



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

August 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

A Mother's Prayers: Monica, Mother of St. Augustine

Last August, we reflected on the life and theology of St. Augustine—one of the most influential voices in the early church and a significant figure for Lutheran theology. This year, we turn our attention to someone whose name is not as well-known but whose faithfulness played a critical role in Augustine's conversion: his mother, Monica who the church celebrates on August 27th.

Born in the early 4th century in North Africa, Monica lived a life of deep devotion to Christ in a world that often pressed against that faith. She was married to a pagan man named Patricius, who did not share her beliefs. Their home was marked by the tension between Monica's Christian convictions and her husband's worldly lifestyle. Yet Monica endured this difficult marriage with grace and patience, winning over her husband not with arguments but with her steadfast love and quiet witness. He was baptized shortly before his death.

But the real story most of us remember Monica for is her tireless prayers for her son, Augustine.

A Mother's Vocation: In Monica's prayers for Augustine, we see a beautiful and powerful example of vocation—the daily calling God gives to each of us to serve our neighbors through the roles and relationships He has placed us in. Monica's vocation was not glamorous. She was not a teacher, theologian, or bishop. She was a wife and mother. And yet her faithfulness in these callings bore fruit for the kingdom of God in ways she could never have imagined.

Her persistence in prayer for Augustine, who for many years rejected the faith and lived a life of spiritual wandering, is a testimony to the kind of hope that only the Holy Spirit can produce. When Augustine embraced the heresy of Manichaeism, when he fathered a child outside of marriage, when he left for Italy and tried to escape his mother's influence—Monica did not give up. She wept. She followed him across the sea. She pleaded with pastors and bishops to speak to him. And above all, she prayed. For nearly two decades.

We Lutherans know that prayer is not a means of earning favor with God, nor does it manipulate Him. Instead, prayer is a gift given to us through Christ, who intercedes for us before the Father. Monica understood this. Her prayers were not bargaining chips. They were cries of faith, shaped by the promises of Scripture, trusting that God's Word does not return void.

Grace in God's Timing: Eventually, God answered Monica's prayers—not on her schedule, but according to His perfect timing. Augustine's conversion in 386 AD, under the preaching of Ambrose and through the reading of Scripture, was not the result of Monica's willpower, but of God's grace working through Word and Sacrament. Her long years of labor were not in vain, but God used them as part of His plan to draw Augustine to Himself.

Monica died not long after Augustine's baptism. She had seen what she prayed for: her son not only converted but completely transformed by the Gospel of Christ. Augustine would go on to become a bishop, a theologian, and a father of the Church. He would preach the doctrines of grace, sin, and salvation in a way that would echo through the centuries—even into the writings of Martin Luther.

Encouragement for Today: Monica's story is a reminder that our Christian vocations—especially those of parents, spouses, and friends—are not small in God's eyes. They may not always be easy. They may involve long periods of sorrow, waiting, and prayer. But they are sacred.

If you are a parent praying for a wandering child, if you are loving a spouse who does not share your faith, or if you feel your daily witness is unnoticed—take heart. God is not deaf to your prayers. He is at work in ways you may not yet see.

As we give thanks this month for the life of Monica, we are reminded that behind every great theologian and preacher is often a faithful parent or teacher who prayed, waited, and trusted in the Lord. Her example is not one of triumphalism, but of quiet endurance, grounded in the promises of Christ.

And in the end, Monica's story—like all our stories—is not about her perseverance, but about God's faithfulness.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." — Romans 12:12

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor

Christian Stewardship

Jesus' transforming presence



"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'" (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well! Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for *Jewish* tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus. For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus! Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Week of August 3- 9

Sun, Aug 3, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Aug 3, 9:45 am Fellowship
Sun, Aug 3, 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of August 10-16

Sun, Aug 10, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Aug 10, 9:45 am Fellowship
Sun, Aug 10, 10:00 am Bible Study
Sat, Aug 16, 10:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of August 17-23

Sun, Aug 17, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Aug 17, 9:45 am Fellowship
Sun, Aug 17, 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of August 24-30

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

Week of August 31

Sun, Aug 31, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Aug 31, 9:45 am Fellowship
Sun, Aug 31, 10:00 am Bible Study

August Birthdays

13 Diane Bronson
14 Benjamin Nazario
19 Mary Braasch
20 Bobbie Koritzke (H)
21 Linda Asche
28 Kathy Wilson



August Baptismal Anniversaries

07 Ruth Ogden
11 Andrew Fox
11 Lelia Martinez
14 Anne Gernenz



August Wedding Anniversaries

14 Doug & Shellie Quinn
20 Howard & Christine Stocker



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 or jdzimmer@aol.com

Caring Network Baby Bottles

By participating in our Coins for Caring Network Baby Bottle Drive, Divine Shepherd raised \$231 toward the work of Caring Network, enabling our client interaction team to serve women by sharing the gospel, helping to remove obstacles that cause a woman to consider abortion and minister to those who have experienced abortion in the past. Each day our staff sees mothers choose life for their children and we humbly thank you for standing with us prayerfully and financially. Please thank your congregation for us!

The Caring Network Administration

Ladies Aid



WINE AND CHOCOLATE SOCIAL is coming back on **September 13 at 3:00 p.m.** Join us for games and a good time socializing and getting to know some members you are not acquainted with. Some wine will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your favorite wine or drink. Coffee and juice will also be provided. Your favorite finger-food and chocolate will round out snacks for the afternoon. The larger the group the more fun it will be. Divine Shepherd assumes no responsibility for the consumption of alcohol. There will be more information in bulletins and September newsletter.

Now is the best time to join Ladies Aid at our next meeting on August 16. Our efforts for this meeting will be focused on the programs for the coming year: do we want to sponsor a social get together? projects around the church, what needs to be done? any new ideas?

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 August 22)

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.

Trustee's Corner

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



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

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. Remember to donate your choice dollars.

Oktoberfest

Ladies Aid will be sponsoring the annual Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 26 after the Divine Service. Funds will be requested from Thrivent to purchase the brats/buns/beer/etc. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Luther Hall in early October: please sign up if you are attending, how many are attending and for a dish to pass. Dishes do not have to be German. Coffee/tea/soft drinks, and juice will be provided. You may bring your own wine/beer, or other drinks, however DSLC assumes no responsibility for the consumption of alcohol.

RaiseRight

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

Please support RaiseRight – it is the only fundraiser Ladies Aid does and profits are used to help those in need and the Giving Tree

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

Sunday Treats



Do you enjoy treats and fellowship after Sunday services? If so, please consider signing up on any given Sunday(s). *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.

The first ever cordless phone was created by God.
He named it prayer
It never loses its signal, and you never have to
recharge it.
Use it anywhere AMEN!!

A Prayer

Lord, no matter the time of day, You hear us when we call upon You. I lift up this prayer of thanksgiving to You for all the blessings You have given me out of your love today, knowing that You will answer my prayer. I pray that You will continue to bless me this day while also giving me opportunities to share Your love with others. Thank you, Lord for Your kindness to me and for the gift of salvation through Christ, Your Son. Bless me, my family, and those who worship You. Send us the comfort found in Your Word and our baptismal grace. May I continue to walk in Your ways this day. In Jesus's name. Amen

Portals of Prayer

Celebrate Living Well – in the Lord

L - Listen to the Lord! Let Him do the talking!

I - Intentionally celebrate life! Go and do the good that God is calling you to do!

V - Volunteer! Share your talents – reach out and bless the life of another!

I - Invest in yourself! God declares you precious in His sight! Take care of yourself!

N - Notice God's gifts around you. Rejoice in His creation!

G - Grow spiritually. Find a quiet place to reflect and meditate each day.

W - Walk regularly. The best exercise is to walk with the Lord each day!

E - Eat sensibly. Watch for the fat calories. Enjoy a healthy diet with lots of fruits and veggies!

L - Lift people up – through prayer, by saying “thanks,” by smiling!

L - Lighten up! Laugh at yourself, trust the Lord. He is in control.

(Author unknown)

Words To Live By

1. **Wake Up!!** Decide to have a good day.
"Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalms 118:24)
2. **Dress Up !!** The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance: but the Lord looks at the heart."
(I Samuel 16:7)
3. **Shut Up!!** Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his lips guards his soul."
(Proverbs 13:3)
4. **Stand Up!!** For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good. "
(Galatians 6:9-10)
5. **Look Up !!** To the Lord. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me."
(Philippians 4:13)
6. **Reach Up !!** For something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, And He will direct your path."
(Proverbs 3:5-6)
7. **Lift Up !!** Your Prayers. "Do not worry about anything; Instead, PRAY ABOUT ERYTHING."
Philippians 4:6)

Prepurchased RaiseRight cards on hand, available after the service. Please support this fundraiser. Thanks!

10\$ cards
(2) McDonalds
(3) Panera
(7) Starbucks

\$25 cards
(1) Amazon
(2) Bass Pro
(1) Bath & Body Works
(2) Darden
(3) Dunkin
(2) Honey Baked Ham
(5) Jewel
(2) Kohls
(1) McDonalds
(5) Meijer
(2) Red Lobster
(2) Shell
(1) Starbucks
(2) Target
(4) Walmart

This is what we have on hand. Many more cards are available at raiseright.com/brand list.

See Lisa with any questions.