



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

March 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

Dear Sheep of the Divine Shepherd:

St. Patrick's Day – March 17th

St. Patrick (c. 385–461 AD) is remembered as the great missionary bishop to Ireland. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped by raiders and enslaved in Ireland as a young man. During his captivity, he turned deeply to prayer and the Scriptures. After escaping and returning home, he later felt a divine calling to return to Ireland—not as a captive, but as a missionary of Christ. Patrick's life is a remarkable testimony to God's grace at work through weakness. He did not rely on his own strength, eloquence, or holiness, but on Christ's Word and promise. In this, his life reflects a core Lutheran confession: we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

St. Patrick and the Gospel of Grace

Patrick's own writings, especially *The Confession of St. Patrick*, reveal a man deeply aware of his sinfulness and God's mercy. He repeatedly emphasized that his ministry was not the result of his own righteousness but the undeserved kindness of God. This resonates strongly with Lutherans. We confess that all Christian ministry flows from God's gracious action, not human merit. Patrick's humility—crediting God for every conversion, every baptism, every success—echoes the biblical truth that "it is God who gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:7). Patrick preached Christ crucified and risen. He baptized in the Triune Name and taught the people the Scriptures and the Apostles' Creed. While many later legends have grown around him, at the heart of Patrick's mission was a simple proclamation: Jesus Christ is Lord, and salvation is found in Him alone.

The Trinity and the Shamrock

One of the most famous traditions about St. Patrick is his use of the shamrock to teach the doctrine of the Trinity—three leaves on one stem, distinct yet united. Whether historically exact or not, the story points to Patrick's faithfulness to the catholic (universal) teaching of the Trinity.

Lutherans confess with Patrick and the early Church:

- One God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The Father creates, the Son redeems, and the Spirit sanctifies.

Patrick's Trinitarian faith places him firmly within the orthodox Christian tradition confessed in the Nicene Creed.

Mission and Vocation: Patrick as a Model Christian Witness

St. Patrick's return to Ireland demonstrates Christian vocation in action. He did not seek personal comfort or glory. Instead, he returned to the very people who had enslaved him, proclaiming forgiveness and new life in Christ.

From a Lutheran perspective, Patrick's life shows that:

- Every Christian has a calling (vocation) in daily life.
- God sends His people into the world as witnesses, not by compulsion, but by love.
- Mission is not about personal heroism, but about Christ working through ordinary sinners.

Patrick did not rely on coercion or political power. He preached, baptized, catechized, and prayed. Through these means of grace, God gathered a church in Ireland.

Separating History from Legend

Many popular stories surround St. Patrick—driving snakes out of Ireland, miraculous wonders, and folklore. While these stories are part of cultural celebration, Lutheran theology reminds us that faith rests not on legends or myths, but on the Word of God.

Patrick's true significance is not in miracles attributed to him, but in his faithfulness to Christ and the Gospel. He was a sinner saved by grace, called to preach Christ to a people who had not heard the Gospel.

Why Lutherans Can Celebrate St. Patrick

Although St. Patrick lived long before the Reformation, Lutherans gladly remember faithful Christians from the early Church. We do not pray to saints or place our trust in them, but we thank God for their witness and learn from their example.

Patrick reminds us that:

- The Church is older than any single denomination.
 - The Gospel has been preached across cultures and centuries.
 - God uses imperfect people to accomplish His saving work.
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A Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, who called Your servant Patrick to preach the Gospel to the people of Ireland, we thank You for his faithful witness. Strengthen us in the same confession of the Holy Trinity and send us into our vocations as witnesses to Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor Zimmer

Christian Stewardship

We Praise You, O God



As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use *LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."*

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; In grateful devotion our tributes we bring. We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You; We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You; Through trial and tempest our guide You have been. When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us, And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

*With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.*

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our stewardship life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

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

MARCH

Week of March 1-7

Sun, Mar 1, 8:30 am Divine Service
 Sun, Mar 1, 9:40 am Fellowship
 Sun, Mar 1 10:00 am Bible Study
 Wed, Mar 4, 5:30 pm Soup/salad
 Wed, Mar 4, 6:30 pm Lenten Midweek Service
 Wed, Mar 4, 7:30 pm Choir Practice
 Sat, Mar 7, Set your clocks ahead one hour

Week of March 8-14

Sun, Mar 8, 8:30 am Divine Service
 Sun, Mar 8, 9:40 am Fellowship
 Sun, Mar 8 10:00 am Bible Study
 Wed, Mar 11, 5:30 pm Soup/Sandwiches
 Wed, Mar 11, 6:30 pm Lenten Midweek Service
 Wed, Mar 11, 7:30 pm Choir Practice

Week of March 15-21

Sun, Mar 15, 8:30 am Divine Service
 Sun, Mar 15, 9:40 am Fellowship
 Sun, Mar 15, 10:00 am Bible Study
 Wed, Mar 18, 5:30 pm Soup/Sandwiches
 Wed, Mar 18, 6:30 pm Lenten midweek Service
 Wed, Mar 18, 7:30 pm Choir Practice

Week of March 22-28

Sun, Mar 22, 8:30 am Divine Service
 Sun, Mar 22, 9:40 am Fellowship
 Sun, Mar 22, 10:00 am Bible Study
 Wed, Mar 25, 5:30 pm Soup/Sandwiches
 Wed, Mar 25, 6:30 pm Lenten Midweek Service
 Wed, Mar 25, 7:30 pm Choir practice

Week of March 29-31

Sun, Mar 29, 8:30 am Divine Service
 Sun, Mar 29, 9:40 am Fellowship
 Sun, Mar 29, 10:00 am Bible Study

Daylight Savings

Remember to "spring forward" by setting your clocks one hour forward on **Saturday night, March 07.**



March Birthdays

03 Terry Donaldson
 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
 31 Karen Moritz



Lenten Services



Join us for our midweek Evening Prayer services during Lent. These services are held each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Soup/Sandwiches

Ron & Cris will be serving soup/sandwiches before Lenten Midweek services at 5:30 pm on **March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

Elder Zone

Ed Cruz	Ashe - Braasch
Kevin Pape	Bronson - Delaney
Ron Ruisz	Donaldson - Fox
Scott Collins	Gernenz - Koritzke
Kelly Stewart	Lewis -Otto
Rick Otto	Pape - Ruisz
Nathan Geschke	Stephens - Szoldatitis
Dan Rossoff	Weaver - Zimmer

Altar Flowers



The 2026 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 March service bulletins to purchase Easter flowers to beautify the sanctuary.

Altar Guild

Please see Ruth Ogden if you are interested in joining altar guild and can donate an hour or two on the third weekend of each month.

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 in Luther Hall. Monetary donations are accepted to defray the cost of drinks and paper products, which are supplied by Ladies Aid.

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://www.facebook.com/DSLcBolingbrook)

Twitter: @dslc60440

RaiseRight (Manna)

Shop with RaiseRight cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **March 15**. 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

Ladies Aid

The meetings are on the third Saturday of each month, and we certainly would like to have you join us at **10:00 am** on **March 21**. Projects for 2026 will be discussed.



THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

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 2025 Choice Dollars to Divine Shepherd, please do so **before March 31 or they are lost**. Thrivent members and Choice Dollars are an important source of support for the work the organization does. Choice dollars are used to support various church/member needs. Thanks.

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



Important Phone Numbers

Church office: 630-759-5300
Pastor Zimmer: 583-880-9532
Deacon: 708-253-3505(Mark Drevlow)
Head Elder: 630-360-5573 (Scott Collins)
Prayer Chain: 712-584-5301 (Julie Zimmer)
Newsletter info: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
(items are due March 26)

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 placed in the offering plate (cash is also accepted). Blessings on your continued study of God's Word.

Help Wanted

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



Jesus Loves Seniors

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

Lenten Prayer

Lord Jesus, it was out of love for us that You endured your suffering and death. Thank You for that love. We confess that we daily sin against You and need Your forgiveness. Send Your Holy Spirit to help us recognize our sins and turn from them in repentance so that our lives can better please You. Have mercy on us. In Your precious name, we pray. Amen (Portals of Prayer)

Lord Jesus Christ, during this time of Lenten preparation and reflection, keep our thoughts on You and Your sacrifice. As we confess our sins, let us remember our part in Your suffering and death. As we are granted forgiveness, may we be continually assured that our sins are covered by Your robe of righteousness. Prepare us for service and worship as we await the coming joy of Easter.

Lord Jesus Christ, bless Your Church with Your presence. Fill our hearts with Your Spirit and bring a new sense of zeal to the work You have set before us. Help us always to be mindful of Your love and grace. Keep us in Your Word. Let us live a life that shows how we are able to share Your love with others, because you loved us first.

Good Shepherd, thank you for providing us with a faithful servant who will be diligent to preach the fullness of Your Word, administer Your Sacraments, and serve Your people in his daily life. Receive our thanks for those who serve in the Office of the Holy Ministry, protect them from pride and selfish ambition, grant them joy in serving, and provide care for their families.

We pray this in Your name. Amen

(Portals of Prayer)