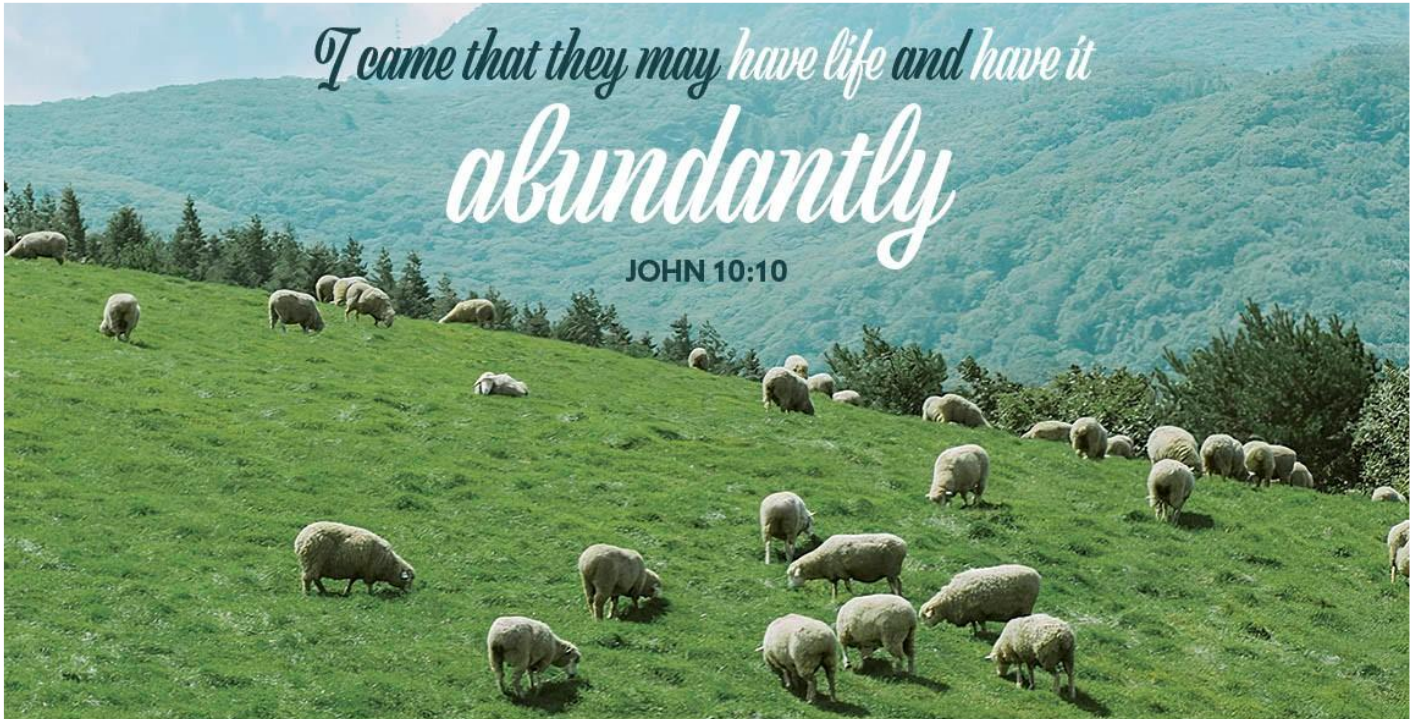


# Fourth Sunday of Easter



**April 26, 2026**

**WELCOME!**

If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, we joyfully invite you to join with us; please speak to me, Pastor Jami Possinger.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His Supper.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.

## **Faith Lutheran Church**

550 Rt. 940 | PO Box 228  
Blakeslee, PA 18610  
Office 570-646-0309

Email: [faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org](mailto:faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org)

Website: [faithlutheranblakeslee.org](http://faithlutheranblakeslee.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-Blakeslee-PA-1721550018126312>

Minister: ..... Rev. Jami Possinger  
Lector ..... Mike Gillis  
Greeters/Ushers:..... John Lyman  
Communion Asst./Clean up: .....Jan Frantz/Paul Frantz  
Music:..... Molly Finkbiner

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Holy Grounds Coffee Hour:** Fellowship will be held after worship on the second Sunday of each month, starting **May 10**. Volunteers to host are needed—please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church.

**Faith Fellowship Team:** Our mission is encouraging interaction, building relationships, and creating a sense of belonging within the congregation and with the local community. If you're interested in becoming part of the Faith Fellowship Team, please contact Sara Cornell at 570-472-5560 or at saracornell10@gmail.com.

**Faith Cookbook:** Recipes can be for appetizers, soups and salads, main courses, side dishes, casseroles and desserts. Please submit your recipe to Sara Cornell or Barbara Laughlin. Include your name with your recipe.

**Altar Service Signup:** Volunteers are needed to set-up, bake bread, and clean up after communion. Please email Jan Frantz at Boris\_fan@yahoo.com to help.

**Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations:** Sign-up sheets for 2026 are on the table in the foyer entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for \$10 and \$10 towards silk flowers, or you may bring your own fresh flowers. **Please complete the requisition form with your dedication note.**

## MEETINGS/EVENTS

**AA Meetings:** Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12 p.m.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** May 6, 2026, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Please call 800-733-2767 to pre-register.

**Bible Study:** Sessions on Sundays, 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Studying Joshua.

**Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to Noon with Pastor Jami.

**Choir Rehearsals:** Sundays, 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**Faith Library:** Please see one of the "Little Librarians" or Sara Cornell with any donations or questions.

**Faith Book Club:** is reading "The Measure," by Nikki Erlick. Discussion will take place on May 17, 2026, at Murphy's Loft following the service.

**Faithful Community Quilters:** Second Monday of the month, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Free Community Lunch:** First Tuesday of each month. (May 5) 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Five Loaf House, 133 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines.

**Pastor Jami Possinger** has weekly office hours. Confidential email: pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org or private cell phone: 610-216-9951

*Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.*

**PRELUDES:** “Evan,” “St. Columba,” “The Lord’s My Shepherd (Brother James’ Air)”

*Please rise as you are able.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

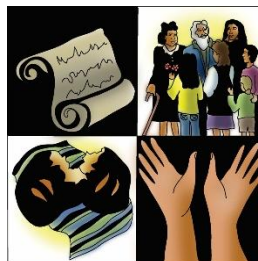
Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**



**GATHERING HYMN**

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!**

**LBW 144**



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; bring flow'rs of  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -



tri - umph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
song to strew his way; let all the world re - joice and say:  
life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
day with one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**GREETING**

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

**KYRIE**



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.



# HYMN OF PRAISE

## Now the Feast and Celebration



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **First Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 23**

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### **SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:19-25**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you

endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” <sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

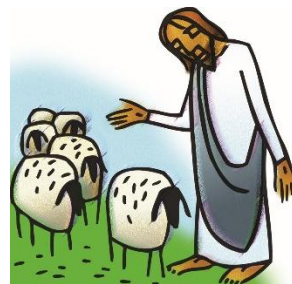
## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.



<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S TIME

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

LBW 476

# Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

## APOSTLES CREED

**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 INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

### **PRAYER LIST**

*Jim H.; Megan; Larissa; Florence G; William; Richard Z.; Danielle S.; David S.; Gail and Bob C.; Shirley S.; Michael K.; Salem, St. Paul, Kresgeville.*

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

# THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**



**OFFERING MUSIC:** "Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us,"  
John Carter, *played by Molly Finkbiner.*

## OFFERTORY SONG

**692** **We Are an Offering** (U)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we".

Chord symbols: F, G, C, Dm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>2</sup>, C, F, C, Dm<sup>7</sup>, F, G, C, Dm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>2</sup>, C, F, C, Dm<sup>7</sup>, F, G<sup>7</sup>, Em<sup>7</sup>, A, Dm<sup>7</sup>, Esus, E, Am.

Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>2</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> F G  
 give to you, we give to you. We lift our

C Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>2</sup> C F C  
 voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:

Dm<sup>7</sup> C  
 we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:



## LAMB OF GOD

*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God,      you take a - way the sin of      the  
 you break the chains of ha - tred      and  
 you are the way of jus - tice      and  
 you are the way of mer - cy      and

*Congregation:*

world:      have mer - cy on us,      mer - cy on us,  
 fear:  
 peace:  
 love.

**Final Stanza**  
*Congregation or Assistant:*

mer-cy      on      us.      Lamb of God,      you

*Congregation:*

take a - way the sins of      the world:      grant us peace,

grant us peace,      grant us peace.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

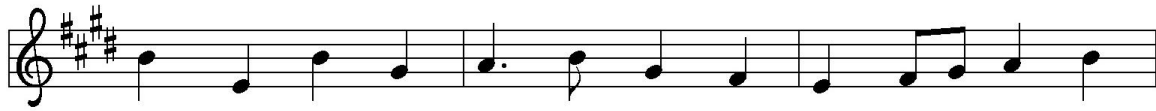
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

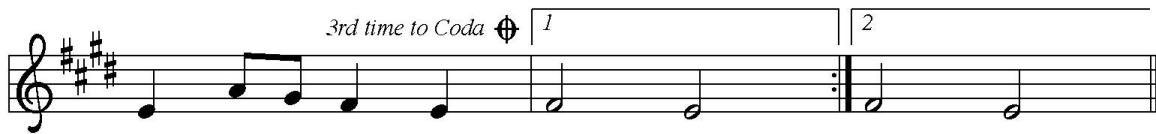
Praise to You, O God of Mercy



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -  
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -  
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:  
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

BLESSING

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine  
*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

*Refrain*

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;  
Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.  
lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**April 26th, 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Prelude:**

Evan, John Carter. © 1996 Hope Publishing Company. #106123. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726919. All rights reserved.

St. Columba, John Carter. © 1996 Hope Publishing Company. #105801. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726919. All rights reserved.

The Lord’s My Shepherd (Brother James’ Air), John Carter. © 1996 Hope Publishing Company. #46913. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726919. All rights reserved.

**Gathering Song:**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!, Cyril A. Alington. © 1952, Hymns Ancient and Modern. #196574. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

**Hymn of the Day:**

Have No Fear, Little Flock, Marjorie Jillson, Heinz Werner Zimmerman. © Concordia Publishing House. #19199. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

**Offering Music:**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (Bradbury), John Carter. © 1996 Hope Publishing Company. #198887. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726919. All rights reserved.

**Offering Song:**

We Are An Offering, Dwight Liles. © 1984 Word Music, LLC. #16220. CCLI License #20635975 and Streaming License #20635982.

**Sending Hymn:**

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine, Elisha A. Hoffman, Anthony J Showalter. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. #VT160. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

**Postlude:**

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing, Jane Holstein. © 2008 Hope Publishing Company. #194741. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

**Service Music:**

Kyrie, Avon Gillespie. © Avon Gillespie, 1987, GIA Publications, Inc. #94856. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726919. All rights reserved.

Now the Feast and Celebration: Now the Feast, Marty Haugen. © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. #01108. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

Now the Feast and Celebration: Gospel Verse, Marty Haugen. © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. #01111. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

Now the Feast and Celebration: Holy, Marty Haugen. © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. #G3488H. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

Now the Feast and Celebration: Eucharistic Acclamation, Marty Haugen. © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. #01114. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

Now the Feast and Celebration: Lamb of God, Marty Haugen. © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. #01116. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

Now the Feast and Celebration: Thanks Be To You, Marty Haugen. © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. #01117. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-726919. All rights reserved.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

- Rev. Jami Possinger.....[pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org](mailto:pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org)
- Sara Cornell, Council President.....[Saracornell10@gmail.com](mailto:Saracornell10@gmail.com)
- Paul Frantz, Council Vice President.....[pfrantz61@yahoo.com](mailto:pfrantz61@yahoo.com)
- Peggy Rapp, Council Secretary.....[drpeggy09@aol.com](mailto:drpeggy09@aol.com)
- Paul Frantz, Finance Committee.....[pfrantz61@yahoo.com](mailto:pfrantz61@yahoo.com)
- Phil Newlander, Finance Secretary.....[prnewlander@yahoo.com](mailto:prnewlander@yahoo.com)
- Ben Mroz III, Treasurer.....[Treasurer@faithlutheranblakeslee.org](mailto:Treasurer@faithlutheranblakeslee.org)
- Mike Gillis, Property Maintenance.....[pocono570@ptd.net](mailto:pocono570@ptd.net)
- Don Childers.....[loisj@ptd.net](mailto:loisj@ptd.net)
- Barbara Laughlin.....[mrs.emt4075@yahoo.com](mailto:mrs.emt4075@yahoo.com)
- John Lyman.....[jclyman@ptd.net](mailto:jclyman@ptd.net)
- Steve Marga.....[smarg40@hotmail.com](mailto:smarg40@hotmail.com)
- Janet Kath, Church Secretary.....[Faithoffice@FaithLutheranBlakeslee.org](mailto:Faithoffice@FaithLutheranBlakeslee.org)

## Sunday, April 26, 2026 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

### An Abundant Life

Abundant life is promised to those who follow Jesus. But what is meant by abundant life? Some Christians, and much of contemporary American culture, interpret an abundant life to mean the “good life” of many fine things, an opulent lifestyle. Much of our economy and leisure time revolves around consumerism—shopping and buying things which we hope will make us happier and our lives better. But an abundance of things does not necessarily lead to an abundant life.

What does Jesus mean when he says that he came so that we may have an abundant life? Psalm 23 provides us with a good illustration of what Jesus is promising to his followers. The psalm imagines an abundant life not in material terms but in relational terms. An abundant life is one lived in the presence of God, in the company of the Lord. Whether one is in green pastures or the darkest valley, there is nothing to want, because God is present. We are in the gracious and generous care of our Lord through times of material abundance and in times of want and scarcity. This relationship between our Lord and us who are his followers is a relationship with one who knows us abundantly, who knows us by name, and who knows what we truly need to be fulfilled. The image of Jesus as our shepherd reminds us that he is with us at all times, and our relationship with him provides us all we need.



Draw lines to connect the pieces of this week's memory verses in order.

### Memory Verse

Acts 4:34

There was not a needy person among them,

the proceeds of what was sold.

sold them and brought

for as many as owned lands or houses

Acts 4:33

and gave it upon them all.

The apostles gave their testimony

to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,



### Look It Up!

The early believers did not own anything, but shared everything with each other. Look up Mark 10:17-31 to read what Jesus has to say about sharing our possessions.

Spark: Activate Faith Bulletin copyright © 2011 Sparkhouse. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use provided every copy carries this notice.

EASTER 4

## Shepherd Search

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he is like a shepherd, and not like a thief. Can you find all these shepherd words?

G	R	A	Z	E	G	T	H	O
B	I	C	T	G	U	L	Y	R
S	H	E	A	R	I	N	G	E
P	E	E	H	S	D	O	T	C
T	E	L	P	H	E	N	O	E
K	C	Z	F	L	O	C	K	E
D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	L
B	C	D	T	S	T	A	F	F
M	L	Q	A	O	T	S	B	T
A	Z	W	E	E	R	C	U	I
L	O	O	W	T	L	P	L	M

Find the four letters that are shared by two words in the puzzle. Unscramble these letters to find out what Jesus brings to us as the Good Shepherd.

Shepherd	Lead	Lamb
Sheep	Flock	Fleece
Wool	Shearing	Staff
Protect	Guide	Graze

"I came that they may have \_\_\_\_\_, and have it abundantly."  
John 10:10b

## Everything In Common

The earliest believers of the Christian church shared everything in common with each other. Can you figure out what these groups of words have in common? Answers are on the back page.

- Apple, Scissors, Ohio, Iowa
- Letter, Balloon, Alabama, Hawaii
- Brown Coconut, Quiet Rhino, Kayak, Racecar
- Funny Girl, Tiny Umbrella, Mom, Eye

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

**GET  
READY**

29<sup>th</sup> Annual Faith Fair

**Saturday, August 8  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Food and baked goods will be available for purchase. We will **NOT** be accepting flea market items; however, we do welcome donations of the following types:

- **Gently Used Purses and Jewelry**
- **Gently Used Books**
- **Gently Used Baskets** (to be used for raffle baskets)
- **Raffle Baskets** (filled or unfilled)
- **New themed items** (to fill raffle baskets)
- **BINGO Prizes** (new, small items)

**Of course, the Fair won't be a success without volunteers!** There will be sign-up sheets available. We will need help manning these tables. And, of course, we will need people to help as Ambassadors to spread the word about Faith Lutheran as well as help with set-up and clean-up.

**For more information:**  
**Sara Cornell – 570-472-5560**  
**or email: [saracornell10@gmail.com](mailto:saracornell10@gmail.com)**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**