

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Megan Swink
- 3 Flo Gilbert
- 3 Laura Rahja
- 9 Kaydence Corkran
- 11 Rachel Choate
- 13 Caleb Hayes
- 16 Nancy Meek
- 19 Carol Buchanan
- 20 David Jones
- 21 Jeannie Adams
- 22 Bridget Delaney
- 25 Karlan Babineaux
- 25 Brooke Estes
- 26 Bob Appel



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Paul Zoch

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 FACEBOOK: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION

A caring Christian family following Christ,
 the GOOD SHEPHERD, where we:
SHARE God's Love! **GROW** our faith!
 and **SERVE** others!

TAKE HOME ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3—MAY 10, 2020

I am the gate for the sheep

JOHN 10:7



Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020

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.

The Chancel Flowers for the month of May are given by Ann and Charles Hall in honor of her mother, Dorothy McCallum, who is 90 years old this month.

April 26, 2020

First Worship Service

Attendance: n/a Offering: \$600.00

Second Worship Service

Attendance: n/a Offering: \$540.00

Beaumont Worship Service

Attendance: n/a Offering: \$1,300.00

Online Offering: \$300.00

MTD Income : \$15,975.55

MTD Expenses : \$14,723.75

YTD Income : \$53,128.08

YTD Expenses : \$59,705.41

TODAY

Traditional Worship — 9:00 am

FACEBOOK LIVE

Refreshment Time —10:15 am

ZOOM

Contemporary Worship—11:00 am

FACEBOOK LIVE

TUESDAY MAY 5

Devotion —10:00 am

ZOOM

SUNDAY MAY 10

Traditional Worship—9:00 am

FACEBOOK LIVE

Refreshment Time —10:15 am

ZOOM

Contemporary Worship—11:00 am

FACEBOOK LIVE

Most of our activities were cancelled due to the Texas Governor's executive order limiting public gatherings due to COVID-19.

MORE ZOOM OPPORTUNITIES COMING!

DID YOU KNOW?

Every month, we have a MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECT! In May, we are collecting change for the Good Shepherd's Good Sam Fund. The Good Sam Fund is utilized by the Pastor to help those in our community in need. So, we encourage you to place a jar or can somewhere at home and dump your change into it throughout the month of May. And when we gather together, you can bring it as a special offering. Please share your blessings!

Alcoholism? Depression? Suicidal tendencies? Self-loathing? Self-mutilation? We are not told. Certainly, prostitution is not mentioned or even hinted. Richard Rohr, in his book *Universal Christ*, suggests that perhaps sex is our demon, not hers.

Lk 23:55-56 tells us, "The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments." Mary Magdalene is not yet identified as one of those women, but soon she will be.

Luke 24 begins with the now famous Easter proclamation,

... on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Luke keeps Mark's original claim that the stone was already rolled away when the women arrived. No earthquake like Matthew. Mark's young man in a white robe, which Matthew changes to an angel like lightning, is now two men in dazzling outfits. I like it. They even give theological instruction.

Then Luke mentions Mary Magdalene, Joanna (not Salome as in Matthew) and the other Mary, who is simply the mother of James. Oh, and "some other women."

Next week more to come about Mary Magdalene!

life without a wise guide? Why choose to turn away from One who desires to give us abundant life?

6. *What is hard for you to accept?*
7. *What are some things you cannot change?*
8. *What does it feel like to realize you cannot change something?*
9. *How might we turn over those things we cannot change to God?*
10. *What might that feel like?*

Jesus is a caring shepherd who tends to our needs. He is One who knows us personally. Jesus does not desire to be a stranger, but One who is known by name and who knows us on a first name basis. He is one to nurture us when we cannot change the circumstances of our lives, but guides us to a path of abundant life.

11. *What do you hope to remember from this passage?*

12. *Take a moment to read or recite Psalm 23. Pause for prayer.*

Prayer

Good Shepherd, help me accept the things I cannot change in my life. Amen

Dig Deeper Psalm 23

last word

Pray each day the Serenity Prayer: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

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Mary Magdalene: The First Apostle, Witness to the Resurrection **Mary from Magdala?** **Luke**

Mary Magdalene appears earlier in Luke's Gospel than the other gospels, where she does not appear until the crucifixion. Luke 8:1-3 says, *Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources."*

This is the third time we have heard that Mary Magdalene in the other women are philanthropists. Later the same chapter, Luke tells us about the sinful woman with the alabaster jar of ointment who dries Jesus' feet with her hair, at the Pharisee's house, forever confusing the women.

The seven demons is new information, peculiar to Luke's gospel. What were her demons?



**PRAYERS ARE
UPLIFTED FOR:**

**Edith Babcock,
Marge Becker,
Nancy Carlson,
Briana Delaney,
Ann Duwe,
Ed Edwards,
Tammi Geren,
Kenneth Heycock,
Shawn Hickman,
Iris Hughes,
Dorothy McCallum,
Nancy Meek,
Kenri Mugleston,
Mark Norville,
Maxine Pierce,
Mike Rahja,
Sharon Proellochs,
Dorothy Schmidt,
Buddy Stelter,
Grant Stewart,
Beverley Swink,
Khris Taylor, Jr.,
and Audrey Zeto**

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

We are still having our Sunday worship services but online instead of in person. You are welcome to watch our First Worship Service at 9:00 am and our Second Worship Service at 11:00 am on our Facebook account. You are encouraged to follow along, singing and worshipping at home!

The bulletins and announcements are on our website www.golutheran.org and can be printed from there, if desired.

COME AND JOIN US!

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A) – John 10:1-10

Discipleship: *An Instrument of Acceptance*

Focus Question: *This week how might you be an instrument of acceptance?*

word of life **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”** John 10:10 (NRSV)

Read John 10:1-10

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is celebrated in many churches as “Good Shepherd Sunday”. The tenth chapter of the Gospel of John elaborates on the image of Jesus as a good shepherd. Jesus makes the claim, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11 NRSV)

1. *What does it mean for Jesus to be a shepherd?*
2. *What is the difference between a good and bad shepherd?*

John 10 begins with a description of a thief or bandit who might approach the sheep through a back way. Jesus offers words of caution about false shepherds, ones who do not have the best interest of the sheep in mind.

The good shepherd enters through the main gate for all to see. But what is more important, the sheep know his voice. Healthy sheep are not fooled and led by an impostor. The sheep know the voice of the shepherd because they have heard his voice and received his loving care. The shepherd has responded to their needs and is worthy of their trust. Jesus describes the shepherd as one who knows each of the sheep by name. The shepherd and sheep are not strangers to each other, but are connected in a special way. This is a powerful and assuring image.

3. *How does one learn the voice of a shepherd?*
4. *How is one not fooled by others?*
5. *What does it mean to be known by name by Jesus Christ?*

Those listening to Jesus do not understand his words and the metaphor. The audience might be the disciples of Jesus described in the previous section of John 9 when Jesus encounters the blind man whom he heals. (See John 9:2) Yet, John 9 is primarily about the Pharisees who try to grasp the healing of the blind man by Jesus. By the end of the chapter, it is the Pharisees who ask themselves if they are spiritually blind. In many ways the Pharisees have opportunities to shepherd God’s people of faith, but do they?

6. *Do you think Jesus was speaking directly to the Pharisees? How so?*

7. *How might Jesus have been addressing his disciples?*

At this point, Jesus departs from the image of being a shepherd and claims to be the gate. Jesus says, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. . . I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.” (John 10:7, 9 NRSV) In Jesus’ day, this would have been a powerful imagery. The shepherd would literally lie down in the opening of the enclosure to protect the sheep.

This section ends with the explanation from Jesus as to his purpose, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10 NRSV)

8. *Can Jesus give abundant life to those who do not hear him or believe in him? How so?*

9. *What does it mean for you to have abundant life from Jesus?*

word among us

Jake loved Frank Sinatra. He loved watching his movies and listening to Sinatra’s music. For as long as he could remember, Jake’s personal theme song was Sinatra’s “My Way” with the repeated line, “I did it my way.”

Jake lived defiantly with loud music and parties. He was not concerned about the opinions of others. He often ran into trouble with relationships, but he would rationalize people didn’t try to understand and accept his way. It was always their problem. Jake would complain, “Why don’t people just let me do it my way? His mother would lecture him, “Jake, you are not two years old anymore. You don’t get to set your own rules and only do it your way. You have got to grow up and start thinking about other people.” Jake could not accept his mother’s words to him.

1. *What do you expect Jake’s future will be like?*
2. *What would it be like to be in a relationship with Jake?*
3. *What do you think of his mother’s words?*
4. *What else might you want to say to Jake?*
5. *How might Jake become more accepting?*

Living life our way and only on our terms is a description of sin. It simply does not work. We are limited in our understandings of this world and other people. We cannot become all-knowing or all-loving. We cannot change our finite abilities. We are not God. Let us accept that reality as something we cannot change.

Instead, we are in need of God. We are in need of a savior who comes to our rescue and shows us a new path. Jesus says clearly, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10 NRSV) Why choose to live