



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."

Jesus left, but he left with the promise:

You're Never Alone

Do you remember the first time your parents dropped you off at school? If you were like most kids, no matter how excited you were to finally start school, there was something terrifying about the moment when your mom and dad gave you a last hug and the truth finally set it: *They're going! I'm going to be without them!*

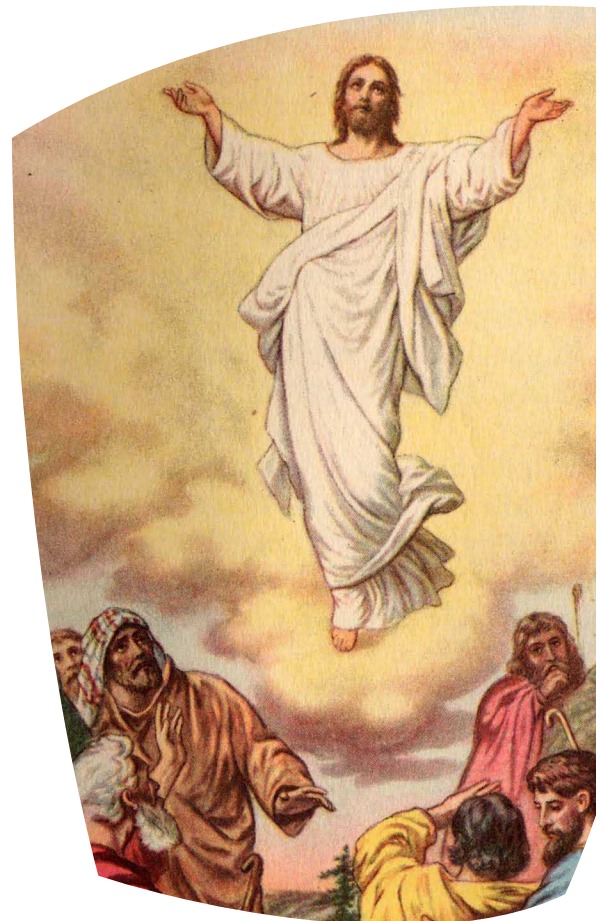
Do we ever completely outgrow the feeling? There's a part of us that so often is deeply uncomfortable with being alone. We graduate college and finally are on our own... and it's a frightening thing. We bury a parent or grandparent and realize that we won't have them around for wisdom and guidance anymore. Our children finally grow up and leave the nest, and we find ourselves longing for the next phone call or visit. When someone we love leaves, there's a comfort and a joy that just seems lost.

Imagine how the disciples felt on the day of Jesus' ascension. Their Lord had risen from the dead and showed himself to be—without a doubt!—the living and powerful Son of God who loved them. How wonderful life would be! Then he took them to a mountain, spoke some final words to them, and ascended into heaven. He left them.

But at the same time, he didn't. Shortly before the day of his ascension, Jesus told them this: *All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me... Surely I will be with you always, until the very end of the age.* Even though they wouldn't see Jesus any longer, he would be with them, watching over them and blessing them every day.

That's why Jesus' ascension still matters to us. We don't celebrate him leaving us; we celebrate his promise that he's with us right now. We don't celebrate that he's gone—he's not!—we treasure his promise that the same Lord who died for our sins is the one who's now living to bless us with his love.

Join us on May 9th as we rejoice in the ascension of our risen and living Savior!



☞ You're Invited ☞

A celebration of the Ascension of our Lord

*Fellowship Meal served at 6:30 pm + Devotion to follow
(freewill offerings are welcome to help defray the cost of the meal)*

*Thursday, May 9th + 6:30 pm
Shining Mountains Lutheran Church*



Women's Fellowship

Updates from our Ladies' Ministry

Selecting a mission project

Ladies' Fellowship supports mission projects throughout the year, and is in the process of choosing two new projects by the end of April. The Ladies choose between a variety of domestic and international, gospel-centered and humanitarian projects. Watch for more information on their choice, and how you might support it!

Ladies' sanity night

Our next night out is planned for Monday, May 13th. Join us at the Olive Garden at 6:00 pm for a time of food and friendship!

Women's Leadership Conference

The next *Women's Leadership Conference* organized by our church body will take place from July 19-20 at the campus of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI. Look for more information in bulletin inserts, talk to Veronica Baker, or send an email to ladies@shiningmountains.org.



MOUNTAIN EERS

Growing in the faith

Shining Mountains' *Mountaineers* program serves youth from kindergarten on up through activities, devotions, and workshops aimed at lessons of faith and daily life.

Our first official workshop (on First Aid Basics) was well-attended on April 5th—thank you to all who helped organize it!

Our next event is planned for Tuesday, May 28th, from 6-8pm. We'll start at church with a chance to learn some basics about gardening, before driving a short distance to a local community garden to plant a few seeds of our own! Watch the bulletin and email updates for more information, or talk to any of our Mountaineer leaders (Adam Miller, Paul and Courtney Agenten, Josh and Stacy Kohler, Michael and Melissa Joecks).

We're still working hard on plans for this summer's campout, too. For more information or to register your child, please see the bulletin board above the refreshment table.



Save the Date for VBS: July 8-11, 4:00-6:00 pm

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held at the Gallatin Valley Regional Park, just south of the Dinosaur Park and close to our new church property. From 4-6pm on Monday through Thursdays, children aged three through 6th grade are invited to join us for music, crafts, lessons, and games. A group of about 20 volunteers from one of our sister congregations in Wisconsin will be joining us to help run the program.

How can you help?

Register early

A registration form is included with this newsletter (and will be available online soon), and can be turned in at the box on the table in the entryway of church. The sooner we know how many we can expect, the easier it is for us to plan!

Spread the word

We're hoping to reach at least 75 kids with this year's VBS. That won't happen without your help! Sunday School students will

receive invitations that they can share with their friends. When the information is available on facebook, consider sharing the link with others. Join us for some canvassing nights in June as we hand out invitations to our future neighbors near our new church home!

Sign up as a volunteer

We need as many helpers as possible to carry out a VBS of this size! Volunteering doesn't necessarily mean you'll be there to help during VBS itself. We need people to help organize crafts, snacks, and the meal we'll have at the close of VBS. Consider coming to our next planning meeting on **Saturday, May 4th at 10:00 am.**

Help Host our Volunteers

About 20 teen and adult helpers are giving up a week of their summer to travel out here and help us with VBS. If you're willing to host a few of them from *Sunday evening, July 7 through Friday morning, July 12th*, please sign up on the bulletin board. (Host families only need to provide breakfast.)

Bible Study



SUNDAY MORNING: JONAH

When God Calls

“Jonah is a story about a big fish.” Most people know at least that much about it. But the book of Jonah—a four chapter gem in the Old Testament—is about a man who heard God’s call, but ran in the other direction. It’s about God’s persistent love in calling a stubborn man to his service. It’s about the struggles of a believer who understood God’s grace to accept that that same grace applied to others, too. We study the book of Jonah from April 21st—May 26 in our Sunday morning study (9:20 am in the sanctuary).

(We had originally planned a survey-study of Isaiah in April and May, but our schedule has led to that study being delayed until this fall.)

SUMMER FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Growing in the Word together



While Sunday School doesn’t run during the summer months, that time doesn’t need to be a complete break from growing in faith for our children. This year, our Sunday morning Bible class will change its schedule for the summer months. Starting at 9:40, we’ll have a “Family Sunday School.” For the first ten-fifteen minutes, all ages of our church family will meet together in the sanctuary for a telling of the Bible story. At the end, our little ones will go off together for a brief activity or craft based on the lesson, while the adults take some time to dig a little deeper into the account. We’ll wrap up around 10:10, giving a little extra time to visit before church.

We’re looking for some volunteers to take turns leading the children in the craft / activity during the last 15 minutes.

Parents, please consider serving in this way. Our Sunday School teachers serve us faithfully for over thirty weeks of the year; if our parents each volunteer for a couple of weekends, it allows those teachers a summer break and a chance to re-engage with Bible Study, too. Pastor Seifert will help provide crafts, coloring pages, and/or activity ideas for the time the children are in your care. If you’re interested in serving this way, please sign up on the schedule posted on the bulletin board (signing up well in advance is a great help for our planning purposes).

Building Project: Summer Progress



We’re aiming for the spring of 2014 to break ground on a new church building. While that seems like a ways away, there’s much work to be done between now and then—much of which will be done this summer. Here’s an update:

Improvement of Church Land

While we have our new land under contract, it won’t be legally ours until it’s been subdivided. For that to happen, the current owner must install the streets and infrastructure for the surrounding subdivision. That work has now begun; watch for streets and other improvements to go in over the summer months.

Drafting of new building concepts

Massmann Studios is preparing concepts of a building for us, suited to the new land. The concepts allow us to clarify the footprint, layout and size of the new building. Representatives from Massmann are planning on visiting Bozeman in mid-May to walk the new land and meet with the Church Council and members who had been part of the previous “listening session.” We anticipate some conceptual drawings from the firm soon after that visit. (To see some of their other projects, visit www.massmannstudios.com.)

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)
5/5	Jesus comes back to life <i>Jesus died and rose again (1 Th 4:14)</i>	Mary and Martha <i>Luke 11:28 "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."</i>	Mary and Martha <i>Luke 11:28 "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."</i>
5/12	Jesus goes back to heaven <i>I am with you always (Mt 28:20)</i>	The parable of the Pharisee and tax collector <i>Luke 18:13 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'</i>	The parable of the Pharisee and tax collector <i>Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags</i>
5/19	The Holy Spirit comes to Jesus' friends <i>Hear the Word of God (Lk 11:28)</i>	The rich man and poor Lazarus <i>Matthew 4:10 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'</i>	The rich man and poor Lazarus <i>Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.</i>
5/26	Faithful Stephen <i>Preach the good news (Mk 16:15)</i>	Jesus raises Lazarus <i>John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life.</i>	Jesus raises Lazarus <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>

*Our next Sunday School singing date has been bumped to **June 2nd**. The song they're working on for that day is **Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep**.*

May Birthdays		
5/8 John Newton	5/20 Tracy Linn	5/30 Dean Wilcox
5/16 Stacy Kohler	5/28 Anne Porter	
May Anniversaries		
5/17 Jimmy and Jessie Parks	5/30 John and Kate Newton	

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

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
5/5	A Pruitt / T Franck	<i>open</i>	Gustafson	Gustafson (5/6-5/11)
5/12	P Agenten / J Kohler	Blackstad/Holte	Blackstad	Hunziker (5/13-5/18)
5/19	D Gustafson / D Gentry	<i>open</i>	Linn	Joecks (5/20-5/25)
5/26	A Miller / L Alexander	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Kohler (5/27-6/1)

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

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			6:30 "Starting Point" Basic Christianity class			10:00 am VBS organizational Meeting
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:00 am Preschool Story Hour					
Noon: Indoor / Outdoor Church Cleaning / cookout	6:45 Confirmation Class	6:30 "Starting Point" Basic Christianity class	6:30 Ascension Day Dinner / Devotion			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship (w/ examination of confirmands)	10-2:00 Pastors' Circuit Conference					
Mother's Day	6:00 Ladies' Sanity Night at Olive Garden	6:15 Church Council Meeting	6:30 "Starting Point" Basic Christianity class			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion						
			6:30 "Starting Point" Basic Christianity class			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship		6-8pm Mountaineers event: Gardening				
		Memorial Day	6:30 "Starting Point" Basic Christianity class			

Upcoming Messages

Christ is risen! In May, we bring the Easter season to a close and transition into “the half-year of the Church” - a time of special focus on what Christ’s love living in us looks like.

Focus of Worship

May 5: *The Sixth Sunday of Easter: Love for Christ means loving his Word*

May 9: *The Ascension of our Lord* (fellowship meal at 6:30 pm, with devotion to follow)

May 12: *The Seventh Sunday of Easter / Mother’s Day*

May 19: *The Festival of Pentecost: Equipped to be Jesus’ witnesses*

May 26: *The Sunday of the Holy Trinity: Faith trusts in one true God*

