

I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down
his life for the sheep.

John 10:11



First Lutheran Church

April 26, 2026

**Fourth Sunday
of Easter**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

BROTHER JAMES' AIR

Searle Wright

Air on The Lord's My Shepherd

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

The assembly stands.

INTRODUCTION

AM: 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.
We go forth to be signs of the resurrection
and extend God's tender care to all creation.

GATHERING SONG *GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE AND SING!*

EW # 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615

GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

C: **And also with you.**

PM: The word is near you,

C: **on your lips and in your heart.**

PM: If you confess
with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: **and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.**

PM: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: **and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. (Romans 10)**

SCRIPTURE SONG

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to
Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

The cantor will sing the verses.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: 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.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

BELLS OF PRAISE

VICTORY

Sandra Eithun

The Strife Is O'er

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

+ + CHILDREN MAY ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.

AM: A reading from Acts, the second chapter.

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ 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.

AM: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Albert Hay Malotte

The Twenty-Third Psalm

Elijah Shiley, bass

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.

AM: A reading from 1 Peter, the second chapter.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

AM: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all praise to you!

The Cantor sings the verse.

GOSPEL

JOHN 10:1-10

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.

PM: The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹ "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. ² The one who enters by the



ALL 1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
 Women My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
 Men 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
 Cantor My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
 ALL 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

APOSTLE'S CREED

PM: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him
 and are marked with the seal
 of the promised Holy Spirit.

PM: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

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.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

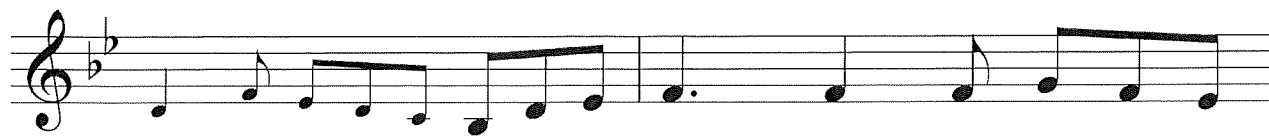
LITTLE FLOCK

Have No Fear, Little Flock

Michael Burkhardt

The assembly stands.

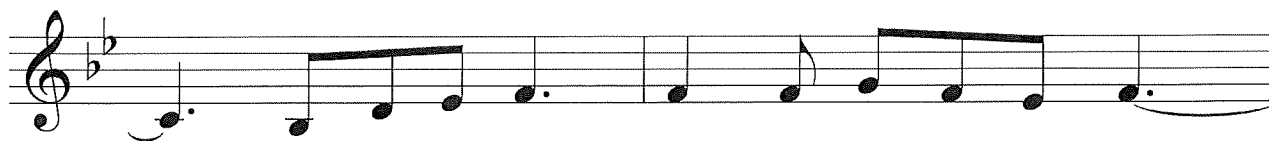
OFFERTORY SONG



Glo-ry to you, God, for yours is the



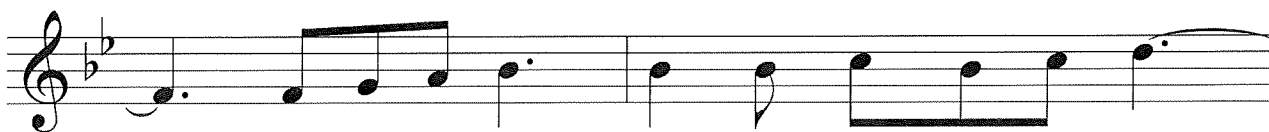
earth; yours the ho - san-nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.



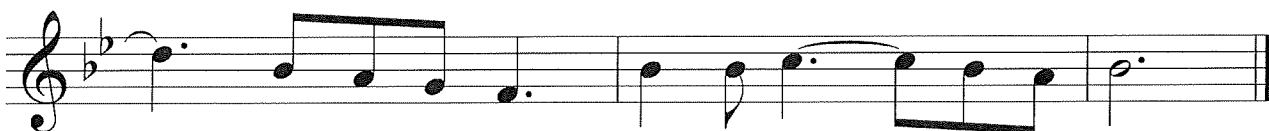
Ours the re-joic - ing for na - ture re-claimed;



ours the thanks-giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Giving and loving God, as the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep,
may we, too, strive to serve our neighbors.

Whether next door, across town, or around the world,
may God bless our prayers, our gifts, and our ministries.

In Christ's name, we present these gifts.

C: Amen.

The assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

AM: Shepherding God,
draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness.
Stir up your church to enter the valleys of the world
and guide us beside the still waters of your grace.

Each petition concludes:

PM: Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

PM: 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.
C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

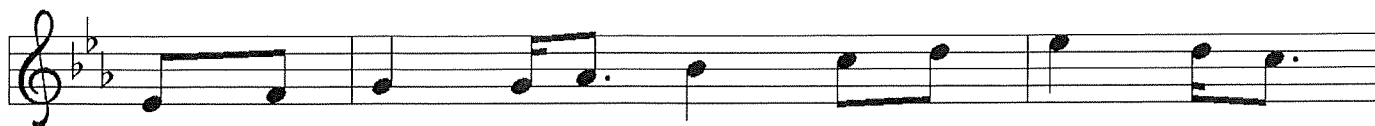
LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

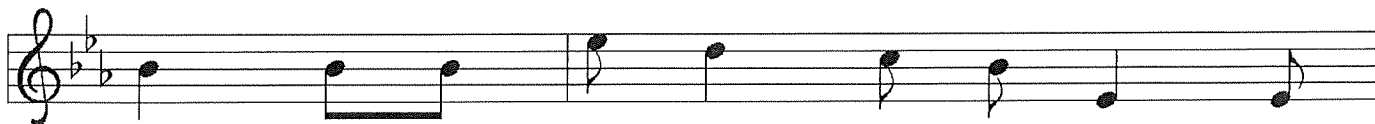
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**



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!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace.

PM: Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

GELOBT SIE GOTT

Michael Burkhardt

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>	April 26
10:00 AM	Easter 4 Service
<u>Monday</u>	April 27
10:00 AM	Bible Study at Willows
<u>Tuesday</u>	April 28
<u>Wednesday</u>	April 29
<u>Thursday</u>	April 30
6:00 PM	Homeless Gala Celebration
<u>Friday</u>	May 1
<u>Saturday</u>	May 2
7:00 PM	Heidelberg Concert



On May 19th Jean Covert will be celebrating her 100th Birthday. To help her celebrate we are asking for everyone to send her a birthday card.

Her address is
Jean Covert

410 Fair Lane, Willows Apt #407
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

LAWN MOWER OF THE WEEK



April 30—Jim Ruess
May 7—Pete Myers
May 14—John Kobelt



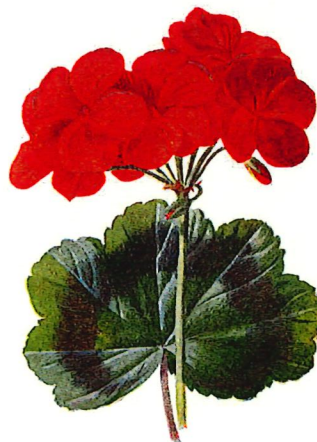
If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.



We will be honoring our graduating seniors on June 14th. If you know of anyone we should include, please contact Diane Greene.

Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	May 3
10:00AM	Easter 3 Service
<u>Monday</u>	May 4
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
<u>Tuesday</u>	May 5
	Election Day
<u>Wednesday</u>	May 6
<u>Thursday</u>	May 7
<u>Friday</u>	May 8
<u>Saturday</u>	May 9



Geranium order forms for Pentecost are available on the hallway table.

Please sign up by

May 17th

Contact Us



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore Street
Tiffin, Ohio 44883
419-447-1323

www.firstlutherantiffin.com
firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild Mike & Bonnie Oberlander
Cantor: Elijah Shiley
Facebook Camera The Rosses
Host
Reader: Shelley Ross
Worship Assistant Shelley Ross
Director of Music: Curtis L. King
Minister Pastor Janet Wittenmyer

Emergency Contacts

Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring

(740) 360-2306

theskipster55@gmail.com

PASTOR MARK SCHURING	740 360-2306
LINDA WARREN	419 618-5207
RICK GREENE	419 937-7378
CURTIS L. KING	419 937-7142
GLORIA STACY	419 934-3023
RICK SHOLL	419 939-3436

Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”

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