



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



May 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:



Bede the Venerable (c. 673–735) was an English monk, scholar, historian, and pastor who lived during the early medieval period. The Church commemorates him on May 25th. He is best remembered for his careful scholarship, deep love of Scripture, and faithful teaching within the life of the Church. Though he lived many centuries before the Reformation, Lutherans often recognize Bede as a valuable witness to the continuity of Christian teaching grounded in Scripture.

Bede spent nearly his entire life in the monasteries of Monkwearmouth-Jarrow Abbey, in what is now northeastern England. From a young age, he devoted himself to prayer, study, teaching, and writing. He was ordained as a deacon at about age nineteen and later as a priest, serving faithfully in the daily life of the Church.

His lifelong commitment to study and teaching earned him the title *“Venerable,”* a mark of respect given by later generations. Centuries afterward, he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Roman Catholic Church, though his influence extends well beyond one tradition.

A Brief History of His Life and Work

Bede lived during a time when Christianity was still taking root among the Anglo-Saxon peoples of Northumbria (*early medieval English kingdom*). Monasteries were centers of learning, worship, and missionary activity, and Bede became one of the greatest scholars of his era.

He wrote more than forty works, covering subjects such as biblical interpretation, church history, science, chronology, and hymnody. His most famous book, *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, remains a primary historical source for early English Christianity. In it, Bede documented the spread of the Gospel among the English peoples and the work of missionaries sent from places like Canterbury Cathedral.

In addition to history, Bede wrote biblical commentaries on books such as Genesis, Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Mark, Luke, Acts, and Revelation. These commentaries show his commitment to careful study of Scripture and the teaching of the faith.

According to tradition, Bede spent his final days translating the Gospel of John into the Old English language so that ordinary people could hear God’s Word in their own tongue—a fitting final act for a teacher devoted to making Scripture known.

Bede and Lutheran Theology

Although Bede lived nearly eight centuries before the Reformation, Lutherans can appreciate his work through the lens of Lutheran theology. He belongs to what we might call the “great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1)—teachers who helped preserve and pass down the Christian faith through centuries of change and challenge.

A Love for Holy Scripture

At the heart of Bede’s life was a deep reverence for Scripture. Like the Reformers, he believed that the Word of God must be carefully studied, taught, and proclaimed.

Martin Luther emphasized *sola Scriptura*—Scripture alone as the final authority for Christian teaching. While Bede lived long before the Reformation clarified this doctrine, his lifelong dedication to studying and teaching the Bible reflects the same conviction that God speaks through His Word.

His biblical commentaries were pastoral in nature. They were not meant merely to satisfy academic curiosity but to instruct the faithful and strengthen the Church’s proclamation of Christ.

The Church as a Teaching Community

Bede’s monastery functioned much like a theological school and parish community combined. He trained students, prepared clergy, and helped preserve Christian learning during a time when education was fragile.

This resonates with Lutheran emphasis on catechesis—the careful teaching of the faith. The work of Philip Melancthon, especially in developing educational reforms and catechetical instruction, echoes this same commitment to forming believers through teaching.

Lutherans today continue this tradition in confirmation classes, Bible studies, and preaching rooted in Scripture.

Proclaiming Christ to the Nations

Bede’s writings recorded the missionary work of figures such as Augustine of Canterbury, who brought Christianity to Anglo-Saxon England. Bede understood the Church as missionary by nature—sent into the world to proclaim Christ.

This aligns closely with Lutheran theology, which understands the Church as gathered and sent to proclaim the Gospel.

While Bede did not use later Lutheran terminology, his emphasis on the spread of the Gospel reflects the Church's mission in every age.

Faithful Scholarship in Service to the Gospel

Bede reminds us that scholarship and faith are not enemies. He carefully studied history, languages, astronomy, and chronology—not for curiosity alone, but to serve the Church.

Johann Gerhard, one of the great Lutheran orthodox theologians, similarly combined deep scholarship with pastoral devotion. Both men demonstrate that rigorous learning can strengthen the Church's witness.

For Lutherans, theology is never merely academic—it exists to serve preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.

Why Lutherans Remember Bede

Many Lutheran church calendars commemorate early teachers of the Church—not because they were perfect or identical in doctrine, but because they faithfully served Christ and helped preserve the Christian faith.

Bede stands as a model of:

- **Faithful study of Scripture**
- **Dedication to teaching the Church**
- **Commitment to spreading the Gospel**
- **A life rooted in prayer and learning**

He also reminds us that the Lutheran Reformation did not create Christianity anew but sought to reform the Church according to Scripture Alone. Figures like Bede represent the long history of faithful Christian witness that came before the Reformation.

A Legacy That Endures

Bede's influence continues to shape Christian understanding of history, Scripture, and theology. Without his work, much of what we know about early English Christianity would have been lost.

Yet his legacy is more than historical. It is theological and pastoral. He spent his life doing what pastors, teachers, and Christians still do today:

- Studying the Word
- Teaching the faith
- Proclaiming Christ
- Encouraging believers

From a Lutheran perspective, Bede serves as a reminder that God preserves His Church through faithful servants across generations. Though separated from us by centuries, his devotion to Scripture and teaching reflects the same mission given to the Church today.

A Closing Reflection

As Lutherans reflect on the life of Bede the Venerable, we give thanks to God for faithful teachers throughout the Church's history. Their work supports the same Gospel proclamation that continues today.

Bede's life calls us to renewed devotion to Scripture, faithful teaching of the faith, and trust that God continues to guide His Church through every generation.

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor Zimmer

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 is 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 “in deed” (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 that 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:



Week of 3-9

- Sun, May 3, 8:30 am Divine Service
- Sun, May 3, 9:40 am Fellowship
- Sun, May 3, 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of May 10-16

- Sun, May 10, 8:30 am Divine Service
- Sun, May 10, 9:40 am Fellowship
- Sun, May 10, 10:00 am Bible Study
- Sun, May 10 Mother’s Day
- Mon, May 11, 6:00 pm Elders Meeting

Week of May 17-23

- Sun, May 17, 8:30 am Divine Service
- Sun, May 17, 9:40 am Fellowship
- Sun, May 17, 10:00 am Bible Study
- Mon, May 18, 6:00 am Council Meeting

Week of May 24-30

- Sun, May 24, 8:30 am Divine Service
- Sun, May 24, 9:40 am Fellowship
- Sun, May 24, 10:00 am Bible Study
- Mon, May 25 Memorial Day

Week of May 31

- Sun, May 31, 8:30 am Divine Service
- Sun, May 31, 9:40 am Fellowship
- Sun, May 31, 10:00 am Bible Study

May Birthday Anniversaries

- 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
- 31 Terry & Colleen Donaldso



Deacon

After prayerful consideration and in consultation with our District and our Elders, we are discontinuing the current Deacon program. We give thanks to God for the faithful service rendered by Mark Drevlow who has served as our Deacon. We pray the Lord’s continued blessings as we carry on together, each serving according to the gifts He provides.

Caring Network

We will be doing an outreach project of the Baby Bottles again starting **May 10**. There are 3 ways you can donate: (1) pick up a bottle in the narthex and return with your donation before June 21, (2) visit the web site CaringNetwork.com/baby bottle-drive to donate, or (3) mail a donation to Caring Network, 1200 Roosevelt Rd, Suite 114, Glen Ellen, IL 60137 (with a notation of baby bottles). Please Include your name, address, and church’s name and location on all donations.

Please help in Changing Hearts and Saving Lives. Any questions, see Julie 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 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 a brief note to place in the worship bulletin. When the worship service is over, you are welcome to take your bouquets home.

RAISERIGHT

Shop with RaiseRight cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **May 10**. 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

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/DSLCLbolingbrook

Twitter: [@dslc60440](https://twitter.com/dslc60440)

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 4th 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

Update

Kathy Wildson
550 Kildeer # 227
Bolingbrook, Il 60440

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 at 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)

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.

Prayers for Leaders in the Church

Heavenly Father, for those who faithfully lead in your church, we praise You. Grant them wisdom in accordance with Scripture. If they make decisions we perceive to be wrong, grant us wisdom to forgive. And grant us compassion and grace to encourage our leaders to continue their challenging service. In the name of Christ, the perfect leader of His church. Amen

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,

A Prayer for Pentecost (May 24)

Spirit of Truth, what comfort it is to know that You dwell in our hearts. Thank You for the saving faith You created in us. Keep us steadfast in Your Word so that we cling to You always and look to You for guidance in our daily living. Embolden us, as you did the first disciples, to declare God's saving grace to all who we encounter. In Jesus, name, Amen.

A Prayer for the Holy Trinity (May 31)

Holy Trinity, though You are unfathomable, You have given us hearts of faith. We praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for Your great works in the world and in us. We marvel at the beauty of Your creation. The redeeming work of Your Son brings us hearts of gratitude. The Spirit's gift of faith is our guarantee of life forever with You. We praise and magnify Your holy name. Amen

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.

