



# Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

## January 2024 Newsletter

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



My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. John 10:27-28

Dear Sheep of the Divine Shepherd:

"Let no one mourn his transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was taken by death has annihilated it!" These words were spoken by the faithful bishop. St. John Chrysostom, around the year 400 A.D. while he was the Archbishop of Constantinople. He is known for his preaching which was eloquent and comforting. (Although when he preached the Law it could be rather severe.) Interestingly enough his name means "golden mouthed". From his sermons that have been collected, it is easy to see why he amassed a huge following. In the Lutheran church he is commemorated on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Chrysostom preached often on the importance of demonstrating Christian charity saying, "Almsgiving is the mother of love, of that love, which is the characteristic of Christianity, which is greater than all miracles, by which the disciples of Christ are manifested." When I read these words, I could not help but think of the generosity and love that the saints of Divine Shepherd demonstrate towards their brothers and sisters in Christ. Time and time again, when a member is in need, whether it be emotional, physical, or financial, you have exhibited the love of Christ to one another.

This can only happen through the Holy Spirit who, God in his mercy gave to you in your baptism and has been nurtured ever since through Word and Sacrament. As we start this new year, I wanted to thank you for your love and support also given to me and my family.

We have now celebrated our Lord's Advent among us and move towards the cross where Christ has won forgiveness for us and has risen from the dead to give us hope amidst the difficulties and hardships of this temporary world in which we live.

St. John Chrysostom preached this comfort and hope well in the following words:

O death, where is thy sting? O hades, where is thy victory?  
Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!  
Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!  
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!  
Christ is risen, and life reigns!  
Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that slept.  
To him be glory and might unto ages of ages. Amen.  
A very blessed new year to you all!

Listen to Jesus,  
Pastor Zimmer

# Christian Stewardship

## The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad



St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

## January Birthdays

02 Hayden Quinn  
06 Joan Fox (H)  
13 Karen Moritz  
15 Paul Edgar  
15 Melanie Witzke  
18 Dawn Rousar  
20 Pat Gray  
31 Emily Zimmer



## January Baptismal Anniversaries

05 Teresa Pape  
20 Pat Gray  
29 Joan Fox



## Christmas Un-Decorating

Come and help us pack away the Christmas decorations on **Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** beginning at **8:30 a.m.** Many hands make light work.



## The Sound of Music

A special *thank you* to those who musically enriched our worship services during Advent and Christmas. All your time and hard work is greatly appreciated!

# January

## Week of January 1-6

Sat, Jan 6, 8:30 am Un-decorating

## Week of January 7-13

Sun, Jan 7, 8:30 am Divine Service

Sun, Jan 7, 9:40 am Fellowship

Sun, Jan 7, 10:00 am Bible Study

Mon, Jan 8, 11:30 am Altar Guild Meeting

Mon, Jan 8, 12:01 pm Women's Bible Study

Mon, Jan 8, 7:00 pm Elders Meeting

Tue, Jan 9, 5:30 pm Confirmation Class

## Week of January 14-20

Sun, Jan 14, 8:30 am Divine Service

Sun, Jan 14, 9:40 am Fellowship

Sun, Jan 14, 10:00 am Bible Study

Mon, Jan 15, 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Tue, Jan 16, 5:30 pm Confirmation Class

Sat, Jan 20, 10:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

## Week of January 21-27

Sun, Jan 21, 8:30 am Divine Service

Sun, Jan 21, 9:40 am Fellowship

Sun, Jan 21, 10:00 am Bible Study

Tue, Jan 23, 5:30 pm Confirmation Class

## Week of January 28-31

Sun, Jan 28, 8:30 am Divine Service

Sun, Jan 28, 9:40 am Fellowship

Sun, Jan 28, 10:00 am Bible Study

Tue, Jan 30, 5:30 pm Confirmation Class

## The Epiphany Season



As the Christmas season draws to a close, we enter the Epiphany season. The word Epiphany means "revelation"—God reveals how Jesus Christ is His Son, our Savior. The season begins with the Epiphany of Our Lord, a celebration of the visit of the Gentile wise men to the baby Jesus, who was born for all people. The season continues with Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River and culminates with Jesus' transfiguration before three disciples. Come and be a part of this joyous season as God reveals to us His Son, His plan and purpose, and His salvation.

## The Baptism of Our Lord



We will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord in January. Though He had no sin of His own, Jesus undergoes baptism for us. He does this to fulfill all righteousness and to fill the water of Holy Baptism with Himself, His forgiveness, and His righteousness. So, rejoice in your baptism. For through that water combined with God's Word, you are a child of God, clothed in Christ's perfect righteousness, and a temple of the Holy Spirit!

## 2024 Offering Envelopes

The 2024 members' new offering envelopes are in your church mailbox. Any questions please see Barb Potempa.

Important, please note if you use the small brown envelopes in the pew you need to place your name or members envelope # to get credit for the yearly tax forms. With no info and cash, the money is put in the general fund. Thank you.

Your annual tax letter will be in your mail slot later this month. If you have any questions please see or call, Barb Potempa, Financial Secretary.

## Altar Flowers



Thank you to everyone who donated flowers to decorate the altar and sanctuary in 2023. A special thank you to **Ruth** for arranging the beautiful bouquets.

The 2024 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 \$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

## Ladies Aid

We send all of you our wishes for a happy and healthy new year. Our Lord has kept Divine Shepherd in His care thus far and we trust that He will continue to do so.



Once again thank you for your Giving Tree and Food Drive contributions. These, along with funds from the Ladies Aid treasury and \$1,250 from Thrivent, were met with extreme gratitude. We helped 43 people (7 families, 9 seniors, 7 adults) and the food drive helped 25 people. Extra nonperishables were given to a charity.

A special thank you to Lisa and Ed Cruz for once again heading up the 'giving tree' and to Joan Sturm for spear-heading the food drive and to Ron Ruisz for taking the items to the charity.

All females are automatically members of the Ladies Aid. Please join us for the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, at 10:00 a.m. We will be planning activities for the coming months of the year, including our annual Garage Sale. Suggestions for projects around our church building are welcome. Perhaps you have a suggestion for a social activity.

A wine/chocolate social is being planned for late winter. More information will be in the February newsletter and weekly bulletins.

## Ladies Aid Money at Work



Listed below are a just a few of the projects Ladies Aid has contributed to in 2023

- pastor appreciation/etc
- the Giving Tree/food drive
- cleaning supplies
- paper goods/drinks/etc for Sunday treats
- Alms Fund
- Seminary Student

These projects are made possible by your generous support of our garage sale and RaiseRight program. Thank you.

## Ladies Aid Officers

**President: Judy Yuenger**  
**Vice President: Lisa Cruz**  
**Secretary: Joan Sturm**  
**Treasurer: Karen Moritz**

## Elder Members/Assignments

**Pape: Asche - Boehm**  
**Ruiz: Carone - Donaldson**  
**Collins: Donnelly - Learnahan**  
**Cruz: Lewis - Quinn**  
**Geschke: Rose - Viscariello**  
**Stewart: Walter - Zimmer**

## Council Members

**Chairman: Ed Cruz**  
**Secretary: Laurrie Bingenheimer**  
**Treasurer: Doug Quinn**  
**Vice Chairman: Open**  
**Board of Trustees: Kelly Stewart**

## Altar Guild Members

Those serving on the Altar Guild for 2024

**Denise Collins**  
**Karen Moritz**  
**Ruth Ogden**  
**Joan Sturm**  
**Judy Yuenger**  
**Julie Zimmer**

## Altar Guild Fund



If you are planning a future memorial donation, please consider giving it to Altar Guild to purchase additional frontals, banners, candles, altar cloths, etc to beautiful the sanctuary.

## 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**.

## 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 mean 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 2024 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.



# THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

Directing Choice Dollars is a great way for eligible Thrivent members to show support for what matters most to them. We received over \$1,890 from Choice Dollars in 2023. If you have not given your Choice Dollars to Divine Shepherd, please do so. Thrivent members and Choice Dollars are an important source of support for the work the organization does. Why not do everything you can to make sure that you are getting the most out of your participation. A reminder, that all 2023 Choice Dollars will have to be donated by **March 31** or they will be lost. These dollars are used to support various church/member's needs. Thanks.

## Important Phone Numbers

**Church office:** 630-759-5300  
**Pastor Zimmer:** 583-880-9532  
**Head Elder:** 630-360-5573 (Scott Collins)  
**Prayer Chain:** 630-251-7860 (Bobbie Light)  
**Newsletter info:** 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)  
*(items are due January 29)*

## Portals of Prayer

Now that 2024 is here, we are asking those who make use of the “Portals of Prayer” devotionals to pay this year's annual subscription rate of \$15.00. Simply submit this via the offering plate, earmarked Portals of Prayer. Blessings on your continued study of God's Word.

## Our Cleaning Crew



A special thank you to our church's cleaning crew for all their hard work in helping to clean our church facilities on a regular basis. This volunteer cleaning crew works diligently to vacuum, dust, scrub, mop, tidy, empty trash, and prepare our facilities each weekend. If you can clean once a month, please see Kelly Stewart.

An additional thank you to all those volunteers who have helped to take down, clean, serve, and set up on Sunday mornings and for special events. Your help and service are greatly appreciated!

## RisiseRight (Manna)

Shop with RaiseRight cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is in **January 14**. Pre-purchased cards are available after Sunday services and forms are on the bookcase in Luther Hall.

*Your Organization:*

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church – Manna

*Your Coordinator:* **Lisa Cruz**

630-636-6359 • [dslcmanna@yahoo.com](mailto:dslcmanna@yahoo.com)

<http://www.raiseright.com>

*Your Enrollment Code:*

B2LD2C7A55973

## 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](https://fb.me/DSLcbolingbrook)

Twitter: @dslc60440

May Christ's love shine thru you now and always.  
The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (Galatians 5:6) (American Greetings)

# Happy, healthy 2024



## God's Resolutions

We often resolve to improve the “little things” in life (time, weight, finances, etc.) that we completely forget about the “big things” that God would have us focus on! What are these big things? God has ten of them for you:

1. Fear, love, and trust in God above all things.
2. Call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.
3. Hold preaching and God's Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it.
4. Honor, serve and obey, love, and cherish your parents and other authorities.
5. Help and support your neighbor in every physical need.
6. Lead a sexually pure and decent life, and love and honor your spouse.
7. Help your neighbor to improve and protect his possessions and income.
8. Defend your neighbor, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.
9. Help and be of service to your neighbor in protecting his inheritance and house.
10. Urge your neighbor's spouse, workers, to be faithful to Him.

## Love Is God

Love is God shining through you.

Love is giving what you'd like to receive.

Love is taking the time, even when you do not have the time.

Love is listening with your heart.

Love is remembering.

Love is being there.

Love is believing in the good, the true, and the beautiful.

Love is the light of the world.

May Christ's love shine thru you now and always.

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

(Galatians 5:6)  
(American Greetings)