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The Shepherd

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

March 2025 Church Calendar

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

Sun March 2

Quinquagesima

Follow Christ

Weds March 5

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday

Thurs March 6

4:00 pm Elders meeting

Sat March 8

9:00 am Men's Group

Lent

Sun March 9 **1st Sun in Lent (Invocabit)** **Temptation**
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME Begins

Weds March 12 *6:00 pm Soup Supper*
7:00 pm First mid-week Lenten Vespers

Sun March 16 **2nd Sun in Lent (Reminiscere)** **Canaanite Woman**

Weds March 19 *6:00pm Soup Supper*
7:00 pm 2nd mid-week Lenten Vespers

Sun March 23 **3rd Sunday in Lent (Oculi)** **Jesus and Beelzebub**

Weds March 26 *6:00 pm Soup supper*
7:00 pm 3rd mid-week Lenten Vespers

Sun March 30 **4th Sunday in Lent (Laetare)** **Refreshment**

Sun April 20 Easter Sunday



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Will You Observe Lent?"

Hirtenbrief 3-25

Dear Fellow Redeemed in Christ Jesus,

It's only a week away. On March 5th we will begin the season of Lent. Or, will we?

Yes, you will be marked with ashes on Ash Wednesday; and, yes, the violet (not purple) paraments will adorn our Altar, Pulpit and Lectern; and, yes, Midweek Vesper Services will commence each Wednesday after Ash Wednesday; and, yes, you will hear all of the familiar readings, including the Passion of our Lord Jesus as this penitential season progresses. Rest assured, Lent will be observed at Shepherd of the Springs!



However, will you observe Lent? Will you? Will I? Or, will we just go through the motions? The holy and penitential season of Lent beckons us, dearly beloved; but, will we heed its call? Will we accept its invitation to truly examine ourselves, to do some "soul-searching" and analyze how we're doing in relation to our Lord's commandments? Will we seize the opportunity this season provides for us to recognize more deeply our need for our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ? Will we heed Lent's call to amend our sinful lives and re-dedicate ourselves to the faith we confess? These are pointed questions, to be sure, but they are questions each one of us should be asking ourselves!

Lent is faithful! It will not let you down. It comes every year and provides you with the same occasion to do some much needed spiritual house-cleaning! Nevertheless, it will do you no good if you do not seize the chance it provides. It will avail you nothing if you just go through the motions!

So, how do you seize this Lenten season? Well, the answer to that question will be different for each one of you as you examine yourself and identify your spiritual faults! Therefore, here is a list of occasions you would do well to deeply ponder:

1. Church attendance: Clearly, attending Divine Services and Vesper Mid-Week Services are where your Lord and Redeemer comes in His real Presence and gives you His gifts through Word and Sacrament. Being in His presence must be your highest priority! Is it?

2. Bible Study: This is also so obvious! Christians know the importance of being in the Word of God. Or, at least, they should. Are you in the Word as often as you should be?
3. Prayer/Devotional Life: How is the state of your prayer and devotional life? Do you set aside some time each day to spend with the Lord? This is very, very important!
4. Being Attentive in Divine Service: When in the presence of your Lord, do you strive to pay attention to the Word in the liturgy, hymns, readings, and sermon; or are you guilty of simply going through the motions?
5. Service: Are you committed to serving the Lord and His Church with your stewardship? Does He get your first-fruits or do you begrudge Him your leftovers? Are you committed to serving your neighbor, your fellow members at SSLC?
6. Confession: Do you strive to confess your faith in word and deed, or do you forget that you are a Christian between Sundays?
7. Striving Against Sin: Are there certain sins that truly have control over you? Do you struggle against them and strive to defeat them via God's holy Word; or do you simply throw in the towel and indulge them? Be forewarned!

Dearly Beloved, this short list is, by no means, exhaustive, but it's a very good start. The holy and penitential season of Lent provides you with an opportunity to deeply examine your spiritual life; examine how well you are doing and, most importantly, to strive to improve where you are lacking! I know there are many areas in which I have much to examine; leading to repentance! What say you?

It is my sincere hope and prayer that each one of you will truly observe Lent this year; that you would not just "go through the motions!" But that you would embark on the spiritual journey Lent invites you to take. It is only as you truly examine yourself that you will come to deeply appreciate the salvific work of your Lord and Savior and all that He accomplished in His atoning sacrifice...for you! Lent provides you with this opportunity. Will you seize it? I earnestly pray that you will!

In Jesus' Holy and Precious Name,

Pastor +++



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 (USAFA 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)

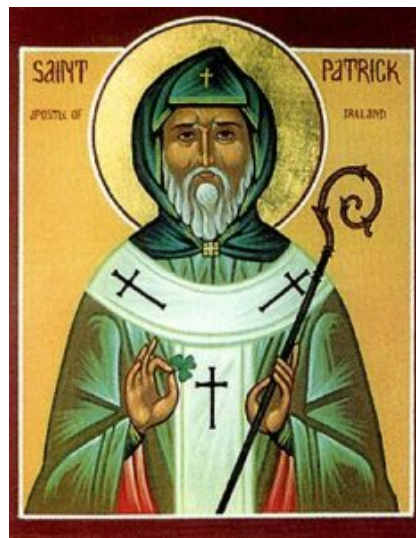
Raquel (Lindsay's sister)

Janice Patterson (Pastor's Mother)



Commemoration of Saint Patrick, Missionary to Ireland

March 17



The Lord be with you!

Patrick is one of the best-known of the missionary saints. Born to a Christian family in Britain around the year 389 AD he was captured as a teenager by raiders, taken to Ireland, and forced to serve as a herdsman. After six years, he escaped and found his way to a monastery community in France. Ordained a bishop, it is believed that Patrick made his way back to Ireland in the summer of 433, and there spent the rest of his long life spreading the Gospel and organizing Christian communities. He strongly defended the doctrine of the Holy Trinity in a time when it was not popular to do so. His literary legacy includes his autobiography (called “The Confession of Saint Patrick,” several prayers and hymns) still used in the Church today. At least one tradition states that Patrick died in Ireland on March 17, around the year 466.

Who Patrick was isn't well known. Throughout Ireland, the United States, and other nations, Patrick's life as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is celebrated on March 17. But, like St. Nicholas, very few people know anything about the real Patrick and even less about his ministry to the Irish.

First, Patrick is widely regarded for having rid Ireland of all snakes, frogs, and toad! Irish folklore suggests that he gathered all the reptiles from Ireland into the western part of Connaught and drove them into the sea from the summit of Eagle Hill (now known as Croagh Pat). Whenever snakes became disinclined

to follow him to the summit, legend suggest that he would ring his bell as an inducement. Then the snakes would quickly follow. At the very last moment, he is reported to have hurled his bell among the snakes at the summit, persuading them to leap from the rocks into the sea.

Yes, it's not true; only folklore! The fact that there are no snakes in Ireland today is due to geological, not theological reasons. In reality, the reason that St. Patrick is associated with the driving out of reptiles in Ireland may be attributed to his work against Druid pagan worship. Snake-worship (ophiolatry) has been a widespread practice among primitive peoples around the world. Serpent-worship was also practiced among the Druids and their followers. Patrick vigorously opposed the Druids and their pagan practices. He sought to drive out the Druids, along with their serpent-worship, demon-worship and other acts of idolatry. Due to this fact, Irish folklore has associated Patrick's efforts as a Christian missionary with having driving out all reptiles from Ireland.

Finally, Patrick was Briton, as you read above; he wasn't an Irish Catholic! Ireland was one part of European environs which had never been part of the Roman Empire or the Roman Church; therefore, Celtic Christianity was not associated with Roman hierarchy. Christianity spread through Ireland by individual Christian leaders, like St. Patrick, rather than orchestrated efforts by "state" churches.

Prayer: *Almighty God, who in Your providence chose Your servant Patrick to be a missionary to the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of You: Grant us so to walk in that light, that we may bring others to the peace and joy of Your gospel and come at last with them to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.*

Pastor +++



Hymns and Fossils?

Compiled by Evelyn Law

Joachim Neander (1650-1680) wrote 60 hymns between his conversion to Christianity when he was 20 years old until his death from tuberculosis when he was 30. “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,” the most famous of his hymns, is the only one included in Lutheran Service Book (#790).

From 1674 to 1679, Neander served as principal of the Reformed Lateinschule (grammar school) in Düsseldorf, Germany. During these years, he used to wander the secluded Düssel River valley, which was about 7 miles east of the town. The valley, a deep ravine between rock faces and forests, consisted of numerous caves, grottos and waterfalls. Neander wrote many of his hymns there, but also held gatherings and services. He spent so much time in that area that the locals started calling it Neander Valley (in German, Neanderthal). In the early 19th Century, a large cave was named Neanderhöhle (Neander's Hollow) after him.

(Beginning to understand the title? I bet you could write the rest of this article yourself. But I’ll go ahead and finish it.)

In the mid-19th Century, the cement industry started to quarry the limestone in the valley, and the narrow ravine became wide. In the summer of 1856, workers in Neandershöhle quarry discovered a human fossil assemblage in Feldhofer Cave. In 1864 scientists deemed the fossils to be a new human species, which they called *Homo neanderthalensis*, meaning: “human from the Neander Valley”. (See more about this in the following article.)

Another interesting tidbit: Neander’s family name was Neumann, but, as was popular at the time, his grandfather changed it to a foreign equivalent, in this case Greek. Both names mean “new man”.

Scientists saw the fossils as a new man. But we know the new man in this story was created the day Joachim Neander became a Christian.

There’s more to the **Joachim Neander** story than just this. I will tell you the rest of the story in the next newsletter. Stay tuned. To be continue.....

Speaking of Neanderthals...

Submitted by Gary Law

The treatment of Neanderthals provides a clear example of the results of the bias toward an evolutionary worldview and why it is important to be cautious when new and extraordinary claims are made. As noted previously Neanderthal fossils were first discovered in 1856 in the Neander Valley in Germany.

Darwin's version of evolution was new when in 1864 the Neanderthals were labeled as a sub-human species. The study of fossils, which were rare at the time, was also relatively new. Evolutionists were looking for links between "monkeys and men" and thought they had found one in the Neanderthals. For decades they have been depicted as brutish, hairy, stooped cavemen with numerous reconstructions showing a "half ape and half man". They were originally conceived as incapable of complex speech and barely able to make primitive tools. But since their discovery, over 500 skeletons have been found and the depiction in the last 50 years has radically changed.

Their brain was slightly larger than "modern" man (note the inherent bias in the label "modern"), about three times larger than an ape brain. They buried the dead with ceremony (an act known only to humans). They were sometimes buried with modern humans. They likely built boats and sailed the Mediterranean Sea. They had controlled use of fire, made music, jewelry, and cave art. They were sophisticated hunters with a diverse diet and were apparently smart enough to survive in what uniformitarian scientists assume was a very cold environment during the Ice Age. While they were

"cavemen" in that they lived in caves (as do some people today), they also built structures inside the caves.

Based on DNA analysis, Neanderthals and modern humans intermarried. It turns out we all have Neanderthal DNA and some people still show Neanderthal-like skull features. So evidence now supports a biblical view that Neanderthals were just another people group who left Babel and settled in Europe and Western Asia. Even most evolutionist today do not consider Neanderthals primitive.

But some lessons are hard to learn. The latest evolutionary "caveman species" is *Homo longi* or "Dragon Man". It is based on a single fossil cranium found in Harbin City, China in the 1930's but only recently studied.

So from this:



we get this reconstruction:



And all the stories that go with a supposed "new species" of human.



March birthday

3/25 Sam Penwell



The Shepherd 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!

Rev. Jeff Patterson-Pastor@sslc-cos.org (719) 396-4710

Dr. Steven A. Hein-Deacon Steven Hein <heinsteven@ix.netcom.com> (719) 338-789

Address of Church: 6755 Earl Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Website: www.sslc-cos.org

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

