



# The Shepherd

## April 2024 newsletter

Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church,  
Missouri Synod, Colorado Springs, CO

*On behalf of the Congregation, I thank Pastor Patterson for an outstanding Lent and Holy Week. His extensive research, writing, and preparation were evident in the meaningful sermons, Bible study classes, and newsletter writings. Shepherd of the Springs is grateful for and appreciative of Pastor's dedication. Thank you, Pastor Patterson. God's blessings always.*

**Larry Groggel, president, SSLC Congregation**



## **CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED!**

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

*“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He is risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay’” (St. Matthew 28:5-6).*

Why has Christianity survived throughout the centuries? It should not have! It could have been stomped out from its very beginning! It could have been completely eradicated in the first century! Yet, it was not. Not only did Christianity survive, but it thrived! What began as a small community of Jewish believers in Jesus of Nazareth grew to encompass the world.

By the end of the first century, there were Christian communities found in all parts of the known world. The spread of Christianity is a phenomenon for which no earthly answer can be found. No one can adequately explain, from an earthly point of view, how Christianity continued to grow even as it faced tremendous persecution from Jewish religious leaders and the Roman Empire. No one can explain, from an earthly point of view, why Christians would allow themselves and their children to be tortured and executed rather than to renounce their faith in Jesus, the Christ! It makes absolutely no sense to the world.

Ah, but it makes perfect sense to us! Christianity has survived and grown throughout the centuries because a man named Jesus, from Nazareth, was no ordinary Jewish man who merely persuaded people to follow Him. He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who was crucified on Friday afternoon, but rose from the grave on Sunday morning. Not only did He rise from the dead, but He appeared in His resurrected, glorified Body to His disciples, apostles, and over five hundred brothers (cf. 1 Cor. 15:5-7) to prove to them that He is the Risen Lord; that He is who He claimed to be!

So, why has Christianity survived and grown throughout the centuries to be the leading world religion right up to the present day, claiming 32% of the world's population? Because Christ Jesus rose from the dead and appeared too many; whose eyewitness testimony is recorded for us in Holy Scripture. Many people

saw the Risen Christ and, after seeing Him, they went around telling everyone who would listen, “He is risen! He is risen, indeed!”

That’s why those early Christians refused to renounce their faith in Christ and willingly went to their deaths—they knew and believed that Jesus, the Christ, rose from the dead! Some of them knew because they themselves saw Him. Others knew because they had the reliable testimony of those who had seen Him. It is ***faith*** in the Crucified and Risen Christ that accounts for the survival and growth of Christianity throughout the centuries, right up to the present day. It is ***faith*** that is worked in you by the Holy Spirit when you hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ handed down to you by the apostles of the Lord, who were eyewitnesses of His death and resurrection.

You believe, dearly beloved, in Christ Jesus, because the Holy Spirit has given you the ***faith*** to believe the testimony of the Lord’s apostles. The resurrection of Jesus, the Christ, is the foundation of true Christian faith. As St. Paul wrote, “*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins*” (1 Cor. 15:17). Yet, Jesus *did* rise from the grave and, because He did, you know that your sins have indeed been taken away.

The resurrection of Christ Jesus provides the validation that God the Father accepted the perfect sacrifice of His Son on the cross. The resurrection of Christ Jesus is the Father’s stamp of approval of the Son’s atoning work on Calvary. And, because you have that stamp of approval, you can be one hundred percent certain that all of your sins have been completely forgiven and that you, like the Lord Jesus in whom you believe, will also rise from the dead on the Last Day and come into His eternal Kingdom...again, just as He has promised!

Rejoice in this awesome Good News and tell everyone you know, “Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!”

*A Blessed Easter!*

Pastor ✝



## SAINTS WE CELEBRATE IN APRIL

### St. Mark, Evangelist—April 25

**S**t. Mark was the author of the second Gospel, which he composed, according to some Early Church Fathers, when the Christians in Rome asked him to write down the preaching of the apostle Peter. Therefore, Mark's Gospel is also sometimes known as "Peter's Gospel."

Mark, also known as John Mark, was originally from Jerusalem, where the house of his mother Mary was the center of the early Jerusalem Church (Acts 12:12). He was brought from Jerusalem by Paul and Barnabas to Antioch (Acts 12:25), and it was from this city that they set out on the first missionary journey. When Paul and Barnabas were preparing to go on the second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them again, but Paul refused because Mark had left them during the first journey. Theories abound as to why Mark left; since the Holy Scriptures are silent in this regard, it's not give for us to speculate.

Barnabas, whose name means "*son of encouragement*," was unwilling to give up on Mark, so he and Paul parted company. Barnabas took Mark with him to Cyprus, while Paul took Silas as his new companion (Acts 15:37-40). As it turns out, Barnabas was right. Later, Paul reconciled with Mark and was working with him again (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11). Finally, Mark was found laboring with Peter in Rome (1 Peter 5:13).

St. Mark's Gospel is short, but it includes many little details that are not in the other Gospels. The Gospel starts out with John the Baptist in the wilderness preaching a baptism for the repentance of sin. Mark tells us that this was in fulfillment of Malachi 3:1. This quick start reflects the nature of Mark's Gospel, which is very fast-paced...the "immediately" Gospel!



Mark's Gospel, and Mark himself, is sometimes symbolized as a winged lion. This symbolism is taken from Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4. The association may be because the Gospel starts with John the Baptist boldly preaching in the wilderness much like a roaring lion. It is also observed that lions are fearless. Mark wrote a Gospel to a church which was suffering from frequent martyrdom, in Rome; thus, Mark wrote with a fearless faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

The Egyptian church claims Mark as its founder, and, from the 4th century AD, the see of Alexandria has been called *cathedra Marci* ("the chair of Mark"). According to tradition, St. Mark died on April 25, c. 68 AD and was buried in Alexandria. In 828, relics of St. Mark were stolen from Alexandria and taken to Venice, Italy. There they are enshrined in a cathedral (Basilica di San Marco) dedicated to the saint and to this day Venice claims St. Mark as their patron saint.

**Let us pray:** *O Almighty God, as You have enriched Your Church with the precious Gospel proclaimed by the evangelist St. Mark, grant us firmly to believe Your glad tidings of salvation and daily walk according to Your Word, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.*



**Sundays    Divine Service 9:00 AM**  
**Bible Study 10:30 AM**

**Sun, Apr 7:    2nd Sunday of Easter -Quasimodo Geniti**

**Tue, Apr 9:    Circuit Meeting (@ Salida**

**Sun, Apr 14:  3rd Sunday of Easter -Misericordias Domini**

**Sat, Apr 20:  9:00AM Men of the Shepherd (LC – The Creed, Art. II)**

**Sun, Apr 21:  4th Sunday of Easter -Jubilate**

**Sun, Apr 28:  5th Sunday of Easter -Cantate**



### *April Birthdays*

*04/05*

*Dave Goforth*

*04/09*

*Ken Crafton*

*04/16*

*Mackenzie Packer (4 years old)*



## *Welcome to Jean Pena into SSLC membership*

### **From Jean.....**

Hello Congregation,  
It is so wonderful being part of the Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church! Having been a life-long Catholic, the change is spiritually reviving, and with Dr. Hine's tutelage during the confirmation process, revealing and refreshing. I look forward to worshiping with your church in the coming months. The biblical approach to worshiping is the only reconcilable way to honor God, and I look forward to the pastor's bible study program after each service!  
As a Colorado resident, on and off again, since 2003, I've worked in the

Federal sector as a budget analyst at Peterson AFB, Missile Defense Agency at Schriever AFB, and Department of Interior in Denver's Federal Center as a budget officer. Prior to that, I was in Air Force Audit Agency as an auditor at Eglin AFB, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, and a financial analyst/supervisory analyst at the International Boundary and Water Commission in El Paso, Texas. It was a happy day on 24 April 2023 to retire from the federal financial world and focus on the grandchildren world! If I work again, I plan on serving "Focus on the Family" ministry and spread their family message.

Thank you all for your warm welcome, and I hope to be able to provide services to your mission as well.

Jean





## Members

Jill Damec

Darrell Root

Marlene Schmidt

Cheri Penwell

Sergeant First Class (USA)

Jordan Etchells (Dale & Kari's Son)

A1C Trevor Smith (USAF)  
(SSLC member)

## Military

Captain Rob Landers (USAF)  
(Barry's Son-in-Law)

Captain Abel Wilson (USAF)  
(Friend of SSLC)

1LT Frederick Heidt (USAF)  
(Friend of SSLC)

Master Sergeant (USMC) Kyle  
Chase (Dale & Kari's Nephew)

First Sergeant (USA) Benjamin  
Kueter (SSLC member),

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## Family Members

Patty Krueger (Barry's widow)

Kathi Chase (Kari's Sister)

Jacob Damec (Jeff and Jill's Son)

Rainer Dieterle (Conny's Father)

Tyson (Tiffany's Uncle)

Eli (Shannon and Ben's nephew)

Janice Patterson (Pastor's  
Mother)



*Arryana Kay Kueter  
Confirmed at Shepherd of the Springs on  
March 30, 2024  
Arryana is the fourth child of Shannon and  
Ben Kueter and the youngest sibling of  
Maddie, Greg and Paxton Kueter. A sixth  
grader at Janitell Intermediate School,  
Arryana loves her family...her whole family.  
Her Iowa paternal grandparents, Chuck and  
Sharon Kueter and her maternal grandmother,  
Deb Rodenberg attended her confirmation and  
participated in the Kueter Easter weekend.  
There was even a beautifully decorated, x-  
large pizza-size chocolate chip cookie from  
Iowa to celebrate!*

*Arryana is spirited and intense, with a ready smile! She helps  
wherever she is needed and is already the small, folding table  
Champion! Congratulations and many blessings, Arry!*







## Catechetical Kernel



### The Offering

How often have we heard, “*All the church cares about is money?*” To such a person, the Offering becomes an opportunity to rationalize their hostile attitude!

The Offering isn’t meant for such a person. As a matter of fact, it has been my experience that giving doesn’t come by way of the new convert either. Offerings spring out of the deep—the deepness of abiding in Christ’s grace.

When people mature in Christ, offerings flow more freely. Indeed, the Christian offers his whole life up to God as a response to His mercy (Romans 12:1-2). The Offering only makes sense when seen in the light of Jesus Christ. When He holds the strings to open my heart; He will, in time, hold the purse strings as well.

Please note: the Offering isn’t a momentary (or monetary) pause in the Divine Service in order to collect the mandatory admission price! Neither is it a required payment of your membership dues! The Offering is worship like the hymns and prayers. There are important attitudes that make Christian giving worshipful – such as first fruits giving, cheerful giving, thoughtful giving, and giving in response to God’s blessings!

Behind Christian giving is also this crucial thought: everything that you have is God’s. You merely manage what God already owns (Exodus 19:5).

The question always seems to arise, “*How much do I have to give?*” or “*How much should I give?*” Many want to provide an answer to these questions that places us back under the Old Testament law of tithing; and while tithing is an admirable goal, it is no longer required of the Christian since you have been set free from the Law via the Gospel.

As with so many things in the Christian life, it is better to ask the right question: “*How much can I give?*” The answer for you is willing, regular, proportional, first-fruits giving. Your gifts and offerings are given on a regular basis (weekly, monthly, etc) and they reflect a response to the Lord for His blessings freely given to you; and, they are the first-fruits of what you receive (not what is left over after all of the bills are paid and our recreational funds are spent).

In the end, the exact amount is between you and the Lord Jesus; and I pray that you are encouraged by Paul’s words to the Corinthians, “*Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*” (2 Cor. 9:7; emphasis mine).

*The Peace of the Lord be with you.*

Pastor ✝



## OUR REDEEMER LIVES, AND SO DO YOU

Job was no stranger to cross life. For the sake of a wager, God allowed Satan to have his way with Job. He could do anything to him short of killing him. So, he did. Satan turned his wealth into poverty; he turned his good name into scorn; he took the lives of his children, and he inflicted every manor of disease and physical suffering. Job's wife told him to curse God and die. His friends tried to persuade him that his afflictions were all the result of God punishing him for his sins. Job would not hear of such things. Even though he is never told about the wager, he nevertheless anchored his hope in God, his Redeemer. He stubbornly believed that one day, perhaps even after he has departed this life, he will be raised up in the flesh and behold Him face-to-face. His lot of suffering and even his death would not have the final say. Job knew his Redeemer lives (Job 19:25).

Hundreds of years later, we behold another spectacle of One delivered over to Satan for cross life, but also a cross death. God laid down another wager with Satan that He was determined to win. However, this time there would be no holds barred. Jesus could be killed; and He was. It was all about being the Savior and taking our place. We are sin-sick cases, dead in our trespasses. We do not need to get a grip; we need to get a life. And that is just what would-be saviors must provide; provided they first get one for themselves. Job bore his cross and he eventually died. Jesus bore His cross and He also died. Does the parallel with Job stop here?

Between Job's hope and our Lord's cross, our happy forever hangs in the balance. He was named Jesus because He was to save us from our sins. His death on the cross was to be a payment for our sins. But, is this true? He said *it is finished*, but was it truly? How can we know that Job's faith was not simply the pious wish of a poor misguided, suffering soul? We need more than a pious faith in faith. We need more than a blind hope. Here is the bottom line about our redemption from sin, death, and the powers of evil. If the tomb of Jesus is not empty, the promises of the cross are. If the resurrection is not a fact, our happy forever is a fiction.

But thanks be to God, the facts are there. With the women, we have beheld the empty tomb. We have heard the Angel's incredible message: *He is not here. See the place where they laid him.* The story of Christ crucified has a happy ending. Jesus

has conquered the grave. He beat the death rap. He has His life, and one for you as well - life out of death for Jesus, and life out of death for you. You are no mere spectator of the cross of Christ the crucified; you are also a participant. The story of Christ the crucified has become your story. Your baptism has connected you with Christ the crucified. Sharing in His death to sin, you share in a new life in His resurrection. You don't just get to survey the wondrous cross of Christ; you get to bear it and live in it. The road of the cross that Jesus walked has us walking right there with Him. But, from the vantage point of the empty tomb, we may confidently echo Job's confession: *I know that my Redeemer lives*. Jesus has entered into glory, and that assures us that we will also. The end of the story is not the death to sin; it is life with the risen Christ. We are already sons of God, but often, like Jesus on the way to his cross, we are not much to look at. We can look in the mirror and say to ourselves: *not much glory to behold here!* But in the crucified and risen Christ, we can confidently believe, we *have* received His glory. We are already righteous saints, recreated in the image of Christ. However, no one can see our halos just yet. We are forgiven, wrapped in the robe of righteousness but we appear to others (and to ourselves in the mirror of God's Law) with all our flaws, imperfections, and weaknesses; and many of them are glaring. Yes, we wear the King's clothes, but we wear them so transparently! We wonder at times and pray: *My God, is this robe of righteousness real?* Our poverty and sinful nakedness put our faith to the test and we can have our doubts at times. We have the promise of the Better Day coming when all that is imperfect will pass away. But, the question is: can you see it from here?

We would like to have just a glimpse of the *Glory Story*. You want assurance that this is not simply *pie-in-the-sky by-and-by*? Well, come and gaze long and hard at this empty tomb. Listen to the parade of witnesses and appearances of the risen Christ. As He went from death to life, here is your down payment and guarantee that you also shall be raised to a newness of life. Cross life was provisional for Jesus, and it is provisional for you. When you die to sin, you rise to God, you rise to righteousness, and you rise to a certain hope in the New Day coming when all sin and suffering will come to an end. Christ has been pleased to rise and therefore so will you. All other would-be saviors are dead - Jesus lives. God the Father put a wager on Job, and he won. The joy of Easter is that He also put a wager on Jesus, and we all have won. We know that our Redeemer Lives! Excerpts out of *Christian Life: Cross or Glory?* pp. 102-06

**STEVEN A. HEIN,**  
**DEACON**





## What's in a Name?

Submitted by Gary Law

“Jesus” is an English adaptation of a Latin transliteration (“Iesus”) of a Greek transliteration (“Iesous”) of the Hebrew name “Yeshoshu’a” or “Yeshu’a” (Aramaic). “Yeshua” is a common Hebrew/Aramaic name that translates to “Joshua” in English. Joshua or Yeshua means “The Lord is salvation” or “God will save” or “Yahweh saves”. In biblical times the name of a person was a description or indicator of a person’s function in life. This name for the special child was divinely selected and announced to both Mary and Joseph. This child would indeed “save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21)

The term “Christ” is the English form of the Greek word “Christos” which is the equivalent of the Hebrew word “Messiah”, which means “the anointed one” or “the chosen one”. This one chosen and anointed by God as the Messiah would be the one to restore Creation from the corruption brought about by Adam’s rebellion.

Since “Christ” is a title, not a surname, the proper usage is “Jesus *the* Christ”. It was Jewish custom to use as a surname the father’s first name preceded by the Hebrew word “ben” meaning “the son of”. So Jesus’ Hebrew name would have been “Joshua ben Joseph”. Over time, however, the article was often dropped and the title “Christ” developed into a proper name. This either demonstrated a misunderstanding of the usage or an acknowledgment of the singularity of Jesus and the promised Messiah.

So why did His followers (later known as “Christians”) identify Jesus as the “Messiah”? Because His words, deeds, and circumstances of His life and death fulfilled the actions, attributes, and expectations of the Messiah as foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures. As Jesus said to His disciples: “These are my words which I spoke to you... that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled... Thus it is written that the Christ [Messiah] should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead...” (Luke 24:44-46).

The promise of a Savior given by God beginning in Genesis 3 has been accomplished.



*The Pike's Peak District Pastors attended Divine Service and held its monthly meeting at Shepherd of the Springs on March 12, 2024*



*Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

*A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical Congregation of the Lutheran Confessions*

***Where the Lutheran Reformation Lives!***

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