



The Shepherd

May 2024 newsletter

Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church,

Missouri Synod, Colorado Springs, CO

Hirtenbrief 5-24
May 20224

Ode to the Altar Guild. . .



Sometimes pastors regale each other with funny and sad stories of the practices of their congregations! Sometimes the object of these stories ends up being the Altar Guild ladies. Though, in all honesty, you pastor has always had the highest regard for the Altar Guild! Therefore, I will offer an extended thanks and appreciation for the ladies of the Altar Guild of Shepherd of the Springs! In fact, I think, no, I know, they are the unsung heroes of the congregation. They are certainly invisible; however, if they failed in their work it would be quite obvious to all! So that is testament to the great work they do!

The Altar Guild tells time for us. While some may not understand or appreciate the seasons, feasts, and festivals of the Church Year, the Altar Guild sets the clock for the people of God and for the Divine Service by changing the paraments on the Altar, lectern and pulpit; and veils (when needed), and banners. God bless them! They remind us every Sunday that we walk not by the time of the world, but by God's time. They set the clock so that we may order our days under His grace and guidance. God bless their good work in applying to our busy schedules and calendars the order of God's rhythm and pace.

The Altar Guild sets the table for us. And the ladies of the Altar Guild do so with humility and ever so faithfully week after week, Divine Service after Divine Service. It is a hidden work but extensive labor to prepare the Chalice, Paten, Cruets, and the individual cups (yes, the vessels have names that these ladies know and you should also!). They set them and then clean them. It's not only about the washing of silver or glass but the faithful care of what was in them. God bless them! These ladies perform in every Divine Service our confession of the Real Presence of Christ Jesus!

The Altar Guild keeps clean the Chancel, the sacred space around the Altar. While we do have "custodians" to handle the cleaning of our church, the ladies of the Altar Guild take care that God's House, especially around the Altar, is kept clean and orderly. They are faithful beyond measure in this and it is no small task. They honor the Lord and honor us by serving on our behalf to do this and their witness is an inspiration of how we should reverence and approach the Lord's Altar. God bless them! They remind us that this space *is* sacred, because of what happens there, and so we are encouraged to prepare ourselves as they have prepared the Chancel every Divine Service.

The Altar Guild attends to the particular seasonal and festive appointments that may not seem all that important (yet, they are!). All these are important, not because they are recognized or appreciated, but because they reflect by their care the faith we confess. When we veil the sacred images and crucifixes or set out the Advent wreath or move the Paschal Candle from the Narthex to the Nave to the Chancel; or set out items for baptisms (among many other things), we are denoting the significance of the day in God's calendar and its part in the gift of Christ and His salvation. These and many other small but significant acts help us know and appreciate the fullness of what it means to be His own and to live under Him in His Kingdom, forever. God bless them! They can teach us much if we are willing to watch and learn.

The Altar Guild cares for the vestments of the pastor, worship assistants, acolytes, etc. Lord knows, we think clothing is pretty important. The vesture of those who serve in God's House is no less important. They stitch and wash and dry clean and care for these so that those who serve us do not look shoddy or unkempt and, therefore, help us keep the focus on Christ and not our failings. They do this for the Corporal, Purificators, the Burse and Chalice Veil (these are the linens that are used during The Lord's Supper) and this is a bigger job than you might imagine! From albs to stoles and everything in between, they are the faithful stewards of the fabrics that are appointed for the Altar and those who serve there. God bless them! Nothing is as painfully clear as when these appointments are worn, stained, or wrinkled -- literally saying "we don't care." Your Altar Guild serves you by keeping your attention on holy things!

Then there are flowers and candles, wicks and candlelighters, and -- I could go on and on. But that does not mean that I have been exhaustive in my brief description of some of what all the ladies of the Altar Guild do. I want to take this time to graciously thank the Ladies of the Altar Guild! You serve, where I serve, and those who serve throughout the congregations of our Synod. God bless you for your good and faithful work! You make my life so much easier and your best work is that you do it without drawing attention to yourselves. That said, I want to draw all our attention to you now -- if for just a moment. You've had a busy few weeks and months, but that doesn't mean that you are not appreciated! Thank you all so very much! God Bless the Ladies of the Altar Guild of Shepherd of the Springs!

The Peace of the Lord be with You always!

Pastor †

Commemoration of Bede the Venerable, Theologian **May 25**



On May 25, the Church remembers Bede the Venerable (672/3 – 25 May, 735). Bede was the last of the Early Church Fathers and the first to compile the history of the English church.

Bede was born in Northumbria, possibly at Jarrow in present-day Tyne and Wear, England. Bede's parents took him to a local monastery in northern England at the age of seven for his education, and he never left the monastic life. He became a deacon at age 19, which was very rare since the normal age was twenty-five. He was ordained a priest when he was thirty.

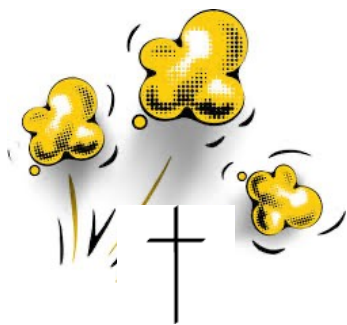
He rarely left the monastery and devoted the rest of his life to teaching and writing. He once wrote, *“I have spent all my life in this monastery, applying myself entirely to the study of the Scriptures; and, amid the observance of the discipline of the Rule and the daily task of singing in the church, it has always been my delight to learn or to teach or to write.”*

Bede was, in fact, the most learned man of his time. He was a prolific writer publishing twenty-five commentaries on books of the Bible (he felt these were his best works), and it is said that his commentaries are still fresh today. He also published works on the history of the saints, grammar, metrics, and chronology.

Today he is probably known for his works on history. His careful use of sources provided a model for historians in the Middle Ages. His book, “*The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*” is still the best source of English history from 597 to 731, when the Anglo-Saxon culture developed and Christianity triumphed. He had just finished a translation of the Gospel of John into Old English when he died.

His most famous disciple, Cuthbert, reported that he died with the words of the Gloria Patri on his lips. He received the title “Venerable” within two generations of his death and is buried in Durham Cathedral as one of England’s greatest saints.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, you called your servant Bede, while still a child, to devote his life to your service in the disciplines of religion and scholarship. Grant that as he labored in the Spirit to bring the riches of your truth to his generations, so we, in our various vocations, may strive to make you known in all the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.



Catechetical Kernel

The Preface

May, 2024

It has been said, “*Like small steps, the Preface (cf., TLH, pg 24) moves us from that part of the service that centered on the Word of God (readings, sermon) toward that part of the service that centered on the meal Christ instituted*” (Meaningful Worship, Brauer).

The Preface consists of three sections.



First, the Preface begins with a salutation and response: “*The Lord be with you. And also with you.*” Earlier these same words occurred before the readings. Now they occur before the Supper! Why?

The salutation draws our attention to where God is, for us, and how He comes to us — in Word and Sacrament. “*The Lord be with you*” focuses your attention on the Body

and Blood of Christ that is about to be served to you for the remission of your sins. Therefore, you respond to your pastor by praying the same for him as he prepares the Sacrament. There, in Communion, Jesus is with us!

Secondly, the Preface continues, “*Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.*” Here we encourage one another to worship God; rather than being tied to worldly thoughts.

Then, lastly, the Preface concludes: “*Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. It is right to give Him thanks and praise.*” This line recalls Jewish prayer before meals. Also, at the Passover, the head of the family would speak similar words. The Scripture points out that when Jesus was celebrating the Passover, He gave thanks to God (Luke 22:19 and 1 Cor. 11:24). Therefore, following our Lord’s example, we begin Holy Communion with thanks as well.

The thanksgiving continues with the **Proper Preface** which is a prayer thanking God for His various blessings in Christ Jesus. The Proper Preface begins with the words, “*It is good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You...*” What follows is based on the season of the church year (cf. LSB pgs. 208 or 216).

The conclusion of the Proper Preface reminds us of what is about to happen in this Sacrament, “*Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven...*” As Christ comes to us in His Body and Blood, heaven meets earth, and we join with the entire Christian Church that has gone before us and that will come after us.

At the altar, the entire company of heaven comes down to earth. It is the Christian equivalent of the Jewish temple’s Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was housed. In this Sacrament, we are truly given a foretaste of the Feast that is to come, and we join in the praise that is offered before His throne “**...with angels and archangels...!**”

The Peace of the Lord be with you,

Pastor



Members

Jill Damec
Ron Dodge
Lana Packer
Cheri Penwell
Darrell Root
Marlene Schmidt

Military

Captain Rob Landers (USAF) (Barry's Son-in-Law)	First Sergeant (USA) Benjamin Kueter
Captain Abel Wilson (USAF) (Friend of SSLC)	Sergeant First Class (USA) Jordan Etchells (Dale & Kari's Son)
2LT Frederick Heidt (USAF) (Friend of SSLC)	A1C Trevor Smith (USAF)
Master Sergeant (USMC) Kyle Chase (Dale & Kari's Nephew)	

Family Members

Patty Krueger (Barry's Widow)	Tyson (Tiffany's Uncle)
Kathi Chase (Kari's Sister)	Eli (Shannon and Ben's nephew)
Jacob Damec (Jeff and Jill's Son)	Janice Patterson (Pastor's Mother)
Rainer Dieterle (Conny's Father)	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

05/08 Jeff Phillips
05/11 Elizabeth Packer (2 years old)
05/14 Greg Kueter
05/16 Heather Crafton
05/23 Madelynn Kueter
05/26 Douglas Schmidt



MERRY MAY MONTH

Special note:

From April 29 through May 26, Pastor and Yong will be on vacation except for Sun. May 5. Dr. Stephen Hein, Church Deacon, will be conducting Sunday Morning Service and Bible Study in Pastor's absence.

Men's Group will be on summer break until Sept.

Sun., May 5	6th Sunday of Easter (Rotate) Please join in welcoming Yong Patterson's family visiting from Korea Bible Study to follow led by Dr. Hein	Divine Service
Sun. May 12	7th Sunday of Easter (Exude) Mother's Day	Morning service
Sun. May 19	The Day of Pentecost Graduation reception for Maddie Kueter!	Morning service
Sun. May 26	The Holy Trinity	Morning service



Mon., May 27 **Memorial Day—Remember those who have served.**

June Note: Sun., June 2,

Pastor returns!

Divine Service and Voters' meeting. No Bible Study



Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia (LSB #463)
Compiled by Evelyn Law

Because Easter is never out of season, I'm writing about this Easter hymn now to draw your attention to its authorship. This hymn is attributed to a man who lived in the 11th century. I am always amazed by God's gracious preservation of hymns from so long ago. I'm also grateful to the people who put Lutheran Service Book (LSB) together for recognizing these historical hymns as still being meaningful ways to praise our Lord and learn about His mighty works through poetry and music.

This hymn, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia", and "Christians, to the Paschal Victim" (LSB #460) are attributed to Wipo of Burgundy (c990 – c1050). Wipo was a priest, poet and chronicler. He was chaplain to the Holy Roman Emperor Conrad II and may have acted as a tutor to his son Henry III. His biography of Conrad II is a key historical source for Conrad's reign. He wrote it in chronicle form and presented it to Henry III in 1046, not long after he was crowned.

Little is known of Wipo's life beyond what can be deduced from his writings. It is believed that he was born in the Swabian German-speaking portion of Burgundy, because his name is Swabian. He shows a close interest in Burgundian affairs in his writings, and claims to have personally known Henry I, Bishop of Lausanne (985–1018). In the course of his education he gained close familiarity with the Vulgate Bible and with classical Latin texts.

Present at the election of Conrad II as King of the Germans in 1024, he most likely followed the emperor on his campaigns into Burgundy (1033) and against the Slavs (1035), both of which he describes in detail in his writings. After Conrad's death in 1039, he remained at court. The latest event that Wipo refers to in his writings is the coronation of Henry III as emperor in 1046. It is unclear how long he lived after that.



MITE-Y Good to Know

Submitted by Evelyn Law

Because you have faithfully supported the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) with your prayers and/or MITES, you MITE like to know the missions your support helps. Two grants featured this month are:

Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute Infrastructure Investment

This grant will support the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute to provide pre-seminary and continuing missional training for an ever-increasing number of leaders for Hispanic/Latino ministry. Grant amount: \$6,000

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch: Kruse Memorial Chapel Transformation

This grant will support the transformation efforts of the Kruse Memorial Chapel on the Minot Campus of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch so the highly-attended, interactive weekly Chapel experiences can offer the healing care of the Gospel and the life-giving presence of Jesus to wounded children of abuse, neglect, and trauma who desperately need His mercy and hope. Grant amount: \$4,000

MITE you want to know even more about the MITE-Y works God is accomplishing through RMD, go to the website at lwmlrmd.org.





David Chytraeus: Lutheran Theologian Submitted by Gary L

David Chytraeus (A.D. 1531–1600) was a Lutheran theologian, little known today, but highly regarded in his time. He received his Master of Theology degree at the age of 14 (!), and subsequently went to Wittenberg and studied under Martin Luther and Philip Melanchthon. In Wittenberg he lived in Melanchthon's house. He later became a leading professor at the University of Rostock. Like Melanchthon, he desired peace within the church, but unlike Melanchthon, he was not willing to sacrifice sound, confessional doctrine to achieve peace.

Although he is not well known today, he was one of the most popular and well known Lutheran authors at that time. He is perhaps best known as one of the authors of the Formula of Concord. He was a prolific author, publishing over 87 works. He was second only to Luther. Today, little of his work is translated into English. One of his most popular writings was his *Catechesis* also known as *A Summary of the Christian Faith*. It was intended as a handbook of theology for lay use and was published repeatedly over the century following his death.

Despite that, there appears to be only one translation available in English today. It is the 1568 version, translated by Richard Dinda and published by Repristination Press, a confessional Lutheran publisher. It is available from Amazon for \$14.99. If you prefer, you can read it for free in the original Latin at <https://archive.org/>!

The work consists of an Introduction followed by 10 doctrinal sections: (1) God, (2) Creation, (3) The Law of God, (4) On sin, (5) On the remission of sins, (6) On good works, (7) On the Sacraments, (8) On repentance, (9) On the Church, (10) On death, resurrection, and eternal life.

The *Catechesis* is worth reading as it provides insight into the spirit of the 16th century and second generation Lutheran thought. David Chytraeus was highly regarded and known as “the last of the fathers of the Lutheran Church”.



For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth: the time of singing has come.

And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Solomon 2:11-12



This newsletter is a publication of the
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Where the Lutheran Reformation lives!

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