



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



February 2021 Newsletter

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

Dear Children of God:

What does the church observe on February 14th this year? I would imagine that St. Valentine's Day comes to mind, yet there is a much greater observance that happens on that day. It is the Transfiguration of Our Lord and the end of the Epiphany season. Then... just 3 days later comes Ash Wednesday.

As Ash Wednesday inaugurates the Lenten season we are especially reminded of our sinfulness and total corruption before God. As we look into the mirror of God's Law, we hear plainly the Word of God announce the verdict: *"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."* (Romans 3:10-12).



What are we to do as we sit in sackcloth and ashes and contemplate our horrible fate of hell and eternal death? Listen to Jesus: *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."* (Mark 1:15). What comfort these words bring to us! We have been liberated from the curse of the Law by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus Christ traveled through those weeks of Lent and then was hanged on a tree, to receive the complete punishment for our sins. You have been declared, "Not Guilty" by the merciful Triune God. By grace you have been saved! As we stand at the threshold of Lent let us look excitedly to those days when Jesus was crucified, buried, and then rose again.

I want to personally invite all of you to our midweek Lenten services that will begin at **6:30 pm. beginning February 17th**, Ash Wednesday, and continue to that most Holy week which begins on March 28th.

The theme for the six Lenten services and, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday is entitled, "Places of the Passion". This Lenten series is drawn from Luke's account of our Lord's Passion. Each week, a different section of the Gospel is read; and each week, Luke will take us to a different place—the *Places of the Passion*. However, the focus will not be on those physical places. Instead, throughout the series, the hearer is invited to gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does in those places. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. When Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it.

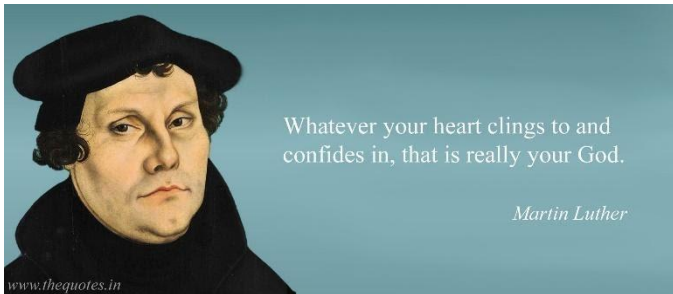
Mark your calendars and join the faithful on Ash Wednesday which takes place on **February 17th, at 6:30 pm.**

LTI,

Pastor Zimmer

Stewardship Newsletter

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich." 2 Cor. 8:8,9 Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, challenges the church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving.



"But just as you excel in everything---in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in our love for us---see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Cor. 8:7 Just as we grow in faith, speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same spirit through the same word. "And this is my prayer; that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight." Phil. 1:9 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working but the same God works all of them in all men." 1 Cor. 12:4-6

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It is not so much that we stop giving, but that we don't put it first, we treat it like all the other bills and it becomes a chore. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the scriptures assign to it. "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts." 1 Cor. 14:1a

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is a sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well. "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." James 3:13

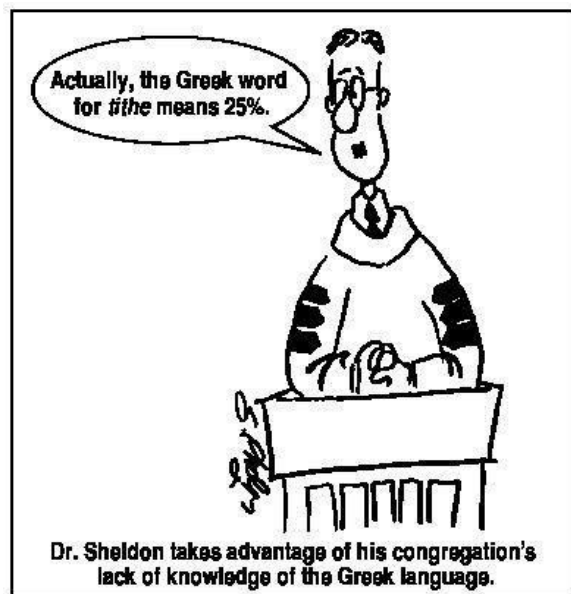
St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself, the incarnation, suffering and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source and driving force for our generosity of giving to the church. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us withal wisdom and understanding." Eph. 1:7 "From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16

Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace---of which generous giving is a part---so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church. "I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance and that you are now doing more than you did at first." Rev 2:19

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. If your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word: read it at home, attend Bible Study, hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. "All scriptures is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God, may be equipped for every good work." 2 Tim. 3:16,17 "Praise to the Lord, for He showed His wonderful love to me....." Psalm 31:21a

Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering and death, for this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. Where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also. **"What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to your---guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit that lives in us." 2 Tim. 1:13,14**

"This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us." 1 John 4:10





Week of February 7- 13

Sun, Feb 7 9:00 am Divine Service

Week of February 14-20

Sun, Feb 14, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 14, 10:15 am Bible Study
 Mon, Feb 15, 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
 Tue, Feb 16, Noon - Altar Guild Meeting
 Tue, Feb 16, 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study
 Wed, Feb 17, 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday
 Sat, Feb 20, 10:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of February 21-27

Sun, Feb 21, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 21, 10:15 am Bible Study
 Mon, Feb 22, 7:00 pm Council Meeting
 Wed, Feb 24, 6:30 pm Lenten Service

Week of February 28

Sun, Feb 28, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Feb 28, 10:15 am Bible Study

February Birthdays

05 Michael Collins
 12 Lisa Cruz
 14 Hector (Manny) Martinez
 17 Karen McClain
 25 Payton Murray
 26 Rebekah Dobbs



February Baptismal Anniversaries

08 Victoria Fox
 11 Jonathan Gernenz
 14 Patrick McClain
 16 Kristina Learnahan
 17 Mary Dobbs
 17 Christa McClain
 17 Hailey Quinn



February Wedding Anniversaries

19 Al & Ann Gernenz

Asleep in Christ

Marianne Louise Hodonsky a beloved sister in Christ and member of Divine Shepherd, fell asleep in Christ on January 21 at the age of 94. A church service was held at Zion Lutheran Church in Hinsdale.

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

Ash Wednesday



This year Ash Wednesday falls on **Wednesday, February 17**. Join us as we begin our 40-day journey to the cross with a solemn Divine Service at **6:30 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.

Chairman's Updates

The elders and council did not have meetings in January. The Elders and Council meeting is scheduled for the 2nd week and 3rd week of February. The Northern Illinois District sent out an email COVID, which Pastor forwarded to all members.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped at the church. As we put a rough 2020 behind us, we will be moving forward towards a few projects at the church. More on the projects and activities will be provided in the near future.

Streaming of the service is on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/DSLcbolingbrook>) Youtube (<https://www.facebook.com/DSLcbolingbrook>), you can get the links at the church website (<https://www.ds-lcms.org>).

I would appreciate any feedback on the streaming service or any other matter.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Ed Cruz, Chairman

Chairman@ds-lcms.org



Directing Choice Dollars is a great way for eligible Thrivent members to show support for what matters most to them. 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 every-thing you can to make sure that you are getting the most out of your participation. A reminder, that all 2020 Choice Dollars will have to be donated by **March 31** or they will be lost.

Ladies Aid

The congregation has changed a lot in the last few years. Our last congregation's directory is out of date and needs to be updated. The Ladies Aid intends to take on this project. Our plans for a new directory will look a bit different. Soon you will have a chance to give us your input on what information you would like to be included. In addition to name, address, and phone number we would like to include e-mail addresses (a lot of business is done this way, even within the congregation), birthdays and anniversaries. We will not be sharing year of birth and marriages. There will also be listed names of children and their birthdays. You will be shown the entry for your family. Then we would like you to fill in any blank spaces and/or delete any information you do not want to be included.

Other plans are to return to our yearly garage sale. We will collect your items the week of June 20 and have the sale Thursday, Friday, and Saturday as before. We will definitely require masks and will limit the number of people in Luther Hall.

Our meeting is the third Saturday of February and we certainly would like to see you join us at 10:00 am that morning. These two big projects will need a lot of willing hands if they are to be accomplished.

Altar Flowers

The 2021 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.



Shop with Scrip (Manna) cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **February 21**. 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 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 • dsclmanna@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. Any questions, please contact Lisa Cruz at 630-636-6359 or email at dsclmanna@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 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. 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

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 February 22)

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.

**May every labor yield pleasant fruits
and may love multiplied.**

**May Your gracious touch give health
and strength of body, and may your Spirit
bring wisdom and discernment to the mind.
Above all, may each daily walk be one more
step closer to You. I ask these blessings in
Jesus' precious name.**

Amen