



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



## May 2025 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:*

As we observe the legacy of faithful servants in the history of the Church, few figures stand out in American Lutheranism like Pastor Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken whom the Lutheran Church recognizes on May 4th. A man of deep conviction, tireless energy, and pastoral compassion, Wyneken helped shape the spiritual and organizational identity of Lutheranism in North America during the 19th century. His story is a remarkable testimony to God's providence in planting the gospel in a new land.

**A Missionary Sent by Providence:** Born in Verden, Germany, in 1810, Wyneken was trained in Lutheran theology during a time when rationalism was influencing much of European Christianity. However, his faith was shaped by the confessional movements of the church, and he became committed to a Christ-centered, Scripture-grounded ministry.

In 1838, Wyneken journeyed to the United States to serve among the scattered and often neglected German immigrant communities. He was appalled at the spiritual destitution he found: few pastors, little knowledge of Lutheran doctrine, and widespread religious confusion. His missionary zeal led him across the Midwest, from Ohio and Indiana to Michigan and Missouri, preaching, teaching, baptizing, and organizing congregations.

**A Voice for Confessional Lutheranism:** Wyneken's experiences compelled him to write his influential *Notruf* ("The Cry of Need"), a plea sent back to Germany urging pastors to come to America and minister to the Lutheran diaspora. His appeal stirred many hearts, and soon missionaries from Germany began arriving, including men like C.F.W. Walther.

Together with Walther and others, Wyneken became a key figure in the founding of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in 1847. He would go on to serve as its second president from 1850 to 1864. In that role, he helped shape the church's strong emphasis on doctrinal integrity, catechesis, liturgical fidelity, and pastoral training.

**Pastor at Heart:** Though a leader and organizer, Wyneken always remained a pastor at heart. His letters and sermons reflect a deep love for Christ and His people. He emphasized the importance of faithful preaching, the proper administration of the sacraments, and the church's responsibility to care for the souls entrusted to her.

Wyneken was not without personal struggles. He faced illness, isolation, and the burdens of constant travel. Yet he pressed on, driven by a missionary heart and a confessional conscience. His efforts helped establish a firm Lutheran identity in America that still bears fruit today.

**His Enduring Legacy:** When Wyneken died in 1876, but his legacy continues in the life of the LCMS and the broader Lutheran world. He is remembered as a bridge between continents, a champion of confessional Lutheranism, and a missionary who laid down his life for the flock.

As we look to our own callings—whether in mission, ministry, or daily life—we can take inspiration from Wyneken's courage, compassion, and commitment to the gospel. May we, like him, be faithful in our time as he was in his.

Listen to Jesus,  
Pastor Zimmer

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## Christian Stewardship

### Follow Him in Generosity



Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “indeed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy. Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

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



### Week of May 4-10

Sun, May 4, 8:30 am Divine Service  
 Sun, May 4, 9:45 am Fellowship  
 Sun, May 4, 10:00 am Bible Study

### Week of May 11-17

Sun, May 11, 8:30 am Divine Service  
 Sun, May 11, 9:45 am Fellowship  
 Sun, May 11, 10:00 am Bible Study  
 Mon, May 12, 6:00 pm Elders Meeting  
 Sat, May 17, 10:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

### Week of May 18-24

Sun, May 18, 8:30 am Divine Service  
 Sun, May 18, 9:45 am Fellowship  
 Sun, May 18, 10:00 am Bible Study  
 Mon, May 19, 6:00 pm Council Meeting

### Week of May 24-31

Sun, May 24, 8:30 am Divine Service  
 Sun, May 24, 9:45 am Fellowship  
 Sun, May 24, 10:00 am Bible Study

## May Birthdays

13 Ron Ruisz  
 14 Teresa Pape  
 15 Rich Otto  
 31 Keith Fox



## May Baptismal Anniversaries

03 Laverne Stephens  
 04 Jonathan Rose  
 05 Clarisse Rose  
 10 Patricia Lewis  
 13 Edward Cruz  
 17 Terry Donaldson  
 22 Christine Stocker  
 ?? Michael Collins  
 31 Rich Otto



## May Wedding Anniversaries

24 Tom & Jennifer Staffeldt  
 27 Cory & Amy Edgar  
 31 Terry & Colleen Donaldson



## Ladies Aid

As stated in last month's newsletter, Ladies Aid **will not** be having a garage sale this year. See Lisa if you have any suggestions for fundraisers. (thank you).

All women are encouraged to attend the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at 10:00 am.

## Altar Flowers



The 2025 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 on.

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 \$30. **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.

## RaiseRight (Manna)

Shop with RaiseRight cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **May 11**. 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. RaiseRight 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](mailto:dslcmanna@yahoo.com)

[shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com)

*Your Enrollment Code:*

B2LD2C7A55973

## 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/DSLCholingbrook](https://fb.me/DSLCholingbrook)

Twitter: @dslc60440

## 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.

## 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 712-584-5301,

## Important Phone Numbers

**Church office:** 630-759-5300

**Pastor Zimmer:** 630-759-5300

**Prayer Chain:** 712-584-5301 (Julie Zimmer)

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

**Newsletter info:** 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)  
(Due May 23)



**THRIVENT**  
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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.

## Trustee’s Corner



A special thank you to our church’s cleaning crew for all their hard work helping to clean our church facilities on a regular basis. This volunteer cleaning crew works diligently to vacuum, dust, scrub, mop, tidy, empty trash, and prepare our facilities each weekend. If you can clean the church on the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of each month, please contact me.

Can you spare an hour or two to help maintain the church flower beds (weeding/trimming/etc)?

Kelly Stewart, Trustee

## The Ascension of our Lord

Lord Jesus, we remember Your ascension into heaven. As you were lifted up into heaven, direct our focus heavenward as well. Take our eyes off the pleasures and troubles of this world. Turn our hearts toward Your eternal kingdom as we pray for Your kingdom to come. Give us perseverance in faith as we wait for Your triumphant return, when You will call all believers to Yourself. Amen. (Portals of Prayer)

## Mother’s Day Blessing



If God has given you the blessing of being a mom, He has given you the promise that you will not be alone in doing it. You are the everyday hero, and He is the divine power that will give you everything you need the moment you need it.

May His grace, peace, and love surround you this Mother’s Day, making you feel as special – and exceptional – as you truly are.

Into a precious vessel God pours tenderness, and love, an understanding heart, and all the joy a child dreams of. He gives her His compassion and kindness like no other, then wraps her in a quiet strength and gently calls, her Mother,

## Dear Mom,

You held my life precious before anyone else did.

You learned to love me from our Almighty Maker Himself and not because I asked or earned it.

You rejoiced over me when I hadn't accomplished anything yet for myself or for you or for anyone else.

You received the vocation as sacred and treated me with sanctity.

You lent me your own body for my shelter and sustenance.

You offered your whole self to ensure my survival and development.

With both courage and compassion, you suffered the many discomforts I inflicted.

You made yourself strong and gentle for me.

You surrounded me with family and home, and you sent them along with me wherever I went.

No other ever befriended or defended me as steadfastly as you.

To me and to the world you have personified Eve, whose offspring brought deliverance from sin and Satan, though the childbearing multiplied her pains.

To the Christian community and all humankind, you have reflected Mary, whose Son rescued us from death and set us free from hell, though the sword pierced through her own soul as well.

We cannot hear the story of salvation without the honor of motherhood.

Your faithfulness and sacrifice exceed superstars, heroes, legends, and all others, except that of the Heavenly Father who worked them in you for my sake.

Thank you for showing, for doing, for giving so much I never knew I needed.

## Memorial Day Prayer

Dear Father,

We remember those who have served our country with honor and devotion, especially those who have given their lives. We praise You for all the blessings that we enjoy as a result of their sacrifice, including peace, liberty, security, and the freedom we have to worship You.

Please stretch forth Your caring arms to preserve those who are now serving in the military. Support them and their families in times of danger and protect them as they face the unknown. In Christ's name we pray – Amen. (Portals of Prayer)

Please remember all military personnel and their families in your prayers.



## Strength Through Prayer

When worn by toils of busy day Christ found it  
always good to pray.

In solitude He sought a place to talk with God and  
seek His grace.

So, when I'm weary, worn, or weak, continually  
His face I'll seek!

In secret prayer, O blest retreat, we need not ever  
know defeat.

New strength for tasks, both great and small, is  
promised to those who on Him call.

So, when I'm weary, worn, or weak, continually  
His face I'll seek.

"And he spoke a parable unto them to this end,  
that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."  
Luke 18:1