Pastor or the Council. And strive for growth in your stewardship and offerings; the stronger our finances are as a congregation, the more confidently we'll be able to step into this new phase in our mission of sharing the Gospel.

Any thoughts or questions can be directed to Lance Baker, John Newton, Aaron Pruitt, Dan Gustafson, Michael Joecks, Jim Lauersdorf or Pastor Seifert.

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 (Miss Blackstad)
10/7	God saves Noah and his family <i>God wants all people to be saved (1 Ti 2:3,4)</i>	The Wise Men <i>Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no Savior.</i>	The Wise Men <i>Psalms 103:1-2 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits</i>
10/14	God answers Abraham's prayer for a son <i>Ask and it will be given to you. (Mt 7:7)</i>	The flight to Egypt <i>The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.</i>	The flight to Egypt <i>Psalms 91:11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways</i>
10/21	Jacob sees a beautiful dream <i>Do not fear, for I am with you (Is 41:10)</i>	The twelve year-old Jesus <i>Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.</i>	The twelve year-old Jesus <i>John 5:23b He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.</i>
10/28	God has a plan for Joseph <i>I am with you always (Matthew 28:20)</i>	John preaches repentance <i>John 1:29b "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"</i>	John preaches repentance <i>John 1:29b "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"</i>

Next Sunday School Singing Date:

Our Sunday School students will be singing the first part of *A Mighty Fortress* in our worship as we celebrate *Reformation Sunday* on November 4th. Parents, please help out by remembering to have your children in the sanctuary for Sunday School music hour by no later than 9:15 am on Sunday morning so that all the students can practice together. Thank you!

October Birthdays

God bless you with a wonderful birthday!

10/08	John Thiede	10/18	Nash Gentry, Lillian Marozick
10/13	Ashlyn Baker	10/19	Kaylee Kountz
10/15	Mary Newton	10/22	Quinn Parks

(Note: as we bring our records up to date, please let Pastor know if we miss your birthday!)

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

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
10/7	J Newton / L Hunziker	Gustafsons	Gustafsons	Miller (10/8-10/13)
10/14	J Lauersdorf / T Zulauf	<i>open</i>	L Baker	Newton (10/15-10/20)
10/21	T Linn / P Marozick	<i>open</i>	Hammer	Pruitt, D&P (10/22-10/27)
10/28	D Pruitt / M Joecks	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Pruitt, A&R (10/29-11/3)

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.

Psalms 84:10

October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7pm Mon. eve worship	6:30 pm—Church Council	5:30 & 7:30 pm—Online study of Romans 1-8	6:45 pm—Catechism Class	6:00 pm—"Oktoberfest NonFire" at Gustafsons	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	10am-2pm: Pastors' study meeting in Great Falls 7pm Mon. eve worship		5:30 & 7:30 pm—Online study of Romans 1-8 6:30 pm—Catechism Class			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship 11:45 Ladies' Fellowship Meeting	7pm Mon. eve worship		5:30 & 7:30 pm—Online study of Romans 1-8 6:30 pm—Catechism Class			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:45 Voters' meeting	7pm Mon. eve worship		6:30 pm—Catechism Class			
28	29	30	31			
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship 11:45 Sunday School teachers' meeting	7pm Mon. eve worship	6:45 pm—Catechism Class				

Upcoming Messages

In October, our readings from God's Word focus us on what God wants to matter most to his Church. As we continue our work towards a new church building, God grant that he focuses our hearts on how the true Church is really built!

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

Worship in October

Oct. 7 (19th Sunday after Pentecost) *Jesus builds a church that's all about the Gospel*

Oct. 14 (20th Sunday after Pentecost) *Jesus builds a church that strengthens marriages*

Oct. 21 (21st Sunday after Pentecost) *Jesus builds a church that keeps money in its place*

Oct. 28 (22nd Sunday after Pentecost) *Jesus builds a church that's ambitious to serve*

