



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."

Rejoicing in the One who makes

All Things New

What's your track record?

As you look back over the lists of New Year's resolutions from years past, have you kept 90% of them? 50%? 2%?

It says a lot about human nature that we look at an arbitrary day on a calendar and decide that this will mark a new beginning for us... no matter how many times we've failed to see that happen in the past.

We long for renewal! We want to be the best versions of us that we can be, to do better at work, find more time for family, enrich our marriages and deepen our friendships. Those are wonderful goals.

Have you met some of them? Well done, if you have. But greater than these things is the true renewal that God gives us through our Savior. The Lord promises us that on the Last Day, he will create a new heavens and a new earth—that's real renewal. But we don't have to wait until then.

In our baptisms, God planted faith in our hearts—the "New Man", we call it. There's a real change that's taken place inside of you. Praise God!

When we go back to God's Word in Bible study, home devotions and wor-

ship, God strengthens that New Man. He gives us strength to fight temptations and live as the people God created us to be. When we fall, his Word assures us that those sins are forgiven and forgotten. That's renewal!

Seek that renewal most this year. As we offer a number of new Bible Study opportunities, look for ways to grow with your fellow Christians in God's Word, and watch as God works his renewal within you!

This year our church will be pursuing some new steps forward. While we look to firm up final property information for a new building, consider taking part in or praying for the following efforts:

Preschool story hour (see p. 2)

On the first Monday of every month, parents and their children are welcome to join us for a time of Bible stories, crafts and music.

Lutheran Pioneers

Look for activities every month or so starting early this year aimed at teaching our youth practical life skills and giving them a greater foundation in God's Word.

Breakfast Bible study (see p. 3)



A new off-campus member-led Bible study will be starting early in 2013. Watch for more information!

May the Lord richly bless your New Year, and grant you true renewal!

MEGA MEETING NIGHT!

It's hard to plan ministry without meetings. It's hard to do ministry when all your time is spent in meetings.

Join us on Thursday, January 24th at 6:30 pm as we look for a way to get around that problem. This year Shining Mountains is seeking to form two more ministry groups: a **Fellowship Team** to help plan for more opportunities to get to know the others in our church family, and a **Youth Ministry Team** to better serve our youth. Instead of two different meeting nights, both groups will meet on the same night each month. We'll start off with a brief devotion, then split into our two groups to plan our work. The meetings won't last more than 90 minutes before we go about our way.

Any of our members are welcome to attend. If you're planning on attending, it would be helpful if you'd let us know by signing up on the sheet on the bulletin board at church. If you'd like to take part but aren't able to attend the first meeting, just note that when you sign up and we'll keep you in the loop.



Join Us for Preschool Story Hour

Beginning Monday, January 7th + 10-11am

You're invited to bring your child for a time of growing in faith and friendships at Shining Mountains.

Starting Monday, January 7th, Shining Mountains is hosting a monthly preschool story hour. Parents are invited to bring their children (from birth through preschool years) to join us as Miss Kathy leads an hour of Bible stories, activities, crafts and snacks. Our theme for the first few months will be "All God's Creatures."

There's no cost, and anyone is welcome to attend. The story time will be held on the first Monday of each month. For more information, you can call the church office at 586.7979 or email pastor@shiningmountains.org.

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: GALATIANS

The reason we fight

More than almost any before it, our society downplays differences between church bodies and belief systems as just simple disagreements over words—*no big deal, nothing to fight about*. It's startling, at times, to see what a different message God gives us in the Bible. The Lord who brings us a message of unimaginable love and peace tells us that those truths are worth fighting to hold on to. Our study of Galatians continues through the Sundays of January (class starts at 9:20 in the sanctuary).

BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

A once-a-month chance to dig into the Word

Lord-willing, in 2013 we'll resume some small group, off-campus Bible studies. Our hopes is to offer a once-a-month Saturday morning Bible study at a local restaurant in the Bozeman or Belgrade area. What your bulletins for more information!

"IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS"

Every Member Visits in 2013

The ministry we carry out together takes many forms and a lot of effort. We come to church and Bible study. We give our offerings and invite our friends. We offer our prayers at home and encourage those who are hurting. As we begin 2013, we pause to reflect that all of those efforts aren't about "our church", a building or a program. They're all about Jesus and his love for this world. Sometime in January or early February, one of our members will be in contact with you about scheduling a chance to bring a Bible study into your home. The visit will include a brief Bible study, an update on the work of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and what the next year of ministry holds for us at Shining Mountains.

Please welcome the visitors into your house, and take advantage of this chance to refocus our hearts and minds on the Lord of the Church!

Building project update: MEETINGS

One of the biggest hurdles we have yet to cross as we work towards a building project is finding a piece of land that's both suitable for ministry and affordable. It seems the Lord has presented us with a few options that meet our needs.

Please join us on Sunday, January 6th after worship for an open forum to hear updates on the properties and give your feedback as we consider this next step forward. Depending on feedback we receive and any other information that comes in, the Council is hoping to have enough information in hand to recommend a vote on a property in our January 20th Voters' Meeting.

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)
1/6	Jesus the Savior Is Born <i>Jesus came to save sinners. (1 Ti 1:15)</i>	Jesus Calls Fishers of Men <i>Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.</i>	Jesus Calls Fishers of Men <i>Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.</i>
1/13	God Leads the Wisemen to Jesus <i>Hear the Word of God. (Lk 11:28)</i>	The Call of Matthew <i>Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.</i>	The Call of Matthew <i>Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.</i>
1/20	Young Jesus Visits the Temple <i>Children, obey your parents. (Co 3:20)</i>	The Parable of the Four Soils <i>Hymn 282:1</i>	The Parable of the Four Soils <i>Mark 9:24 "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"</i>
1/27	Jesus Is Baptized by John <i>A voice from heaven said, "This is my son." (Mt 3:17)</i>	The Parable of the Weeds among the Wheat <i>The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed</i>	The Parable of the Weeds among the Wheat <i>Hebrews 13:9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.</i>

Next Sunday School Singing Date:

Our Sunday School children meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 for a few minutes of music practice before heading to their individual classrooms. The next time they sing in worship will be on February 10th as they sing, *I want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

January Birthdays

1/8 Melissa Joecks	1/13 Jessica Parks	1/15 Audrey Spalding
1/19 Deb Gustafson, Polly Miller	1/20 Marty Thiede	1/21 Cora Pruitt
1/22 Veronica Baker	1/23 Debi Marozick	

January Anniversaries

1/28 Jerry and Sandie Hammer

Serving Us in January *Thank you to those who served in December!*

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
1/6	L Baker / B Ballard	V Baker	open	Joecks (1/7-1/12)
1/13	A Pruitt / T Franck	open	open	Kohler (1/14-1/19)
1/20	P Agenten / J Kohler	open	open	Lauersdorf (1/21-1/26)
1/27	D Gustafson / D Gentry	open	open	Linn (1/28-2/2)

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

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:45 Open Forum	7 10-11am Preschool story time	8 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	9	10 6:00 pm Church Council	11	12
13 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship 11:45 Ladies Fellowship 7:00 pm EMV training	14	15 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	16	17	18	19
20 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion 12pm Voters' meeting	21	22	23	24 6:30 Mega Meeting Night	25	26
27 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship	28	29 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	30 Pastors' conference at Mt. Zion in Missoula	31		

Upcoming Messages

Epiphany is a Greek word that means “Appearing.” In January we enter the season of the Church Year called Epiphany, and we focus on how Christ appeared and made himself known as the Savior of the world.

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

Worship in January

- January 6 The Epiphany of our Lord
- January 13 The First Sunday after the Epiphany
- January 20 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
- January 27 The Festival of St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor

