



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." [Saint John 10:27]

A Reminder from Linus

There are many Christmas shows and specials on television throughout the month of December. But the one that is most near and dear to me is A Charlie Brown Christmas. In the midst of a world that focuses almost exclusively on lights and decorations and parties and Santa Claus and gifts and shiny aluminum trees, Linus reminds Charlie Brown—and us as well—that the true meaning of Christmas is found exclusively in God's Word. Standing center stage, he quotes from memory the following portion of the Christmas story from Saint Luke's Gospel:

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. [Luke 2:8-14 KJV]

As Saint Luke reminds us, the birth of Jesus Christ gives all glory to God in the highest, for He is the One who not only promised a Savior, but fulfilled that promise in the incarnation and birth of Immanuel (God with us).

Christ's birth also reveals the peace of God's good will toward men on earth. The peace Jesus brings is the peace of sins forgiven. That is why Isaiah calls Him the "**Prince of Peace**" (9:6). Likewise, Micah states that He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord and "**be their peace**" (5:5). Before Christ came and took your sin upon Himself, you were at enmity with God. But then Jesus came and defeated sin, death, and the power of the devil on your behalf, "**making peace,**" writes Paul, "**by the blood of His cross**" (Colossians 1:20). The very first word Jesus spoke to His disciples after rising from the dead was "**Peace!**" (John 20:19). That single word, spoken by the Prince of Peace Himself, means that your sins are forgiven, forever removed from you. Which is why Paul writes: "**Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**" (Romans 5:1).

I hope and pray you will always remember and never forget your sin and your plight apart from Jesus Christ, and then, with the heart and faith of Linus, that you will receive with joy the Christmas Gospel that there was born to you "**this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord**" (Luke 2:11).

Glory to God. Peace to men. That is what the birth of Jesus Christ is all about. If you remember that, you are sure to have a Merry Christmas!

Pastor Mumme

*Search no longer for the perfect Christmas gift -
it has already been given to us all.
His name is "JESUS"*



DECEMBER

December Birthdays

02 George Rousar
 03 Martha Holtslander
 03 Denise Peters
 06 Fred Schinkowski
 10 Victoria Fox
 10 Katelyn Stache
 11 Caitlyn Behning
 11 Bob Potempa
 12 Olivia Parmenter
 14 Sandro Demetrio
 15 Eugene Holtslander
 15 Ken Meyer
 15 Steve Sychowski
 21 Kayla Klobucher
 22 David Fiolka
 22 Patrick McClain
 24 Jeff McClain
 26 Christina Demetrio
 26 Pastor Geschke
 28 Marjorie Jahnsen
 30 Alicia DeWitt



Week of Advent 1

Fri, Dec 2, 7:00 pm Youth Group Lock-In
 Sat, Dec 3, 9:00 am Christmas Program Practice
 Sat, Dec 3, 7:30 pm Festival of Christmas Carols

Week of Advent 2

Sun, Dec 4, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Dec 4, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School
 Tues, Dec 6, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis
 Wed, Dec 7, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis
 Wed, Dec 7, 7:00 pm Advent Service
 Sat, Dec 10, 9:00 am Christmas Program Practice

Week of Advent 3

Sun, Dec 11, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Dec 11, 10:00 am Thrivent Meeting
 Sun, Dec 11, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School
 Tues, Dec 13, 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study
 Tues, Dec 13, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis
 Wed, Dec 14, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis
 Wed, Dec 14, 7:00 pm Advent Service
 Sat, Dec 17, 9:00 am Christmas Decorating
 Sat, Dec 17, 3:00 pm Children's Christmas Program
 Sat, Dec 17, 5:00 pm Christmas Caroling

Week of Advent 4

Sun, Dec 18, 9:00 am Divine Service
 Sun, Dec 18, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School
 Sun, Dec 18, 1:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program
 Wed, Dec 21, 6:00 pm Christmas Potluck
 Wed, Dec 21, 7:00 pm Christmas Hymn Sing
 Sat, Dec 24, 7:00 pm Candlelight Lessons & Carols
 Sat, Dec 24, 11:00 pm Candlelight Divine Service

Week of Christmas

Sun, Dec 25, 9:00 am Festive Divine Service

December Baptismal Anniversaries

02 Elizabeth Parmenter
 11 Michael Grelck
 11 Jill Olifirowicz
 15 Bobbie Koritzke
 25 Carey Zeller
 28 Olivia Parmenter
 29 Katelyn Stache



December Wedding Anniversaries

03 Mike & Katie Dobbs
 05 Andrew & Gail Fox



Bible & Lutheranism Studies

Sunday Bible Class

Topic: Ten Commandments
 When: Sunday mornings @ 10:30 a.m.
 Where: Luther Hall

Women's Bible Study

Topic: Lutheranism 101
 When: Tuesday, December 13 @ 1:00 p.m.
 Where: Luther Hall

Asleep in Christ

Earline Davis, a member since 2003, fell asleep in Christ on November 19 at the age of 86. She had been a homebound member for most of her time at Divine Shepherd. Pastor visited her monthly and brought her our Lord's Word and Supper. No viewing, funeral, or memorial arrangements have been announced by her family. We thank God for her Earline's faith in Christ. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (Revelation 14:13).

Advent Midweek

Join us this Advent as we sit at the feet of the prophet Jeremiah, who foretells of Christ:



"I Formed You in the Womb"
Wednesday, November 30

"The Lord Is Our Righteousness"
Wednesday, December 7

"A New Covenant"
Wednesday, December 14

Services begin at 7:00 p.m. There are no meals before the services this year.

Christmas Decorating

Come and help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on **Saturday, December 17**, beginning at **9:00 a.m.** Many hands make light work!

Christmas Caroling

Spread the Christmas joy as we go caroling to some of our homebound members on **Saturday, December 17** (time to be announced). We will meet at church and leave from church.

Christmas Potluck & Hymn Sing

Join us on **Wednesday, December 21**, as we gather for food and singing. The evening begins at **6:00 p.m.** with a Christmas potluck in Luther Hall and continues with a Christmas hymn sing in church at **7:00 p.m.** Please bring a dish or dessert to pass if you are able.

Christmas Services

Shopping. Wrapping. Decorating. Baking. These are all part of most people's busy December schedule. But don't forget the reason for the season. Join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Below is the schedule of worship services:

Candlelight Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve @ 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Divine Service

Christmas Eve @ 11:00 p.m.

Festive Divine Service

Christmas Day @ 9:00 a.m.



Invite your relatives, neighbors, and/or coworkers to join you as we hear anew the story of God becoming man to save us from our sins. The vast array of Christmas hymns and carols will be spread out over these three services, New Year, and Epiphany. O come, let us adore Him!

Youth Report

The youth would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the Butterbraid fundraiser. With matching funds from Thrivent, we were able to raise \$910.00!

Youth activities for December include a lock-in on **Friday December 2** in Luther Hall for middle and high school students. Signup in Luther Hall or see Mrs. Wise for additional information. On **Saturday, December 10**, the youth will offer babysitting for the young children of the congregation (elementary school and younger). Signup sheets will also be in Luther Hall for this so the youth can plan activities.

Finally, a "last call" for youth interested in attending the Higher Things "Twelve" conference in North Carolina on June 25-29, 2012. We currently have 5 youth signed up and would love to have more. Chaperones are already secured. See **Mrs. Zeller** for more info or for registration forms.

Bible Study resumes in January.

Council Actions of Interest

Council passed a motion to create a committee to support college-bound members. It is well known that college can bring tough challenges for young Christians. This committee is charged with the important duty of keeping our church connected with them during this difficult time. Unused funds from the Board of Fellowship and Welfare were diverted to this committee. If you would like to help in any way, please contact a council member.

Council held a vote via ballot to elect a lay-delegate from our congregation to attend the Northern Illinois District Convention in March 2012. **Mike Dobbs** was elected to serve as our delegate; **Kelly Stewart** was elected as our alternate delegate (he will attend if Mike cannot attend). We pray that they will select great leaders and pass good resolutions, to the glory of God's name and for the benefit, faithfulness, and growth of His Church!

Council agreed to submit a resolution to assist financially struggling congregations to the Northern Illinois District. This resolution reminds congregations in our district prayerfully to consider supporting congregations within our district who are struggling financially.

Event and Fundraisers

Who, what, where? In an effort to help better communicate church events and fundraisers, while also preventing burnout, the council has passed a motion that all events and fundraisers are to be submitted with a short write-up to **Aaron Wathall**, Board of Communications chairperson at least 30 days in advance. This should give the communications chair enough time to get the word out; for example, by including the event/fundraiser in our newsletter, on our website, Facebook page, church calendar, emails, bulletins, etc. The event/fundraiser planner will work with communications on the most appropriate means to get the word out. This should also give the Trustees notice to ensure that the heating/cooling is properly set for the event/fundraiser and help prevent event conflicts, as our church grows. Events/fundraisers with less than 30 days notice may still occur; however, these will require council approval.

As a reminder, if you have an event/fundraiser that you would like to have, please contact your council representative. Luther Hall is also available for member use; please contact the Communications Chair (**Aaron**), or anyone else on the council to schedule the hall.

Mike Dobbs, Council President

New Picture Directory Update

Our new picture directory proof book was received, checked and returned to Olan Miles for printing. We should receive the "new directories" between Christmas and New Year. If you have any questions, please contact **Barb** at **630-739-4447**.

Marge Jahnsen & Barb Potempa

Ladies Aid

The 2012 officers are **President, Marge Jahnsen; Vice President, Judy Yuenger; Treasurer, Gail Fox; and Secretary, Karen Moritz.**

Manna Cards – Order turn in dates are **December 4, 11 & 18** and **January 8 & 22**. Place orders in the box in Luther Hall or in **Lisa Cruz's** mailbox – be sure to include a check made out to Ladies Aid of Divine Shepherd. A list of vendors and order forms are available in Luther Hall.

The "Giving Tree" is located in Luther Hall to help members and others in need during the holidays. If you are able, please consider taking one or more of the envelopes and buy presents or Manna Gift Cards. Wrapped gifts are to be placed in a box in the narthex by **December 11** and the gift cards returned by **December 18**. Do not have time to shop for the giving tree this year. There are special forms for manna cards, which will be put towards our Giving Tree (cash is okay too – it will be used to purchase gifts/gift cards/etc). The Giving Tree Manna order forms are in Luther Hall.

There is no December meeting. All women are encouraged to attend the **January 21** meeting at **11:00 a.m.** in Luther Hall.

God's blessings this joyous Christmas season!

Ladies Aid Money at Work

Listed below are a just a few of the projects Ladies Aid contributed to in 2011:



- \$600 to debt reduction
- monthly stipend to a seminarian
- \$100 to purchase items/mail military boxes
- \$600 toward the Giving Tree
- \$100 Preschool items
- funeral & Winter Fest dinner
- \$100 to purchase bookcase/books
- \$600 to scholarship fund
- kitchen & cleaning supplies
- paper goods/drinks for Sunday treats

These projects are made possible by your generous support of our fundraisers. Thank you.

Thrivent Financial

As we celebrate the joyous birth of the Christ Child, we send Blessings to All.

The annual Christmas Carol Concert, sponsored by the Chapter, will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Naperville. The **December 3** concert begins at **7:30 p.m.** Bus service will be provided from Carillon and Divine Shepherd. Any questions check with **Bill Tilker**.

The Greater Naperville Chapter of Thrivent provided matching funds for the VBS program last summer. The kids donated \$110; and the Chapter matched those funds and sent \$220 to the Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries. Also, **Diane Weaver** has taken charge of preparing and sending boxes to the men and women in the military. Boxes were sent last summer and boxes will be sent for Christmas. The Chapter provided funding for items needed and postage totaling around \$400.00. Clean-up and gardening cost of \$155.00 at the Huxhold residence were also covered.

As of December 31, Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church will be merged into the West Will County Chapter. At this time we do not know the results of the election or if procedures have changed.

Thrivent Financial has made many changes during the last several years, one of which is the end of Care in Congregation; in its place, the members will receive Choice Dollars. The Thrivent members at Divine Shepherd have received and donated a total of \$5,917.00 through Choice Dollars. These funds will be used to serve the church as well as the community. A list was made up and approved for the following programs:

- Debt Reduction \$2,400
- Organ Fund \$500
- Gardening Needs \$300
- Scholarship Fund \$500
- College Student Fund \$250
- Seminary Student \$100
- Church Gift Cards \$500
- Military Phone Cards \$200

We have been blessed to receive these funds and able to donate to these programs. Thanks to all who participated. As funds are received we will continue to help wherever the need.

During the year the Thrivent members have sponsored the Bake-a-Thon in February, the Easter Breakfast in April, the Confirmation Celebration in May, and the Oktoberfest in October.

We appreciate and thank Thrivent Financial for the funding provided to be able to cover these programs and events. Thanks to our congregation for their help in joining together as a team to accomplish what we have done this year and with the Lord's blessings we will continue in the New Year.

Shirley Norling, Congregational Advocate

Bulletin Covers/Altar Flowers

The 2012 flower chart and January-March bulletin cover chart are posted in the narthex. Sign up for any open Sunday(s) to celebrate a special occasion or to honor/remember someone. Cost of two bouquets is \$40, \$45, or \$50 (subject to change). Cost of bulletin covers is \$10. See **Karen Moritz** for details.

Treasurer's Report as of October 31

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$144,652	\$138,719
Expenses	149,370	148,579

Preschool News

December calendar:

Friday the 16th – gingerbread house decorating and hot dog lunch. Mom or Dad come to help decorate the gingerbread house at **11:15 a.m.** and stay for a hot dog lunch at **Noon**.

Sunday, the 18th @ 1:00 p.m. – the children will present symbols of Christmas at the annual Christmas Program. Everyone is welcome. Cookies and cake will be served after the program.

Monday, the 19th – Preschool Christmas Party

Christmas break starts **Tuesday, December 20** – school resumes **Wednesday, January 4**.

A thank you to Ladies Aid for their donation of \$100 to Preschool. We purchased some new items for the classroom.

Wishing all a joyous Christmas!

Miss Sue & Miss Nadine

Prayer Chain

Several of our women are part of a church prayer chain. If you (women or men) would like to join them in praying for our congregation's special needs, please contact **Nadine Parmenter** at (815-436-4908) or **Pastor Mumme**.

Church Cleaning

Unfortunately, we do not own self-cleaning toilets or sinks, our carpet does not eat crumbs, and our trash bins have not been trained to walk out to the dumpster and empty themselves. That is where your generosity comes in! We are looking for 1-3 additional volunteers to come in and do some light cleaning (dusting, vacuuming, emptying trash bins,

etc.) one Friday or Saturday per month. You will be paired up with another volunteer. Contact **Talma Krause (630-226-1609)** if you are willing to help.

Sunday Treats

Do you enjoy treats and fellowship after Sunday services? If so, please consider signing up to bring treats on any given Sunday(s). The signup sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board. Ladies Aid only provides drinks, not "goodies" when no one has signed up for a given Sunday. Monetary donations are accepted to defray the cost of drinks/supplies.

Important Phone Numbers

Church office: 630-759-5300
Preschool: 630-759-3995 (Sue Kuhnert)
Pastor Mumme: 815-676-4444
Prayer Chain: 815-436-4908 (Nadine Parmenter)
Newsletter info: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
(January items are due December 26)

The Meaning of the Christmas Tree

Each part of the Christmas tree celebrates Christ's birth and tells the story of how God sent His Son to earth. The wood reminds us of the manger where He lay and the rugged cross where He gave His life one day. The evergreen shows the eternal life Christ gives anyone who believes in Him forever lives! The decorations represent blessings from above, and inspire us to thank the Lord for His tender love. The shining lights show us how we are to do the same as we share His grace and seek to glorify His name. So may each beautiful tree bring honor to our King, and may we celebrate Christ's love in everything! [Holly Gerth]



A Christmas Blessing

May the Spirit of the Lord always go before you and lead you to your heart's desires.
May the joy of the Lord be the song of your days, and the peace of the Lord be a gift to your soul...
May the love of the Lord touch everything you do and remind you that you are forever blessed.