



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

March 2019 Newsletter

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



No One Is an Atheist Forever

Stephen Hawking, one of the world's most renowned atheists, died one year ago this month. He lived as an atheist. He died as an atheist. And though it is too late for him, he is an atheist no longer. It is not possible for anyone to remain an atheist forever. For even atheists will one day bow the knee before our Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Paul writes: **"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"** (Phil 2:10-11).

Atheism, while increasingly common in our culture, is nothing new. It's been around for millennia. And yet, the atheism we see in the 21st century is accompanied by secularism and humanism. Secularism is an indifference to or rejection of religion. Humanism is a philosophical stance that looks solely to science (never revelation) to understand the world.

But even atheism is a religion. Its god is ultimately Self. Its dogmas are a combination of science, theory, and imagination. Its most holy teaching is the theory of evolution. Its most holy sacrament is abortion. Its high priests vary by time and location, but have included big names such as philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (who coined the phrase "God is dead"), eastern dictators such as Pol Pot and Mao Zedong, western dictators such as Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, and Adolf Hitler, and modern-day bigwigs such as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens, and Peter Singer. Even former president Barack Obama acknowledged that atheism is a recognized religion by signing into law the International Religious Freedom Act in 2016, which specifically extends protection to both non-theists and those who do not claim any particular religion. Imagine that. A religious freedom act that protects those who claim not to have a religion. Regardless of its claim, atheism is a specific religion with a specific god, specific holy writings, specific dogmas, specific sacraments, specific high priests, and specific commandments that cannot be transgressed.



The one true God has much to say about such people. For starters, He calls them wicked and foolish. **"In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek Him; all his thoughts are, 'There is no God'"** (Ps 10:4). **"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'"** (Ps 14:1; 53:1). But don't confuse this mockery of atheists with an even greater desire by God to call them to repentance and welcome them home to Himself. For the one true God also says: **"As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live"** (Ezek 33:11). **"God our Savior ... desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"** (1 Tim 2:3-4).

What does this mean for you and me? It means that the atheist who is lost in the delusion of his own mind needs our prayers. He needs our compassion. And, most importantly, he needs the Word of God — centered in the Gospel of Christ crucified — to seek the lost, forgive sins, create faith, and welcome wayward sinners home.

By God's grace, be found in God's house on the Lord's Day, hearing His Word and receiving His Sacrament, so that you are **"rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith"** (Col 2:7), and so that you are **"prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you ... with gentleness and respect"** (1 Pet 3:15).

The world around us is dead in trespasses and sins, and dying of ignorance. Within our various vocations, let us introduce them to the Creator of Life, the Resurrection and the Life, the Lord and Giver of Life. The one true God. The Triune God.

No one is an atheist forever. For one day *every knee* will bow at the name of Jesus and *every tongue* will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. That current atheists might believe in Jesus Christ *before* that day, let us boldly support the proclamation of the Gospel, share the hope within us to those around us, and pray that God grants them ears to hear, hearts to believe, and mouths to confess His saving name!

Pastor Mumme



Calendar

Week of Epiphany 7 (March 1-2)

Sat, Mar 2, 8:30 am NID Life Task Force Workshop

Week of Transfiguration (March 3-9)

Sun, Mar 3, 9:00 am Divine Service
Sun, Mar 3, 10:45 am Bible Class & Sunday School
Wed, Mar 6, 4:00 pm Midweek Bible Study
Wed, Mar 6, 4:00 pm Youth Catechesis
Wed, Mar 6, 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
Wed, Mar 6, 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sat, Mar 9, 8:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast
Sat, Mar 9, 9:00 am Coffee, Cookies, & Crafts

Week of Lent 1 (March 10-16)

Sun, Mar 10, 9:00 am Divine Service
Sun, Mar 10, 10:05 am Thrivent Meeting
Sun, Mar 10, 10:45 am Bible Class & Sunday School
Sun, Mar 10, 5:00 pm Youth Group Open Gym
Tue, Mar 12, 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study
Tue, Mar 12, 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
Wed, Mar 13, 4:00 pm Midweek Bible Study
Wed, Mar 13, 4:00 pm Youth Catechesis
Wed, Mar 13, 6:00 pm Lenten Potluck Dinner
Wed, Mar 13, 7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service
Wed, Mar 13, 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Thu, Mar 14, 7:00 pm Council Meeting
Sat, Mar 16, 9:00 am Blood Drive
Sat, Mar 16, 10:00 am Lenten VBS
Sat, Mar 16, 11:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of Lent 2 (March 17-23)

Sun, Mar 17, 9:00 am Divine Service
Sun, Mar 17, 10:45 am Bible Class & Sunday School
Tue, Mar 19, 9:00 am Pastor @ Circuit Meeting
Tue, Mar 19, 7:00 pm Book of Concord Study
Wed, Mar 20, 4:00 pm Midweek Bible Study
Wed, Mar 20, 4:00 pm Youth Catechesis
Wed, Mar 20, 7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service
Wed, Mar 20, 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sat, Mar 23, 8:30 am LAGF Spring Conference

Week of Lent 3 (March 24-30)

Sun, Mar 24, 9:00 am Divine Service
Sun, Mar 24, 10:15 am Congregational Meeting
Sun, Mar 24, 10:45 am Bible Class & Sunday School
Wed, Mar 27, 4:00 pm Midweek Bible Study
Wed, Mar 27, 4:00 pm Youth Catechesis
Wed, Mar 27, 7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service
Wed, Mar 27, 8:00 pm Choir Practice

Week of Lent 4 (March 31)

Sun, Mar 31, 9:00 am Divine Service
Sun, Mar 31, 10:45 am Bible Class & Sunday School

March Birthdays

- 02 Greg Page
- 03 Terry Donaldson
- 04 Zachary Mumme
- 05 Joey Asche
- 05 Kyle Jordan
- 07 Mike Dobbs
- 08 Luciano (Luca) Data
- 10 Leila Martinez
- 20 Jenny Bingenheimer
- 21 Bridget Mazurkiewicz
- 25 Michelle Schilling
- 26 Parker Schilling
- 26 Braydan Walter
- 28 Gail Novy
- 28 Tim Parmenter
- 29 Talma Krause
- 29 Phyllis Novy
- 31 Michael Shurhay



Baptismal Anniversaries

- 13 Rebekah Dobbs
- 14 Zachary Mumme
- 16 Kaylie (Cruz) Kiefer
- 16 Kerry (Cruz) Walter
- 16 Meredith Robertson
- 27 Hector Martinez
- 29 Arya Data
- 29 Micky Woods
- 30 Conner Schilling
- 30 Karen Moritz



Congregational Meeting

Join us for a congregational meeting following the Divine Service on **Sunday, March 24** as we discuss the recent congregational survey, answer questions, and seek input for our short- and long-term goals. All voting members are encouraged to join us.

Daylight Savings Time

Remember to "spring forward" by setting your clocks one hour forward on Saturday night, March 9.

Baptized into and Asleep in Christ



Mark Woods, father of **Micky Woods**, was baptized into Christ by Pastor Mumme on February 3 at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights. After a long battle with cancer, he fell asleep in Christ on February 7 and was given a Christian funeral on February 11 at Ryan-Parke Funeral Home in Park Ridge.

*“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.”
Mark 16:16a*

Ash Wednesday

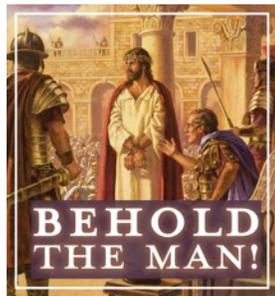
Ash Wednesday falls on **Wednesday, March 6** this year. Join us as we begin our 40-day journey to the cross with a solemn Divine Service at **7:00 p.m.** This service begins with corporate confession and absolution and the imposition of ashes (for those who wish to receive them), focuses on a portion of Jesus’ sermon on the mount, and ends with the Lord’s Supper.



Lent Midweek

“Behold the man!” proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest yet most profound sermons ever recorded. This Lenten season we will ponder anew the humanity of God’s Son as He suffers, sheds His blood, and dies for our sins. The five midweek Evening Prayer services will focus on these themes:

- A God Who Prays
- A God Beaten
- A God Exposed
- A God with a Mother
- A God Who Thirsts



These services are held each **Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** and run approximately 45 minutes. Come and join us.

Lenten Dinner & Saint Patrick’s Day Fellowship

Our four confirmands are hosting a two-part fundraiser to purchase their class gift to the congregation. The first part is a potluck dinner in Luther Hall on **Wednesday, March 13**, beginning at **6:00 p.m.** Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the camaraderie with your brothers and sisters in Christ before our Evening Prayer service that night. The second part is a Saint Patrick’s Day fellowship time after the Divine Service on **Sunday, March 17**. Wear something green and expect some delicious Irish appetizers and treats.

Bible & Lutheranism Studies

Sunday Bible Class

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

Men’s Bible Breakfast

Topic: King David
When: Saturday, March 9 @ 8:30 a.m.
Where: Family Square Restaurant

Women’s Bible Study

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

Book of Concord Study

Topic: The Augsburg Confession
When: Tuesday, March 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 signup sheet on the bulletin board in Luther Hall.

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.

Youth Group Open Gym Night



The Regional Youth Association of Lutherans invites all junior and senior high youth to an open gym night on **Sunday, March 10 (5:00–7:00 p.m.)** at Zion Lutheran Church in Naperville. Snacks and drinks will be provided, including some healthy options. Zion is located at 11007 S Book Road.

Coffee, Cookies, & Crafts



Ladies, join us for a morning of coffee, cookies, and crafts in Luther Hall on **Saturday, March 9, 9:00–11:00 a.m.** We will supply the coffee, table, and chairs. Drop by anytime during the event and bring your favorite craft (no wood burning or welding please), or simply come and visit. Cookie donations are always welcome too!

Ladies Aid



It is not too early to start saving gently used items for the annual Rummage Sale to be held on **June 6, 7, & 8.**

It is a while before the sale happens, but really, plan to join with us to make it a success. The ongoing clothing drive continues. Bring gently used clothing to church any time and give to **Judy Yuenger** or any Ladies Aid member.

Wine & Chocolate Fest



Ladies Aid is sponsoring a Wine & Chocolate event on **Saturday, April 27 at 3:00 p.m.** in Luther Hall. Wine will be provided. If you prefer, you are welcome to bring any wine of your choice. For planning purposes, we are asking you to sign up on the sheet on the Luther Hall bulletin board. If you are able, please bring your favorite chocolate and a finger food to share. Join us for fun, food, games, and prizes. Divine Shepherd assumes no responsibility for the consumption of alcohol.

Shop with Scrip

Shop with Scrip cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. *The next order date is **Sunday, March 17.*** Pre-purchased cards are available after Sunday services and forms are on the cabinet by the entrance 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.



Thrivent members are encouraged to donate their Choice Dollars to Divine Shepherd before the end of March. These dollars are used to support various church and members needs. One last reminder that all 2018 Choice Dollars will have to be donated by March 31 or they will be lost.

The next meeting will be held in Luther Hall on **Sunday, March 10 at 10:05 a.m.** All members are encouraged to attend.

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.

Stewardship

For decades Christians contributed their tithes and offerings via check or cash. Nowadays, many Christians are following cultural trends and moving away from checks and turning to options such as automatic bill pay, online giving, and/or mobile payments (Apple Pay, Android Pay, Samsung Pay, PayPal, etc.). We currently have a few members utilize their bank's free "bill pay" feature to submit their offerings on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis (their bank mails a check directly to Divine Shepherd on their behalf).

What is your preference for supporting Divine Shepherd with your tithes and offerings? What can we as a congregation do to facilitate your joyful generosity?

God loves a cheerful giver.

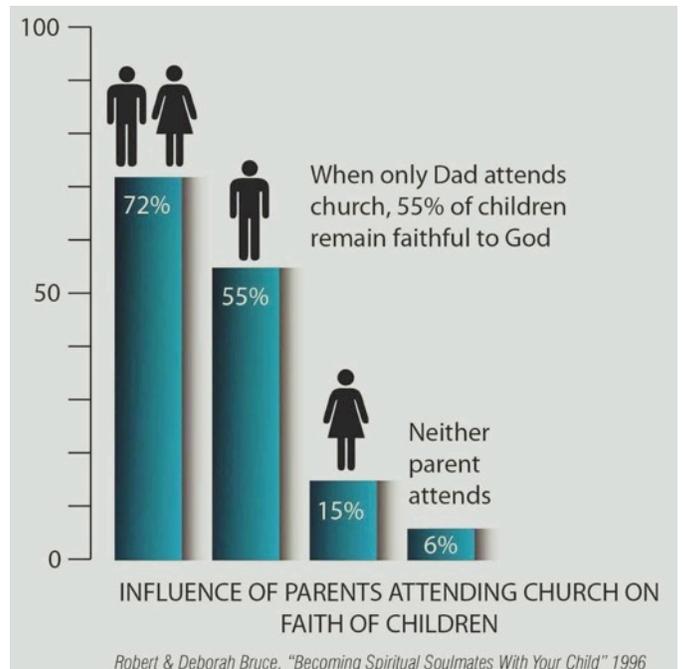


Oberammergau, a little village nestled in Germany's Bavarian Alps, is home to the world-famous Passion Play held every 10 years since the mid 1600s. Lori and I invite you to join us on an 11-day Germany and Austria tour in **September 2020**, the highlight of which will be First Class Category 1 tickets to this play. Also on the itinerary are Frankfurt, Heidelberg, the Rhine Valley, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Melk, Vienna, Munich, and Rothenburg. Let me 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

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.



Statistical Report



Each year we complete statistical information for the Synod. Below is a summary of our 2018 stats as of 12/31/2018:

Baptized Membership

- Total Baptized Members: 204
- Average Age: 40
- Baptisms in 2018: 3 children

Confirmed Membership

- Total Confirmed Members: 170
- Average Age: 47
- Confirmations in 2018: 2 adults

Membership Gains

- via Transfer In: 6
- via Profession of Faith: 1

Membership Losses

- via Death: 3
- via Transfer Out: 2
- via Other: 3

Church Attendance

- Sunday Average: 74

Demographics

- Age 0-14: 16%
- Age 15-18: 7%
- Age 19-34: 24%
- Age 35-49: 12%
- Age 50-64: 23%
- Age 65+: 18%

Mission Offerings

We supported the following organizations during 2018, each receiving \$150.00 as per our budget:

- Concordia Theological Seminary
- Higher Things
- Lutheran Bible Translators
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- Lutheran Public Radio
- Lutherans for Life
- MorningStar Mission
- Northern Illinois District
- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

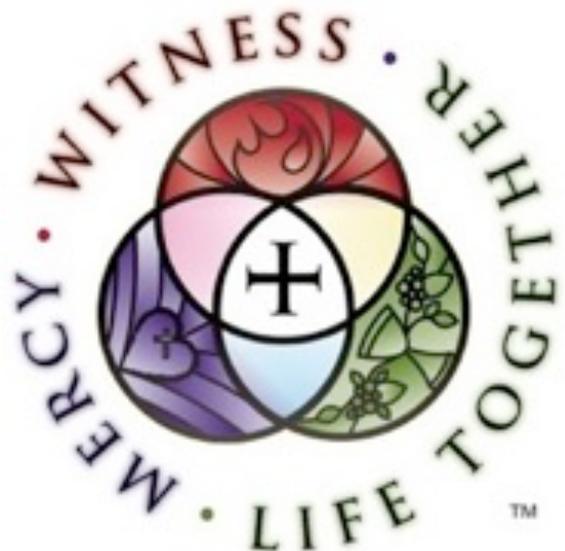
We also supported the following missions through fundraisers and/or special offerings:

- CareNet Pregnancy Center: \$542.73 (Coins for CareNet drive)
- Jason Stephenson, Seminarian: \$600.00 (Ladies Aid mission project)

Finally, we helped out various members, our adopted missionary and vicar, and a few others as follows:

- the Alms Fund (for members in need)
- care packages (to college students)
- care packages (to deployed military personnel)
- Giving Tree donations (for members in need)
- Giving Tree gift cards (for the May family)
- Christmas food drive (for members in need)

Special thanks to our Ladies Aid and our local Thrivent group for their help with these special projects. And thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the spread of the Gospel and acts of mercy!



Sunday Treats

Please consider signing up on any given Sunday(s). Why not sign up with a friend? *Empty slots means no treats.* The sign-up 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 March–June 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. **Ruth Ogden** will do flowers of your choice for \$25 (please give her a 2-3 weeks heads up) or we can go thru the florist for \$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
Preschool: 630-759-5300 (Terri Kreier)
Pastor Mumme: 815-676-4444
Prayer Chain: 630-251-7860 (Bobbie Light)
Newsletter: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)

(items are due March 25)

Toner Cartridges

The youth group continues to accept used *toner* cartridges as a fundraiser (the company we work with is currently only accepting original Brother, Canon, and HP *toner* cartridges). 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. Toner cartridges not listed above, as well as ink cartridges, may be recycled at Cartridge World. Thanks!

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.).



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!



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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 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.

