



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



December 2021 Newsletter

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

Dear Sheep of the Divine Shepherd:

In the midst of the Christmas season, there is so much to do and so little time to do it. There are gifts to buy, presents to wrap, people to visit and on and on it goes.



Yet, in the midst of all the confusion and the chaos stands absolute truth: **The Word became flesh and dwelt among us!**

Let us take a moment in our busy lives and ponder what that means for you and your family. Just at the right time some 2000 years ago God decided to send his one and only Son to this earth for the purpose of giving us the greatest gift of all, the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Everything in this world is purposeless without this truth. The gifts that are purchased, the loved ones that will receive them, and all of us, will all turn to dust one day and then what? For the child of God this truth means everything. For those baptized into Christ Jesus and who have remained in the faith through God's gift of Word and Sacrament means eternity with a Savior who was born whose name is Christ the Lord. Jesus wants us to enjoy the Christmas season, but he first and foremost wants hearts filled with his saving truths and his everlasting love.

Let this Christmas be a time when you share the greatest gift of all, Jesus, with your loved ones and your neighbors. Let people know the true reason for the season and why you have the joy and hope that is in you. Remember that the songs, the parties, and the gifts will be gone come December 26th, but our Savior and His Word remains for all eternity.

Let this Christmas be a Christmas that is led by church attendance, Advent devotions with the family and prayer. When we receive the gracious and merciful gifts of God, we can then truly give a gift to everyone around us. The true meaning of Christmas is this: **"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."** (*Isaiah 9:6*)

LTJ,
Pastor Zimmer

Please visit: <https://marchforlifechicago.org/> for information on the Pro-Life Rally in Chicago



We are so excited to announce a first round of speakers for the March for Life Chicago!

What a gift it is to learn from these pro-life leaders' experiences and then march together in downtown Chicago on January 8!

Stay tuned for even more speakers as we get closer to the March for Life Chicago. Less than 8 weeks until our weekend together begins.

Representative Avery Bourne, IL State Representative (District 95)

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the LCMS

Dante Bucci, weDignify student leader, senior at University of Illinois

Sr. Alicia Torres, Franciscans of the Eucharist in Chicago,

Sign up to join us for March, Rally, and Convention!

<https://wedignify.ticketspice.com/mflc-c>

Christmas Schedule

Advent Midweek



Join us this Advent season for our midweek Evening Prayer services as we ponder anew the events that led up to the birth of the Messiah.

December 3, 8, & 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Decorating

Come and help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on **Saturday, December 4** beginning at **10:00 a.m.** Many hands are needed and make light work!



Join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior this Christmas Eve and Day. Below is the schedule of worship services:



Candlelight Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve @ 6:30 p.m.

Festive Divine Service
Christmas Day @ 9:00 a.m.

Invite your relatives, neighbors, and/or coworkers to join you as we hear anew the story of God becoming man to save us from our sins. The vast array of Christmas hymns and carols will be spread out over these two services, the following Sunday, and Epiphany. O come, let us adore Him!



December Birthdays

- 01 Shelly Quinn
- 03 Al Gernenz
- 10 Victoria Fox
- 16 Bradley Learnahan
- 16 Rev. David Zimmer
- 27 Jonathan Gernenz
- 28 Marjorie Jahnsen
- 30 Aaron Castro



Week of December 1 - 4

- Wed, Dec 1, 6:30 pm Evening Prayers
- Wed, Dec 1, 7:30 pm Choir Practice
- Sat, Dec 4, 10:00 am Church Decorating

Week of December 5 - 11

- Sun, Dec 5, 9:00 am Divine Service
- Sun, Dec 5, 10:15 am Fellowship
- Sun, Dec 5, 10:30 am Bible Study
- Wed, Dec 8, 6:30 pm Evening Prayers
- Wed, Dec 8, 7:30 pm Choir Practice

Week of December 12 -18

- Sun, Dec 12, 9:00 am Divine Service
- Sun, Dec 12, 10:05 am Congregational Meeting
- Wed, Dec 15, 6:30 pm Evening Prayers
- Wed, Dec 15, 7:30 pm Choir Practice

Week of December 19 - 25

- Sun, Dec 19, 9:00 am Divine Service
- Sun, Dec 19, 10:15 am Fellowship
- Sun, Dec 19, 10:30 am Bible Study
- Wed, Dec 22, 6:30 pm Choir Practice
- Fri, Dec 24, 6:30 pm Candlelight Lessons
- Sat, Dec 25, 9:00 am Festive Divine Service

Week of December 26 - 31

- Sun, Dec 26, 9:00 am Divine Service
- Sun, Dec 26, 10:15 am Fellowship
- Sun, Dec 26, 10:30 am Bible Study

December Baptismal Anniversaries

- 15 Bobbie Koritzke
- 15 Shellie Quinn
- 24 Nick Stewart
- 25 Cris Ruisz
- 27 Genevieve Wuthenow
- 29 Al Gernenz



Altar Flowers

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



Forms to purchase poinsettias for the Christmas Season are in the narthex. Cost is \$10@ and payment with completed form is due **December 12**. In lieu of purchasing a poinsettia, a donation may be given to the Altar Guild Fund.

The 2022 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. Traditionally flowers are not used during the penitential seasons of Lent and Advent. We typically have special floral arrangements for certain festivals: palms on Palm Sunday, spring flowers on Easter Sunday, red bouquets on Confirmation, and poinsettias on Christmas. 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

*Children are God's precious jewels -
help them shine for Christ*

Ladies Aid

The members of Divine Shepherd Ladies Aid send their greetings and their wish that the Baby Jesus will shower each of us with his love and forgiveness. This season may be different for many of us, but we still receive the best gift of all--the love and caring of our Lord. That will never change.

Many things are changing however!! There are needs being experienced by members of our congregation that are not easily seen on Sunday mornings. We do have members in need of both help in paying bills, buying groceries, providing Christmas gifts for their family.



Our two current projects address these needs by giving gift cards and food supplies. THE GIVING TREE is currently in the narthex of the church with envelopes requesting cards for different types of families. If you are able, please take an envelope and provide the assistance requested. Return the envelope to Lisa or

Ed Cruz by **December 12.**

THE FOOD DRIVE--Our gifts of food do two things for those in need. Of course, it provides food especially for a holiday dinner. In addition to the gifts that you have so generously been leaving in the narthex, we have received \$500 from Thrivent to purchase the perishables that we all need. Each family will receive meat, potatoes, vegetables, dessert, and even some "goodies" through the Thrivent Financial grants.



Mid-size sturdy boxes are needed to pack the food and can be dropped off anytime in the nurser (Thanks).

All food and Giving Tree donations need to be at church by December 12 to give us enough time to purchase food, sort it by family, and have it available for pickup by Wednesday December 15. Those recipients of the Giving Tree need time to use their gift cards to purchase gifts/etc.

Of course, do not forget one family/person that completes the "Reverse Advent Calendar" food drive will receive a \$25 gift card of their choice.

Thank you for your generosity in helping others.

Blue Side Banners

The messages and symbols on all of the banners were carefully chosen to reflect the Advent season. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is in reference to the traditional Advent hymn. Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God with us." "Hope, Peace, Love, Joy" are the words that depict our focus during the four weeks of Advent.

The Angel: Angels play significant roles in the birth of Jesus. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to inform her she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. An angel came to Joseph in a dream to tell him he would fulfil the role of Jesus' father on Earth. Angels came to the shepherds to tell them the Savior had been born and Angels filled the skies with songs above Bethlehem to celebrate and announce the birth of Jesus.

The Candle: The candle reminds us Jesus is the light of the world. He, and He alone, is the light we should follow. Through Him we will find our way in the darkness of life. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

The Star: The star signifies the Star of Bethlehem, which was a divine sign, that shined on the night Jesus was born. This star led people to Jesus and the Magi called it "His" star. Jesus is also referred to as "the bright morning star."

Jesus is the gift that perfectly fits every heart, and it is with His love that all celebration starts. We rejoice in Him as we remember His birth and thank God for sending His only Son to earth. His life led from a manger to a cross on a hill where He faithfully followed His Father's perfect will. He freely laid down everything so that we could live, and there is no greater treasure anyone could give. Like a scarlet ribbon His love wrapped around the cross and He offered it to us all at the greatest cost. So each time that we give we remember what He's done and honor the perfect Gift—God's one and only Son. — Holley Gerth

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.**



Important Phone Numbers

Church office: 630-759-5300
Pastor Zimmer: 583-880-9532
Prayer Chain: 630-251-7860 (Bobbie Light)
Newsletter info: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
(items are due December 27)



Shop with Scrip cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order dates are, **December 5, 12 and January 16**. Pre-purchased cards are available after Sunday services and forms are on the bookcase 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. Scrip 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

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.

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.

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



Please let the office know if you have a policy or account with Thrivent Financial. Thrivent offers action team grants for various projects and events, and we would love to utilize every opportunity we can (only Thrivent members can apply for these wonderful grants).

Thrivent members are encouraged to donate their Choice Dollars to Divine Shepherd each quarter. These dollars are used to support various church/member's needs. Thanks.

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 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.

**A Blessed Christmas and
a Happy New Year!**

You are cordially invited to
A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!

Guest of Honor: Jesus Christ

Date: Every day. Traditionally, December 25
but He's always around, so the date is flexible...

Time: Whenever you're ready.
(Please don't be late, though, or you'll miss out on all the fun!)

Place: In your heart.... He'll meet you there.
(You'll hear Him knock.)

Attire: Come as you are... grubbies are okay.
He'll be washing our clothes anyway. He said something about
new white robes and crowns for everyone who stays till the last.

Tickets: Admission is free. He's already paid for everyone...
(He says you wouldn't have been able to afford it anyway...
it cost Him everything He had. But you do need to accept the ticket!!)

Refreshments: New wine, bread, and a far-out drink He calls "Living Water,"
followed by a supper that promises to be out of this world!

Gift Suggestions: Your life. He's one of those people who already has everything else.
(He's very generous in return though. Just wait until you see what He has for you!)

Entertainment: Joy, Peace, Truth, Light, Life, Love, Real Happiness,
Communion with God, Forgiveness, Miracles, Healing, Power, Eternity in Paradise, Contentment, and much more!
(All "G" rated, so bring your family and friends.)

R.S.V.P. Very Important!

He must know ahead so He can reserve a spot for you at the table.
Also, He's keeping a list of His friends for future reference. He calls it the
"Lamb's Book of Life."

Party being given by His Kids (that's us!!)



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