



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



June 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 10:27-2

Dear Sheep of the Divine Shepherd:

Who Was Elisha?

Elisha was one of the great prophets of the Old Testament and the successor to Elijah. The Church celebrates his prophetic ministry on June 14th. His ministry is primarily recorded in 1 Kings 19 and throughout 2 Kings. Elisha served during the ninth century B.C. in the northern kingdom of Israel during a spiritually unstable and morally corrupt time. Idolatry, political intrigue, and rebellion against the Lord marked much of Israel's life.

God called Elisha while he was plowing in the field with oxen. Elijah cast his cloak upon him as a sign that the Lord had chosen him for prophetic ministry (1 Kings 19:19–21). Elisha left behind his former life and faithfully followed the call of God.

From a Lutheran perspective, Elisha's life beautifully demonstrates that God works through His Word and through humble servants to preserve His people, call sinners to repentance, and provide mercy to the weak and suffering.

Historical Background

Elisha ministered during the reigns of several kings in Israel, including, Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Joash.

This was a turbulent period in Israel's history. The nation was divided between the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. False worship, especially the worship of Baal promoted by King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, had deeply corrupted Israel.

Yet even in such dark times, the Lord did not abandon His people. Through prophets like Elijah and Elisha, God continued to speak His Word of judgment and grace.

Lutherans recognize in this a comforting truth: the Church often lives in difficult times, yet God always preserves His faithful remnant through the proclamation of His Word.

Highlights of Elisha's Ministry

1. The Passing of Elijah's Mantle

One of the most memorable moments in Elisha's life occurred when Elijah was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:1–14). Before Elijah departed, Elisha asked for a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit.

This was not a request for personal glory, but a request that he might faithfully continue the prophetic office entrusted to him.

When Elijah's mantle fell to the ground, Elisha picked it up, symbolizing that the prophetic ministry continued according to God's promise.

Lutherans see here an important reminder that the ministry belongs ultimately to God. Pastors and teachers come and go, but the Lord continues to preserve His Church through the faithful preaching of His Word.

As the Lutheran Confessions state in the Augsburg Confession, Article V:

"So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted."

God continued His saving work through Elisha just as He continues His work today through Word and Sacrament ministry.

2. The Healing of Naaman

One of Elisha's best-known miracles is the healing of Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army (2 Kings 5).

Naaman suffered from leprosy and came seeking healing. Elisha did not perform dramatic ceremonies or impressive displays. Instead, he simply instructed Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River.

At first Naaman was offended because the means appeared too simple. Yet when he finally obeyed the Word of the Lord, he was healed.

This account strongly reflects Lutheran theology regarding the Means of Grace. God often works through humble, ordinary means:

- Water in Baptism
- Bread and wine in the Lord's Supper
- Human voices preaching the Gospel

The power is not in outward greatness but in God's Word attached to the means.

Martin Luther wrote in the Small Catechism concerning Baptism:

"Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things."

Naaman expected something spectacular, but God chose to work through a simple promise connected to water.

The same remains true for Christians today.

3. The Widow's Oil

In 2 Kings 4:1–7, Elisha helped a poor widow whose creditors threatened to take her sons as slaves. The Lord miraculously multiplied her small jar of oil until all her containers were full.

This miracle reminds believers that God cares deeply for the needy and suffering.

Lutherans emphasize that vocation includes caring for neighbors in their earthly needs. God is not indifferent to physical suffering, financial hardship, loneliness, or fear.

Especially for older Christians facing retirement concerns, health struggles, isolation, or uncertainty about the future, Elisha's ministry points to the compassion of God.

The Lord who provided oil for the widow still provides daily bread for His people.

As Luther explains in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, "daily bread" includes:

"Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies."

God's mercy extends both to body and soul.

4. Raising the Shunammite Woman's Son

Another remarkable event occurred when Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite woman from death (2 Kings 4:18–37).

This miracle foreshadows the greater resurrection power of Christ.

Throughout the Old Testament, God was preparing His people for the coming of Jesus, who would not only raise others from the dead but would Himself rise victorious from the grave.

All theology is Christology—that is, Christ is at the center of all Scripture.

Elisha's miracles ultimately point beyond themselves to Christ:

- Christ feeds the hungry.
- Christ heals the sick.
- Christ cleanses the unclean.
- Christ raises the dead.
- Christ conquers sin and death forever.

The prophet's ministry was never about personal greatness. It testified to the saving mercy of God that would be fully revealed in Jesus Christ.

5. Elisha and the Floating Axe Head

In 2 Kings 6:1–7, Elisha caused a borrowed iron axe head to float in the Jordan River.

At first glance, the miracle may seem small compared to other mighty works. Yet it teaches something beautiful about the Lord.

God cares even about what seems small or insignificant.

The servant feared the loss because the axe head had been borrowed. The Lord showed compassion in what many might consider an ordinary problem.

Christians often imagine that God only cares about major crises. Yet Scripture repeatedly teaches that the Lord invites His people to cast all their anxieties upon Him.

Whether the concern is grief, finances, illness, loneliness, family struggles, or daily burdens, God hears His children.

Elisha's Ministry and the New Testament Church

Several important themes appear throughout Elisha's ministry:

The Power of God's Word

Again and again, miracles occur through the spoken Word of God. This emphasizes that God works through His proclaimed Word.

Isaiah 55:11 declares:

"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty."

The Church does not rely on entertainment, charisma, or worldly power. The Church lives by God's Word.

Grace for Outsiders

Naaman was a Gentile enemy commander, yet God showed him mercy.

This points forward to the Gospel going out to all nations through Christ.

Lutherans confess that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone—not by ethnicity, status, or human merit.

God's mercy extends to sinners everywhere.

God Works Through Humble Means

Elisha's ministry repeatedly involved ordinary things:

- Water
- Oil
- Bread
- Salt
- A staff

This strongly anticipates the sacramental pattern seen throughout Scripture.

We rejoice that God still comes to His people through humble means today in Baptism, Absolution, preaching, and the Lord's Supper.

Christ at the Center

Like all faithful prophets, Elisha ultimately points beyond himself to Christ.

Jesus Himself referenced Elisha's ministry in Luke 4:27 when speaking about Naaman the Syrian.

Everything in Scripture leads to Christ and His saving work.

As Jesus said:

"These are the Scriptures that bear witness about me" (John 5:39).

Lessons for Christians Today

Elisha's life continues to encourage Christians in several ways:

1. God Remains Faithful in Difficult Times

Israel was spiritually confused and politically unstable, yet God continued to preserve His people.

Christians today also live in uncertain times marked by moral confusion, anxiety, division, and suffering. Yet the Lord has not abandoned His Church.

He still speaks through His Word.

2. God Uses Ordinary Means

The world often seeks spectacle and power. Yet God commonly works through simple means.

A pastor preaching.

Water poured in Baptism.

Bread and wine distributed at the altar.

These may appear ordinary, but God's promises are attached to them.

3. Christ Is Greater Than Elisha

Elisha performed mighty miracles, but Jesus fulfills and surpasses them all.

Elisha multiplied oil; Christ gives the oil of gladness and the Holy Spirit.

Elisha raised the dead temporarily; Christ gives eternal resurrection.

Elisha healed leprosy; Christ cleanses sinners from sin.

Elisha pointed forward to the Savior.

Jesus is that Savior.

Conclusion

The ministry of Elisha reveals the mercy, patience, and faithfulness of God.

In times of unbelief and hardship, the Lord continued to preserve His people through His Word. Through miracles both great and small, God showed His compassion for the suffering, the poor, the outsider, and the repentant sinner.

For us, Elisha's ministry serves as a rich testimony to the power of God's Word, the importance of humble means, and the centrality of Christ in all Scripture.

Most importantly, Elisha points us to Jesus Christ—the true and greater Prophet—who came not merely to perform miracles, but to save sinners through His death and resurrection.

In Him, God's promises find their fulfillment.

Suggested Scripture Readings

- 1 Kings 19:19–21 — The Call of Elisha
- 2 Kings 2 — Elijah Taken to Heaven
- 2 Kings 4 — Miracles of Mercy
- 2 Kings 5 — Naaman Healed
- Luke 4:24–27 — Jesus References Elisha
- John 5:39 — Scripture Testifies About Christ

A Closing Prayer

Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your servant Elisha You showed mercy to the suffering and faithfulness to Your people. Strengthen us through Your holy Word, keep us steadfast in faith, and direct our hearts always to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor Zimmer

Christian Stewardship

What Do You Want?



One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: The Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

Caring Network



Week of June 7-13

Sun, June 7, 8:30 am Divine Service
 Sun, June 7, 9:40 am Fellowship
 Sun, June 7, 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of June 14-20

Sun, June 14, 8:30 am Divine Service
 Sun, June 14, 9:40 am Fellowship
 Sun, June 14, 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of June 21-27

Sun, June 21, 8:30 am Divine Service
 Sun, June 21, 9:40 am Fellowship
 Sun, June 21, 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of June 28-30

Sun, June 28, 8:30 am Divine Service
 Sun, June 28, 9:40 am Fellowship
 Sun, June 28, 10:00 am Bible Study

June Birthdays

06 Colleen Donaldson
 13 Emily Pruett
 16 Bradley Learnahan
 19 Aubrey Learnahan
 23 Scott Collins



June Baptismal Anniversaries

03 Ron Ruisz
 16 Jesse Pape
 27 Benjamin Nazario
 ?? Keith Fox



June Wedding Anniversaries

22 Ted & Ruth Ogden

We will be doing an outreach project of the Baby Bottles again through June 21. There are 3 ways you can donate:

- Pick up a bottle in the narthex and return with your donation before June 16
- Visit the web site CaringNetwork.com/baby-bottle-drive to donate
- 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. See **Julie Zimmer** with any questions.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jonathon Rose, son of Cynthia Szoldatits, graduated on May 31 from North Newton Jr/Sr high school, Morocco, IN. His future plans are to attend Northern Illinois University and study Sports Management.

Emily Zimmer, daughter of Pastor/Mrs. Zimmer, graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and minors in Math and Environmental Science. She will begin working on June 29th as an aerospace engineer with Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth, TX.

William Ebel, (a vicar Ladies Aid supported) graduated from Concordia Seminary and will be ordained at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn, IL. May God bless him as he preaches God's word.

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 June 24)

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.

RAISERIGHT

Shop with RaiseRight cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. **Next order date is June 14.** 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

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

Altar Flowers

Members do not sign up for altar flowers because Ruth is unable to order and arrange flowers throughout the summer. Thank You.

Trustee's Corner

Thank you to the cleaning crew for all their hard work in keeping the church clean. If you can clean the church on the 4th weekend of each month, please contact Kelly.

Do you like to garden, have a green thumb, if so, bring your own tools and help beautify the gardens. There is always weeding, pruning/etc to be done.

Kelly Stewart, Trustee

Flag Day



Lord God, You display Your love for us so freely and openly that we cannot help but praise You. We are blessed that You have given us such a beautiful nation.

You provide sun have given us a country in which we are free to worship You. Through our nation, You give us rights and opportunities that people in many places have give us in this land and for the many blessings You have shown us here. Cause us to honor our nation and our nation's flag in thanksgiving for the blessing this land has been to us. As we honor her, let us always rely on You. In Jesus' name. Amen

Father's Day Prayer



Heavenly Father, we give thanks for your provision and care. We pray for our earthly Fathers: in thanks for loving fathers who support and care for their children. For single fathers, they may find encouragement, community, and stable work. For forgiveness and healing for those whose relationship with their father is difficult or broken. For those who mourn their fathers' death that they may comforted. Guide us to regard your sacred earth and all creation as a Loving father cares for his own. And bless all fathers everywhere, that they may be strengthened in love for their children, just as you have first loved us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The best fathers not only give us life –
they teach us how to live it.