



AS WE GATHER Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

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GATHERING SONGS *(Begins at 9:45 a.m.)*

“I’m Living The Right Life Now” written by Molly O’Day

Chorus: **Glory to God, I’m washed in His blood,
And the Sunlight is on my brow;
I’m happy and whole, there’s peace in my soul,
I’m Living the Right Life Now!**

“I Wouldn’t Take Nothing For My Journey Now” written by The Happy Goodman’s

Chorus: **I wouldn’t take nothing for my journey now,
I’ve got to make it to Heaven somehow.
Though the devil tempts and tries to turn me around.
He’s offered everything that’s got a name
All the wealth I want and worldly fame,
But if I could, still I wouldn’t take nothing for my journey now.**

“A Cabin In the Hills” written by Merle Haggard

Chorus: **I live my lonesome life down in a valley,
With the factories, the rivers and the mills.
Sometimes I can almost hear his hammer (tap, tap, tap) ‘Cause He’s
building me a cabin in the hills**

“I Can’t Even Walk Without You Holding My Hand” written by Marty Stuart

Chorus: **I can’t even walk without You holding my hand,
The mountains too high, and the valley’s so wide;
Down on my knees is where I learned how to stand,
Because I can’t even walk without You holding my hand**

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “How Great Thou Art!” written by Carl Boberg
**O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder, Consider all the worlds Thy
Hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power
throughout the universe displayed.**

Chorus: Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin. (*Chorus*)

When Christ shall come, with shouts of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" (*Chorus*)

OPENING VERSES

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C Teach me Your paths.
P Sanctify us in Your truth.
C Your Word is truth.
P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SONG “I’m Using My Bible For a Roadmap” written by Don Reno & Charles Schroeder

**I'm using my Bible for a roadmap,
The Ten Commandments, they tell me what to do.
The disciples, they are my road signs,
And Jesus will take me safely through!**

Refrain: **There'll be no detours in heaven
No rough roads along the way
I'm using my Bible for a roadmap
My last stop is heaven some sweet day!**

**I'm using my Bible for a roadmap
The children of Israel used it too.
They crossed the Red Sea of destruction
For God was there to see them through! (*Refrain*)**

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 John 3:16–24

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SONG "Precious Lord" written by Thomas A. Dorsey

**Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand,
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn;
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, Precious Lord, Lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near
When my light is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand, lest I fall
Take my hand, Precious Lord, Lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears, And the night draws near
And the day is past and gone;
At the river, I stand, Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand Precious Lord, Lead me home. *(Repeat #1)***

☐ The Holy Gospel According To St. John, The Tenth Chapter.

☐ Glory To You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING John 10:11–18

“Jesus said: ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.’”

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

SONG “When Jesus Comes” written by Gayle Malwitz

Chorus: When Jesus comes, He’ll wrap His arms around you,
When Jesus comes, He’ll take away your sins.
In all your haste, you may not recognize Him,
When Jesus comes, invite Him in

RESPONSES

- P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

CATECHISM

APOSTLES’ CREED

- C** 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.

LORD’S PRAYER

- C** 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.

SERMON “True Hearts” 1 John 3:16-24

SONG “The Old Rugged Cross” written by George Bennard

**On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

Chorus: **So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown**

**In the old rugged Cross, stain'd with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above
To pardon and sanctify me! (*Chorus*)**

**To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share (*Chorus*)**

OFFERING “Far Side Banks of Jordan” written by Daniel O’Donnell
Dedicated to Curt & Cheryl Bakke

Chorus: **I'll be waiting On The Far Side Banks Of Jordan
I'll be sitting drawing pictures in the sand
And when I see you coming I will rise up with a shout
And come running through the shallow waters reaching for your hand!**

PRAYERS

P ...through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** 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. As You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

MORNING PRAYER *(Martin Luther's Morning Prayer)*

- P** We pray...
- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

SONG “Come Home, It’s Suppertime” written by Governor Jimmy Davis

Chorus: Come home, come home it's suppertime,
The shadows lengthen fast;
Come home, come home it's suppertime,
We're going home at last!

BLESSING

- P** Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG “I Saw The Light” written by Hank Williams, Sr.

**I wandered so aimless life filed with sin
I wouldn't let my dear savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord I saw the light!**

**Chorus: I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light.**

**Just like a blind man I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light! (Chorus)**

**I was a fool to wander and stray
Straight is the gate and narrow's the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord I saw the light! (Chorus)**

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THANK YOU, LONNIE AND GAYLE for the music today!

Lonnie and Gayle Malwitz, formerly of The Highview Country Singers, is a Country Gospel Duo that not only provides great inspirational country gospel music, but truly are ‘worship’ leaders. They had played regularly on the 2nd Sunday of every month at Highview Christiania Lutheran Church in rural Farmington, MN, from 1999 until 2016 when they decided to retire & spread their music ministry to other parts of the country. The group delivers each country gospel song with clear vocals, accompanied by a rhythm guitar, a bass guitar, and a harmonica. In addition to their original songs, they primarily play new and old country gospel from Hank Williams, Sr. to the Gaither's & beyond, with every song containing a sermon in itself!

The group currently has three CD's available, “Highview Country Singers - 21 Country Gospel Favorites”, “We Will Serve The Master”. & “My Christmas Memories”.

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**Altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God
in celebration of Jan Aslin's birthday.**

Reader Today: Paul "Hap" Stuart

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tues. Apr. 23 11:00 Preschool Chapel
Wed. Apr. 24 9:30 Women's Bible Study (Last for the season)
Thur. Apr. 25 10:30 Support Group
Thur. Apr. 25 11:00 Jesus Time
Sat. Apr. 27 1:00 Curt Bakke memorial service
Sunday Apr. 28 8:30 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CURT BAKKE is planned for **Saturday, April 27th 1-3 p.m. at MLC.** On Dec. 7, 2023 at age 83, God blessed Curt with a holy death and took him home to rest in the arms of Jesus to await the resurrection of the dead.

WANT TO PUT NAMES WITH FACES?! Now's your chance! Get your picture taken for our **new wall directory in the fellowship hall: "Our Church Family"!** **Sign up** at the "sign-ups" table and pick your day. Your picture will be taken here at church on a Sunday when you are present before or after church. Pictures will be taken in the fellowship hall and posted with just your name(s). Pictures will be small (approx. 3"x4"). If you are a "snow bird" who will be leaving soon, please sign up asap! If you have any **questions, contact coordinator Christine Constien, 815-409-2035 or constien.christine@gmail.com.**

BIRTHDAYS

Apr. 21 Jan Aslin	Apr. 23 JoAnn Arney	Apr. 23 Jim Sims
Apr. 24 DeAnn West	Apr. 29 Lois Beadles	Apr. 29 Tim Hintz
Apr. 29 Gail Snow		

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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