



# Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



## FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

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

## True Love

February is almost a forgotten month. It is the shortest month, even though this year it boasts an extra day. But smack dab in the middle of this shortest month is Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day gets its name from Saint Valentine, a physician and priest who lived in Rome during the rule of Emperor Claudius. He died a martyr's death in AD 270. Tradition suggests that on the day of his execution for his Christian faith, Valentine left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailor, written on an irregularly shaped piece of paper. This greeting became a pattern for millions of expressions of love and caring that now are the highlight of Valentine's Day in many nations. [*Treasury of Daily Prayer*]

Love is part and parcel of our new life in Jesus Christ. **“We love because He first loved us”** (1 John 4:19). That love extends to both friend and foe. In fact, the second table of the Law is summed up as follows: **“Love your neighbor as yourself”** (Matthew 22:39; Galatians 5:14; c.f. Romans 13:10). Having first received God's love in Jesus Christ, our new life in Christ is lived extending that same love to our family, neighbors, coworkers, and world.

Sadly, outsiders see little evidence that love is part and parcel of the Christian life. Christians fail at this regularly. We hold on to grudges, anger, hatred, and resentment just as much as non-Christians. This is true even within the sacred institution of marriage. I believe this is so because there is a common misperception that love is the foundation of marriage. It isn't. While love is an essential and necessary ingredient in a healthy marriage, it is the not marriage's foundation. Commitment is. When husband and wife are joined together, they vow to be faithful to one another until death parts them, because this is God's will for every husband and wife. Look again at the vows:

I, *name*, take you, *name*, to be my wedded husband/wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy will; and I pledge you my faithfulness.

Notice that “love” is something you are pledging to do. Commitment demands love because God is love. Commitment demands forgiveness because God forgives. This is not only true for better, for richer, and in health, but even for worse, for poorer, and in sickness.

If you and your spouse are going through a difficult time, or you have in the past, or you will in the future, take it to the Lord in prayer, admit your own shortcomings, be forgiving of your spouse's, work toward better communication, put your spouse's needs above your own, be found daily in God's Word, and seek the help of your pastor. Most marriages go through difficult times. Work through those difficulties and see how strong your marriage can become. Love—genuine love (Christ-centered love)—is founded on a common commitment to be faithful to one another and forgiving of one another, according to God's will. That makes love much more than a fleeting emotion. Love is an active self-giving of one's self to one's spouse.

Divorce statistics don't lie. Christians are just as prone to forsake God's sacred bond as non-Christians. But not you. By God's grace, you who receive Christ's full and free forgiveness are eager to ask forgiveness, to forgive, to have and to hold, to love and to cherish, each and every day until death parts you (for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health). Not because your heart will always be pitter-pattering with a fleeting emotion, but because you have pledged faithfulness to your spouse according to God's holy will.

So enjoy your Valentine's Day, however you celebrate it. And don't forget to look to the cross, where you see true love in action, Love incarnate greeting you with the sweetest of love notes: “Father, forgive them! It is finished!”

**Pastor Mumme**



## Calendar

### Week of Epiphany 4

Wed, Feb 1, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis  
 Wed, Feb 1, 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice  
 Sat, Feb 4, 7:00 pm Meet and Greet Social

### Week of Epiphany 5

Sun, Feb 5, 9:00 am Divine Service  
 Sun, Feb 5, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School  
 Tues, Feb 7, 4:00 pm Youth Ensemble Practice  
 Tues, Feb 7, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis  
 Wed, Feb 8, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis  
 Wed, Feb 8, 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice  
 Fri, Feb 10 BJS Conference  
 Sat, Feb 11 BJS Conference

### Week of Epiphany 6

Sun, Feb 12, 9:00 am Divine Service  
 Sun, Feb 12 10:00 am Thrivent Meeting  
 Sun, Feb 12, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School  
 Sun, Feb 12, 11:30 am Elders Meeting  
 Sun, Feb 12, 1:00 pm Council Meeting  
 Mon, Feb 13 Pastor @ Doxology Conference  
 Tues, Feb 14 Pastor @ Doxology Conference  
 Tues, Feb 14, 4:00 pm Youth Ensemble Practice  
 Wed, Feb 15, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis  
 Wed, Feb 15, 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice  
 Fri, Feb 17, 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study  
 Sat, Feb 18, 8:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast  
 Sat, Feb 18, 10:00 am Altar Guild Meeting  
 Sat, Feb 18, 11:00 am Ladies Aid Meeting

### Week of Transfiguration

Sun, Feb 19, 9:00 am Divine Service  
 Sun, Feb 19, 10:00 am Thrivent Bake-a-Thon  
 Sun, Feb 19, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School  
 Sun, Feb 19, 11:30 am 3:fifteen Youth Study  
 Tues, Feb 21, 9:00 am Pastor @ Circuit Meeting  
 Tues, Feb 21, 4:00 pm Youth Ensemble Practice  
 Tues, Feb 21, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis  
 Tues, Feb 21, 7:00 pm Book of Concord Study  
 Wed, Feb 22, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis  
 Wed, Feb 22, 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service  
 Wed, Feb 22, 8:00 pm Adult Choir Practice  
 Thur, Feb 23, 11:00 am Pastor @ NICL Study

### Week of Lent 1

Sun, Feb 26, 9:00 am Divine Service  
 Sun, Feb 26, 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School  
 Tues, Feb 28, 4:00 pm Youth Ensemble Practice  
 Tues, Feb 28, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis  
 Tues, Feb 28, 7:00 pm Elders Study  
 Wed, Feb 29, 4:30 pm Youth Catechesis  
 Wed, Feb 29, 7:00 pm Lenten Service  
 Wed, Feb 29, 8:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

## Bible & Lutheranism Studies

### Sunday Bible Class

Topic: The Gospel of John  
 When: Sunday mornings @ 10:30 a.m.  
 Where: Luther Hall

### Women's Bible Study

Topic: Lutheranism 101, chapter 4  
 When: Friday, February 17 @ 1:00 p.m.  
 Where: Luther Hall

### Men's Bible Breakfast

Topic: King David  
 When: Saturday, February 18 @ 8:30 a.m.  
 Where: Eggs, Inc.

### 3:fifteen Youth Study

Topic: The Challenge of Islam  
 When: Sunday, February 19 @ 11:30 a.m.  
 Where: Luther Hall

### Book of Concord Study

Topic: Formula of Concord, Article VI  
 When: Tuesday, February 21 @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Where: Luther Hall

## 3:fifteen Youth Study



Junior and senior high youth, join us on **Sunday, February 19**, as we continue our look at the challenge of Islam from a Christian perspective. Who was Muhammad? What are Islam's pillars? What do they think of paradise? What do they claim about the Holy Bible? Come, watch an informative DVD, and ask questions. You will learn more about our faith in Jesus Christ in the process.

## Ash Wednesday

Join us on **Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m.** as we begin our 40-day journey to the cross with a solemn Divine Service. This service begins with corporate confession and absolution and the imposition of ashes, and features our Lord's Word and Supper.



## Lenten Midweek

Join us this Lent as we ponder anew Christ's great love for us during our five Lenten midweek services. Evening Lenten services begin on **Wednesday, February 29**. The theme and schedule will be announced shortly.

## BJS Conference

Brothers of John the Steadfast, a Lutheran men's group working for faithfulness and unity in our Synod, invites you to their 4th annual conference on **February 10-11** at **Bethany Lutheran Church** in Naperville. This conference is open to men and women, pastors and laypersons. This year's theme is "Getting the Gospel Doctrine to the Diaspora" and features sessions by three LCMS pastors, three meals, and an evening social hour.

For the schedule and registration information go to <http://steadfastlutherans.org/sched2012.php>, or speak with **Pastor Mumme** or **Mike Dobbs**.

## Missing Something?

Did you miss something last week? Perhaps you were out of town, had car problems, your ride didn't show, or had an alarm clock malfunction. Perhaps you made it to church, but your three children forced you to miss some of Pastor's sermon. Sorry, we cannot provide the entire service, nor can we provide all of God's great gifts given during the service, but we can provide the sermon! Pastor's sermons (mp3, printable PDF, or YouTube video) are posted on our website at [www.divineshepherdlutheranchurch.org](http://www.divineshepherdlutheranchurch.org) or [www.dslcms.com](http://www.dslcms.com) for your edification. Our website also contains a list of upcoming events, newsletters, devotions, manna order forms, and more. If you have a member account you can access our online church directory, council reports, and member only items. Don't have a member account yet? You are just a few clicks away! For more information, contact **Mike Dobbs** at [webmaster@divineshepherdlutheranchurch.org](mailto:webmaster@divineshepherdlutheranchurch.org).

## February Birthdays

- 02 Connor Henricks
- 12 Lisa Cruz
- 14 Hector Martinez
- 15 Annamae Behning
- 15 Moira Delaney
- 17 Karen McClain
- 18 Monica DeWitt
- 18 Nadine Parmenter
- 21 Anita DeWitt
- 22 Don Fiolka
- 22 Emily Nurczyk
- 23 Larry Jordan
- 24 Ken Wilson
- 25 Amy Jordan
- 25 Payton Murray
- 26 Rebekah Dobbs
- 28 Kelli Olifrowicz



## Baptismal Anniversaries

- 08 Victoria Fox
- 12 Mary Papp
- 14 Patrick McClain
- 17 Christa McClain
- 19 Alicia DeWitt
- 20 Vincenzo Data
- 22 Rebecca Parmenter
- 26 Kayla Klobucher
- 27 Carol Kuroski



## Get to Know Your Elders and Council

The Church Council and the Elders will be sponsoring a fellowship night for all members of the congregation, and especially those members who have become part of our Church Family within the last year. The event will take place on **Saturday, February 4** in Luther Hall, starting at **7:00 p.m.** The evening will be a meet and greet for all confirmed members of the congregation. Refreshments will be provided and we encourage everyone to attend. If you will need babysitting for the evening please contact **JoAnn Wrezinski**.

## 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**.



## Preschool



During the month of February we will focus on air, land and water transportation. The children will also learn about Presidents Lincoln and Washington.

Our valentine's party will be on Monday, February 13.

Monday, February 20: No School – President's Day.

*Love in Jesus, Sue Kuhnert, Director*

## Events and Fundraisers

In an effort to help better communicate church events and fundraisers, while also preventing burnout, 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 and give the Trustees notice to ensure that the heating/cooling is properly set 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.

## Finance Secretary

2011 tax letters showing your yearly contributions were passed out on January 22/29 or placed in your church mail slot.

A BIG THANK YOU to member **Jim Kranich** for his many years of service to our Lord as a counter. Also thank you to **Kathryn Wilson** in answering the call for a new counter. Welcome to our team.

*Barb Potempa, Financial Secretary*

## Pictorial Directory Corrections and Additions

- page 12 – Eugene & Martha Holtslander's email address is [eholtslander@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eholtslander@sbcglobal.net)
- page 13 – Talma Krause's address is 1710 Hidden Valley Drive
- page 16 – Ron & Cris Ruisz's new phone number is 815-293-6369
- page 19 – Kenneth & Kathryn Wilson's email address is [scrwdrvr@att.net](mailto:scrwdrvr@att.net)
- "Our Church Family" page 1 – add "Allison, Fern" (her address/phone can be found on page 10)
- "Our Church Family" page 2 – "Paul, Weberling" should be changed to "Weberling, Paul" and moved to page 3
- "Our Church Family" page 3 – Ron & Cris Ruisz's new phone number is 815-293-6369

*Barb Potempa*

## Thrivent Financial

The final quarter of Choice Dollars has been posted for you to donate to the church or Lutheran Organizations of your choice. These donations must be donated by **March 31, 2012**, or they will be lost forever. You may donate these dollars either by internet or by calling Thrivent at **1-800-847-4836** and state "Thrivent Choice."



At our next meeting the Thrivent team will be setting up program activities for the new year. We will be starting off with the annual **Bake-a-Thon on February 19**. Come one come all and see the great display and tasty treats for all to enjoy. For additional information see **Karlene Greck** or **Lynn Henricks**.

The next meeting will be held after services on **February 12**, please join us with your thoughts.

*Shirley Norling, Congregation Advocate*

## 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.

## Ladies Aid

Please continue to support the Manna Card Program. Not only are these cards good for gift giving, but also for everyday purchases such as food, gas, restaurants, etc. Profits from this fundraiser are used to supplement various church projects. Upcoming turn-in dates are **February 5 & 19, March 4, 18, & 25** with pick up the successive Sundays.

It is not too early to start saving “gently used items” for the annual “Rummage Sale.” Check future newsletters and church bulletins for details and dates of the sale. **Please do not drop off large items in Luther Hall until the week of the sale.** Many workers will be needed for setup, selling, and taking down.

All women are encouraged to attend the **February 18** meeting in Luther Hall at **11:00 a.m.**

## Bulletins Covers / Altar Flowers

The 2012 flower chart and February-June 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 bulletins is \$10. See **Karen Moritz** for details.

Signup sheets for Easter flowers will be forthcoming. In lieu of purchasing flowers, you may make a monetary memorial donation which will be given to the Altar Guild memorial fund to help purchase new banners, frontals, etc.

## 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)  
*(items are due February 27)*

### Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2011

	Actual	Budget
Income:	\$170,037	\$172,201
Expenses:	\$177,568	\$182,337

The mortgage balance as of 1/31/2012 is \$95,715.97.

## Ashes

It is a custom that stems all the way back into the Old Testament Scriptures—using ashes as an *outward* sign of one's *inward* repentance over sin. Job repented **“in dust and ashes”** (42:6). The prophet Daniel made his request to the Lord God **“by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes”** (9:3). Even Christ connects ashes with repentance as He condemns those who refused to believe in Him: **“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes”** (Matthew 11:21).

Why ashes? Because ashes remind us of death. And death is the consequence of our sin (Romans 6:23). Remember the curse pronounced by the LORD God upon Adam and Eve after their fall into sin? **“You shall return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are, and to dust you shall return”** (Genesis 3:19; cf. Ecclesiastes 3:20). Like Adam and Eve, we too are sinners who will one day return to the ground in death: “ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”

Recognizing the Scriptural connection described above, many Christian churches throughout the centuries have used ashes on Ash Wednesday (hence its name) as an outward reminder of a *necessary* inward reality—repentance of sins and faith in Christ's forgiveness. Here at Divine Shepherd we will offer the imposition of ashes at the beginning of our solemn Divine Service on Ash Wednesday to all the baptized (young and old) who desire to receive it.

In addition to being an outward reminder of your sinfulness and mortality, the ashes placed on your forehead *in the shape of a cross* on Ash Wednesday also beg you to remember that your only hope rests in Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for your sins (every last one of them) on the cross. He died that you might live. He became sin for you, that you become holy and righteous in Him!

As is evident, Ash Wednesday is a day like no other. It is a somber day, to be sure. For ashes rightfully remind you of your sinfulness, your mortality. But Ash Wednesday is also a hope-filled day, a day in which the most blessed symbol of your faith—the cross of Jesus—in placed squarely on your forehead again, just as it was in Holy Baptism, reminding you of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness in Christ our Lord.

God grant you a blessed Lent!