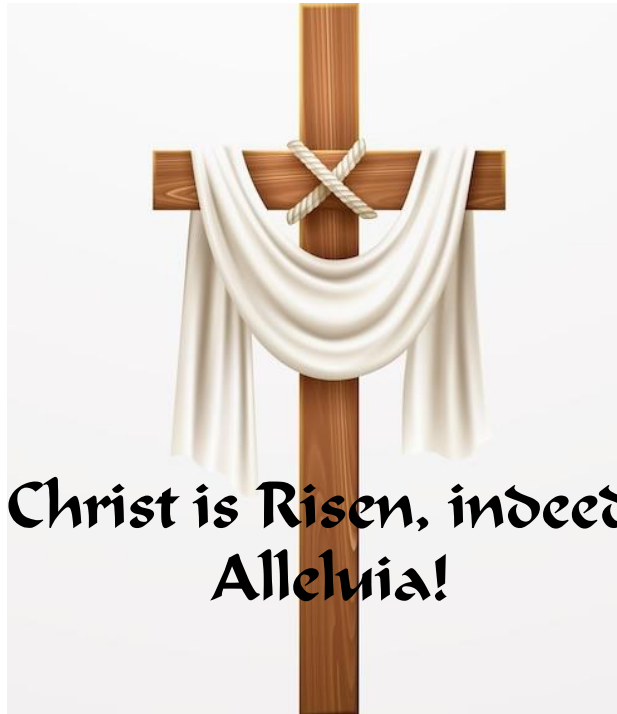


*W*elcome to *W*orship  
St. Luke's **E**vangelical  
**L**utheran **C**hurch



**Christ is Risen, indeed!  
Alleluia!**

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
*April 21, 2024*



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*  
Pastor:  
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*  
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*  
Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*  
Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>  
eMail: [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)  
Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

## **Assisting in Worship**

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Worship Leader: *SAM Bob Fett*  
Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Tracey Pritts*  
Ushers: *JoLynn & Don Stewart*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

## **To the Glory of God**

April Candles: *Ruth McKee*  
April Bulletins: *Laura & Tony Damon*  
April Newsletters: *Laura & Tony Damon*

**North Baltimore Food Pantry April** requested donations include: dish soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent. Without our help, some families in our community will go without. Please give generously.



# Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21, 2024

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.*

*\*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

*Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to listen."*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said: "I AM the Good Shepherd."

**ALL: He is the one who cares for us, guides us, heals us and travels through the darkest valleys with us.**

Leader: Jesus said: "I AM the Good Shepherd."

**ALL: He is the one who comforts us, strengthens us, and leads us.**

Leader: Jesus said: "I AM the Good Shepherd."

**ALL: He is the one whose love overflows in our lives and who gave his life for his sheep.**

Leader: Let us worship the Good Shepherd.

### \*GATHERING HYMN #619

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES!

## \*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: As believers, we acknowledge that God sent his only begotten son to be our Shepherd. Under his care and protection, assured of loving mercy, we confess our sins.

*Please take a moment for personal confession.*

Leader: God of Resurrection, Father of the Good Shepherd,

**ALL: we confess that we have not always set our minds and hearts upon you. We have wandered off the path of righteousness and not followed your Son, our true and only shepherd. For his sake, have mercy on us and forgive us. Renew us and lead us, that we may dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

## \*KYRIE HYMN #151



1, 3 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
2 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

## \*CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: Jesus said, "I AM the Good Shepherd." Through his life, death, and resurrection, I proclaim the forgiveness of your sin through ✠ Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd and Lord. **ALL: Amen!**

# \*GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us prayer together,

**ALL: O Lord Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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## GOD SPEAKS TO US

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### FIRST READING

ACTS 4:5-12

Reader: The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM READING

*(responsively)*

PSALM 23

Reader: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**ALL: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

Reader: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**ALL: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Reader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**ALL: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

1 JOHN 3:16-24

Reader: We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SETTING #3 HYMNAL PAGE 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 10:1-18

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Jesus said: <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE MESSAGE

**HYMN OF THE DAY #764**

HAVE NO FEAR, LITTE FLOCK



## **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**ALL:** I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: God of grace, **ALL: hear our prayer.**

We pray for Lorraine, Sue, Dave, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Tony, Ron, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Donnis, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Beth, Ashley, and Pat.

## **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always,

**ALL: and also with you.**

*Please share God's peace with those worshipping with you."*

## INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Lord, we come before you now with our tithes and offerings. Help us to understand that no matter how small or how generous the gift, when added to the gifts of the worship community, they help to further the mission of your church in this place and beyond our community.

## OFFERTORY

### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

DOXOLOGY

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray,

**ALL: God of the Good Shepherd, you abide with us, providing for all our needs. You guide us in your ways. In gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of your grace, and drink deeply from your cup of compassion. Amen.**

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# GOD NOURISHES US

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### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Open your hearts to the one who leads us to still waters.

**ALL: We lift our hearts to the Good Shepherd.**

Leader: We come before the one who prepares a table before us.

**ALL: We bring our thanks and praise to our Shepherd and Savior.**

Leader: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting, who

in the multitude of your saints did surround us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, rejoicing in their fellowship, may run with patience the race that is set before us and, together with them, may receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore, people of Easter, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life and sing to the God of everlasting love.

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

setting 3, pg. 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given to you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do in remembrance of me." **ALL: Amen**

Leader: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith;

**ALL: Christ died, walking through death's valley.**

**Christ was raised, the Good Shepherd for us all.**

**Christ will come to bring all into the one flock of God.**

Leader: United in the Risen Christ let us pray together,

## **\*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US**

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

## **\*LAMB OF GOD**

Setting #2 Hymnal page 135



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## \*THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Leader: Christ, our Good Shepherd, sets a table before us. Come.

**ALL: Alleluia! Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION

## THE TABLE BLESSING

Leader: Through the body, blood, and spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. This is God's promise to us. May his love and mercy strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **ALL: Amen**

## \*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #204

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us prayer together,

**ALL: Lord God, we give you thanks for the Table you set before us. We pray that the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ will strengthen and unite us as one flock under one shepherd, and guide us all our days, bringing us to eternal life. Amen.**

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# GOD SENDS US

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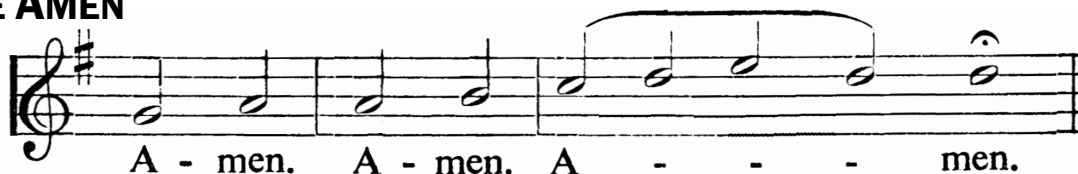
## \*BLESSING

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

## \*THE AMEN



## \*SENDING HYMN #789

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

## \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**ALL: Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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Graduation Day is coming (May 19) and we want to recognize our graduates on **May 12**. Please give the church office names of family members who **are graduating or have graduated from high school and institutions of higher learning** (since last May). Please submit information right away. Thank you.

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The Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly is Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 9am-6pm, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bowling Green. St. Luke's Church member allows us 2 lay voting members and 1 youth or young adult voting member. Carol Williams is registered. **We would like 1 man and 1 youth to register also.** The cost is \$100.00 until April 30 and \$200.00 from May 1–May 31. If you are interested in attending but might need some financial assistance, please call the church office. For more information go to <https://nwosassembly.org/>





Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

**WE GIVE THANKS:** for springtime rains and warm sunshine. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Lorraine Ferguson, Sue & Dave Ebersole, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Pat Wheeler, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Jennifer Dochod, Tony Matthes, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**GRIEVING:** Bertha and Jen Carter following the death of son-in-law and brother-in-law, Kent Thompson, on April 12. Janet Goldner following the death of her cousin, John Roller, on April 9.

**MILITARY:** for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**COMPANION CHURCH:** Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

**THE WORLD:** for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

# Life Laid Down

How does faith in the risen Christ call one to live? What shape does one's life take?



The readings for this fourth Sunday of Easter are rich in their imagery, and at the center is the image of the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. Five times in eight short verses Jesus mentions laying down his life for the sake of the sheep.

The First Letter of John picks up the same theme: “We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?” (1 John 3:16-17). Laying down one’s life for another might take many forms, but it at least means this: extending help, as much as you are able, when another is in need.

A friend tells the story of her grandfather, a faithful man who earned a modest income. Each year when tax time rolled around, he was audited. According to tax records he earned so little and gave away so much. The astounded auditors questioned him, wondering why he gave so much of his income to the church. Incredulous, he responded, “You can’t outgive God.”

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep, and joined to the risen life of Christ, the lives of the baptized are shaped by generosity and sacrifice. Giving one’s life, resources, gifts, or whatever one holds most dear for the sake of another is both a witness to the love we have first been shown and an act of faith. Hearing Jesus’ words in this Easter season reminds us that laying down one’s life is not an act to be feared; rather, it is an act that defies death, as we trust that, washed in the waters of baptism, we already live in the resurrected life of Christ.

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[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)