

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
120 West Gano Chance Road
Centralia, Missouri 65240
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025

Theme: No One Will Snatch Them from My Hand

AS WE GATHER

In our world of constant change and abundant challenges to our faith, we often feel alone, and fear causes us to question where God is and what He is doing. Our Good Shepherd has pledged never to abandon us but to be with us always. More than this, He has promised that no one can snatch us from His hand. He is the powerful Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. Because of the investment He has made in us, He does not surrender us to temptation, trouble, trial, or test.

WELCOME

Pastor James Lanning

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN – “Father Welcomes”

LSB 605

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24

Pastor: All we like sheep have gone astray;

People: we have turned every one to his own way;

Pastor: and the LORD has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross

People: that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Silence for reflection and examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 78:70-72; 79:13, antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

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

He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheepfolds;

from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd

Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance.

With upright heart he shepherded them

and guided them with his skillful hand.

But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever;

from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

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

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 204

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

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

People: Amen.

FIRST READING – Acts 20:17-35

Lector: Randy Simmons

(Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock)

¹⁷Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that

happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23; antiphon v. 4

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.

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.

⁴Even 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.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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.

EPISTLE READING – Revelation 7:9-17

Lector: Randy Simmons

(The Lamb who sits on the throne shall be their Shepherd)

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9, John 10:14*

Pastor: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

Pastor: I am the good shepherd.

People: I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.

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

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL – John 10:22-30

(No one can snatch the sheep out of the Shepherd’s hand.)

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN – “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

LSB 709

MESSAGE

Pastor James Lanning

OFFERING HYMN – “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

LSB 740

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father, You have shown Your goodness and mercy in providing for us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd and to lay down His life for His sheep. Grant us Your grace that we may hear the voice of our Good Shepherd, follow where He leads, and live in peace and quietness all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, Your Son has raised up undershepherds through whom He provides His care and protection, guarding us by His Word and nurturing our faith by His Sacraments. Make us attentive to their voice that we may be kept from danger and secured in the truth so that nothing can snatch us from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, we have seen Your goodness in the still quiet waters and rich green pastures You daily and richly provide. Give us wise and grateful hearts that we may receive Your grace with thanksgiving and treasure them in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, Your watchful care is supplied for us in the governments and leaders of our land. Give to us wise and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your Word and will work for peace and justice for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, shepherd the sick and suffering to healing and relief that they may know Your presence in trouble and Your peace in trial. Hear us especially for [*names*, and] all who stand in need of Your grace, and keep them to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, give comfort and hope to those who are bereaved, that we may be consoled with the knowledge that those who die in Christ live forevermore. [

Hear us especially for *names*, that they may be sustained in their hour of grief by the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting.] Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, deliver us from distraction and complacency, lest we wander from the arms of Your mercy and lose the blessing of Your shepherding care. Bring us at last with all Your sheep that we may be one flock under the one Good Shepherd, united in doctrine and in faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Additional petitions may be inserted here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O loving and gentle Shepherd, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for providing for us Your own Son to be our Shepherd and Lord. Grant that through the means of grace and those undershepherds who administer them to us we may continue to be fed and nourished to eternal life and bring us at last to that day when we shall gather as one in Your presence on high, without trouble or trial to afflict us, and we shall know His love face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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 you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

LSB 711

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

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NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. **“The Baptismal River”** led by Pastor Lanning

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

May Church Events

5.12 Women’s Guild – 1 pm

5.14 Adult Bible Study 10 am - **CANCELLED**

5.14 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

5.20 Mission Committee – 7 pm

5.21 Adult Bible Study 10 am

5.21 Worship Committee – 4:30 pm

5.21 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

5.28 Adult Bible Study – 10 am

5.28 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

BIRTHDAYS – Mike Richterkessing – May 16

ANNIVERSARIES – Cheryl & Michael Steffan – May 11; Aaron & Betsy Cochran – May 14;

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Olivia Fischer and Alfred Ulloa on their recent wedding.

Congratulations to students who are graduating.

Adult Bible Study for Wednesday, May 14th is cancelled.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

For those graduating from high school and college; for Olivia Fischer and Alfred Ulloa who were married recently; those grieving recent loss of family or friends; Terry Plank – undergoing chemo treatments; VBS Staff and students; Veterans of Armed Services – especially those suffering from PTSD and anxiety; Savannah & Taylor Tarwater – as they mourn; Marilyn Chapman – health issues; Mike Hyde – recovering from hip fracture; Tammy Morgan – (Sherry Morse’s daughter) – health issues; Bill Mahieu – health issues – back home; Ken Manola –needs total shoulder replacement; Christina DeJesus (Jane St. John’s daughter) – health issues; Brenda Belt (Henry Rainey’s sister) – Stage IV Cancer; Grace – health issues (friend of Hannah Lanning); Steve Buckert – cancer treatments; Jenni Murray-Margaret Parker’s daughter-recovering from surgery; Ron Borgman; Dick St. John-Brenda Moss’s father-health issues; Kim & Terry Decker-health issues; Craig-suffering with spinal stenosis-friend of Randy Simmons; Ed & Ernestine Ramsey; Judy Mahieu; Kyle Lutz-recovering from kidney/pancreas transplant; Bonnie Berthelsen; Mark Ramsey; Calvin Stemme-treatment for cancer; Julia Rainey; Jane St. John; Dennis & Jackie Nadler; Susan Harris; Wayne Nolan-stepfather of Jeff Jaeger; Michelle Smith-daughter of Jane St John; Arla Benskin-daughter of Mary Brechler. Missionaries - Pastor Tim Schulte and wife Erin; the Alaska and LAMP teams for VBS; GSLC VBS staff and kids

Community Prayers: Father Mike Coleman; Evie Ross—infant needs heart transplant; **David**—health issues; **Fran Schnarre**—health issues; **Gail Dobbs**—femur fracture; **Sally Hunt** – stage 4 brain cancer; **Reba Davenport** – in ICU.

ARMED FORCES: Christopher Thompson, U. S. Navy – cousin of Hannah Lanning; **Brandon Lowery**, U.S. Navy—brother of Rachel Rojas; **Donevin Leonard**, U.S. Marine Corps—grandson of Russell & Jacki Stelzer; **Chris Chism**, U.S. Navy—son of Vickie & Eric Chism; grandson of Barbara Fischer; **Brittany Macklin**—great-niece of Ernestine Ramsey; **Zachary Warden**—grandson of Betty Warden; Community: **Ray Finlay**, U.S. Army

ARMED FORCES: Brandon and Jesse Lowery, U.S. Navy—brothers of Rachel Rojas; **Donevin Leonard**, U.S. Marine Corps—grandson of Russell & Jacki Stelzer; **Chris Chism**, U.S. Navy—son of Vickie & Eric Chism; grandson of Barbara Fischer; **Brittany Macklin**—great-niece of Ernestine Ramsey; **Zachary Warden**—grandson of Betty Warden; Community: **Ray Finlay**, U.S. Army

Church Directory

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Revelation 7:17, “...the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

