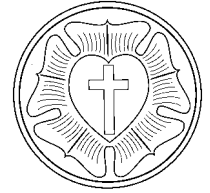




Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

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

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Two things are certain in life: death and taxes! Taxes we are forced to think about yearly (at minimum), whereas death is a subject we avoid at all costs and try our hardest to cheat. But since **“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:23) and **“the wages of sin is death”** (Romans 6:23), the Christian should think about and be prepared for death. And that necessarily includes burial. So what does God’s say about the *burial* of the body?

The obvious place to start is with Jesus, of whom we confess in the Creed: “[He] was crucified, died, *and was buried.*” All four Gospels record the events surrounding Jesus’ burial (Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42). Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the Council and a secret disciple of Jesus, received permission from Pilate to remove Jesus’ body from the cross. Nicodemus, a member of the Council who first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a 75-pound mixture of myrrh and aloes. Together they applied the spices to Jesus’ body and bound it in a clean linen shroud and linen cloths. Then they placed Jesus’ body in Joseph’s own new tomb, which he had cut out of the rock in a nearby garden. Finally, they rolled a great stone against the entrance of the tomb.

Why such care for the body? Simple. God’s people of every age have believed and confessed that He will raise the bodies of all people on the Last Day. In this case, Jesus fulfilled His own prophecies and was raised far earlier than the Last Day. He was raised on the third day!

Still, God’s people of every age have believed and confessed that He will raise the bodies of all people on the Last Day. Job writes: **“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another”** (Job 19:25-27). Martha confesses: **“I know that he [Lazarus] will rise again in the resurrection on the last day”** (John 11:24). Ezekiel 37 reminds us that God can raise up and breathe new life into dead bones. 1 Corinthians 15 teaches us that Jesus is the first fruits of all those who sleep in Him and await His return. In fact, God’s Word (from beginning to end) teaches us that God will resurrect the bodies of all people at His second coming. Whether your remains are bones, ashes, or dust, your body will be resurrected by Christ when He returns.

How, then, should the Christian’s body be laid to rest? Bodily burial or cremation? Is the latter sinful? Is one preferred? Are both acceptable? Below is a faithful answer to these questions:

Cremation is becoming increasingly popular in the funeral industry and among Christians. In some states, cremation is more frequent than bodily burials. Christians often wonder about cremation. Is it sinful? Is it good? Will cremation prevent their resurrection of the body?

We will take up the last question first. We can be sure that nothing can prevent the resurrection of the body. No matter what happens to our bodies—either in this life or after we die—the Lord will, by His almighty power, resurrect the bodies of all people at His second coming. We say in the funeral liturgy, “Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,” and if our bodies turn to dust (via burial) or to ashes (via fire), the Lord will still gather us up and remake our bodies in the resurrection of all flesh.

Should a Christian be cremated? Is it sinful? Is there anything wrong with cremation? The ancient Church frowned upon cremation because it was a pagan practice, and even today some practice it as a denial of the resurrection. However, for most people today, the motivations are quite different. First, cremation sometimes costs less than a traditional burial. Second, some worry that traditional cemeteries that must accommodate the burials of bodies with their attendant caskets and vaults are taking up too much room. Third, in the minds of some, the oven seems a cleaner more efficient means to return a body to the elements.

Finally, the practice of scattering the ashes of the deceased to the elements is discouraged among Christians. It is preferable to inter the cremated remains in a cemetery or at another place set aside for such a purpose. [Final Victory: Contemplating the Death and Funeral of a Christian, © 2009 CPH]

As a Christian, you need to think about death and be prepared for it. Spiritual preparation is obviously your most important concern. Know that I am happy to remind you of God's words and promises and answer your questions. Earthly preparations are also well worth your time and attention. Talk about these things with your spouse, your children, your friends and loved ones. Know that I am happy to give you some helpful advice with this as well.

With faith in Christ and the promise of His return, it is no wonder we joyfully confess: **"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord"** (Revelation 14:13).

Pastor Mumme

Funeral Planning Worksheets

Please complete a "Funeral Planning Worksheet" located in the narthex. This information will be filed in our church office, can be updated by you at any time, and is very important in Pastor's preparations for a member's death and funeral. Please complete as much or as little of this information as you are comfortable doing. Directions are listed on the worksheet. Completed worksheets should be returned to the church office or to Pastor Mumme. Thanks!



Church Calendar

Week of Epiphany 4

Tues, Feb 2, 1:15 pm	Women's Bible Study
Wed, Feb 3, 4:30 pm	Youth Catechesis

Week of Epiphany 5

Sun, Feb 7, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Feb 7, 10:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Sun, Feb 7, 11:30 am	Elders Meeting
Tues, Feb 9	Pastor @ NID Conference
Wed, Feb 10	Pastor @ NID Conference
Thur, Feb 11, 7:00 pm	Council Meeting

Week of the Transfiguration

Sun, Feb 14, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Feb 14, 10:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Wed, Feb 17	Ash Wednesday
Wed, Feb 17, 4:30 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Feb 17, 7:00 pm	Solemn Divine Service
Sat, Feb 20, 9:00 am	Men's Bible Breakfast
Sat, Feb 20, 10:00 am	Altar Guild Meeting
Sat, Feb 20, 11:00 am	Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of Lent 1

Sun, Feb 21, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Feb 21, 10:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Tues, Feb 23, 7:00 pm	Book of Concord Study
Wed, Feb 24, Noon	Pizza Pickup
Wed, Feb 24, 4:30 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Feb 24, 6:30 pm	Soup & Salad Dinner
Wed, Feb 24, 7:30 pm	Midweek Service
Thur, Feb 25, 11:00 am	Pastor @ NICL Study

Week of Lent 2

Sun, Feb 28, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Feb 28, 10:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class



February Birthdays

- 01 Sue Kuhnert
- 12 Lisa Cruz
- 15 Annamae Behning
- 15 Moira Delaney
- 17 Karen McClain
- 18 Monica DeWitt
- 22 Don Fiolka
- Nadine Parmenter
- 21 Anita DeWitt
- Emily Nurczyk
- 23 Larry Jordan
- 25 Amy Jordon
- 28 Kelli Olifirowicz



February Baptismal Anniversaries

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

Address Updates

Please add or update the following names and contact info in your church directory:

Diana Donnelly

114 Lavidia Boulevard Joliet, IL 60435
home: (815) 439-2057

Jerry Koempel

1000 Rolling Drive Lisle, IL 60532-2327
home: (630) 541-6511

John Mueller

948 W. Briarcliff Road Bolingbrook, IL 60440
mobile: (847) 833-4486

Shawn Murray

604 Plymouth Court Oswego, IL 60543-8673
mobile: (630) 363-4225

Fellowship & Welfare

The Fellowship and Welfare Board will host a senior member luncheon on **Saturday, February 13th at 12:30 p.m.** in Luther Hall. The “theme” will focus on God’s love for us and our love for others. The signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board in Luther Hall. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with set-up, clean-up and providing refreshments/food. Contact **Valarie McClain** with any questions.

Ash Wednesday

Join us on **Wednesday, February 17th 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 from Matthew 6 and the Lord’s Supper.

Lenten Midweek Services

“Words of Life from the Cross”

Join us this Lent as we ponder anew God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. We will hear the passion narrative from Saint Luke’s Gospel as we take a closer look and listen to Christ’s seven words from the cross. Below is our schedule:



Wednesday, February 24
“The Promising Word”

Wednesday, March 3
“The Faithful Word”

Wednesday, March 10
“The Compassionate Word”

Wednesday, March 17
“The Suffering Word”

Wednesday, March 24
“The Dying Word”

Each service begins at **7:30 p.m.** and is preceded by a soup and salad dinner in Luther Hall at **6:30 p.m.** Come and feed your body and your soul this Lenten season!

Individual Absolution

While the entire church year is one of acknowledging our sins and receiving Christ's forgiveness, the season of Lent vividly holds before our eyes the consequences of sin. Therefore, I have an invitation for you this Lenten season. Our gracious heavenly Father gives you Christ's forgiveness in many forms. You receive it in the corporate Absolution at the beginning of each Divine Service. You receive it through the Gospel. You receive it in the Lord's Supper. You pray for it daily in the Lord's Prayer and in your personal prayers. However, *have you ever considered receiving it individually from your pastor?* This is one of the many tasks I am called to do.

Some come to private confession simply to hear the absolution individually applied. That is a good enough reason all by itself. Others come because they have guilt or shame over past sins, there are specific sins that still plague them, and/or they desire not only Christ's absolution but also pastoral counsel from God's Word and the specific prayers of their pastor. I am here for that too!

While there are many benefits to individual absolution, many stay away from this precious gift for all sorts of reasons, including these common excuses:

- "What if the pastor tells his wife, the elders, or someone else what I confess?" Remember, I vowed at my ordination and again at my installation at Divine Shepherd never to divulge the sins confessed to me, and I take that vow very seriously. Since God forgives your sins (whether "small" or "big"), who am I to bring them up to anyone?
- "What will the pastor think of me if he knows I _____, or struggle with _____?" So you are a sinner like me, have done things you regret, and struggle with certain temptations. That is not shocking. Remember, we are poor, miserable sinners by nature. It actually helps me be a better pastor to you if I know your sins and struggles.

Individual absolution can be handled informally in my office/study, but is usually done in the privacy of the empty sanctuary. A typical order of Individual Confession and Absolution is found in LSB on pages 292-293. Also, know that I practice what I preach. I, too, make use of brother pastors to receive this wonderful gift. Ultimately, individual absolution is not a requirement but a gift. When you desire it, know that I will be happy to administer it to you and help you in your walk of faith.

Pastor Mumme

Bible & Lutheranism Studies

Sunday Morning: We are studying the epistles (letters) of the Apostle Paul. We meet in Luther Hall at **10:45 a.m.**, following the Sunday School opening.

Women: We are studying Jesus' parables and their application to our daily life and faith. We meet in Luther Hall on **Tuesday, February 2nd at 1:15 p.m.**

Men: We are studying Revelation. We meet this month at Family Square Restaurant (Route 53 just north of I-55) on **Saturday, February 20th at 8:30 a.m.**

Book of Concord: We are studying Article XX of The Augsburg Confession and The Apology (pages 41-44, 199-201). We meet in Luther Hall on **Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

2010 Church Council

President: **Mike Dobbs**
Secretary: **Dawn Rousar**
Treasurer: **Denise Ziesemer**

Assimilation: **Terri Kreier**
Christian Education: **JoAnn Wrezinski**
Communications: **Chris Kranich**
Elders: **Alan Greleck**
Evangelism & Missions: **Dennis Weed**
Fellowship & Welfare: **Valarie McClain**
Preschool: **Christina Demetrio**
Stewardship: *vacant*
Trustees: **Mel Meyer & Kelly Stewart**
Youth & Singles: **Carey Zeller**

2010 Board of Elders

Alan Greleck, chairman
Andrew Fox
Jeff McClain
Tim Parmenter
Bob Potempa
Steve Sychowski
Bill Tilker

Thank You for Your Service

We extend a word of thanks to all who have volunteered their times and talents and served on the Church Council this past year, including four who have finished their service: **Jeff McClain** (President), **Lisa Cruz** (Christian Education), **Mike Dobbs** (Preschool), and **Dan Richerson** (Stewardship).



Updated Website

www.divineshepherdlutheranchurch.org

Our church's website has a new look, layout, and features. Each page offers a rotating selection of photos that highlights our Lord Jesus, His church and ministry, and the specific things we offer at Divine Shepherd. Please read through the various pages, let us know of any typing, hyperlink, or other errors, and give us your comments and suggestions. Not every hyperlink (or "click here") is operational yet, but most things are up and running. You may also make use of the RSS feeds and the ability to link items to your Face book and other accounts.

New features:

- member news
- member profiles
- church directory
- church reports
- birthdays and anniversaries

Updated features:

- calendar of events
- daily devotions
- sermons (PDF, MP3, MP4)
- newsletters (PDF)
- links to Lutheran organizations

The Lutheran Witness

"The flagship magazine of the LCMS, *The Lutheran Witness* offers synodical news, reports from Lutherans around the world, features, columns, Q&A's, a Bible study, and so much more. This is the premier magazine for Lutherans who want to be informed and stay informed! A monthly publication, *The Lutheran Witness* speaks directly about what is important to today's Lutherans: Christian life, missions and ministries, and people of faith."

The cost is \$15/year. Please inform **Karen Moritz** at office@divineshepherdlutheranchurch.org of your intention to add or renew a one-year subscription. Then, submit a check for \$15 payable to Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church via the offering plate. Orders need to be placed by **Sunday, February 14th**. We have several years of *The Lutheran Witness* in our church library if you would like to reference this magazine at any time.

Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid's annual Little Caesars Pizza Sale is January 31st – February 14th. The kits are easy to put together and the pizza is really good. If you don't like pizza, they have cookie dough, pie kits and breadsticks.



Fifty items are needed for this sale. Checks should be made payable to DSLC Ladies Aid and must be returned along with the order forms by February 14th to Karen Moritz.

The delivery date is February 24th - Noon-6 p.m.

Manna gift card order dates are **February 14th & 28th**. Please continue to support this fundraiser. \$100 was donated to the Haiti Relief Fund from Manna profits.

Diane Weaver has volunteered to take over the mailing of Military "goodie boxes". Thank you! We will be mailing boxes in late April, to be received by Memorial Day, as a reminder to our service personal that they are not forgotten. Non-perishable food items and toiletries may be placed in the "Military Box" in the narthex (see list for additional items). Monetary donations are also appreciated. If you have a family member or friend stationed overseas, please give their name/address to Diane. Thank you for your continued support.

Thrivent Financial

The Greater Naperville Chapter and the Chicago land Region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be presenting an educational event on **Tuesday, February 16th** to discuss a better understanding of today's economy. The event will be held at White Eagle Golf Club, 3400 Club Drive, Naperville with registration at 6:00 PM and presentation at 6:30 p.m. All are invited.

As Thrivent Choice becomes effective, we want to make sure we are not missing or have outdated church membership data on any of our members, which would mean an inaccurate member lists. We want to encourage members to contact Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to update their church membership information in the My Thrivent section of www.thrivent.com or see **Shirley Norling** for the form necessary to make the update.

Shirley Norling, Financial Coordinator

Preschool News

During the month of February, we will focus on two famous Presidents, Washington and Lincoln. We will also talk about good health, nutrition, and taking care of our bodies. During “Jesus time,” the children will hear the story of the Good Shepherd and learn about who their neighbor is.



This quarter’s Chapel mission offering will go to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, TN.

Preschool February activity schedule:

- Feb. 2nd – Teacher in-service day
- Feb. 12th – Valentine Party
- Feb 15th – No school – President’s Day

Little Lambs Preschool Fundraiser at Long John Silver Restaurant is scheduled for Monday, February 15th from Noon to 8:00 p.m. Stop in and have lunch or dinner. Bring the flyer from the church bulletin with you and give to the clerk – Preschool will receive 10% of the ticket. There are extra flyers located on the preschool counter. Please give one to a friend, neighbor, or family member. Thanks for your help.

Sue Kuhnert, Preschool Director

Stewardship

This is my last article as the Stewardship Committee Chair. I want to take this time to thank everyone in the congregation for all of their support. Over the past two years my family has been through many difficult times and we have been overwhelmed by your kind words, thoughts and prayers.

As I leave the council, I would ask all of you to pray for the new council as they go about the business of doing God’s work. It has been my pleasure to be of service to our church and I wish my successor the very best in what at times can be a very difficult position.

Please be sure to keep **March 27th** open for “**Journey to the Cross**” and I ask that you volunteer any time or talent you can to this very important event. Teaching our members and guiding them in their faith is at the core of our calling as Christians.

My family and I cannot begin to thank you enough and we are proud to be members of such a caring church family.

Dan Richerson, Stewardship Committee Chair

Mr. Jim’s Sunday School Class

This past month, the upper grades lessons moved us from the Christmas season to the season of Epiphany. During the season of Epiphany, we see how God reveals Himself to the world through the person of Jesus Christ. The lessons we studied were: The Boy Jesus in the Temple. In this lesson we saw a computer generated 3D video of how Herod’s temple may have looked in about 70AD, just before it’s destruction. The following week our lesson was on The Baptism of Jesus, followed by Jesus Changes Water into Wine. We talked about our parents wedding (a homework assignment the class needed to discuss with their parents), learned about Jewish weddings, made wedding invitations, and taste tested a traditional Jewish wedding celebration dessert, Sweet Noodle Pudding (looked bad, tasted okay, was a general consensus of the class). Upcoming lessons are Jesus Heals Many, Jesus Calls the First disciples, and The Transfiguration. Later in the year, I have an idea for a lesson that I am thinking about to be done in April or May, and I am looking for a couple of volunteers to help me. If interested, send me an email and I will tell you the idea (it needs to be kept a secret to work properly). If after you read the idea and cannot help, that is okay, just keep it a secret. jkranich@comcast.net

Mr. Jim, Teacher

Award

SSgt Michael Weaver recently received the Air Force Non Commissioned Officer of the Year Award. Factors considered for the award were:

- Professional schooling & credits.
- College credits earned during the year.
- Volunteer duties: Red Cross volunteer and organizing a blood drive.
- Member of the base Honor Guard team.
- Member of “The Wounded Warrior Program” that involves shipping back personal effects of the wounded.
- Leadership Abilities: overseeing a \$3.4 million lumber shop.
- Managing a 27 vehicle fleet and overseeing contracts with civilian cargo movers, such as UPS.



Michael is currently stationed at Ft. McCoy in WI undergoing combat training before being deployed to Iraq. Congratulations Michael on your award and thanks for serving your country. Our prayers are with you and all of our other military members.

Sunday Treats

Please sign up to bring treats on any given Sunday(s). The signup sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board.



If you enjoy Sunday treats/coffee, please consider donating about a \$1.00 a month to the "pour fund" to help purchase the plates, cups, forks, and drinks. An empty slot means no treats. THANK YOU for your support with fellowship time after church.

Bulletin Covers/Altar Flowers

The 2010 flower chart and February-June bulletin cover charts 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. Cost of bulletin covers is \$10. See Karen Moritz for details.

Trustee's Corner

Even though it is winter, there are still projects to be done. Storerooms need to be organized, windows to be washed, etc. Will you please volunteer to do a job? Saturdays seem to be the best, but if you would rather do something on a weekday or evening that is OK. Let me know so I can have everything ready.

People are still needed to set-up Luther Hall for meetings, dinners and so on. This would also include taking down and cleaning after the event. There is a signup sheet in Luther Hall that is very empty just waiting for names.

Snow is here and that means the sidewalk will need to be cleared for Preschool and Sunday services. We have an electric snow blower and shovels just waiting to be used.

As always if you see something that needs repairing or improved, please call me at 815-609-5720, email me at mrmagoomeyer@sbcglobal.net, or leave a signed note in my mailbox (to thank you).

Wish List:

- Little Giant Ladder System \$400
- or equivalent \$150-250

Mel Meyer, Head Trustee

Altar Guild Members

Altar Guild members **Laverne Stephens** (chairperson), **Katie Dobbs**, **Val DeWitt**, **Julie Klobucher**, **Talma Krause**, **Karen Moritz**, **Lori Mumme**, **Joan Sturm** and **Judy Yuenger** were installed at their January meeting.

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2009

	Budget	Actual
Income:	\$171,840	\$169,750
Expenses	\$172,138	\$168,571

Our mortgage balance is \$158,999.33 as of January 2010.

Important Phone Numbers

Church Office: 630-759-5300
 Preschool: 630-759-3995 (Sue Kuhnert)
 Pastor Mumme: 815-676-4444
 Prayer Chain: 630-251-7860 (Bobbie Light)
 Newsletter: 630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz)
 (March articles due by February 22nd)

*Without GOD, our week would be:
 Sindy, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday,
 Thirstday, Fightday & Shatterday.
 Remember, seven days WITHOUT GOD
 makes one **WEAK!***

Ash Wednesday

Lent is about commitment. Jesus certainly made one—a commitment to carry out His mission, to endure the cross and the grave. As Lent begins and as we consider the ashes of Ash Wednesday, make a commitment to your Lord. Commit yourself to following Jesus all the way to the cross and beyond.



How wonderful that God personally cares about those things that worry us and prey upon our thoughts. You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon Him, for you are His personal concern (1 Peter 5:7).