



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



September 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:

Gregory the Great: A Shepherd Who Points Us to Christ

On September 3rd, the Church remembers Gregory the Great (A.D. 540–604). Gregory is often remembered as one of the great bishops of Rome, a man of prayer, service, and mission. While much of his legacy is claimed by the Roman Catholic Church, we as Lutherans also find much to learn from his life and ministry—always through the lens of Christ and His Gospel.

Gregory lived during a turbulent time. The city of Rome was falling into ruin, famine and plague ravaged the land, and invading armies threatened its people. As bishop, Gregory saw himself not as a ruler seeking power, but as a *servant of the servants of God*—a title he gave himself. He sought to live out Christ's words: *"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:26–28).

Gregory is remembered especially for his pastoral heart. He organized care for the poor, reformed church life and worship, and sent missionaries to proclaim the Gospel—most famously sending Augustine of Canterbury to bring Christ's Word to the people of England. His writings on pastoral care still echo through the centuries, urging pastors to be men of humility, compassion, and faithfulness in preaching the Word.

Gregory also left a lasting mark on the liturgy of the Church. He encouraged congregational singing and oversaw the organization of chant in worship—later known as "Gregorian chant." He also refined the order of the Mass, emphasizing reverence and continuity in the prayers and readings of the Church. While we as Lutherans do not adopt all of Gregory's practices, we continue to benefit from the shape of the liturgy that he helped to preserve. The liturgy we use today—centered on Christ's Word and Sacrament—is deeply rooted in these early centuries of the Church. In this way, Gregory's work helped hand down to us a worship life that is not the invention of any one generation, but a treasure of the whole Church across the ages.

Yet, as Lutherans, we also view Gregory with discernment. His age was marked by a growing emphasis on papal authority, monasticism, and human works as pathways to God—trends that eventually required the clear correction of the Reformation. Gregory himself at times blurred the line between Christ's saving work and the church's human traditions. For us, this is a reminder that even the most faithful shepherds are still sinners in need of grace.

What, then, can we receive from Gregory today? Above all, we can give thanks for his example of servant leadership, his care for Christ's flock, and his zeal for mission. These gifts are not ultimately his, but Christ's. The Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep, is the true source of all pastoral care, mercy, and mission. As the Apostle Peter wrote: *"And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory"*. (1 Peter 5:4).

In remembering Gregory the Great, we are pointed not to Gregory himself, but to Christ—our true Shepherd and Savior. His cross and resurrection remain the center of our faith, the heart of our hope, and the source of our life together in His Church.

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor



Christian Stewardship

Work and Keep

*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it"
(Genesis 2:15).*

Genesis chapters one and two are familiar to us. We know them best as the Creation Account. Chapter one is where we hear the familiar, "let there be...and there was" directives. Chapter two gives us the account of Adam (the man) being formed from the "Adamah" (the dust) and becoming a living being when he receives the breath of life in his nostrils. Because of this, it would be quite easy to simply lump these two chapters into the category of creation accounts.

But do not be too hasty in this! While these two chapters do faithfully relate to us the account of creation, they also give us the creation of the "office" of steward. The man, created in the image of God in Genesis 1 and formed from the dust in Genesis 2, is created for a distinct purpose. He is created to be a steward of the perfect and beautiful creation that the Lord has made! In fact, this is THE reason that man was made. He — and we — were created in the image of God to be stewards of God's creation.

This purpose is spelled out in verse 15 of Genesis 2. The steward has one job, with two purposes. It is fitting that in the month that our nation marks Labor Day, we consider the task of steward. The first purpose of the job of steward is to work. The steward is the caretaker of the Garden. Being a steward is work! Before the fall into sin, this was not an onerous task. But it was an active thing.

Imagine being a farmer in the Garden of Eden! Work would be only harvest. No plowing. No planting. No cultivating. No weeding. The perfect garden that the Lord had made would simply produce automatically to provide for man, woman, and all living beings!

But there is a second task in verse fifteen. The word "keep" is not just a synonym for work. This second task is related to defending. This garden, holy by virtue of its being called into existence by a holy God, needed to be defended. Here is where the vocation of steward becomes priestly. The steward was to defend the perfect and holy garden from that which was unholy. Later in the Old Testament, this was the task of the priests in the tabernacle and temple. They were to defend with their lives the Holy of Holies. This too is the labor of stewardship. It is a labor that calls the steward to be willing to put the garden before life!

Stewardship was always work. It only got burdensome after the original steward, Adam, failed to defend the garden from the alien word of the serpent. But this was not a failure of harvest. It was a failure to defend the garden! As a result, all work that followed that failure became burdensome.

The steward failed but was never fired. That is why we have such an issue with stewardship to this day. We continue to live out a pre-fall vocation in a fallen world as failed stewards. That is why we in the church need to be reminded of our vocational call to be stewards. We so easily forget that this world is not ours to do with as we please. Nothing is ours. We are but stewards entrusted with managing the creation for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor.

It is a daunting task. But it is the one to which we have been called. We cannot do it on our own. Apart from the grace of God shared with us through Jesus, we would be burdened to the point of temporal and eternal death. But the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel! This Gospel connects us to the fertile garden of Christ's Work on our behalf. Now we are stewards of that grace! The Holy Spirit works this in and through us today and every day. This is the work of the church. It is also the work of the individual steward. The Lord has placed us in the "garden" with the same twofold purpose: work and keep! Enjoy your labor. For in the Lord, our labor is never in vain!

— LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

September



Week of September 7-13

Sun, Sep 7, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Sep 7, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sat, Sep 13, 3:00 pm Wine/Chocolate Social

Week of September 14-20

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

Week of September 21-27

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

Week of September 28-30

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

September birthdays

06 Amy Edgar
06 Kevin Pape
09 Nicholas Stewart
19 Spenser Fox

September Baptismal Anniversaries

07 Linda Asche
07 Emily Zimmer
23 Diane Bronson
25 Mary Braasch
26 Kevin Pape
? Scott Collins
?? Kathy Wilson



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

Wine/Chocolate Social



Wine/Chocolate Social is on **September 13 at 3:00 p.m.** Some wine, coffee, juice will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your favorite wine or drink. Your favorite finger-food and chocolate will round out snacks for the afternoon. Divine Shepherd assumes no responsibility for the consumption of alcohol.

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.

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.

Altar Guild

Would you like to join Altar Guild? Do you have a free hour the third weekend of each month to set up/take down communion? If so, please contact Ruth Ogden. Thanks.

Update

Ed & Lisa Cruz
2945 Ellsworth Drive
Yorkville, IL 60560

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

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 September 26)



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 \$ 1,400 since the first of the year. Remember to donate your third quarter choice dollars.

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.

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

Twitter: @dslc60440

RaiseRite Cards

Shop with RaiseRite cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion

Next order date is September 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. RaiseRite 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

Portals of Prayer

Pick up the October-December Portals of Prayer in Luther Hall. Cost is \$15 @ year. God's blessings on your continued use of His Word.

Prayer for our Nation

“For freedom Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1). And for freedom, we thank You with all our hearts. You have set us free from sin, death, and the devil by Your suffering, death on the cross, and resurrection.

For those freedoms and for freedom offered by my country, we thank You.

For the freedom to express our faith without fear of reprisal.

We honor our Armed Forces and give them thanks for their dedication and service to God and our country. Prayers that You will protect them and will be with them always.

In Your Name we pray. Amen

(Portals of Prayer)

Labor Day



Labor Day isn't just about celebrating what we have accomplished. It is also about remembering God. Bible verses about work remind us that all that we have achieved today are blessings from Him. Let's come to God with a Labor Day prayer for all the blessings and work opportunities He gave us., let us always remember to pray.

But how do you pray for Labor Day? There's no hard and fast rule, really. But as with all things, prayer for labor can also be a prayer of thanksgiving, we can thank God with gratitude in our hearts for blessing us with work. We can also assume a prayer of submission, where we also ask for His continued guidance as we strive to work hard in His name.

God is our ultimate symbol of work-life balance. We need to rest before work. And we work because God commanded us to. Work is important because we were called to work by God. Labor is in fact a blessing, not a burden.

Dear God, the Father, thank You for blessing me with another day to be Your worker. It is my greatest honor to be Your follower, and I dedicate all the work I do to You. Please continue watching over me as I go about my day. Grant me the patience and resilience I need to overcome any challenges at work. With this blessing prayer, I humbly ask for You to bless my work, so that I can create wondrous things with You in mind. May I remember to always look to You when I encounter difficulties that may stump me, for when I lean on You, I know I can conquer anything. This I ask through Christ our Lord, Amen.

We offer a thanksgiving prayer to not only thank the Lord for our Labor Day blessings, but to also thank Him for blessing us with work. May we never forget to thank God for all the work that comes to us, because ultimately, these are His blessings for us.

Dearest God, please continue looking after me as I go about my day at work. Please keep me away from harm, that I may be protected from any danger that may befall me. Look after other workers as well and protect them from harm with Your loving embrace. Lord, I also pray for Your protection from temptation. Humbly I ask for Your strength, so that I am able to reject the temptations of evil. I aim to always work hard in Your name, so with humility I ask for the guidance of Your Holy Spirit to lead me towards the path of righteousness. Glory to God in the highest. Amen.

Our prayers for Labor Day must also seek to unite all of us in His name. As we are all workers of God, let us pray together for His guidance to work in unity and in harmony. After all, we make more progress when we work together.

