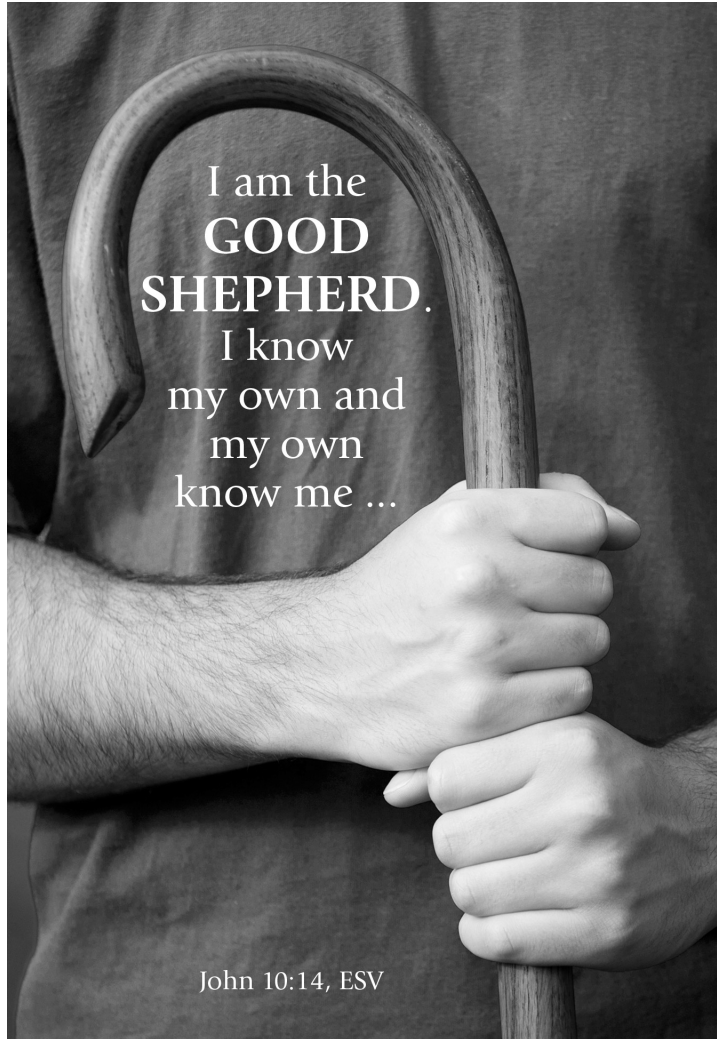


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



THE RISEN SAVIOR GIVES HIS LIFE FOR HIS SHEEP  
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*April 25, 2021*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer. We would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

## **SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY**



The Risen Savior is our Shepherd. What does that mean for us? Consider that shepherds were much more than herders or ranchers—they would put their lives on the line for the sheep by fighting off wolves and other wild animals who would seek to devour their flock. Jesus fought off the prowling lion, Satan, by laying down his life and dying on the cross.

Because he has done so, we follow his voice and know that he will lead us to the quiet waters and green pastures he has promised us.

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is white, which reminds us of the perfection that is waiting for us “in the house of the LORD forever” (Psalm 23:6).

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<sup>1</sup> The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole, the altar, and the pulpit.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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*Service of the Word draws the believer's attention to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Word of God.*

*Verse two of this hymn is almost completely based on John 10:27-28, where Jesus continues speaking about the relationship he has with his sheep.*

## WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

*Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep | CW 436  
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-Song Leaders; 5-All*

*Please stand.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister (M): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation (C): And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

*As sheep, we are prone to wander away from our Shepherd and his voice. That is what the Bible calls sin (Isaiah 53:6). We begin each worship service by acknowledging our sin and receiving the assurance of God's unconditional forgiveness.*

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all meas - ure, that  
2. Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -  
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing; no gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But

He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How  
shamed I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers. It  
I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why

great the pain of sear - ing loss; the Fa - ther turns His face a - way as  
was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His  
should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But

wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.  
dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.  
this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ran - som!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

# The Word

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## FIRST LESSON

Acts 20:28-32

*The flock of God must guard itself from savage wolves.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM OF THE DAY

*Shepherd Me, O God | Psalm 23*

*Please join to sing the refrain.*

All: 

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in-to life.

Song Leaders: God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

All: **♪ Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life. ♪**

Song Leaders: Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
You lead me by pathways of righteous and truth,  
My spirit shall sing the music of your name.

All: **♪ Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life. ♪**

Song Leaders: Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

All: **♪ Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life. ♪**

Song Leaders: You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,  
Crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

**All: ♪ Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life. ♪**

Song Leaders: Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.

**All: ♪ Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life. ♪**

## SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:1-6

*We listen to the Shepherd's voice through those he has sent.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M: I am the Good Shepherd.

**C: I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia!** *(John 10:14 EHV)*

*All three readings are  
thematically tied to the Gospel  
of the Day. We stand for the  
Gospel as an additional way  
to honor our Lord.*

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

*The Good Shepherd knows his sheep.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*The children are invited to come forward for a special message, or they may remain in the pews.*

## HYMN

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is | CW 375*  
*Verse 1-All; 2-Pastors; 3-Women; 4-Men; 5-Song Leaders; 6-All*

## SERMON

## Test What You Take In

*Please stand.*

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## THANK OFFERING

*St. Paul's members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate.*

*If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.*



## STEPHEN MINISTRY VIDEO

*Please stand.*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, we have heard the sweet sound of your familiar and loving voice in the gospel and have feasted in the green pastures of your Holy Word.

**C:** **Bless your Word in our lives.**

**M:** Use its message to nourish and sustain us as we journey through this life to the next.

**C:** **What joy it is to know that you laid down your life for the sheep—even sheep like us.**

- M: Gracious Shepherd, we are truly confused and foolish without you. Forgive us for the times we wander from you and stray from the call of your voice.
- C: Restore us to your fold, and protect us from the evil one.**
- M: When Satan comes in the sheep's clothing of false teaching, expose his lies and guide us in your truth. When temporary pleasures beckon us to stray away from you, use your rod and staff to curb our sinful nature.
- C: Lead us in paths of righteousness, for your name's sake.**
- M: Guiding Shepherd, bless your Church with faithful under-shepherds—pastors and teachers who proclaim your death and resurrection as they minister to the souls in their care.
- C: Give all ministers of the gospel an unwavering devotion to your Word.**
- M: Tender Shepherd, look with special care on all who suffer from loneliness, disease, accident, or loss. Lift them into your comforting arms, and embrace them with the warmth of your love.
- C: Carry them through life's troubling times. Renew hope and joy in their lives.**
- M: Loving Shepherd, we pray also for your “other sheep.” Let your voice be heard in all the world. Prosper the work of our missionaries at home and abroad. Give us all the zeal and courage to share with our friends and neighbors the good news of sins forgiven.
- C: Use our witness to gather the elect into one fold under your care.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

- M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

- M: Eternal Shepherd, when our days on earth come to an end and we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, lead us safely to our eternal home.

- C: There we will enjoy your goodness and mercy forever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Be seated.*

HYMN

*He Knows My Name*  
Please join to sing the chorus.

Song Leaders: I have a Father  
He calls me His own  
He'll never leave me  
No matter where I go

All:

He knows my name, \_\_\_\_\_ He knows my ev - 'ry thought.

He sees each tear \_\_\_ that falls, and hears me when I call. \_\_\_

Song Leaders: I have a Maker  
He formed my heart  
Before even time began  
My life was in his hands

All: **♪ He knows my name**  
**He knows my every thought**  
**He sees each tear that falls**  
**And hears me when I call ♪**

*This song was chosen because of its connection to today's Gospel: "I know my sheep and my sheep know me."*

Song Leaders: I have a Father  
He calls me His own  
He'll never leave me  
No matter where I go

All: **♪ He knows my name**  
**He knows my every thought**  
**He sees each tear that falls**  
**And hears me when I call ♪**

**All:** ♪ He knows my name  
He knows my every thought  
He sees each tear that falls  
And hears me when I call ♪

Song Leaders: And hears me when I call.

*Please stand.*

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**M:** Let us pray together.

**C:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C:** ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen. ♪

*Be seated.*

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | CW 432  
Verse 1-All; 2-Song Leaders; 3-All*



# TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. Sometimes today is called Good Shepherd Sunday. That picture of Jesus, the Shepherd, caring for us, his sheep, is used in John 10. Can you think of other places in Scripture where that picture is used? For what reasons is that picture so comforting?
2. All three readings warn against false teaching (ferocious wolves). These wolves have changed tactics through the centuries of the church, from direct attacks on the person of Christ, to papal authority usurping Christ, to disparaging views toward Scripture. What are some ways false teachers attack Christ and his church today?
3. In 1 John the criteria for discerning what is and is not from God is whether they “confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.” However, this means more than just believing Jesus physically lived on earth. It includes why he came in the flesh, that is to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). Why is this understanding so important?
4. 1 John 4:5-6 makes a distinction between what the world says and what those from God say. The ferocious wolves aren’t limited to religious/spiritual things. What are some people/groups/ideas/beliefs in your life that don’t confess Christ and are trying to make an impression on you? After identifying them, what can you do to instead only listen to the voice of your Shepherd?

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY** **Ephesians**

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM  
For the google meet link, contact a pastor.



## **ARE YOU MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY EXHAUSTED?**

All that has been going on in the country this last year has left many of us fatigued. Plus, we all face different kinds of life challenges: isolation and loneliness; anxiety over health; grief; juggling work, childcare, and schooling responsibilities; financial strain or job loss; uncertainty about the future . . . The list goes on. But you don't have to go through it alone. If you or someone you care about is experiencing difficulties like these, our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and be there to offer support. A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or in person—to focus on you and your needs. It's free and completely confidential, and it offers real care, comfort, and hope. You can find out more by calling Mike Grosskreutz (715-315-2744) or Susie Dempze (715-424-1324).

## **PSALMS OF SPRING**

*May 4 | 9:45 AM*

Women Walking in the Word will begin a new Bible study on the book of Psalms beginning on Tuesday, May 4th. The group meets at 9:45 am in the Resource Center. This would be a great time to join the group; all ladies of the congregation are invited to participate. Each session will cover several psalms. Since each psalm has a different theme, if you miss a session, you won't be lost when you come back! Contact Judy Anderson at 715-423-5922 for more information.

## **SIGN UP TODAY FOR MARRIAGE MOMENTS**

Every marriage has its "moments." That's why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. Marriage Moments are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos in a weekly e-mail.

## CONSIDERING A CAREER IN FULL-TIME PUBLIC MINISTRY?

It can be an expensive proposition, but we can help. The St. Paul's Pastor Teacher Scholarship Fund was developed to encourage our young people to enter the full-time public ministry by providing scholarship funds. Eligibility is offered to students attending Northland Lutheran High School or Luther Preparatory School (juniors and seniors only) and Martin Luther College or Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (all students). Funds offered are based on the availability of dollars in the funds and are limited to a maximum of \$500 per student per semester. In addition, students attending MLC may also be eligible for matching funds from the Congregational Partner Grant. Interested? Please see the church office for an application. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2021. If you have any questions, contact Mike Anderson, Financial Secretary for details.

## VIRTUAL MISSION RALLY

The Wisconsin River Valley Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) held their spring rally virtually on Saturday. If you missed it, you can still participate by visiting their YouTube channel. For missionary presentations, can be viewed at [welstasteandsee.com](http://welstasteandsee.com)

A collection for missions is usually held at the mission rally. This spring, the mission collection will go to supporting the mission in Hong Kong and the purchasing of vans for missions in the USA. If you would like to give a gift this effort or have mite box to turn in, please bring/send it to the church office very soon, so we can pass it on to the LWMS.

## LWMS VIRTUAL CONVENTION

After hours of prayer, discussion, and research, the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society board made the difficult decision to hold a small virtual convention this year instead of the in-person convention in Ohio. You are asked to REGISTER FOR FREE by June 7. While you register you will be able to sign up for the Annual Business Meeting, the interactive IGNITE session, and virtual chat rooms to bring everyone together for some virtual fellowship.

*June 24-27*



## **DIME & DOLLAR MOVING TO WISCONSIN RAPIDS!**

The Dime and Dollar Thrift Store will be relocating from Stevens Point to Wisconsin Rapids at the end of May/beginning of June. Help is needed with the move and with setting up the store. Jan Peronto who is heading up this project, hopes to begin the move on May 20. If you have a pickup truck and/or trailer, your help would be especially appreciated! Contact Jan to volunteer: 715-421-3365 (home), 715-340-2809 (cell), or JKP111310@gmail.com.



The new store location is next to LaTaqueria in the strip mall across from Pick-N-Save, on the corner of the Riverview Expressway and 8th Street. This store helps fund Northland Lutheran High School. Please see the "wish list" in our monthly newsletter for items needed for the new store.

## **BE A THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEER**

Now that Dime & Dollar will be a local store, you encourage to consider becoming a regular volunteer. Whether weekly, monthly, for a few hours, or all day, your help in this ministry will be a blessing. Tasks that need to be done are cashiering, stocking, sorting, and cleaning. Contact Jan to volunteer: 715-421-3365 (home), 715-340-2809 (cell), or JKP111310@gmail.com.

## **MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH THE AMAZON APP**

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:30 PM	Worship
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	4:30 pm	Choir in the balcony
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:55 AM	Chapel Service
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 203

From July 1, 2020 to April 22, 2021

Actual ministry income: \$ 857,545

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 937,203

Mortgage balance: \$1,269,5470





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