



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."

The truth of Easter Sunday offers people

A Fresh Start

Can people really change?

Maybe you've struggle with that before. You were in a relationship that wasn't going well. The person you were with kept promising that this time was going to be different. It seemed hard to believe it. Or maybe it was *yourself* that you ran out of patience with. Whatever it was the bothered you—the sin, the bad habit, whatever it was—you finally decided *enough is enough* and committed to change it. But just a few days later, you found yourself right back where you started.

Can people really change? Jesus' disciples must have struggled with that one—especially Peter. They had all abandoned Jesus right before his crucifixion, but Peter was the one who swore he'd never leave Jesus' side. And Peter was the one who found himself swearing he never even knew Jesus.

That's so often the way Peter was: brash, boastful, eager to serve—but so often quick to stumble and fall. Now he'd done it again, and it seemed like there was no going back.

We all have things we wish were different in our own lives. We want to be more patient, more loving, slower to fly off the handle, stronger in the face

of temptations. We know the mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, children, students, friends that we *want* to be—we just struggle so hard to do so. And the guilt of failing? It's enough to keep you from even trying.

Jesus rose from the dead. That beautiful truth stands in the center of every promise the Bible makes. Jesus rose from the dead. You can be sure of it: he showed himself to *hundreds* of eyewitnesses after he rose. A body that was beaten, cold and in the grave was living and triumphant again.

If he did that, is there anything about you that he can't change? Let's start with what he *has* changed:

- ✧ Your sins are forgiven. You no longer stand guilty in God's eyes.
- ✧ You are a child of God. You can go to God in prayer at any time, confident that he hears you.
- ✧ You are part of the Church. That doesn't just mean you're a member of a congregation, but Christ has made you part of his holy body, and given you gifts to serve.
- ✧ You are a citizen of heaven. Since your home is there, you're free to live without being consumed by the problems of this world.



I know that there's much that we still struggle with; that's the nature of a believer's life on earth. But your status with God has changed.

On the shore of Galilee, Jesus shared that truth with Peter, who began a new life of service and love. God grant it continues to change us as well.

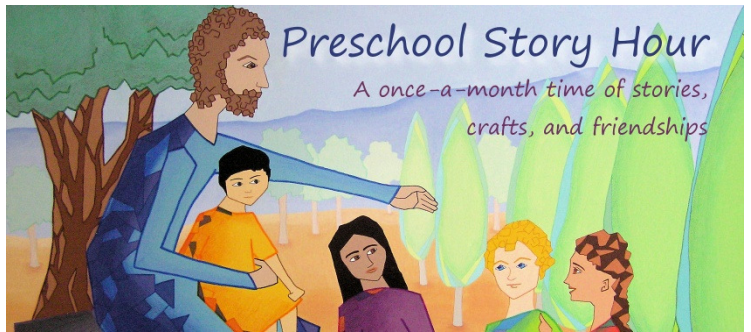


Save the Date for VBS: July 8-11

Vacation Bible School is one of the most visible ways we look to teach God's Word to our children and reach out with the gospel to our neighbors in Bozeman. Save the date for this year's VBS ("Go Tell it on the Mountain"), tentatively planned for July 8-11th.

This year we have a new opportunity for our VBS. Since we have land under contract for a new church near the 100-acre Regional Park, we're working on plans to hold our VBS there. Since that visible location gives us such a wonderful opportunity to invite children from the surrounding subdivisions, one of our churches in Wisconsin is hoping to send nearly twenty teen and adult helpers to assist with our program.

Offering a large outdoor VBS is a huge undertaking. Please watch for announcements for ways that you can help us make it a success—and continue to keep this work and all our efforts to reach out to those who don't know Jesus in your prayers!



Raising our youth, reaching out to our neighbors

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, April 1st. 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.

Story time is a simple and wonderful way to help encourage others to share the faith with their little ones—and learn a bit more about our church home and family in the process.

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!



Updates from our Ladies' Ministry

Thank you to those who joined us for our first "Ladies' Sanity" Night out!

The ladies fellowship group is planning on meeting after church on April 14th. If you haven't joined us in the past, please consider doing so as we look for ways to sponsor mission projects, serve our congregation and reach out to others.

We've also tentatively scheduled our next night out. Save a spot on your calendars on Tuesday night, May 13. Right now the plan is to give the new Olive Garden a try—we'd love to have you join us.

If you have any questions about the Women's Fellowship or their activities, speak to Veronica Baker, or email her at ladies@shiningmountains.org.

Thank you!



The basic truths of the Bible

Church is a place to make connections and friendships, to knit our families closer together and find meaningful values. More than any of that, though, church is a place to connect with God and grow in the truths of his Word.

Beginning on April 17th, we'll offer a Wednesday night study that digs into all the basic truths of scripture. This "starting point" class is a great refresher for members, serves as a "new member" class for those interested in joining our congregation, and offers a chance for anyone seeking to learn more about what the Bible teaches to have their questions answered in a respectful way.

The class meets from 6:30 to 8:00 on Wednesday nights in our sanctuary. There is no cost to attend, and materials will be provided for you (though you're welcome to bring along your own Bible). If you've been looking for a chance to grow in faith—or bring a friend to learn about their Savior—this class gives an ideal opportunity to do so! For more information, call 586.7979 or email pastor@shiningmountains.org.

Bible Study



SUNDAY MORNING: ISAIAH

The scroll of the prophet

Isaiah is a challenging book. At sixty-six chapters long, reading it can be intimidating. In its pages you'll come across strange names, unfamiliar places and nations you've never heard of. Isaiah is also one of the most beautiful and important books of the Old Testament. We often read verses in church. It's quoted throughout the New Testament. His prophecies about Jesus are some of the most beautiful and treasured ones in all of Scripture. On April 14th, we'll begin a study of Isaiah in our Sunday morning class. Our study will follow a "survey" approach. Over about two months, we'll have a basic overview of the book. Along the way, we'll stop to dig into key chapters and prophecies, and discuss some longer sections of reading for participants to do at home during the week.

STARTING POINT!

Growing in the truths of God's Word

"Basic Information Classes" are just that—they give a basic overview of all the teachings of Scripture. They serve as a chance for members to refresh their understanding of God's Word, as well as prepare people for membership in the church. We'll be starting a new evening Basic Information Class on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, beginning April 14th. If you're interested in attending (or would like to bring a guest), Pastor would be glad to provide you with more information.

Building Project: What's Next?

What will it look like? When can we start? Those questions keep coming! Now that we have land under contract (the NW corner of Davis Lane and Vaquero Rd), we're eager to start. Before we can take too many steps forward, we need to answer the most important question: *What are we going to use the building for?* Just like you wouldn't buy a moped for a family of six—or HumVee if you only did city driving—Shining Mountains has been answering some basic questions about how we'll use our building so we know what we need to build. Here are some basic answers that we've reached through congregational surveys, listening groups and meetings:

What size of sanctuary should we build?

Churches are considered "full" at 65% capacity. We regularly worship nearly 70 on a Sunday morning and over 100 on Christmas and Easter. A new sanctuary of 150 seats would serve our present needs and allow for a bit of growth; a bit more space yet would be desirable, if possible.

How much Sunday School space do we need?

We currently have three Sunday School classrooms. The Building Committee has concluded that we need at least three, with a fourth desired if possible. Currently, our rooms are *incredibly* cramped (at 100 sq. ft). Initial plans have called for rooms that are at least 400 sq. ft., ideally configured in a way that could be utilized for other weekly ministries, such as a preschool or other youth programs.

What other ministry space do we need?

We're blessed with a congregation that treasures fellowship and friendships (and food!). We've identified the need for a serviceable kitchen space, and a larger entry way that encourages fellowship and could accommodate tables so that we no longer need to use our sanctuary as a dining hall. Office space for pastoral and administrative work would also be a blessing for our ministry.

Shortly after Easter, we hope to bring some basic space needs before the congregation for their approval and ask Massmann Studios to begin conceptual drawings for us.



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 (Ms. Blackstad)
4/7	Jesus rides into Jerusalem <i>Praise the Lord (Ps 130:1)</i>	Jesus feeds the five thousand <i>Psalm 50:15 Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.</i>	Jesus feeds the five thousand <i>Psalm 50:15 Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.</i>
4/14	Jesus prays in the garden <i>Your will be done (Mt 6:10)</i>	The Transfiguration <i>1 John 1:7 The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.</i>	The Transfiguration <i>Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.</i>
4/21	Pilate says that Jesus should die <i>Christ suffered for you (1 Pe 2:21)</i>	The Parable of the Good Samaritan <i>Matthew 22:39 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'</i>	The Parable of the Good Samaritan <i>Matthew 22:39 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'</i>
4/28	Jesus dies on the cross <i>Christ died for your sins (1 Co 15:3)</i>	Jesus Heals a Blind Man <i>Psalm 118:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.</i>	Jesus Heals a Blind Man <i>Psalm 118:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.</i>

The Sunday School children next sing in worship on Sunday, May 19th. The song they're working on for that day is Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep.

April Birthdays		
4/2 Jerry Hammer	4/16 Dan Gustafson	4/28 Bonnie Blackstad
4/6 Dennis Gentry	4/17 Kate Newton	
April Anniversaries		
4/3 Jim and Karen Lauersdorf	4/17 Dennis and Kelly Gentry	4/30 Dan and Deb Gustafson

Serving Us in April *Thank you to those who served in March!*

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
4/7	J Becker / B Thiede			Baker, E (4/8-4/13)
4/14	S McGough / J McGough			Baker, L&V (4/15-4/20)
4/21	J Thiede / D Thiede			Ballard (4/22-4/27)
4/28	L Baker / B Ballard			Giese (4/29-5/5)

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

April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10-11am Preschool story time	2	3	4 6:00pm Church Council meeting	5 6:30—8:00 Mountaineers “First Aid Basics”	6
7 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	8	9 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	10	11	12	13
*** Spring Pastors’ conference in Rapid City, South Dakota ***						
14 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship 11:45 Ladies’ Fellowship group meeting	15	16 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	17 6:30 pm “Starting Point” basics-of-the-Bible	18	19 6:00(?) pm Bowling Night	20
21 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	22	23 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	24 6:30 pm “Starting Point” basics-of-the-Bible	25	26	27
28 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship 11:45 Voters’ meeting	29	30 6:45 pm Confirmation Class				

Upcoming Messages

Christ is risen! Throughout the weeks of April and May, we rejoice in what the truth of Christ's resurrection means for our lives here on earth and forever in heaven.

Focus of Worship

April 7: *Jesus gives a fresh start for fallen disciples*

April 14: *Power for a changed life*

April 21: *A Shepherd we can trust*

April 28: *A life compelled by love*

