



The Shepherd

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

Colorado Springs, CO.

August, 2025 Church Calendar

Sundays' Divine Service 9:00 AM

Followed by Bible Study 10:30 AM

Sun, Aug. 3 Trinity 7 Feeding the 4000

Thurs., Aug. 7 Elders meeting 4:00pm

Sun, Aug. 10 Trinity 8 Little Reformation

Thurs. Aug. 14 SSLC Council meeting 6:00pm

Sun, Aug. 17 Trinity 9 Unjust Steward

*Following Divine service;
Shepherd of the Springs
Voters Quarterly meeting
Jeff Damec, Council president*

Sun. Aug. 24 Feast of St. Bartholomew

Sun, Aug. 31 Trinity 11 True Godliness

Potluck Sunday !

A reminder to join in!

No experience, no advanced degree, no special training required.

Just listen and learn!

AUGUST BIBLE STUDY

**Study of the Gospel According to St. Matthew
August 2025**

VIII. Passion Week (Chapters 21:1 – 27:66)

C. The Last Controversies with the Jewish Leaders (21:18 – 22:46)

- 4. The Parable of the Marriage Feast (22:1-14) (Aug 3)**
- 5. Paying Taxes to Caesar (22:15-22) (Aug 3)**
- 6. Questions about the Resurrection (22:23-33) (Aug 3)**
- 7. The Great Commandment (22:34-40) (Aug 10)**
- 8. David's Son (22:41-46) (Aug 10)**

D. The Fifth Discourse (Chapter 23:1 – 26:1)

- 1. Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees (23:1-36) (Aug 17)**
- 2. The Lament over Jerusalem (23:37-39) (Aug 17)**
- 3. Prophecy of the Destruction of the Temple (24:1-3)
(Aug 24)**
- 4. The End of the Age (24:4-51) (Aug 24)**
- 5. The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (25:1-13)
(Aug 31)**
- 6. The Parable of the Talents (25:14-30) (Aug 31)**
- 7. The Great Judgment (25:31 – 26:1) (Sep 7)**

**Videos of Sunday Bible Study are posted with slides on our website
[not live-streamed].**



A Forgiven Sinner

Dearly Beloved,

“And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed” (Gen. 2:25).

Before the Fall in the Garden, Adam and Eve did not know shame. They are living in paradise! There was no sin – no lust, no pride, no greed, no selfishness, no grief, no evil in any form. They had a perfect relationship with each other, with all of creation, and, most importantly, with their Creator.

Well, we know what happens; they chose to listen to the evil one, Satan; they were tempted to eat of the fruit from the forbidden tree, the fruit that brought them the knowledge of good and evil. Immediately, they knew shame, for now they knew not only what was good and pleasing in God’s sight, but also what was evil. What was beautiful and natural and perfect only a moment ago was now ugly and unnatural and broken by their sin. They knew they were naked and covered themselves with fig leaves, for they were now ashamed of their nakedness. With their newfound knowledge of good and evil came the shame and guilt of knowing that they had done evil – even more, that they were evil!

Now they are sinners – naked, lustful, pride-filled, greedy, selfish, sinners. And, they were scared of what God might do to them if He found out about their sin. So, they did what sinners who

know and feel the shame and guilt of their sins are always prone to do: They tried to cover it up and hide themselves from God. As descendants of Adam and Eve, conceived and born into this world as sinners, we know this ploy all too well! When our sins bring us shame and guilt, our immediate instinct is to do whatever we can to cover them up and hide them. And, we’re actually

pretty good at this; you could say that we have perfected the craft of cover-up!

Even when something in our armor cracks and our sins somehow escape from the secret chambers into which we have carefully secured them (and they almost always do), we are usually able to cover them up with masterful, imaginative stories or cleverly devised excuses. We are masters of deceit; experts in the art of lying. We know how to cover up and hide our sins from others, so that the shame and guilt we experience remains personal and seemingly manageable. Our greatest fear is that we become exposed and naked before others; that our sins become known to them. It is one thing to piously acknowledge to the world and everyone we know that we are sinners; it's quite another thing for the world and everyone we know to actually see the reality of what we rightly confess.

However, here is the sobering truth: All of your efforts to cover up and hide your sins are as futile as the attempt your first parents made to cover up their nakedness with fig leaves. You can certainly deceive yourselves, those you know, and even the world; however, you cannot mock, or fool, God! Adam and Eve covered up their nakedness with fig leaves, so that they would not be ashamed of one another, but they were still naked and exposed before God.

So are you, no matter how elaborate or clever or imaginative or secure your shame-and-guilt-covering “fig leaves” of lies and deceit may seem; you are exposed, found out, naked!

God knows! And that should not be shocking to you! Yet, here is His amazing grace: Rather than expose you for the sinner that you are; rather than shame you before all those who love you; God covers you and your sins Himself. Even more amazing, He covers up and hides your sins with Himself!

God's response to Adam and Eve's disobedience is truly remarkable! He asks them what they have done, and they are immediately convicted by the Law. They know they have sinned. They are ashamed. They are guilty. They are exposed. And yet, despite that, and despite the asinine excuses; God preaches the Gospel to them! He promises to send the Seed of the woman to pay for their sins and crush the devil's head – to save them. Then – and please don't miss this! – He makes for them garments of skin and clothes them. God sacrifices animals in their place, that He might cover, hide their shame.

It is the same for you! Your sins bring you shame and guilt, for the Holy Spirit directs your attention to what you have done and you know that you have eaten of the “forbidden fruit” and disobeyed God’s Holy Law. His Law accuses you and shows you your sins. You are rightly ashamed, guilty, and exposed before God, no matter how well you are able to cover up and hide your shame from others.

God’s answer is not to immediately condemn you (that you most certainly deserve), but to cover you. Thus, the Holy Spirit directs you to the Cross of your Lord Jesus Christ, the Promised Seed of the woman, who paid the ransom price for your sins in full with His blood! On the Cross, Jesus is naked and exposed, laid bare before His Father, bearing the shame and guilt of all sin of all time, so that you will not have to bear it yourself! In the blood of Jesus, your sins are blotted out and your shame and guilt are put away – covered up, hidden!

And – again, please don’t miss this! – He is the unblemished Lamb of God, who is sacrificed in your place, precisely so that you can be clothed in Him. You cannot cover up or hide from God the shame and guilt you know and feel and experience because of your sins, but God can, and does!

Dearly beloved, you have been baptized into Christ Jesus, clothed in the white garment of His perfect holiness and righteousness, and you are continually washed clean in the Blood of the Lamb through Holy Absolution, Holy Preaching, and the Holy Supper! Your sins are forgiven! Due to this awesome, most glorious fact, you shall not be put to shame when our Lord Jesus returns in great glory on the Last Day!

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin” (Rom. 4:7-8; Ps. 32:1-2).

In Jesus’ Holy and Precious Name,

Pastor +++

Soli Deo Gloria

August 3



The Commemoration of Joanna, Mary, and Salome, Myrrhbearers, is an adaptation of the day celebrated in Orthodox Churches on the third Sunday after Easter (the Sunday before the Ascension of our Lord). Therefore, this give us a change to explore where all of the “new” commemorations come from in the LC-MS. The committee who put together our liturgical calendar obviously consulted the many liturgical calendars used today, and throughout time, in selecting the “new” days. Many, but not all, of the new days come from these sources. They added to this a review of the history of the LC-MS and included a few key individuals on our liturgical calendar, like Friedrich Wyneken (May 4) and C.F.W. Walther (May 7). Generally speaking, these are names that do not appear on other calendars. Including names of individuals that are important in the history of a particular denomination

is a common practice in liturgical churches.

The celebration of these women on the third Sunday after Easter makes sense when we consider the name given them, “myrrhbearers.” This refers to their act of bringing myrrh to the tomb of Jesus on the first Easter morning to anoint the, presumably, dead body of Jesus. However, celebrating them in the middle of summer also makes sense, and accents that trying to anoint the body of Jesus was not the only service these women rendered to the Lord.

These “faithful women,” as they are sometimes called, faithfully provided care for Jesus and His disciples from the time of His Galilean ministry. There were a number of women who provided this humble service besides these three, including the Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene, Susanna, Mary and Martha (the sisters of Lazarus).

On Easter morning, Joanna [the wife of Chuza, a steward in Herod’s household (Luke 8:3)], Mary [the mother of James (the sons of Alphaeus)] and, Salome [the mother of James and John (Matthew 27:56)], with the other women, rose early to bring their spices to the garden tomb. They came, in spite of the fact that they did not expect to find the Lord alive. They came, in spite of potential danger to anyone who

might be associated with Jesus. They came in one of the darkest hours of their lives, when faith seemed unreasonable and despair seemed the rational response.

It is easy enough to have faith when everything seems to be going your way. You see with your own eyes blessings pouring down upon you.

But in the dark night of despair, when all seems to be against you, when your best efforts fail, then clinging to the Lord is hard; that is when your faith is truly tested! The faith of these ladies remained true in just such a time and they can be an inspiration to us when we struggle in dark times. They carried the spices of death, but they found life! They found life because they went to the source of life, Jesus, the Christ! We find life and hope in the same One, the resurrected Jesus.

As I said earlier, these ladies didn't just join the band of disciples following Jesus. They had been with Him since His days in Galilee.

They had served the Lord and His disciples for quite some time. This was not flashy service. It was everyday sorts of things. Yet these faithful women have been honored in the Church through the centuries as examples of humble and devoted service to the Lord.

Many of you serve in this way, humbly. Your names will never appear on a liturgical calendar.

However, you should remember that the word "humble" is used to describe our Lord (Matthew 21:5), the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:48) and St. Paul (2 Corinthians 10:1; 12:21).

While fallen human nature exalts the proud, the arrogant, the conceited, and even the deceitful; the Lord exalts the humble and opposes the proud (Luke 1:52; James 4:6, 10; 1 Peter 3:8). Therefore these humble servants of the Lord are also an inspiration to each of you to serve your exalted Lord in all humility!

Let Us Pray: *Mighty God, Your crucified and buried Son did not remain in the tomb for long. Give us joy in the tasks set before us, that we might carry out faithful acts of service as did Joanna, Mary, and Salome, offering to You the sweet perfume of our grateful hearts, so that we, too, may see the glory of Your resurrection and proclaim the Good News with unrestrained eagerness and fervor worked in us through our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.*



Members

Ron Dodge
Paul Hildebrand
Cheri Penwell
Sam Penwell
Darrell Root
Marlene Schmidt

First Sergeant (USA) Benjamin Kueter

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

SrA Trevor Smith (USAF)

Cadet Ethan Dodson (USAF)

Military

Major (CH) Gerson Flor (Canadian Armed Forces)

Captain Rob Landers (USAF) (Barry and Patty'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)

Family Members

Gayle Rathbone (Heather's Mother)

Patty Krueger (Barry's Wife)

Kathi Chase (Kari's Sister)

Rainer Dieterle (Conny's Father)

Dennis Etchells (Dale's Brother)

Eli (Shannon and Ben's nephew)

Blake (Shannon's brother)

Raquel (Lindsay's sister)

Janice Patterson (Pastor's Mother)



The Jewish Calendar - Jesus's Calendar

Submitted by Gary Law

We use the Gregorian calendar, established by Pope Gregory VIII in 1582. It is a solar calendar based, as one would expect from the name, on the sun. The Gregorian calendar was a reform of the Roman Julian calendar. The Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar, was in use during Jesus's time.

The origin of the Jewish calendar can no longer be accurately traced. The one in general use during Jesus's time was regulated by the Sanhedrin and used both lunar and solar movements. The months were determined by the moon and the year was determined by the sun. There are 12 months of 29 or 30 days. The beginning of a new month began when a New Moon was observed. A new day began at sunset (an important distinction from the Roman notion of midnight as the beginning of a new day.)

The lunar calendar was 11 days shorter than the solar calendar so a leap year was required to ensure the major festivals stayed in their proper seasons. In Jesus's time the Sanhedrin declared a leap year containing an extra month approximately every 3 years. In the 4th century, with the decline of the Sanhedrin, it was fixed to occur 7 times in a 19 year cycle.

Following the Babylonian exile, the Jewish calendar used (and still uses) the Babylonian names for the months. The months are Nisan, Iyyar, Sivan, Tammuz, Av, Elul, Tishri, Heshvan, Kislev, Tevet, Shavat, and Adar. For leap years the extra month is noted as "Adar I" and is inserted before Adar, which for leap years is known as "Adar II". Confusing?

In Exodus 12 God establishes Nisan as the first month of the year. It is the month of the Passover. By Jesus's time there was a second calendar used for civil affairs which begins with the month of Tishri. This calendar is still in use.

Many ancient civilizations did not break the months into weeks (or if they did, the evidence is lost to time.) Interestingly, for those known, virtually every one has used a seven day week. Although there are many theories, scholars have not been able to trace the origin of the seven day week. A seven day week does not fit particularly well with either a lunar or solar calendar. Several attempts throughout history have been made to change the week and use 5, 8, or 10 days but none have lasted. Maybe Genesis 2:1-3 contains a clue.

Introducing the newest members of Shepherd,

Brian and Julia Bell and their three boys: Levi, Zayden and Tristan. After several attempts, Tristan preferred having his picture taken with SSLC's "Auntie" Nina!



Welcome to the Bell family!

Here is an introduction written by Julia Bell.....

The Bell family recently moved here after 5 years in Dayton, Ohio, where Julia was stationed with the Space Force. Julia is in her 12th year on active duty and is now teaching at the Astronautical Engineering department at USAFA. Brian works remotely from home as a satellite communications engineer for Maxar Space.

Julia grew up nearby in Monument. She met Brian in Arizona at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where they both majored in Aerospace Engineering. Brian came from Augusta, Missouri. His father still serves there as a pastor. It was during college when Julia started attending church with Brian. After graduation, Julia came back to Colorado to await her orders for active duty. That is when she found Shepherd of the Springs and completed her formal catechism with Dr. Hein!

Brian and Julia were married in 2014, and have since lived in Utah, California, and Ohio. They keep busy outside of work with their three boys: Levi (almost 6), Zayden (3), and Tristan (14 months). Levi is very active and loves to climb everything he can. He will start Kindergarten in August and is excited for reading and math. Zayden is sensitive and social, with strong opinions that he will readily share! Tristan is very sweet and active, working hard to keep up with his big brothers. All three boys love reading books and playing outside. Julia and Brian both enjoy music, books, board games, skiing, and hiking. Julia also likes to run. Brian enjoys shooting sports and working out. He served as an elder at their previous congregation.

The Bells are thankful to be a part of Shepherd of the Springs, and look forward to getting to know everyone better!



August Birthdays

08/11/24	<i>Olivia Damec First Birthday!</i>
08/11	Paul Rumpler
08/16	Steven Hein
08/18	William Suszek
08/25	Sydney Damec
08/27/23	Eve Packer
08/28	Gerson Flor
08/29	Drew Ochsner
08/30	Cheri Penwell

August Anniversaries



08/12	Dave and Marguerite Goforth
08/13	Ben and Shannon Kueter
08/19	Gary and Evelyn Law, <i>longtime members, now living in Florida and regular contributors to the <u>The Shepherd</u> newsletter</i>
08/29	Joel and Sidney Damec



Johann Sebastian Bach, Part 2

Submitted by Evelyn Law

When compiling my article about Johann Sebastian Bach for last month's newsletter, I had to leave out some tidbits because the article was getting too long. However, I thought some of the Bach-bits might be interesting or amusing to you. So, I'm presenting Bach, Part Zwei.

When 15-year-old Bach attended school in Lüneburg, he visited Hamburg more than once to hear noted organist Johann Adam Reincken (1623-1722). The trip was about 30 miles one way. He walked.

While organist at New Church in Arnstadt (1703-1708), he once drew his dagger in an argument with a youth who had resented Bach calling him a bassoonist incapable of creating sounds more pleasant than the bleat of a goat.

In 1705, Bach went missing for four months when he had only been granted four weeks study leave. He had spent the time listening to the celebrated organist Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707) in Lübeck.

In 1706, he got into more hot water when he was accused of permitting a lady into the organ loft.

From June 1708 to 1717, working at the Weimar court, Bach was appointed by Duke Wilhelm Ernst to be organist for the castle's chapel and to provide chamber music when required. His first original compositions date to this period. In 1708 Cantata No. 71, **Gott ist mein König** (God Is My King) was his first published composition, printed at the expense of the city council. In 1714, he was promoted to director of the court orchestra, a position that required a new cantata each month.

By 1717, Bach and Duke Wilhelm had fallen out. The duke had strictly forbidden any of his employees to work at the rival court of co-regent Duke Ernst August. Bach ignored this, even performing a birthday cantata dedicated to the duke. He then announced his intention to move on to the court of Prince Leopold of

Anhalt-Cöthen. Duke Wilhelm did not want to lose Bach's talents, though, and he kept his organist prisoner for four weeks. When the situation became impossible, Bach took up his new appointment as Prince Leopold's chief musician on New Year's Day 1718.

Prince Leopold was a Calvinist; so Bach now composed more secular music. He also diversified beyond the organ and cantatas. He created works for soloists of other instruments like the harpsichord, violin, flute, and cello. The court possessed a permanent in-house orchestra of talented musicians. Bach, as its head, composed pieces for the musicians to practice together and as soloists. He also wrote for the occasional guest virtuoso soloists. In addition he composed pieces designed to teach his children and various other students in his care. Bach was even given funds to buy new instruments for his team. This may have been Bach's happiest professional period. He was extremely prolific at this time, composing in virtually every genre of chamber music, and in a wide variety of styles.

In May 1723, Bach was appointed the choirmaster, organist and teacher of Saint Thomas' Church in Leipzig. The composer was not at all pleased with the quality of the 54 members of his choir, describing them as 17 usable, 20 not yet usable, and 17 wholly unsuitable.

A perfectionist, Bach was probably able to play all of the instruments in his orchestra, and he very likely tuned them

all personally prior to a public performance. During this time, Bach composed a prolific amount of works, almost a cantata each Sunday.

Bach appears to have been a good husband and father. He was also a good teacher and was never without pupils.

Bach exercised a profound and acknowledged influence directly on Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven.

Despite his eccentricities, we thank God for giving the world such a talented composer and musician.

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**August is the slow, gentle month
that stretches out the longest
across the span of a year.**

Victoria Erickson



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 <heinsteven@ix.netcom.com> (719) 338-7891

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