



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

November 2024 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:

On November 9th the Church celebrates the life of Martin Chemnitz. Chemnitz is one of the most significant yet often overlooked figures in Lutheran history: Martin Chemnitz. Known as the "Second Martin," Chemnitz stands as a towering figure who ensured the survival and development of Lutheran theology in the critical years following the death of Martin Luther. Without Chemnitz, many scholars argue that the Lutheran Church would not have remained faithful to the teachings of the first Martin—Luther himself.

Who Was Martin Chemnitz? - Martin Chemnitz was born in 1522, just a few years after the Reformation began. Growing up during this transformative period, he dedicated himself to studying theology under the great Lutheran reformers, including Philipp Melancthon. Chemnitz' life coincided with a time of uncertainty and division in the Lutheran Church as different factions wrestled with the proper interpretation of Lutheran doctrine after Luther's death in 1546. Chemnitz' greatest contribution to Lutheranism came from his deep commitment to ensuring that the teachings of Holy Scripture would be preserved and passed on without distortion. His work safeguarded Lutheran theology from being overtaken by the extremes of either Roman Catholicism or radical Protestantism. For this reason, he is often referred to as the "Second Martin," emphasizing his role in defending and clarifying the faith.

The Formula of Concord - Chemnitz' most important work for Lutheranism is undoubtedly his role in shaping the **Formula of Concord** (1577), a document that brought doctrinal unity to the Lutheran Church during a time of significant theological controversy. After Luther's death, disputes broke out among Lutherans about key issues like the nature of Christ's presence in the Lord's Supper and the role of human will in salvation. These controversies threatened to divide the Lutheran Church, but Chemnitz and his colleagues worked tirelessly to bring the factions together around a common confession of faith.

The Formula of Concord addressed these disputes clearly and decisively, affirming key Lutheran doctrines such as:

- **The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist:** Chemnitz defended the teaching that Christ is truly present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine, rejecting both the Roman Catholic view of transubstantiation and the Reformed view of a purely symbolic presence.
- **Justification by Faith Alone:** Chemnitz upheld that we are justified by faith alone through God's grace, apart from works, affirming the central Lutheran doctrine of *sola fide*.
- **The Bondage of the Will:** Chemnitz rejected any notion that human beings, in their sinful state, have the ability to cooperate with God in their own salvation, emphasizing the total depravity of human nature and the necessity of God's grace in turning our hearts to Him.

By clarifying and unifying Lutheran doctrine, Chemnitz' work in the Formula of Concord helped to solidify the Lutheran Confessions as we know them today.

Martin Chemnitz and the Book of Concord - Beyond his work on the Formula of Concord, Chemnitz was instrumental in compiling and defending the **Book of Concord** (1580), the collection of confessional documents that serve as the doctrinal standard for the Lutheran Church. The Book of Concord includes foundational texts like Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, the Augsburg Confession, and the Formula of Concord itself. This collection remains a vital part of the identity and teaching of the Lutheran Church, and Chemnitz' work ensured that these documents would be faithfully preserved and recognized.

Chemnitz and the Lord's Supper - One of the areas where Chemnitz's influence is most deeply felt is his teaching on the **Lord's Supper**. Chemnitz stood firmly with Scriptural teaching of the Real Presence, countering the Reformed view that the bread and wine merely symbolize Christ's body and blood. His work on the *Lord's Supper* remains essential reading for understanding the Lutheran doctrine of the sacraments. In his writings, particularly *The Lord's Supper* (De Coena Domini), Chemnitz upheld that the Eucharist is not simply a memorial, but a true communion with Christ. He maintained that Christ is present in a mysterious, yet real way, bringing forgiveness, life, and salvation to those who receive the sacrament in faith. This teaching remains central to Lutheran practice today.

Why Martin Chemnitz Matters for the Church Today

For the Church today, Martin Chemnitz serves as a model of doctrinal clarity, theological faithfulness, and pastoral care. His work shows us the importance of holding fast to the truths of Scripture and the confessions of the Church, especially in times of division and uncertainty. Chemnitz was not merely a theologian for his time—his contributions continue to shape the way we understand and live out our Lutheran faith.

In a world where theological confusion is all too common, Chemnitz reminds us of the need for faithful interpretation of God's Word. His writings call us back to the foundational teachings of Christ, the apostles, and the Reformation. Just as Chemnitz looked back to the first Martin, Luther, to clarify and preserve the faith, we too are called to remain anchored in the truth of God's Word.

Let us give thanks for Martin Chemnitz, the Second Martin, whose faithfulness helped preserve the Lutheran Church's identity and doctrinal purity. May his legacy inspire us to remain steadfast in the teachings of Scripture, confessing Christ crucified and risen for the salvation of all who believe.

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor Zimmer

Christian Stewardship

The consequences of shallow thankfulness



Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the

wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, “Tell grandma thank you.” This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn’t really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: “Look at me! Aren’t I special?” No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn’t funny — it obscures the Gospel!

*Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways
unmindful of a broken brother’s need ...*

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

November birthdays

- 01 Cris Ruisz
- 02 Laurrie Bingenheimer
- 03 Kristina Learnahan
- 05 Jonathan Fritsch
- 05 Cynthia Szoldatits
- 09 Jim Bingenheimer
- 10 Heidi Boehm
- 12 Diane Weaver
- 14 Melissa Ruisz
- 16 Edward Cruz
- 22 Daniel Rossof

November Baptismal Anniversaries

- 12 Spenser Fox
- 30 Kelly Stewart

November Wedding Anniversaries

- 06 Ron & Cris Ruisz

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 2.

Week of November 3-9

Sun, Nov 3, 8:30 a.m. Festive Divine Service
Sun, Nov 3, 9:40 a.m. Fellowship
Sun, Nov 3, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
Wed, Nov 6, 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Week of November 10-16

Sun, Nov 10, 8:30 a.m. Divine Service
Sun, Nov 10, 9:40 a.m. Fellowship
Sun, Nov 10, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
Mon, Nov 11, 6:00 p.m. Elders Meeting
Wed, Nov 13, 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
Sat, Nov 16, 10:00 a.m. Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of November 17-23

Sun, Nov 17, 8:30 a.m. Divine Service
Sun, Nov 17, 9:40 a.m. Fellowship
Sun, Nov 17, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
Mon, Nov 18, 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting
Wed, Nov 20, 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Week of November 24-30

Sun, Nov 24, 8:30 a.m. Divine Service
Sun, Nov 24, 9:40 a.m. Fellowship
Sun, Nov 24, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
Wed, Nov 27, 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wed, Nov 27, 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice

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 winter apparel/boots/for men, women and children may be dropped off at church until November 10. Contact Karen with any questions

Ladies Aid

In mid November you will see the Giving Tree for members and their families. If you know of someone in need, please give their name to Lisa ASAP. Most of the time these families request gift cards from their favorite stores. You can purchase cards at the retail outlets, but even more convenient, order the cards from MANNA, or RaiseRight (as it is now called). Choose an envelope from the tree, see what the recipient is requesting, and order cards, purchase at stores, and bring items to church by **December 15**. See **Lisa Cruz** with any questions.

At the same time as fulfilling those Giving Tree wishes, will be the annual Food Drive and the Advent Food drive. First, we like to provide the members on this list with items that can be used for a festive holiday dinner, and then provide staples to save those amounts so that they can be used by the family for the Merry CHRISTmas season. Each time you go to the grocery store until Christmas, try to purchase an item for the Food Drive. In the past years, we have given each family an amazing amount of food and other staples (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.). We would like to do that again this year.

Now is the best time to join Ladies Aid at our next meeting on **November 16 at 10:00 a.m.** We will be focused on the programs for the coming year.

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

Altar Flowers

Thank you to everyone who donated flowers for the altar in 2024 and to Ruth Ogden for arranging the beautiful bouquets.



Please check upcoming bulletins in late November for forms to purchase poinsettias for the Christmas Season. Payment with completed form is due **December 8**.

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 November 25)

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 – 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, consider supplementing some of the “sugary goodies” with crackers/cheese /fruit. The signup sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board.

Raise Right

Shop with Raise Right (new name) cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order dates are, **November 17, December 1 and 15.** 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

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/ Twitter: [@dslc60440](https://twitter.com/dslc60440)



You are invited to listen to Issues, Etc. — the radio voice of the Lutheran faith for the 21st century. Issues, Etc. is Lutheran talk radio hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Listen live (3:00-5:00pm CST) or at your leisure via the following options (go to issuesetc.org and click on the ‘listen’ tab for specific options.

Updates

Barbara Potempa
2821 Windsor Drive # 60532
Lisle, IL 60532

Judy Yuenger
2855 Windridge Circle
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126



Prayers Honoring Veterans And Their Sacrifices In The Military

Heavenly Father,

We lift up our voices in heartfelt thanksgiving for the veterans who have served and sacrificed for us in the military. We think of how they put their very lives on the line, and gave themselves for the country and people who they loved and served.

We are grateful for their selflessness that has been a blessing to so many, even in the face of hardship, loss and pain. We just want to take a moment to honor them for the many ways that they have sacrificed and have been separated from their families.

We think of those who have fallen, and their grieving loved ones. We pray for Your comfort to surround them, and that they will hold tightly to the [hope](#) that is found in Christ not only for this life but for the one beyond.

We pray for those who have returned home from their duties. Thank You for protecting them and sparing their lives. May they be a reminder to us of those who may not be with us anymore, and who served faithfully alongside them.

We want to give thanks and honor to all our veterans who we celebrate today. Thank You for the freedoms that we get to experience today because of their selfless service. May they be blessed richly in Christ. In Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.

Though there are many ways to honor our beloved veterans, one of the ways we can do that is through praying for our veterans. We can honor all those who have served in the military this Veteran’s Day as we reflect on the sacrifices they made, and lift them up in [thankful](#) prayer.

Prayers of Thanksgiving from Psalms

Psalm 95 - "Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods..."

Psalm 118:29 - "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Psalm 103:1-5 - "Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed."

Thanksgiving Prayer

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.

End of the Church Year (11/24)

Lord Jesus, when You return, You will restore everything. All the years of Pain will be erased; every tear of disappointment will be wiped away; every bitter experience will be utterly forgotten. With perfect eyes, we will see Your hands and feet that took the nail; Your head that was crowned with thorns; Your back that was scrouged; Your side that was pierced. Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!
Amen and Amen (Portals of Prayer)

Reverse Advent Food Drive Non perishable only

Share the Love this Christmas with Ladies Aid and help give nutritious food to church families or others in need in our community.

Prepare for Christmas by creating an Advent box or bag, count down the days till drop off date by placing an item in the box each day.

The list is only a suggestion, it does not replace the annual food drive. Only non-perishable food items.

If you place a different item, please cross out and write item placed inside .

Return the box/bag to church NO LATER than **December 10.**

If you have any questions, please contact Joan. Food items in any amount are greatly appreciated.

If you turn in a complete box or bag, your name will be placed into a drawing for a gift card.

Thank you for your support

Name: _____

November 10 – box of cereal
November 11 – peanut butter
November 12 – stuffing mix
November 13 – boxed potatoes
November 14 – mac and cheese
November 15 – canned fruit
November 16 – canned tomatoes
November 17 – canned tuna
November 18 – dessert mix
November 19 – jar of applesauce
November 20 – canned sweet potatoes
November 21 – cranberry sauce
November 22 – roll of paper towels
November 23 – box of crackers
November 24 – package of rice
November 25 – package of oatmeal
November 26 – package of pasta
November 27 – spaghetti sauce
November 28 – can of soup
November 29 – package of toilet paper
November 30 – can of corn
December 01 – can of mixed vegetables
December 02 – can of carrots
December 03 – can off green beans