

As We Gather

Good Shepherd Sunday evokes the comforting image of our risen Lord's mercy for us, His sheep. John says we see love displayed in the Good Shepherd's laying down His life for us. But there is another side to this Good Shepherd. For He is also the mighty Lord who destroyed sin and death by His resurrection from the dead. For with Peter and John before the temple officials, the same officials who had recently put Jesus to death, this resurrection faith translates into a boldness to witness and testify even in the face of threat of opposition. This day we praise the risen Lord and our Good Shepherd.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN:

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

Hymn #464

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

(Please kneel)

Blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours. Hear our plea for Your mercy.

Blessed Jesus, guardian of our way, keep us, Your flock, from sin. When we stray from Your side and leave the green pastures and quiet waters of Your Word, seek us out and bring us back! Forgive us for the times we have failed You and our neighbor, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We now turn to You for forgiveness. Amen.

The Lord is our Shepherd, our merciful and mighty Savior. He has taken all our sin and weakness into Himself, taken it away by His merciful death on the cross. Now by the might of His resurrection and by His authority, we are forgiven of all our sins so that we can live joyful lives as Easter Christians! Let us rejoice in Jesus' victory over sin and death that has won our forgiveness!

Amen. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
Much we need Thy tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures lead us,
For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.**

**We are Yours; in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from din defend us,
Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus
Hear us children when we pray**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE FIRST READING: Acts 4:1–12 *(Peter and John before the Council.)*

¹ The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

⁵ The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

¹¹ He is

" the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the capstone. "

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

"Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

Sanctuary Choir

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 John 3:16–24 *(If we follow Jesus, we will love one another.)*

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹ This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE;

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the tenth chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:11–18 (*Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd."*)

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE

Mt. Calvary Puppet Ministry

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll not Want"

Hymn#710

THE MESSAGE:

"What You Believe Matters"

Pastor Brighton

THE 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 day 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.

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

Easter means resurrection joy! The Easter season is one long celebration of the resurrection that actually continues all year long, since every Sunday is meant to be a "mini celebration" of Easter! So, rejoice that you are a new creation through the suffering, death, and RESURRECTION of your Savior!

The angel's words to the women on that first Easter: "Why do you look for the living Among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!" (Luke 24:5-6)

THE OFFERTORY:

"Lord Of All Good"

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now.
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
That our whole lives is offered to Your will.**

**Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.**

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, *"Lord in Your mercy,"* and the congregation will respond, *"Hear our prayer."*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN:

"This Joyful Eastertide"

Hymn#482

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our altar flowers were provided this week by John & Liz Hunter, in honor of their wedding anniversary, and by Bonnie & Todd Hudlin, in honor of the birthdays of their son, Trevor, and granddaughter, Cali-Grace.

Members of the Week: Eric & Tammy Jenkins; Erica & Nick. Eric and Tammy grew up in Michigan about 5 miles from each other but attended rival high schools. They met when Eric and Tammy's sisters were lifeguards together. But, Tammy was just the little sister then. Eric joined the Air Force after high school and was stationed in New Mexico and Okinawa. While home on leave, Eric visited Tammy's sister, but then started dating Tammy! Tammy pursued a college degree at Eastern Michigan University. Eric started working on his degree and a career with Ford Motor Co. They were married in 1991, Erica was born in 1995 and Nick came along in 1998. In 2005, the economy was declining in Michigan, with slim job opportunities and probable layoffs, so they decided to move south and start over. They moved to Warner Robins in 2006 and joined Mt. Calvary in 2007. Eric currently works at Robins AFB in the C-130, Foreign Military Sales Office. Tammy is a Reading teacher with Houston County. The family is very involved with Youth Group activities; Eric is an Elder and Tammy did an awesome job as the Chairperson for the Futures Committee.

Cinco de Mayo Festival: Join us for a pot luck meal (bring your favorite Mexican food dish) at the grassy area between the church and the annex on Sunday, May 3rd, at 2 pm. Also, bring your sunscreen, lawn chairs, lawn games and party attitude! - Your Fellowship Board.

Corrected address for Lois Meyer: 9208 Aboite Center Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804. When I published it previously, the word "Center" was inadvertently left out. I would guess that the local post office took any mail sent to the previous address to the correct address anyway, because there is no Aboite Road there.

Come out and support the church softball team! This week's games: 1) Southside Baptist - 8:30 on Monday at Peavy 2; and 2) J-Boys – 7:30 on Thursday at Peavy 2.

SLDT Meeting: The Student Leadership Development Team will be meeting this Sunday, April 26th, from 6:30-8:00 in the Annex. We will be setting up groups for the Mission Trip and looking over Bible Studies.

Golf Tournament: The annual Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Golf Tournament / Fund-raiser is this Sunday, April 26th. Lunch will be served at 1:00 and tee-off is at 2:00. The cost is \$45/player which includes lunch, driving range balls, and an 18-hole scramble tournament. Scoring aids are available at check-in (mulligans-3/\$5, red-bombs-\$5, & free throws-\$10). This fund-raiser benefits the Youth Ministry program of our church. If you have not signed up yet, come on out and we will find a team for you to play on!

Photo Directory! We had an outstanding response for our April picture session with "Life Touch" Family Photography. If you missed getting your picture taken and haven't signed up yet, don't worry, we have added an additional day to the May sessions. The photographers will be coming back next month (May 13-16). These pictures are being taken for our 35th Anniversary Photo Directory. Have your picture taken for the directory and receive a free 8x10 portrait. Sign up for an appointment across from the mailboxes after church OR go to the church's website and click the button to make your appointment online. Either way, please help us get everyone's picture in the directory!

Middle School Party! The Final Middle School Party of the school year will be this Friday, May 1st, from 6-9 pm in the Annex. The cost will be \$5/person to cover snacks and dinner.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Dave Radcliff, who was hospitalized with diverticulitis this week.

Helen Moore, Molly Townsend's mom, who is recovering from surgery for a broken hip.

Corky Case, who is hospitalized following surgery.

Mary Jahnke, Joe's sister, who has cancer.

Nancy Hoar, who is recovering from pneumonia and has blood clots in her lungs.

Barry Rice, Becky McVay's Brother, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Everly Soucy, infant daughter of former members Kevin and Kelsey Soucy, who continues to struggle with serious health issues.

Keep In Your Prayers

Sandi Jacobsmeyer, Jerry Frey (James' dad), Anita McIntyre, Carol Quednow, Doris Snow, Angleen Trasmer, Peggy Rodriguez, Molly Keister, Peggy Barkley, Jimmy Martin, Sr. (Jimmy's father), Joyce Boone (our former Wednesday Night cook), Connie Kinsey, Antonio Kong (Evy Keyes' father), Josie Kong (Evy Keyes' mother) and Karen Johnson.

(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Those battling cancer: Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), John Hoar, Paula Babcock, Kathy Grube, Chet Branscom, Jace Cumbie (son of Amanda McVay's boyfriend), Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom), Doris Helmes (Bill Zeuner's sister), Margaret Frazier, Dwight Hulse (friend of Roger & Gina Peterson), Bruce Oswald (Krystal Ferguson's father), Gary Jennings (Margaret Jennings' son), Elaine Mead (Jeannie Hawkins' aunt), Fred Diehl, John Hoar and Dana (Stroud) Stewart (Valerie Koehler's daughter).

Those Serving in the Military in Dangerous Areas

Christopher Dierking, Christopher Mittuch, Thomas Kaiser Guilford, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Michael Welch, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Bob Yeager (8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Carolyn Harper (8 am) and Zoe Bowden (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Brian Harper, David Rossman, Bob Yeager & Richard Uitto. Late – Mike Hopf, Bruce Bauman, Dave Harter, Ed Bodony & Earl Bogardus. **ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Glaser, Barbara Mabee, Ginger Martin, Kathy Robinson & Sharon Suckow. **LAY READERS:** Deb Fingles (8 am) and Adam Beecher (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Debi Cole. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Louis Foss (9 am) and Open (11 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Open (Sat 6 pm), Open (Sun 8 am) and Open (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Chase McVay (Sat 6 pm), Andrew LeBorious (Sun 8 am) and Maddy Hagemann (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Sallie Brinkley, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Rob Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Deb Fingles (Sun 8 am) and Carolyn Burnam (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Alyce Quillin & Margaret McLaughlin (Sun 8 am) and Bill & Arlene Zeuner (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 8:26-40 and 1 John 4:1-21

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 48 Early – 92 Late – 158 Total – 298

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	1:00 pm	Annual Golf Tournament
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Bell Choir
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Dinner
	6:00 pm	Adult Bible Classes
	6:15 pm	Children/Youth Classes
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	9:30 am	Mom's Play Group
	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	6:30 pm	TAG Night