



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

March 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:

"Music is one of the fairest and most glorious gifts of God." - Martin Luther

The Divine Service and its liturgy would never be complete without music and singing. In this regard the Lutheran Church is extremely blessed to call J.S. Bach, composer, cantor, and organist of the Lutheran Church her own.

In the past few months, I have been focusing these newsletter articles on people mentioned in the Bible and the early church fathers. This month we turn our attention to someone who has, to put it mildly, made a huge impact on the music of the church. On March 21st the church commemorates J.S. Bach who once said, *"I have always kept one end in view, namely ... to conduct a well-regulated church music to the honor of God."* By the grace of God, J.S. Bach gave the Lutheran Church a voice like no other.

Born in Eisenach, Thuringia, Germany, on March 21, 1685, Johann Sebastian Bach came from a family of musicians, stretching back several generations. In 1706, Bach was married to woman named Maria. The couple had seven children together, some of whom died as infants. Maria died in 1720. The following year, Bach married a singer named Anna Magdalena Wülcken. They had thirteen children, more than half of them died as children.

J.S. Bach was a prolific composer writing 1128 separate works. In addition, there are others that have been lost. He always attributed his incredible talent in music to God and played and wrote music for the church to the very end of his life. He died in 1750.

You would find it very difficult to find a parishioner of almost any Christian denomination who has not heard the music of J.S. Bach. Many of these probably even have a favorite piece of his. I first heard my favorite piece of Bach's when my brother played it on our wedding day in Frankenmuth, Mi. The name of the tune is *In Dir Ist Freude*, a tune you are all familiar with, "In Thee is Gladness" (LSB 818). Interestingly enough, when I traveled to Germany with a group from Concordia University I was "on the fence" on whether I would go or not. What finally convinced me to go? Dr. Steve Wente, the chairman of the music department at that time and accomplished organist promised me that he would play *In Dir Ist Freude* on one of the very same organs that Bach played. He even went a step further, playing the piece a half dozen times during our stay in Germany.

In Thee there is certainly Gladness, for God has given us so many gifts, especially the gift of His Son, but also the great and wonderful gift of music and composers like J.S. Bach.

A Blessed Lententide and Holy Week to you all!

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor Zimmer

Christian Stewardship

Cherish What God Has Given



In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

March Birthdays

03 Terry Donaldson
05 Joey Asche
07 Hailey Quinn
10 Leila Martinez
10 Julie Zimmer
20 Jenny Martinez
20 Denise Collins
20 Jenna Zimmer
29 Phyllis Novy (H)
29 Jonathan Rose

March Baptismal Anniversaries

20 Jenna Zimmer
27 Hector Martinez
28 Joey Asche
31 Karen Moritz

New Members

Dan Rossof – profession of faith
208 Malibu Dr. Bolingbrook, IL 60440
708-269-8882 Drossof22@gmail.com

Thomas Staffeldt – transfer
855 Grove Lane Bolingbrook, IL 60440
630-361-2374 Thomasstaffeldt70@gmail.com

MARCH

Week of March 3-9

Sun, Mar 3, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Mar 3, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, Mar 3, 10:00 am Bible Study
Wed, Mar 6, 6:30 pm Lenten Service
Wed, Mar 6, 7:30 pm Choir Practice

Week of March 10-16

Sun, Mar 10, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Mar 10, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, Mar 10, 10:00 am Bible Study
Mon, Mar 11, 11:30 am Altar Guild Meeting
Mon, Mar 11, 12:01 pm Women's Bible Study
Mon, Mar 11, 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
Wed, Mar 13, 6:30 pm Lenten Service
Wed, Mar 13, 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat, Mar 16, 10:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of March 17-23

Sun, Mar 17, 8:30 am, Divine Service
Sun, Mar 17, 9:40 am, Fellowship
Sun, Mar 17, 10:00 am, Bible Study
Mon, Mar 18, 7:00 pm Council Meeting
Wed, Mar 20, 6:30 pm Lenten Service
Wed, Mar 20, 7:30 pm Choir Practice

Week of March 24-30

Sun, Mar 24, 8:30 am Palm Sunday service
Sun, Mar 24, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, Mar 24, 10:00 am Bible Study
Thu, Mar 28, 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service
Fri, Mar 29, 6:30 pm Good Friday Service
Sat, Mar 30, 6:30 pm Candlelight Easter Vigil

Week of March 31

Sun, Mar 31, 8:30 am Festive Divine Service

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday | March 24

Divine Service 8:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday | March 28

Triduum Service 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday | March 29

Tenebrae Service 6:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday | March 30

Candlelight Easter Vigil 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday | March 31

Festive Divine Service 8:30 a.m.



Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Triduum—the three days that lead us from the upper room to the empty tomb. This solemn Divine Service begins with corporate confession and absolution, includes Holy Scripture readings and a sermon on God's new covenant, focuses on the Holy Supper our Lord Jesus gives His people, and concludes with Psalm 22 and the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

Good Friday

On Good Friday we ponder anew God's great love for us in Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. This Tenebrae Service (service of darkness) features Isaiah's prophecy of Christ's sacrifice and a choral version of the Passion according to Saint John. It concludes in almost total darkness as we ponder the wages of our sin and what it cost Christ to redeem us.

Easter Vigil

On Holy Saturday, we celebrate our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. This candlelight service begins in almost total darkness with the lighting of the paschal candle, features Old Testament readings that foreshadow and explain our baptismal life in Christ, and ends with the first proclamation of Easter. Come and join in one of the church year's most beautiful services.

Easter Sunday

Easter is our annual celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The festive Divine Service focuses on Saint Luke's account of the resurrection and includes the Supper of our Lord's resurrected body and blood. This service also features special choral and instrumental music. Come and celebrate our Lord's resurrection with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Easter

E – Eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord (Romans 6:23)

A – Alive forever and ever (Revelations 1:18)

S – Savior of the world (I John 4:3-4)

T – The way of truth and life (John 14:6)

E – Eternal Life is in His Son (I John 5:11)

R – Raised from the dead (II Timothy 2:8)

(Submitted by Bobbie Light)

Ladies Aid

Please start collecting kitchen items, office materials, clothing, crafts, bedding, and linen items for the rummage sale.



Rummage sale items may be dropped off:

- **Sunday, June 16, 11:00 am-2pm**
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4-7 pm
Please do not drop off large items in Luther Hall until the week of the sale.
We appreciate receiving all the items by Wednesday. It is very difficult to sort any items after the sale begins.

Sale dates are:

- **Thursday, June 20, 3- 7:00 pm**
- **Friday, June 21, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**
- **Saturday, June 22 , 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Helpers are needed on "drop-off" days, sale days, and on Saturday after 1:00 pm to help pack up the things that do not sell. The unsold items will be given to a charity.

Large items, coats and certain clothing will be priced individually. Smaller items that can fit into a grocery bag will be \$5.00 per bag or priced individually if you only want a couple of small items

Being a volunteer is a great way to get to know other members of the congregation. Join us, members or not, for some great fun and a way to help the congregation and various church projects.

Ladies Aid will be baking and delivering cookies to Bolingbrook's First Responders/police officers on April 15/16. If you would like to bake/donate cookies for this community outreach project, please contact Karen. LA has some grant money to help you purchase the ingredients. Please bring all the cookies to church on April 14. Thank you

Please join us at **10:00** on **March 16** for the next meeting. There is a lot to be done prior to the sale and the more help we have the better.

Altar Flowers



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 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.

Look for forms in the service bulletin to purchase Easter flowers to beautify the sanctuary.

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? 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.

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**



New Church Directory

Pickup up the new church directory in the narthex. See Barb with any questions.

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



Shop with Scrip cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **March 17**. 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. 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 • dslcmanna@yahoo.com

shopwithscrip.com

Your Enrollment Code: B2LD2C7A55973



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 – Divine Shepherd received over \$678 in 2023.

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.

Portals of Prayer

Pick up your April-June Portals of Prayer in Luther Hall. Cost is \$15 @ year. Make checks payable to Divine Shepherd and place in the offering plate (cash is also accepted). Blessings on your continued study of God's Word.

Important Phone Numbers

Church office: 630-759-5300

Pastor Zimmer: 563-880-9532

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

Head Elder: 630-360-5573 (Scott Collins)

Newsletter info: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
(due March 25)

Help Wanted

Do you have an hour once a month to help clean the church? If so, please contact Kelly. Thank You.



Lord, Thank You for the gift of **Hope** You gave us on Easter morning. Because of You we know that no problem is too difficult and even death has no power over us.

Thank You for the gift of **Joy** You gave us when You were resurrected. Because of You we know that no matter how challenging life may be, in the end we will rejoice again.

Thank You for the gift of **Love** You gave us when You laid down Your life. Because of You we know that there is no sin too great to separate us and we are incredibly valuable to You.

We celebrate You, **JESUS**, with hearts full of praise and gratitude for who You are and all You have done for us! Amen
Holly Gerth

*Joyous Easter as we celebrate our
Risen Savior*