

*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church
Lake Zurich, IL*

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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**Fourth Sunday of Easter -- Good Shepherd Sunday
April 21, 2024**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

<p><u>Before Service Prayer:</u> Jesus, my Good Shepherd who leads me, You know what lies ahead for me today and every day. By Your mighty power and tender love, turn my future, no matter what it is, to my eternal good. Guide me and guard me that I do not become lost in sin and unbelief. Amen.</p>
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Today's Service: "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #11327771.

Today's Theme: **THE RISEN SAVIOR PROVIDES GOOD SHEPHERDING**

Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. Even folks unfamiliar with shepherding are able to grasp the meaning. Sheep are helpless animals—an easy meal for predators. For sheep to survive they needed a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food, but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a shepherd. He proved He is willing to lay down His life for His sheep.

The word "pastor" comes from the Latin word for "shepherd." Today, there are plenty of people—pastors, religious leaders, etc.—who claim they can provide healing for your soul. Yet, Scripture warns that "many" of these are "false prophets" (1 John 4:1) who "distort the truth" (Acts 20:30). Many! But the resurrection reality is that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true sub-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: LSB 711 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

Invocation

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Opening Sentences

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P: He is our Good Shepherd.

C: **He leads us to green pastures and still waters.**

P: He is our Good Shepherd.

C: **We listen to His voice.**

P: He is our Good Shepherd.

C: **He lays down His life for the sheep.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Confession and Absolution

P: In this Easter season, celebration is always near our lips. We are glad to shout “Alleluias” in worship, but when we leave we do not always recognize our neighbors in need. We may close our hearts to them. We may reject them. We may fail to follow the example of our Good Shepherd. As we draw near to the Lord, let us consider our sins and ask God for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection

P: Heavenly Father,

C: we have sinned against You and against our neighbors in our thoughts, words, and actions. You know our sins, and they are ever before You. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us as a shepherd leads his sheep.

P: God has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Good Shepherd. He has laid down His life for our forgiveness and has taken His life back up again in His glorious resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. The Lord restores us and leads us in paths of righteousness. Amen.

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

**Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep,
Who Your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
Guarded still by You.**

**In Your promise firm we stand;
None can take us from Your hand.
Speak -- we hear -- at Your command,
We will follow You.**

**By Your blood our souls were bought;
By Your life salvation wrought;
By Your light our feet are taught,
Lord, to follow You.**

**Father, draw us to Your Son;
We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done,
There to live with You.**

**We, in robes of glory dressed,
Join th' assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest
In the fold with You. (CW 436)**

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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 the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

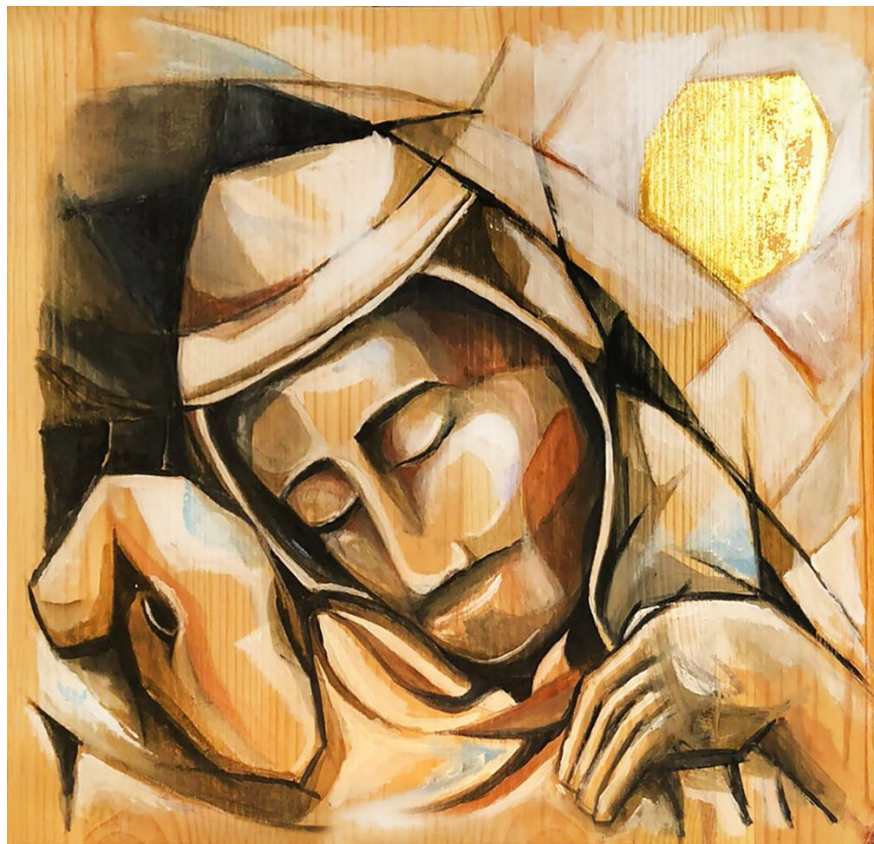
The First Lesson: **Acts 20:28-32** – The good shepherd asks His sub-shepherds to keep watch over the flock.

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³² "Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!



Psalm of the Day: **Psalm 23** (sung to the tune of CW 165)



1 You're my Good Shep - herd, I'm Your sheep, Al - ways with-
2 You led me to a liv - ing stream, I heard Your
3 Good-ness and mer - cy here sur - round Sheep - fold and
4 Gath - er Your flock from ev - 'ry - where, Care - free with-



in the watch You keep O - ver me e - ven while I sleep.
voice give me a name: "You are My own be - lov - ed lamb!"
gate and graz - ing ground; Ev - 'ry lost sheep is sought and found.
in Your lov - ing care, One Shep-herd's life and joy to share.



Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Standing alone against our foes,
Who else would take the way You
chose:
Willingly died, triumphant rose.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 Guests at Your table, help us stay
Bound to our source of life, we pray:
Make ev'ry day our Easter Day!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Second Lesson: **1 John 4:1-6** – St. John encourages us to test all those who claim to have a spiritual message. Not all such individuals have been sent by God.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit^(a) of truth and the spirit of falsehood. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation: Romans 6:9; John 10:14

P: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C: Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.

Stand

The Gospel Lesson: **John 10:11-18** – Jesus explains why He is the Good Shepherd.

¹¹ "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the Good Shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father—and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to My voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from My Father." (NIV 2011)

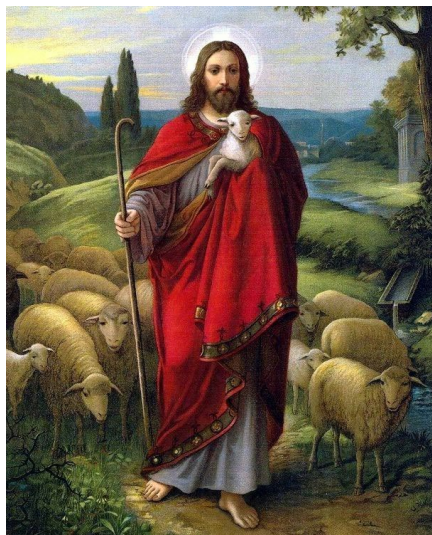
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: CW 553 "The Lord's My Shepherd" (CWS 766)

The Sermon



The Apostles' Creed, The First Article with Luther's Meaning

P: As our Good Shepherd leads us, even so our heavenly Father hears the prayers of His people. Assured of His fatherly care, let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the First Person of the Holy Trinity.

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

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that God created me and all that exists, that He gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because He is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

The Offering

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



Tone Chime Choir

The Prayer of the Church

P: You are the Good Shepherd who laid down Your life for us out of love. Help us to hear Your voice, follow where You lead, and receive what You provide through Your grace and mercy; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: For the times we fear our enemies and the powers against us, remind us that we belong to You and no one can snatch us from Your hand. We bring before the Lord the part of Your flock here in this place and others whom we love in their time of need. Carry them as lambs in a shepherd's arms through the difficult paths ahead. Give all wisdom to know the faithful path we are to take, and shepherd us through every trial, trouble, and temptation; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: Give us courage that we not live in captivity to our fears; guide those who lead us in this and every land; provide peace, justice, and freedom for people everywhere, especially for those living in Ukraine and the Middle East. In our busy days, give us time to reflect upon the goodness of God and to experience joy in the security and peace You provide us, that we find contentment and peace in You; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: Protect and defend the members of our armed forces and the public workers who keep our communities safe. Defend us from our enemies, and teach us to rely on Your provision, the true protector of us all; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: That we do not forget those in need but share with all the Lord has entrusted to us and to display the kind of love shown and known that has no end; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: That we recall the saints of old, who put their trust in the Lord, that we also be found faithful when He returns in glory; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Good Shepherd and Lord, have mercy.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in who's name we join in praying....

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Collect

P: Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd, we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: "I am the Good Shepherd," says the Lord.

C: The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

P: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: **CW 804** "I am Jesus' Little Lamb" (CW93 432) (This familiar 3 verse hymn will also be displayed on the screens.)

The Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Daugherty and Dundore

Today—Fourth Sunday after Easter worship service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class in the New Life Café at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Thursday—Green Team at 6:30 PM

Sunday—Fifth Sunday of Easter Communion service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Special Presentation by Rev. Helwig in the New Life Cafe at 10:45 AM

No Confirmation Class

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted for providing something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers April 2024 through July 2024.

SPRING BANQUET

The Branch connection will hold its annual spring banquet on Sunday, April 21st for all the ladies and girls of the congregation. We will have a luncheon at noon at church and then create greeting cards (supplies provided). Please bring a salad or dessert to share and invite a friend. See the sign-up sheet posted in the fellowship hall.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Branch Connection will have a rummage sale on June 15. Please start setting aside the items you'd like to donate.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, April 14th we have received \$198,968 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$22,255 ahead of the budget. \$360 has been given to support Green Team. \$1490 has been given to support Training Camp.

GUEST PREACHER AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor Bauer will be out of town next Sunday. Rev. Michael Helwig, from Christian Life Resources will serve as the guest pastor for the service. Rev. Helwig is also a licensed counselor for CLR and will give a presentation on mental health in the New Life Café after the service at 10:45 AM.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Today, the adult Bible class will finish chapter 8 of John's gospel. This chapter contains the conclusion of Jesus discourse in the temple courtyard at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles. In this section Jesus asserts, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."