



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

April 2021 Newsletter

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



Dear Children of the Divine Shepherd,

True or False: "Go to church because that is your gift to God"?

Why do so many churches have messages on their signs that are completely unedifying? Worse are the ones that have a message that contains false doctrine. I once drove by a church that had the statement above minus the question mark. In other words, it just said, "Go to church because that is your gift to God".

What do you suppose was going through my mind as I read the sign?

- A) I was overjoyed to the point of getting out of my car and doing a little jig?
- B) I was relieved that someone had finally put out a decent message instead of all those goofy things that are usually quoted on church signs?
- C) I wanted to get out of the car remove the message and then grab the pastor by the lapels and ask him, "What on earth were you thinking"?

Answering the question correctly is extremely important. Why? Because answering the question incorrectly can cause you to eventually fade away from the services of God as it has for so many.

The place we find the correct answer can only be found in Holy Scripture.

You all know from your basic knowledge of the Old Testament that God placed His name at a certain place, namely the tabernacle and then later the temple. But why would an omnipresent God, who encompasses heaven and earth, place Himself in the confines of a tent or building? Was it mainly so that His people could bring gifts to him? To worship Him? Absolutely not! It was so God could bring His gifts to them. He chose to place Himself in these places to bless and forgive His beloved children.

Numbers 6:22-27 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

In the instance above, God commanded Aaron to proclaim these words from the tabernacle where God would bless and forgive His people.

*1 Kings 8:30 And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place **(The temple)**. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.*

*1 Kings 9:3 And the LORD said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before me. I have consecrated this house that you have built, by putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there **(The temple)** for all time.*

The Scriptures make it clear that we cannot offer anything to God because He already possesses everything. On the contrary, God placed His name in these places in order to give His gifts of forgiveness and blessings to His people. In response to these gracious gifts the people **would then** praise and thank God.

Now as we go examine the New Testament what do we see. First of all, since we know that God is immutable, meaning that he never changes, what held true in meeting with God in the Old Testament must also be true in the New. It is true that we do not follow the Ceremonial Law of the Old Testament, with its sacrifices and such, but the principle of God coming to a special place to bless and forgive His children is still valid.

Yet, for discussion's sake let us take a look at a few things in the New Testament. When Jesus was in his humility there were certainly a few things that were done for him. For instance, Mary, his mother took care of him as he grew up, there were also people that housed, fed him and so forth.

Yet after he was resurrected and is now in the state of exaltation for all time, what can He possibly need from us? What does Jesus say about Himself? He declares to us His beloved children that He is the Temple. (John 2:19ff. & Rev. 21:22, and other places), and states where two or three are gathered in his name there he is also. (Matthew 18). The Church has always understood that the temple and tabernacle were replaced by Jesus who is now the Temple. Now His Church gather together in the place that He promises to bless and forgive; Where the Word of God is proclaimed, and His Sacraments are distributed.

So again, the New Testament Church, which we all are a part, who is the giver and who is the recipient? Again, lets us look at what happened after Pentecost.

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. In this particular verse God is giving His Word hearing the prayers and giving His body and blood to eat and to drink where His people are gathered together.

Here the words from St. Paul as he speaks of the people who are gathered together and receiving the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 11:18-20 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat.

In the following verse, Paul calls these collections of Corinthians, "Church" because they are God's children who are gathered together. He says that this Church has been sanctified and are given grace by Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:1-4 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus.

In the verses below the Hebrew writer is certainly sterner as he warns that the gathering together of believers is the most important good work a Christian does, not because they are earning something, or giving something but so they receive the forgiveness of sins. He also warns them that deliberately not doing so is a grave sin.

Hebrews 10:23-26 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.

We can go on and on and on, but sadly many people refuse to believe the evidence that is set plainly before them. Our sinful flesh wants to believe that we are doing something for God when we attend the Divine Service and thus, we earn His favor.

Worshipping God is something that a Christian does every single day through the various vocations that he is engaged in. We do not have to go to Divine Shepherd or any other place to worship God. Christians go to the Divine Service so that they can receive the gifts of God and eternal life.

Is going to church (The Divine Service) our gift to God? **NO!** The Divine Service is God's gift to us! It is where His children are gathered together, His Name invoked and where He gives us His gifts of blessing and forgiveness. It is where faith is created and is sustained. (Romans 10:17). How often should we receive these gifts of God? If it were possible, we would receive them every day.

As Martin Luther once said, "Now, what is the devil? Nothing else than what the Scriptures call him, a liar, and a murderer. A liar who seduces the heart from God's Word and blinds it, making you unable to feel your needs or come to Christ. A murderer who begrudges you every hour of your life. If you could see how many daggers, spears, and arrows are at every moment aimed at you, you would be glad to come to the sacrament as often as possible.

God comes to us purposely each Lord's Day so that He can feed us. His desire is to bless and forgive His children. Through the gracious gifts of Word and Sacrament He keeps us in the faith until the day we pass from this veil of tears and into eternal life.

By the way, I was certainly tempted by the devil to rip the message off the sign and grab the lapels, but I was delivered from temptation.

LTJ,
Pastor Zimmer

APRIL

Week of April 1-3

Thu, Apr 1, 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday
Fri, Apr 2, 6:30 pm Good Friday Service
Sat, Apr 3, 6:30 pm Holy Saturday Service

Week of April 4-10

Sun, Apr 4, 9:00 am Festive Divine Service

Week of April 11-17

Sun, Apr 11, 9:00 am Divine Service
Sun, Apr 11, 10:30 am Bible Study/Sunday School
Mon, Apr 13, 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
Tue, Apr 13, 11:00 am Altar Guild Meeting

Tue, Apr 13, noon Women's Bible Study
Sat, Apr 17, 10:00 am Talma Krause Memorial
Sat, Apr 17, 11:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of April 18-24

Sun, Apr 18, 9:00 am Divine Service
Sun, Apr 18, 10:30 am Bible Study/Sunday School
Mon, Apr 19, 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Week of April 25-30

Sun, Apr 25, 9:00 am Divine Service
Sun, Apr 25, 10:30 am Congregational Meeting

April Birthdays

02 Christine Stocker
03 Caitlen Collins
03 Renta Fiolka (H)
10 Daniel Shurhay
10 Elizabeth Shurhay
10 Laverne Stephens
12 Robin Wise
13 Nathan Geschke
18 Adam Wuthenow
22 Denise Ziesemer
25 Jesse Pape
25 Timothy Pape
28 Kane Murray



April Baptismal Anniversaries

01 Julie Zimmer
01 Diane Weaver
08 Bradley Learnahan
12 Haley Quinn
15 David Zimmer
16 Levi Fox
18 Karen McClain
25 Braydan Walter
28 Renata Fiolka
29 Cassie Cruz



April Wedding Anniversaries

04 James & Laurrie Bingenheimer
26 Jordan & Kerry Walter
28 Michael & Jolene Delaney



Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday,
April 25 at 10:30 am

Altar Flowers



The 2021 flower charts are posted. 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.

Ladies Aid

The exciting news is that the Ladies Aid Rummage (Garage) Sale is returning the week of June 20.

Since last year's sale was cancelled due to Covid 19, we should all have collected kitchen items, office materials, clothing, crafts, bedding, and linen items that are just what we need for the rummage Sale. Your friends and relatives will also have items to dispose of, so do not forget to spread the word that the sale is coming.



It seems like 25 cents to \$1.00 items will not amount to much, but you would be surprised to know just how much these sales have brought to provide for the necessary repairs and new items needed for the church. The biggest of course has been the renovation of the kitchen but many other improvements have been provided by the sale.

If you have a folding table that you would not mind loaning us for that week, please let Karen Moritz or Judy Yuenger know. We have found that overcrowded tables hinder sales, so we would appreciate the use of your tables.

Please join us at our meeting at 11:00 on **April 17**. There is a lot to be done prior to the sale and the more help we have the better.

Memorial Service

Talma Krause, our beloved sister in Christ and a longtime member at Divine Shepherd, fell asleep in Christ last December. A memorial service will be held at church on Saturday, April 17 at 10:00 am.

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



**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 Choice Dollars to Divine Shepherd, please do so. As of today, \$962 has been deposited since January.

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** or **Karen Moritz at 630-759-3188**

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.



Shop with Scrip (Manna) cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **April 18** 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.

Note: make checks payable to Ladies Aid of Divine Shepherd

Your Organization:

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church – Manna

Your Coordinator: Lisa Cruz

630-636-6359 • dslcmanna@yahoo.com

shopwithscrip.com

Your Enrollment Code:

B2LD2C7A55973



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 April 26)



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