Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

November 2026 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**

Martin of Tours: A Life of Faith, Mercy, and Christian Service

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." — Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)

Each year on November 11, the Lutheran Church commemorates Martin of Tours, a fourth-century Christian pastor and bishop whose life became widely known for his compassion toward the poor, his commitment to the Christian faith, and his willingness to serve Christ despite considerable personal sacrifice.

Although Martin lived more than 1,600 years ago, his life provides a wonderful illustration of the Christian understanding of good works. We are not saved by our acts of charity, kindness, or service to others. Rather, having been justified by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we are called to love and serve our neighbors as the fruit of that faith.

Martin's life reminds us that the Christian faith is not confined to the walls of the church. It is also lived out in our daily vocations as we serve those whom God places before us.

From Roman Soldier to Christian Bishop

Martin was born around A.D. 316 in the Roman province of Pannonia, in what is now Hungary. His father was an officer in the Roman army, and Martin grew up in a military family. Although Christianity was spreading throughout the Roman Empire, Martin's parents were not Christians.

As a young man, Martin became interested in Christianity and began receiving instruction in the faith. However, because of his father's military position, Martin was enrolled in the Roman army while still young.

It was during his military service that one of the most famous events of his life reportedly occurred.

On a bitterly cold day near the city of Amiens, in present-day France, Martin encountered a poorly clothed beggar who was suffering from the cold. Having little else to give, Martin took his military cloak, cut it in half with his sword, and gave one portion to the beggar.

According to the early account written by Sulpicius Severus, Martin later dreamed that he saw Jesus Christ wearing the portion of the cloak he had given away. The account recalls our Lord's words in Matthew 25:40:

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:40 (ESV)

We should recognize that this account comes from an early Christian biography containing stories of visions and miracles that cannot all be independently verified. Nevertheless, the account of Martin's cloak has endured for centuries as a memorable illustration of Christian mercy.

Martin was subsequently baptized and eventually left military service, devoting himself to the work of the Church.

A Pastor and Bishop Who Served His People

After leaving the army, Martin became associated with Hilary of Poitiers, an influential bishop who strongly defended the biblical teaching of the Holy Trinity against Arianism.

Arianism denied the full divinity of Jesus Christ, teaching that the Son was a created being rather than eternally God with the Father. This controversy was not a minor theological disagreement. It concerned the very identity of our Savior.

Martin supported the Church's confession that Jesus Christ is truly God, eternally begotten of the Father, and truly man, born of the Virgin Mary.

Martin later established a monastic community at Ligugé, near Poitiers, where he devoted himself to prayer, study, and Christian service.

In A.D. 371, Martin was chosen to become bishop of Tours, in present-day France. Although he reportedly resisted the appointment, he eventually accepted the responsibility.

As bishop, Martin became known for his simple manner of life, his pastoral concern for ordinary Christians, and his missionary work among people in the surrounding countryside who had not yet embraced Christianity.

He continued to emphasize Christian instruction, prayer, and care for those in need. Rather than seeking wealth or prestige through his ecclesiastical office, Martin sought to serve the people entrusted to his care.

One especially noteworthy event involved Martin's opposition to the execution of Priscillian, a religious teacher condemned for heresy. Although Martin opposed Priscillian's teachings, he also opposed using the state's power to execute him for his religious errors.

This distinction remains important. The Church must faithfully identify and reject false doctrine, but Christ has not commissioned His Church to spread the Gospel through coercion or violence. As Lutherans confess in Augsburg Confession XXVIII, the authority of bishops is exercised through the preaching of the Gospel, the forgiveness and retention of sins, and the administration of the Sacraments—not through the sword.

What Can Lutherans Learn from Martin of Tours?

Martin's life provides several valuable lessons when understood in light of Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions.

First, good works are the fruit of faith, not the cause of our salvation. Martin's generosity toward the beggar is a beautiful example of Christian love. Yet it was not his act of charity that made him righteous before God. Like every Christian, Martin needed the forgiveness of sins that comes only through Jesus Christ.

The Augsburg Confession, Article VI, teaches that faith is bound to bring forth good fruits and that Christians should do the good works commanded by God, not to merit forgiveness, but because they have already received God's grace through faith.

Second, God calls Christians to serve Him in their various vocations. Martin served as a soldier before becoming a pastor and bishop. His life reminds us that Christians can serve God faithfully in many different callings. Whether we are parents, grandparents, soldiers, laborers, teachers, or retirees, God places neighbors before us whom we are called to love and serve.

Luther emphasized that even the simplest acts of Christian service are pleasing to God when they flow from faith. Caring for an aging spouse, visiting a lonely neighbor, encouraging a fellow Christian, or praying for those who are suffering are all meaningful expressions of Christian love.

Third, faithfulness to Christ requires faithfulness to His Word. Martin lived during a time when the Church faced serious doctrinal controversies. His association with Hilary of Poitiers reminds us of the importance of confessing the true divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ. Our salvation rests upon who Jesus is and what He has accomplished for us.

Finally, we remember faithful Christians of the past not to seek their intercession or to place our trust in their merits, but to thank God for His grace in their lives. The Augsburg Confession, Article XXI, teaches that the saints may be remembered so that we give thanks to God, have our faith strengthened, and imitate their faith and good works according to our callings.

An Interesting Connection to Martin Luther

There is a particularly interesting connection between Martin of Tours and the Lutheran Reformation.

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany. The following day, November 11, he was baptized and given the name Martin in honor of Martin of Tours, whose commemoration fell on that day.

Thus, the great Reformer whose teachings helped restore the clear proclamation of justification by grace through faith bears the name of this fourth-century Christian pastor.

There is another meaningful connection to November 11. In the United States, it is Veterans Day, when we honor those who have served in our nation's armed forces. Since Martin himself served as a Roman soldier, his commemoration provides an opportunity to thank God for those who have served in the military and to remember the importance of faithful service to one's neighbor.

Remembering Christ Above All

Martin of Tours died in A.D. 397, after many years of service to the Church. His legacy continues through the accounts of his ministry, his defense of Christian teaching, and his example of compassion toward those in need.

Yet the greatest lesson we learn from Martin is not simply that we should become more charitable or compassionate. It is that Christ, who first loved us and gave Himself for us, continues to work through His redeemed people to show mercy to others.

We are all beggars before God, unable to purchase our salvation or earn His favor. But in His great mercy, our heavenly Father has given us something infinitely greater than a portion of a soldier's cloak. He has given us His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who clothed Himself in our humanity, bore our sins upon the cross, and covered us with His perfect righteousness.

Through Holy Baptism, God has made us His children, clothed us with Christ, and called us to walk in the good works He has prepared for us.

As we remember Martin of Tours this November, may we give thanks to God for the faithful Christians who have gone before us, and may the Holy Spirit strengthen us through His Word and Sacraments to love and serve our neighbors in our own daily vocations.

Above all, may our confidence always rest, not in the good works we perform, but in the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." — Galatians 3:27 (ESV)

Listen to Jesus,

Pastor Zimmer

The Fourth Commandment and Christian Stewardship



A steward is one who is entrusted with the management of something that belongs to another. As Christian stewards, we recognize that all we are and all we have come from God. Stewardship is not just about money or finances, it is about everything God entrusts to our care. We are to manage everything for His purposes. In the Fourth Commandment we are reminded that we have the privilege and responsibility of managing relationships with God's representatives.

The Fourth Commandment
Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

To consider the last seven commandments properly it is important to reflect on the first three. We are able to love our neighbor because God first loved us. Raymond Olson writes in stewards Appointed, "It is the relationship which we have with God which produces the proper kind of relationship in our society in general and with individual persons in particular. It is important to recall the words of Jesus--'and the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself' ".

This commandment reminds us that God has placed parents and others in positions of authority over us for our good. "We are called," writes Olson, "as Christian stewards to have proper respect and to give honor to our parents and all others in authority. This calling involves the principle that all integrity and social worth begins at home. If we contribute to any disrespect for our own home, we contribute to disrespect for all homes, and to their disintegration in society. Even though there may be certain things about a person's home which he considers below standard, this is not a valid reason for him to refuse honor to his parents.

We invite great trouble for ourselves, and in turn for total society, when we break away from the standards, the principles, the ideals of father and mother. The Christian steward will recognize the valid discipline which this Commandment orders for his own life and for the proper structure of society".

We are to not only to love but also honor parents and those in authority. Robert Kolb writes in
Teaching God's Children His Teaching. "So great was Luther's concern for peace and order and so great his confidence in God's ordering that he could speak of a 'majesty hidden within' parents which elicited honor for them--a greater thing than love, he says, since it includes not only love but deference, humility, and modesty as well-even if they seem lowly, poor, feeble, or eccentric, as parents often do to their maturing children who are trying to establish their own identities".

The attitude we are to have toward parents is also the attitude we are to have toward others in positions of authority. This would include rulers, employers, and leaders in the church. Kolb writes, "Luther particularly linked the father of the nation, the prince, with the father of the household ... Luther defined the purpose of the Fourth Commandment as the preservation of family and state ... Luther thought that civic order demanded obedience unless their commands contradicted God's"

Stewards are reminded in this commandment that parents and those in positions of authority also have a God given responsibility.Kolb writes, "Because they are bound to obey God, parents should 'earnestly and faithfully' carry out their charge as parents. Parents should provide support for children and servants (or in our day the employees of the family business).

Governing officials should provide support for their subjects or citizens. Beyond material support, however, those with such responsibilities should cultivate the praise and honor of God... God holds parents accountable for the welfare of their children. Thus, in a period in which child abuse and child neglect have all but become a way of life, our people need to be reminded of what the Fourth Commandment means for parents and those with parental responsibilities".

Christian stewards, Luther reminds us as he concludes the Fourth Commandment in the Large Catechism, must spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating children to serve God and the world.

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November birthdays

01 Cris Ruisz
02 Laurrie Bingenheimer
05 Cynthia Szoldatits
09 Jim Bingenheimer
10 Heidi Boehm
12 Diane Weaver
16 Edward Cruz
22 Daniel Rossof

November Baptismal Anniversaries

12 Spenser Fox
30 Kelly Stewart

November Wedding Anniversaries

06 Ron & Cris Ruisz

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, October 31st.

Week of November 1-7

Sun, Nov 1, 8:30 a.m. Festive Divine Service
Sun, Nov 1, 9:40 a.m. Fellowship
Sun, Nov 1, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study?

Week of November 8-14

Sun, Nov 8 , 8:30 a.m. Divine Service
Sun, Nov 8, 9:40 a.m. Fellowship

Week of November 15-21

Sun, Nov 15, 8:30 a.m. Divine Service
Sun, Nov 15, 9;40 a.m. Fellowship

Week of November 22-28

Sun, Nov 22, 8:30 a.m. Divine Service
Sun, Nov 22, 9:40 a.m. Fellowship
Wed, Nov 25, 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service

Week of November 29-30

Sun, Nov 29, 8:30 a.m. Divine Service
Sun, Nov 29, 9:40 a.m. Fellowship
Sun, Nov 29, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Outreach Clothing Drive

Ladies Aid is sponsoring a clothing drive to support a local mission that helps homeless families and veterans. Clean/in good condition clothing (all sizes) for men, women and children may be dropped off at church until November 10. Toiletries/bed linens/ kitchen supplies are also needed. Contact Karen with any questions

Ladies Aid

In mid November you will see the Giving Tree for members and their families. If you know of someone in need, please give their name to Lisa or Julie ASAP. Most of the time these families request gift cards from their favorite stores. You can purchase cards at the retail outlets, but even more convenient, order the cards from RaiseRight. Choose an envelope from the tree, see what the recipient is requesting, and order cards, purchase items at stores, and bring items to church by **December 13.** See **Lisa Cruz** or **Julie Zimmer** with any questions.

At the same time as fulfilling those Giving Tree wishes, will be a Food Drive. First, we like to provide the members on this list with items that can be used for a festive holiday dinner and then provide staples to save those amounts so that they can be used by the family for the Merry CHRISTmas season. In the past years, we have given each family an amazing amount of food and other staples (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.). We would like to do that again this year.

We are not doing the Advent Food Drive this year. However, you may still contribute nonperishable food and/or paper products to supplement the money received from Thrivent Financial (see list at end of newsletter. Thank you.

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 Julie Zimmer at 712-584-5301 or jdzimmer@aol.com

Altar Flowers

Live Poinsettias will not be purchased this year. However, you are encouraged to make a monetary donation in memory and/or honor of someone. Forms will be in the bulletin in mid-November. Please return completed forms/money by December 13. Thank you.

Important Phone Numbers

Church office: 630-759-5300
Pastor Zimmer: 630-759-5300
Prayer Chain: 712-584-5301 (Julie Zimmer)
Head Elder: 630-360-5573 (Scott Collins)
Newsletter info: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
(Due November 25)

Thrivent Financial

Directing Choice Dollars is a great way for eligible Thrivent members to show support for what matters most to them. Thank you to everyone who donated their choice dollars. Remember to donate your third quarter choice dollars.

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Raise Right

Shop with Raise Right cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order dates are**, November 15, December 6 and 13**. 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. RaiseRight pays us to use their service. What is 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

Sunday Treats

Do you enjoy treats and fellowship after Sunday services? If so, please consider signing up on any given Sunday(s). *Empty slots mean no treats.* To enable our diabetic members to enjoy these treats, consider supplementing some of the "sugary goodies" with crackers/cheese /fruit. The signup sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board.

Prayers Honoring Veterans And Their Sacrifices In The Military

Heavenly Father,

We lift up our voices in heartfelt thanksgiving for the veterans who have served and sacrificed for us in the military. We think of how they put their very lives on the line and gave themselves for the country and people who they loved and served.

We are grateful for their selflessness that has been a blessing to so many, even in the face of hardship, loss and pain. We just want to take a moment to honor them for the many ways that they have sacrificed and have been separated from their families.

We think of those who have fallen, and their grieving loved ones. We pray for Your comfort to surround them, and that they will hold tightly to the hope that is found in Christ not only for this life but for the one beyond.

We pray for those who have returned home from their duties. Thank You for protecting them and sparing their lives. May they be a reminder to us of those who may not be with us anymore, and who served faithfully alongside them.

We want to give thanks and honor to all our veterans who we celebrate today. Thank You for the freedoms that we get to experience today because of their selfless service. May they be blessed richly in Christ. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

Though there are many ways to honor our beloved veterans, one of the ways we can do that is through praying for our veterans. We can honor all those who have served in the military this Veteran's Day as we reflect on the sacrifices they made, and lift them up



End of the Church Year (11/24)

Lord Jesus, when You return, You will restore everything. All the years of Pain will be erased; every tear of disappointment will be wiped away; every bitter experience will be utterly forgotten. With perfect eyes, we will see Your hands and feet that took the nail; Your head that was crowned with thorns; Your back that was scrouged; Your side that was pierced. Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen and Amen (Portals of Prayer)

Prayers of Thanksgiving from Psalms

Psalm 95 - "Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods..."

Psalm 118:29 - "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Psalm 103:1-5 - "Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, always and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.

Food Drive
Non perishable only

Share Love this Christmas with Ladies Aid and help give nutritious food to church families or others in need in our community.

Prepare for Christmas by creating a box or bag of nonperishable food items and/or paper products.

Return to church NO LATER than **December 6**.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie or Lisa**.**

Food items in any amount are greatly appreciated.

The list is only a suggestion**.** **Only non-perishable food items**

Thank you for your support

BOX OF CEREAL
BOX OF OATMEAL (INSTANT!)
PEANUT BUTTER
JAR OF JELLY
BROWNIE MIX
BOX OF SALTINES
CAN OF CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP
CAN OF TOMATO SOUP
CAN OF CORN
CAN OF GREEN BEANS
CAN OF TOMATOES
JAR OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE
PACKAGE OF PASTA
PACKAGE OF RICE
CAN OF PEACHES
CAN OF MIXED FRUIT
JAR OF APPLESAUCE
BOX OF STUFFING MIX
BOXED POTATOES
MAC AND CHEESE
ROLL OF PAPER TOWELS
PACKAGE OF TOILET PAPER
BOX OF KLEENEX