

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22 & 25, 2021

This Sunday, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, focuses on the great shepherding love of God.

Opening Hymn (From Supplement).....766, “The Lord’s My Shepherd”

Order of Service..... Service of the Word, Page 38

Prayer of the Day: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father’s house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 23 (page 72)

SECOND LESSON

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. *I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.* Alleluia.

Response to the Verse..... Page 40

GOSPEL LESSON

Hymn of the Day411, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

SERMON.....“Learn to Pray in Times of Trouble” Acts 4:23-33

Apostles’ Creed..... Page 41

Hymn436, “Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep”

Closing Liturgy..... Page 43

Closing Hymn 432 v. 1, “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:23-33

When the church in Jerusalem heard that Peter and John were ordered to preach Christ, they prayed that God would give his apostles the boldness to speak the Word to the world, even in the face of danger. The Lord answered their prayer.

After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, “Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. “For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did whatever your

hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen. “Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness. The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them.

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:1,2

The marvelous love of God has made us his children. We cannot fully grasp the magnitude of our inheritance, but we will when Jesus returns.

See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 10:11-18

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. In contrast to the hired hands, who abandon the sheep when danger threatens, Jesus lays down his life for his sheep.

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep. “I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz; next Sunday: Mike Pamperin/Dean Ebert

ORGANISTS!! The **May** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Because of the funeral which was held on Thursday, the printing of the bulletin was done on Wednesday, prior to the Quarterly Voters' Meeting. Therefore, the highlights were not able to be included in this week's bulletin. However, you are able to find the highlights hanging on a sheet on the church bulletin board in the school hallway should you wish to read them. We apologize for the inconvenience!

CALL RETURNED: For those of you who may not have heard, the call which we extended to Mrs. Katherine Hosbach to be our Gr. 1-2 teacher has been returned. On the recommendation of the Church Council, our next step will be to extend a call to the Synod Assignment Committee in May for a Gr. 1-2 teacher. This call is set to begin with the 2021 – 2022 school year.

SERVICE GROUP MEETING: The next meeting of the Service Group will be held immediately following **Sunday's (TODAY'S)** worship service. All members are invited to join us!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 22; Sunday: 81

Offerings: \$13,701.00

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,052.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$25.00; Undesignated Memorials (Debt Retirement): \$252.00;
Christian Aid & Relief: \$370.00

Memorials: In Memory of Gerald Irwin: \$77.00; In Memory of Clarence Wendorff; Chester Wendorff; Charles Wendorff; Greg Wendorff; Brian Wendorff; Hiede Tunack; and Cheryl Alexander: \$175.00

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Worship Service9:00 AM
**Service Group Meeting - Immediately following
worship service**

Thursday: Communion Worship Service7:00 PM
Adult Choir.....8:00 PM
SCRIP ORDERS DUE

Sunday: Communion Worship Service9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions took place at the Quarterly Voters' Meeting which was held on Wednesday, April 21:

Membership action included:

Transfer of John Koniar to St. Paul, Cudahy, Wisconsin

In other business:

1) A 2021 – 2022 budget was adopted at an amount of **\$348,366**. This represents a **decrease of 5%** over the past year's budget. *(It is noted that this amount is likely to change somewhat upon a final determination being made as to the salary of the teacher we are calling for Gr. 1-2.)* The new budget will go into effect on **July 1, 2021**.

2) This year's **Altar Offering** has been scheduled for **Thursday, May 13**, and **Sunday, May 16**. The money collected is designated as follows: 100% to the budget.

3) It was reported that an outdoor worship service will be held at the Iron Ridge Firemen's Park on **Sunday, July 11, 2021**.