



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

April 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:



The Tenebrae Good Friday Service: An Ancient Tradition As we approach Holy Week, one of the most solemn and profound services in the Christian calendar is the Tenebrae Good Friday Service. This powerful service of darkness and contemplation draws worshipers into the suffering and death of Christ, preparing hearts for the joy of Easter morning. But what is the history of Tenebrae, and how does it find its place in Lutheran worship today?

Origins of Tenebrae The word "Tenebrae" comes from the Latin for "darkness" or "shadows." Historically, Tenebrae was part of the monastic liturgy observed during Holy Week, particularly on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday before Easter. Originating in the medieval church, the service consisted of the recitation of Psalms and readings from Lamentations and other Scriptures. The distinguishing feature of Tenebrae was the gradual extinguishing of candles, symbolizing the encroaching darkness of Christ's suffering and death.

The Lutheran Reformation and Tenebrae During the Reformation, Martin Luther and his followers retained many aspects of the historic liturgy while reforming elements that conflicted with the doctrine of justification by grace through faith. While the Lutheran Church did not strictly preserve the full monastic tradition of Tenebrae, it retained the emphasis on Christ's Passion, particularly through hymns, readings, and the growing use of the Service of Darkness on Good Friday. Lutheran hymnody, such as "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" and "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted," captures the themes of suffering, redemption, and the weight of Christ's atoning sacrifice—elements central to the Tenebrae tradition. The service gradually evolved in Lutheran circles into a deeply reflective observance of Christ's suffering, often structured around the Seven Last Words of Christ from the cross.

Tenebrae in Lutheran Worship Today Today, many Lutheran congregations observe a Tenebrae-style Good Friday service, incorporating:

- A series of Scripture readings recounting Christ's Passion. The extinguishing of candles after each reading, symbolizing the growing darkness at Calvary. Moments of silence and solemn hymns, inviting deep reflection on Christ's sacrifice. A loud sound, known as the "strepitous," which may be a slammed book or a loud noise, symbolizing the earthquake at Christ's death and the closing of the tomb. The extinguishing and removal of the Paschal Candle symbolizing Christ's death and burial. The Paschal Candle, which represents the light of Christ, being taken away out of the nave reflects the moment when Jesus, the Light of the World, was laid in the tomb. This act plunges the congregation into deeper darkness, reinforcing the weight of Good Friday's sorrow.

- After a moment of time the Paschal Candle is lit and returned. This symbolizes that even in death, Christ's presence is not completely gone. It points forward to the coming resurrection, reminding worshipers that Good Friday is not the end of the story. This dramatic movement within the service serves to deepen the meditation on Christ's Passion while also foreshadowing the hope of Easter Sunday.

The service typically ends in silence, allowing worshipers to leave in contemplation, carrying the weight of Good Friday into Holy Saturday before the dawn of Easter morning.

Why Tenebrae Matters for Lutherans The Tenebrae service aligns deeply with Lutheran theology, which emphasizes Christ's suffering and death as the means of our salvation. It is a time to meditate on the depth of human sin and the immeasurable love of God displayed at the cross. As Lutherans, we recognize that the darkness of Good Friday is not the end of the story—but it is a crucial chapter in God's redemptive work. As we gather for Tenebrae this Good Friday, may we be drawn into the solemnity of Christ's passion, awaiting the glorious hope of Easter morning.

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor Zimmer

Christian Stewardship

A Better Way



The most common question about stewardship is not *whether* a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians *should* tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded

that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

APRIL

Week of April 1-5

Wed, April 2, 5:30 pm Soup/Sandwiches
Wed, April 2, 6:30 pm Lenten Mid-week service

Week of April 6-12

Sun, April 6, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, April 6, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, April 6, 10:00 am Bible Study
Wed, April 9, 5:30 pm Soup/Sandwiches
Wed, April 9, 6:30 pm Lenten Mid-week service
Wed, April 9, 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat, April 12, 10:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of April 13-19

Sun, April 13, 8:30 am Palm Sunday Service
Sun, April 13, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, April 13, 10:00 am Bible Study
Wed, April 16, 6:30 pm Choir Practice
Thu, April 17, 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service
Fri, April 18, 6:30 pm Triduum Service
Sat, April 19, 6:30 pm Candlelight Easter Vigil

Week of April 20-26

Sun, April 20, 8:30 am Easter Sunday Service

Week of April 27-30

Sun, April 27, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, April 27, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, April 27, 10:00 am Bible Study

April Birthdays

02 Christine Stocker
03 Caitlin Collins
08 Clarisse Rose
10 Laverne Stephens
13 Nathan Geschke
17 Tom Staffeldt
25 Jesse Pape

April Baptismal Anniversaries

01 Julie Zimmer
01 Diane Weaver
02 Dawn Rouser
08 Jasmine Fritsch
15 David Zimmer
30 Lisa Cruz



April Wedding Anniversaries

04 James & Laurie Bingenheimer
28 Michael & Jolene Delaney

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday | April 13
Divine Service 8:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday | April 17
Triduum Service 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday | April 18
Tenebrae Service 6:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday | April 19
Candlelight Easter Vigil 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday | April 20
Festive Divine Service 8:30 a.m.



Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Triduum, the three days that lead us from the upper room to the empty tomb. This solemn Divine Service begins with corporate confession and absolution, includes Holy Scripture readings and a sermon on God's new covenant, focuses on the Holy Supper our Lord Jesus gives His people, and concludes with **Psalm 22** and the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

Good Friday

On Good Friday we ponder anew God's great love for us in Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. This Tenebrae Service (service of darkness) features Isaiah's prophecy of Christ's sacrifice and a choral version of the Passion according to Saint John. It concludes in almost total darkness as we ponder the wages of our sin and what it cost Christ to redeem us.

Easter Candlelight Vigil

On Holy Saturday, we celebrate our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. This candlelight service begins in almost total darkness with the lighting of the paschal candle, features Old Testament readings that foreshadow and explain our baptismal life in Christ, and ends with the first proclamation of Easter. Come and join in one of the church year's most beautiful services.

Easter Sunday

Easter is our annual celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The festive Divine Service focuses on Saint Luke's account of the resurrection and includes the Supper of our Lord's resurrected body and blood. This service also features special choral and instrumental music. Come and celebrate our Lord's resurrection with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Easter

E – Eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord (Romans 6:23)

A – Alive forever and ever (Revelations 1:18)

S – Savior of the world (I John 4:3-4)

T – The way of truth and life (John 14:6)

E – Eternal Life is in His Son (I John 5:11)

R – Raised from the dead (II Timothy 2:8)

(Submitted by Bobbie Light)

Elder Zone

Ed Cruz	Asche-Bronson
Nathan Geschke	Clark-Edgar
Rick Otto	Fox- Jahnsen
Kevin Pape	Kortizke-Otto
Dan Rossof	Pape-Stephens
Ron Ruisz	Staffeldt-Weaver
Kelly Stewart	Wilson-Zimmer

Ladies Aid

Due to the lack of volunteers/helpers, **Ladies Aid will not be having a garage sale this year.** A big thank you to everyone who helped make the previous sales a big success.

Please join us for the meeting on Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Altar Flowers



The 2025 flower charts are posted. This is a wonderful way to help beautify God's house.

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.

Forms with payment to purchase Easter flowers are due, April 6. The cost is \$12 per plant, or a memorial donation maybe given to the Altar Guild Fund.

Altar Guild

Please see Ruth Ogden if you are interested in joining altar guild and can donate an hour or two on the third weekend of each month. Thank You!

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.* To enable our diabetic members to enjoy these treats, please consider supplementing some of the “sugary goodies” with crackers and cheese and/or fruit.

New member

Carolyn Stroncsek
504 Kildeer Dr #327
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
630-863-7755

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.

Important Phone Numbers

Church office: 630-759-5300
Pastor Zimmer: 563-880-9532
Prayer Chain: 712-584-5301 (Julie Zimmer)
Head Elder: 630-360-5573 (Scott Collins)
Newsletter info: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
(due April 26)



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.

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/DSLCLCbolingbrook

Twitter: @dslc60440

Shop with RaiseRight are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **April 13**. 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. We get paid 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: 2BLD2C7AA55973

The Resurrection of our Lord

O day of joy, our hearts are thrilled; with Easter praise, our mouths are filled. You overcame my shame and strife; You chose this day to win my life. Though Your eyes did shut and close, as you promised, You arose! I thank Thee, o my risen king, that life eternal You did bring! No stone, no seal, no plan could keep You from gloriously rising from the dead.

Portals of Prayer

*He is Risen,
He is Risen indeed!*