

# DIVINE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Nov. 2023

Over ten years ago, Pastor Sutton and Sarah, Vonda and I, and a few others, sat down and talked about ways to reach out into the community. We came up with this crazy idea of having a thanksgiving meal for the community at no cost to them. Having a community meal is not the crazy part. Many churches have a fall festival and reach out into the community. Some ask for donations or even charge to raise money for a mission or cause. The crazy part of this idea was simply to give back to the community. A totally free meal. No free will donation, no expectation, no strings. We simply want to give so people can see Christ.

We are past the 10-year mark for the Harvest dinner. This meal has truly become a part of Divine Shepherd. Initially there was concern about who was going to supply the food. Who will do the cooking? Who will serve and clean up? As with every mission, God always supplies. The first year we fried 10 donated turkeys and served about 100 people. Over the last few years, you all have cooked about 22 turkeys per year. You all bake the pies and make the stuffing. You all donate the plates and the drinks.



This wonderful mission outreach into the community is almost totally unbudgeted from the church budget.

The reason a free dinner is so radical is because we have been trained to believe there is no free lunch. Many times, people have asked, where can I donate. When I tell them God has so richly blessed us and we are just returning the favor they don't know how to act.

We are suspicious of any totally free gift. We say "that's too good to be true". That attitude even works it way into salvation. Completely and totally free from sin and guilt and damnation? That's too good to be true"! I have to do something to cooperate with Jesus or earn my salvation by my good works. No dear Saints your salvation is totally free and is an eternal gift to you.

St. Paul writes, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”. Ephesians 2:8-10.

Forgiveness of all your sins, eternal salvation, and peace with God is all yours and it comes from Jesus alone. It is a free gift because of the Holy Trinity’s love for you. A free gift like that changes us. Now we respond to God’s wonderful love and forgiveness not out of duty or obligation, not driven by the law, but guided by the Gospel. As God has so completely loved us, we love our neighbors. We serve. We give. We pray and point them to Jesus.

As the Harvest dinner draws near there are things you can do to help others see the free gift of forgiveness and peace that comes from Jesus’ death in the place of all sinners.



- Please pray for the Harvest dinner, the volunteers, the weather, and of course all those who will join us.

- Please volunteer to help or donate food items. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board across from my office.

- Please invite your friends, your neighbors, even your family to come and eat and visit and experience the wonderful community of faith at Divine Shepherd that centers around the full and free forgiveness given to us by Jesus.

- Please come and join us. There are countless blessings when we sit and eat and visit with one another.

Looking forward to visiting with you all!

Pastor Randy.



# A Message from the ECC

Dear friends,

We are  
**HIRING**

Thank you for your support of the ECC and the kids! Please help us pass the word- we are looking for anyone that wants to play with kids all day... We have the perfect job for you. We are hiring full and part time positions! Give us a call for more details 605-791-1131.



Coming soon will be more information on the Legacy Banquet in 2024- mark your calendars for April 13, 2024 to support the Early Childhood Center and the Academy!

Thanks for your time and have a wonderful month!

Dana Reiprich- ECC Chair

# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<b>1st</b>	<b>Jacob Rohrbauck Doris Senger</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Gary Price Mahrie Butler</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Carter Ringwald</b>
<b>8th</b>	<b>Nathan Bittner Melissa Peck</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>Connie Burg Kimberly Johnson Liam Weber</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>Ashleigh Wenzel</b>
<b>11th</b>	<b>Dean Halvorson</b>
<b>13th</b>	<b>Travis Karr</b>
<b>15th</b>	<b>Kaleb Sueflow</b>
<b>16th</b>	<b>Melissa Seifert</b>

<b>18th</b>	<b>Greg Roling</b>
<b>19th</b>	<b>Tim Sueflow</b>
<b>20th</b>	<b>Kyra Ringwald</b>
<b>21st</b>	<b>Chad Vermundson</b>
<b>22nd</b>	<b>Doug Petersen Judy Uecker</b>
<b>25th</b>	<b>Jodi Lawrence Walt Ricker</b>
<b>27th</b>	<b>Laura Vermundson</b>
<b>28th</b>	<b>Jennifer Koepp Susan Venohr</b>
<b>29th</b>	<b>Brad Halvorson</b>
<b>30th</b>	<b>Samantha Dobbs Kathy Swan</b>

\*Is your birthday or anniversary not listed? Please let the church secretary know and she will add it to the list!

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st	Connie Rathert
3rd	Erika Ristau
4th	Jay McKinstry
5th	Donna Kendall
6th	Cora Petersen
8th	Wesley Miller
9th	Irelynn Delaney
10th	Ken Jankord Tosha Wilburn
12th	Cindy Fredrich
13th	Bob Audette Kennadee Delaney
14th	Bill Thompson
15th	Diann Dobbs

16th	Carlie Andelt
17th	Jazmine Halvorson Dylan Juso
18th	Jensyn Burg David Lundin
22nd	Skyler Eisenbraun Raquel Fegueroa
23rd	Ethan Eliason
24th	Wayne Marks Tom Schroeder
25th	Janell McKinstry
26th	Evelynn Cleland Scott Norman
27th	Darrell Koepp Jason Watzel
29th	Christine Roberts Christopher Burg Chloe Felkey Leota Quam

30th	Shawn Towey
31st	Seamus Eliason  Cody Uran

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# NOVEMBER & DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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## NOVEMBER

<b>3rd</b>	<b>Alvin &amp; Doris Senger</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>Herman &amp; Darlene Wahl</b>
<b>16th</b>	<b>Byron &amp; Karen Pistora</b>
<b>28th</b>	<b>Jeremy &amp; Melissa Seifert</b>
<b>30th</b>	<b>Dale &amp; Mary Heidelberger</b>

## DECEMBER

<b>22nd</b>	<b>Tom &amp; Lou Schroeder</b>
<b>27th</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Lois Wilburn</b>
<b>29th</b>	<b>Doug &amp; Cora Petersen</b>

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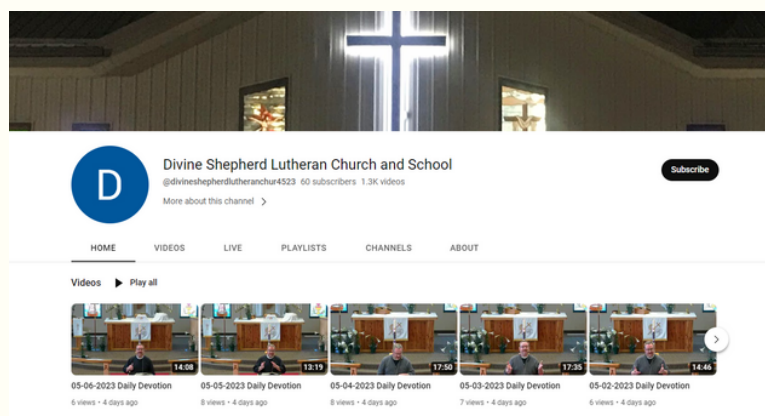


# Important Church Information

Announcements will now be read 5 minutes before church every Sunday.  
Announcements can be sent to the church secretary by noon every Thursday.  
Please email her at [dslcsecretary@divineshep.org](mailto:dslcsecretary@divineshep.org) or call **605-787-6438**.

Any information about church events and services can be found in the announcements that are handed out at each service as well as on our website: **[divineshep.org](http://divineshep.org)**.

8:00 am services are livestreamed. You can find current and past services and daily devotions on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube.



Church Secretary Office Hours: **Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am-3:45 pm**

Church Phone: **605-787-6438**

Church Email: [dslcsecretary@divineshep.org](mailto:dslcsecretary@divineshep.org)



Give today! Use this QR code or go to [divineshep.org](http://divineshep.org) and click "Give Now" to start Online Giving.

# NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS

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## NOVEMBER

11th	<b>SD District Mission and Ministries Conference</b>
18th	<b>Annual Harvest Dinner 4:30 pm</b>
22nd	<b>Thanksgiving Service (No classes No dinner)</b>

**Advent Services:  
Dec. 6th, Dec.  
13th, Dec. 20th  
7:15 pm**

## DECEMBER

9th	<b>ECC Christmas Program 10:00 am</b>
17th	<b>Sunday School Christmas Program 9:30 am</b>
24th	<b>Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm</b>
25th	<b>Christmas Day Service 9:00 am</b>
31st	<b>New Year's Eve Service 5:00 pm</b>

Katie, the church secretary, will be out of the office November 27th-December 3rd. If you have any important information that you would like to have shared with Katie or the congregation during those dates, please make sure to email [dslcsecretary@divineshep.org](mailto:dslcsecretary@divineshep.org) before November 27th. Thank you!