



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



February 2020 Newsletter

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

Dear Disciples of Christ with an awesome responsibility.

Last Sunday after the divine service you heard "February 9th" mentioned. It is the day on which the board of Elders, the "call" committee of Divine Shepherd, plans to have you extend a divine call. The next day I read in the Landmark, a local newspaper, that St. Louise Catholic school of LaGrange Park was on the "chopping" block of the archdiocese of Chicago. It was soon to be closed. Many Lutheran schools in neighboring villages have also been closed in recent years for the same reason, low enrollment, but they were never on the "chopping" block of the Education Executive of the Northern Illinois District of our Synod. What does this have to do with "February 9th"? Here is where my addressing you in this letter with, "Dear Disciples of Christ with an awesome responsibility" is significant.

The words of Jesus to St. Peter in St. Matthew 16:19, "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven" are behind the closing of St. Louise school by the archdiocese of Chicago. For Roman Catholics these words of Jesus to St. Peter establish the successor of St. Peter, the pope, as the one who governs the universal church. The governance is transmitted through the sacrament of ordination. Therefore, it is the archdiocese, that has the keys, the keys that can open or close the doors of St. Louise.

As one studies the history of the Missouri Synod our Synod almost adopted the same policy, not that we would have a pope, but in 1839 on board one of the ships brought them to this country some of our founders said that they needed a "free episcopal (bishop) form of polity". They approached Pastor Stephan, the leader of the Saxon immigrants who established our Synod with the words, "Accept, Reverend Father, also for the future, the office of bishop among us, bestowed upon you by God, and grant that we may now express with this name our unqualified confidence in your fatherly love and pastoral faithfulness toward us, and the assurance of our sincere, complete, and childlike obedience toward you". Stephan therewith became both spiritual and temporal leader. When his life revealed that he did not deserve the title of responsibility the Saxons sent him across the Mississippi to Illinois. They no longer had a bishop. The question before the Saxons now, without the "bishop," that is without the keys, which they had given to Stephan as bishop, was not just the door to the church or school closed but also the door to heaven. There were those that said to again hear and receive the key to heaven, that is the words of absolution and the supper, they had to go back to Germany. They had no bishop.

Enter Pastor Walther. To be sure, he would say to his troubled Saxon community, Jesus did say to Peter, "I will give you the keys," but he also said to the entire church, that is to the congregation, that is to Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, in St. Matthew 18:18, "Whatever ye, (and here the old English "ye" is better than "you" for it is plural,) shall loose (forgive) on earth shall be loosed in heaven". Walther would assert that here Jesus gives the keys, not just to the clergy, (bishop or archdiocese) but to the church, the congregation. It is as it (you) possess these keys, that you the disciples with awesome responsibility will gather on February 9th. On that day the God Who has gathered you together with His means of grace, that is with the keys of the kingdom, will use you to call a man to serve you with the keys of heaven. Approach that day with prayer and thoughtfulness

Pastor Otten



February Birthdays

Week of Epiphany 4 (February 2-8)

Sun, Feb 2, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 2, 10:30 am Bible Study/Sunday School
 Mon, Feb 3, 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
 Wed, Feb 5, 7:00 pm Choir Practice
 Thu, Feb 6, 7:00 pm Council Meeting
 Sat, Feb 8, 10:30 am Altar Guild Meeting
 Sat, Feb 8, 11:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of Epiphany 5 (February 9-15)

Sun, Feb 9, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 9, 10:05 am Congregational Meeting
 Sun, Feb 9, 10:30 am Sunday School
 Wed, Feb 12, 7:00 pm Choir Practice
 Sat, Feb 15, 3:00 pm Wine/Chocolate Event

Week of Epiphany 6 (February 16-22)

Sun, Feb 16, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun Feb 16, 10:30 am Bible Study/Sunday School
 Wed, Feb 19, 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Week of Transfiguration (February 23-29)

Sun, Feb 23, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 23, 10:30 am Bible Study/Sunday School
 Wed, Feb 26, 7:00 pm Solemn Divine Service
 Wed, Feb 26, 8:00 pm Choir Practice

Ash Wednesday



This year Ash Wednesday falls on **Wednesday, February 26**. 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) and ends with the Lord's Supper.

03 Brian Rambeaux
 05 Michael Collins
 12 Lisa Cruz
 14 Hector (Manny) Martinez
 15 Moira Delaney
 17 Karen McClain
 18 Nadine Parmenter
 25 Payton Murray
 26 Rebekah Dobbs
 28 Kelli Olifirowicz



February Baptismal Anniversaries

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



February Wedding Anniversaries

18 Brian & Cindy Rambeaux
 19 Al & Ann Gernenz



A Word From The Board of Trustees

Our roof will be getting some much-needed attention soon. We are waiting for the weather to "break", when it will be safe to begin. In any case, the work should be completed before Easter if the weather cooperates with us!

Our new LED lights on the front of the building were installed before Christmas and sure make the building look great at night! The two gentlemen who came to do the work donated their time and talents to update the old fixtures. This work could not have been completed without their help!

Thank you again to the team of our Church Volunteers who continually pitch in to keep our building safe!

Cindy Rambeaux, Board of Trustees

Call Process Status

The Board of Elders/ Call Committee started with twenty good candidates for our Pastoral Call. The number has been brought down to four pastors over the past two months that we feel holds true to our faith and that will be good for Divine Shepherd. Telephone calls are being placed with each of them to get to know them on a personal level and ask additional information about them with hope to bring the number down to 2-3 pastors. These pastors will be brought to the congregation for our Call. The anticipated Call date will be on February 9th at our congregational meeting. If our schedule changes, the congregation will be promptly notified.

Prayer for Divine Shepherd - during our time of calling a new pastor God, we desire a new pastor to be among us, to lead us and walk with us. Direct us as we wait. Bless all who serve in the congregation, especially those who have the responsibility to lead us in the call process. Bless us Lord Jesus. Amen

*Andy Fox, Chairman of the Board of Elders
Call Committee Representative*

Young Adult Bible Study

"Divine Shepherd is interested in starting a Young Adult Bible Study. If there is enough interest generated, Mark Drevlow will lead the study. It will be geared for ages 18-30 years old and the subject would be about modern/current times and how it compares/reflects with the bible. If you are interested, please contact an Elder.



Thank you to everyone who donated their choice dollars in 2019. 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.

Asleep in Christ

Robert (Bob) Potempa, a beloved brother in Christ and longtime member at Divine Shepherd, fell asleep in Christ on January 28 at the age of 73. A church memorial service will be held in late February.

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

Ladies Aid

The big news for February is that the WINE AND CHOCOLATE social is returning on **February 15 at 3:00 pm** in Luther Hall. Come socialize with those you know and meet those you have not met yet. It's a great time with the members of our "faith family"



Bring along your favorite wine (or enjoy one of ours) and an appetizer and/or your favorite chocolate. There will be games to play, good food to eat, and of course, new wines to taste.

Divine Shepherd assumes no responsibility for the consumption of alcohol.

All women are encouraged to attend the next meeting on February 8 at 11:00 am. (Change of date).

Altar Flowers

The 2020 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 two altar bouquets for \$25-\$30. If you sign up, **Karen** will contact you to get your 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.

Treasurer's Report

December 31, 2019	Actual	Budget
Expenses:	\$132,513	\$179,732
Income:	\$161,371	\$156,500



Shop with Scrip (Manna) cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order dates are **February 9** and **March 8**. Pre-purchased cards are available after Sunday services and forms are on the cabinet by Luther Hall's outside 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. Script 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

shopwithscrip.com

Your Enrollment Code:

B2LD2C7A55973

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.

Manna 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.

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 and can be used immediately. You may also send these as a gift to an email account.



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).

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/DSLcbolingbrook

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

Important Phone Numbers

Church office: 630-759-5300

Prayer Chain: 630-251-7860 (Bobbie Light)

Newsletter info: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
(items are due February 24)

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 fruit, crackers, or cheese for our diabetic members. Monetary donations are accepted to defray the cost of drinks/paper products, which are supplied by Ladies Aid.



Tax Letters

2019 tax letters, showing your yearly contributions, were placed into your church mail slot. 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

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.

Prayer Chain

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

Oberammergau Passion Play 2020

Oberammergau is home to the world-famous Passion Play held every 10 years since the mid-1600s. Pastor & Lori Mumme invite you to join them 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 Rothenberg. Let Pastor Mumme know if you are interested in learning more about this once-in-a-lifetime trip. They would love to have you join them.

A Prayer for our Nation's Leaders

Lord, bless the president of the US 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.

(Portals of Prayer)

Commemoration of Martin Luther (2/18)

God, through your servant Martin Luther, You formed 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.

(Portals of Prayer)

The Mind of God Toward You

There is never a time
when you're not in His thoughts,
never a time without grace,
never a time when He turns away
from any need you face.

There is never a time
when you're not in His heart,
never a time without love,
never a time when you're not blessed
with good things from above!

How precious also are Thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I wake, I am still with Thee. Psalm 139:17-18

(The devotional gift book Always Loved by Roy Lessin)



*Happy Valentine's Day –
share your love*