

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
Holy Communion
April 21, 2024**

**Christ Lutheran Church
Cottonwood, Minnesota**



Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here.
We pray that you will feel the Spirit and welcome of this faith
community, and we look forward to seeing you again!

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

(adapted from Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2023)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORDS OF WELCOME

P: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING WORDS OF FAITH

from Psalm 23

All: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

EASTER SONG OF PRAISE “*My King of Love My Shepherd Is*” ELW# 502

Please rise in body or spirit.

THANKSGIVING OF BAPTISM AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God raised us to new life. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for a time of self-reflection

P: God of grace,

All: we confess that we do not always live as resurrected people. We live within the fears and cares of this world, that we do not have enough, that we are not good enough. Forgive us for not seeing your image in us. Forgive us for not seeking your life in us. Help us to see we are made in your love, your image, your peace. We ask all of these things in the name of the risen Christ.

P: Hear the Good News: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ †, your sins are forgiven. May the almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

KYRIE

page 147 (in front of hymnal)

THIS IS THE FEAST

page 149-150 (in front of hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O Lord Christ,

All: 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.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L: Word of God, Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God

THE SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How 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?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Stanza 1 ELW# 789

GOSPEL READING

John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own

know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Janel Kuester

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Have No Fear, Little Flock*”

ELW# 764

Please rise in body or spirit.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH – 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 GOD’S PEOPLE

The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, “hear our prayer.”

SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please share a sign of God’s peace with one another.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

OFFERING AND MUSIC

*You can give electronically by either visiting
www.christcottonwood.org and setting up a one time or
recurring gift or by snapping on the
QR Code to the right.*



Thank you for your generosity.

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed in the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: The heavens and earth are full of your glory.

P: Through the ages of time, you have spoken and renewed your promise to every generation.

All: And through your promised Son, you have revealed your kingdom and proclaimed your power.

P: So we give you thanks, O Lord, for the salvation which you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

All: Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in this holy supper.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Please be seated.

*Anyone who has communed elsewhere is welcome to commune here.
Those who do not yet commune are invited to come forward for a blessing.
Grape juice and gluten-free bread are available upon request.
Please come forward at the invitation of the ushers to receive communion in a continuous manner, then return to your seats via the side aisles.
If you prefer to receive communion at your seat, please let the ushers know.*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

<i>“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”</i>	ELW# 789
<i>“Shepherd Me, O God”</i>	ELW# 780
<i>“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”</i>	ELW# 484

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world

SENDING BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN “*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*”

ELW# 536

SENDING WORDS

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Liturgy pieces from Sundays and Seasons © Augsburg Fortress.
Scripture readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

This Week’s Calendar

Today, Sunday, April 21: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Preschool Sunday School

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:45 am Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 22:

5:30 pm, Confirmation Faith Statement Sharing

Wednesday, April 24:

5:15 pm Confirmation Faith Statement Sharing

6:00 pm Mission Possible

7:00 pm Confirmation Mentor Week

Thursday, April 25:

2:00 pm Fieldcrest Communion Service

Sunday, April 28: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Preschool Sunday School

9:30 am Worship with Dubbledee Baptism

5:00 pm Teachers End of Year Gathering - at the Parsonage

— Thank You For Serving This Sunday, April 21 2024 —

Ushers: Pete Lavin, Larry Isaackson, Christy Johnson, Lyle Johnson, Brian Velde, Heather Velde, Kendra Velde, Morgan Velde

Musician: Krishana Dempcy

Acolyte: Conner Moseng

Assisting Minister: Tiffany Teske

Communion Servers: Conner Moseng and Morgan Velde; Corey Moseng, Heather Velde, Susanne Lee

PA: Sidnee Olson and Jon Myrvik

Video: Greg Isaackson and Erik Lundberg

Altar Care: Joyce Warnke and Anne Isaackson

Counters: Chris Stevens and Greg Golberg

Clothed With Love: Brenda Hoehne

SPRING--NEW BEGINNINGS

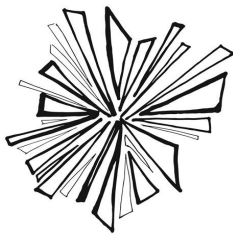
Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world. Spring is God's way of saying "one more time." Spring is symbolic of a fresh new start . Spring is a time of renewal and new beginnings.

Are you ready for a fresh start, a new beginning? How about a new start in making a financial gift to the ELCA World Hunger Program?

Help feed the hungry and the food insecure in the United States and throughout the world. Millions of people go to bed hungry and don't know where they will get their food for the next day. May God move you to accomplish God's will to love and care for your neighbor.

Designated envelopes for ELCA World Hunger are available at church or donate directly at elca.org/hunger.

Happy Spring!



SWMN WELCA SYNOD CONVENTION

Saturday, May 4, 2024

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls

\$40.00 registration

Theme: Be the Light

Speaker: Aliyah Ewing, Terebinth Refuge

Worship, business, speakers, displays, fellowship

Contact Anne Isaackson for registration and information details

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

Teri Kemmer, Linda Magnuson, Gary Morken,
Brad Marks, Ione Olson, Linda Olson, Joyce Warnke

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and any challenges in their lives. Areas at war: Ukraine and Israel.

Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:

Darleen Cole, Jody Mohr, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson,
Sonny and Ione Olson, Laurie Pickthorn, Steve Pederson,
Margaret Rewerts, Jim Runholt, June Schwartz

Families of our Congregation:

Wendy VanWinkle
Matt, Brandy, and Cora VanWinkle
Jeremy, Alissa, Gavin, Gary, and Rowan Vandelanotte

Grieving Families: The family of Kathy Martin
The family of Alice Mackenzie (Kit’s mother)

Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions:

Mfolozi Circuit and ELCSA, Robin’s Nest Children’s Home in Jamaica, Kikatiti
Secondary School in Tanzania, and World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)

Seminarian: Katherine (Kit) Mackenzie

Christ Lutheran Church Location: 126 Front Street
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, Minnesota 56229
Office Phone and Voice Mail: 507-423-5100
www.christcottonwood.org

Find us on Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN

Pastor Janel Kuester—cell 651 726 4003; pstrjanel@gmail.com
Office Administrator, Marian Kalass—christlutheran@christcotton.com
Accounting Assistant, Melanie Olsen—melaniesolsen76@gmail.com
Custodians, Jon & Jeannette Myrvik
jjmyrvik@icloud.com jonmyrvik@charter.net