



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Proclaiming Christ's Word through Truth, Innovation & Fellowship.

Celebrating the Fifth Sunday of Easter!

April 25th & 28th, 2024



"I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does not bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." -Jesus' words in John 15:1-2



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2450 West 9th Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54904

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Pastor Greg Koepsell: Office 920-231-0530 or Cell 763-913-8445
or pastor@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org

Web Site: www.goodshepherdinoshkosh.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/oshkoshgoodshepherd

E-Mail Address: church@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org

Worship Services: Thursday: 6:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am

Sunday school for all ages Sunday morning 9:15-10:15

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:00-1:00 pm

(Pastor always available via cell! Call or text!...763-913-8445)

As We Gather...

*Welcome to **Good Shepherd** Lutheran Church! It's a privilege and honor to worship our One True God; Father, Son & Holy Spirit with you on this Fifth Sunday of Easter & this NEW day of salvation! We are so happy and blessed that **you** are here! As always, make yourself at home, you are among family!*

As the season of Easter continues, we discover that the risen Christ now lives in the baptized. It is as if we have been joined to His risen body, drawing life from Him like a living branch connected to a living vine. The result is bearing fruit for the kingdom of God. As we live by the promise of our Baptism and by the life-giving Word of God, so we invite and lead others to discover eternal life through God's Word and Sacraments. As Philip was led to preach the Gospel to an Ethiopian, so God blesses our witness...one person at a time.

Service Notes...

In preparation for worship: Please take some time to greet the people you are worshipping with! The order of worship for today is printed for you below, you may want to take a few minutes to look it over as you prepare to receive the gifts of God and sing His praises (*even if you "don't sing," please read along! Lutheran hymnody carries some deep Theological messages!*). You may also want to mark the additional songs: **579, 691, 633, 700 & 919** in the *LSB*. **Reminder:** If you have a smart phone, and you're on Facebook, please "check in" at **Good Shepherd** Lutheran Church...then turn the sound off! May our Good and Gracious Shepherd bless your worship this day...this NEW day of salvation!

To Stand or Sit: There are certain parts of the service where you will be invited to stand. Sometimes, “wrestling” with kids, or a personal health condition makes standing uncomfortable... please know: **It is okay to either stand or sit. Both are appropriate!** So please, make yourself comfortable, receive the gifts God loves to give and **BOLDLY** sing His praises!

Children: We are blessed to have a lot of young families and young children here at *Good Shepherd*. We take Jesus’ words very seriously when He says, “Let the little children come to me...” We also know how difficult it can be to keep children sitting quietly for any period of time, much less an hour long church service! For your convenience, “Quiet Bags” have been provided for young worshippers. They are located in the narthex to your right (on the “Noah’s Ark” wall mounting, next to the big bulletin board) when exiting the sanctuary. Also, for your convenience, a “Quiet Room” is located at the back of the sanctuary for use during those “difficult” times. Also, please keep in mind that everyone here loves to have the children here and will help you in any way they can! **Please note:** *Non-communion services may have a children’s message which could be recorded via Facebook live. If you have any issues with your child being seen at church on the World Wide Web just listen from the pew!*

Guests, Visitors & The Offering: If you are our guest today, you are **not** expected to contribute monetarily to God’s work at *Good Shepherd* ... you are our guest! Please take this service as our gift to you! If you choose to give an offering, know this: **The gifts we give back to God are used by His church to transform lives.** *(The offering plate is located at the sanctuary entrance)*

The Lord’s Supper: *(Thursday & Sunday at 10:30 am)* *Good Shepherd* joyfully celebrates the Lord’s Supper, and we do that in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*. **Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes** *Matthew 5:23; 18:15-35*. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm *1 Corinthians 11:27-29* and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession *Matthew 10:32* differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. Because Scripture says we ought to “examine ourselves” before receiving the Holy Meal *1 Corinthians 11:28*, it is recommended that we review the “*Christian Questions with Their Answers*” section of the *LSB* before communion (**page 329 of the LSB**), please take a few moments before the service or during the offering to do so. Thank you! **Please note:** *There are two or three cups at the center of each tray that are non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer such for personal or medical reasons (The wine containing alcohol is white, the non-alcohol is red/pink).*

Pre-Service Meditation...

Please check out some of the pre-service prayers in the front of the LSB and/or meditate on one or more of the Psalms printed in the LSB (specifically Psalm 150 today) ...or just spend some time quietly in prayer before we begin.

Prelude...

Words of Welcome...

The Opening Song: “Earth and All Stars”

(LSB pg. 579...verses: 1, 2, 3, 6 & 7...please stand for verse seven)

The Invocation & Opening Verses From Psalm(s) 40 & 66

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

All: Amen.

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

All: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

Pastor: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

All: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

All: who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

Pastor: You have multiplied, O Lord my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

All: I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

We Confess our Sins [1 John 1:8-9]...

(Silence for reflection & self-examination)

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

All: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith...

We Hear God's Forgiveness [John 20:19-23]

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant 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.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

We Sing: “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing”

(LSB pg. 691)

We Pray

Pastor: The Lord be with you. ² Timothy 4:22

All: And also with you.

(Silence for personal prayer...then a prayer is spoken.)

+ *We Hear God's Word* +

Acts 8:26-40 (*Philip baptizes an Ethiopian.*)

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^a eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “*He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.*”^b

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?”^c ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea... This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

(Sunday at 8:00 am) The Children’s Message: “Help Me Understand”

The Second Reading: 1 John 4:1–11 (*Test the spirits.*)

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

(Continued...)

^a That is, from the upper Nile region

^b Isaiah 53:7,8

^c Some late manuscripts *baptized?* Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

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 ... This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30 am Sunday) *The Good Shepherd Choir Sings: "Halle, Halle, Halle"*
-Hal Hopson

*Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.*

*Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.*

Praise God in this holy place, every nation, every race.

Come make joyful music to the Lord.

Sound the trumpet, sound it clear. Sound it for the world to hear.

Come make joyful music to the Lord.

*Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.*

Everything that breathes now praise, sing your songs, let voices raise.

Come make joyful music to the Lord.

Play the cymbals, play the lute; play the timbrel, play the flute.

Come make joyful music to the Lord.

*Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah.*

The Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8 (Jesus is the vine; we are the branches.)

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

All: Glory be to You, O Lord.

(Continued...)

^a Or spirit

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^a so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples...This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ!

The Message: “Another ‘Lil Easter”

(Sermon Application ...)

What did God teach you in His Law today (*What you should do, or have failed to do for God*)?

What did God teach you in His Gospel today (*What God has done for you through Christ*)?

What is the main thing you’re taking home from this message today?

*Have a comment or question about today’s message? Have **any** questions about any of this Jesus/Christian stuff? Text the pastor at 763-913-8445 or email him at pastor@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org. If you’d like to hear Sunday’s message, or share it with a friend, it posts on our Facebook page and/or Website by 10 am on Monday...*



We Profess Our Christian Faith [Romans 10:9] *With the words of the Apostles’ Creed...*

(As found on the back, inside cover of the LSB)

(The 8:00 am Service concludes with prayers, the Lord’s Prayer, Blessing, and the closing hymn)

^a The Greek for *prunes* also means *cleans*.

+We Celebrate the Holy Supper+

The Prayer of the Church [1 Timothy 2:1-4]...

*(The Pastor will conclude each petition with the words, “Lord, in Your mercy...”
Please respond with, “Hear our prayer.”)*

The Words of our Lord...

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

The 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. *Matthew 6:9-13* **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
1 Corinthians 11:26

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

The Distribution...

We come forward to receive the Body & Blood of Christ in, with and under the bread and wine for remembrance; for forgiveness, for strengthening of faith. The ushers will assist you. You may sit and sing while you wait for the Holy Meal.

During the Distribution...

Soloist: *(Skylar Hibbens & Cellist, Jacob Bedroske): “He Will Hold Me Fast”*

We Sing: *“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” (LSB pg. 633)*

℟

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (LSB pg. 700)

(After communion...)

Post-Communion Prayer...

(A prayer is spoken...)

The Blessing

Pastor: May God go before you to lead you; behind you to protect you; beneath you to uphold you. May God, The Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, go with you to bless you now and forever.

All: Amen! Amen! Amen!

*The Closing Song: "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"
(LSB pg. 919)*

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. It's better with YOU here!
Please stick around for some food and fellowship, Good Shepherd style!*

Sunday School for adults (Special presentation by Linda Jordan) or the children for getting all the goods is 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday mornings.

If you're visiting us today, please remember to sign in at one of our Kiosks and/or sign the guestbook before you depart...and come soon to see us again!

Next Big Things

Sunday, April 28th – Special Mission Presentation by Linda Jordan (9:15 am)

Thursday, May 9th – Ascension Day Special joint worship service at Good Shepherd (7:00 pm)

Sunday, May 19th – Confirmation Sunday (10:30 am)

Postlude...

To God Alone all Glory Goes!

Questions about the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod? Check out, www.lcms.org

**This week's Altar Flowers are sponsored by David & Jackie Wagner
In celebration of both their birthdays**

Next Week's Texts: Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17

Search the Scriptures! (John 5:39)

Serving Us Today

Pastor & Celebrant.....	Pastor Koepsell
Organist.....	Cam Bedroske
Soloist.....	Skylar Hibbens
Cello.....	Jacob Bedroske
Choir.....	Adult Choir (10:30)
Elder.....	Fred Kirchenwitz (Thu) Gary Bedroske & Jon Mielke (Sun)
Ushers.....	Steve Bridwell, Becky Siegrist, & Howard Hoppe

OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 28	8:00 A.M.	Worship Service
	9:15 A.M.	Sunday School
	9:15 A.M.	Special Speaker – Linda Jordan
Monday, April 29	10:30 A.M.	Worship Service with Communion
	5:30 P.M.	Bell Choir
	6:30 P.M.	Adult Choir
Wednesday, May 1	6:30 P.M.	Board of Education Meeting
	10:30 A.M.	Adult Bible Study
	5:15 P.M.	Confirmation Class
Thursday, May 2	6:30 P.M.	Worship Service with Communion
Saturday, May 4	7:00 A.M.	Men's Group
Sunday, May 5	8:30 A.M.	Women's Group
	8:00 A.M.	Worship Service with Communion
	9:15 A.M.	Sunday School
	9:15 A.M.	Adult Bible Study
	10:30 A.M.	Worship Service

THANK YOU: Tom and Ruth Nevers would like to thank the congregation for their many prayers for our daughter, Wendy Nevers. She is doing so well she will not need dialysis or a kidney transplant. Praise God for helping us find a wonderful nephrologist and the transplant team in Madison. We are so grateful to you all.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: April's mission is LCMS Deaconess Program. LCMS deaconesses are women who are professional church-workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. Deaconesses serve primarily in three settings: Missions — both foreign and domestic; Congregations — teaching, visiting the sick and imprisoned, or serving in family or other caring ministry; and Institutions — serving as chaplains in hospitals, prisons, retirement communities, and facilities that care for people with developmental disabilities.

THANK YOU: Thank you to all my Prayer Warriors, it really makes a difference. God has a plan for me over the next several months and I know He is always good. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. Thanks, Tom Dunham

MISSION UPDATE: Do you ever wonder how some of the missions we have supported are currently doing? Stephen Weisenauer's most recent newsletter is available in the atrium, if you would like to find out what has been happening in Burma and how God's love is being spread to the many displaced people there.

THANK YOU: Pete and Judy Mehn give many thanks to our Good Shepherd family for all of your prayers, love, care, and comfort. God blessed us with good doctors and medicine at Ascension Mercy Oakwood in Oshkosh and Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Appleton. Judy is getting stronger every week. She looks forward to increasing her daily activities as she regains her strength and flexibility. Your support was greatly needed and appreciated. Praise be to God for granting more years together on earth, and for the peace that comes with the promise of life everlasting.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE: You are invited to join us Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 pm as we celebrate Ascension Day with other churches & choirs from our circuit. This special day commemorates the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, His ongoing intercession for us, and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It serves as a reminder of our faith in Jesus' victory and the hope we have in Him.

KFUO THIS WEEK: Begin studying Daniel on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), continue studying Proverbs on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study what we believe about The Church on Concord Matters (5/4 at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org and the KFUO Radio app!

Please remember in your prayers:

Church Members:

Tom Dunham, Bill Zorr, Branden Mike on the passing of his grandmother, Mitzi Papenfuss, Joann Behm, Jim & Sharron Ziemer, Sharon Leinweber, Ed Huebner, Louise Gabert, Brenda Hawig, Jeff Everson, and Rick Koplitz.

Friends & Relatives of Church Members:

Diane Flouro's sister, Sherry; Pastor Koepsell's mother, Lorraine; Jan Peterson's sisters & niece & son, Scot and daughter, Paula; Ron & Chris Feutz's grandson, Logan Feutz; Kim & Keith Reetz's grandbaby, Tobias; Barry Brehmer's sister and brother-in-law, Bonnie and David Dobbe; Janet Weier's son, Adam & family; Lee & Carol Zuberbie's son, Matthew; Gene & Donna Gohlke's nephews, Kirk and Michael, & granddaughter, Karley; and Doug Flouro's brother, Allan.

Those Who Want to Worship with Us But Aren't Currently Able:

Bill & Louise Gabert, Jim Ziemer, Muriel Guy, Milt & JoAnn Haskins, Lee Paris, Emily Brunner, Edward Huebner, Jean Stauber, Vicki Beck, Bill Zorr, Bette Lienhard, & Marge Bolding.

Military/Overseas Members & Their Families:

Josh Martin, Malayna Brehmer (granddaughter of Barry & Linda Brehmer), Ryan Weber (son of Tim & Liz Hoversten), Chris Hibben, Alycia Mueller, and Jared Rivera

**Please let Lynn Paulus, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, know when we can take you or your loved one off the prayer list lynn@travelleaders.com*

Last Week at Good Shepherd...

Attendance: Thursday: 38 Sunday: 8:00 am: 77 10:30 am: 154 Weekly Total: 269

Offerings For Week of 4/21 :

- General Fund: \$4,613.00
- Missions: \$16.00
- Strategic Fund: \$130.00

Total Offerings: \$4,759.00

Weekly Budget Needs at Good Shepherd: \$7,381.00

("...So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.") -1 Corinthians 14:1