

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."

In Lent, God calls us to

Give Up!

Maybe you've been asked the question before: *What are you giving up for Lent?* For the forty days before Easter, some people choose to give up some basic comforts—forgoing chocolate, avoiding eating out at restaurants, or other examples probably come to your mind.

There's a meaningful reason behind that practice. For many, it's meant to be a reminder of the time Christ spent forty days in the desert without food, being tempted by the devil in our place. Going without some comforts is a reminder for people to think about how committed Christ was to our salvation.

But there's an easy mistake that we can fall into. Going without chocolate for a month and a half isn't really something that makes God happy. Nowhere has God told us he'd like us to spend six weeks without a frappuccino.

God calls us to give up something much more serious than any of those things: he calls us to give up our sin.

Could you imagine doing so for forty days? Could you go that long without speaking a word of gossip or with only saying loving things to the people at home or in your office? For a month and a half, could you show perfect love

to every person you see in need, or keep every impure thought for your mind? Could you even do it for *one* day?

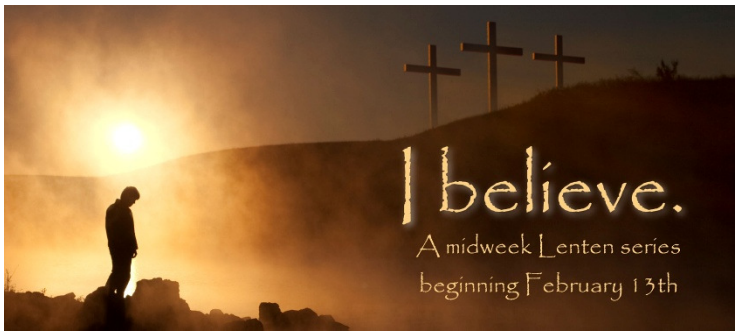
Of course we can't. That's why Lent isn't a time to do things for God. It's a time to see and consider what God has done for us. We call it a time of *repentance*. We freely acknowledge our imperfections, our failures, our sins. We aren't who God wants us to be. But that's only half the story. We also look to Christ, and see that he came as a Savior who paid the price for every one of our sins.

That does mean we give something up. We give up our pride. We give up our trust in ourselves. And we give up our fear and our guilt. After all, God's Son gave up his life to bring us peace!

Come focus on those wonderful truths with us again this year. Our Lenten walk begins with Ash Wednesday (7:00 pm on Feb. 13). For the following five Wednesdays after that, we take a look at the truths of the Apostles' Creed, considered especially against the meaning of Lent. On Sunday mornings, we keep our eyes on the promise of what God gives us at Easter by remembering what Christ gave up for our sakes on earth.



May God grant you a meaningful walk through Lent this year. May the services at church give you a deeper understanding of God's love. May your Bible reading at home bring you closer to him. And in all these things, may God bring us face to face with a love that would lead him to give up everything so that he might hold on to us!



Midweek Lenten Worship

More than any other, Lent is the time of the church year set aside for deep reflection and a somber consideration of God's great love that led his Son to die on the cross for our sins. We use this time of consideration to prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

To help us in this end, we hold midweek Lenten services. We begin with a special Ash Wednesday service (with the Lord's Supper) on February 13th at 7:00 pm. For the following five Wednesdays, we also hold a soup supper at 6:00 pm to spend some time with our Christian family.

After Ash Wednesday, the remainder of the midweek services explore what the Apostles' Creed means in light of Christ's Passion:

- Feb. 20 *I believe... that God is a loving Father*
- Feb 27 *I believe... that God died*
- Mar 6 *I believe... that my life matters*
- Mar 13 *I believe... that I am forgiven*
- Mar 20 *I believe... that I will live forever*



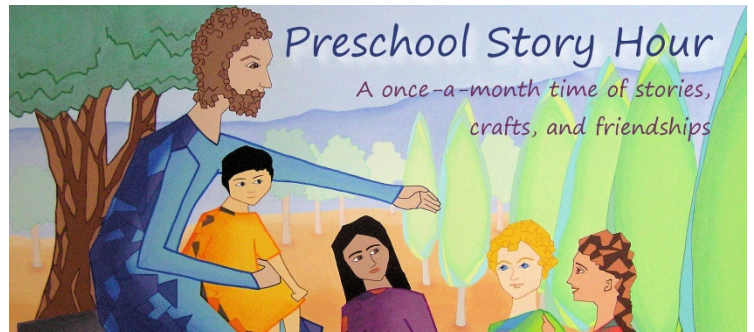
Updates from our Ladies' Ministry

New leaders: President – Veronica B., Vice President – Bonnie B., Secretary – Marilyn L., Treasurer – Deb G.

The new Dyson vacuum is here and ready to be put to work. Thanks to everybody for all the donations that made this possible.

Quarterly "Sanity" meetings – once a quarter the ladies will have the opportunity to gather together at a local restaurant for dinner and fellowship. The first one is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th at 6:00pm. If you have a suggestion of a local restaurant that can accommodate 10-20 people, please let Veronica know. The location for March will be drawn from all suggestions at the beginning of March. There will be more information available in March.

Two new groups met in January. The Service Group will work on coordinating flowers, paraments, banners, bulletin board and cleaning lists. The members are Polly M., Shirley S., Marilyn L., Bonnie B., Patricia P., Rachel P., Deb G., and Audrey S. The Care Group organizes cradle roll, visits shut-ins, and oversees correspondence and mission projects. The members of the Care Group are Eileen B., Sarah N., Deb G., and Carly S. There is room for more in either group! Talk to any of us for more information.



Raising our youth, reaching out to our neighbors

In January, Shining Mountains began a once-a-month preschool story time. It runs on the first Monday of the month from 10:00—11:00 am.

Story time is an hour of Bible stories, crafts, snacks and learning activities designed for our little ones. Parents (or grandparents) are asked to stay and take part together with their children.

Story time is open to our members and non-members alike. The next one will be held on Monday, February 4. During these first few months, the theme for our story time is "All God's Creatures" as we focus on accounts like Daniel in the Lion's Den, Creation, and the Flood.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to talk to Pastor Seifert or Kathy Holte. Our thanks to Kathy for all her wonderful work in organizing this event!



Music software for use in worship

The software that currently plays our music in worship on most Sundays is over a decade old. While it's served us well, its limitations are clear. It's gotten increasingly "buggy" (some hymn and psalm files simply don't play or play with some repeated mistakes), and it lacks the clear, warm feel of a live organist.

An updated version of HymnSoft has been in the works for a few years, with a release date that keeps getting pushed back. The software will be compatible with newer computers. The hymns and liturgical songs have all been played in "live" for easier singing, and the software comes with real sampled organ and piano sounds. It also comes with a function that allows us to play in and record our own additional music.

In anticipation of a release at the end of last year, a number of people gave "gifts for Jesus" earmarked for the new HymnSoft. The software again missed its release date. In a recent email, the director of the program simply indicated that they hope to release the software "soon."

Bible Study



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).

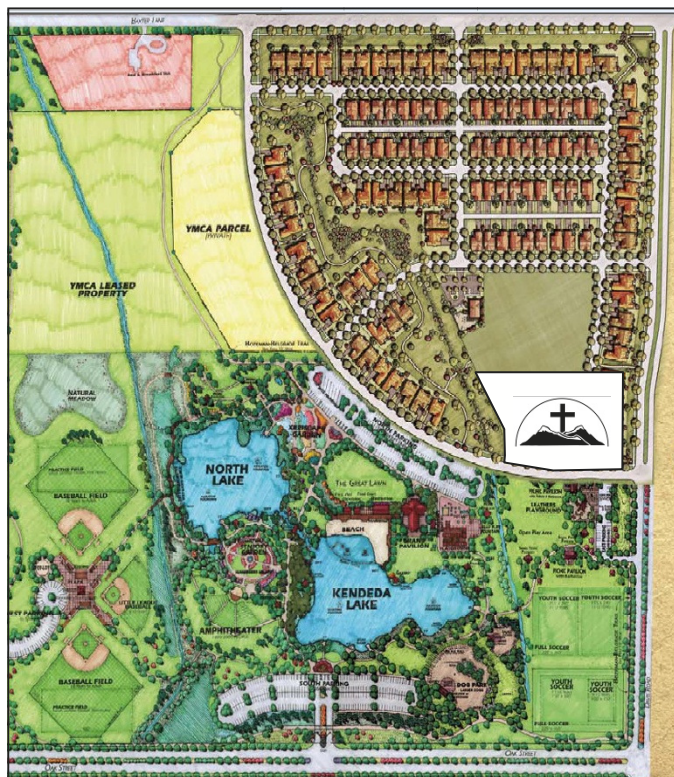
EVER MEMBER VISITS

It's All About Jesus

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: Property update



In a meeting on Sunday, January 20th, the voters unanimously passed a motion to make an offer on a new parcel of land for a future church home, and gave the Council the authority to see the details through to completion. At the time of this writing, the Council is engaged in responding to a counter offer.

Here's some basic information about the property in case you weren't able to attend the voters' meeting or the open forum that preceded it:

- ✧ The property is located on the corner of Vaquero and Davis Rd, in the block north of Oak and south of Davis. That puts the property about 1.5 miles away from our current church home.
- ✧ We've been offered three acres (plus one residential lot in "The Crossing" subdivision). The property (the white shape in the picture to the left) is also bordered by another 1-2 acres of green space.
- ✧ If the deal is signed, the property will be delivered to us when the infrastructure work is completed (tentatively set for July 1).
- ✧ The property is close to a number of subdivisions that are in development. A YMCA has purchased land just up the road, and the 100 acre Regional Park and Dinosaur Playground are right across the street.

More updates will be given as soon as they're available. May God bless our efforts at this step forward!

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 (Mrs. Baker)
2/3	Jesus changes water into wine <i>God cares for you. (1 Pe 5:7)</i>	Jesus Calms the Storm <i>Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.</i>	Jesus Calms the Storm <i>Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.</i>
2/10	The great catch of fish Preach the good news (Mk 16:15)	Jesus heals a paralyzed man <i>Psalms 124:8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.</i>	Jesus heals a paralyzed man <i>Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.</i>
2/17	Jesus calms the storm Call upon me in the day of trouble (Ps 50:15)	The daughter of Jairus <i>John 14:19 Because I live, you also will live.</i>	The daughter of Jairus <i>John 11:25-26 I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.</i>
2/24	Jesus feeds more than 5,000 people Give us today our daily bread. (4 th petition)	The young man of Nain <i>John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies</i>	The young man of Nain <i>John 14:19 Because I live, you also will live.</i>

The Sunday School children next sing in worship on Sunday, February 10th. The song they're working on for that day is I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

February Birthdays		
2/1 Bob Ballard	2/13 Ella Seifert	2/25 Doug Porter
2/5 Emma Marozick	2/15 Pastor Seifert	
2/9 Aaron Pruitt	2/19 Beverly Gentry	
February Anniversaries		
2/2 Larry and Eileen Baker	2/10 Tracy and Marilyn Linn	

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

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
2/3	A Miller / L Alexander	P Pruitt	E Baker	Spalding (2/4-2/9)
2/10	J Newton / L Hunziker	B Blackstad	Blackstad	Marozick (2/11-2/12)
2/13	J Lauersdorf / T Zulauf	<i>(Ash Wednesday worship—Holy Communion)</i>		
2/17	T Linn / P Marozick	<i>Open</i>	Gentry family	McGough (2/18-2/23)
2/20	D Pruitt / M Joecks	<i>(midweek Lenten worship)</i>		
2/24	J Becker / B Thiede	<i>Open</i>	Seifert	Miller (2/25-3/2)
2/27	J Thiede / D Thiede	<i>(midweek Lenten worship)</i>		

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

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:45 am MegaMeeting	4 10-11 am Preschool story time	5 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	6	7 6:00 pm Church Council	8	9
10 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship	11 10:00 am Montana Pastors' study club	12 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	13 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	14	15	16
17 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:45 am Ushers' meeting	18	19 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	20 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Midweek Lenten worship	21	22	23 11am-3pm Ice fishing, grilling and games at the East Gallatin ponds
24 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship	25	26 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	27 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Midweek Lenten worship	28		

Upcoming Messages

The month of February brings the season of *Epiphany* to a close and brings us into the season of *Lent*. May the following schedule help you as you prepare for worship or look for opportunities to invite a friend!

Sundays in February

February 3: *The 4th Sunday after the Epiphany—God calls ME to follow him*

February 10: *The Transfiguration of our Lord: Jesus is the Lord of Glory*

February 17: *The 1st Sunday in Lent: Give up materialism and worship the Lord*

February 24: *The 2nd Sunday in Lent: Give up cowardly comfort and embrace the cross*

Midweek Lenten Services (Wednesday nights at 7pm)

February 13: Ash Wednesday

February 20: *I Believe... that God is a loving Father*

February 27: *I Believe... that God died*

Starting on February 20th, please be our guests for a time of food and fellowship as we hold Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm.

