

This Week at VIC

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Today 4/21	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
Saturday, 4/27	8:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Sunday, 4/28	10:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
	12:45 p.m.	Voters' Meeting

Weekly Stewardship Focus

John 10:14 – "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord's grace.

Life Quote in the Church Year for April 21 "Scripture and prayer are our strongest weapons to change hearts, and we must persist and never give up, no matter how disappointing things get with evil laws being enacted or evil intent coming our way." *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thought in the Church Year for April 21 – Easter IV – The Gracious Savior brings a delightful clarity to life-and-death issues and situations. Killing and destroying belong entirely to the work of the devil (John 10:10-11). The people of God advocate and extend abundant, everlasting life to the Lord's every last little lamb. Unto all our neighbors, with both our voice and our goods (1 John 3:17), may we "come that they may have life and have it abundantly!"

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Victory in Christ Lutheran Church

*Jesus said, . . .
"I am the Good Shepherd.
The Good Shepherd lays down
His life for the sheep."
John 10:11*



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church
508 Main Street
Newark, Texas 76071
817-489-5400

Pastor Philip Schielke

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WELCOME! We thank God for you and pray that He will richly bless our worship activity together.

Communion: We welcome all of our guests worshipping with us today and pray your faith is strengthened. God's Word declares to us that the bread and wine we receive in the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ given for the forgiveness of sins and nourishing of faith (Matt. 26: 26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; Luke 22: 19-21; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26). When receiving His true body and blood, all communicants are to be united in their understanding and confession of Jesus Christ and all of His teaching (Jon. 17: 22; 1 Cor. 1: 10). An unworthy reception of this gift results in one who "eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11: 29). Therefore, if you are still learning Lutheran doctrine or are not part of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you forward for a blessing and encourage you to speak with the pastor *before* the service in order to learn more about our teaching on the Lord's Supper.

Hymn of Invocation: #464 – The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

Divine Service Setting One: pg. 151

Introit

Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b (ESV)

¹⁴ I am the good | shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, ^{15b} and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

**¹ The LORD is my | shepherd;
I | shall not want.**

² He makes me lie down in green | pastures.
He leads me beside still | waters.

**³ He re- | stores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.**

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are | with me;
your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my |

enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup | overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

¹⁴ I am the good | shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, ^{15b} and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

First Reading

Acts 4:1-12 (English Standard Version)

Peter and John Before the Council

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Gradual

Christ has risen from the dead. [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor. He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24 (English Standard Version)

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But 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? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And 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. ²⁴Whoever 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.

Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18 (English Standard Version)

¹¹[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He 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. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No 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."

Sermon Hymn: #709 – The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Sermon:

Communion Hymns: #685 – Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Closing Hymn: #740 – I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

Announcements

Church Cleaning – Scheduled for church cleaning the week of May 4, is the VanDekerkhove family.

April Voters' Meeting – We will have our April Voters' Meeting on Sunday, April 28, following the noon meal.

Save the Date – Our VBS 2024 will be June 10-14, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Clear your calendar now and plan to join us!

The Readings for today – Fourth Easter of Sunday

Acts 4:1–12

1 John 3:16–24

John 10:11–18

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Lays Down His Life for the Sheep

The Lord Jesus is "*the good shepherd*" who "*lays down his life for the sheep*" (John 10:11). His life is not taken from Him, but He lays it down willingly, of His own accord, because He knows and loves the sheep. As the One sent by the Father, He has the "*authority to lay it down*" and the "*authority to take it up again*" (John 10:18). So has He done, and now He continues to love and serve as the Good Shepherd of the sheep by the voice of His Gospel. He thus calls all people into the fold of His Church, so that there may be "*one flock, one shepherd*" (John 10:16). That is why the apostles "*were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead*" (Acts 4:2). Since "*there is salvation in no one else,*" His voice rings out to this day through the preaching of His name, "*for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12). His voice comforts our hearts against all condemnation and gives us courage to "*love one another*" and "*to lay down our lives for the brothers,*" as He laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16, 23).

A Look Ahead to Next Sunday – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26–40

1 John 4:1–11 (12–21)

John 15:1–8

Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us

"*God is love,*" and He has manifested Himself to us by sending "*his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him*" (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, "*he has given us of his Spirit,*" so that we also believe and confess "*that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.*" In this way, we "*abide in him and he in us,*" and we "*love one another*" (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip's preaching of "*the good news about Jesus*" to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when "*they came to some water,*" the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35–38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into "*the true vine,*" Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He "*bears much fruit*" in us (John 15:3–5).