



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



May 2022 Newsletter

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

Dear Children of God:



During the Passion of Our Lord during Lent and Holy Week we have heard about suffering. Yet can you name a place in Scripture that states that suffering is evil? We often look at suffering that way, but in fact, the Bible does not state that suffering is evil. Suffering certainly comes because of our sin and the sins of the world but suffering is not evil in itself. "On Being a Theologian of the Cross", a book written by Martin Luther, he states, "it is impossible for a person not to be: puffed up by good works unless he has first been deflated and destroyed by suffering and evil until he knows that he is worthless and that his [good works] are not his but God's." The point I want all to know is that we cannot necessarily equate suffering with evil. Yes, evil can cause suffering but not always. Take what happened at the cross for example. If suffering was equated with evil, then God would be the author of evil since he is the one who sent his Son to suffer and die. God is not the author of evil and yet Jesus suffered greatly. This now gives a greater understanding of the sufferings that we may go through. Instead of exonerating God for our suffering we must instead ask, "How does God intend to use my suffering for my good and perhaps the good of others?" When we see God's hand in our suffering, we then can be assured that since God has a hand in my suffering, he will certainly have a hand in my healing.

**More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance.
Romans 5:3**

Remember that God's main goal for each of us is that we receive eternal life. Sometimes that means we will need to suffer for us to become closer to him, rely on him completely, and despair completely of our own abilities. In order to see proof of this you need to look no further than the Bible. Whether it be Joseph, Moses, Jacob, Isaiah, David, the disciples, and of course, Jesus we see that through suffering God made great and wonderful things happen. I know it is contrary to what the world consider suffering to be, but the world is wrong. Rejoice in your suffering and let it be known that God will ever be present in your sufferings and will bring you home to heaven where you will never suffer, weep, or die again. Amen

**Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his Prisoner,
but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God
Timothy 1:8**

Pastor Zimmer

The First Commandment and Christian Stewardship



In 2006 George Barna published research which found that on average Protestant pastors contend that 70 percent of the adults in their church consider their personal faith in God to transcend all other priorities. When the same survey was given to members of Protestant congregations the results were quite different. Not quite one out of every four (23 percent) named their faith in God as their top priority in life.

There seems to be a significant gap between what pastors perceive about their members beliefs and what the members actually believe.

The First Commandment says, "You shall have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things."

"We usually think of the Ten Commandments as God's demand, but in the First Commandment Luther found the best news that there can be for God's human creatures: that He insists on being our God and providing us with all we need. Luther began Christian instruction with the First Commandment, with God's announcement that He is our God. God stands in first place in our lives. God was concerned first of all not with what Adam had done wrong but with where he was-'Adam, where are you?'(Gen. 3:9)-That is, with the relationship between them and the places which they occupied in relation to each other. So also, God is ultimately most concerned that He occupy the proper place in our lives, the place where the Creator belongs" writes Robert Kolb in Teaching God's Children His Teaching.

What does the First Commandment have to say about Christian stewardship?

The First Commandment makes it very clear to the Christian steward that we belong to God. We are not our own. Raymond Olson writes in *Stewards Appointed*, "We owe everything we are to God. Nothing we will get out of life will be without His prior claim resting upon it and upon us. While He is under no obligation to us, we are under unremitting obligation to Him. We have not been given freedom to rule our lives and the world in which we find ourselves apart from the purposes and intentions of God. The steward is to be under no illusions about his position. He is steward and not Master. He is sinner and not Savior. He is to be guided. He is not the Guide. He is the property manager, not the property owner. He is the one entrusted, not the one who gives the trust. The purposes of life are revealed to him; he is not the determiner of those purposes. In his true devotion to God, he will find no sound reason to question this arrangement but will understand that it is established in his way by the perfect love and infinite wisdom of God". The Christian steward understands and lives out the fact that he/she is a steward and not the owner.

The First Commandment reminds Christian stewards that we are not to dismiss God in our daily lives. Martin Marty writes in *The Hidden Discipline*, "God faces man in the practical decisions of daily life. Men reject God not so much because in the chambers of their academies or the chambers of their hearts they have reasoned their way past Him. What makes it easy for them to dismiss God is the way they live their practical daily life. There is where unbelief is the problem: there men act as if God did not exist". The Christian steward lives daily life as a response to God's love in Christ. This daily living is to glorify God and be a faithful witness to the neighbor.

The First Commandment reminds Christian stewards that we must keep special watch over our relationship with God. God always acts first in this relationship. He created us. He redeemed us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Yet, as sinful human beings we are tempted to trust other things or other people. In the Large Catechism Luther warns us that money and possessions can become idols, "Many a person thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions. He trusts in them and boasts about them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Such a person has a god by the name of 'Mammon' (i.e., money and possessions; [Matthew 6:24], on which he sets all his heart. This is the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure [Luke 12:16-21] and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has no money doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few people can be found who are of good cheer and who neither mourn nor complain if they lack Mammon. This care and desire for money sticks

and clings to our nature, right up to the grave". The Christian steward trusts in God alone and not in money and possessions. Money and possessions are entrusted to us by God to be used for His purposes.

Olson summarizes the relationship between The First Commandment and Christian stewardship when he writes, "The First Commandment is a call to the Christian steward to acknowledge continually that the one true God alone has a claim upon him, and to remember that this claim is a good and beneficent one. This Commandment is a witness that he should faithfully and daily offer to God what he is and has, bringing his selfishness under the discipline of using the material world to do God's work. It is a reminder to the Christian steward that he should seek to grow in the knowledge of the God who is revealed, with no side journeys to create gods of his own liking. It is an invitation to seek from Jesus Christ, God's Son, the cleansing, restoration, and abiding grace which will make of a man what this Commandment calls him to be".



Week of May 1-7

Sun, May 1, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, May 1, 10:15 am Fellowship
 Sun, May 1, 10:30 am Bible Study

Week of May 8-14

Sun, May 8, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, May 8, 10:15 am Fellowship
 Sun, May 8, 10:30 am Bible Study
 Mon, May 9, 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
 Tue, May 10, noon Altar Guild Meeting
 Tue, May 10, 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Week of May 15- 21

Sun, May 15, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, May 15, 10:15 am Fellowship
 Sun, May 15, 10:30 am Bible Study
 Mon, May 16, 7:00 pm Council Meeting
 Sat, May 21, 10:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of May 22-28

Sun, May 22, 9:00 am Matins
 Sun, May 22, 10:15 am Fellowship

Week of May 29-31

Sun, May 29, 9:00 am Matins
 Sun, May 29, 10:15 am Fellowship
 Mon, May 30 Memorial Day

*Praise the Lord, all nations;
 laud Him, all peoples! For His
 loving kindness is great toward us.
 (Psalm 117:1-2)*

May Birthday

04 Alaina Ziesemer
 13 Ron Ruisz
 14 Teresa Pape
 16 Barb Potempa
 26 Bobbie Light
 31 Keith Fox



May Baptismal Anniversaries

03 Laverne Stephens
 07 Terry Donaldson
 10 Patricia Lewis
 13 Edward Cruz
 17 Alaina Ziesemer
 22 Christine Stocker
 25 Adam Wuthenow
 27 Robin Wise
 ?? Michael Collins



May Wedding Anniversary

31 Terry & Colleen Donaldson

Thank You

Thank you to Ed Cruz for arraigning the repair of the fascia/Porte Cochere; to Kelly Stewart for arraigning the cutting down of the tree and purchasing the new church sign; to all who purchased flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter; to Ruth Ogden for purchasing the flowers and changing the banners/paraments; to Christine Stocker and the choir for the inspirational music; to Pastor Zimmer for officiating at the beautiful Holy week services and to all who were participants in the services; and/or helped in any way. Blessings.

Ladies Aid



Please start collecting kitchen items, office materials, clothing, crafts, bedding, and linen items for the rummage sale to be held the first week of June. Also please save your grocery bags. Your friends and relatives will also have items to dispose of, so do not forget to spread the word that the sale is coming.

If you have large items, or more than you can transport, contact **Judy Yuenger** who will arrange a pick-up time for you.

Items may be dropped off:

- June 5, Noon – 3:00 pm
- June 6, 7, 8 – 4:00 – 7:00 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 9, 3:00 am - 7:00 pm
- Friday, June 10, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Saturday June 11, 8:00 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 un-sold items will be given to a local mission and/or picked up by Salvation Army.

Being a volunteer at drop-off days, sale days, or pack-up time 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.

Do you have a folding table you can loan Ladies Aid to use at the sale? If so, please let Judy know and bring to church (with your name on it) by Sunday May 29. Thank you.

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.

Wine/Chocolate social will be returning in September, Look for more information in upcoming newsletters/bulletins.

Altar Flowers



The 2022 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 Pentecost, 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 **\$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.



Shop with Scrip cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **May 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 • dslecmanna@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.

Follow Us on

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/DSLCLCbolingbrook](https://www.facebook.com/DSLCLCbolingbrook)

Twitter: @dslc60440



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 \$1,300 since the first of the year.

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**

Important Phone Numbers

Church office: 630-759-5300

Pastor Zimmer: 630-759-5300

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

Newsletter info: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
(due May 30)

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.

A 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

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 personal and their families in your prayers.



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.

May God grant that I embody unto you half the blessing you have bestowed upon me.

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 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