



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

May 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:

In the rich tapestry of Christian history, certain figures stand out as pillars of unwavering faith and defenders of orthodox doctrine. Among them is Athanasius of Alexandria, a theologian and church father whose contributions continue to resonate within the Christian tradition. It is Athanasius that the church commemorates on May 2nd.

Athanasius was born around 296 AD in Alexandria, Egypt, a center of Christian learning and theological debate. From an early age, he displayed a keen intellect and a deep commitment to the Christian faith. Under the tutelage of influential Christian scholars, Athanasius received a comprehensive education that would shape his theological convictions and his ecclesiastical career.

Ascending through the ranks of the Church, Athanasius quickly became known for his intellectual prowess and theological acumen. In 328 AD, he accompanied his bishop, Alexander of Alexandria, to the First Council of Nicaea, where he played a pivotal role in articulating the orthodox Christian position regarding the nature of Jesus Christ.

Athanasius' most notable contribution came in his staunch opposition to Arianism, a theological doctrine that denied the full divinity of Christ. With unwavering conviction, he defended the Nicene Creed, which affirmed that Jesus Christ was "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made" against the teachings of Arius and his followers.

Throughout his life, Athanasius faced numerous challenges and hardships due to his steadfast stance against Arianism. He was exiled from Alexandria multiple times by Arian-leaning emperors who sought to suppress his influence. Despite these persecutions, Athanasius remained resolute in his convictions, continuing to advocate for Nicene orthodoxy.

Athanasius' literary contributions are vast and profound, with his most famous work being "On the Incarnation." In this treatise, he expounds upon the significance of Christ's divine incarnation and its implications for salvation, laying a foundation for Christian thought that endures to this day.

The legacy of Athanasius extends beyond his own time, earning him the title "Father of Orthodoxy" within the Christian tradition. His tireless efforts to defend Nicene orthodoxy have left an indelible mark on the development of Christian theology, particularly in the areas of Christology and Trinitarian doctrine.

Saint Athanasius, died on May 2, 373 AD. His life's work and contributions to Christian theology continue to be celebrated and studied by scholars and believers alike.

As we reflect on the life and legacy of Athanasius of Alexandria, let us honor his unwavering commitment to defending the faith once delivered to the saints. May his example inspire us to stand firm in our own convictions, grounded in the timeless truths of the Christian gospel.

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor Zimmer

Christian Stewardship

More Than a Negative



Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)

Pastor Zimmer will be out of town April 30-May 10. Contact Ed Cruz or an elder if needed.



Week of May 5-11

Sun, May 5, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, May 5, 9:40 am Fellowship

Week of May 12-18

Sun, May 12, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, May 12, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, May 12, 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of May 19-25

Sun, May 19, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, May 19, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, May 19, 10:00 am Bible Study

Week of May 26-31

Sun, May 26, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, May 26, 9:40 am Fellowship
Sun, May 26 10:00 am Bible Study
Mon Memorial Day Observed

May Birthdays

- 13 Ron Ruisz
- 14 Teresa Pape
- 15 Rich Otto
- 16 Barb Potempa
- 26 Bobbie Light
- 31 Keith Fox



May Baptismal Anniversaries

- 03 Laverne Stephens
- 04 Jonathan Rose
- 05 Clarisse Rose
- 10 Patricia Lewis
- 13 Edward Cruz
- 17 Terry Donaldson
- 22 Christine Stocker
- 27 Robin Wise
- ?? Michael Collins
- 31 Rich Otto



May Wedding Anniversaries

- 24 Tom & Jennifer Staffeldt
- 27 Cory & Amy Edgar
- 31 Terry & Colleen Donaldson



Ladies Aid

Thank you to everyone who donated cookies for the First Responders. They were all very appreciative.



Please start collecting kitchen items, office materials, clothing, crafts, bedding, and linen items for the rummage sale.

If you have large items, or more than you can transport, contact **Judy Yuenger** who will arrange a pick-up time for you.

Rummage sale items may be dropped off:

- **Sunday, June 16, 11:00 am-1:00 pm**
- **Monday, June 17, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**
- **Tuesday, June 18, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**
- **Wednesday, June 19, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

Please do not drop off large items in Luther Hall until the week of the sale. We appreciate receiving all the items by Wednesday. It is very difficult to sort any items after the sale begins.

Sale dates are:

- **Thursday, June 20, 3:00 – 7:00 pm**
- **Friday, June 21, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**
- **Saturday June 22, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Helpers are needed on drop-off days, sale days, and on Saturday after 1:00 pm to help pack up the items that do not sell. Can you spare even 1-2 hours to help? All help is greatly appreciated. The unsold items will be given to a charity. Being a volunteer at drop-off days, sale days, or pack-up time is a great way to get to know other members of the congregation. Join us, members or not, for some great fun and a way to help the congregation and various church projects.

Do you have a folding table you can loan Ladies Aid? If so, bring it to church (with your name on it) by Sunday June 16. Thank you.

We will be doing the \$5 bag again; larger items and some clothing will be priced. You would be surprised to know just how much these sales have brought to provide for the necessary repairs and new items needed for the church.

Altar Flowers



The 2024 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.



Shop with Scrip cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion. Next order date is **May 12**. 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. Script 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/DSLcbolingbrook

Twitter: @dslc60440

Member Updates

Amy Edgar
505 Redondo Drive 303
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Melanie Witzke
The Oaks of Bartlett
825 Carillon Dr Room 321
Bartlett, IL 60103
630-483-3905

Caring Network

We will be doing an outreach project of the Baby Bottles again starting May 12. There are 3 ways you can donate:

- Pick up a bottle in the narthex and return with your donation before June 16
- Visit the web site CaringNetwork.com/baby-bottle-drive to donate
- Mail a donation to Caring Network, 1200 Roosevelt Rd, Suite 114, Glen Ellen, IL 60137 (with a notation of baby bottles).

Please include your name, address, and church's name and location on all donations.

Please help in Changing Hearts and Saving Lives. See **Barb Potempa** with any questions.

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. The signup sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board.

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 Bobbie Light at **630-251-7860**

Important Phone Numbers

Church office: 630-759-5300
Pastor Zimmer: 630-759-5300
Prayer Chain: 630-251-7860 (Bobbie Light)
Head Elder: 630-360-5573 (Scott Collins)
Newsletter info: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
(Due May 29)



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.

Trustee's Corner



A special thank you to our church's cleaning crew for all their hard work in helping to clean our church facilities on a regular basis. This volunteer cleaning crew works diligently to vacuum, dust, scrub, mop, tidy, empty trash, and prepare our facilities each weekend. If you can clean the church the 2nd or 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

Mother's Day Blessing



If God has given you the blessing of being a mom, He has given you the promise that you will not be alone in doing it. You are the everyday hero, and He is the divine power that will give you everything you need the moment you need it.

May His grace, peace, and love surround you this Mother's Day, making you feel as special – and exceptional – as you truly are.

Into a precious vessel God pours tenderness, and love, an understanding heart, and all the joy a child dreams of. He gives her His compassion and kindness like no other, then wraps her in a quiet strength and gently calls, her Mother,

A Prayer for Pentecost (May 19)

Spirit of Truth, what comfort it is to know that You dwell in our hearts. Thank You for the saving faith You created in us. Keep us steadfast in Your Word so that we cling to You always and look to You for guidance in our daily living. Embolden us, as you did the first disciples, to declare God's saving grace to all who we encounter. In Jesus, name, Amen.

A Prayer for the Holy Trinity (May 26)

Holy Trinity, though You are unfathomable, You have given us hearts of faith. We praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for Your great works in the world and in us. We marvel at the beauty of Your creation. The redeeming work of Your Son brings us hearts of gratitude. The Spirit's gift of faith is our guarantee of life forever with You. We praise and magnify Your holy name. Amen

Memorial Day Prayer

Dear Father,

We remember those who have served our country with honor and devotion, especially those who have given their lives. We praise You for all the blessings that we enjoy as a result of their sacrifice, including peace, liberty, security, and the freedom we have to worship You.

Please stretch forth Your caring arms to preserve those who are now serving in the military. Support them and their families in times of danger and protect them as they face the unknown. In Christ's name we pray – Amen. (Portals of Prayer)

Please remember all military personnel and their families in your prayers.

