



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

February 2019 Newsletter

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



Training in Righteousness

From Genesis to Revelation, Holy Scripture is all about Jesus and the forgiveness, life, and salvation He won for sinners by means of His blood, His suffering, His death on the cross. John writes: "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (Jn 20:31). Paul adds: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16-17).

All Scripture is "breathed out by God." Those *four* words in English are actually only *one* word in Greek. *Theopneustos*, which literally means God-breathed. Divinely inspired. Peter explains: "No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet 1:21).

All Scripture is "profitable." Not in monetary terms, but in spiritual terms. First, "for teaching" both factual, historical information and imparting and strengthening saving faith in Jesus Christ. Second, "for reproof" of error and false teaching. Third, "for correction" that we would be set on the right path. And fourth, "for training in righteousness." We are all familiar with the general concept of training. Whether one is training to walk a 5K or run a marathon, it is hard work. Training involves a commitment of one's time, doing what is hard, enduring the pain, seeking the expertise and accountability of a trainer, learning from one's mistakes, and pressing on toward the goal at hand.

Training in righteousness is no different. It is a commitment of one's time (being in God's Word). Doing what is hard (crucifying the sinful flesh). Enduring the pain (the consequences of our sin and life in this fallen world). Seeking the expertise and accountability of a trainer (pastors and fellow Christians). Learning from one's mistakes (noting how our sins hurt ourselves and others). And pressing on toward the goal at hand (a life of faith that reflects the love and forgiveness of Christ in our words and deeds). This is *not* to suggest that *our righteousness before God* is something we do or accomplish (it isn't). But *our righteousness before others* is something in which we actively and joyously participate.

Clothed with Christ's righteousness and empowered by the Holy Spirit, our entire life as a child of God is one of training in righteousness. The psalmist sums it up this way: "Trust in the LORD, and do good" (Ps 37:3a).

The Greek word for "training" here is *paideia*, a word that encompasses education, nurture, instruction, discipline, correction, even chastisement. This word is also used elsewhere: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline (*paideia*) and instruction of the Lord" (Eph 6:4). See also Hebrews 12:5-11.

Friends, make the commitment. Immerse yourself in God's Word in the Divine Service, in Bible study, and at home. It will be difficult. Sometimes painful. Seek accountability. Learn from your mistakes. And keep pressing on toward the goal of a life that is lived in fervent love toward one another. Not because that righteousness saves you (it doesn't), but because that righteousness ultimately benefits your neighbor. That's why Paul ends his words as follows: "that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Following Paul's lead, "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:14). God's blessings on your training!

Pastor Mumme





Calendar

Week of Epiphany 4 (February 3-9)

Sun, Feb 3, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Feb 3, 10:45 am	Bible Class & Sunday School
Tues, Feb 5, 7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
Wed, Feb 6, 4:00 pm	Midweek Bible School
Wed, Feb 6, 4:00 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Feb 6, 7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thu, Feb 7, 7:00 pm	Council Meeting

Week of Epiphany 5 (February 10-16)

Sun, Feb 10, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Feb 10, 10:05 am	Thrivent Meeting
Sun, Feb 10, 10:45 am	Bible Class & Sunday School
Sun, Feb 10, 3:00 pm	Youth Group Laser Tag
Tue, Feb 12, 1:00 pm	Women's Bible Study
Tue, Feb 12, 7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
Wed, Feb 13, 4:00 pm	Midweek Bible School
Wed, Feb 13, 4:00 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Feb 13, 7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sat, Feb 16, 8:30 am	Men's Bible Breakfast
Sat, Feb 16, 10:00 am	Altar Guild Meeting
Sat, Feb 16, 11:00 am	Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of Epiphany 6 (February 17-23)

Sun, Feb 17, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Feb 17, 10:45 am	Bible Class & Sunday School
Tue, Feb 19, 9:00 am	Pastor @ Circuit Meeting
Tue, Feb 19, 7:00 pm	Book of Concord Study
Wed, Feb 20, 4:00 pm	Midweek Bible School
Wed, Feb 20, 4:00 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Feb 20, 7:00 pm	Choir Practice

Week of Epiphany 7 (February 24-28)

Sun, Feb 24, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Feb 24, 10:45 am	Bible Class & Sunday School
Wed, Feb 27, 11:00 am	Pastor @ NICL Study
Wed, Feb 27, 4:00 pm	Midweek Bible School
Wed, Feb 27, 4:00 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Feb 27, 7:00 pm	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 Nadine Parmenter
 23 Larry Jordan
 25 Amy Jordan
 25 Payton Murray
 26 Rebekah Dobbs
 28 Kelli Olifirowicz



Baptismal Anniversaries

08 Victoria Fox
 11 Jonathan Gernenz
 14 Patrick McClain
 16 Kristina Learnahan
 17 Mary Dobbs
 17 Christa McClain
 22 Rebecca Parmenter
 27 Carol Kuroski



Wedding Anniversaries

18 Brian & Cindy Rambeaux
 19 Al & Ann Gernenz

Bible & Lutheranism Studies

Sunday Bible Class

Topic: The Great Patriarchs
 When: Sunday mornings @ 10:45 a.m.
 Where: Luther Hall

Women's Bible Study

Topic: Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman
 When: Tuesday, February 12 @ 1:00 p.m.
 Where: Luther Hall

Men's Bible Breakfast

Topic: King David
 When: Saturday, February 16 @ 8:30 a.m.
 Where: Chick-fil-A

Book of Concord Study

Topic: The Augsburg Confession
 When: Tuesday, February 19 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Where: Luther Hall

Lenten VBS



Children ages 3-12 are invited on a special Lenten journey on **Saturday, March 16 (10:00–11:30 a.m.)** here at church. They will join the crowds with palm branches in hand to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and then sit with Jesus' disciples in the Upper Room as He washes feet and institutes an incredible meal. RSVP via our Facebook event or the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Luther Hall.

Youth Group

Three members of our youth group will be attending the Higher Things youth conference at Concordia University in Saint Paul, Minnesota this June. 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 2020 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.

Church Library

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

January weather was not cooperative and our meeting was cancelled.

Please join us on **Saturday, February 16 at 11:00 a.m.** We will be starting the planning and set up for our main fundraising project: the RUMMAGE SALE! The more hands the better this week goes. A little effort by each person makes the effort very enjoyable. Many of us think the highlight of this project is the fellowship with the workers during this week. It is a while before the sale happens, but really, plan to join with us to make it a success. It is not too early to start saving items for the sale. The ongoing clothing drive continues. Bring gently used clothing to church any time and give to Judy Yuenger or any Ladies Aid member.

Shop with Scrip

Shop with Scrip (Manna) cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Order date is February 17. Pre-purchased cards are available after Sunday services and forms are on the cabinet by the outside door 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. What's more, many of these cards can be reloaded so you do not have to continually buy new cards.

Your Organization:

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church - Manna

Your Coordinator:

Lisa Cruz

630-636-6359 • dslcmanna@yahoo.com

Your Enrollment Code:

B2LD2C7A55973

Shop with Scrip Rebates

You may elect to receive 50% of your profit percentage back as a cash rebate. These rebates will be paid directly to you in the form of a quarterly check. The more you purchase using physical cards, reload, reload now, and scrip ecards the more you will earn. Any questions, please contact **Lisa Cruz** at 630-636-6390 or email at dslcmanna@yahoo.com.

Benefit Mobile

Sign up via benefit-mobile.com and designate Divine Shepherd as your charitable organization. Then download the app (Apple or Android). Benefit Mobile purchases qualify for our 50% cash back rebate. Purchased gift cards are electronic instead of physical cards and can be used immediately. You may also send these as a gift to an email account.



Thank you to everyone who donated their Choice Dollars in 2018. If you have not done so, please consider donating before the end of February. All monies received are used to help our members and various other church needs. Hope to see all members at the next meeting on **Sunday, February 10 at 10:05 a.m.**

Blood Drive



We are partnering with Vitalant (formerly LifeSource) to host a blood drive on **Saturday, March 16 (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.

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 approval by the Church Council. Please contact **Cindy Rambeaux**, 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 make 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.

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

Please consider signing up to bring treats on any given Sunday(s). Empty slots mean no treats. The signup sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board. Consider bringing cheese and crackers and/or fruit for our diabetic members. 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–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 bulletins is \$10.

The 2019 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. 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. 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 February 25)

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.

Christian Stewardship



What 5 requirements does God make on every Christian regarding money offerings?

“You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.” [2 Corinthians 9:7]

So the Lord wants me to make my money offerings *willingly*.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first part of everything your land produces. Then He will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with the finest wine.” [Proverbs 3:9-10]

The Lord wants me to make my money offerings to Him *first*. He is not pleased when I give Him leftovers.

“On the first day of every week, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.” [1 Corinthians 16:2]

This tells me that the Lord wants me to make my money offerings to Him *regularly*, that is, whenever I have income, whether I am able to go to church that week or not.

“Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.” [Deuteronomy 16:17]

“Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given.” [Luke 12:48]

The Lord tells me that it is not the amount itself that is important. What is important is that I make my money offerings *proportionately*. In other words, I should give a generous percentage of the income the Lord enables me to earn through my work and investments.

“Now I want to tell you, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done for the churches in Macedonia. Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem.” [2 Corinthians 8:1-4]

Jesus said, **“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”** [Luke 7:47]

So my money offerings to the Lord should also be made *generously*.

Here’s the list of Biblical principles when it comes to making money offerings:

1. Willingly
2. First
3. Regularly (whenever I have income)
4. Proportionately (percentage)
5. Generously (faithful giving starts at a tithe)

*excerpt from “Stewardship under the Cross”
Rev. H. R. Curtis*

Treasurer’s Report

<u>As of 12/31/18</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Expenses	\$189,770	\$191,843
Income	\$184,761	\$173,460

Tax Letters

2018 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



March for Life Chicago

Two of our members participated in the March for Life Chicago on January 13, 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*

A Message from Lutherans for Life

New York State’s Abortion Law

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink, Executive Director

Today we grieve with the citizens and residents of New York. On Tuesday, January 22, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the Reproductive Health Act into law.

The state has tolerated abortion up to 24-weeks gestation since before *Roe v. Wade*. This new policy decriminalizes killing a child even up until birth if the little one has a condition a doctor thinks will cause death soon after being born. It calls it OK to abort a baby throughout pregnancy if the doctor believes carrying to term threatens the mother’s life or health. Other jurisdictions have stretched such “mother’s health” provisions to include simply her comfort or preference. (Caesarean section surgeries at 24 weeks or later are quicker and safer for both mother and child than any abortion. Premature infants as young as 22 weeks regularly survive without complications, and thousands of mothers undergo successful C-sections every day.) The regulation deletes a previous law that required medical care for any child born alive after a failed abortion—and it invites facility staff who are not doctors to carry out abortions.

New York’s senate applauded. The governor directed turning the spire of One World Trade Center to pink to “celebrate.” Our country’s fourth-most populated state already has an abortion rate almost twice (23.1 per 1,000 women) the national average (11.8 per 1,000). In the largest U.S. city, New York City, 78% of abortions involve black Americans, and more black babies are aborted than born there. Where our nation’s most treasured landmark announces “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,” the leaders and laws have abandoned women and children. The human community ought to protect and support

them, especially because bringing forth the great gifts of life and future leaves them vulnerable. Instead, a sex-obsessed culture has sentenced them to desertion and death.

Nevertheless, our courage does not wane. Our compassion only swells. The Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims that our Almighty Maker creates, redeems, and calls every member of the human race to be His precious treasure forever. This Heavenly Father gives our whole species its sanctity and significance, and no one’s age, appearance, experience, ability, or history can improve or impair it. We celebrate our Savior’s crucifixion to forgive sins and His resurrection to defeat death. And we commit ourselves to receive especially the least of these as special privileges.

Dear neighbors of New York, we see you. However afraid or alone you feel, the people of Lutherans For Life hear your cries and pleas. No matter how ashamed you are, the Christian Church that is the Lord’s own body loves you. You don’t have to surrender to the devil’s deception that death be used as a solution to difficulties.

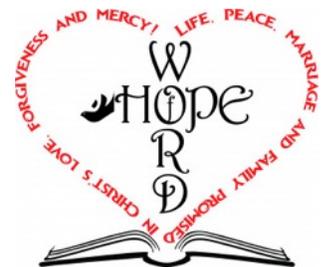
We are going to continue to marshal all the resources within our reach to preserve and embrace you from the womb until the tomb. We vow to come alongside you, carry your crosses, share your sorrows, suffer and labor together. We offer our individual and united voices to advocate for your well-being—not only immediately, but eternally. We open our hearts, our hands, and our homes to share life abundantly with you the way our Lord does. We pledge never to cease or weaken in assuring and enacting for you the joy and hope and purpose that Jesus Christ imparts to each human life. And even should all the laws of this land or any other decree human beings as objects to be used and disposed, He has guaranteed that the faith and fellowship that His truth and love set in motion among us will render them entirely obsolete.

For Those Who Have Had an Abortion

For those who have had an abortion, there is a word of hope for broken hearts. Word of Hope is confidential and caring and is a ministry of Lutherans for Life.

888-271-8679

www.word-of-hope.org



Toner Cartridges

The youth group continues to accept used *toner* cartridges as a fundraiser (Brother, Canon, and HP only). Please drop them off in the container in the shelves near the entrance/exit in Luther Hall. We are no longer able to accept *ink* cartridges. Thanks!

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!



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 at your leisure via www.issuesetc.org, Sirius XM, Amazon, Google Play, iTunes, tunein, or stitcher.

Commemoration of Martin Luther

(February 18)

God, through your servant Martin Luther, You reformed Your Church. You taught us once again what the Bible so clearly proclaims: that sinners are justified by grace alone, a gift received through faith alone on the foundation of Christ's work alone. Help Your Church to always be the place where that doctrine is zealously proclaimed, for it is our very life and salvation. Amen.

Portals of Prayer

A Prayer for Our Nation's Leaders

Lord, bless the President of the United States and our nation's leaders. Give them wisdom and strength as they carry out their responsibilities. Humble our leaders to receive counsel from Your Word that they may defend our people in wisdom, especially the weakest among us — the aged and unborn — through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Portals of Prayer



Oberammergau, a little village nestled in Germany's Bavarian Alps, is home to the world-famous Passion Play held every 10 years since the mid 1600s. Lori and I invite you to join us on an 11-day Germany and Austria tour in **September 2020**, the highlight of which will be First Class Category 1 tickets to this play. Also on the itinerary are Frankfurt, Heidelberg, the Rhine Valley, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Melk, Vienna, Munich, and Rothenburg. We are finalizing plans with the tour company and will have information available in the near future. Let us know if you are interested in learning more about this once-in-a-lifetime trip. We'd love to have you join us!

Pastor Mumme

CCA Symposium

Concordia Catechetical Academy (CCA) is hosting its annual symposium on **Wednesday-Friday, June 19-21** in the Milwaukee area. This year's theme is *Catechesis and Lutheran Schooling in a Hostile Culture* and will feature various renowned presenters. Several of our members have attended this conference in the past and thoroughly enjoyed it. Registration info will be posted in the near future at <http://lutherancatechesis.org/symposium/>. See Pastor Mumme with any questions.



Happy Valentine's Day! Share your love!