

# HEARTBEAT

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

dsomaha.org (402) 895-1500

Love God | Share Jesus | Serve People

## *For the Week of December 11, 2022*

### **DECEMBER MINISTRY OF THE MONTH**

Our ministry of the month for December is Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE) in Seward, NE. Concordia is a Christ-centered private institution of higher learning affiliated with our church body, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). CUNE seeks to help students strengthen their own Christian identity and gain the practical experience they need to successfully learn, serve and lead in the church and world. A special offering will be taken at all services this weekend to support the Concordia Fund, which provides scholarships for students. You can also give online on Divine Shepherd's website, dsomaha.org, by designating a gift to the Ministry of the Month. Joining us this weekend as our preacher in worship is the Rev. Russ Sommerfeld, assistant to the president for church engagement at CUNE. In 2015, he completed 12 years as president of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and later served as interim president of CUNE.

### **DIVINE CALL OF NEW SENIOR PASTOR ON AGENDA OF ASSEMBLY MEETING DEC. 18, 12:30PM**

The in-person visits of the senior pastoral call candidates, Pastor Jeff Skopak and Pastor Brent Smith, have been completed. A recommendation will be made at the Congregational Assembly on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 12:30pm in the Sanctuary. Please come to hear the recommendation from the call committee and vote to call your next senior pastor of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church. Yours in Christ, Jason Snell, Call Committee Chair.

The Mother's Room will be open and available for use with the meeting being streamed on the TV. The Nursery will be staffed and available for children 6 months old through 3 years old.

The meeting also will include elections of officers and approval of the 2023 operating budgets for Divine Shepherd and Little Lamb Preschool &

Childcare. The slate for the election is on page two of the Heartbeat.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL**

The kids of Divine Shepherd will be presenting the Christmas Musical called "Straight Outta Bethlehem" on Sunday, December 18 at 10:45am. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to invite our unchurched friends and family to church. Everyone will enjoy the music, the acting, and most importantly, the Gospel message will be shared by our children. We hope you can join us for this very special event!

### **MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES**

In our Advent series, "Be Born in Us Today", we are reminded that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives. Our third and final Midweek service will be Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30pm. The theme: Bringing Guidance.

### **MIDWEEK SCHEDULE DURING ADVENT**

5:15 - 6:05pm Midweek Meal

6:15 - 7:15pm Midweek Classes

7:30pm - Advent Service

*No Midweek opening Assembly in the Sanctuary*

### **CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS CAROLERS**

Please join in combining our voices on Sunday, December 11 from 3pm to 5pm as we sing to our Divine Shepherd shut-ins. We will meet in the church parking lot at 2:45pm and carpool to our destinations from there. All ages are welcome so bring the entire family and/or friends and make this a Christmas tradition! Dress for the weather, as we are outdoors as we sing. We will only cancel for ice or measurable snow. If you have questions, please contact Melanie Doeschot (402) 210-5083. What a great way to celebrate Jesus' birth, by lifting our voices and singing praises to Him!

## **POINSETTIAS**

Help us beautify our church for Christmas by ordering a poinsettia for \$15 in the Atrium. This is your last weekend to order as they are due on December 11. Please return your form to the church office, place in the offering plate or in the basket in the Atrium. You can also pay for the flowers online at [dsomaha.org/give](http://dsomaha.org/give).

## **NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER**

The January – March 2023 “Portals of Prayer” daily devotional booklets are now available. Pick one up on your way out of worship today!

## **MIDWEEK MEALS**

Connect for fellowship and a fresh-cooked meal in the gym served from 5:15pm to 6:05pm on Wednesdays before Midweek classes. Meals cost \$5 for adults and are free for kids 10 and under. You do not need to sign up in advance for the meal. December 14 Menu: Taco night. Kids: hotdog, chips, mac & cheese. This is our last meal of the semester. We will resume on January 11.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Keys? Stuffed animals? Glasses? Purses? Blankets? Come and gather what's lost so it can be found. A table in the atrium near the exit will have these lost belongings this weekend. The remaining items will be donated or thrown away.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar flowers are given by the Gierke family in memory of Charles Gierke and in celebration of Joyce's birthday.

## **ELECTION SLATE**

### **2023 Officers**

President– Dan Dittman (1st officer term)  
Vice President– Stuart Bartruff (1st officer term)  
Head Elder– Ken Mar (3rd officer term ends 12-31-23)  
Treasurer– Blake Warneke (1st officer term)  
Secretary– Barb Meier (3rd officer term ends 12-31-24)

### **2023 Board of Directors**

#### **For election to a two-year term**

Dan Dittman (2nd term)  
Barb Meier (3rd term)  
Jessica Thurman (4th term)  
Jeff Ray (1st term)

## **Remaining term Directors**

Stuart Bartruff  
Blake Warneke  
Brad Kingsbury  
Gina Williams  
Ken Mar

### **2023 Board of Elders**

#### **For election to a two-year term**

Tim Vandenberghe (3rd term)  
Doug Berry (4th term)  
Alan Eschmann (3rd term)  
John Brandquist (2nd term)  
Jerrod Stinnett (1st term)  
Brett Ramsey (1st term)

## **Remaining term Elders**

Dave Wacker  
Spencer Volzke  
Jason Snell  
Andy Holdt  
Tim Nordquist  
Ken Mar

### **Nominating Committee**

Per the bylaws, the Nominating Committee (appointed by the President) shall include 2 BoD members, 2 BoE members and 2 at-large members.

### **Committee members**

Dan Dittman (BoD)  
Gina Williams (BoD)  
Ken Mar (BoE)  
Jason Snell (BoE)  
Kevin Lammers (at-large)  
John Hill (at-large)

## **GIFT OF STOCK DONATIONS 2022**

Federal tax laws allow a charitable deduction through stock transfers. Please keep in mind the stock must first be transferred to Divine Shepherd via the congregation's brokerage firm before being liquidated. This process can take up to two weeks before it arrives in the church account. If you are planning to make a donation for 2022 via a gift of stock please contact Jennie Smith, Director of Finance and Operations at 402-895-1500 or email [jennie@dsomaha.org](mailto:jennie@dsomaha.org).

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING RECAP 11-29-22**

- Board(s)/Officer Nominations--The BoD approved the Board of Directors slate, Board of Elders slate and Officer slate as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The slates will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on December 18 for approval.
- The BoD approved the 2023 Housing Allowances for the called staff. The IRS regulations require approval by the employer.
- The BoD voted to recommend approval of the 2023 budgets for DSLC and LLPC. Both budgets will be submitted at the Congregational Meeting for approval.
- The BoD approved (ratification) the amended Sage Capital purchase agreement. The amended agreement was originally approved by the BoD via email.
- The BoD approved the full payoff of the First Westroads Bank loan from the Giles Property sale proceeds, and from utilization of the Seeds of Hope/previous campaign account balances. At this point in time, the sale of the property is expected to be consummated in December.
- Pastor Rasmussen provided a Director of Ministry report and Jennie Smith provided a Director of Finance and Operations report.
- The Key Performance Indicators were reviewed. The combined net operating income remains well ahead of budget.
- Directors serving on the Senior Pastor Call Committee provided an update.  
Praise the Lord for our Blessings!  
Stuart Bartruff, Congregational President

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDIES**

Please see the website, [dsomaha.org](http://dsomaha.org), and calendar for our Adult Bible Study offerings.

## **E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP AVAILABLE AT DSOMAHA.ORG**

## **CHURCH STAFF**

### **Rev. Jim Rasmussen**

[jim@dsomaha.org](mailto:jim@dsomaha.org)

Associate Pastor/Director of Discipleship

### **Rev. Doug Morton**

[doug@dsomaha.org](mailto:doug@dsomaha.org)

Pastoral Care Assistant

### **Jennie Smith**

[jennie@dsomaha.org](mailto:jennie@dsomaha.org)

Director of Finance and Operations

### **Trish Reinbold**

[trish@dsomaha](mailto:trish@dsomaha)

Director of Children's Ministry

### **Spencer Owen**

[spencer@dsomaha.org](mailto:spencer@dsomaha.org)

Director of Youth Ministry

### **Jenny Darr**

[jennydarr@dsomaha.org](mailto:jennydarr@dsomaha.org)

Director of Community Life

### **Misty Kudrna**

[misty@dsomaha.org](mailto:misty@dsomaha.org)

Director of Media & Technology

### **Kevin Reinbold**

[kevin@dsomaha.org](mailto:kevin@dsomaha.org)

Facilities Manager

### **Pat Boozikee**

[pat@dsomaha.org](mailto:pat@dsomaha.org)

Office Assistant

### **April Gregory**

[april@dsomaha.org](mailto:april@dsomaha.org)

Office Assistant

### **Emily Hart**

[emily@dsomaha.org](mailto:emily@dsomaha.org)

Office Coordinator

## **LITTLE LAMB LEADERSHIP**

### **Tonya Isaac**

[tonya@dsomaha.org](mailto:tonya@dsomaha.org)

Director of Little Lamb Preschool & Childcare

### **Rhonda DeVries**

[rhonda@dsomaha.org](mailto:rhonda@dsomaha.org)

Assistant Director/Registrar

# This Week's Calendar

---

## Monday, December 12

10:00am **Women's Bible Study** - "Esther" (Trinity Center)  
1:00pm **Prayer Shawl** (Shepherd's Room)

---

## Tuesday, December 13

10:00am **Adult Bible Study** "Growing Deep Into the Real Jesus," A Study of the Gospel of John (Chapel)  
1:00pm **Quilting Group** "Divine Piecers" (Chapel)

---

## Wednesday, December 14

5:15-6:05pm **Midweek Meal** (Gym)  
6:15-7:15pm **Midweek Classes**  
6:15pm **Chancel Choir Practice** (Choir Room)  
7:30pm **Advent Service** (Sanctuary)

---

## Thursday, December 15

7:30pm **Al-Anon** (Commons & Cave)

---

## Friday, December 16

6:15am **Men's Bible Study** - "Philippians" (Shepherd's Room)

---

## Saturday, December 17

9:00am **Pickleball** (Gym)  
5:00pm **Evening Praise Worship with Holy Communion** (Sanctuary)

---

## Sunday, December 18

8:00am **Traditional Worship** (Sanctuary)  
8:45-11:00am **Fellowship Time with Coffee & Donuts** (Chapel)  
9:30am **Kids Church** (Chapel)  
9:30am **Modern Worship** with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)  
9:30am **Women's Bible Study** - "Jude: Contending for the Faith in Today's Culture" (Shepherd's Room)  
10:45am **Children's Christmas Musical** (Sanctuary)  
12:30pm **Congregational Assembly** (Sanctuary)



Call the Church Office (895-1500) or e-mail [prayers@dsomaha.org](mailto:prayers@dsomaha.org) with prayer requests. Our Heartline Prayer Ministry members are notified via e-mail. In addition to our Pastors and Staff, our Elders serve as spiritual leaders for the congregation and will be happy to talk with you by phone or meet with you for prayer.

#### FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

- **Kathy Stinnett**, for healing
- **Lois Koehler**, for healing
- **Steve Jipp**, for healing
- **Bill Seim**, for healing
- **Corlyn Klug**, for recovery in rehab from an infection
- **Sherwin Terrill**, for healing
- **Gary Toelle**, for healing
- **Justin Ryman**, for relief from painful headaches
- **Kristin Jimerson**, for an upcoming procedure
- **Paula Kresl**, for healing
- **Ginny Meyer**, hospitalized after a fall
- **Karen Lundquist**, for successful upcoming eye surgery
- **Les Bockman**, Cindy Campbell's brother, for successful medical treatment
- **Judy Moore**, for recovery from surgery

#### FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY, NATION, AND WORLD

- **That hostilities would cease in Ukraine**
- **Protection for those serving in the military**, especially those deployed including Dan Lazinek, Sean Stone, Michael Hanson, Calvin Kruse, and Skyler Bergelt
- **For those who serve in government:** for wisdom, guidance, and a seeking after God
- **For Christians around the world** who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus
- **For moisture to relieve the drought**

#### FOR THE LORD'S BLESSING AND GUIDANCE

- **Prayers for our Church as we go through the senior pastor call process.** For wisdom and discernment for the Call Committee, the candidates, and the congregation, that God's will be done.
- **Little Lamb Preschool & Childcare** — thankfulness for our staff, parents & children
- **Concordia Schools of Omaha** — our partners in Christian education
- **Stephen Ministers** providing care in Jesus' name and their care receivers
- **Rebecca Bartelt**, daughter of Rev. Bartelt, preparing to serve on the mission field in Taiwan as a music educator.