



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



September 2026

"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**

Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture

"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." — Romans 10:17

On September 30, the Church remembers **Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture**, one of the great biblical scholars of the ancient Church. Jerome is best known for his translation of the Scriptures into Latin, a work that eventually became known as the **Vulgate** and shaped Western Christianity for more than a thousand years.

For Lutherans, Jerome's life reminds us of something fundamental: **the Church lives from the Word of God**. The Scriptures are not merely an ancient book to be admired or a theological resource to be consulted. Through the Word, God speaks His Law and Gospel, reveals His Son, and creates and sustains faith.

A Scholar Given to the Scriptures

Jerome was born around A.D. 345 in Stridon, near the northern Adriatic. He received an excellent education, eventually studying in Rome. He became exceptionally skilled in Latin and Greek and later devoted himself to learning Hebrew. His desire to understand the Scriptures in their original languages became one of the defining characteristics of his ministry.

After spending time in Rome, Constantinople, Syria, and other places, Jerome eventually settled in **Bethlehem**, where he spent the latter part of his life. There he established a community devoted to the study of Scripture. He continued writing commentaries, translating Christian writings, corresponding with other Christians, and working on the biblical text.

His greatest work was his revision and translation of the Latin Bible. Existing Latin translations differed considerably from one another. Jerome believed that the Church would be better served by a careful text based upon the best available Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. His Old Testament work was largely translated from Hebrew, while he also revised the Latin New Testament by comparing it with the Greek.

The result was the Latin Bible that came to be called the **Vulgate**. Although it was not immediately accepted everywhere, it gradually became the standard Latin Bible in the Western Church.

“Ignorance of Scripture is Ignorance of Christ”

Jerome's devotion to Scripture is summed up in one of his most famous statements:

✠ *“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”* ✠

While Jerome was certainly a product of his fourth-century Christian environment, this conviction is something Lutherans can readily appreciate. Christ is not known through human speculation. He is revealed to us through the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures.

Jesus Himself said, *“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me”* (John 5:39).

The Bible's central message is therefore not ultimately about us. It is about Christ—His incarnation, His perfect obedience, His atoning death, His resurrection, and the salvation He freely gives to sinners.

Jerome and the Importance of Translation

Jerome's work also teaches us to appreciate the importance—and the difficulty—of translating God's Word.

He did not believe that Scripture should be left inaccessible to ordinary Christians simply because it was written originally in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. He labored so that Christians could hear and read the Scriptures in the language they understood.

This is especially significant for us as Lutherans. Martin Luther's own translation of the Bible into German served a similar purpose in the Reformation: **God's Word belongs in the ears and hands of God's people.**

The goal of translation is not to improve God's Word, but faithfully to convey what God has given in the original languages. Jerome understood that such work required careful scholarship. In his writings, he frequently compared different manuscripts and translations and wrestled with difficult passages.

Jerome Was a Scholar, Not the Authority

At the same time, Lutherans should remember an important distinction.

Jerome was a faithful servant of the Church in his study of Scripture, but **Jerome was not the authority over Scripture.** The Church does not establish the truth of God's Word. God's Word establishes the truth of the Church.

This is the same principle confessed by the Lutheran Church in the **Book of Concord.** The Scriptures are the prophetic and apostolic writings and are the only rule and norm according to which all doctrines and teachers are to be judged.

Jerome himself demonstrates why this distinction matters. He was an extraordinarily gifted scholar, but he also held theological opinions that Lutherans would not embrace, particularly regarding asceticism and the superiority of celibate virginity. His strengths should therefore be received with gratitude, while his errors are measured against Holy Scripture.

That is an important lesson for Christians today: **we give thanks for faithful teachers without making teachers into authorities equal to God's Word.**

A Life of Labor

Jerome's ministry was not glamorous. Much of it consisted of reading, comparing manuscripts, learning languages, writing, correcting, translating, and explaining.

He worked for decades on the Scriptures. His life reminds us that God often accomplishes great things through ordinary and painstaking labor.

A pastor preparing a sermon, a Sunday school teacher studying a Bible lesson, parents reading Scripture with their children, or a Christian opening the Bible each morning may not appear to be doing anything extraordinary. Yet these are precisely the places where God continues to work through His Word.

Jerome's example therefore points us away from admiration of scholarship for its own sake and toward the purpose of scholarship: **to serve the Church by faithfully handing on the Word of God.**

The Word Still Does Its Work

Jerome died on September 30, A.D. 420, after spending many years in Bethlehem.

His work has long outlived him. Yet even Jerome's translation is not the thing upon which the Church ultimately depends.

The Church depends upon **the Word of God itself.**

That Word still does what God promises. Through the preaching of the Gospel, Christ is proclaimed. Through Holy Baptism, His promise is delivered to sinners. Through Holy Absolution, Christ's forgiveness is spoken to troubled consciences. Through the Holy Supper, Christ gives His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins.

Jerome spent his life making the Scriptures available to the Church. We give thanks for that labor because those Scriptures continue to bear witness to the same Christ whom Jerome confessed.

As St. Paul writes:

"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

So, on September 30, as we remember Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture, let us give thanks not merely for a remarkable scholar of antiquity, but for the **gift of the Holy Scriptures**. And let us remember why that gift is so precious:

The Scriptures reveal Christ. Christ gives forgiveness. And through His Word and Sacraments, Christ continues to give that forgiveness to His Church.

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor Zimmer

The 2nd Commandment & Christian Stewardship



A steward is one who is entrusted with the management of something that belongs to another. As Christian stewards, we recognize that all we are and all we have come from God. Stewardship is not just about money or finances, it is about everything God entrusts to our care. We are to manage everything for His purposes. In the Second Commandment we are reminded that we have the privilege and responsibility of managing God's name.

The Second Commandment - You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Charles Arand writes in *Rooted in the Faith*, "The other commandments are closely connected to the First. In fact, they are so closely connected that it would be proper to think of them as nine commentaries on the First Commandment. Or we could say that the First Commandment is lived out in nine different ways. Trust in God is the foundation for keeping the rest of the commandments". One of the ways the First Commandment is lived out is by using God's name in the way He intended.

We are stewards of our tongue and our lips. What we say is important, especially what we say about our Heavenly Father and the Savior who gave His life for us. Raymond Olson writes in *Stewards Appointed*, "The man who is called to be a Christian steward is entrusted with the name of God. Great issues are involved in keeping this name an honored and respected one in the earth. This is no trivial trust, but one to which a man may well devote his fullest and finest capacities...It is important, for the sake of the steward himself, that the name of God is not taken in vain. It is important in his whole relationship to God that every part of God's revelation concerning Himself shall be continually remembered and reverently considered. If he uses God's name without respect, it is a proof that something serious has happened in his own attitude toward the One whose steward he is...On the other hand, to give honor and strength and glory to God's name, is to give Him the proper place of attention and reverence".

Another aspect of the Second Commandment is that since we, as Christian stewards, are entrusted with God's name we must be dedicated to the truth about God. We learn the truth about God by hearing and studying His Word. In *Heart, Soul, and Money*, Craig Blomberg says, "I have discovered that many Christians today are not willfully choosing to be disobedient to the Scriptures in the area of financial stewardship. They merely are unaware of the Bible's teaching on the topic". The same could be said about every other area of Christian discipleship. David Pratt, in *Radical*, puts it in stronger terms, "I am convinced that we as Christ followers in American churches have embraced values and ideas that are not only unbiblical but that actually contradict the gospel we claim to believe". Our responsibility as faithful stewards is to know what God says and to know what the world says and then to discern the difference and obey God rather than men.

Martin Marty concludes his discussion of the Second Commandment in *The Hidden Discipline* with these words, "Watch God's language, because it is the language of love designed to help man. 'Call upon Me in the day of trouble,' invites God. 'At the name of Jesus every knee should bow,' said an ancient Christian hymn. Jesus kept His Father's name intact, unimpaired, treasured; it signified the divine presence. He spoke a new language of love. At a place called the Place of a Skull He died to keep the name's holiness inviolate, its love spreading. The community of those who witnessed His resurrection called themselves the adopted. They belonged; they, too, were sons. It has always seemed good for some to watch over the use of the family name". We are Christians. We are stewards of the family name. We take every opportunity to praise God's name and use it as He desires.

A Word of Thanks to Ed and Lisa

On behalf of the entire congregation, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to **Ed Cruz** for the faithful service and dedicated leadership he has given to Divine Shepherd over the years. Ed has truly been a gift from God to our congregation. Through seasons of great joy and through difficult and challenging times, he has faithfully served and helped lead us with care and devotion. We are deeply grateful for the many ways he has given of his time, talents, and energy for the good of Christ's Church here at Divine Shepherd. We will certainly miss his leadership and presence in this capacity.

At this time, however, Ed must give his attention to his first vocation as a husband, caring for our dear sister in Christ, his wife, Lisa. We pray that the Lord would grant Lisa a full and speedy recovery and give Ed strength, patience, and peace as he cares for her. We look forward to the day when the Lord will graciously allow them both to return and join us once again in the Divine Service.

In the meantime, please consider sending Ed and Lisa a card expressing your thanks, encouragement, and prayers. Such a simple act of Christian love can be a great source of comfort and encouragement to them during this time. May the Lord continue to keep Ed and Lisa in His gracious care, strengthen them by His Word and promises, and surround them with the love and prayers of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

**With heartfelt gratitude and Christian love,
Pastor Zimmer and all the members of Divine Shepherd**



Week of September 6-12

Sun, Sep 6, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Sep 6 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, Sep 6 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of September 13-19

Sun, Sep 13 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Sep 13, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, Sep 13, 10:00 am Bible Study
Mon, Set 14 6:00 pm Elders Meeting

Week of September 20-26

Sun, Sep 20, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Sep 20, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, Sep 20, 9:40 am Congregational Meeting
Sun, Sep 20, 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of September 27-30

Sun, Sep 27, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, Sep 27, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, Sep 27, 10:0 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



Congregational Meeting

There will be fellowship and a congregational meeting (Voter Assembly) on Sunday, September 20th, after the divine service.

1. Need to vote on Ron Ruisz serving as Chair of church council
2. Treasurer will update the VA on our current financial status

Outreach Clothing Drive

Ladies Aid is sponsoring a clothing drive to support a local mission that helps homeless families and veterans. Clean/in good condition clothing (all sizes) including coats/other apparel/boots/ for men, women and children, bed linens/towels (also in good condition) may be dropped off at church between October 13 – November 10. Contact Karen with any questions.

Oktoberfest

The Elders will be sponsoring the annual Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 25 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 and 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.

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

Trustee's Corner

If you can clean the church 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)? If so, bring your own tools.

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 25)



THRIVENT
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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 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.

RaiseRite

Shop with RaiseRite cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. **Next order date is September 20.** 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 • dsleanna@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
Twitter: @dslc60440

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.

