

Shepherd Springs Lutheran Church *December, 2022 newsletter*

Hirtenbrief, 12/22

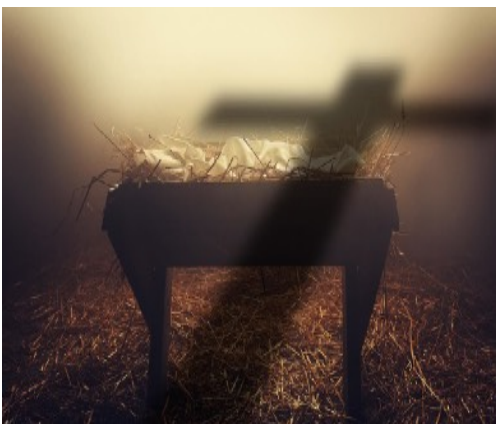
December, 2022

Dearly Redeemed In Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:2

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus, He's Coming! This simple, but very dynamic Advent message - the Lord is coming - is again being proclaimed in this new season of Advent. It is a message meant to motivate us, as we await the coming of our Great King and Lord: Jesus Christ. During Advent, you will be hearing this Advent message being proclaimed by the Prophets, the Evangelists, and John the Baptist: the Coming of the Lord.



Prophets of old announced with watchfulness and urgency the coming of the Messiah to God's chosen people, Israel; so that they would be prepared to meet their Savior. Many accepted the message in faith and hope; many did not.

Today, we too, lowly heralds of the King, proclaim

the same message - the Lord is coming! We not only speak of His first Advent, but now also with declare His promised future coming; His Second Advent! This is absolutely a necessary message. We now live in an age that has no regard for Christ's First Advent and the Second Advent is seen as a fanciful tale. Therefore, the Advent message must be proclaimed again and again until He comes in great power and glory.

The Lord, Himself, declares: "Surely, I am coming soon." Dearly beloved, this is His blessed assurance, His promise, His solemn announcement. And just as the truth of His Word was questioned; He spoke, and it came to pass. Have no doubt, the very same will be true of His message to you: Surely I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. This is our "battle cry!" We await our coming King! And He will come in great power and glory. We, His children, will rejoice! We, His heirs, will be given His great reward – Eternal Life! Fear not the coming!

Yet, those who do not accept His message and invitation; they will experience the coming wrath. There's still time! He's coming and He's merciful. He's awaiting your repentance! Repent and believe the Good News! The Good News is that Jesus Christ has come, in His First Advent, to take away your sins and reconcile you to His (and your) Heavenly Father. He fulfilled His First Advent; surely, He'll fulfill His Second!

A Blessed Advent and Christmas!

Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Your Servant In Christ,

Pastor Patterson

Soli Deo Gloria



December Church Calendar

Sundays

Divine Service 9:00AM

Bible Study 10:30 AM

Open to all

Advent Wednesdays—All are welcome

- Wed, Nov 30: ADVENT SOUP SUPPER 6:00 PM
Vespers in Ad Te Levavi 7:00PM
- Wed, Dec 7: ADVENT SOUP SUPPER 6:00 PM
Vespers in Populus Zion 7:00 pm
- Wed, Dec 14: ADVENT SOUP SUPPER 6:00 PM
Vespers in Gaudete 7:00PM
- Wed, Dec 21: ADVENT SOUP SUPPER 6:00 PM
Vespers in Rorate Caeli 7:00 pm

Divine Services

- Sun, Nov 27: First Sunday in Advent Ad Te Levavi
- Sun, Dec 4: Second Sunday in Advent Populus Zion
- Sun, Dec 11: Third Sunday in Advent Gaudete (Rose)
- Sun, Dec 18: Fourth Sunday in Advent Rorate Caeli (Choir)

Sat. Dec 24: Candlelight Vespers 7:00 PM

Sun, Dec 25: Divine Service Nativity of our Lord 9:00AM

Bible Class for Christmas Day,

A Closer Look at CHRISTmas,

is a special class on the events of the Nativity of our Lord as recorded in The Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 2.



Members

Jill Damec

Sam Judson

Darrell Root

Doug Schmidt

Marlene Schmidt

Greg Kueter

Military

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

2LT **Frederick Heidt** (USAF)

Sergeant First Class (USA) **Benjamin Kueter** (SSLC Member)

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

Gunnery Sergeant (USMC) **Kyle Chase** (Kari's Nephew)

The two USAFA Cadets,
Cadet Alexander (4th year) Cadet
Matthew (3rd year)

Family Members

Rev. & Eunice Schaibley (Former Pastor and Wife)

Patty Krueger (Barry's Wife)

Kathi Chase (Kari's Sister)

Ashlyn Mathes (Jim and Carol's Granddaughter)

Junior Phillips (Nina's father-in-law)

Janice Patterson and Mark Patterson (Pastor's Mother and Brother)

Merciful Father, we pray for our Catechumen, **Paxton Arthur**, that You would open his heart and door of Your mercy, that, having received the remission of all his sins by the washing of regeneration, that Paxton may be ever mindful of his baptismal covenant and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our LORD. Guard and guide his heart, so that the world and th evil one will not harm, hurt, or dissuade him and lead him to love Your Word; to read, mark, learn and inward digest Your Word to the strengthening of his faith unto life and salvation. LORD, in Your mercy!

The Craftons...

C'mon...

OK



Hello! We are Ken and Heather Crafton. We have lived in Colorado Springs for about 7 ½ years and started attending SSLC shortly after. Ken was born and raised in Nevada, where his parents still live. Heather is a Wyoming native and is able to drive up fairly frequently to visit. We met through a friend when Ken was stationed in Cheyenne (WY, not the mountain!) with the Air Force. We

dated for several years while Heather attended the University of Wyoming ~GO POKES!~ and were married in June 2003.

We lived in Cheyenne for several years before moving to Colorado Springs for Ken to pursue the many job opportunities available. He currently works for a defense contractor and could tell you what he does but then would... well, you know the rest of that sentence 😊. Heather works in the Finance department at the Association of Christian Schools International and is always fascinated to hear about the Christian school movement around the world, especially in places where it isn't very welcome.



We have two dogs, both lab mixes. Dusty, our black lab, is about 5 years old and Hazel, our yellow lab, is 3. They love going to doggy daycare a few times a week, and we love that they are well socialized with other dogs and, most importantly, are TIRED when they come home! We also enjoy taking them for walks and hikes throughout the local area. *(Ed. Note: Ken's Aloha shirt with Hazel's photo)* We have been very blessed to take two anniversary trips to Europe. The first to Austria and Germany for our 10th, then to the UK and Iceland for our 15th. We are planning a trip to Hawaii next summer for our 20th

anniversary. Ken went to Honolulu with his best friend for his high school senior trip, but this will be Heather's first visit. We are looking forward to paying our respects at the USS Arizona Memorial and seeing the beautiful sights Oahu and Kauai have to offer. We always try to appreciate a location's history and landscape.

One of our weekly activities is bowling on a league together. Ken mostly bowls for fun and social interaction. Heather has been bowling for over 30 years and finally bowled a 300 game last year. Ken also has fun at an occasional game night with friends. We also enjoy going to movies and live shows.

A final unusual tidbit is that we are both left-handed! Ken seems to have inherited it from his parents and Heather was just one of the lucky 10%. Our home is filled with lefty scissors, utensils, and even notebooks!



Thanks, Ken and Heather, for being December's Old and New Members interviewees. And no article about the Crafton would be complete without a mention of Gayle, Heather's mom, who comes down frequently from Wyoming to join us for Divine Service.



Annual Meeting, November 20, 2022

Church Officers for 2023

President:	Larry Groggel
Vice President:	Jim Ross
Secretary:	Darrell Root
Treasurer:	Barry Krueger
Financial Secretary/ Bldg Admin.:	Dale Etchells
Fraternal Activities:	Carol Ross
Chair, Board of Elders:	Jeff Damec
Elders:	Ben Kueter, Darrell Root, Doug Schmidt

PASTOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT

(September 2022 – November 2022)

Member Visits: 10

Inactive & Non-Member Visits: 0

Hospital Visit/Nursing Center Visits: 0

Private Communion: 1

Elders/Council: 1

Circuit Meeting(s): 2

UPCOMING SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

Thu, Nov 24 Day of Thanksgiving Divine Service (9 am) **(Choir)**

Sun, Nov 27: First Sunday in Advent (Ad Te Levavi)

Wed, Nov 30: Catechesis (Paxton) (6 pm)

Vespers in Ad Te Levavi (7 pm)

Choir Rehearsal (after Vespers)

Sun, Dec 4: Populus Zion

Wed, Dec 7: Catechesis (Paxton) (6 pm)

Vespers in Populus Zion (7 pm)

Choir Rehearsal (after Vespers)

Sun, Dec 11: Gaudete (Rose)
Tues, Dec 13: Winkel (@ Redeemer)
Wed, Dec 14: Catechesis (Paxton) (6 pm)
Vespers in Gaudete (7 pm)
Choir Rehearsal (after Vespers)
Sat, Dec 17: Men of the Shepherd (9 am) (AC XXI)
Sun, Dec 18: Rorate Caeli (Choir)
Wed, Dec 21: No Catechesis
Vespers in Rorate Caeli (7 pm)
Sat, Dec 24: Candlelight Vespers (7 pm)
Sun, Dec 25: Nativity of our Lord
Wed, Dec 28: No Catechesis (Resumes ea. Wed. of Jan/Feb @ 6:30p)
Sun, Jan 1: Circumcision and Name of Jesus
Sun, Jan 8: Baptism of Jesus
Tue, Jan 10: Winkel (@ Rock of Ages)
Sat, Jan 21: Men of the Shepherd (AC XXII)
Sun, Feb 5: Septuagesim (Pre-Lent)
Tue, Feb 14: Winkel (@ Family of Faith)
Sat, Feb 18: Men of the Shepherd (SC XXIII)
Sun, Feb 19: Voters' Assembly
Wed, Feb 22: Ash Wednesday Divine Service (7pm)

PASTOR'S POINTS:

- 1. Thanksgiving Day Divine Service: 9 am.**
- 2. Synodical Selection of Officers (Conv @ Milw, WI; Jul 29-Aug 3)**
- 3. The Lutheran Missal (slide) (begins Nov 27; feedback welcomed)**
- 4. Advent Vespers from Missal (No gen. theme, except ea srvc)**
- 5. Catechumenate Report**
- 6. Issues, Etc.**
- 7. SSLC Choir**
- 8. Private Confession and Absolution**
 - + A gift to the Church**
 - + Seal of Confidentiality**
- 9. Flowers for Christmas and Easter**
- 10. Your question?**

Happy
Birthday

Dec. 5 Barry Krueger

Happy
Anniversary

Dec. 2. Larry and Sue Groggel

**Dec. 10 Drew and Tiffany
Ochsner**



Saints and Commemorations we celebrate in December

December 4: John of Damascus - Theologian and Hymnwriter

December 6: Nicholas of Myra - Pastor

December 7: Ambrose of Milan - Pastor and Hymnwriter

December 13: Lucia - Martyr

December 17: Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men

December 19: Adam and Eve

December 20: Katharina von Bora Luther

December 21: St. Thomas, Apostle

December 24/25: The Nativity of Our Lord

December 26: St. Stephen - Martyr

December 27: St. John - Apostle and Evangelist

December 28: The Holy Innocents - Martyrs

December 29: David



Christmas - Why December 25th?

Submitted by Gary Law

It is often claimed that Christians picked December 25th as the birthday of Jesus to supplant the Roman pagan festivals of Saturnalia and/or the feast of the sun god Sol. As usual, they get it backwards. By at least 222 A.D., Christians were celebrating the Christ's birth on December 25th. Saturnalia was celebrated on December 17th or later the 23rd, never the 25th. The feast of Sol (Sol Invictus) didn't start until the pagan emperor Aurelian created the feast about 274 A.D. Later Christians did calculate several different dates, either earlier in December or early in January. How did they arrive at these dates?

All of the early Christian sources seem to agree that Jesus was conceived on the Passover in March or April, 2 B.C. Where they got the idea it was on Passover remains a mystery. It could have been from more ancient traditions or the interesting theological parallels between the Passover, the Christ's birth and the crucifixion. The variations in dates occur because it was difficult for them to do the chronological calculations into the far past since the Passover is based on a lunar calendar and it drifts back and forth between late March and mid-April. (They had neither computers nor Newton's laws of planetary motion to work with.) A little more math is necessary. A typical gestation period is around nine months (a fact that *was* known in antiquity.) If the conception is on March 25th, then 9 months takes us to December 25th. Christians had been doing these calculations at least since Clement of Alexandria (195 A.D.)

December 25th is also the Roman solstice. Since, according to Genesis, the heavenly bodies were partly for "signs and seasons", it would make sense to the early Christians that a significant earthly event would occur during a noticeable "heavenly" event. This may be why December 25th won out over the other slightly different dates. After all, could it be that "the light of the world" came into the world on its darkest (shortest) day?

So the date of Christmas was not derived from pagan celebrations. Is it the real birthdate? Does it really matter? It happened!

Merry Christmas!



This newsletter is a publication of the Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod 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) 338-7891

Location: 6755 Earl Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Website: www.sslc-cos.org

Reminder, if you're unable to attend in person, watch live or later, on Facebook. www.sslc-cos.org will get you there and also has a link for your offering.

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