



The Shepherd

*A monthly newsletter of Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod, Colorado Springs, CO.*

February 2025 Church Calendar

Sunday: **Divine Service 9:00AM**
Followed by **Bible Study at 10:30 AM**

Sun Feb. 2 **Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord**

Sun Feb. 9 **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Fri. Feb. 14 **Valentine's Day**

Sat. Feb. 15 **9:00AM** **Men's Group**
Open to all SSLC men

Sun. Feb. 16 **Septuagesima** **Workers in the Vineyard**



Bible Study
Followed by Quarterly Members meeting

Sun. Feb. 23 **Sexagesima** **Sower and the Seeds**

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, Ash Weds. marks the beginning of Lent

“Victory!”



Dear fellow redeemed in Christ Jesus, our Lord,

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:57-58).

Oh, the sweet sensation of victory! How wonderful it feels to win! Is there any feeling as pleasing as victory? Is there any sensation as joyous as being on a championship team? If you have ever been involved in sports, you know exactly what I am talking about. There is a feeling of overwhelming joy when your team, after hours and hours of hard work and practice, wins a championship.

Victory is, indeed, sweet! Our victories in this life come as the result of hard work, dedication, and practice. We earn our victories in this life. We set goals, either individually or as a team, and then we work hard at achieving those goals. And, by way of those many hours of work, the result is victory, which is followed by a celebration marking our achievement. However, our victory in Christ is much different!

But, there is a distinct difference between the victories we experience in this life and the victory we have in Christ Jesus, our Lord, since it is not earned by us! It does not come as the result of our hardwork, dedication, and practice. Instead, remarkably, it is given to us by God on account of the saving work of His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus has won the

victory for us! Through faith in Jesus Christ, the Victor, we are on the winning team! And, to the victors go the spoils.

Our victories in this life earn trophies and medals (along with pride), but the victory Christ has won for us brings immeasurable blessings and rewards to us. Our victories in this life are over other individuals and teams and bring temporary rewards and pleasures that last only until we again, inevitably, experience defeat. Yet, the victory Jesus has won for us is over sin, death, and the devil and brings eternal blessings and rewards to us – forgiveness of sins, everlasting life, and salvation!

Thus, we can conclude that the victories we experience in this life are mere foretastes, and incomparable, to the victory we have been given through our Lord Jesus. To be sure, we enjoy victories in this life. It is wonderful to be on the winning team. The athletes who win gold medals at the Olympics will savor their victory. They will be on cloud nine for a while. However, as wonderful as it would be for any of us to win Olympic gold, we know that the victory we have in Jesus is far, far sweeter, for it is eternal and it removes all earthly doubts and fears, and assures us that sin has been overcome, death has been conquered, the devil has been summarily defeated, and heaven is ours.

Dearly beloved in Christ, rejoice in the victory your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has won for you. Nothing on earth, whether trials or tribulations, illnesses or financial difficulties, persecutions or tragedies – not even death – can take away the victory you have through Jesus Christ! Through faith in Him, you will one day join the everlasting celebration of Christ's victory in heaven. Through faith in Him, you are on the eternal winning team!

In Jesus' Holy and Precious Name,

Pastor +++



Commemoration of Saint Valentine, Martyr February 14

Valentine's Day is a day that most American's are very familiar with; even though, they really do not know much about it! The greeting card companies and florists love it! Yet, did you know that the origins of this day reach back to the third century!

The name Valentine means "*worthy*," and so it is not surprising that there has been more than one individual with the name. Indeed, a number of them have figured prominently in Church history. The man this day is associated with lived in the Third Century. More than enough archeological evidence has been found to confirm the main points of his story, though some details might be embellished.

Valentine was a physician and priest living in Rome during the rule of Emperor Claudius II (268-270 AD). At this time it was still illegal to be a Christian or to help them. Claudius wanted to restore the glory of Rome. He felt restoring the army was vital in this effort. However, he didn't want to draft anyone so he was going to have an all volunteer army. In this effort, he discovered that unmarried men were more likely to join than married men. So, believe it or not, he outlawed marriages. That is to say, if you were already married, that was okay. Conversely, if you were not

married, you couldn't get married. Many young couples were understandably upset!

As said, Valentine was a Christian priest. He married people, even though it was against the law. (This is the romantic connections with Valentine we celebrate today.) When Claudius found out, Valentine was arrested. He was arrested while actually conducting a marriage for a Christian couple. Claudius took a liking to this prisoner – until Valentine made a strategic error: he attempted to convert the Emperor – whereupon he was condemned to death. He was beaten with clubs and stoned; when that didn't kill him; he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 270 AD. Rather quickly he was remembered by the Early Church with a day commemorating the day of his martyrdom!

Tradition suggests that, on the day of his execution, Valentine left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer written on an irregularly shaped piece of paper. He signed it, "*From your Valentine.*" This greeting became a pattern for millions of written expressions of love and caring that now are the highlight of Valentine's Day.

Valentine's love flowed from his faith in Christ Jesus as did his actions in marrying people. His willingness to die was a willingness born from his unwavering faith in his Lord Jesus! Perhaps the best way we can honor the memory of Valentine is for the love of Christ to flow through us as well.

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, You kindled the flame of Your love in the heart of Your holy martyr Valentine. Grant to us, Your humble servants, a like faith and the power of love, that we who rejoice in Christ's triumph may embody His love in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.





Members

Ron Dodge

Cheri Penwell

Darrell Root

Marlene Schmidt

Military

Major (CH) Gerson Flor (Canadian Armed Forces)

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

Captain Abel Wilson (USAF) (Friend of SSLC)

1LT Frederick Heidt (USAF) (Friend of Larry and Sue)

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

First Sergeant (USA) Benjamin Kueter

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

A1C Trevor Smith (USAF)

Cadet Ethan Dodson (USAF Prep School)

Family Members

Gayle Rathbone (Heather's Mother)

Patty Krueger (Barry's Widow)

Kathi Chase (Kari's Sister)

Rainer Dieterle (Conny's Father)

Dennis Etchells (Dale's Brother)

Eli Belser (Shannon and Ben's nephew)

Blake (Shannon's brother)

Raquel (Lindsay's sister)

Janice Patterson (Pastor's Mother)



February birthdays

02/09 Jeff Patterson
02/12 Nina Kuberski
02/15 Gislei Flor
02/24 Lindsey Suszek
02/27 Maddison Packer

Special birthday gratitude

Nina Kuberski

Shepherd's quiet, faithful, and knowledgeable volunteer



Take a moment to wish Nina a **happy birthday** and **thank her** for all she does for our Church. Here are just a few things she does to make Shepherd a warm, welcoming, and small but mighty Church.

On snowy Sundays, Nina shovels the entrance sidewalks so that all of us arrive safely.

The many banners of welcome and praise are Nina's work
She organizes and prints the weekly Church service bulletins.

Nina, with Kari Etchells, are Shepherd's Altar Guild, making sure that everything from the banners, candles, communion ware, altar cloths are clean and in their proper place. Nina checks that vestments for Pastor, the weekly Reader and Acolytes are clean and worn correctly.

She has recently completed sewing two sets of chair covers for the Sanctuary chairs. Gold covers were sewn for Advent to protect the chairs from candle wax drippings and now the new covers match the color of the chairs and protect and help keep the chairs clean.

Thank you, Nina, for all you do, for all of us.

PS On Feb. 6, Nina's husband, Jeff Phillips, will have knee replacement surgery. Our prayers go out to them as they work through recovery and rehab.





In Thee Is Gladness (LSB #818) Compiled by Evelyn Law

(The following biography contains uncertainties because records were either not kept during the time period, were lost, or were destroyed. I also could not find a picture of the author. However, we can be certain that the title of this hymn is 100% true. In our Lord we do have gladness!)

Johann Lindemann published his hymn, "In Thee Is Gladness," in 1598, along with some of his other compositions. Sadly, most of his music is lost, except for a few hymn collections. This hymn is the only one of his included in Lutheran Service Book.

Lindemann, born in Gotha, Thuringia, Germany around 1550, was the son of the city's burgess. He appears to have become cantor at Gotha in 1571 or 1572, and retired from this post in 1631. He was a member of the new Council at Gotha around 1634. He was related to Martin Luther and was one of the signers of the Lutheran Formula of Concord (1577).

Lindemann was particularly significant because of his ability to unite the Italian madrigal (a major vocal form of the late 16th to early 17th centuries) with the German chorale tradition. He became most famous for his contrafactum: providing a new text to an existing music.

The tune of this hymn was adapted from Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi's IN DIR IST FREUDE (In Thee Is Gladness). Gastoldi (c. 1554-1609) was an Italian priest and composer who had a great influence on several great composers of his era. Pastor Stephen Starke also used this tune for his hymn "My Soul Rejoices" (LSB #933).

Some sources say the date of Lindemann's death is unknown. Other sources list it in 1631 or 1633 or 1634. Whenever it was, we are grateful to God for preserving this hymn so that He can give us comfort through it and we can sing it to praise and adore Him



*Above all, be loving.
This ties everything together perfectly.
Colossians 3:14*



**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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