

**DIVINE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**JULY 2025**

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WORSHIP? WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR GATHERING  
HERE EVERY SUNDAY?**



Well, you all know the answer to this question. Oftentimes you hear me say that when we assemble here on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, we are gathering to receive the good gifts to the Lord has for us in Word and Sacrament. That is, hearing the Gospel preached in our ears once again and receiving the very body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

The part of the church where we assemble has been called the “nave” for centuries. This is where we get the words “naval” or “navy.” The word makes us think of a ship. It reminds us that this is the place where the Lord is safely carrying us, His Church, through the tumultuous waters of this fallen world in which we live. In a sense, you can say that we are constantly being saved. That Christ meets us here each and every week to grant us forgiveness of sins, to feed and nourish us, and send us out again into the waves, winds, and storms of this world. But in the Church, when we assemble, there is tranquility. There is peace. There is calm.

## **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WORSHIP? WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR GATHERING HERE EVERY SUNDAY?**

When you come to worship, think about taking the time to quietly mediate as you enter the nave. You can take the opportunity to sit and pray, to prepare your heart for worship. As the instrumentalist plays her preludes, you can open your hymnal on the inside cover and use the prayers that are printed there to quiet your busy mind and turn your thoughts to a gracious God who loves you. You now have entered a place of calm, peace, and rest from all the cacophony of the world. This is an opportunity for you to quiet your heart and mind and sit in contemplation that the Lord who loves you, who has made you His own, who calls you by your name, comes to meet you. A holy place. Because He is holy, and has made you holy.



# A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee is moving along smoothly and accomplishing the steps required prior to making a pastoral call. The committee members have completed their self-study surveys. The congregation member self-study surveys have been received and reviewed, and a report of the results has been compiled. This information provides a very good guide for the committee as we evaluate pastoral candidates before we have more information from the district office. July 15th is a target date for making an initial request for pastor candidate. To date 3 members have submitted 2 nominations. If you know a pastor you think would be a good fit at Divine Shepherd, please complete a nomination form and return it to the church office. All nominations will be considered.



## Thanks, but No Thanks

Frequently people contact the church office about donating something to the church. This could be equipment of some sort, Christmas items, toys, material, books, yard care equipment and on and on. Sometimes members just drop things off at the church before checking with the church office. Some years ago, a member dropped off about a dozen Christmas trees. It took quite a while to give the trees away. In fact, we still have a tree in the quilters room that we have no designated space for. We have been trying to make room for storage all the time and recently had new storage closets built into the quilters room, and at the same time we are disposing of 3 metal filing cabinets. And I frequently make a trip to the Boys Club Thrift Store, or the Cornerstone Store or Habitat ReStore to dispose of items of all kinds that Divine Shepherd doesn't need or have been lying around so long no one can remember who donated the items or when or why. If you have an item you feel would absolutely benefit the church and want to donate it, please contact the Head Trustee, Trent Jensen, at 720-934-6236, to see if we have a need and if we have a place to put the item. If we decline your donation of an item, please do not be offended. It is better to decline it than to dispose of it because we have no need for it or a place to put it.

# A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

## Job Openings

Divine Shepherd has a lot of job openings. As you have been hearing a lot lately, Sunday School Teachers are needed. This is not a new request. We always need Sunday School teachers. People often ask if we have a good Sunday School. Our answer is yes, we do, if we have a full staff of teachers. But it is puzzling why those who ask that question don't readily volunteer to be part of that good Sunday School. So, we will keep asking for volunteers to teach Sunday School and we pray that volunteers will do what they do best – VOLUNTEER! Contact Christine Roberts, Parish Education Director, at 402-980-7087, if you are moved to join the Sunday School Staff.

We also have job openings for Trustees (the guys who take care of the building and grounds), for Evangelism, for Stewardship, for another Elder, and for a crew of people to be on call (so to speak ) to help set up and tear down events (Harvest Dinner, funeral luncheons, pastor conferences, special activities). A crew of 10 volunteers would make the work lighter for all of us. As a side note, are you aware that the funeral committee must set up chairs and tables, set the tables, prepare the food, and return the chairs and tables after cleaning up after the guests. The funeral committee is a group of ladies who are all grandmas! They could sure use the help. Divine Shepherd only has 2 or 3 funerals a year. A work crew would not be a demanding job, maybe a couple of hours 4 or 5 times a year.

So, 2025 is the year of the VOLUNTEER at Divine Shepherd. Join the team, learn what goes on behind the scenes, make new friends, and have some fun all at the same time.

Rick Rathert  
Congregation President



# JULY BIRTHDAYS

<b>5th</b>	<b>Logan Brunmaier Kim Geidel</b>
<b>6th</b>	<b>Andy Eisenbraun Jenny Eliason</b>
<b>7th</b>	<b>Jackson Geidel Randy Wombold</b>
<b>8th</b>	<b>Bailie Lapcinski Dusty LeFebre David Peck</b>
<b>11th</b>	<b>Pastor Al Sutton</b>
<b>12th</b>	<b>Lloyd Jung</b>
<b>13th</b>	<b>Shane Geidel</b>
<b>15th</b>	<b>Ayden Anderson</b>
<b>16th</b>	<b>Kaitlyn Portlock</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>Audrey Scott</b>

<b>19th</b>	<b>Tyler Ringwald</b>
<b>20th</b>	<b>Lou Schroeder</b>
<b>21st</b>	<b>Susan Burgee</b>
<b>23rd</b>	<b>Dick Rolfsmeier</b>
<b>24th</b>	<b>Sara Delaney Austin Geidel</b>
<b>26th</b>	<b>Dean Johnson</b>
<b>29th</b>	<b>Theron Dobbs Hailey McCune</b>
<b>30th</b>	<b>Jerry Swane</b>

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

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1st	Linda Kramer
2nd	Mason Geigle
5th	Diane Falin Pastor Dennis Mercer
8th	Linda Eisenbraun
9th	Jessica Grant
10th	Dawn Wombold
12th	Jeff Falin
14th	Nancy Laber Denny Mather
15th	Bruce Swan
16th	Karen Pistora Valerie Thompson
19th	Amber Horsley
20th	Steve Ristau
21st	Macy Koepp Elizabeth Sutton

22nd	Brooks Buhler Dan Lawrence
23rd	Chris Brandt
25th	Rob Phillips
26th	Hannah Reiprich
29th	John Harmon Hayden Kaleda
30th	Dennis Beckham Jim Delaney

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

# JULY ANNIVERSARIES

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<b>1st</b>	<b>Doug &amp; Cheryl Brandt Cliff &amp; Monica Leins</b>
<b>5th</b>	<b>Ethan &amp; Abbie Maas</b>
<b>11th</b>	<b>Jaden &amp; Megan Mitzel</b>
<b>13th</b>	<b>Matthew &amp; Marlene Kullbom</b>
<b>14th</b>	<b>Eric &amp; Connie Hedeem</b>
<b>16th</b>	<b>Wayne &amp; Lori Marks</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>Pastor Dennis &amp; Joni Mercer</b>
<b>18th</b>	<b>Pastor Al &amp; Sarah Sutton</b>
<b>20th</b>	<b>David &amp; Karen Bartling</b>
<b>25th</b>	<b>Justin &amp; Ashley Buhler</b>
<b>27th</b>	<b>Jordan &amp; Jenna Burbach</b>
<b>28th</b>	<b>Steve &amp; Dawn Ristau Gary &amp; Marilyn Suckut</b>
<b>30th</b>	<b>Andy &amp; Linda Eisenbraun</b>

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



# AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

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<b>6th</b>	<b>Rob &amp; Colleen Phillips</b>
<b>12th</b>	<b>Dick &amp; JoAnn Rolfsmeier</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>Kevin &amp; Connie Burg</b>
<b>19th</b>	<b>Dean &amp; Rebecca Johnson</b>
<b>20th</b>	<b>Dale &amp; Jolene Schmidt</b>
<b>21st</b>	<b>Ron &amp; Judy Uecker</b>
<b>24th</b>	<b>Jay &amp; Cindy Fredrich</b>
<b>28th</b>	<b>Jim &amp; Sara Delaney Lyle &amp; Marilyn Larson</b>
<b>29th</b>	<b>Randy &amp; Linda Kramer</b>
<b>30th</b>	<b>Earl &amp; Janell McKinstry</b>
<b>31st</b>	<b>Rick &amp; Connie Rathert</b>



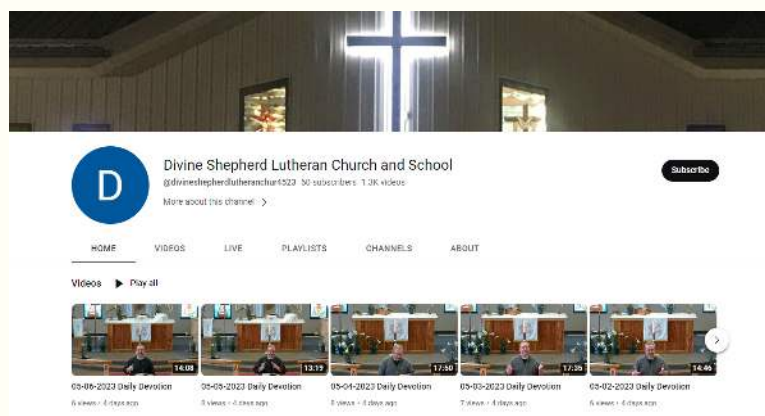
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# Important Church Information

Announcements can be sent to the office manager 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 on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube.



Office Hours: **Monday-Friday 8:00 am-2:30 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.

# We Are Hiring

Custodian

## CHURCH CUSTODIAN NEEDED!

- \$1000 per month
- Training available
- Flexible Hours

Contact the church office for more details if interested.

605-787-6438

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

# JULY & AUGUST EVENTS

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## JULY

1st	Call Committee Meeting 6:00 pm
4th	<b>Office Closed</b> Independence Day
7th	Elders Meeting 6:00 pm
8th	Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm
12th	Rusty Restorations 7:30 am
16th & 19th	Volunteer for Food Pantry 9am-12pm
20th	Makia Adler, LCMS Belize Missionary Presentation 10:30 am
25th-26th	Sanctuary Reserved for Main Street Living Taping

## AUGUST

4th	Elders Meeting 6:00 pm
9th	Rusty Restorations 7:30 am LWML 9:00 am
23rd	Rusty Restorations 7:30 am
31st	Sanctuary Reserved