



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church and School Newsletter

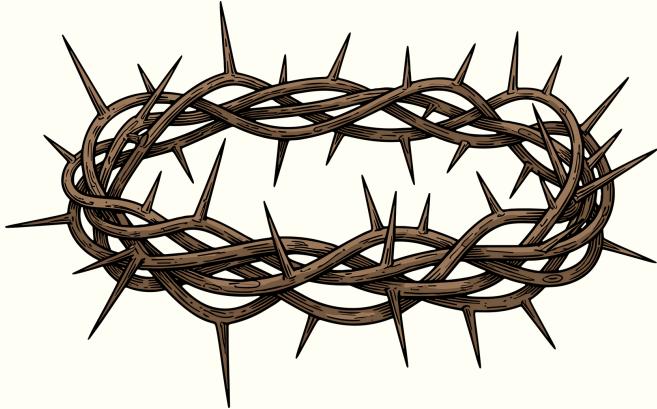
February 2026

Dear Baptized saints of Divine Shepherd,

We are now rapidly approaching the season of Lent. This is the time of the Church that is historically a time to reflect upon baptism, a time for rebirth and renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter. It is a time for the discipline of learning and growing in faith, for repentance and for prayer, even for fasting to practice self-control and to heighten one's awareness of Christ.

Lent originated as a season in preparation for Holy Baptism, especially for those who had "fallen away" from the confession and faith of their Baptism. In the early church, Baptisms were held during the season of Epiphany, but later on, this developed into Baptism during Easter, as it would be more closely associated with the Cross of Christ. This ties in nicely with the Church's current observance of the season of Lent leading up to the time of Easter.

Lent is a great time for you and I to examine ourselves, as this month we once again mark the beginning of this season with Ash Wednesday. Through the Imposition of Ashes, we are reminded once again of our sin, of how we cannot help ourselves, and we face death as a result of sin. But it is through this that you and I are turned to the hope and promise that we have in Christ Jesus for the forgiveness of sins.



I would invite you to attend the Midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays at 6:30 as we examine the theme "For Us." Come to Sunday services regularly and be at Bible study and in God's Word. I heard another Lutheran pastor recently say "when we read God's Word it really does change us. Even when we read a little bit each day." This speaks to the power of God's Word that does affect us and does change us, and keeps us in the one true faith until the day we go to be with Him or until our Lord returns.

More than "giving something up for Lent," I would challenge you to be in God's Word throughout these 40 days of Lent. To examine yourself in light of God's Word. To most importantly see the hope and promise you have as a result of what He accomplished for you on the Cross of Calvary over 2,000 years ago and delivered to you in the waters of your Baptism!

**A blessed Lententide to all,
Pastor Mercer**

DIVINE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Weeks Sixteen Through Nineteen

I can't believe it's January already. My maternity leave flew by. I am so grateful for Melissa Sutton's help in taking over while I was gone. The students enjoyed having her, and she did so many wonderful things with them. Praise God for that answered prayer.



Week 16

K/1st grade learned about 3rd /4th continued work in Farmer Boy, memorizing the books of the Old Testament, and working on math problems involving long division and reducing fractions. K is learning to read a clock, and 1st grade is subtracting while borrowing as well as subtracting three-digit numbers.

as well as subtracting three-digit numbers. They have been reading books such as Christmas in the Big Woods and Billy and Blaze. K continues to practice their word sounds and have been reading longer books. We ended the week with a field trip to Custer State Park, where we hiked around Legion Lake. It was bitterly cold with the wind, so we ate our lunch in the van. The students were amazed at all the big, strong trees knocked down in the windstorm.



Week 17

No field trip due to canceled school. 3rd/4th prepared for a quiz on the Middle Atlantic States, which included memorizing the state abbreviation and the capital city. The read-aloud for the week was Norman the Doorman. A mouse lived in an art museum and, after hours, showed other mice the exhibits. We hope to make our own sculptures soon using random items the students found around their house. Students have been reading from the Old Testament about Ruth and Hannah, as well as Jacob and Laban.

DIVINE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Week 18

The 3rd/4th grade started learning about ungulates (deer, camels, and pigs). In history, I read to them a book about Thomas Jefferson, and we added the signing of the Declaration of Independence to our timeline. No field trip due to having Monday off. K/1st grade built their own snowflakes out of marshmallows and toothpicks after reading a book about Wilson Bentley, the first person to photograph snowflakes.



Week 19 The students were taught to sew using a sewing machine. The quilting ladies came and helped them make pillowcases for themselves as well as for the reservation. We also visited the Dahl Art Center to view their current exhibits. We celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week by having spirit days (pj day, sports day, inside out day, and favorite color day) as well as Pizza with Pastor. The theme was Psalm 98. I am hoping to start 3rd/4th grade on The Moffats soon, and we have continued the Greek Mythology unit. K/1st read Pickle-Chiffon Pie by Jolly Roger Bradfield, which is about a royal family.



A circular graphic is centered over a background of a stained glass window. The window features a variety of colors including red, blue, green, and yellow, arranged in a wavy, organic pattern. The circular graphic is a light gray color and contains the text for the event.

**Rusty Restorations
Men's Bible Study
*Every 2nd & 4th Saturday***

Join us for a hearty breakfast at **7:30 am.**

Bible study will follow at **8:00 am-9:00 am**
focusing on the book of Timothy led by
Pastor Dennis!

**All Men of the Congregation are
Invited!**



JOIN THE ADULT CHOIR!

The Adult Choir is looking for more singing voices to join in serving our congregation through music! Please, please consider this opportunity to praise our Lord and have some fun!

***We rehearse Thursday evenings
6:30-7:30.***

***You can contact Joni Mercer at
410-299-6292 for more information.***

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church & School
Early Childhood Center
Invites you to our 5th Annual
For the Kids Legacy Banquet



Saturday
February 28, 2026
5:00 pm
to
8:00 pm

Location: Angel's Catering and Receptions

12340 Jenter Rd Summerset, SD 57718

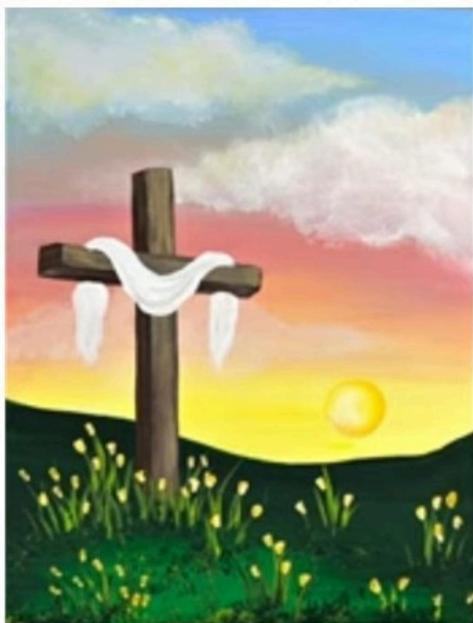
Located behind Summerset Hotel and Suites

**Join us for a Fun Filled Evening of Entertainment
Including Dinner, Silent Auction, Live Auction,
Music, Speaker, Fellowship and Childcare.**

To Purchase Tickets (\$50.00 each) or for more information

Call Katie A. 605-791-1131

To sign up for Childcare Contact Katie A. 605-791-1131



**Please join us for the DSLC Youth Group's
Paint, Sip and Snack Event!**

March 15th - after Bible Study/Sunday School

Children (10 and older) Welcome with Supervising Adult

\$30/person or \$25 early bird (by March 1st)

Includes:

Paint and Supplies

Dirty Soda Bar and Light Snacks

Limited Seats Available —Sign Up Now!!

**Sign up sheet on DSLC Bulletin Board
or text 605-209-5108**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd	Lincoln Andelt Steve Curlee Colton Hedeen Carol Jung Tanner Sumption
3rd	Ashley Brunmaier Joseph Hoffman
4th	Jackie Baker Lori Oerlline
5th	Beth Audette
7th	Colter Lapcinski
8th	Holden Burg Tessa Halvorson Jayce Marks Randy Mosel
9th	Gary Vermundson
10th	Knox Mitzel
15th	Laura Felkey Jillian Mayer

16th	Athan Dobbs Cassondra Miller Shirley Sweezy
17th	Titus Wempen
18th	Ron Johnson Trace Koepp Dana Reiprich Aaron Sutton Reagan Brunmaier
21st	Ivan Burandt
22nd	Brynlee Delaney Reagan Spence
23rd	Mike Burgee Pete Eliason Carson Phillips Huxley Radensleben
24th	David Hanson Earl McKinstry
25th	Esmae Brandt Ruth Roling
27th	Rick Rathert Ron Uecker
28th	Mark Bollinger

*Is your birthday or anniversary not listed? Please let the Katie B. know and she will add it to the list!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2nd	Karen Bartling Jesse Roberts
4th	Rhianna Penwell
5th	Brodie Eisenbraun
8th	Sarah Foy Bev Johnson
9th	Ruth Sperlich
10th	Trent Jensen
14th	Rachel McLane
15th	Gordon Quam Kristin Cripps
17th	Ray Reynolds Danni Reher
19th	Abby Dathe
20th	Herman Wahl

21st	Hannah Anderson
24th	Carl Petersen
25th	Garrett Burg
26th	Vickie Phillips
27th	Titus Sutton
28th	Donna Urbanec
29th	Ethan Hedeen Marilyn Suckut Brayden Swane
30th	Jade Johnston Bruce Zavesky
31st	Savannah Oerlline

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FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

12th	Walt & Mary Ricker
14th	Davis & Abby Dathe Troy & Jennifer Seeman
15th	Mike & Dana Reiprich
22nd	Andrew & Josie Wagner
24th	AJ & Abby Kelly
29th	Eric & Lalenia Seifert Bill & Valerie Thompson

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Katie B. know and she will add it to the list!



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

1st	John & Faun Harmon
5th	Ron & Bev Johnson
9th	Darrel & Jackie Baker
10th	Gordon & Leota Quam

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Katie B. know and she will add it to the list!



Important Church Information

Announcements can be sent to the office manager by noon every Thursday. Please email her at dslcsecretary@divineshep.org or call **605-787-6438**.

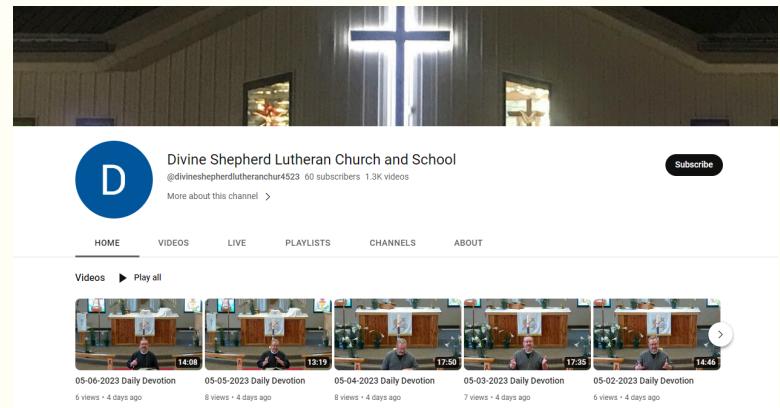
Any information about church events and services can be found in the announcements that are handed out at each service as well as on our website: divineshep.org.

Sunday services are livestreamed. You can find current and past services on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube.



 **Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church and School**
592 likes • 720 followers

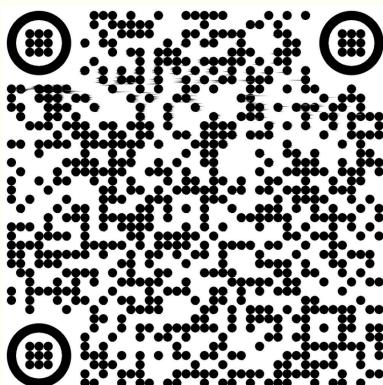
[Posts](#) [About](#) [Mentions](#) [Followers](#) [Photos](#) [Videos](#) [More ▾](#)

A screenshot of the YouTube channel page for Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church and School. The channel has 60 subscribers and 1.3K videos. It features a thumbnail of a church interior with a large cross. Below the channel info are links for HOME, VIDEOS, LIVE, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, and ABOUT. A grid of five video thumbnails shows recent daily devotionals, each with a timestamp and view count.

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

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

Church Email: dslcsecretary@divineshep.org



Give today! Use this QR code or go to divineshep.org and click "Give Now" to start Online Giving.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

FEBRUARY

1st	Congregation Call Meeting 1:30 pm
2nd	Elders Meeting 6:00 pm
10th	Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm
14th	Rusty restorations 7:30 am LWML 9:00 am
17th	Adult Catechism Class 6:30 pm
18th	Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm
24th	Worship Schedule Meeting 11:30 am
25th	Midweek Lent Service 6:30 pm
28th	Annual Divine Shepherd Lutheran Schools Legacy Banquet 5:00 pm-8:00 pm at Angel's Catering and Reception

MARCH EVENTS

MARCH

2nd	Elders Meeting 6:00 pm
4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	Midweek Lent Services 6:30 pm
10th	Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm
14th	Rusty restorations 7:30 am LWML 9:00 am
15th	Youth Group Paint, Sip, and Snack Event 11:30 am
28th	Annual Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am