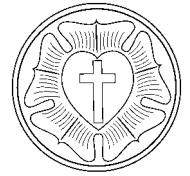


# Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



## JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

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

### Dating 101

Dating. Love. Marriage. Sex. Every teenager begins, at some point or another, to think about these things. And dating is usually the first to be pondered seriously. So, how's a Christian to approach dating?

First, a disclaimer. I am not a dating expert or a relationship authority. Nor do I play one on TV. However, I am a Lutheran pastor. And God's Word does offer some wonderful parameters within which the Christian can approach dating. The same is true of love, marriage, and sex. As I was recently asked to tackle this subject, what follows is my pastoral advice on dating. It is directed primarily to Lutheran teenagers, but may, by God's grace, benefit others as well.

**"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him"** (Genesis 2:18). God created man and woman for each other and placed within each a desire for the other. A desire for companionship (beyond that of friendship). A desire to be one flesh (within the God-given ordinance of marriage). And a desire to bring forth children (as God so blesses). Because the Christian lives within this God-given design, dating should always be done with marriage in mind.

That being said, we live in a sinful and broken world. The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh tempt us to push aside the aforementioned God-given desire and find contentment in covetousness and lust and all sorts of sexual immorality. Add to this raging hormones, and the ability to live within God's good design seems impossible. Is it any wonder that God calls us daily to die to sin and rise to new life in Christ's forgiveness?

- ✓ **"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."** [Romans 13:14]
- ✓ **"Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."** [1 Corinthians 6:18-20]
- ✓ **"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."** [Galatians 5:24]
- ✓ **"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness."** [Colossians 3:5]

So, whom should you date? The natural place to begin looking for that special person of the opposite sex is within your circle of good friends. With whom do you enjoy spending time? With whom do you share common interests, values, and pursuits? What kind of personality best gels with yours? Whom do you believe to be morally upright, outwardly kind and generous in word and deed, and inwardly grounded via faith to Christ? Whom do you find physically attractive? (Notice that I put this one last, for while physical looks are important, inner beauty is far more important. Don't forget that the person you marry, as good as he or she looks on your wedding day, will one day grow old, get wrinkles, and may even turn grey, go bald, or need dentures!)



For the teenager who desires to date, the counsel and advice of father and mother are vitally important. God gave you your parents to love and nurture you, to guide and protect you, to lead you from childhood into adulthood. Besides, who knows you better? Who loves and cares about you more than Dad and Mom? God has seen fit to place you under their care and even commands you: **“Honor your father and your mother”** (Exodus 20:12). So seek their counsel and listen to their advice every step of the way.

But the most important thing to look for in a future spouse (and, thus, in dating as well), is *a mutual faith in the one true God and a united confession of that faith*. As a fellow pastor has stated, “it is best to find someone with whom you can call upon the Lord Jesus Christ with one heart and one voice.” In other words, look for someone who recognizes his/her sinfulness and looks to Christ for forgiveness and strength to live the Christian life. Look for someone who shares the same baptism, hears the same absolution, confesses the same faith, believes the same Gospel, looks to the same Christ, receives the same Supper, and walks daily in the same hope. Look for someone who understands that marriage is a reflection of the relationship of Christ and His Church. For these and other reasons, I advise Lutheran teenagers (and single Lutheran adults) to date a fellow Lutheran with the same confession of faith.

So, you’ve found someone you really like (who likes you as well). You even have your parents’ blessing. Now the exciting stuff of dating begins. Movies. Sporting events. Dances. Walks around the mall. Talks on the phone. Rejoicing in each other’s company. Learning each other’s strengths and weaknesses. Sharing in each other’s joys and sorrows. What next? Pastor Rick Stuckwisch offers the following advice:

“The thrill of dating should not be perpetuated for its own sake, nor allowed to go on and on without any guidance or direction. This stage in a relationship is really a testing of whether these two friends may become husband and wife. If it becomes clear that marriage would be unwise or out of the question, then romantic dating ought to stop, and perhaps a normal friendship in the company of other friends may be resumed. But if the relationship continues in a positive and healthy direction, with the blessing and approval of parents and other authorities, then the couple ought to be thinking and planning toward marriage. . . . The bottom line is to honor the Word of God and obey the Fourth Commandment, *that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.*”

Through it all, keep yourself sexually pure in thought, word, and deed. Save yourself for marriage. Too many couples think that shacking up and engaging in premarital sex is necessary to determine if they are compatible or not. Don’t believe that lie. Those who cohabit before marriage are *more likely* to divorce than couples who do not cohabit. But even more importantly, God designed intimacy and sex to be enjoyed exclusively within marriage. As you learned from Luther’s Small Catechism: “We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.”

And when God joins you to the one whom He has designated for you, live within God’s blessing. Be faithful to your spouse and to your mutual vows and commitment. Husbands, love your wife as Christ loves the Church. Wives, love your husband as the Church loves Christ. Put the needs of your spouse above your own. Forgive as you have been forgiven. Worship and pray together. And bring up your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. In summary, **“let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled”** (Hebrews 13:4).

Still have questions? I’m sure you do, for there are too many components of dating to tackle in one article. Plus, I don’t have all the answer anyway. It is my hope and prayer that you will speak with your parents and seek their counsel and advice regularly. I also invite you to ask me any questions you have as you enter the wonderful world of dating and courtship, and eventually engagement and marriage. God has much to say on these subjects, and I am happy to tell you more about His will for you!

Pastor Mumme



## June Birthdays

- 05 Jim Bingenheimer
- 07 Tom Schultz
- 08 John Moritz
- 09 Amadee Schinkowski
- 11 JoAnn Wrezinski
- 18 Kaylie Cruz
- 20 Morgan Schultz
- 24 Mike Olifirowicz
- 24 Sophie Sychowski
- 24 Luke Thornton
- 26 Jeff Bingenheimer
- 26 Aiden Schilling
- 27 Micky Woods
- 28 Chuck Novy
- 29 Valerie DeWitt
- 29 Aimee Mazurkiewicz
- 30 Kristena Johnson-Wise
- 30 Meghan Zeller

## Calendar of Events

### Week of Trinity 1

- Sun, Jun 6, 9:00 am Divine Service
- Sun, Jun 6, 10:30 am Bible Class
- Sun, Jun 6, 11:30 am Elders Meeting
- Tues, Jun 8, 12:00 pm Women's Bible Study
- Fri, Jun 11, 9:00 am Rummage Sale
- Sat, Jun 12, 9:00 am Rummage Sale

### Week of Trinity 2

- Sun, Jun 13, 9:00 am Divine Service
- Sun, Jun 13, 10:30 am Bible Class
- Tues, Jun 15, 9:00 am Circuit Meeting @ DSLC
- Tues, Jun 15, 7:00 pm Book of Concord Study
- Wed, Jun 16 Pastor @ CCA Symposium
- Thur, Jun 17 Pastor @ CCA Symposium
- Fri, Jun 18 Pastor @ CCA Symposium
- Sat, Jun 19, 8:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast
- Sat, Jun 19, 10:30 am VBS Teachers Meeting
- Sat, Jun 19 Kane County Cougars Game

### Week of Trinity 3

- Sun, Jun 20, 9:00 am Divine Service
- Sun, Jun 20, 10:30 am Bible Class
- Wed, Jun 23, 11:00 am Pastor @ NICL Study

### Week of Trinity 4

- Sun, Jun 27, 9:00 am Divine Service
- Sun, Jun 27, 10:30 am Bible Class
- Sun, Jun 27, 12:00 pm Village Picnic

## June Baptismal Anniversaries

- John Moritz
- 01 Logan Skowron
- 02 Ray Brieschke
- 05 Tim Parmenter
- 07 Bobbie Meyer
- 08 Connor Henricks
- 15 Tina DelFiacco
- 16 Matthew Data
- 16 Michael Shurhay
- 25 Luke Thornton
- 27 Daniel Shurhay
- 27 Elizabeth Shurhay
- 28 JoAnn Wrezinski



## June Anniversaries

- 03 Randy & Diane Donnelly
- 04 Dale & Juli Thornton
- 08 George & Dawn Rousar
- 10 Craig & Dawn Smith
- 29 Jim & Sherry Kranich

### Treasurer's Report as of 4/30/2010

|                     | Budget   | Actual    |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| Income:             | \$48,198 | \$57,606  |
| Expenses:           | \$50,982 | \$52,661  |
| Mortgage Balance:   |          | \$151,725 |
| Organ Loan Balance: |          | \$25,322  |

## Baptized into Christ

Two member children became children of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in May.



**Isabella Gwynne Cruz**  
(daughter of Jim & Ashley Cruz)  
22 May 2010



**Payton Shields Murray**  
(daughter of Shawn & Kerry Murray)  
22 May 2010

We pray God's richest blessings as both of these children grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## Confirmation



**Rebecca Parmenter, Emily Nurczyk,  
Courtney Nurczyk, Sean Demetrio**  
16 May 2010

On Sunday, May 16, four of our youth confessed their faith publicly in the rite of Confirmation and received the Lord's Supper for the first time:

- **Sean Phillip Demetrio**, son of Sandro & Christina Demetrio
- **Courtney Anne Nurczyk**, daughter of Craig (stepfather) & Dawn Smith
- **Emily Sue Nurczyk**, daughter of Craig (stepfather) & Dawn Smith
- **Rebecca Anne Parmenter**, daughter of Timothy & Nadine Parmenter

We pray that our gracious Lord will keep them faithful to their vows all the days of their lives!

## Bible & Lutheranism Studies

**Sunday Morning:** We are studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. During the summer months we meet in Luther Hall at **10:30 a.m.**

**Women:** We are studying Jesus' parables and their application to our daily life and faith. We meet in Luther Hall on **Tuesday, June 8 at 12:00 p.m.**

**Men:** We are studying Revelation. We meet this month at Family Square Restaurant (Route 53 just north of I-55) on **Saturday, June 19**, beginning at **8:30 a.m.**

**Book of Concord:** We are studying Article XXIV of *The Augsburg Confession* and *The Apology* (pages 47-49, 220-237). We meet in Luther Hall on **Tuesday, June 15** beginning at **7:00 p.m.**

## New Members

We welcomed two new couples into membership this past month. Welcome to our church family!



**Ron & Cris Ruisz**

9 May 2010

Ron and Cris became members via transfer from Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Dolton, IL. Their contact information is listed below:

1483 Windflower Court  
Romeoville, IL 60446-3780  
(815) 886-6931



**Ken & Kathy Wilson**

23 May 2010

Ken and Kathy became members via transfer from Saint Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church in Brookfield, IL. Their contact information is listed below:

20835 W. Periwinkle Court  
Plainfield, IL 60544-9324  
(815) 293-1055

## Middle School Graduates

Congratulations to nine of our youth who recently graduated middle school:

**Spenser Fox  
Katie Olifirowicz  
Kyle Olifirowicz  
Bobby Thornton  
Emily Nurczyk  
Amy Jordan  
Michael Shurhay  
Sophie Sychowski  
Sierra Birdsell**

## High School Graduates

This month we salute two of our high school seniors and pray God's richest blessing on their future endeavors.



**Kelli Olifirowicz**

Kelli, daughter of Mike & Jill, graduated from Naperville North High School on May 19. She will be attending Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, pursuing a degree in Psychology.



**William Peters**

Will, son of Mike & Denise, graduated from Bolingbrook High School on June 6. He is entering the U.S. Army as a Private First Class (PFC) at Fort Benning, Georgia on July 21.

## College Graduate

We also salute **Cassandra Drevlow**, a regular worshipper at Divine Shepherd, who graduated from Lewis University on May 16. May you be a witness to our Lord Jesus Christ in everything you do!

## Sunday School

A big **Thank You** to all who helped organize, plan, prepare, cook, entertain the members and children at the Sunday School Picnic. Though I thankfully missed the soaking of the annual water balloon fight, I understand everyone had a great time. The food was excellent – great idea with the taco/nacho bar.



Also, a special “thank you” to all the teachers, assistants, musical people, and everyone who helped enrich the religious experience of our youth. Please always remember how much you are influencing the lives of our children.

We want to thank the dedicated teachers and helpers who worked diligently this year:

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Tim Parmenter</b>   | Superintendent |
| <b>Terry Kreier</b>    | Music Leader   |
| <b>George Rousar</b>   | Accompanist    |
| <b>Jim Kranich</b>     | Teacher        |
| <b>Denise Ziesemer</b> | Teacher        |
| <b>Valarie McClain</b> | Teacher        |
| <b>Meghan Zeller</b>   | Teacher        |

For summer Sunday School, we will probably meet every other week, as a whole group, to discuss the various stories that water plays in the Bible. This ties into the “What’s in the Water?” theme for VBS. If you have ever wanted to lead/teach our youth, without the long commitment of regular Sunday School, I invite you to offer your services. Please watch for a signup sheet on the listed days.

*In God’s Service, Tim Parmenter*

To those who are teaching the gospel,  
With love in their hearts for its trials.  
Comes the gentle reminder from heaven,  
“Forget not the children and youth.”

*Anonymous*

## Library Update



New items added to the library (J items are kids’ books):

1. *Dying to Live: The Power of Forgiveness* by Harold L. Senkbeil. 248.4 SEN.
2. *God Loves You* by Carol Rubow. J231.7 RUB.
3. *The Best of Barbara Johnson* by Barbara Johnson. 248.843 JOH.
4. *Daniel in the Lion’s Den*. J 224.509 DAN.
5. *Moses*. J221.9505 MOS.
6. *Jonah and the Whale*. J224.20 JON.
7. *The Lutheran Study Bible* (reference only, cannot be checked out). This book is currently on display on top of the piano.
8. *The Baptism of your Child* by Thomas and Carla Fast. 264.0410812 FAS.
9. *Behold The Law: An Introduction to the Signs and Symbols of the Church* by Pamela Nielsen. 230.41 NIE.
10. *Decisions “God, I Don’t Know What to Do”* by Richard Wolkenhauer. 220.07 WOL.
11. *What Is the Liturgical Future of Our Synod?* by Klemet Preus. 220.07 PRE.
12. *Why We Practice Closed Communion* by Klemet Preus. 230.41 PRE.

I am still looking for cassette boxes in good condition for the library and I am also in need of a check register for the Ladies Aid account. If you would like to donate please put in my mailbox.

*Gail Fox, Librarian*

## 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 **Bobbie Light** at 630-251-7860 or **Pastor Mumme**.

## Summer VBS

This year's summer Vacation Bible School is a new program titled "What's in the Water?" The search for "What's in the Water?" will begin on **July 12** and run through **July 16**, daily **6:15 – 8:15 p.m.** All children ages 3–11 are welcome. In fact, spread the word to your neighbors and friends to bring their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and neighbors. Older children are welcome and will be assigned to work with centers.

Volunteers to make this event a success are still needed. We need:

- a games leader (a 5 night commitment);
- 2–3 additional Bible story teachers (a 1 night commitment);
- "life guards" to chaperone the children to the centers (a 1 to 5 night commitment, based on your availability).

Please prayerfully consider assisting in this summer program. It is more than just a Christian Education event. It is an outreach to our community. Any questions, please see **JoAnn Wrezinski**.

## Ladies Aid

Manna gift card order dates are June 6 & 20 and July 11 & 25 with pickup successive Sundays. These gift cards are great for every day purchases, birthdays, and vacations.

The annual Church Resale of gently used items is scheduled for **Friday, June 11 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)** and **Saturday, June 12 (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)**. Many volunteers are needed for setup, the day of the sale, and clean up. Signup sheets are posted in Luther Hall. We accept all donations of gently used household and kitchen items, clothing, books, videos, etc. Lori asks that you notify her on larger items such as furniture, computers, etc. Thanks for all the support and donations that you are willing to give to help our church. *We are in need of folding tables and a large canopy tent. If you have any and are willing to loan it, please contact Lori.* For more information contact **Lori Mumme** at 815-676-4444 or [lorimumme@comcast.net](mailto:lorimumme@comcast.net).

Ladies Aid will collect school supplies for Little Lambs Preschool and Humanitarian Services in late July and early August. Lists of needed supplies will be posted in early July. Thanks for your continued support of this project.

**Diane Weaver** sent out five boxes to military personal. (Thanks Diane!) If you have a relatives or friends serving overseas, please give her their names/addresses. As always, we accept "goodies" and monetary donations for future mailings.

All women are encouraged to attend our next meeting on **July 17 at 11:00 a.m.** We will be wrapping birthday gifts for Humanitarian Services after the meeting – bring a sack lunch and join us. *There is no meeting in June.*

## Coins for CareNet

A reminder to return your baby bottle with change, bills, or a check (made payable to CareNet) for CareNet by Father's Day! CareNet Pregnancy Services of DuPage is a local organization that helps moms in unplanned pregnancies with counseling, resources, and parenting support. Your donation will help hundreds of women and save lives right here in our neighborhood.

## Trustees Corner



There are many projects to be done this Spring and Summer. With help from you, these can be completed quickly. There are some small painting jobs, painting and caulking around windows, etc. Please say Yes when asked to help, or better yet volunteer. If Saturday is not good for you, maybe a weekday or evening is better. That's fine. Let me know what you want to do and when. That way I can have everything ready for you.

The hunt is still on for missing items—an office chair, six (6) padded folding card table chairs, a snow blower, and a tamper. If anyone knows the where-abouts of these, please let me know.

People are still needed to set up Luther Hall for Bible classes, dinners, etc. Sign up on the sheet in Luther Hall. For more information, contact me.

If you see something that needs repaired or improved, you can call me at 815-609-5720, email at [mrmagoomeyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmagoomeyer@sbcglobal.net), or leave a signed note in my mailbox.

*Mel Meyer, Head Trustee*

## Thrivent Financial

Thrivent Financial continues to financially help areas of the church with a match of funds or cover the cost for hands on services.

During April, the Little Lambs Waffle Breakfast generated \$330. Thrivent matched these funds and the program received a check for \$660. Thrivent also covered the cost of supplies needed and postage for \$225 in sending Gift Boxes to the military to be received prior to Memorial Day.

Remember **June 19** and the Kane County Cougars Baseball Game. We will car pool from church at **2:30 p.m.** Please see **Marge Jahnsen** or **Bill Tilker** if you need a ride.



Thrivent is looking for a member of Divine Shepherd who is interested in getting involved to help the members of the church and community. This year the title will be Congregational Advocate. The duties are easy. Just be a member of Thrivent with computer knowledge and willing to work with Pastor Mumme to identify individuals or programs within the church or community that can use financial help. Funds are available through the Chapter, but only if someone is willing to forward the requests. Without the Advocate funding will cease. Since Bill Tilker and I serve on the Board, we are not able to act as an Advocate for the church, so why not give it a try?

*Shirley Norling, Finance Director*

## Sunday Treats

Please sign up to bring treats on any given Sunday(s). The sign-up sheet is posted on the Luther Hall bulletin board. To enable our diabetic members may enjoy these treats, please consider supplementing some of the "sugary goodies" with crackers and cheese and/or fruit. An empty slot means no treats. *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.* THANK YOU for your support!

## Bulletin Covers & Altar Flowers

The 2010 flower chart and 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.

## Your Future Is Full of...

**HOPE** because God is working on your behalf. *"In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him."* Romans 8:28

**JOY** because God has a plan for you. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord.* Jeremiah 29:11

**PEACE** because God will be with you wherever you go. *"I am with you always."* Matthew 28:20

**LOVE** because God deeply loves you. *"How wide and long and deep and high is the love of Christ."* Ephesians 3:18

**STRENGTH** because God gives you everything you need. *"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."* Philippians 4:13

**CONFIDENCE** because God made you who you are. *"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."* Genesis 1:31

**COURAGE** because God can do more than you can imagine! *"With God all things are possible."* Matthew 19:26

## 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)<br><i>(July articles due June 28)</i> |

## Village Picnic

Please consider volunteering to greet our neighbors and share Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church—"The Little Church with the Big Heart"—at this year's Village Picnic. The date is **Sunday June 27** and it starts at **Noon** and runs until **6:00 p.m.** We need lots of volunteers, so please sign up on the sheet in Luther Hall. Any questions, see **Dennis Weed** or **JoAnn Wrezinski**.

## LCMS Presidential Nominations

The congregational nominations for president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) have been counted and posted, and the numbers overwhelmingly reveal that the congregations want a change in leadership. Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, received 1,332 nominations. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, incumbent LCMS president, received 755 nominations. To put those numbers in perspective, consider the following facts: Harrison's 1,332 nominations is the most ever for a non-incumbent; Kieschnick's 755 nominations is the least ever for an incumbent; Kieschnick's 755 nominations is 28% fewer than the 1,055 he received in 2007. The LCMS synodical convention will be held this July in Houston, Texas!

## Father's Day Prayer



Dearest Father, You reveal in Yourself what true Fatherhood is. You give Your children gifts beyond compare: food, clothing, shelter, family, friends, work, healthy bodies, and all that they need. You gave us Your Son, Jesus, who died for our sin to restore us to Your family through His blood. You also discipline us with Your law, to show us our sin and You give us Your Holy Spirit, to show us our Savior. On Father's Day, we thank You for our earthly fathers, who care for our physical and emotional needs. Bless all fathers, encouraging them to live in faith and godly service, so that their example reveals Your fatherly love. Amen.

*Portals of Prayer*