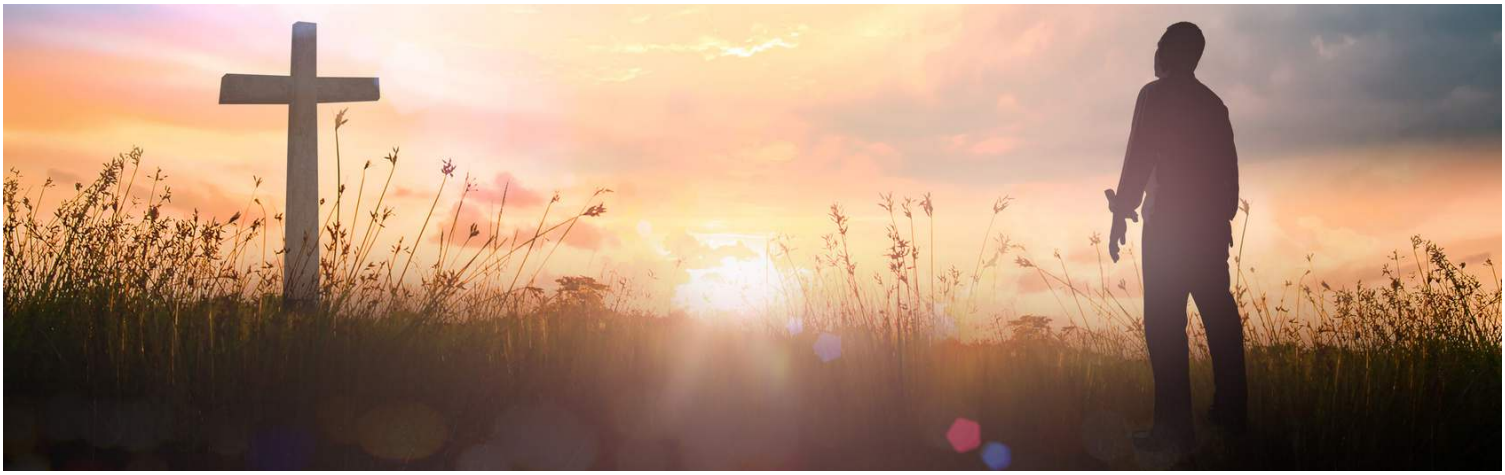
Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church & School Newsletter

October 2026



Dear Saints of Divine Shepherd,

The Lord knows what you need, even before you ask. Why are you worried about what you will eat or drink or what you will put on? For the most part, you aren't worried about whether or not you will eat or drink or wear clothes. You don't lose sleep, fretting that you will die of starvation or exposure. But, you have been worried that you'll eat something you don't really like or wear clothes that aren't your favorite. Our houses are full. Our schedules are packed. Some of you are already stressed out about the holiday season, which brings out the irony that holiday comes from “holy day.” If anything, we have too much.

Do not be anxious about what you will eat or drink or wear. Instead, look at and learn from the simple birds and lilies. The Lord feeds and clothes and cares for them. If Jesus says that He loves the birds and lilies and that He loves you more, that doesn't sound like much. What husband says to his wife, “Honey, I love you more than I love sparrows and dandelions?” He's supposed to love his wife more than sparrows and dandelions.

Yet, the Lord does love the sparrows and dandelions The sparrows thrive, because God loves and cares for them. The dandelions flourish because God loves and cares for them. Most of you do not try to feed the sparrows. You've never weeded around a dandelion so that it has an easier life.

Jesus takes care of them. They're important to Him.

And of how much more importance are you? The sparrows do not get a grand variety of food for each meal, but you do. The dandelions do not have closets packed with options to wear, but you do. The Lord did not become a sparrow, nor dandelion.

He became man. He is bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh. He entered this world to save you. The sparrows do not sing, “God's own child I gladly say it, I am baptized into Christ.” The dandelions do not cry out, “You were crucified for us and were laid into a tomb.” The birds and lilies are not told, “Friend, move up higher.” You are. You're important. You matter to Him, dearly.

None of this means your days will be easy or that you'll get the things you want or that you'll never have diabetes or cancer or someone run a stoplight and hit the drivers side of your car. He doesn't promise an easy marriage, healthy children, a job you like, or retirement once you've saved enough money. He doesn't promise happiness. In fact, Jesus does promise that each day has trouble. It could be that if you have an easy day, you might not have done anything worthwhile. You, O Christian, are expected to take up your splintery rough-hewn cross, to deny yourself, to call others in transgression to repent, to be reviled and persecuted and slandered for Jesus' sake. The way of the Christian life is not easy. It has trouble.

It also has tremendous joy—joy in things that matter for this life and for eternity.

For all this, focus on the things of Jesus. The Lord has your eternity in mind. He died and lives and your sins are forgiven.

Don't sweat the smaller stuff. Live the Christian life to which you have been called. You are Jesus' treasure and His heart is with you. Read His Word. Pray the Psalms. Come to Bible study and worship every week and never miss. Confess the truth of Scripture in your week. Focus on the things that matter for eternal life. Teach you children the faith, for they are the only treasure you can take with you. You are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and the troubles of this life are coming to an end. Jesus lives, and you live with Him.

In Jesus' name, Amen.
Pastor Schewe

DSLC Congregation President

From the Congregation President to All Members of DSLC & S.

As I look ahead to 2027 there are changes coming that the congregation members need to be aware of because the success of these changes is dependent upon the direct involvement by the members.

First, I will soon be in the process of developing a financial budget for the congregation. This is a lengthy task, because as our membership has grown, so has our staff, and so has our financial commitment to them, and to our missions and ministries that have been supported in the past. The preliminary budget will be available to be reviewed by congregation members in November. The final budget will be voted on at the Congregation Voter's meeting in January 2027.

Second, an amendment to the Constitution of the LCMS will be presented to the congregation for consideration. All LCMS congregations are being asked to consider and vote on the amendment by March 2027.

Third, new officers of the congregation will be elected. Those officer positions will be vacant as of January 30th, 2027.

President of the Congregation.
Treasurer of the Congregation.
Secretary of the Congregation.

This is the executive committee of the Congregation and Church Council. Each officer serves a 3-year term. A job description for each office is in the By-Laws of Divine Shepherd. A copy of the By-Laws is available from the church office.

This is the most important business for Divine Shepherd in the coming months, because if there are no officers elected, there is no other business conducted, from paying bills, paying staff salaries and benefits, to supporting missions and ministries.

DSLC Congregation President

Please prayerfully consider serving in a Lay Leadership position at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in 2027. More information about the officer's positions can be obtained from the current officers. They are President Rick Rathert (605-431-0190); Treasurer Kathy Swan (605-685-5380); and Secretary Cindy Fredrich (605-280-2617).

I must emphasize that these officers are unable to serve another term, so new officers must be nominated and elected. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

In His Service,
Rick Rathert

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Classical Academy

Weeks One to Four

Can you believe we have started our third year of the Academy? We have seven students this year: two second graders, three fourth graders, and a fifth and sixth grader. I find it a little strange that I don't have any K or 1st graders this year. We have fun field trips planned because our 4th-grade students can visit the National Parks for free. Everyone is welcome to join us, and I am always looking for new places to visit. I have planned more in-depth art projects this year, so look for those as they complete them.

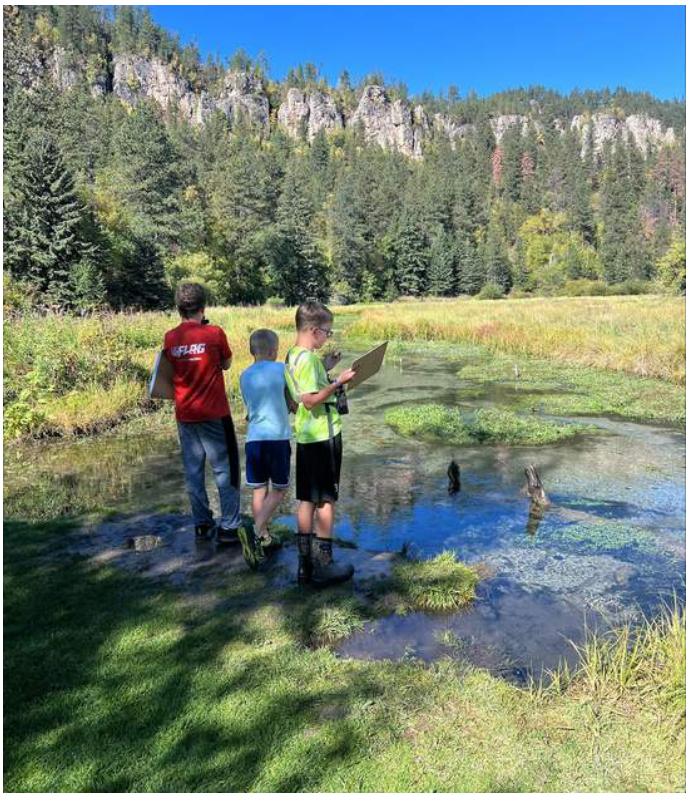
Week 1: We have many exciting and interesting things planned for this school year. 2nd will read Little House in the Big Woods, continue with cursive, and memorize Bible verses. 4-6th grade will learn astronomy, continue their Greek Myths, and read books such as Winnie the Pooh and the Dangerous Journey.

Week 2 : I took the students to Roughlock Falls on a bird-watching adventure. We had hoped to see a few of the native Black Hills birds. We quickly realized there were way too many people and vehicle noise to effectively see any. They did happen to see some Turkey Vultures flying above. We hiked about three miles and had a picnic lunch.

Look at the bulletin board at the native birds the students drew this week. We have some pretty good artists! Since each student is working on math skills unique to their current needs, I can't specifically say what each grade is working on. However, if you walk into the class at 9 AM every morning , you might see some memorizing multiplication , learning fractions, or finding the mean of a set of numbers. Some will be working on order of operations , probability, and logic puzzles.

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Classical Academy

Week 3: Please check out the bulletin board to see what we've been learning. 2nd learned about the water cycle and different ways to travel. Check out the states they have been to and ask them about their trips. 4th- 6th have been memorizing 15 constellations and reviewing the New England, Middle Atlantic, Great Lakes, and Southwestern states they learned last year. I wonder which constellation is their favorite? We visited Sioux Park to check out Rapid Creek. Students observed the area around the creek, identifying animals, what direction the creek flows, etc. The creek was flowing pretty fast with all the recent rain.



Week 4: No field trip this week. 2nd graders have started learning Latin and have learned Latin consonant sounds as well as the vowel sounds. Each lesson has five vocabulary words and grammar lessons that tie into their English grammar lessons. They have also reviewed consonant teams and blends in their spelling words. 4-6th finished Ben and Me, a book about a mouse who lives in Benjamin Franklin's hat. Their Greek for the last four weeks has revolved around centaurs, Asclepius (sound familiar?), the Nine Muses, and Orpheus.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

FOOD DRIVE

HELP US FEED LOCAL FAMILIES

Sign up on the bulletin board!

TRAINING AVAILABLE!

WHAT TASKS DO YOU DO?

- **PASS OUT FOOD**
- **PACK FOOD BAGS**

VERY SIMPLE AND SO HELPFUL!

Wednesdays and Saturdays 9am-12pm

Upcoming Volunteer Dates:

October 3rd, November 18th, November 21st

The Food Pantry has been an important part of the Black Hawk and Piedmont area residents for many years. Families in need are given the hope of getting a hand up to make ends meet in their homes. There are 7 churches in this area that provide volunteers to work in the pantry, to keep it organized and put together bags of groceries, toiletries and kids bags to have ready for each day the food pantry is open.

We are one of the 7 churches between Black Hawk and Piedmont that are called to support this mission.

My message today is to stress that we at Divine Shepherd need more volunteers to work at the pantry (a Wednesday and/or Saturday from 9am to noon every 7 weeks). The need for help is there but we pray that we can involve more volunteers! Please consider this and ask me or Katie in the office to get more information on how to help!

-Kathy Roling

Black Hills Circuit Reformation Service

Sunday, October 25th
4:00 pm

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church & School
7308 Wedgewood Drive
Black Hawk, SD 57718

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church & School

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 31st

5:00 pm-6:30 pm

7308 Wedgewood Drive, Black Hawk, SD 57718

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Classical Academy

Veterans Day Luncheon

November 11th 11:00 am

Veterans and their families and friends are welcome to join the Divine Shepherd Academy for a Veterans Day Luncheon!

Please come enjoy a meal and share your experiences with the students. Please bring in memorabilia!

RSVP to the church office by November 3rd
dslcsecretary@divineshep.org
605-787-6438

October Birthdays

1st	Karley Halvorson Colleen Phillips
4th	Sabre Anderson Winston Severson Ruth Towey
5th	Wally Leipold
6th	Mike Reiprich Kevin Eisenbraun Nicole Towey
8th	Dawn Ristau Betty Warrick
9th	Jennifer Tafolla Lisa Kusiek
10th	Alan Aker
12th	Andrew Schulz
13th	Marshall Norman Callie Norman
15th	Bretton Hill
16th	Faun Harmon Maria Kitchens Alec Towey
18th	Becky Portlock
19th	Scot Dobbs Kayla Stearns
22nd	Willa Block Scott Gahm
25th	Hannah Aker Emily Peck Justin Smith Joe Miller Aimee Haskins
26th	Hudson Burbach
27th	Elizabeth Dathe
28th	Alexis Portlock
29th	Tami Gahm Jaden Weber
31st	Mavrik Lapcinski Kelle Kirschenmann

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

1st	Jacob Rohrbauck
2nd	Mahrie Butler Gary Price Jakob Thunen
3rd	Carter Ringwald Leocadia Reher Mikayla Kullbom
5th	Norah Severson James Hanson
8th	Melissa Peck
9th	Connie Burg Liam Weber Kimberly Johnson
10th	Ashleigh Wenzel
11th	Dean Halvorson
12th	Elodie Reher Kristen Yates
13th	Travis Karr
14th	Kirby Phillips
16th	Adelaide Reher Melissa Seifert

November Birthdays

18th	Kirk Larson
20th	Kyra Ringwald
22nd	Doug Petersen Judy Uecker
25th	Jodi Lawrence
27th	Stephen Elliott
28th	Jennifer Koepp Susie Venohr
29th	Brad Halvorson
30th	Samantha Dobbs Kathy Swan

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

October Anniversaries

3rd	**Jimmy & Kassidy Prince**
6th	**Larry & Lillian Halvorson**
14th	**Randy & Gail Greenwaldt**
18th	**Rob & Kristen Yates**
25th	**David & Kellie Hanson**
26th	**Ray & Ruth Reynolds**

November Anniversaries

9th	**Herman & Darlene Wahl**
26th	**Ivan & Sharon Burandt**
28th	**Richard & Mary Bradeen** **Jeremy & Melissa Seifert**
29th	**Thomas & Danni Reher**
30th	**Dale & Mary Heidelberger**

October Schedule

October 4th	Back to two services 8:00 am & 10:30 am
October 5th	Elders Meeting 6:00 pm
October 10th	Rusty Restorations 7:30 am LWML 9:30 am
October 15th	School Board Meeting 6:00 pm
October 24th	Rusty Restorations 7:30 am LWML Recruit Event 10:00 am
October 25th	Black Hills Circuit Reformation Service @ DSLC 4:00 pm
October 31st	Trunk or Treat 5:00 pm-6:30 pm

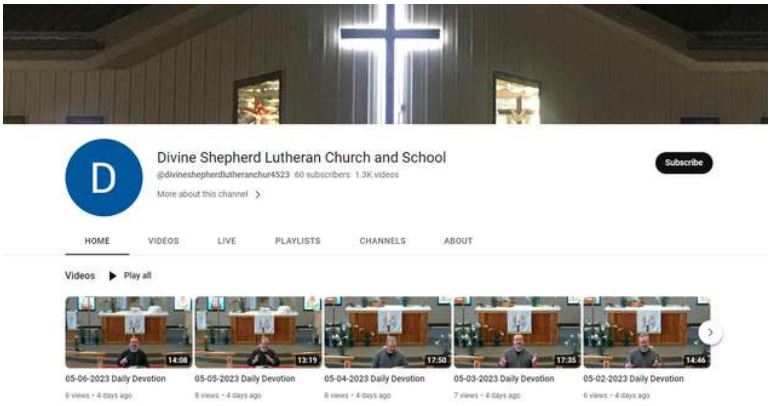
The Church Admin will be out of the office October 2nd.

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.



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. Apple Pay is now available.

Black Hills LCMS Circuit Events

COME TO THE
Hay Ride

Saturday October 3rd, 2024
Schlecht Home @ 3pm.

Visit the barn, take a cart ride, and bring a pumpkin for "pumpkin football". Hayride through the countryside is followed by chili, cowboy music.
Remember warm clothes.
Hay Racks leave at 4:00pm.

Please call (605) 206-0252 or 347-7817 if you have any questions. For directions, (see map on reverse side).

All ages welcome. Hope to see you there!
Rain Out date 10 October same place same time.
Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church

YA'LL COME JOIN ME FOR

BOOTS & BLESSINGS

Tickets $40

A Banquet Benefitting Zion Lutheran School

13 NOVEMBER | 6:00PM

Zion LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

For more information or to purchase tickets at 605-342-5749