



The Shepherd

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

Sept., 2025 Church Calendar

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

Sept. 4 Thurs. Elders meeting. 4:00PM

Sept. 7 Sun. Trinity 12 Great Healing

Sept. 13 Sat. Men's Group Power and Primacy of the Pope 9:00AM

Sept. 14 Sun. Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sept. 21 Sun Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Sept. 28 Sun Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

*Bible Study is held every Sunday unless otherwise announced.
Join us!*

Weds. Sept. 24—Fri. Sep. 26

**Lutherans for Life National Conference
Great Wolf Lodge, Colorado Springs, CO**

<https://lutheransforlife.org/event/lutherans-for-life-national-conference-september-24-26-2025-colorado-springs-colorado/>

Email Pastor Patterson if you are interesting in attending

****Editor's note: A Hirtenbrief originally written by our Pastor for the Sept. 2023 newsletter is well worth repeating for this Sept.*

Hirtenbrief 9-23
September 2023

“Covered Sins”

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

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



Before the Fall in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve knew nothing of shame. There was no sin – no lust, no pride, no greed, no selfishness, no grief, no abuse, no nagging, no evil to speak or feel or experience! Their relationship were perfect; a perfect relationship with each other, with all of creation, and most importantly, with their Creator.

But, then, they ate 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 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. They were sinners – naked, lustful, pride-filled, greedy, selfish, sinners! And, they were terrified of what God might do to them. So, they did what sinners who know and feel the shame and guilt of their sins are always prone to do: They attempted to cover it up and hide themselves from God!

As sons and daughters 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 are very good at this; we've perfected the craft of keeping our sins secret and well-hidden from others. Even when something in our armor cracks and our sins somehow escape from our secret chamber, 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 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 our efforts to cover up and hide our sins are as futile as the attempt our first parents made to cover up their nakedness with fig leaves.

We may be able to deceive ourselves, those we know, and even the whole world, but we 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 we, no matter how elaborate or clever or imaginative or secure our shame-and-guilt-covering "fig leaves" of lies and deceit may seem to us. We are exposed, discovered, naked! God knows. But, here is the amazing thing: Rather than expose us for the sinners we are; God covers up and hides our sins Himself. Even more amazing, He covers up and hides our sins with Himself!

God's response to our first parents' disobedience in the Garden is astonishing! 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. And yet, despite all of that, and despite the flimsy excuses they offer in their desperate attempt to deflect the blame away from themselves and cover up their shame and guilt, 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 up and hide their shame and guilt. Gone are the fig leaves of their own devising - their futile attempt to cover up their shame and guilt. They cannot cover up or hide from God the shame and guilt they know and feel and experience because of their sins, but God can, and did, and does!

It is the same for us. Our sins bring us shame and guilt, for the Holy Spirit directs our attention to what we have done and we know that we have eaten of the forbidden fruit and disobeyed God's Law. His Law accuses us and shows us our sins. We are ashamed, guilty, and exposed before God, no matter how well we are able to cover up and hide our shame and guilt from others. Yet, God's answer is not to condemn us and put us to the shame we most certainly deserve, but to save us!

The Holy Spirit directs us to the Cross, where our Lord Jesus Christ, the Promised Seed of the woman, paid for our sins in full with His holy, innocent 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 we don't have to bear it ourselves. In the blood of Jesus, our sins are blotted out; our shame and guilt are put away – covered up! Again, please don't miss this! Jesus, the Christ, He is the unblemished Lamb of God, who is sacrificed in our place, precisely so that we can be clothed in Him.

We cannot cover up or hide from God the shame and guilt we know and feel and experience because of our sins, but God can, and did, and does! We have been baptized into Christ Jesus, clothed in the white garment of His perfect holiness and righteousness, and we are continually washed clean in the Blood of the Lamb through Holy Absolution, Holy Preaching, and the Holy Supper – His Means of Grace!

Our sins are forgiven and remembered no more, completely covered by the blood of Jesus. And because of this awesome, most glorious fact, we 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 to whom the Lord shall not impute sin”***

(Rom. 4:7-8; Ps. 32:1-2).

In His (and Your) Service,
Pastor Patterson ✝





Members

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

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

First Sergeant (USA) Benjamin Kueter

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

SrA Trevor Smith (USAF)

Cadet Ethan Dodson (USAF)

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)

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)





Something Different....

From Evelyn Law

Yeah, I know this isn't a hymn we sing every Sunday. Is it a hymn we have ever sung? Not sure. It does have the same tune as LSB #504, Father Most Holy, which we are a little more familiar with, if that helps. So, why, then, am I taking up your time with an article about this hymn? Well, Gregory the Great (540-604) wrote this hymn, and we commemorate him on September 3 each year. Most interesting, Gregory the Great was Pope Gregory I from 590 to 604. So, how could I not compile an article about a Catholic Pope in our Lutheran hymnal?!

Gregory was born in Rome. Although wealthy, his family was known for piety and good works. His father, Gordianus, was Prefect of Rome. His mother, Silvia, and her sisters-in-law, T

Tarsilla and Aemiliana, are recognized as saints in the Catholic and Orthodox churches. Gregory had a brother, but nothing is recorded of him, neither his name nor his fate.

Gregory was well educated and excelled in all his studies. He also became an expert in law. At 33 years old, he became the Prefect of Rome, just as his father had been.

After his father's death, Gregory devoted his entire inherited fortune to religious uses. He founded six monasteries in Sicily. He also established one on the site of his own house at Rome. He retired there as a Benedictine monk in 575. In 577 Pope Benedict I made him one of the seven Cardinal Deacons who presided over the seven principal divisions of Rome.

The following year, Benedict's successor, Pelagius II, sent Gregory as an ambassador to Constantinople. After six years, he returned to Rome. In 590,

Pope Pelagius II died, and Gregory was proclaimed pope by acclamation. This was not something he wanted, but he accepted it nevertheless. As Pope, he was famous for his emphasis on missionary work. He sent Augustine (of Canterbury) to Britain in 596. He also sent missionaries to Africa, Spain, and Ireland.

A prolific writer, Gregory's moral theology shaped medieval spirituality. His writings, which were very popular, offered practical wisdom for the Christians of his day. He was also very influential as a preacher, and many of his sermons still survive. He also helped make monastic ideals more flexible and applicable to the church as a whole. Deeply influenced by Stoicism, he adapted the philosophies of discretion and moderation. His goal was to show how all Christians could and must love their neighbor, as well as God, to the best of their abilities.

Gregory made clear to his subordinates that their duty was to relieve the distress of the poor. He ordered his clergy to go out into the streets to find and care for the poor in person. Deacons were often tasked with giving out alms. At least one deacon was assigned to each church and ordained for this purpose. Assets of the Church were liquidated to provide income for alms.

When a famine struck Rome in the 590s, Pope Gregory ordered the Church to use its assets to feed the poor. At that time, the Church controlled nearly two thousand square miles of land, overseen by the clergy and used to generate income. Now, instead of selling the produce of the land, Pope Gregory ordered it shipped to Rome and given away for free. In this way, he saved thousands of people from certain death. Gregory himself refused to eat until his monks returned from their work of handing out food. In addition, he made certain to dine with a dozen poor people at each meal.

He is also famous for the services he rendered to the liturgy and music of the Church. His Sacramentary gave definite form to the Sacrifice of the Mass. This book contains the prayers and directives for Mass and a number of sacramental formulas. His Antiphony was a collection of old and new chants. He also established a school in Rome, called the Orphanotrophium, the purpose of which was to cultivate church singing.

Upon his death, he was immediately proclaimed a saint by means of popular acclaim. Saint Gregory's relics remain in St. Peter's Basilica to this day. He is considered the patron saint of musicians, singers, students, and teachers.



For Something Different...

Submitted by Gary Law

Ode
Joseph Addison
(1672-1719)

The spacious firmament on high
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining
frame,
Their great Original proclaim:
The unwearied sun, from day to day,
Does his Creator's power display,
And publishes to every land.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous
tale,
And nightly to the listening earth
Repeats the story of her birth:
Whilst all the stars that round her
burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to
pole.
What though, in solemn silence, all
Move round the dark, terrestrial
ball?
What thought nor real voice nor
sound
Amid their radiant orbs be found?
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever singing, as they shine,

‘The hand that made us is divine’.

Psalm 19:1:

*“The heavens declare the glory of God
and the firmament shows His
handiwork.”*

Romans 1:20:

*“For since the creation of the world
His invisible attributes are clearly
seen, being understood by the things
that are made, even His eternal power
and Godhead, so that they are without
excuse...”*

Joseph Addison was born May 1, 1672, in Milston, Wiltshire, England and died June 17, 1719, in London. He was the eldest son of the Reverend Lancelot Addison, later archdeacon of Coventry and dean of Lichfield Cathedral. Addison was an essayist, poet, and dramatist, who, with Richard Steele, was a leading contributor to and guiding spirit of the periodicals *The Tatler* and *The Spectator*. His prose style established Addison as one of the most admired and influential masters of prose in the English language. His writing skill led to his holding important posts in government (including secretary of state) while the Whigs were in power.



Happy Birthday

Sept. 5	Ron Dodge
Sept. 9, 2018	Ellie Suszek
Sept. 12, 2016	Savannah Packer
Sept. 12	Jim Ross
Sept. 13	Tiffany Ochsner
Sept. 15	Darrell Root
Sept. 24	Paul Hildebrand

Shepherd of the Springs Potluck Sunday, August 31, 2025

Members stepped up today and provided an **awesome** array of food for the Church Potluck! SSLC has wonderful cooks! Everyone, especially the Bell boys; Levi, Zayden and Tristen, and the Suszek threesome enjoyed an array of yummy food! Thanks, everyone, for a table full of food and a special time to greet and visit with each other!

FYI——2025-2026 Fifth Sunday Potluck Celebrations

Nov 30, 2025

Jan. 31, 2026

March 31, 2026

Oct. 31, 2026



Ethan Dodson and his mother, Erin who came to visit during the Academy's Parent's Weekend. Ethan is a faithful and helpful attendee at Shepherd whenever the Academy lets him off campus. Welcome to Erin and happy to see Ethan back for the first time this school year!



Welcome to Vicky and Mark Ackerman!

Newest members of Shepherd of the Springs

Enjoy Interesting September...!

1. Famous people born in September include Adam Sandler, Amy Winehouse, Bill Murray, Bruce Springsteen, Confucius, Freddie Mercury, Queen Elizabeth, Stephen King, and Sophia Loren.
2. The birthstone for September is the sapphire which is said to reduce inflammation, treat fever and act as a lucky charm for the person wearing it. It symbolizes intuition, clarity of thought, peacefulness, as well as loyalty and trust.
3. September is known as Harvest Month. It's a great month to harvest in preparation for the coming winter months. In fact, in Old England, it was called "Haervest-monath", meaning Harvest Month. Some of the best crops to harvest are onions, apples, raspberries, and tomatoes.
4. There are more pop and classic songs with "September" in the title than any other month.
5. We all know that Labor Day is in September, but did you know that September also has a few little known holidays? Among these are National Grandparent Day, National Cheese Pizza Day, and National Drink-a-Beer Day.



Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod
A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical Church
Where the Lutheran Reformation Lives!

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