

# Mountain View

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January Newsletter - 2018

***In the beginning was the Word.....***

***The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.***

*John 1:1,14*

## **Just the Beginning**

What happens when the presents have been unwrapped, all the Christmas cookies have been eaten, the Christmas parties are over, and the family returns home? After all the work that goes into making the end of the year a special time of celebration, do you sometimes wonder if it was all really worth it? Do you ever feel that Christmas was a little bit disappointing?

The coming of January means the end of the holiday season. The radio stations begin playing their regular music, the beautiful decorations in the stores are taken down, and life returns to normal. Christmas comes and goes in the blink of an eye.

But this isn't the case for us. For believers, Christmas is just the beginning! We heard the angel proclaim, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). We have followed the shepherds by "glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told" (Luke 2:20). And we have cherished our Savior's birth like Mary who "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 1:19).

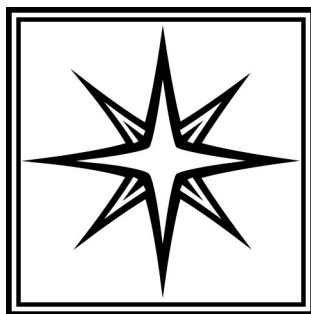
We know that there is more to this little child, lying in a manger. We know that he was with God in the beginning (John 1:1). We know that he was present at creation (Colossians 1:16). We know that he was with Jacob at Bethel (Genesis 31:13). We know that

he led the Israelites through the desert as a pillar of cloud by day and pillar fire by night (Exodus 14:19). When we see our Savior as a little child, lying in a manger, we know there is something more, something that cannot be seen except with eyes of faith.

The season of Epiphany, which we follow in January, focuses on Jesus revealing himself as more than just a man. John reminds us of that fact in these words, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). This important truth – that this little child is true God – changes everything for us. It is because he is true God that his perfect life under God's law is now credited to you. It is because he is true God that his death on the cross washes you clean of your sins forever. It is because he is true God that you can be sure that he will never leave you or forsake you. It is because he is true God that Christmas is not a disappointment. For we have seen his glory. It is the glory that forgives our sins. It is the glory that has made perfect peace between God and man. It is the glory that makes heaven our eternal home. Yes, Christmas is just the beginning.

As we begin 2018, may the comfort and peace that comes from seeing Christ's glory fill our hearts and minds.

- Pastor Josh Schultz



## Adult Bible Study

### *Reformation: Grace, Faith, Scripture*

This course, meeting every Sunday at 10:45 am, uses a 3-4 minute video clip from the film *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy* to introduce each Lesson. We will deepen our understanding of Reformation history and connect that with what the Bible and our church believes, teaches, and practices today. We will pick up where we left off in December at lesson 8.

Lesson 8 - All Serve Christ: Vocation

Lesson 9 - One Authority: Scripture Alone

Lesson 10 - Bold Witness: Confidence Drawn From  
Scripture

Lesson 11 - Not by Force: Power of the Word

Lesson 12 - My Bible: The Bible Into People's Hands



## Luther Movie Night

On Friday, January 26, we will watch the 2017 movie *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy* at church. We'll set up in the downstairs fellowship hall. Bring your lawn chairs for a comfy place to sit. Arrive at 6pm for a meal and the movie will start after. Hope to see you there!

## Help NMS students in need

Save your Box Tops to help support the North Middle School PTA as they help students in need. You can find the container on the upstairs bathroom counter.

## Women's Bible Study

All the ladies of Mountain View are invited to the parsonage on Thursday January 11th at 6:30 pm to study God's Word. Speak with Rachel Schultz if you have any questions (989) 412-3045.

## Quarterly Voter's Meeting

The quarterly meeting for our congregation will be held on January 21st after worship. All members are invited to join for discussion with the voting portion to follow.

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### Associated Ministry Updates

Receive Bi-Weekly Synodical Updates by going to:  
[Wels.net/news-media/together/](http://Wels.net/news-media/together/)

Receive monthly updates from Great Plains Lutheran by going to:  
[Gplhs.org](http://Gplhs.org)

### Our Weekly Thank Offerings:

2017 Weekly Needs (budgeted): \$1044.24  
Nov 22-Dec 24 Weekly Average Received: \$1850  
2018 Weekly Needs from Approved Budget: \$1318.63