



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

February 2018 Newsletter

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



The Desires of Your Heart

King David writes, "Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Ps 37:4).

Sounds like a formula. A transaction. A business deal. If you do A, then God will do B. And B just happens to be "the desires of your heart." When most people hear King David's words, they ponder the possibilities. They dream big dreams. They take out God's checkbook and begin writing big checks. A bigger home. A newer car. A secure job. A fully funded retirement fund. A happy family. Good health. Responsible government. Low taxes. Quality education. World peace. But is that what King David is actually saying? Is that what he means by the desires of your heart?

To better understand the desires of the heart that God promises to give, we must remember the two sources of desire that are present within every Christian. We are *simul iustus et peccator* (simultaneously saint and sinner). We have an Old Adam in us that desires one set of things and a New Man in us that desires another set of things.

The former set of desires — the desires of the flesh, those that stem from the Old Adam — is sinful and damaging to faith. Because our flesh is corrupt through deceitful desires, Saint Paul exhorts us to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires" (Rom 13:14).

The latter set of desires — the desires of the spirit, those that stem from the New Man — is godly and an outgrowth of faith in Jesus Christ. The Spirit within us seeks the things that are above, where Christ is (Col 3:1). The Spirit within us desires to live a godly life (2 Tim 3:12), to act honorably in all things (Heb 13:18), to pray that unbelievers may hear the Gospel and be saved (Rom 10:1), and ultimately to depart and be with Christ (Phil 1:23).

As you can see, the Christian heart is filled with two sets of desires: the desires of the flesh and the desires of the spirit. Having been baptized into Jesus Christ, your daily calling is this: "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do" (Gal 5:16-17). Saint Paul then adds, "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5:24).

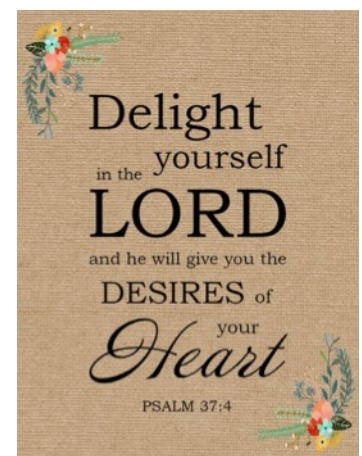
That brings us back to David's words, "Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Do you want the desires of your heart? Then fill your heart with godly desires — desires such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Fill your heart with godly desires by filling your ears with His holy Word, remembering your baptism daily, and seeking those things that are above.

Do you want the desires of your heart? Then delight yourself in the LORD. Find joy in Him. Find peace in Him. Find contentment in Him. Look to Him. Trust Him. Hold on to Him. In your weakness, He is your strength. In your sorrow, He is your hope. In your sin, He is your forgiveness and salvation.

No wonder King David prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Ps 51:10). When a heart has been cleansed by God, it delights in God and is filled with godly desires. Not my will, but Your will be done. What's more, God loves to grant those godly desires to His children. For their benefit. And for the world's benefit.

"Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Ps 37:4).



Pastor Mumme



Calendar

Week of Epiphany 5 (February 4-10)

Sun, Feb 4, 9:00 a.m. Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 4, 10:30 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School
 Mon, Feb 5, 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting
 Wed, Feb 7, 3:45 p.m. Youth Catechesis
 Wed, Feb 7, 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
 Thu, Feb 8, 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Week of Transfiguration (February 11-17)

Sun, Feb 11, 9:00 a.m. Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 11, 10:05 a.m. Thrivent Meeting
 Sun, Feb 11, 10:30 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School
 Tue, Feb 13, 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
 Wed, Feb 14, 7:00 p.m. Solemn Divine Service
 Wed, Feb 14, 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice
 Sat, Feb 17, 8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast
 Sat, Feb 17, 10:00 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting
 Sat, Feb 17, 11:00 a.m. Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of Lent 1 (February 18-24)

Sun, Feb 18, 9:00 a.m. Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 18, 10:30 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School
 Tue, Feb 20, 9:00 a.m. Pastor @ Circuit Meeting
 Tue, Feb 20, 7:00 p.m. Book of Concord Study
 Wed, Feb 21, 3:45 p.m. Youth Catechesis
 Wed, Feb 21, 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
 Wed, Feb 21, 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice

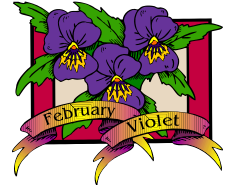
Week of Lent 2 (February 25-28)

Sun, Feb 25, 9:00 a.m. Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 25, 10:30 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School
 Wed, Feb 28, 3:45 p.m. Youth Catechesis
 Wed, Feb 28, 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
 Wed, Feb 28, 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice



February Birthdays

03 Brian Rambeaux
 12 Lisa Cruz
 12 Amelia (Mia) Johnson
 14 Hector (Manny) Martinez
 15 Moira Delaney
 17 Karen McClain
 18 Monica DeWitt
 18 Nadine Parmenter
 21 Anita DeWitt
 22 Don Fiolka
 23 Larry Jordan
 25 Amy Jordan
 25 Payton Murray
 26 Rebekah Dobbs
 28 Kelli Olifrowicz



Baptismal Anniversaries

08 Victoria Fox
 11 Jonathan Gernenz
 14 Patrick McClain
 16 Kristina Learnahan
 17 Mary Dobbs
 17 Christa McClain
 19 Alicia DeWitt
 20 Vincenzo Data
 22 Rebecca Parmenter
 27 Carol Kuroski



Wedding Anniversaries

18 Brian & Cindy Rambeaux
 19 Al & Ann Gernenz

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday falls on **Wednesday, February 14** this year. Join us as we begin our 40-day journey to the cross with a solemn Divine Service at **7:00 p.m.** This service begins with corporate confession and absolution and the imposition of ashes (for those who wish to receive them), focuses on a portion of Jesus' sermon on the mount, and ends with the Lord's Supper.



A Closer Look at a Hymn: From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

Our hymn of the day for Ash Wednesday is “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee” (*LSB* 607). Below is a little background on this hymn.

Toward the end of 1523 Martin Luther wrote to his friend George Spalatin, court chaplain of Frederick the Wise, inviting him to turn some psalms into German hymns for the benefit of the people. He enclosed as an example his own composition of Psalm 130 titled “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee.” This psalm, with its portrayal of deepest repentance and highest assurance of forgiveness, constituted for Luther an expression of his own experience. Hence he was concerned that the forgiveness of sins—the very heart of Biblical and Reformation doctrine—be impressed on people’s hearts. This hymn was later sung in the Wittenberg Castle Church at the burial of Frederick the Wise, as well as at the burial of John the Steadfast. It was sung by the congregation in the Church of Our Dear Lady in Halle as Luther’s body lay in state there (20 February 1546) on its way from Eisleben to Wittenberg.

In preparation for Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season, take a few minutes to read through Psalm 130. And when you sing “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee,” now you know the rest of the story.

Lent Midweek

This Lenten season we will ponder anew Christ’s great love for us during our five midweek Evening Prayer services. The Passion of Our Lord—drawn from all four Gospels and broken into five parts—will be our focus:

The Upper Room
The Garden of Gethsemane
The Palace of the High Priest
The Praetorium
Calvary



These services begin on **Wednesday, February 21** at **7:00 p.m.** and run approximately 45 minutes. If any groups within the congregation would like to sponsor a dinner to precede one of these worship services, please let Karen Moritz know ASAP. *Dinners will take place in Luther Hall only on Wednesdays where a sponsoring group has signed up.*

Individual Absolution

While the entire church year is one of acknowledging our sins and receiving Christ’s forgiveness, the season of Lent vividly holds before our eyes the consequences of sin. Therefore, I have an invitation for you this Lenten season. Our gracious heavenly Father gives you Christ’s forgiveness in many forms. You receive it in the corporate Absolution at the beginning of each Divine Service. You receive it through the Gospel. You receive it in the Lord’s Supper. You pray for it daily in the Lord’s Prayer and in your personal prayers.

However, have you ever considered receiving it individually from your pastor? This is one of the many tasks I am called to do. Some come to private confession simply to hear the absolution individually applied. That is a good enough reason all by itself. Others come because they have guilt or shame over past sins, there are specific sins that still plague them, and/or they desire not only Christ’s absolution but also pastoral counsel from God’s Word and the specific prayers of their pastor. I am here for that too!



While there are many benefits to individual absolution, many stay away from this precious gift for all sorts of reasons. “What if the pastor tells his wife, the elders, or someone else what I confess?” Remember, I vowed at my ordination and again at my installation at Divine Shepherd never to divulge the sins confessed to me, and I take that vow very seriously. Since God forgives your sins (whether “small” or “big”), who am I to bring them up to anyone? “What will the pastor think of me if he knows I _____, or struggle with _____?” So you are a sinner like me, have done things you regret, and struggle with certain temptations. That is not shocking. Remember, we are poor, miserable sinners by nature. It actually helps me be a better pastor to you if I know your sins and struggles.

Individual absolution can be handled informally in my office/study, but is usually done in the privacy of the empty sanctuary. A typical order of Individual Confession and Absolution is found in *Lutheran Service Book* on pages 292-293. Also, know that I practice what I preach. I, too, make use of brother pastors to receive this wonderful gift. Ultimately, individual absolution is not a requirement but a gift. When you desire it, know that I will be happy to administer it to you and help you in your walk of faith.

Pastor Mumme

Bible & Lutheranism Studies

Sunday Bible Class

Topic: Proverbs

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

Where: Luther Hall

Women's Bible Study

Topic: A Sparrow's Worth

When: Tuesday, February 13 @ 1:00 p.m.

Where: Luther Hall

Men's Bible Breakfast

Topic: Man Up! The Quest for Masculinity

When: Saturday, February 17 @ 8:30 a.m.

Where: Family Square Restaurant

Book of Concord Study

Topic: The Augsburg Confession

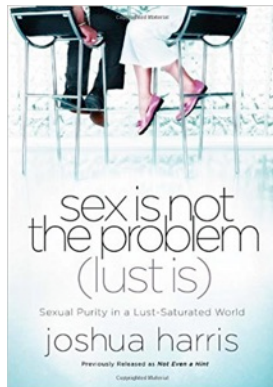
When: Tuesday, February 20 @ 7:00 p.m.

Where: Luther Hall

Church Library

Our "book of the month" for February is *Sex Is Not the Problem (Lust Is): Sexuality Purity in a Lust-Saturated World* by Joshua Harris.

This bestselling author reminds the reader that neither sex nor sexuality is our enemy, but that we need to rescue our sexuality from lust so we can experience it as God intended. Specific and honest without being graphic, this book — for both men and women — will guide you in creating a custom plan for fighting lust, celebrating purity, and finding one's identity in Jesus 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.

Youth Group

Six members of our youth group will be attending the Higher Things youth conference at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale this July.

As we plan and fund our conferences a year in advance to get the best rate, we are currently beginning to raise

funds for the 2019 conference. Watch for our upcoming fundraisers and/or submit a donation any Sunday via the offering plates (earmarked Youth Group Fund). Thanks, as always, for your ongoing support.

Luther Hall Cabinets



This past month we saw improvements in Luther Hall as cabinets were installed along the wall by the kitchen. These cabinets were donated by Terry & Colleen Donaldson's daughter, who was updating her kitchen. The countertops were purchased by the Ladies Aid. These cabinets will function as a serving area for fellowship events and offer some much needed storage for our kitchen items. Upcoming improvements include a redo of the entire kitchen, a project we hope to complete this summer. Thanks for your donations and support of these projects as we work to maintain and improve our facilities.

Ladies Aid

Now that the cabinets are in Luther Hall, the next major step is the gutting of the kitchen and the installation of new cabinets, flooring, and counter tops. This will take place this summer. We are still in need of some funds to make this all happen, some of which will come from the Rummage Sale. If you'd like to make a contribution, any amount is welcome.

Items for the clothing drive may be brought at any time. Just give them to **Judy Yuenger** or any Ladies Aid member. Keep an eye out for other items for the Rummage Sale. Set them aside as you find them. More rummage items means more money to complete the kitchen.

Mark your calendar:

- Lenten Dinner on March 7
- Fannie Mae candy bars in March
- Wine and Chocolate Social in April
- Rummage Sale in June

Shop with Scrip (Manna)



Shop with Scrip (Manna) cards were popular for Christmas giving, and they remain available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. See **Judy Yuenger** to buy pre-purchased cards after Sunday services. Order forms are available in Luther Hall. 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. The next Manna order turn-in date is **Sunday, February 18**.

Your Organization:

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church - Manna

Your Coordinator:

Lisa Cruz

630-636-6359 • dslemana@yahoo.com

Your Enrollment Code:

B2LD2C7A55973

This program also gives us extra funds. An order sheet is available on the cabinet by the Luther Hall entry/exit door, or pick up one of the pre-purchased cards after service on Sundays. These cards can be reloaded with any amount so you do not have to continually buy new cards. See **Lisa Cruz** with any questions.

Thrivent

Thrivent members, if you have not given your Choice Dollars to Divine Shepherd, please do so. *At the end of December the last quarter of Choice Dollars were posted to your account. These and any accumulation of 2017 funds must be donated by March 31 or they will be forfeited.* 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.



The Thrivent Group meets on the second Sunday each month after the Divine Service. Come join us.

Membership Updates

Greg & Christa McClain

(home phone)

630-908-2989

Tax Letters

2017 tax letters showing your yearly contributions were placed into your church mailslot for you to pick up. If you moved more than 30 miles away this past year, your tax letter was mailed out. Any questions, please call me at **630-739-4447**.

Barb Potempa, Financial Secretary

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.

Hymnal Ribbons

Please help us out by tucking the hymnal ribbons back into the front or back cover of the hymnals in your pew after each worship service.

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.

For Whom Can You Pray?

Each week we compile a list of members and others who are in our prayers. This list is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Some of these names are spoken in the Prayer of the Church on Sundays, while all of these names are remembered by those on our prayer chain. Even if you're not part of our prayer chain, consider checking this list on occasion and remembering one or more of them in your prayers. What's more, please pass along any updates to Pastor or Bobbie Light.

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.

Bulletin Covers & Altar Flowers

The February–June 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.

Planning Worksheet

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.

Follow Us on Social Media

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with church happenings and events, find a variety of new and old congregational photos, and read inspirational posts and quotes from Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and various Christians throughout the centuries.

Facebook: [fb.me/DSLCLCbolingbrook](https://www.facebook.com/DSLCLCbolingbrook)

Twitter: [@dslc60440](https://twitter.com/dslc60440)

Feed My Starving Children

Join us on **Monday, March 5 (8:00–9:30 p.m.)** as we pack meals at Feed My Starving Children for hungry children around the world. We are looking for adults, teens, and kids to help with this service project (3rd grade and up is what the organization recommends). Please pre-register by visiting the following webpage:



<http://volunteer.fmsc.org/Register/Group/JoinGroup.aspx?gid=1323071>

Blood Drive



We are partnering with Life Source to host a blood drive on **Saturday, March 24 (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)** and we’d love you to be a part of it. Adults welcome (16 & 17 year olds will need a signed parental permission form). Appointments are preferred (it’s also quicker for you), although walk-ins are also welcome. Help us help those who need donor blood. The need is great.

Ink & Toner Cartridges

The youth group continues to accept used toner and ink cartridges as a fundraiser. However, please note that the company we work with only accepts original Brother, Canon, HP, and Lexmark *toner* cartridges, and original Canon, HP, and Lexmark *ink* cartridges. These may be dropped off on the shelves near the entrance/exit in Luther Hall. Toner and ink cartridges not listed above may be recycled at Cartridge World. Thanks!

March for Life Chicago



Three of our members participated in the March for Life Chicago on Sunday, January 14, joining numerous other LCMS members and thousands of others from the Midwest who heard from several speakers before peacefully marching along the designated route. It was a joyous and inspiring march. Prayers and hymns were readily heard. The signs, placards, and banners all championed the value of life in the womb.

*“Open your mouth, judge righteously,
defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
Proverbs 31:9*

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 February 26)

Treasurer's Report

As of December 31	Actual	Budget
Expenses	\$182,146	\$191,839
Income	\$181,612	\$170,300

Mortgage Balance: \$184,332

Amazon Smile

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!

Little Lambs Fundraiser



Our Little Lamb Preschool is currently selling pastry puffins to raise funds for playground improvements. Orders are due **Sunday, February 19** with delivery in early March. See **Terri Kreier** to place an order.

Issues, Etc.



You are invited to listen to Issues, Etc. — the radio voice of the Lutheran faith for the 21st century. Issues, Etc. is Lutheran talk radio hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Listen live (3:00-5:00pm CST) or at your leisure via the following options (go to issuesetc.org and click on the ‘listen’ tab for specific options):

- issuesetc.org (via a web browser)
- Sirius XM
- Amazon app
- Android via Google Play
- Apple via iTunes
- Windows Phone
- tunein
- stitcher

Making the Case Conference

This summer's Issues, Etc. “Marking the Case” Conference is scheduled for **Friday–Saturday, June 8–9** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, Illinois. It will begin with a two-hour live broadcast of Issues, Etc. and then feature six renowned speakers on the topics of justification, scientism, life issues, Islam, godliness, and the prosperity gospel. Registration includes the conference and three meals. Register before March 1 and save \$10. Learn more by visiting:

<http://issuesetc.org/2018conference/>