



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

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

When You Fast

Lent is the forty day season that leads us from dust and ashes (Ash Wednesday) to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Good Friday). Christians have traditionally observed this season with a renewed focus on charitable deeds, prayer, and fasting. Charitable deeds are part of our calling, an outgrowth of our faith in Christ. They are done through charitable organizations, here in our congregation, and in our daily dealings with our neighbor in need. Prayer, too, is part of our calling. Our prayers arise to the one true God in worship on the Lord's Day, in our Lenten midweek services, and in our daily devotions. But what about fasting? Why has this spiritual discipline fallen into disuse among most Lutherans?

In the Old Testament, fasting was an outward discipline tied to the inward repentance of one's heart. **"Yet even now,"** declares the LORD, **"return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments"** (Joel 2:19). Jesus Himself fasted for forty days and forty nights in the wilderness following His baptism (Matthew 4:1-2). The first Christians fasted (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23). Do you suppose fasting might serve a purpose for modern day Christians as well?

Jesus once said: **"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you"** (Matthew 6:16-18).

Notice that Jesus does not say *"if you fast..."* He says *"when you fast..."* Twice! Is Jesus a legalist? Is He trying to take our eyes off of Him and place them on our own works? Is He teaching us to earn our way to heaven by the things we do? No! He is simply teaching us how rightly to put into practice this well established and God-given discipline. Fasting is never meant to draw attention to oneself. Nor is it meant to merit anything from God. If either of these is our aim, then fasting will do us no good.

So why would a Christian fast? As a private act of humility and devotion to God (see Matthew 6:16-18 above), and to discipline the body. Disciplining the body reminds us what Christ gave up—His very throne, His very blood, His very life—to win our salvation. It also teaches us—by denying ourselves a basic item like food or drink—not to gratify our every desire. That can be beneficial in our walk of faith. Paul writes: **"I discipline my body and keep it under control"** (1 Corinthians 9:27). He later reminds Timothy that one of the purposes of God's grace is **"training us to renounce ... worldly passions"** (Titus 2:11-12). Fasting is one of the ways we can discipline our bodies and train ourselves to renounce worldly passions.

Did you know that the German name for Lent used historically in Lutheranism is *Fastenzeit*, meaning "fast time"? The spiritual discipline of fasting was always part of historic Lutheranism. In the Small Catechism, Luther teaches us about the necessity of being truly worthy and well prepared for the Lord's Supper through faith in Christ's words of institution: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But he prefaces those remarks with these words: "Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training."

Sadly, the desire by many of our forefathers to fit in with the rest of American Protestantism has led to the disuse of fasting among modern day Lutherans. I think it is time we rediscover this Scriptural and Lutheran discipline. God's Old Testament people fasted. Jesus fasted. The first Christians fasted. Certainly, there is a benefit in fasting for us as well!

For more background information or some suggestions on how you might fast, see The Lutheran Study Bible, page 189.

Pastor Mumme



March Birthdays

Calendar of Events

Week of Lent 2

Mon, Mar 1, 7:00 pm	Youth @ Caribou Coffee
Wed, Mar 3, 4:30 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Mar 3, 6:30 pm	Soup & Salad Dinner
Wed, Mar 3, 7:30 pm	Midweek Service

Week of Lent 3

Sun, Mar 7, 9:00 am	Worship Service
Sun, Mar 7, 10:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Sun, Mar 7, 11:30 am	Elders Meeting
Tues, Mar 9, 1:15 pm	Women's Bible Study
Wed, Mar 10, 4:30 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Mar 10, 6:30 pm	Soup & Salad Dinner
Wed, Mar 10, 7:30 pm	Midweek Service
Thur, Mar 11, 7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Sat, Mar 13, 11:00 am	Ladies Aid Meeting

Week of Lent 4

Sun, Mar 14, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Mar 14, 10:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Tues, Mar 16, 9:00 am	Pastor @ Circuit Meeting
Tues, Mar 16, 7:00 pm	Book of Concord Study
Wed, Mar 17, 4:30 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Mar 17, 6:30 pm	Soup & Salad Dinner
Wed, Mar 17, 7:30 pm	Midweek Service
Sat, Mar 20, 9:00 am	Men's Bible Breakfast
Sat, Mar 20, 10:00 am	Altar Guild Meeting

Week of Lent 5

Sun, Mar 21, 9:00 am	Divine Service
Sun, Mar 21, 10:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Wed, Mar 24, 4:30 pm	Youth Catechesis
Wed, Mar 24, 6:30 pm	Soup & Salad Dinner
Wed, Mar 24, 7:30 pm	Midweek Service
Thur, Mar 25, 11:00 am	Pastor @ NICL Study
Sat, Mar 27, 10:00 am	Journey to the Cross

Holy Week

Sun, Mar 28, 9:00 am	Palm Sunday Divine Service
Sun, Mar 28, 10:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Mon, Mar 29, Noon	Holy Monday Prayer Service
Tues, Mar 30, Noon	Holy Tuesday Prayer Service
Wed, Mar 31, Noon	Holy Wednesday Prayer Service

- 02 Greg Page
- 04 Zachary Mumme
- 04 Amber Schultz
- 05 Kyle Jordan
- 06 Jonathan Peters
- 07 Mike Dobbs
- 12 Diana Donnelley
- 13 Logan Skowron
- 15 Valarie McClain
- 18 Tina DelFiacco
- 18 Karen Weed
- 19 Andrew Schinkowski
- 20 Jenny Bingenheimer
- 21 Bridget Mazurkiewicz
- 23 Elfriede Hillmer
- 25 Julie Klobucher
- 25 Michelle Schilling
- 28 Gail Fox
- 28 Tim Parmenter
- 29 Talma Krause
- 29 Jim Murray
- 31 Michael Shurhay



Baptismal Anniversaries

- 06 Jonathan Peters
- 14 Zachary Mumme
- 14 Nicholas Sychowski
- 16 Kaylie Cruz
- 16 Kerry Murray
- 22 Sean Demetrio
- 22 Livia Demetrio
- 22 Billy Peters
- 27 Shirley Norling
- 29 Micky Woods



Anniversaries

- 11 Jonathan & Sally Stewart
- 24 Sandro & Christina Demetrio
- 30 James & Ashley Cruz

Journey to the Cross

A program, *Journey to the Cross*, will be presented at church on **Saturday March 27th** at **10:00 a.m.** for all children. See **Carey Zeller, Terri Kreier, or Pastor** for more information.

Lenten Midweek Services

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. 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.** Below is our schedule:

Wednesday, March 3
"The Compassionate Word"

Wednesday, March 10
"The Faithful Word"

Wednesday, March 17
"The Suffering Word"

Wednesday, March 24
"The Fulfilled Word"



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Holy Monday–Wednesday
Prayer Services @ Noon

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 1
Solemn Divine Service @ 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
Friday, April 2
Tenebrae Service @ 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday
Saturday, April 3
Candlelight Easter Vigil @ 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 4
Festive Sunrise Service @ 6:00 a.m.
Easter Breakfast @ 7:00-8:30 a.m.
Festive Divine Service @ 9:00 a.m.

Daylight Savings Time



Remember to "spring forward" by setting your clocks one hour forward on **Saturday** night, **March 13th**.

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, March 9th**, at **1:15 p.m.**

Men: We are studying Revelation. We meet this month at IHOP (Route 53 near Wal-Mart) on **Saturday, March 20th**, beginning at **8:30 a.m.**

Book of Concord: We are studying Article XXI of *The Augsburg Confession* and *The Apology* (pages 44-45, 202-208). We meet in Luther Hall on **Tuesday, March 16th**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.**

New Members

On February 21st we welcomed two families into membership: **Ray & Patricia Brieschke** (via transfer from Good Shepherd Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Berwyn), and **John & Lynn Henricks** and children **Nicholas and Connor** (via transfer from Saint John Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect). We welcome them to our church family and pray for God's continued blessings as they join us in growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please add their names and contact info in your church directory:

Ray & Pat Brieschke
13750 Bristlecone Drive, Apt. 210
Plainfield, IL 60544-2700
home: (815) 372-9084

John & Lynn Henricks
881 Hartford Lane
Bolingbrook, IL 60440-1491
mobile: (630) 935-0698

Confirmation Sunday

Please mark **Sunday, May 16th** on your calendar as Confirmation Sunday, when four of our youth will confess their faith publicly and receive the Lord's Supper for the first time.

Ladies Aid

Thanks to your generous support, the “Little Caesar’s Pizza sale” was a success.

Manna gift card order dates are **March 14th & 28th** with pickup on successive Sundays. These gift cards are not just for gift giving, they are great for every day purchases (everyday food purchases / gas / entertainment / etc). Manna cards for Meijer are now available in \$25 and \$100 increments.

We plan to mail out military boxes in late April. A list of items needed is in the narthex. All donations, including monetary ones, are appreciated. If you have a family member or friend stationed overseas, please give their information to **Diane Weaver**.

Ladies Aid is sponsoring a fundraiser thru **Chili’s** during **March** and **April** called the Pepper Profit Program. Eat at Chili’s **Sunday-Thursday** and present our church’s voucher (available in the narthex, on the last page of this newsletter and via email attachment next week) and our congregation will receive 10% of your purchase. Plus, order a Chili’s gift card thru Manna and our congregation will receive an additional 11% up front.

The annual Church Resale is scheduled for **Friday, June 11th (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm)** and **Saturday June 12th (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm.)**. We have had tremendous help and support for this event the past years, and hope that it continues. We accept all donations of gently used household/kitchen items, clothing, books, videos, etc. Please contact **Lori Mumme** if you have larger items such as furniture/computers/etc. at **815-676-4444** or lorimumme@comcast.net.

All women are encouraged to attend the **March 13th** meeting (change of date) at **11:00 a.m.**



Funeral Planning Worksheet

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!

Sunday School

Sunday School lower grades are learning about the Second article in the Apostles’ Creed. They are studying about Jesus’ birth, death, and resurrection—very appropriate for this Lenten Season.

The children also lent their voices to the church service on February 14th. They are always a blessing to hear. Thank you. The children will also be singing on **March 28th**—Palm Sunday. Please encourage your children in their prayers and participation. They are all wonderful, very active children—really a joy to be around at Sunday School.

Please, remember to invite your friends and cousins on **March 27th** for “**Journey to the Cross.**” This will be a great way to prepare for the upcoming Easter services—remembering our Savior’s triumphant entry to Jerusalem, His sacrifice for our sins, and His glorious resurrection to save us all.



And as always, please thank the **teachers, Pastor, Mr. George, and Ms. Terri** for all they do with our children. They make our Sunday School a blessing to our church.

Tim Parmenter, SS Superintendent

Preschool News

During the month of March, we will be looking for signs of Spring. Who will see the first robin? The children will also hear the story of Jesus death on Good Friday and happy news of His resurrection from the dead on Easter.

The Preschool children will sing in church on Sunday, **March 7th** to celebrate Lutheran School Week.

Monday, March 1 st	No School (Pulaski Day)
Friday, March 19 th	Karen’s Nature Trails will be here to talk about insects.
Thursday, April 1 st	Parents come at noon for ice cream social and egg hunt.

Love in Jesus, Sue Kuhnert, Director

Thrivent Financial



As mentioned before, Thrivent is launching “Thrivent Choice” in spring 2010. If you are interested in learning more about the program, sign up for the monthly “Thrivent Choice Information Update” eNewsletter. They will be sharing program details and highlighting the benefits of the program for members, institutions and congregations.

A reminder to Thrivent members: Forms are available from Thrivent to update your church membership information. This will be a benefit to Divine Shepherd in light of the Thrivent Choice program. If interested see Shirley Norling for the form.

The Chapter has received “Care Abounds in Community” funding. This program offers financial support for volunteer service and fund raising activities. These programs help us help others. If you know of local families in need and you think, “How can I help?” let us know if Thrivent can get involved.



Mark your calendars for **April 4th** for the Easter Breakfast held between services on Easter Sunday. The Ladies Aid will join Thrivent to make this event special. We have a new menu planned that should be pleasing to all. Come and join us.

Other events to look forward to:

- ✓ Confirmation Day: May 16th
- ✓ Cougars Baseball Game: June 16th

Additional information about these events will be forthcoming.

Shirley Norling, Financial Secretary

Lutheran Radio

If you have a computer with an internet connection, you can listen to the radio voice of the Lutheran faith for the 21st century! “Issues, Etc.” is hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. You can listen at your leisure via podcast (iTunes or XML) at www.issuesetc.org.

Library News

Pastor’s Recommended Books:

1. *Lamb of God Pure and Holy* — Daily devotions from Ash Wednesday to Easter. 242.34 PAT
2. *Martin Luther’s Easter Book* (edited by Roland H. Bainton) — Martin Luther’s Easter sermons explores Holy Week through the Resurrection. 252.63 BAI
3. *He Was Crucified: Reflections on the Passion of Christ* (by Gerard Joseph Stanley Sr., MD) — Gain insight into what Jesus felt physically when He died for our sins. A unique book puts you in Jesus’ shoes. 232.96 STA

All the above books will be on the display shelves and may be checked out. Please read and return these quickly as many people will want to check them out. Thank you.

Prayer Chain

If you (women or men) would like to join the prayer chain in praying for our congregation’s special needs, please contact **Bobbie Light** at **630-251-7860** or **Pastor Mumme**.

Important Phone Numbers

<u>Church Office:</u>	630-759-5300
<u>Preschool:</u>	630-759-3995 (Sue Kuhnert)
<u>Pastor Mumme:</u>	815-676-4444
<u>Prayer Chain:</u>	630-251-7860 (Bobbie Light)
<u>Newsletter info:</u>	630-759-3188 (Karen Moritz) (Articles Due March 22 nd)

Sunday Treats

Do you enjoy treats and fellowship after Sunday services? If so, please sign up to bring treats on any given Sunday(s). Empty slots mean no treats. To enable our diabetic member’s to enjoy these treats, please consider supplementing some of the “sugary goodies” with crackers/cheese and or fruit. 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.*



Trustee's Corner

We have received a donation of office chairs and round tables for use in Luther Hall. A grateful thank you goes out to the donor.

The parking row against the sidewalk is mostly for handicap parking. When parking for a service or other event, please leave these spaces for those who need them.

Even though it is winter, there are projects to be done. Painting, storerooms need to be organized, and windows washed. 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. Volunteers are always needed. It keeps the cost of projects affordable.

Spring is just around the corner, so start thinking about helping with some outdoor projects.

People are still needed to set up Luther Hall for meetings, dinners, etc. This would also include taking down and cleaning after the event. There is a signup sheet in Luther Hall that is very blank.

If you see something that needs repaired or improved, please call me at 815-609-5720, email me at mrmagoomeyer@sbcglobal.net, or leave a signed note in my mailbox, so I can thank you.

Mel Meyer, Head Trustee

10 Reasons to Believe in a God who allows suffering

1. Suffering comes with the freedom to choose.
2. Pain can warn us of danger.
3. Suffering reveals what is in our hearts.
4. Suffering takes us to the edge of eternity.
5. Pain loosens our grip on this life.
6. Suffering gives opportunity to trust God.
7. God suffers with us in our suffering.
8. God's comfort is greater than our suffering.
9. In times of crisis, we find one another.
10. God can turn suffering around for our good.

(RBC Ministries)



Pepper Profit Program

Ladies Aid is sponsoring a **Chili's** fundraiser called the *Pepper Profit Program*. Whenever you eat at Chili's between Sunday and Thursday during March and April, present our congregation's voucher and our congregation will receive 10% of your purchase (minus taxes). Our congregation's voucher is attached in PDF (printed copies are also available in the narthex). Use this voucher yourself or pass it along to relatives, neighbors, coworkers, etc. to use as well. As an added bonus, purchase a Chili's gift card thru our Manna program and our congregation will receive an additional 11% up front.

Remember...

- ✓ visit a participating Chili's (see list below)
- ✓ enjoy a delicious meal "dine in" or "to go"
- ✓ offer valid during March and April
- ✓ offer valid on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
- ✓ visit once, twice, or more (bring a voucher each time you visit, as often as you want)
- ✓ 10% of your purchase comes back to Divine Shepherd

The Chili's voucher can be found on church's website or picked up from the shelves in the narthex.

Participating Chili's Locations:

- ✓ 1275 W. Boughton Road, Bolingbrook
- ✓ 1330 W. 75th Street, Downers Grove
- ✓ 264 S. Route 59, Naperville
- ✓ 2820 Route 34, Oswego
- ✓ 12740 S. Route 59, Plainfield
- ✓ 259 S. Weber Road, Romeoville
- ✓ 1005 Brookforest Avenue, Shorewood
- ✓ 240 Danada Square West, Wheaton