

AS WE GATHER: This Sunday in the Church Year is often called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The appointed Introit for the day uses Psalm 23, which is among the most well-known Psalms. The Gospel from St. John 10 records Jesus revealing Himself as the Good Shepherd. While fewer and fewer people are familiar with what it is like to take care of sheep, this metaphor of God’s protection and provision has become a great source of comfort and hope. God grant that you find such blessed comfort as you dwell securely here in the house of the Lord.

✠ CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION ✠

Greeting

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

Hymn of Invocation “Good Christians Friends, Rejoice and Sing” #475 (G)

Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution.....Page 151

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit and Gloria Patri^② *Psalm 23; antiphon: St. John 10:14, 15b*



- P** I am the good | shepherd.*
I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.
- C** **The LORD is my | shepherd;***
I | shall not want.
- P** He makes me lie down in green | pastures.*
He leads me beside still | waters.
- C** **He re- | stores my soul.***
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name’s sake.
- P** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are | with me;*
your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.
- C** **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my | enemies;***
you anoint my head with oil; my cup | overflows.
- P** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,*
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever. ➔

① “Jubilate” is the traditional name for the Fourth Sunday of Easter. It is from the first line in the Historic Latin Introit *Jubilate Deo omnis terra...* “Shout with joy to God, all the earth.”

② “Introit” is pronounced “in-troh-it” – it is Latin for “he enters.” Here the Pastor enters the Chancel with the reading/chanting of these Psalm/Scripture verses. “Gloria Patri” is Latin for “Glory be to the Father” which is acclamation of praise before the final antiphon (a refrain that begins and concludes the Introit).

A **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son***
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P I am the good | shepherd.*
I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

Kyrie^① ~ *Lord, have mercy* Pages 152-153

Hymn of Praise ~ *This is the Feast*..... Page 155

Salutation and Collect of the Day^② Page 156

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.**

First Reading **Acts 4:1–12**

[Peter proclaims Jesus as the stone that was rejected and has become the cornerstone.]

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual^③ **and Verse** *adapt. from St. Matthew 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6; Rom. 6:9; St. John 10:14*

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor,**



① “**Kyrie**” is pronounced ‘keer-ee-ay’ – shortened from the Greek phrase *Kyrie Eleison* (“*Lord, have mercy*”) and reminds us of pleas for mercy like the one recorded in *Matthew 15:22*

② The “**Collect**” is a short prayer which ‘collects’ or summarizes the thoughts of the day. The Collects for every Sunday come to us from the rich treasury of the church’s heritage.

③ “**Gradual**” comes from the Latin “*gradus*” meaning ‘step’. In the ancient church these Psalm & Scripture verses were chanted from the steps of the Altar. It is a response to the First Lesson and a bridge to the Second Lesson.

P He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

C **he has put all things under his feet.**

P We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C **death no longer has dominion over him.**

P I am the good shepherd.

C **I know my own and my own know me.**

Epistle..... **1 John 3:16–24**

[Love one another as Christ has loved us.]

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse ~ *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*Page 156

Gospel Acclamations^①Page 157

Holy ✝ Gospel **St. John 10:11–18**

[Jesus is our Good Shepherd.]

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** (♬) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day **“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” #709 (Ps)**

^①In the “Gospel” we hear a reading from the New Testament accounts of Jesus’ life and message. In Lutheran Worship we believe that in the Reading of the Gospel Christ is in our midst, and so we stand to honor His presence. We also sing short verses before (to greet Christ) and after (to offer our joyful praise) the reading.

Sermon “Thou Art with Me...” Psalm 23

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Apostles’ Creed Page 159

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy. *or* **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

Offering and Attendance Registration

Offertory^① ~ *What Shall I Render to the Lord* Pages 159-160

Lord’s Prayer and Closing Collect



Benediction Page 166



Hymn of Departure “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us” #711 (Ps, G)

Silent Prayer

Announcements

and Sending:

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

^①The “Offertory” is a Scripture based hymn which is sung as we prepare to bring our tithes and offerings to God. In doing so we are reminded that the offering of monetary offerings is a public testimony that we have first “*given [ourselves] to the Lord*” (2 Corinthians 8:5)

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.*

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!

THE PASCHAL CANDLE in the Chancel symbolizes the presence of the risen Christ among us. Throughout the Easter season, it will remain in the chancel and lighted for worship as a reminder that Christ is our Resurrection Light that shatters the darkness of sin and death. The paschal candle is placed at the right side of the altar (denoting Christ's presence at the right hand of the throne of God) as the pastor faces the people. At Ascension (or the Sunday after), the candle will be extinguished and moved to the baptismal font for use at baptisms and at funerals. The Paschal candle is decorated with the following symbols: Alpha and Omega (Christ is unchangeable, the beginning and end of all things); and Five nails (the wounds of Christ bring us healing).

THE EASTER CROSS in the chancel is made from Christmas tree trunks. It is now draped in white, the color for Christ, and adorned with butterflies, a symbol of the resurrection. It is a reminder that the Savior whose birth we celebrated at Christmas was born to suffer and die on the cross and then rise to life to accomplish our redemption from sin and death.

AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God's House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to *God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor* by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Juanita Garcia and in celebration of her birthday on the 26th!

IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON students will study the account of "Abraham and Isaac." By God's grace, Abraham didn't have to make his sacrifice, but God did. He sacrificed His own Son so that we could have salvation. Discuss, "How do the sacrifices we make compare with the sacrifice God made to save us from sin's punishment?"

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: "Leviticus: Life in the Blood" -- Holiness. What is it? Leviticus shows how God goes to great lengths not only in defining true holiness, but also in sharing His holiness with his redeemed and ransomed people.

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES include choir practice at 5:15 PM, a pot luck supper at 6:00 PM, and Bible classes at 7:00 PM. The Adult class continues the series, "See Through the Scriptures".

THE QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING will take place after the Divine Service TODAY!

NEWSLETTER –The **APRIL** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy. Items for the **MAY** edition are due in the church office TODAY. Thank you!

NEW CATECHISM: If you ordered the new Small Catechism and have not yet paid for it, PLEASE do so. If you are not sure, contact the office. The cost of each book is \$15. Thank you!

LUTHERAN WITNESS: If you have not yet paid for your Lutheran Witness subscription, please do so. The cost is \$13.65. The office needs to balance the accounting books with the bill received. Thank you!

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for April through June are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

"RENT A YOUTH": The youth are once again offering their services. This project provides an opportunity for middle and high school students, (grades 6 through 12), to assist older adults in completing routine light-duty household chores AND to foster fellowship between older adults and the youth in our church. If you have any questions, please see Yanneth Harris.

LWML SPRING EVENT: In Kilgore Saturday, May 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a coffee mug with your name and address on the bottom to exchange. Meet at the church at 8 a.m. to travel together. Cost is \$12. ALL LADIES WELCOME!

THANK YOU from Rev. David and Cheryl Bailes for all the prayers. He is back in the pulpit and they are in their new home!

GREETING CARDS: Check out the Mother's Day, Father's Day and Graduation cards on the card rack, along with birthday, get well, sympathy and others for a 50 cent donation to mites.

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established for Aaron Jackson's college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT: St. John 10:14 – "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him...and in knowing Him we learn to imitate Him. And that is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord's grace.

LIFE QUOTES: "Having already swallowed death down along with humankind's guilt and buried it beneath His resurrection, Jesus Christ has no death left in Him and allows none near His own. Bravely and gratefully we keep sharing what He continues showing us, that all persons are worth it despite the cost and opposition, every one precious for His grace's sake and not dependent upon appearance or age or ability." *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

ABOUT THE COVER: There are shepherds, and then there are shepherds. Jesus is a special kind of shepherd. He says, "I am the good shepherd" [St. John 10:11]. He means that he is the perfect shepherd. He knows what we, His sheep, need, and He knows how to provide for us. Not only does He lead us to eternal life, but He feeds us on the way. Therefore, we join the Psalmist who wrote, "The LORD is my shepherd" [Psalm 23:1].

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK

<u>OFFERINGS</u>		<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
General Offering	\$3731.50	Sunday School	35
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	64
Building Fund	\$.00	Communion	60
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]	Mid-Week (4/18)	25

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:1-11; St. John 15:1-8.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK			
Sunday (04/22)	9:00 AM	Easter 4 (Jubilate)	
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes	
		Divine Service (Setting 1)	
	Acolyte:	Jessica Bowden	
	Pianist:	Sylvia Frenzel	
	Altar Guild:	Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd	
	Duty Elder:	Jim Broad	
	After Church:	Quarterly Voter's Meeting / Newsletter Items Due	
Wednesday (04/25)	5:15 PM	Choir Practice	
	6:00 PM	Potluck Supper	
	7:00 PM	Bible Classes	
Sunday (04/29)	9:00 AM	Easter 5 (Cantate)	
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes	
		Divine Service (Setting 5) / Holy Communion	
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	Christopher Harris	
	Organist:	Mary Bowden	
	Altar Guild:	Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd	
	Duty Elder:	Jim Broad	

IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

National Leadership and Military: including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: Albert Harris, Dorothy Jackson (4/15), George Nelson; **Larry & Julie Schoppe** (4/22)

Friends: Luke Grumbles (4/8), Hadleigh Pinkerton (4/15) [Alicia Hutton's great-niece]

Homebound - Members: Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Billye Bledsoe, Mary Bowden, Juanita Garcia, Marcy Hogan, Laura Lewis, George Nelson... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Caleb Lawson... **Wedding Anniversaries:** George & Betty Nelson

NOTE: New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678



BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
 1515 South Loop 256 † Palestine, TX 75801
 Office: (903) 729-6362 † Fax: (903) 723-7725

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
 Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM
 Divine Service: 10:15 AM

“To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness”

www.belctx.org
 info@belctx.org

Rev. David L. Adler,
 Pastor

Note: The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading, Ps=Psalm, V=Verse, E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.