

THE SHEPHERD

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

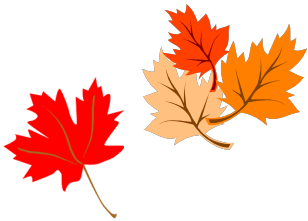


Welcome to All Sundays

Divine Service 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM

Little Lambs Catechisis 10:30AM



October

10/3 Thurs. 4:00PM Elders meeting

10/6 Sun. Trinity 19 Healing by the Word

After Bible Study,

y'all are invited to Rudy's, for fellowship and BBQ lunch.

10/12 Sat. 9:00AM Men's Group

10/13 Sun. Trinity 20 Great Supper

A brief Voters' meeting will be called to order immediately following Divine Service.

10/20 Sun. Trinity 21 Divine Protection

10/27 Sun. Reformation Day

*Celebration of our Lutheran
"roots!" German-influenced refreshments after Divine Service.*

October, 2024
Hirtenbrief



“LORD, KEEP US TEADFAST IN YOUR WORD”

Our Lord Jesus said, *“If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* (St. John 8:31-32). Abiding in the Word, dearly beloved, is what the Reformation was all about. It was the Holy Spirit who guided Dr. Luther in his study of God’s Holy Word, and allowed him to rediscover the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which had been all but forgotten during the Middle Ages. When the Holy Spirit revealed to Dr. Luther that we are justified not by our own works, but by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, it was as if heaven itself had been opened to him and he could hear the choirs of angels and saints singing praises to the Lord.

He had long been haunted by the image of Jesus Christ as a ruthless judge who demanded the impossible, and then punished those who did not achieve it. But now, as Luther discovered the Holy Gospel in the pages of Holy Scripture, he came to know Jesus Christ not as that ruthless judge, but as his loving Savior—the One who lived the perfect life he couldn’t live, and died on the cross to pay the full price for all of his sins. What joy filled Dr. Luther’s heart! That same joy fills your hearts as well, for you still have the glorious Good News of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer, taught and preached in your midst.

That is not as common as you might think. We live in a day and age when the Holy Gospel is every bit as hidden away and obscured as it was in Luther’s day. Tune in to those claiming to be Christian teachers on television or radio (yet, please don’t) and you will likely hear Jesus being promoted as a mere example to follow, or as a “life- coach” cheering you on to better living and greater blessings. Visit many Protestant congregations (and even, sadly, some “Lutheran” congregations) and you will hear the

same sort of teaching coming from the pulpits (or stages). You will be motivated to “*Live Your Best Life Now*” or “*Become a Better You*” or to live a “*Purpose-Driven Life*,” and so forth and so on; the focus being completely on what you need to do and how you need to live as a Christian.

Rather than Law and Gospel sermons, based on a lectionary, you will be subjected to messages on such topics as money management, good parenting, healthy eating, relationship building, and even on how to have good sex (yes, there was even a bed on the stage!). The Good News about what Jesus has done, and continues to do – for you – is rarely heard (if ever!), the idea being that Jesus did His part, but now it’s up to you to do your part.

Oh yes, dear friends, the same joy that filled Dr. Luther’s heart should fill yours, for against the rising trend to forsake the blessed Gospel in favor of a Law-focused, Me-centered agenda which has been adopted by many—an agenda that lures many away from the truth by promoting itself as new and hip and relevant and useful, etc.—you still have the Holy Gospel preached to you in its purity and the Holy Sacraments administered to you according to our Lord’s institution!

At Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church, we believe, teach, and confess the doctrine of the evangelical, catholic (universal) faith as it is taught in Holy Scripture and faithfully confessed in the Book of Concord of 1580. We are committed to the pure preaching of God’s Word and the right administration of the Holy Sacraments, catechesis of all people in the Christian faith, and liturgical worship consistent with our Reformation heritage. We are an evangelical, orthodox, and confessional congregation, proclaiming Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and reigning for the salvation of the world! May you never take this for granted, but heed your Savior’s exhortation to abide in His Word; to abide in His Word means that you never outgrow, or move beyond, the Holy Gospel!

As long as you breathe in this vale of tears, you remain in desperate need of the salvation won for you by the perfect life and death of Jesus, the Christ! You never stop being sinners this side of heaven; hence, you never stop needing a Savior. You abide in His Word when you cling to Him in faith as

your only hope. You abide in His Word when you return regularly to where He promises to be for you—in Divine Service, where He delivers to you the forgiveness, life, and salvation you need by means of His Holy Word and Sacraments. In short, you abide in His Word by being in His continuous care, for your Lord accomplishes all for you, and in you, what He demands. He feeds and nourishes you, strengthens and preserves you, and keeps you in the One, True, Faith—and all this by the very same Word in which He would have you abide.

Thus, do we Lutherans ever pray, in the words of Dr. Luther’s famous hymn, “*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word?*” The Good News is not only that your Lord Jesus has done everything necessary for your salvation, but that He continues to keep you in the One, True, Faith through His gracious and merciful Service to you here and now. He promised to be with you always, and so He is—with you in His written, preached, and taught Word, and with you most intimately in His very Body and Blood in His Holy Supper!

Let us give hearty thanks to God as we approach our annual celebration of Reformation Day for preserving among us the true and saving Gospel. May it be preached, taught, and delivered in our midst until our Lord Jesus Christ returns in great glory on the Great Last Day! Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word! Amen!

In His (and Your) Service,

Pastor





CATECHETICAL KERNEL

The Divine Service: The Distribution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My \times Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them and said, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \times Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

“Come, for everything is now ready!” So goes the invitation in the parable of the great banquet (St. Luke 14:17). Likewise, what our Lord has prepared for you by His incarnation, death, and resurrection, by His word and institution, by the Office of the Holy Ministry and His called servant, your pastor, He has given, not to mention by produce of grape and grain, now awaits the Christian for eating and drinking has been prepared for you!

The pastor, whose duty it is to be the “*steward of the mysteries*” (1 Cor. 4:1), is Christ’s instrument in distributing His Supper to His people. St. Paul carefully teaches us that the Lord’s Supper is here to be given, to be served; that to he who is prepared worthily to receive, the Supper is unto salvation; but, to the one unworthy and unprepared, it can do great harm (for example, when taken in unrepentance, or by one who does not discern the body of Christ or whose heart is set in some respect against the truth of God’s Word taught from His altar (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-22; 11:17-34).

While the pastor does not see into hearts (and, in many respects, be glad he can't); he can perceive what a person confesses and what outward acts known to him indicate. It would be evil of a pastor to give the Lord's Supper to one he knew ought not to receive it, for which it would not be "*for you, for the forgiveness of sins,*" but instead "*sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.*" The pastor, therefore, must practice care and discernment.

Likewise, the people must also come with reverence and in faith. Believing they are to receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus, they treat the sacred in a proper manner. At the words of distribution, "*The true body/blood of Christ,*" the people may say softly, "*Amen,*" confessing faith in our Lord's words, which make it so.

Old traditions suggest a couple of brief, quiet personal prayers before receiving the Lord's Body and Blood. Before receiving the host: "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and [Thy] servant will be healed" (St. Matthew 8:8). And, before receiving the cup: "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord" (Ps 116:12-13).

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
Etechells (Dale & Kari's Son)

A1C Trevor Smith (USAF) (SSLC
member)

Cadet Ethan Dodson (USAF Prep
School)

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



Please continue prayers and other support for the Pagosa Springs family up here for as long as their premie twins need to be in the hospital [St. Francis Medical Center]. Jeremiah and Chloe Hawkins are a young couple with two girls (ages 4 & 2). They attend Our Savior Lutheran Church in Pagosa Springs, CO.

From Lana Packer... "If you can help in any of the areas they have need, I know they would be so grateful! You all may not know them, but I hope you get to meet them at church soon! Prayer is always the most effective help we can ever give."

Please see the Go Fund Me page for more information:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/aid-the-hawkins-family-during-nicu-stay>



St. Ignatius of Antioch, Pastor and Martyr

October 17 is set aside, on our liturgical calendar, to remember Ignatius of Antioch, Pastor and Martyr.

Ignatius was the bishop of Antioch in Syria at the beginning of the second century AD and an early Christian martyr. Near the end of the reign of the Roman Emperor Trajan (98-117 AD), Ignatius was arrested, taken in chains to Rome, and eventually thrown to the wild beasts in the arena.

On the way to Rome, he wrote letters to the Christians at Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, Rome, Philadelphia, and Smyrna, as well as to Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna. In the letters, which are beautifully pastoral in tone, Ignatius warned against certain heresies (false teachings). He also repeatedly stressed the full humanity and deity of Christ, the reality of Christ's bodily presence in the Lord's Supper, the supreme authority of the bishop, and the unity of the Church found in her bishops.

Ignatius was the first to use the word catholic (which in English means "universal") to describe the universality of the Church. His Christology, his courage in the face of martyrdom, and his zeal for the truth over against false doctrine are a lasting legacy to the Church.

Ignatius was possibly born in Syria around 35 AD and was a convert from paganism. He calls himself Theophoros, the "God-bearer." Tradition identifies him with the child Jesus held in his arms at Capernaum (Mark 9:36), but this seems to be based on a misunderstanding of Theophoros as the "God-borne." His letters provide us with a vital look at the church and its faith at a time when the leadership was changing hands from the Apostles to the "Apostolic Fathers" (those leaders who became Christians during the lifetime of the Apostles and carried the Christian Faith beyond the death of the Apostles).

Collect for the Commemoration of Ignatius of Antioch, Pastor and Martyr:
Almighty God, we praise Your name for Ignatius of Antioch, pastor and martyr. He offered himself as grain to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts so that he might present to You the pure bread of sacrifice. Accept the willing tribute of all that we are and all that we have, and give us a portion in the pure and unspotted offering of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

The Biblical City of Antioch

Submitted by Gary Law

Antioch - an ancient city referenced in Acts, Galatians and 2 Timothy was a major center of Christian life and learning until wars, epidemics, earthquakes, and Islamic conquest in the 7th century brought about its gradual decline. In Jesus's time it was a luxurious, cosmopolitan, multicultural city with a large Jewish community. It possessed magnificent temples, theaters, aqueducts, and baths. While highly cultured, its social life was also corrupt, licentious, sensual and what, until recently in western society, would have been considered shocking and degenerate. It became the third city in the Roman Empire with a population of 500,000 and was surpassed in size and importance only by Rome and Alexandria.

Antioch was founded around 300 BC on the south bank of the Orontes river (a strategic location) in what is now Turkey, near the Syrian border. It was named after a Syrian king, Antiochus. The new city soon became the western end of the caravan routes over which goods were brought from Persia and elsewhere in Asia to the Mediterranean.

After Stephen's martyrdom, many followers of Jesus fled to Antioch (Acts 11:19). Both Peter and Paul's visits to Antioch are well documented in Acts and Galatians. Paul's first missionary journey began in Antioch. Here followers of Jesus were first called "Christians". The church of Antioch had the distinction of having been founded by the Apostles Peter and Paul. As a result, its bishop ranked with the bishops of the other apostolic foundations—Jerusalem, Rome, and Alexandria. The bishops of Antioch thus became influential in theology and ecclesiastic politics. As a center of Christian learning and development, a number of early councils or synods were held in Antioch to deal with what would be orthodox teachings. Topics included Arianism, Messalians, Pelagianism, Nestorianism, and Monophysitism (sorry you'll have to look them up). Not all outcomes were on the side of what would become orthodox and were overturned in other councils.

The "modern" city of Antakya is built on the ruins of Antioch. Much of the ancient city is buried under Antakya and alluvial deposits from the river Orontes. Many Christian churches have been uncovered in the excavated ruins. The most famous being Constantine's octagonal church from the 4th century.

Antioch is located in a seismic active zone and has been destroyed by earthquakes and rebuilt many times. An earthquake in 326 AD killed 250,000 people. In 2023 another major earthquake occurred, and Antakya sustained major damaged with many historical buildings destroyed.



Celebrate

October Birthdays!

| | |
|-------|-----------------|
| 10/02 | Richard Franzen |
| 10/08 | Carol Ross |
| 10/12 | Jill Damec |
| 10/24 | Larry Groggel |

October Anniversary!

10/23 Jeff Phillips and Nina Kuberski





Shepherd of the Springs Church Little Lambs

It's started! A catechism class for the children of our congregation! It meets at the same time as our Adult Bible Study and is led by **Jason and Lana Packer**. With eight regular attendees, and room for many more as our church grows, the kids are led through the Small Catechism, read and discuss the weekly Gospel passage, and play catechism memory games.

If you attend Adult Bible Study, you may have heard the children's sweet voices floating through the halls. They are learning an Advent Hymn. [Spoiler alert: these kids will be singing during the service of the first Sunday in Advent!]

Please keep our youngest church members in your prayers as they learn the pillars of our faith!

Thank you.

Lana
Packer





Welcome!

Pastor and Yong's family visiting from Korea

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Sister: | Pak Yong Ae |
| Her husband: | Lee Jeong Chul |
| Their son: | Lee Hyun Duck |
| His wife: | Lee Mi Na |
| Their son | Lee Hae Dam |



**October is Food Pantry collection month at SSLC.
Please bring non-perishables and place in the box in the Narthex.
Our food collection goes to support
Holy Cross Lutheran Church Food Pantry.
4125 Constitution Ave., Co. Springs, CO**

From Cheri Penwell...Rio Rico, AZ

My friend snapped this while we were walking one morning. She didn't realize she had taken this until she looked back at her photos a couple of days later. This is not photoshopped. It is actually two separate clouds that just happened to do this formation as she snapped it.

Response from Pastor.....Thank you Cheri for sending this out. What are we reminded of in this photo? Two promises: The rainbow given as a sign that our Lord will never destroy with a cataclysmic world-wide flood and the promise of the the forgiveness of sins!



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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