



SEPT. 2024

THE SHEPHERD

A newsletter from Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church-Missouri
Synod, Colorado Springs, CO

Welcome to All

Sundays

Divine Service 9:00 AM

Bible Study 10:30 AM

September

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>Sept. 1 9:00 AM</i> | <i>Trinity 14</i> | <i>Story of the Ten Lepers</i> |
| <i>Sept. 6. 4:00 PM</i> | <i>SSLC Elders meeting</i> | |
| <i>Sept. 8 9:00AM</i> | <i>Trinity 15</i> | <i>Seek Ye First</i> |
| <i>Sept. 14 9:00 AM</i> | <i>Men's Group resumes for all SSLC men!</i> | |
| <i>Sept. 15 9:00 AM</i> | <i>Trinity 16</i> | <i>Merciful Lord</i> |
| <i>Sept. 22 9:00 AM</i> | <i>Trinity 17</i> | <i>Christian Freedom</i> |
| <i>Sept. 29 9:00 AM</i> | <i>Feast of St. Michael and All</i> | |

*The fifth Sunday of the month is **Potluck Sunday**.*

Everyone is encouraged to bring something to share cookies, muffins, fruit, etc.

*Let **Carol Ross** know what you will bring. Thank you.*



Hirtenbrief
Sept. 2024

“Come on up! Move up front!”

I sure that you are now aware that many churches “exclude” children from their “worship” services. Children instead go to “children’s church” of the appropriate age category.

It goes without saying that every one of us has been in worship when a child’s cries interrupting service. Therefore, over my years as a pastor, I’ve been told many times that children don’t belong in worship since they are a distraction (really, some Lutherans actually feel this way). I do not agree! Sure, there are parents who don’t know when taking their child out may be the better part of valor; however, for the most part, I want children in the Divine Service every Sunday morning!

Oh, yes, there are congregations throughout the United State that proudly promote their cry room, with a speaker from the Sanctuary, with a one way window to view what occurs in worship (well, not really)! In actuality, it should be an emergency place -- for a diaper change, nursing, calming or correcting a fussy child...it is not the place where kids are supposed to be during Divine Service!

It’s great that large congregations can have a nursery with a paid staff. It is well equipped with cribs, toys, restroom, tables, activity books, etc. It is a place for children having a bad day when parents have gotten to the end of their ropes. However, it is not the place where kids are supposed to be during Divine Service!

4 Reasons Your Kids Should Sit with You on SundayThe Divine Service is for all the people of God. Every age group needs to be there -- together, around the Word and Table of the Lord, in the Lord’s House, on the Lord’s Day. In fact, I often find children to be the most attentive to what is happening. If given the chance, they

watch and pay careful attention to every movement, action, and ceremony (I've actually see it with my own eyes!). They often get it when adults are focused elsewhere. When they come to stand before the Lord's Throne of Grace, they watch every move and they are usually smiling! Many of them can repeat every word of the liturgy by heart and often sing many hymns...with great gusto! That's one of the great blessings about our Lutheran liturgy -- it teaches -- simply by being there, paying attention, and participating!

I often wonder, however, why parents choose to sit in the back of the Nave. If you are a small child, what do you see from back there (well, I'll not discuss that)! Usually, families and children who are relegated or voluntarily placed in the back of the nave are bored and easily distracted. They really see nothing. Therefore, parents and children, "Come on up! Move up front!"

And if they cry...well then, they cry. Who are the adults here? If adults cannot focus out on an occasional outburst by a child, then something bigger is wrong than a teary eyed child. Besides, every time a child cries, we are reminded that the whole family of God is present - complete with all our foibles! This is a great lesson for all of us!

So parents....WELCOME to the Lord's House! Move up front! Point out things to your children. Help them to be part of the whole community. Encourage them to sing by singing yourselves. If they get too much to handle, head to the Narthex for a time out! If they are having a bad day (and we all have them), use it as a teaching and correcting tool (that's what happened to me...and look...I turned out just fine)! Bring your children to worship! Move up front!

We don't need to baby talk them through the liturgy or even talk down to them. They learn by doing, by repeating, by exploring...just as we did. So give them something that encourages them in their lifelong learning...that begins even as a child in a parent's arm...in the Nave...in the Divine Service...!

In His (and Your) Service,

Pastor ✝



St. Cyprian of Carthage Pastor and Martyr

Born around AD 200 in North Africa, Cyprian was a controversial figure of the early Church who was best known for his pastoral and rhetorical skills. Classically educated, Cyprian was a prominent lawyer before he converted to Christianity and elected a bishop in 249. His strong writing and speaking skills set him aside as one of the premier Latin writers of Western Christianity, who was only eclipsed 100 years after his death by figures such as St. Jerome and St. Augustine.



Cyprian was ordained a priest, not long after his conversion, and shortly before being elected bishop of Carthage. Shortly thereafter, in 250, Emperor Decius's persecution of Christians began with his order that sacrifices must be made to the gods. Cyprian went into hiding instead of facing execution. Some clergy in the area thought that Cyprian's response was cowardly, but he said that he hid so that he would not have to leave his faithful congregants without a shepherd.

Cyprian was also criticized for his treatment of "lapsed" parishioners after the persecution, as he thought that those who made sacrifices ought to go through a period of penance and probation before being received back into full communion by the Church. Other clergy in the area took these "lapsed" Christians back right away, creating a schism in Carthage and the surrounding area.

St. Cyprian also led a movement among his fellow clergy not to recognize the validity of baptisms performed by heretics. Even though this was not the universal view of the Church, Cyprian led three councils of African bishops between 255 and 256 on the subject, eventually leading 87 bishops to decide unanimously that there could be no baptism outside the Church.

Yet despite these points of controversy, Cyprian was heralded for his pastoral concern and approach to issues of the day, such as his organization of medical relief after a severe plague swept through Carthage. His writings also became well known and preserved, including his famous essay *On the Unity of the Catholic Church* and letters on Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Lord's Prayer.

Eventually another persecution arose in Carthage, this time under Emperor Valerian. Now Cyprian did not flee, instead being arrested, tried, and beheaded in mid-September 258. St. Augustine remarked that Cyprian surely atoned for his controversies with his glorious martyrdom.

The Church's commemoration of St. Cyprian extends back to the patristic era. A renowned bishop, theologian, and martyr, Cyprian's memory was held in high regard throughout his native African Church from his martyrdom on. From there, the observance of a holiday in his honor extended throughout the Church in both the East and the West.

St. Cyprian is said to have been martyred on September 14th. Since that day is Holy Cross Day, however, he is not often commemorated on the actual date of his death. Instead, the Church has commonly celebrated him just after Holy Cross Day, with the LSB calendar assigning his commemoration to September 15th and Loehe and the Roman Catholic sanctoral calendars listing his date as September 16th.

Let us Pray: Almighty God, have regard for our weakness, and since the weight of our own deeds bears us down, let the faithful example of St. Cyprian, Your Bishop and Martyr, direct us to Your mercy: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever One God, now and forever. Amen.



Catechetical Kernel

September 2024

The Divine Service: Pax Domini & Agnus Dei

4th - 7th C.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

St. John 20:19

C: Amen

C: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

St. John 1:29

Immediately following the consecration, the Words of our Lord having made him present in His Body and Blood, for the forgiveness of our sins, the pastor extends

the host and the cup to the congregation, pronouncing, “The peace of the Lord be with you always,” and the congregation responds, “Amen.” This *Pax Domini* (peace of the Lord) might be traced to our Lord’s words on the day of His resurrection, when He appeared among His disciples, bearing the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, with the words, “Peace be with you” (St. John 20:19–29).

As He showed His hands and side to the disciples, and even invited Thomas to probe His wounds so that they might be sure, your Lord Jesus gives you even more: ***His Body and Blood to you, to make you certain of the forgiveness of your sins.***

The *Pax* Luther (in explaining his Wittenberg order for Mass) calls “a public absolution of the sins of the communicants; the true voice of the Gospel announcing the forgiveness of sins; and therefore the one and most worthy preparation for the Lord’s Table, if faith holds to these words as coming from the mouth of Christ Himself.”

The congregation responds to the *Pax Domini*’s proclamation of an at-hand Jesus, ready to save, with not only the “Amen,” “Yes, yes, it shall be so,” but also the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God...).

Whence come these words (John 1:29-34)? Who spoke them first? What occasioned them? How are they an especially fitting response to the proclamation of the *Pax*?

At the same time, the *Agnus Dei* connects us to the picture of the whole Church’s worship given us in Rev. 5! Who is there in the midst of the throne, the focus of worship by “angels and archangels and all the company of heaven?” On what key person and act is even heaven’s worship focused?

Luther highly valued the *Agnus Dei* and retained it, too, in his order of the Mass. It remains prominent in the Lutheran Divine Service (as it is, tellingly, absent from many other confessions’ worship) as an expression of our belief, on the sound basis of Christ’s own words, that He comes to us in reality, in flesh and blood, to take away our sins in the Sacrament.

“O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.”

The Peace of the Lord be with you always,

Pastor ✝



Members

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

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)

Sergeant First Class (USA) Jordan Etchells (Dale & Kari's Son)

A1C Trevor Smith (USAF) (SSLC member)

Family Members

Gayle Rathbone (Heather's mother)

Patty Krueger (Barry's widow)

Kathi Chase (Kari's sister)

Jacob Damec (Jeff and Jill's son)

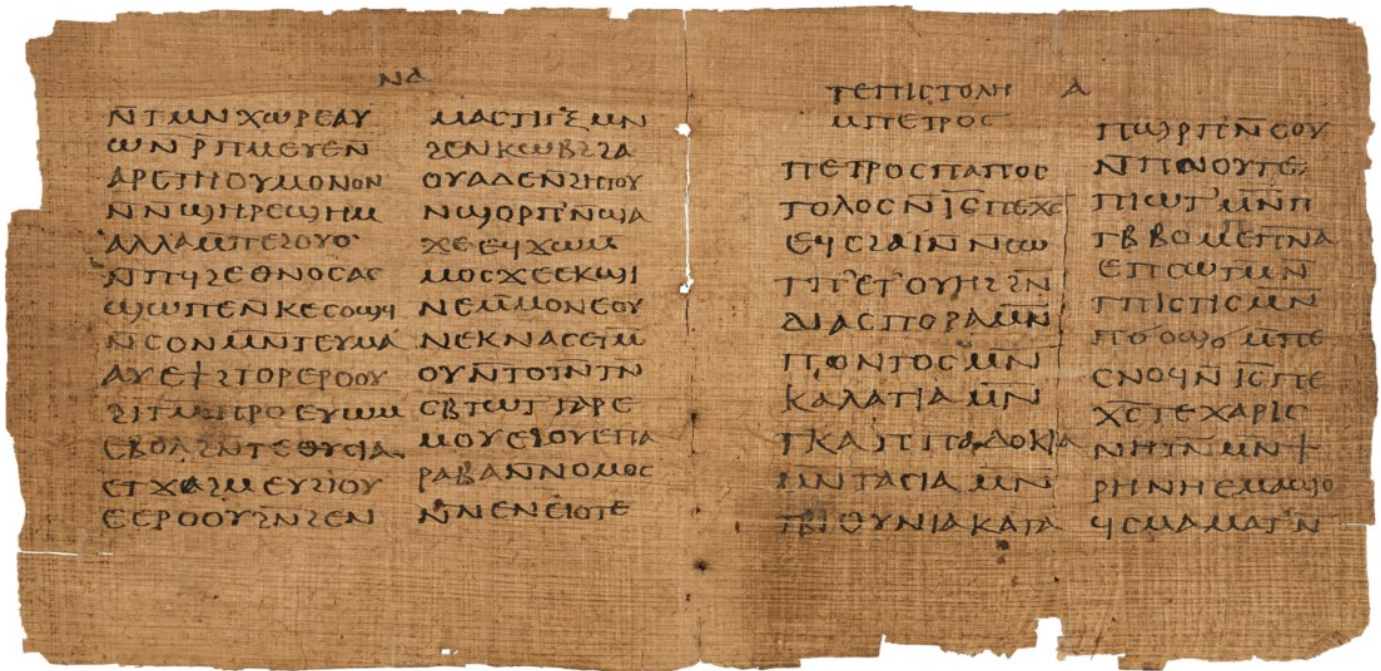
Rainer Dieterle (Conny's father)

Eli (Shannon and Ben's nephew)

Janice Patterson (Pastor's mother)

To keep our prayer list updated and relevant, please speak with Pastor: pastor@sslc-cos.org

**The Crosby-Schøyen Codex
is the earliest Christian liturgical book in existence
Submitted by Gary Law**

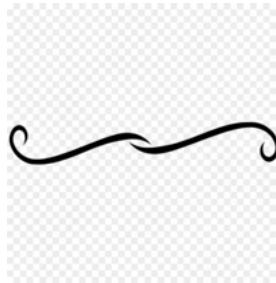


The Crosby-Schøyen Codex is the earliest Christian liturgical book in existence. It is also the oldest known book in private hands having been sold in 2024 at auction by Christie's of London to a private collector for \$3.9 million. A codex is simply an ancient manuscript in the form of a modern book with written pages stitched together on one side replacing the earlier scroll form. There is evidence that codices existed earlier, but none have survived, making this one of the oldest books in existence.

It was written in Coptic on papyrus in Alexandria, Egypt between 250 and 350 A.D. When the manuscript was about 300 years old, it was buried with other texts, most probably to keep it from being destroyed during the Arab conquest of Egypt. That cache of texts lay concealed in the dry Egyptian sands for almost a millennium and a half when it was unearthed early in the 1950s by two Egyptian farmers. By 1954 the Codex had been acquired by a licensed dealer in Cairo who offered it to the University of Mississippi. One of the striking things about the Crosby-Schøyen Codex is how modern it appears in style. It is written in a two-column layout with

page numbers and block justified text giving a neat, straight and even appearance. While it was intact apart from the outermost leaves the pages were dry and crumbly. To preserve it, the sheets of the Codex were unbound, flattened, and separately vacuum-sealed within Plexiglas.

The Codex contains the earliest surviving whole copies of the Book of Jonah and 1 Peter, as well as containing the Peri Pascha, part of 2 Maccabees, and an Easter homily. (The Peri Pascha is a 2nd century homily “On the Passover” by Melito, Bishop of Sardis. It is really about the “mystery” of the Passover and the Passion of the Christ.) The Crosby-Schøyen Codex is called the earliest Christian liturgical book in existence because it is the first example we have of a compilation of texts that has been specifically put together for a religious celebration. It has been maintained that these different texts in the codex relate to each other in how they talk about suffering and resurrection, and may have been an Easter liturgy. Now that the codex has been sold to a private collector, scholars are concerned it will disappear and not be available for study.



Flowers are welcome any Sunday.

Sign up sheet is on the board in the Narthex



Happy Birthday

09/05 Ron Dodge
09/09 Eleanore Suszek
09/12 Jim Ross
09/12 Savannah Packer
09/13 Tiffany Ochsner
09/15 Darrell Root
09/17 Marcie Little

Happy Anniversary

09/08 Jeff and Jill Damec



**Baptism of
Olivia Mae Damec
Aug. 2024**



**Ryan's baptism
2023**



(LtoR) Michelle Valla, Ryan and Olivia's grandmother; Ryan, Dad and Mom- Joel and Sydney; newly-baptized Olivia Mae Damec; and proud grandpa, Jeff!



“Many hands make light work.”

And nowhere is that more true than at
our *Shepherd of the Springs*.

We need everyone to help:

- *operating church electronics/cameras, keyboard*
- *bringing refreshments*
- *cleaning during the week*
- *welcoming new guests*
- *counting Church collections*

*Check-in with Pastor, Larry Groggel, Carol Ross, or anyone
who is already volunteering.*

SSLC needs your help!



Welcome, New Members!



Ben and Lindsay Suszek (Su-check)
William, Eleanor, and Theodore.

Introduction from Ben:

Lindsay and I moved to Colorado Springs to be close to the mountains and family. Lindsay moved alot as a kid but claims southern California as home.

I was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago.

Eleanor was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. William and Theodore were born in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Lindsay and I met at 19 years old in 2014. We were working as seasonal help for a hotel in Healy, Alaska. The town sits just outside the gates to Denali National Park.

I proposed to Lindsay just after the ball dropped in Times Square January 1st 2017. We married a few months later April 9th 2017.

Our hobbies include hiking, fishing and Lindsay loves to bake. We had a great garden when we lived in Wisconsin and look forward to gardening when we buy a house here.

I currently work as a Power plant electrician for Colorado Springs Utilities and Lindsay is a homemaker.



Gerson and Guislei Flor

Introduction from Chaplain Flor

Chaplain Gerson Flor and his wife Guislei are originally from Brazil. They were married in July 1995, when she was a teacher and he studied at Concordia Seminary in São Leopoldo. After his vicarage in 1997 and ordination in 1999, they spent a study semester in South Africa, in 2000. Later that year their first daughter, Gabriela,

was born. After serving a Lutheran congregation in Vera Cruz, Brazil for one year, Gerson accepted a call from First Lutheran Church in Windsor, Ontario. They arrived in Canada nine days before the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. In 2002 their youngest daughter, Julia, was born, and in 2004 Gerson took a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Georgetown, Ontario.

In 2009, Gerson joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a chaplain. He served in Ontario (2009-16), Quebec (2016-18), Italy (2018-21), and Belgium (2021-24). He has been twice to Alert, a Canadian station near the North Pole, and deployed to Romania and Lithuania in 2014. In August, the Flors arrived in Colorado Springs, where they are expected to stay until 2027. Over the years Guislei has worked as a teacher, as a school bus driver, as a teaching assistant for children with special needs, and the Canadian military post office in Belgium.

Their daughters are both in university: Gabriela (23) lives in Quebec City since 2018, studying English Literature; Julia (21) moved to Australia in February to study Dentistry. Their families live in Brazil: Guislei's parents, brother, sister, and two nieces, and Gerson's father, sister, and two brothers. They try to visit them every year. Quite predictably, the Flors love travelling, visiting with family and friends, and hiking; Guislei likes indoor rock climbing and playing Badminton, while Gerson enjoys playing chess and Pickleball. They are happy to be here in Colorado Springs and to be a part of God's people at Shepherd of the Springs!

Thank you, Suszek and Flor families for introducing yourselves to the membership.



Looking ahead...

Oct. 27 Sun. 9:00 AM Divine Service. Festival of the Reformation
German-themed lunch to follow

Nov. 28 Thurs. 9:00 AM Divine Service of Thanksgiving
12:00 PM All- Church Thanksgiving lunch

Dec. 1 Sun. 9:00AM First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 4 Weds. 6:00 PM Advent Supper
7:00PM Advent Divine Service

This newsletter is a publication of Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical Church

Where the Lutheran Reformation Lives!

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Please direct corrections, comments, questions to Sue Groggel at shkodani@gmail.com