

## ***Fourth Sunday of Easter***

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"CAN YOU HEAR THE SHEPHERD?"

**Text:** John 10: 3, 4, 11 "He calls his sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them and they follow him, because they know his voice. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

**INTRODUCTION:** There is an intense competition these days for our attention. There is a never-ending list of people, entities, institutions, television shows, sports, and (yes!) politicians clamoring for our attention and adherence! Sometimes it is impossible to understand one because the other is so loud. Unless we know our Shepherd's voice, it is impossible to distinguish it from the rest of the "noise". We train our ears to recognize his voice every time we meet with Him in His house!

- 1 – The Biblical image of shepherd.
- 2 – David: "The Lord is my shepherd."
- 3 – The bond between sheep and shepherd is vital.
- 4 – The Good Shepherd leads His sheep.
- 5 – The world is filled with bad shepherds.
- 6 – Their commands and demands are endless.
- 7 – The world considers all religions the same.
- 8 – Only in Christianity the Shepherd leads and serves His sheep.

**CONCLUSION:** Sheep are truly very challenged in many ways. They have very little in terms of brains. They are almost totally defenseless. For them to hear the shepherd's voice is about the only thing they have going for themselves. Spiritually speaking, you and I are sheep. We are helpless when it comes to deal with the enemies of faith who wants to tear us away from God. But He protects us and keeps us safe and, one day will lead us home to heaven! Amen.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### *Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Lays Down His Life for the Sheep*

The Lord Jesus is *"the good shepherd"* who *"lays down his life for the sheep"* (John 10:11). His life is not taken from Him, but He lays it down willingly, of His own accord, because He knows and loves the sheep. As the One sent by the Father, He has the *"authority to lay it down"* and the *"authority to take it up again"* (John 10:18). So has He done, and now He continues to love and serve as the Good Shepherd of the sheep by the voice of His Gospel. He thus calls all people into the fold of His Church, so that there may be *"one flock, one shepherd"* (John 10:16). That is why the apostles *"were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead"* (Acts 4:2). Since *"there is salvation in no one else,"* His voice rings out to this day through the preaching of His name, *"for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12). His voice comforts our hearts against all condemnation and gives us courage to *"love one another"* and *"to lay down our lives for the brothers,"* as He laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16, 23).

### **CHURCH INFORMATION**

**SPECIAL MISSIONS:** For our second quarter missions, our Special Mission offering will support A Place of Refuge Ministries. APOR is a network of volunteers and staff who are committed to life and to caring for women facing crisis pregnancy in South Wisconsin.

**MITES FOR MISSION CENTRAL:** We are currently collecting mites for Mission Central, which is located near Mapleton, IA. Their mission is to help missionaries who are preparing to enter the field, as well as those who are currently serving with the funding that is necessary. For more information on how Gary Thies and 100 volunteers serve the church, please visit [www.missioncentral.us/missions](http://www.missioncentral.us/missions)

**FLOWER FUNDRAISER** It's once again time for our annual Spring Flower Fundraiser! If you are interested in ordering flowers, plants or hanging baskets, please fill out an order form and return it to Jaime Greene by May 2. Order forms are available in the Narthex, or as a PDF in The Messenger. The orders will be available to be picked up on Saturday, May 22nd.

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK:** The first week in May is observed as Teacher Appreciation Week! The Lord has truly blessed us with great teachers in our many

different programs, we are especially grateful for the teachers in our early childhood program. They have overcome many obstacles this school year and still manage to teach the Word of God to His littlest lambs. Praise be to God for Laura Kidd, Angela Heisler, and Jenny Otto! Watch the Messenger as we get to know our teachers just a little bit closer!

**SUMMER CHILDCARE HELP:** We are looking for nurturing, reliable, kid-loving individuals to help work our summer childcare program. Team members must be at least 18 years of age and have some experience working with children. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Jennifer Leinss at [jleinss82@gmail.com](mailto:jleinss82@gmail.com). Thank you!

**CEREAL BOXES:** Thank you to everyone that donated empty cereal boxes! We are switching gears and now will be collecting full cereal boxes. Our preschool students want to see how many cereal boxes it takes to line the hallways and make a giant domino game. Afterwards we will be donating the cereal to Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:** It's time for the annual Buy One, Get One FREE Scholastic Book Fair! Stop in Oswald Hall April 25th-May 2nd to browse the selection of books and stock up for some summer reading. The Book Fair is open during Office Hours, and on Sunday. We'll also be posting pictures to our Facebook page so that you can shop online. Contact Jennifer at [jleinss82@gmail.com](mailto:jleinss82@gmail.com) for more information or with any questions.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:** Jonathan Koch is working toward his Eagle Scout rank and has taken on the garden by the front doors as his project. The area will get new bricks, soil, mulch and flowers. If you would like to support this financially, please place your donation in an envelope and place it in the offering baskets in the Narhex. Thank you for your support!

**MILITARY MINISTRY:** Thank you for your support and donations! We were able to send out 20 care packages to the USO and 3 boxes of coupons!

**FLOWERS, BULLETINS, & SPECIAL MISSIONS SIGN-UP:** If you would like to sign up for flowers, bulletins, or special mission contact the church office by email [blessedsavior.nb.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:blessedsavior.nb.lcms@gmail.com), or call 262-786-6465.

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSIONS

We pray for those undergoing medical treatment:

Arliss Judy Adeline Gary Laverne Karen

John Holley Nancy

***We also remember in our prayers these friends and relatives of our members:***

Jim Rebecca

This week's Altar Flowers are sponsored by Elaine Berndt in celebration of her grandchild, Mila's baptism.

The Bulletins are sponsored by Jennifer Leinss in celebration of Jaime Greene's 15 years in ministry.

Special Missions are sponsored by the Burow's in celebration of Anita's birthday.

Special intercessions: we pray for all health care workers in America and the world, for all first responders, truck drivers and essential workers.

We pray the Lord to watch over those who are serving in the military.

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR APRIL 25 – May 2**

<b>Sun</b>	8:00 am	Worship & Communion	<b>Last Week's Offerings:</b> \$14,753 <b>Needed Weekly:</b> \$11,800 <b>Attendance:</b> 143 <b>YouTube Attendance:</b> 68
	10:30 am	Worship & Communion	
	6:00 pm	Youth Group (online)	
<b>Mon</b>		Scrip Orders Due	
<b>Tues</b>	9:00 am	Bible Study (online)	
	7:30 pm	Bible Study (online)	
<b>Wed</b>	6:30 pm	8 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation rehearsal	
<b>Thur</b>	7:00 pm	Worship	
<b>Sun</b>	8:00 am	Worship	
	10:30 am	Worship & Rite of Confirmation Flower orders due	