

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

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

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Though we are entering what is commonly called the most wonderful time of the year, it is also one of the busiest times of the year. Thus, it is also one of the most stressful times of the year. Students are gearing up for finals. Businesses are gearing up for year-end tasks. And people of all ages are gearing up for Christmas. There are decorations to put up, gifts to purchase, cards to address, cookies to bake, travels to plan, etc. In the hustle and bustle of the season, it's easy to lose sight of what is truly important. And I'm not talking about family and friends (as good as those precious gifts of God are).

Christmas — and the Advent season that precedes it — is a wonderful opportunity for each and every one of us to live in the world but not of the world, to set our minds on things above, to keep and ponder all the things concerning the Babe of Bethlehem in our hearts, and to proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. How is this done? Below are twelve suggestions to help you keep Jesus at the center of your life this holy season:



- ✓ Attend Advent services. Each service offers a unique glimpse into God's heart as He sends His only-begotten Son into the world to save us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.
- ✓ Purchase an Advent wreath for your home, light the designated candles weekly, and hold family devotions around it every evening.
- ✓ Read the story of Saint Nicholas — a Christian pastor who lived in the fourth century and gave anonymous gifts to members of his community — on December 6.
- ✓ Give anonymous gifts. Teach your children and grandchildren the joy of giving gifts to someone in need. Consider our congregation's Giving Tree, local organizations like MorningStar Mission, etc.
- ✓ Set up a crèche in your home. Begin with an empty stable and some animals. Add Joseph and Mary shortly before Christmas. Add baby Jesus and the shepherds on Christmas Eve. Add the Wise Men on Epiphany.
- ✓ Pray the seven “O” antiphons the final week before Christmas (December 17-23). Each antiphon addresses Jesus using an Old Testament title for Him. These are found at the end of *LSB* 357.
- ✓ Attend as many Christmas services as you are able—the children's Christmas program, the Christmas Eve candlelight service of Lessons and Carols, and the Christmas Day festive Divine Service.
- ✓ Rather than simply buying more trinkets and stuff, give your loved ones at least one Christ-centered Christmas gift — an ornament, a decoration, a book, or a manger scene (or add new pieces each year), etc.
- ✓ Sing a Christ-centered Christmas hymn with family and friends before you eat your Christmas dinner or begin your Christmas festivities.
- ✓ Celebrate the 12 days of Christmas, which run from December 25 to January 5. Keep your house decorated. Continue to play Christmas music. Put 12 gifts in your kid's Christmas stockings, opening one each day.
- ✓ Attend the Epiphany festive Divine Service on January 6, hear anew the story of the wise men, and join in singing the wonderful Epiphany hymns.
- ✓ Give a surprise gift to your children on Epiphany, reminding them of the wise men's gifts to baby Jesus.

(continued...)

What's more, use this season to be gracious to your exhausted neighbors. Greet others warmly and genuinely with a "Merry Christmas" as you're out and about. Be patient with weary store employees. Hold open the door for others. Be generous to those who are struggling. Smile and be joyous.



Keep Jesus at the center of it all and this will indeed be the most wonderful time of the year. Week after week you will find Him wrapped up in the swaddling clothes of His holy Word and blessed Sacraments and lying in the manger of His Church... for you. And having received His gracious gifts, day after day you can praise God for the gift of His Son and make widely known His coming by spreading the Christmas joy to those around you.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you and yours!

Pastor Mumme

December Birthdays

- 03 Al Gernenz
- 10 Victoria Fox
- 11 Bob Potempa
- 12 Olivia Parmenter
- 16 Bradley Learnahan
- 22 Patrick McClain
- 24 Jeff McClain
- 27 Jonathan Gernenz
- 28 Marjorie Jahnsen
- 30 Alicia DeWitt



Baptismal Anniversaries

- 02 Elizabeth Parmenter
- 08 Carolyn Stronczek
- 09 Aiden Schilling
- 11 Jill Olifirowicz
- 15 Bobbie Koritzke
- 16 Luke Mueller
- 25 Cris Ruisz
- 25 Carey Zeller
- 28 Olivia Parmenter
- 29 Al Gernenz
- 00 Cyndi Pallek



Wedding Anniversaries

- 03 Mike & Katie Dobbs

Last Week of the Church Year (December 1-2)

Sat, Dec 2, 9:00 am Christmas Program Practice

Week of Advent 1 (December 3-9)

Sun, Dec 3, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Dec 3, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School
 Tue, Dec 5, 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
 Wed, Dec 6, 3:45 pm Youth Catechesis
 Wed, Dec 6, 7:00 pm Evening Prayer
 Wed, Dec 6, 7:45 pm Choir Practice
 Sat, Dec 9, 9:00 am Christmas Program Practice

Week of Advent 2 (December 10-16)

Sun, Dec 10, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Dec 10, 10:30 am Sunday School
 Sun, Dec 10, 10:30 am Congregational Meeting
 Wed, Dec 13, 3:45 pm Youth Catechesis
 Wed, Dec 13, 7:00 pm Evening Prayer
 Wed, Dec 13, 7:45 pm Choir Practice
 Thu, Dec 14, 7:00 pm Council Meeting
 Sat, Dec 16, 9:00 am Christmas Program Practice
 Sat, Dec 16, 10:30 am Church Decorating
 Sat, Dec 16, 6:00 pm Christmas Caroling

Week of Advent 3 (December 17-23)

Sun, Dec 17, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Dec 17, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School
 Sun, Dec 17, 3:00 pm Children's Program
 Tue, Dec 19, 9:00 am Pastor @Circuit Meeting
 Wed, Dec 20, 5:30 pm Advent Dinner
 Wed, Dec 20, 7:00 pm Evening Prayer
 Wed, Dec 20, 7:45 pm Choir Practice

Week of Advent 4 / Christmas (December 24-30)

Sun, Dec 24, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Dec 24, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School
 Sun, Dec 24, 7:00 pm Candlelight Lessons & Carols
 Mon, Dec 25, 9:00 am Festive Divine Service

Week of Christmas 1 (December 31)

Sun, Dec 31, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Dec 31, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School
 Sun, Dec 31 New Year's Eve

Advent Midweek



Join us this Advent season for our midweek candlelight Evening Prayer services as we ponder anew one of Isaiah's promises regarding the coming Savior: "There shall come forth a Shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots shall bear fruit" (Is 11:1).

Wednesdays in Advent

December 6, 13, & 20
7:00 p.m.

Christmas Decorating

Come and help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on **Saturday, December 16**, beginning at **10:30 a.m.** Many hands make light work.

Christmas Caroling

Join us the evening of **Saturday, December 16** as we do some Christmas caroling at Senior Star at Weber Place in Romeoville, home to Ruth Wroblewski. We will meet and begin caroling at **6:00 p.m.** in the Weber Pub room just past the front desk, so you are invited to show up a few minutes early. Dress Christmassy, bring a smile, be ready to sing, and plan to spend a few minutes greeting the residents afterward. All are welcome.



Senior Star is located at 605 Edward Drive in Romeoville. From Bolingbrook, take Weber Road south past the Romeoville Sam's Club. Turn right (west) on Grand Haven Circle. Turn right (north) on Edward Drive. The facility will be on your right.

Advent Dinner

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ on **Wednesday, December 20** for a delicious dinner in Luther Hall. We'll need a few volunteers to help set up at 5:15 p.m. Dinner will be served **5:30-6:30 p.m.**, leaving us time to clean up before our final Evening Prayer service.

Children's Christmas Program

This year's children Christmas program will again feature our Sunday School children and Little Lambs Preschool. The program starts at **3:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, December 17**. Everyone is invited to attend this special event. We also invite you to bring a plateful of cookies to share after the program. Practices will take place on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. thru December 16.



Christmas Schedule



Join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior this Christmas Eve and Day. Below is the schedule of worship services:

Candlelight Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve @ 7:00 p.m.

Festive Divine Service

Christmas Day @ 9:00 a.m.

Invite your relatives, neighbors, and/or coworkers to join you as we hear anew the story of God becoming man to save us from our sins. The vast array of Christmas hymns and carols will be spread out over these two services, the following Sunday, and Epiphany. O come, let us adore Him!

Youth Cookie Sale

The Youth Group is taking orders for Christmas cookies. The cost is \$15 for 2 dozen or \$25 for 4 dozen (assorted cookies). Orders must be turned in by **Sunday, December 10** with pick up at church on **Sunday, December 17**. The sign-up sheet is posted in Luther Hall. See **Lori Mumme** if you have questions.



Bible & Lutheranism Studies

Sunday Bible Class

Topic: Proverbs

When: Sunday mornings @ 10:45 a.m.

Where: Luther Hall

Men's Bible Breakfast

Topic: Man Up! The Quest for Masculinity

When: resumes in January

Where: TBA

Women's Bible Study

Topic: A Sparrow's Worth

When: resumes in January

Where: Luther Hall

Book of Concord Study

Topic: The Augsburg Confession

When: resumes in January

Where: Luther Hall

Congregational Voters Meeting

Join us on **Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m.** for a congregational voters meeting. We will be electing three members of the Church Council (Board of Christian Education, Board of Elders, Board of Trustees), two members to serve on next year's nominations committee, and approving the 2018 budget. As a reminder, all those who meet the constitutional criteria for voting membership must 'sign' the constitution in order to vote. Signature forms will be available before the meeting and remain valid as long as one remains a voting member.

Thrivent

Thrivent members, if you have not given your Choice Dollars to Divine Shepherd, please do so. Haven't signed up yet? It's easy. Login to your Thrivent account, select Choice Dollars, and follow the prompts. Thrivent members and Choice Dollars are an important source of support for the work our local organization does. Why not do everything you can to make sure that you are getting the most out of your participation.



Train up a child in the way he
should go; and when he is old,
he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Sunday School

The Sunday School is delighted to sing "Savior of Nations Come" on December 3 and is preparing to sing "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come".

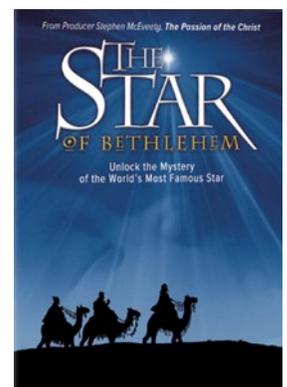
This month, our children will get to hear about Advent, including the birth of Jesus and John foretold, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the Birth of John, and the birth of Jesus. We will also begin our study of Confession and Absolution from the Small Catechism. For more information, check out our website under Education and Sunday School. See you in Sunday School.

Mike Dobbs, Superintendent

Church Library

Our "book of the month" for December is *The Star of Bethlehem: Unlock the Mystery of the World's Most Famous Star* (DVD) by MPower Pictures, LLC.

"We saw His star in the east and we have come to worship Him." This documentary explores the exciting truth of Scripture and reveals the evidence for God's existence as seen in the stars above. It walks you through Biblical and historical clues revealing the significance of this celestial event as well as the vastness of God's creativity. Discover the secret of the star. (See the disclaimer inside the DVD case before viewing.)



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

Kitchen Renovation: Our Renovation Fund continues to grow. It includes enough to purchase the majority of the cabinets. A recent addition is a donation of \$1,200 designated for counters. The new stove should be arriving in the kitchen very soon.

Giving Tree: The Giving Tree is set up in the narthex with envelopes for seniors, families with/without children, and singles. Order forms are under the tree. Choose an envelope, order or purchase gift cards, and give it to **Lisa Cruz** by **Sunday, December 10**. It is important to get those gift cards to the recipients in time for them to purchase the requested item before Christmas arrives. As you know, every year Christmas arrives faster and faster.



Christmas Food Drive: The Thrivent group is again sponsoring the Christmas Food Drive in connection with the Giving Tree for our members who are in need this holiday season. This year there are more names on our list than any other year so far. We have families with children, single parents, couples and seniors who can benefit from our help. Bring your contribution to church by **Sunday, December 17**. In addition to food brought by congregation members, Thrivent Financial has given us \$250 to purchase extra food items for a festive Christmas dinner: turkeys, potatoes, dessert, etc. What should you bring? Things like soup, canned vegetables/fruit, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, mac and cheese, stuffing mix, etc. If it is an item you like, surely others on the list will like it also.



Candy Bars: Fannie May chocolate bars are available after Sunday services (\$2 each or 3 for \$5). They are so delicious.

Pre-Purchased Cards: Pre-purchased Shop with Scrip (Manna) cards for Home Run Inn, Darden Restaurants, Subway, Walmart, Starbucks, and Target are available for purchase each Sunday. These gift cards are great for every day purchases, birthdays, vacations, and the Giving Tree.

Wine and Chocolate Fest: There are plans to host a “Wine and Chocolate Fest” in February. All are invited. There will be appetizers and desserts as well as chocolate. Some wine will be provided. You are also welcome to bring along your favorite.

Clothing Drive: All of us have just finished, or are in the process of exchanging our summer wardrobe to winter garments. If you have found clothing that you no longer want or outgrew, bring it to church on any Sunday. Ladies Aid is now able to get cash for gently used clothing. 20 cents per pound doesn't sound like much, but it will quickly grow into dollars. Give your items to **Judy Yuenger** or any Ladies Aid member (with a tag stating “Ladies Aid”). Thank you.

Shop with Scrip (Manna)



The next turn-in date is **December 3, 10, & 17, January 21, and February 18**.

The new company that has taken over the Manna program is charging more for the delivery of the gift cards. For this reason, orders will be sent only once a month (the third Sunday) during the year, except during the holiday season.

Your Organization:

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church - Manna

Your Coordinator:

Lisa Cruz

630-636-6359 • dslcmanna@yahoo.com

Your Enrollment Code:

B2LD2C7A55973

March for Life Chicago

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 14 (2018)**.

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. Lutherans for Life of Illinois may have a chartered bus available from the western suburbs; will keep you posted. We'd love to have our high school and college aged youth be a part of this too. If you are interested, please see **Pastor**.



Prayer Chain

Several members of our congregation are part of a church prayer chain. If you 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). Why not sign up with a friend? *Empty slots means no treats.* To enable our diabetic members to enjoy these treats, please consider supplementing some of the "sugary goodies" with crackers and cheese and/or fruit. The signup sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board. Monetary donations are accepted to defray the cost of drinks and paper products, which are supplied by Ladies Aid.

Forms to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season are in the narthex. Completed forms and money are due by **Sunday, December 17**. In lieu of purchasing a poinsettia, consider donating to purchase handcrafted chrismos for next year's tree.

Cleaning Help

We are looking for someone to help clean our sanctuary and facilities the fourth weekend each month. Can you give an hour? You are welcome to work alone or pair up with someone. Times are flexible. Contact **Ron Ruisz** (Trustee) if you can help out.

Bulletin Covers & Altar Flowers

The December 2017 and January–March 2018 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 bulletins is \$10.

The 2018 flower charts are posted. This is a wonderful way to help beautify God's house, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or remember a departed loved one.

Traditionally flowers are not used during the penitential seasons of Lent and Advent.

We typically have special floral arrangements for certain festivals: palms on Palm Sunday, spring flowers on Easter Sunday, red bouquets on Confirmation, and poinsettias on Christmas. If you would like to contribute flowers to help beautify the sanctuary on a Lord's Day, please add your name to any open Sunday on the flower charts.



Prices are \$40, \$45, or \$50 for two bouquets, (subject to change). If you sign up, **Karen Moritz** will contact you to get your price range, flower request, and a brief note to place in the worship bulletin. When the worship service is over, you are welcome to take your bouquets home or you may leave them at church for the following Sunday or for pastor to take to homebound or hospitalized members.

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 Wednesday, December 27)

Treasurer's Report

<u>As of October 31</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Expenses	\$149,772	\$160,177
Income	\$145,830	\$140,300

We had to borrow against the Capital Expense dedicated fund to pay bills the last several months as donations have been down. Prayerfully consider returning your firstfruits to God and the work of the Gospel.

Denise Ziesemer, Treasurer

Blood Drive

We are planning a blood drive on **Saturday, March 3 (2018)** in Luther Hall. Please mark your calendar. Watch for more information as it becomes available.

Amazon Smile



Ten Ways to Share the Heart of Jesus This Christmas

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." [John 3:16]

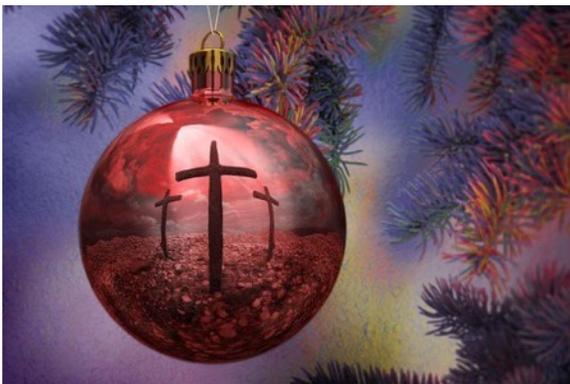
Go to smile.amazon.com, select Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook as your charitable organization, begin each of your purchases at smile.amazon.com, and Amazon will do the rest. Our congregation will receive 0.5% of every Amazon Smile purchase made. Thanks for supporting us!

Lutheran Public Radio



Lutheran Public Radio is currently playing sacred Advent and Christmas music for your enjoyment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can listen whenever you want via lutheranpublicradio.org, the Amazon app, Amazon Echo, Android (Google Play), Apple (iTunes), or tunein.

Why Jesus Was Born



**"She will bear a Son,
and you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people
from their sins."**

Matthew 1:20-21

1. Give the Gift of Encouragement. Instead of writing letters to Santa, have children write letters to someone who needs encouragement this Christmas (i.e. soldiers, nursing home residents, congregational shut-ins, or hospital patients).
2. Give the Gift of Hope. Adopt a needy family in your church or community. Bless them with Christmas gifts, a special dinner, or donate thru the Giving Tree.
3. Give the Gift of Joy. Find simple ways to bring a smile to someone's face during the Christmas season. For example, pay for the car behind you at a drive-through, smile at everyone you see, and wish others a "Blessed Christmas."
4. Give the Gift of Kindness. Offer your time or energy to someone in need. Hang lights for an elderly neighbor, shovel a driveway, offer to entertain young children or wrap presents for an overwhelmed parent.
5. Give the Gift of Words. Speak words of affirmation and affection to your friends and family. Take time to write a special note in your Christmas cards.
6. Give the Gift of Faith. Read the Christmas story with your family. Talk about what Christ's birth means for your life today.
7. Give the Gift of Peace. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, set aside one "silent night" to be at home. Light a fire, curl up with a cup of hot chocolate, and take a few moments to rest.
8. Give the Gift of Hospitality. Invite someone to your home who may not have family close by or host an open house for your neighbors.
9. Give the Gift of Time. Help nursing home residents write Christmas letters, spend a few hours at a shelter, or offer to babysit so busy parents can go on a date.
10. Give the Gift of Love. Whatever you do, ask God to help you reflect His heart and share the love that inspired Him to send us the very best gift of all.

Source: DaySpring

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**