



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



July 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:

As we reflect on the rich tapestry of Reformation history, we turn our attention to a figure whose life and legacy continue to inspire: Pastor Robert Barnes. Born in 1495 in England, Barnes emerged as a pivotal figure in the early English Reformation, advocating passionately for ecclesiastical reform and doctrinal purity. It is Pastor Barnes that the Lutheran Church commemorates on July 30th.

Robert Barnes received his early education at the University of Cambridge, where he joined the Augustinian Friars. His time in Cambridge marked the beginning of a journey that would see him deeply involved in the theological debates of his time. Rising quickly through the ranks, he became the prior of the Augustinian house in Cambridge, wielding significant influence within the religious community.

The turning point in Barnes' life came in 1525, when he visited the University of Wittenberg. There, he met Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon. This encounter had a profound effect on Barnes, solidifying his commitment to the burgeoning Reformation movement. He returned to England with a newfound zeal to spread Reformation ideas. Barnes' advocacy for Reformation principles soon brought him into conflict with the ecclesiastical authorities. In 1526, his sermon at St. Edward's Church in Cambridge, which sharply criticized the Catholic Church's practices, led to his arrest and imprisonment.

After his release, Barnes continued to support the Reformation cause covertly, but mounting pressure forced him to flee to Germany in 1528. There, he found refuge among the Lutheran reformers and wrote several theological works that further articulated his Reformation convictions.

In 1531, Barnes returned to England and became an influential figure in the English Reformation, promoting Lutheran doctrines and advocating for significant ecclesiastical reforms. The political and religious landscape in England, however, remained tumultuous. In 1540, amidst shifting allegiances and policies, Barnes was arrested once more. This time, he was condemned to death for his Protestant beliefs. On July 30, 1540, Robert Barnes was burned at the stake, becoming one of the early English martyrs of the Reformation.

Pastor Robert Barnes is remembered for his unwavering commitment to Reformation principles and his courageous stand against religious corruption. His writings and sermons significantly contributed to the spread of Lutheran ideas in England, and his martyrdom underscored the profound struggles faced by those who sought to reform the church.

Barnes' legacy endures as a testament to the power of conviction and the enduring impact of the Reformation movement. His life and work continue to inspire those who seek to uphold the principles of faith, reform, and religious integrity.

As we remember Pastor Robert Barnes, let us draw inspiration from his example and remain steadfast in our adherence to the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of our Church.

Listen to Jesus,
Pastor Zimmer

Sources: 1. The Lutheran Confessions: History and Theology of The Book of Concord - Charles P. Arand
2. The Reformation: A History - Diarmaid MacCulloch
3. Encyclopedia Britannica - Robert Barnes

Christian Stewardship

The Rewards of Godliness



It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:5-6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Eph. 6:1-3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. (Matt. 19:28-29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

July Birthdays

05 Danielle Asche
05 Ruth Ogden
07 Ann Gernenz
13 Andrew Fox
16 Patricia Lewis
21 Kelly Stewart
30 Steve Stroh



July Baptismal Anniversaries

02 Colleen Donaldson
06 Bobbie Light
30 Catlin Collins



July Wedding Anniversaries

15 Stephen & Angela Pruitt
15 Rev David & Julie Zimmer
24 Hector & Jenny Martinez
27 Kevin & Teresa Pape





Week of July 7-13

Sun, July 7, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, July 7, 9:40 am Fellowship

Week of July 14-20

Sun, July 14, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, July 14, 9:40 am Fellowship

Week of July 21-27

Sun, July 21, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, July 21, 9:40 am Fellowship

Week of July 28-31

Sun, July 28, 8:30 am Divine Service
Sun, July 28, 9:40 am Fellowship

Ladies Aid

The Rummage Sale was a big success. It is amazing the amount of "used items" Divine Shepherd gathers each year. A thank you to those who contributed clothing and household items and to those who worked setting up/selling/packing up. Ladies Aid could not succeed each year without all your help. Monies are used to support a Vicar, the 'giving tree' the ALMS program, pastor appreciation, and provides for the necessary repairs and new items needed for the church. Leftover items were donated to a charity and the mission in Joliet.

THANK YOU

CaringNetwork

Dear Brothers & Sisters at DSLC: I would like to thank everyone who helped with 'Caret Baby Bottle Drive'. It was good to see all the bottles filled with money and assured us that this money would help mothers in need. We hope that we will be able to help Carenet for many more years to come! Thanks again for this outreach project. Chairman Barb P.

Thank You

I wanted to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards during my hospital stay and rehab. And a special thanks to Pastor Zimmer for visiting and bringing me communion. Divine Shepherd is made up of special people and they continue to show this in so many ways. I am home and continue to improve each day. Looking forward to when I can join you all again. God's Blessings, Linda Asche

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.

Portals of Prayer

Pick up your July – September 2024 copy of Portals of Prayer in Luther Hall. The cost is \$15.00 a year. God's continued blessings as you study His word.

Bible Studies

All Bible studies will resume in September. There will be fellowship after the divine service during the summer, unless otherwise noted.

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.



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. If you haven't donated the first two quarters, please do so ASAP.

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 Kelly.

Do you like to garden, have a green thumb, if so, bring your own tools and help beautify the gardens. There is always weeding, pruning/etc to be done.

Kelly Stewart, Trustee

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.



Shop with Scrip cards are available throughout the year for everyday expenses and gifts for any special occasion **Next order date is July 14**. 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

Prayer For Our Nation

Heavenly Father, Your Son is “a light for revelation to the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32). Let the light of Christ shine brightly in our nation and among our fellow citizens, that “many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD” (Psalm 40:3). Make Your Christians bold to speak the light of Your Word into our national darkness; for You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen
(Portals of Prayer)

Happy Birthday America!



This Independence Day pause and take a few moments to thank God for **ALL** of our freedoms. The freedom to share His hope – read His Word – Worship together – pray aloud – spread the Good News – teach His truth – sing His praise – follow Him – vote – help the needy.

Ask God for His guidance for all who serve and protect this great nation. Pray for wisdom to those in leadership/authority that they may make wise decisions for the good of all according to God's will.

God has poured His richest blessings on our Great Nation. May His light continue to guide our path.

