



# Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

February 2025



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:*

When we think of our doctrine, faith and practice we rightly acknowledge Martin Luther, but there were so many others who worked besides Luther, who worked to restore the centrality of Holy Scripture as the sole rule and norm of our faith. One of these tireless theologians was Phillip Melanchthon whose life the church celebrates on February 16<sup>th</sup>. He is often called the "Teacher of Germany" (*Praeceptor Germaniae*). Known for his intellect, humility, and deep commitment to the Gospel, Melanchthon played a crucial role in shaping Lutheranism, not only as a theologian but also as a mediator and educator.

Philip Melanchthon (1497–1560) was a scholar, humanist, and reformer who became one of Martin Luther's closest collaborators. Born in Bretten, Germany, he displayed exceptional intellectual gifts from a young age, mastering classical languages and earning a reputation as a brilliant academic. In 1518, Melanchthon was appointed as a professor at the University of Wittenberg, where he met Luther. Though they were very different—Luther was bold and fiery, while Melanchthon was gentle and measured—their partnership became one of the driving forces of the Reformation. One of Melanchthon's most enduring contributions to Lutheranism is his authorship of the **Augsburg Confession** (1530), a cornerstone of Lutheran theology. This document was presented to Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Augsburg as a clear and concise statement of the Reformation's beliefs. It defended key doctrines such as justification by faith alone (*sola fide*), the authority of Scripture (*sola scriptura*), and the proper administration of the sacraments. The Augsburg Confession remains central to Lutheran identity and is included in the **Book of Concord** (1580). Melanchthon's ability to articulate theological truths in a clear and irenic manner helped ensure the survival of the Reformation during a time of great opposition.

Melanchthon's contributions extended beyond theology to education. He believed that a well-educated clergy and laity were essential for the Church's vitality. He reformed universities and schools throughout Germany, emphasizing the study of languages, science, and the liberal arts alongside theology. His educational reforms laid the groundwork for the modern Lutheran emphasis on teaching and catechesis.

Through his work, Melanchthon earned the title "Teacher of Germany," and his influence on education has shaped the Lutheran tradition's commitment to lifelong learning and theological training.

While Luther was known for his polemical style, Melanchthon often sought to mediate between conflicting factions within the Reformation. His diplomatic approach helped foster dialogue between Lutheran and other Protestant traditions, particularly during doctrinal disputes. Though his efforts at unity were not always successful, they demonstrate his commitment to the unity of the Church and the importance of working toward reconciliation without compromising the truth of the Gospel. Melanchthon's theological works, including his *Loci Communes* (Commonplaces), were the first systematic presentation of Reformation theology. Written in 1521, the *Loci Communes* provided a clear and accessible summary of key doctrines such as justification, the sacraments, and the relationship between law and Gospel. This work became a foundational text for Lutheran theology and was widely read by pastors and theologians throughout Europe and America.

Philip Melancthon's legacy lies in his ability to articulate, systematize, and defend the truths of Scripture in a way that was accessible and compelling. His intellectual rigor and gentle spirit complemented Luther's bold leadership, ensuring the theological clarity and institutional stability of the Reformation. Melancthon's contributions remind us of the importance of clear teaching, careful study, and a spirit of unity grounded in the Gospel. His life exemplifies the vital role of education and catechesis in nurturing faith and equipping the Church to proclaim Christ to the world. May the life and work of Philip Melancthon inspire us to live as faithful stewards of the Gospel and to value the teaching of Christ's truth in all aspects of our lives.

Listen to Jesus,  
Pastor Zimmer

\*\*\*\*\*

## Christian Stewardship

### ***“Christ’s Life, and Love, and Light”***



Open our eyes Lord to see Your love's intent,  
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height  
May thankfulness be days in service spent  
Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light. (*LSB 788*)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB 788*). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don't see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would “Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love's intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.”

Only when we are immersed in God's Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism's life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord's loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ's servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent  
Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ's love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)



### Week of February 2-8

- Sun, Feb 2, 8:30 am Divine Service
- Sun, Feb 2, 9:40 am Fellowship
- Sun, Feb 2, 10:00 am Bible Study
- Wed, Feb 5, 6:30 pm Choir Practice

### Week of February 9-15

- Sun, Feb 9, 8:30 am Divine Service
- Sun, Feb 9, 9:40 am Fellowship
- Sun, Feb 9, 10:00 am Bible Study
- Mon, Feb 10, 6:00 pm Elders Meeting
- Wed, Feb 12, 6:30 pm Choir Practice
- Sat, Feb 15, 10:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

### Week of February 16-22

- Sun, Feb 16, 8:30 am Divine Service
- Sun, Feb 16, 9:40 am Fellowship
- Sun, Feb 16, 10:00 am Bible Study
- Mon, Feb 17, 6:00 pm Council Meeting
- Wed, Feb 19, 6:30 pm Choir Practice

### Week of February 23-28

- Sun, Feb 23, 8:30 am Divine Service
- Sun, Feb 23, 9:40 am Fellowship
- Sun, Feb 23, 10:00 am Bible Study
- Wed, Feb 26, 6:30 pm Choir Practice

### **February Birthdays**

- 05 Michael Collins
- 09 Angela Pruet
- 12 Lisa Cruz
- 13 Hattie Bingenheimer
- 14 Hector (Manny) Martinez
- 21 Doug Quinn



### **February Baptismal Anniversaries**

- 01 Melanie Witzke
- 08 Victoria Fox
- 11 Jonathan Gernenz
- 17 Hayden Quinn



### **February Wedding Anniversaries**

- 19 Al & Ann Gernenz

## **The Tax letters**

There was an input error on the 2024 Tax letters. Updated copies will be in your mail slot in the near future. Sorry for any inconvenience. Please see Cynthia Szoldatits with any questions.

## **Choir Practice**

Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to lend their voices in praise to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## **2025 Elders**

- Scott Collins (head elder)
- Ed Cruz
- Nathan Geschke
- Rick Otto
- Kevin Pape
- Dan Rossof
- Ron Ruisz
- Kelly Stewart

## **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 one. 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. If you sign up, **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**

Please see Ruth Ogden if you would like to join the Altar guild and can devote a couple of hours every third weekend of the month.

## **Ladies Aid**

The meetings are on the third Saturday of each month, and we certainly would like to have you join us at **10:00 am** on **February 15**. Projects for 2025 will be discussed (including if there will be a garage sale this year).

## Important Phone Numbers

**Church office:** 630-759-5300  
**Pastor Zimmer:** 583-880-9532  
**Head Elder:** 630-360-5573 (Scott Collins)  
**Prayer Chain:** 712-584-5301 (Julie Zimmer)  
**Newsletter info:** 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)  
*(items are due February 24)*

## 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

## RaiseRight (Manna)

Shop with RaiseRight cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **February 16**. Pre-purchased cards are available after Sunday services and forms are on the bookcase in Luther Hall.

*Your Organization:*

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church – Manna

*Your Coordinator:* **Lisa Cruz**

630-636-6359 • [dslcmanna@yahoo.com](mailto:dslcmanna@yahoo.com)

<http://www.raiseright.com>

*Your Enrollment Code:*

B2LD2C7A55973

## Commemoration of Martin Luther (2/18)

God, through your servant Martin Luther, You formed Your Church. You taught us once again what the bible so clearly proclaims: that sinners are justified by grace alone, a gift received through faith alone on the foundation of Christ's work alone. Help Your Church to always be the place where that doctrine is zealously proclaimed, for it is our very life and salvation. *(Portals of Prayer)*

## 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.

## 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.* Please consider supplementing some of the "sugary goodies" with crackers and cheese and/or fruit for our diabetic members. The 2025 signup sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board. Monetary donations are accepted to defray the cost of drinks and paper products, which are supplied by Ladies Aid.



**THRIVENT**  
**FINANCIAL®**

Directing Choice Dollars is a great way for eligible Thrivent members to show support for what matters most to them. If you have not given your 2024 Choice Dollars to Divine Shepherd, please do so **before March 31 or they are lost.** Thrivent members and Choice Dollars are an important source of support for the work the organization does. Why not do everything you can to make sure that you are getting the most out of your participation. Choice dollars are used to support various church/member needs. Thanks.

## Prayer for our Nation's Leaders

Lord, bless the president of the US and our nation's leaders. Give them wisdom and strength as they carry out their responsibilities. Humble our leaders to receive counsel from Your Word that they may defend our people in wisdom, especially the weakest among us – the aged and unborn – through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *(Portals of Prayer)*

## *The Mind of God Toward You*

There is never a time  
when you're not in His thoughts,  
never a time without grace,  
never a time when He turns away  
from any need you face.

There is never a time  
when you're not in His heart,  
never a time without love,  
never a time when you're not blessed  
with good things from above!

*How precious also are Thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I wake, I am still with Thee.* Psalm 139:17-18

(The devotional gift book **Always Loved** by Roy Lessin)

## *Valentine's Day – Divine Love of Jesus*

February is the month when “Valentine’s Day” is celebrated and thus a month in which we think of “love.” A few short weeks ago we celebrated Christmas—the occasion that marked God’s great love gift to the world, His only-begotten Son. Jesus came into our world as a servant and took upon Himself our human flesh and form, as well as our sin, guilt, and shame, and then offered His life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world. This act of sacrificial love caused the hymn writer to pen these words: “What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!” (LSB, 543).

The truth is that the love of Jesus is far more wondrous than we can ever describe or imagine, much less imitate and practice. The best that we can do is respond to that wondrous love with our free and joyous stewardship. True Christian stewardship is not something that we do because of laws, rules and commands. True Christian stewardship is always a response to the love of God for us. The Apostle John said it so well: “We love because He first loved us.”

So, during this month of February when “Valentine’s Day” reminds us of human love, we do well to pause and reflect on the divine love of Jesus. By the power and presence of the Holy Spirit we are equipped to show our love through deeds and words that support and encourage.

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. Let your love show in your giving of time, talent and financial resources to God’s glory and the expansion of His kingdom.

<sup>1</sup> Early Christian Writings, copyright © 2001-2024  
Peter Kirby Ibid