Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." [Saint John 10:27]

The Government

On January 20 a new president will take the oath of office, and a new administration will take over. For some people this will be a welcome change; for others it will mean weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Although a new president with a different agenda is a big change, the most important administrational change in human history took place more than 2000 years ago when a new King was born—a King whose reign surpasses all others. The kingdom He came to usher in has no physical boundaries and is for all people. Concerning this King, the prophet Isaiah wrote: **"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore"** (Isaiah 9:6-7a).

That's comforting. The government of this eternal kingdom will be upon *His* shoulder, not upon *our* shoulders. Jesus does not govern us like worldly government does. Governmental rulers place the burden for their government upon *us* and upon *our children*. They take *our money* in taxes. They take *our sons* for soldiers. And they regulate *our lives*. The governed bear the burden for the government. The government presses them down as the rulers demand more and more and more from those they rule. No matter what form it takes, worldly government places the burden upon *our* shoulders.

But not this Child! Not this Son! His government rests firmly on *His* shoulder. He willingly bears the entire burden of our sin and shame, our guilt and death. Rather than taxing us, Jesus lavishes us with the treasures of heaven. Rather than sending off our sons to fight and die, Jesus alone battles the old evil foe and dies on the cross that we might be freed from sin and live forever in His kingdom. And rather than regulating us, Jesus' government overflows with grace, mercy, and forgiveness. He does not place the burden of His government upon us. The burden of His government is *His* alone.

When the fullness of time had come, the angel Gabriel unfolds this mystery further in his announcement to Mary. **"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end"** (Luke 1:31-33).

Unlike the kingdoms of this world, Jesus' kingdom never ends. It is ours right now by faith, and soon, when our Lord returns, He will take us to that place where there is no more tears, no more pain, no more sin, no more death.

In the meantime, as we await His glorious return, let us willingly serve our neighbor here in this earthly kingdom into which He has placed us. Let us work toward responsible government. Let us strive for peace in our communities and around the world. Let us teach our children about their Savior and His Word. Let us speak the truth in love to a culture that desperately needs to hear it. Let us love unconditionally and forgive without measure. And let us defend the weakest among us, bear the burdens of those in need, and speak and sing of Christ in our daily vocations. To that end, we pray:

> Lord God, as I pray for all who are in authority, I thank You especially for the form of government given us in our beloved country. Give me the grace with my fellow citizens to value the officers and the magistrates of our government as those sent by You. Instill in me that respect and honor that is due them. Lord, endow them with wisdom for their several duties, with a spirit of sacrifice for the common welfare, with mercy and justice, with uprightness and kindliness. Correct the evils of selfishness, greed, a vain desire for honor, or abuse of power among us as well as in the other governments of the world. Grant that the true purposes of government may prevail, safeguarding peace and prosperity, so that we may live soberly and uprightly in Your sight and have opportunity to tell of You and Your kingdom. These petitions I direct to You because in Jesus I know You as my Father and Lord. Amen. [*Lutheran Book of Prayer*, For Government]

Pastor Mumme

Calendar

Week of Christmas 1

Sun, Jan 1, 9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
Sun, Jan 1, 10:30 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
Tue, Jan 3, 7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
Wed, Jan 4, 2:15 p.m.	Youth Catechesis 1
Wed, Jan 4, 5:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis 2
Fri, Jan 6, 7:00 p.m.	Festive Divine Service

Week of Epiphany 1

Sun, Jan 8, 9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
Sun, Jan 8, 10:00 a.m.	Thrivent Meeting
Sun, Jan 8, 10:30 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
Tue, Jan 10, 11:00 a.m.	CPC Meeting
Tue, Jan 10, 1:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Wed, Jan 11, 2:15 p.m.	Youth Catechesis 1
Wed, Jan 11, 5:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis 2
Wed, Jan 11, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thu, Jan 12, 7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Sat, Jan 14, 10:00 a.m.	Church Un-Decorating

Week of Epiphany 2

Sun, Jan 15, 9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
Sun, Jan 15, 10:30 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
Sun, Jan 15, 2:00 p.m.	March for Life Chicago
Tue, Jan 17, 9:00 a.m.	Pastor @ Circuit Meeting
Tue, Jan 17, 7:00 p.m.	Book of Concord Study
Wed, Jan 18, 2:15 p.m.	Youth Catechesis 1
Wed, Jan 18, 5:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis 2
Wed, Jan 18, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sat, Jan 21, 8:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Breakfast
Sat, Jan 21, 10:00 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
Sat, Jan 21, 11:00 a.m.	Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of Epiphany 3

Sun, Jan 22, 9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
Sun, Jan 22, 10:00 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
Wed, Jan 25, 11:00 a.m.	Pastor @ NICL Study
Wed, Jan 25, 2:15 p.m.	Youth Catechesis 1
Wed, Jan 25, 5:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis 2

Week of Epiphany 4

Sun, Jan 29, 9:00 a.m.	Divine Service
Sun, Jan 29, 10:30 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School

January Birthdays

06 Joan Fox
06 Jacob Page
07 Ceili Delaney
13 Karen Moritz
14 Larry Kreier
14 Rebecca Parmenter
15 Paul Edgar
15 Melanie Witzke
16 Victoria (Tori) Henzen
18 Dawn Rousar
20 Christa McClain
24 Vincenzo (Vinny) Data
29 Mary Dobbs
31 Isaak Johnson

Baptismal Anniversaries

04 Nicole Richerson
04 Sierra Birdsell
06 Anthony Simonetti
19 Dolores Bauman
25 Jeff McClain
29 Joan Fox

Bible & Lutheranism Studies

Sunday Bible Class
Topic: TBA
When: Sunday mornings @ 10:30 a.m.
Where: Luther Hall

Men's Bible Breakfast
Topic: Solus Christus (a.k.a. Christ Alone)
When: Saturday, January 21 @ 8:30 a.m.
Where: Steak 'n Shake on Weber Road, Bolingbrook

Women's Bible Study
Topic: Pew Sisters (chapter 10)
When: Tuesday, January 10 @ 1:00 p.m.
Where: Luther Hall

Book of Concord Study
Topic: Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
When: Tuesday, January 17 @ 7:00 p.m.
Where: Luther Hall

The Epiphany Season

As the Christmas season draws to a close, we enter the Epiphany season. The word Epiphany means "revelation"—God reveals how Jesus Christ is His Son, our Savior. The season begins with the Epiphany of Our Lord, a celebration of the visit of the Gentile wise men to the baby Jesus, who was born for all people. The season continues with Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, several Gospel readings from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and culminates with Jesus' transfiguration before three disciples. Come and be a part of this joyous season as God reveals to us His Son, His plan and purpose, and His salvation. Join us on **Friday, January 6**, as we celebrate The Epiphany of Our Lord with a festive Divine Service at **7:00 p.m.** This is one of the five chief festival days of the church year.

The Baptism of Our Lord

On **Sunday, January 8**, we will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. Though He had no sin of His own, Jesus undergoes baptism for us. He does this to fulfill all righteousness and to fill the water of Holy Baptism with Himself, His forgiveness, His righteousness. So rejoice in your baptism. For through that water combined with God's Word, you are a child of God, clothed in Christ's perfect righteousness, and a temple of the Holy Spirit!

God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!

LSB 594, stanza 1

Church Un-Decorating

Come and help us pack away the Christmas decorations on **Saturday, January 14**, beginning at **10:00 a.m.** Many hands make light work.

2017 Church Council

Three congregational officers were elected at our annual congregational meeting in December. Below is a list of those serving on the Church Council for 2017:

Chairman:	**Ed Cruz**
Vice-Chairman:	*vacant*
Secretary:	**Cindy Rambeaux**
Treasurer:	**Denise Ziesemer**
Christian Education:	**Robin Wise**
Elders:	**Andy Fox**
Trustees:	**Ron Ruisz**

A special thank you is also extended to **Kevin Pape** (Vice-Chairman) who finished serving this past year. Your hard work, time, and dedication in serving our congregation is greatly appreciated.

Board of Elders

Those serving on the Board of Elders for 2017:

Andy Fox (chairman)
Mike Dobbs
Kevin Pape
Tim Parmenter
Brian Rambeaux
Ron Ruisz
Bill Tilker

Altar Guild Members

Those serving on the Altar Guild for 2017:

Laverne Stephens (chairperson)
Katie Dobbs
Anne Drevlow
Karen Moritz
Lori Mumme
Ruth Ogden
Joan Sturm
Kathy Wilson
Judy Yuenger

Divine Shepherd's 40th Anniversary Service and Dinner

Pastor Huxhold officiated Divine Shepherd's first service on 27 February 1977 at nearby Jane Addams Middle School.

We invite you to come and celebrate 40 years of Christ's gracious gifts and blessings to our congregation with a festive Divine Service on **Sunday, February 26**, beginning at **4:00 p.m.** and followed by a catered meal in Luther Hall. We will *not* have a morning service that day. Mark your calendar now and reach out to former members of our congregation. More info to follow.

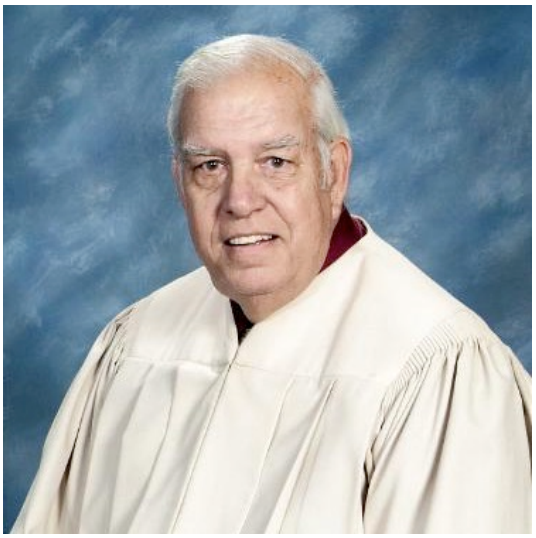
If you would like to help with the planning — mailing invitations, selecting a caterer, decorating, etc. — contact Karen Moritz in the church office.

Children's Christmas Program

Eleven of our congregational children joined our Little Lambs Preschool in participating in the Children's Christmas Program on December 18. We are grateful to all you parents for getting them to practice and placing such a high priority on their Christian education. Below are the names of those members who participated:

Cassie Cruz
Bella Cruz
Adam Dobbs
David Dobbs
Rebekah Dobbs
Mary Dobbs
Aimee Mazurkiewicz
Bridget Mazurkiewicz
Adam Mumme
Payton Murray
Kane Murray

Asleep in Christ



George Rousar, a member of Divine Shepherd since the 1980s, fell asleep in Christ on December 12 at the age of 73. A funeral service for George was held here at Divine Shepherd on December 16, after which he was buried with military honors. See the back page for the churchly obituary originally printed in the funeral bulletin.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."
[Revelation 14:13]

Membership Updates

Mike & Katie Dobbs
(new address)
22906 Weinhold Dr
Plainfield, IL 60585-4208

Alaina Ziesemer
(new address)
665 White Oak Way
Yorkville, IL 60560-9581

New Son

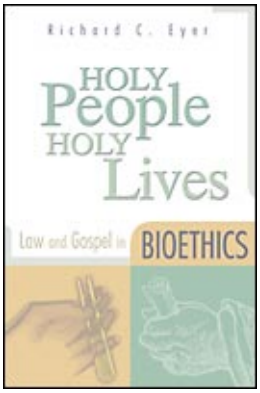
Kristina Learnahan and her husband **Steven** welcomed a healthy baby boy into this world on December 16. **Bradley Robert** weighed 7 lb. 1 oz., measured 19½ inches, and is doing well. Big sister Aubrey is also proud. Join the Learnahan family in welcoming this precious gift from God.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward."
[Psalm 127:3]

Little Lambs News

Little Lambs is excited to announce that we are now registering students for the 2017-18 school year which starts in September. Save your spot now for our preschool program featuring a Christian curriculum and a discount for members. Brochures with prices and requirements are available in the narthex and the Preschool office or by talking to **Terri Kreier**.

Church Library



The book of the month for January is *Holy Lives, Holy People: Law and Gospel in Bioethics*, by Richard Eyer. In short, concise chapters, the author guides readers through the process of making ethical decisions from a Law/Gospel perspective. Eyer's easy-to-read style helps readers focus on the issues and dilemmas that confront people in this modern, high-tech age, including reproductive technology and end-of-life issues. In the course of the discussion, Eyer presents biblical and Gospel insights into living as God's holy people, redeemed in Christ.

You can browse the selection of books in our library by visiting librarything.com/catalog/DivineShepherd. Books may be checked out at any time by members.

Ladies Aid

Thank you to all who supported the Ladies Aid Giving Tree and Food Drive. Thanks to your generosity, the Giving Tree helped 4 families, 2 seniors, 4 adults, and 8 children with gift cards, presents, and food. A special thank you to Carolyn Mazurkiewicz and the employees of Meadon Precision, who were extremely generous with their contribution to the Food Drive. A thank you also to those who helped provide food for George's funeral dinner.

The officers for 2017 are:

President:	**Judy Yuenger**
Vice-President:	**Lisa Cruz**
Secretary:	**Joan Sturm**
Treasurer:	**Karen Moritz**

Manna cards were popular for Christmas giving, and they remain available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Pre-purchased cards are available after Sunday services, and order forms are available near the outside Luther Hall door. These cards make many of the Ladies Aid projects possible, and best of all they do not cost members anything beyond the face-value amount. Manna pays us to use their service. Manna order turn-in dates are January 8 & 22.

Used clothing may be brought to church any Sunday. Give your bags to **Judy Yuenger** or any Ladies Aid member.

Our next meeting is **Saturday, January 21**. Come join us at **11:00 a.m.** That old saying about "many hands" is still true. With more hands, we will be able to help Divine Shepherd accomplish more for the Lord.

Ladies Aid Money at Work

Listed below are a just a few of the projects Ladies Aid has contributed to in 2016:

- The Rev. May Christmas Fund
- monthly stipend to a seminarian
- purchasing items and mailing military boxes
- the Giving Tree
- kitchen and cleaning supplies
- paper goods and drinks for Sunday treats
- Higher Things Youth Conference
- Preschool supplies
- Alms Fund
- Little Lambs Preschool
- gardening supplies

These projects are made possible by your generous support of our garage sale and Manna program. Thank you.

Altar Guild Fund

Several items were purchased with memorial donations for use in God's house in 2016. If you are planning a future memorial donation, please consider giving it to Altar Guild to purchase additional frontals, banners, candles, altar cloths, etc. to beautiful the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who purchased altar flowers, Easter flowers, and/or Christmas poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary this past year.

March for Life Chicago 2017

You are invited to join thousands of pro-lifers from the greater Chicagoland and tri-state area — many of them Lutherans — at the March for Life Chicago on **Sunday, January 15**. This march begins at the Federal Plaza in Chicago at 2:00 p.m. and ends by 4:00 p.m. Those who wish to attend can bring a sack lunch to eat after Bible Class and then we'll rideshare downtown. We plan to hop aboard the bus Lutherans for Life of Illinois is providing at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle; seats are first come, first served, need to be reserved, and are being covered by free-will donations. We'd love to have our high school and college aged youth be a part of this too. If you are interested in being a part of this, please see **Pastor Mumme**.

Thrivent Financial

A thank you to all the Thrivent members who donated to Choice Dollars during the year. If you haven't designated your Choice Dollars please do so. With funds received we were able to cover the cost of the Thrivent events at the church, and to purchase Manna cards to be given to members of the congregation and to the seminarian. We were able to help cover the many needs of the church such as: items for Little Lambs, the Youth Conference, the Giving Tree, and the gardening needs. We also helped the community with a gift to CareNet. The Thrivent group will continue to cover as many needs as we learn about.

The next meeting will be held in Luther Hall on **January 8** at **10:00 a.m.** to review last year's donations and activities and to set up a schedule for 2017. All members are encouraged to attend.

Portals of Prayer

Now that 2017 is here, we are asking those who make use of the *Portals of Prayer* devotionals to pay this year's annual subscription rate of $13. Simply submit this via the offering plate, earmarked Portals of Prayer ($13/year). Blessings on your continued study of God's Word.

Planning Worksheet

You may not think about it very often, but there are certain things for which you should do some planning. Your funeral is one of them. What are the important dates in your life? Who are your loved ones? What is your confirmation verse? What are some of your favorite Scripture verses and hymns? Whether you are young or old, please pick up a "Funeral Planning Worksheet" from Luther Hall, complete it, and return it to **Karen** or **Pastor**. You are always free to make updates to this worksheet as often as you want. These cold winter months are a great time to complete this worksheet. Thanks in advance for beginning the planning process.

Scheduling Events

Please remember that all activities and special events scheduled for Luther Hall must be noted on the main calendar located in Luther Hall. Christian Education events (Sunday and midweek Bible Class, Sunday School, Youth Catechesis, etc.) and Council meetings are given the highest priority. Private use of Luther Hall by members requires notification of the Church Council. Please contact **Ron Ruisz**, chairman of the Board of Trustees, with any questions or special requests (air conditioning, heat, tables, chairs, etc.).

Fundraising Signup Sheet

There are many organizations in our congregation doing fundraising activities throughout the year. We are making every effort not to overlap efforts. Therefore, we ask that all organizations list their fundraising activities on the signup sheet on the main bulletin board in Luther Hall.

Our Cleaning Crew

A special thank you to our church's cleaning crew for all their hard work in helping to clean our church facilities on a regular basis. This volunteer cleaning crew works diligently to vacuum, dust, scrub, mop, tidy, empty trash, and prepare our facilities each weekend. An additional thank you to all those volunteers who help to take down, clean, serve, and set up on Sunday mornings and for special events. Your help and service is greatly appreciated!

Our Youth Group Thanks You

Our Youth Group thanks you for your donations to their various fundraisers throughout 2016. We look forward to another year of Bible Study, the Higher Things youth conference, activities, food, and fun, and greatly appreciate your prayers and support!

Amazon Smile

Do you order online from Amazon? Did you know that a small percentage of your order can come back and benefit Divine Shepherd? Simply go to smile.amazon.com, select Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook as your charitable organization, and shop like you normally do. Then, begin each of your purchases at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will do the rest. Our congregation will receive 0.5% of every Amazon Smile purchase made by those who designate our congregation as their charitable organization.

Prayer Chain

Several members of our congregation are part of a church prayer chain. If you (women or men) would like to join them in praying for our congregation's special needs, please contact **Bobbie Light** at **630-251-7860** or Pastor Mumme.

Sunday Treats

Do you enjoy treats and fellowship after Sunday services? If so, please consider signing up on any given Sunday(s). *Empty slots means no treats.* Consider bringing fruit and/or crackers and cheese for our diabetic members. The 2016 signup sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board. Monetary donations are accepted to defray the cost of drinks and supplies.

Bulletin Covers & Altar Flowers

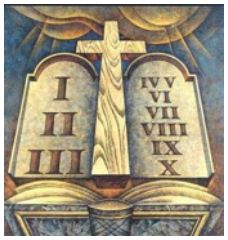
The 2017 flower chart and January–March bulletin charts are posted in the narthex. Sign up for any open Sunday(s) to celebrate a special occasion or to honor/remember someone. Cost of two bouquets is $40, $45, or $50 (subject to change). Cost of bulletins is $10. See **Karen Moritz** for details.

2017 Offering Envelopes

Members, please check your mail slot if you are getting 2017 envelopes. If you have any questions, please see me at church.

Barb Potempa, Financial Secretary

God's Resolutions



We often resolve to improve the "little things" in life (time, weight, finances, etc.) and completely forget about the "big things" that God would have us focus on. What are these big things? God has ten of them for you:

1. Fear, love, and trust in God above all things.
2. Call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.
3. Hold preaching and God's Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it.
4. Honor, serve and obey, love and cherish your parents and other authorities.
5. Help and support your neighbor in every physical need.
6. Lead a sexually pure and decent life, and love and honor your spouse.
7. Help your neighbor to improve and protect his possessions and income.
8. Defend your neighbor, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.
9. Help and be of service to your neighbor in protecting his inheritance and house.
10. Urge your neighbor's spouse and workers to be faithful to him.

Important Phone Numbers

Church Office:	630-759-5300 ext. 1
Preschool:	630-759-5300 ext. 2 (Terri Kreier)
Pastor Mumme:	815-676-4444
Prayer Chain:	630-251-7860 (Bobbie Light)
Newsletter:	630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)

(items are due January 30)

✠ George E. Rousar ✠

At the age of 73 years, 10 days, following a half year battle with cancer, George Rousar fell asleep in the Lord at his home and was received into the Church Triumphant on 12 December 2016.

George (whose birth name was Richmond Phelps) was born in Chicago on 2 December 1943 to a single mother. He was adopted by George and Lillian Rousar, who gave him the name George. He was then born again of water and the Spirit through Holy Baptism in 1948 at Faith Lutheran Church in Cicero. After learning the chief articles of the Christian faith, he confessed his faith publicly in the Rite of Confirmation in June 1958 at Faith Lutheran Church in Cicero.

On 8 June 1990 George married Dawn Rossof at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook, a service officiated by the Rev. Paul Huxhold. Each had two children from a previous marriage. God blessed George and Dawn with 26 years of wedded love and faithfulness.

George served in the U.S. Army, was a veteran of the Vietnam War, and assisted as a bugler for various military rites. In the early 1980s, he began playing organ and directing choir here at Divine Shepherd, sharing those responsibilities with a few others. By the late 1980s, he was the sole musician in charge of playing organ and directing choir and continued that role through this past Easter. Over the course of his life, he played organ at various congregations for a total of 57 years.

By God's grace, George daily lived out his baptism as his Old Adam was drowned and died with all sins and evil desires, and the new man (Christ in him) emerged and arose to live before God in righteousness and purity. He regularly heard and faithfully believed the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, took to heart Christ's life-giving absolution, and found forgiveness and strength in Christ's true body and blood. These means of grace prepared him to be led through the valley of the shadow of death by his Savior. Now he awaits the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting on the Last Day.

George is survived by his beloved wife Dawn, daughters Dina (Michael) Gnat and Lisa (Scott) Reinhart, stepchildren Dan Rossof and Gayle (David) Ludemann, grandchildren David Ludemann and Bradley Reinhart, siblings Sharon, Rita, and Frank, and nieces and nephews.

We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our brother George.