



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

1525 North Power Road
Mesa AZ 85205

Fax: (480) 832-2583
Office: (480) 981-6199

Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Sunday, April 21, 2024



“How Do You Picture Jesus?”

During this season of Easter, we stop and look at John's familiar account of Jesus describing himself as the “good” shepherd. As Jesus describes this imagery his original audience would connect this to the Jewish history of their kings, who were called “shepherds” to provide and protect God's chosen people, but in most cases failed miserably. The prophets used this imagery of good and bad shepherds to illustrate the consequences of good and bad leadership. Jesus adds some variation to his understanding of the role with a word about laying his life down for his flock, which fast forwards to his death on the cross. We also get a strong emphasis on the sheep who are a part of Jesus' flock that know him and his voice. A good shepherd protects and provides for the flock. A bad shepherd looks out for oneself and fails to protect the most vulnerable. When you look at those in position of leadership in politics, industry, the church, or community what distinguishes the good from the bad? How well do you trust those in leadership today who seek to protect and provide for you and the whole flock and not just look out for their own self-interest? How do you tune your ears to hear the voice of the good shepherd, Jesus, in the cacophony of voices filled with mixed motives?

Our Sympathy & Comfort to:



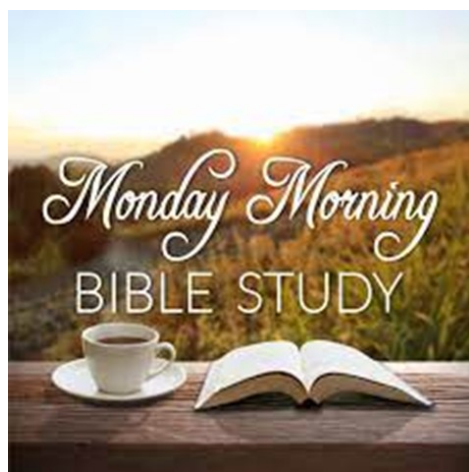
†The family & friends of Doris Creaser, upon her death. A Memorial Service will be held Tuesday, April 30, 11am in our Sanctuary with a light lunch following.

†Vern Bastian, family & friends, upon the death of his brother in law, John Weins.

†Connie Erickson, upon the death of her friend Larry Shima, and his family & friends.

†Ernie & Marian Rud upon the death of their friend of 52 years, Larry Lundby, and his family & friends.

Please keep these families in your prayers.



Monday AM Bible Study is in the Leadership Room-10:30 Coffee and Fellowship, 11-Noon Bible Study



Pastors' Online Video Lesson Introductions of Sunday Lectionary readings may be found on Facebook, YouTube or loveofchristchurch.net

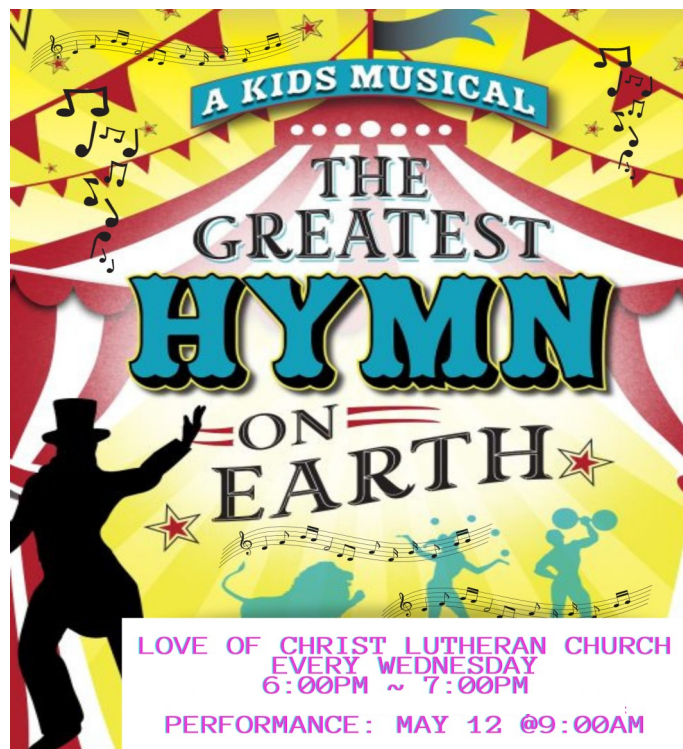


Winter Friends, thank you for joining us for worship and fellowship this season. God willing we see you again in the future at LoC!

All regular winter friends are asked to provide your summer address to the church office. You are encouraged to participate in our livestream services at 9:00am or 10:30am each Sunday. You are appreciated for the time you are with us!

WoW on Wednesdays at 6PM~7PM (dinner is at 5:30PM in the COC).

The Kids Musical Performance is Sunday, May 12th at 9:00AM in the Center of Compassion.



Faith in Action



Upcoming service opportunities:

Family Promise April 21-28

VBS July 8-12 (9:00-11:30 am)

Water Respite Drive June-July

Sack Lunches specific dates TBA

Faith In Action Ministry of the Month:

Family Promise

Company is Coming! We are very excited to be hosting families from Family Promise.

Since 2000, Family Promise of Greater Phoenix has helped families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Its vision is a community of whole and healthy families. Parents are given the tools and training to care for their children, find employment and housing, and become independent and successful. FP strives to create a safety net for families before they drop into a cycle of endless shelters, unemployment, family instability, loss of school attendance, and foster care. FP provides food, clothing, and shelter, as well as a supportive and constructive environment. Its long-term goal is to create a sense of community between its families and the many volunteers who assist in some way. Each week of the year, multiple churches host FP families. Each church provides a welcome, an evening meal, overnight shelter, and fellowship.

We are so grateful for our Family Promise coordinators! These four people help put the whole week together and encourage those who are interested in volunteering to come and see what it is all about! Please see below who to contact if you are interested in volunteering:

Patti Delaney: meals (pattidelaney03@gmail.com)

Jackie Rensel: hosting (jackie.rensel@icloud.com)

Dave Dohrmann: Overnight (dave@dohrmann.org)

Kevin Anderson: setting up (kevinanderson@loclc.org)

National Day of Prayer

National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2 at 7 pm. It will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Mesa, 161 N. Mesa Drive. That evening, prayers and brief comments will be shared by several faith and community leaders in Mesa who represent a variety of religions and cultures. In addition, we will have the honor of hearing from Mayor Giles as he will share remarks and a proclamation as part of the program.

People of all ages, faiths and backgrounds are invited to attend the service, watch it online, or honor the day by offering a prayer individually or with family and friends. Following the service a reception will be held for those who attend in person and who would like to have an opportunity to interact with others and learn about other faiths.



The Hospitality Team welcomes all and invites you to join them each Sunday as they serve coffee and snacks between services. Please take time to enjoy the hospitality and get to know others in our community. Coffee begins in the Outreach Room (or on the CoC patio) at 8:45 and continues until 10:30.

If you are interested in serving at the hospitality table, please contact Patti Delaney at pattidelaney03@gmail.com.

Prayer Share Care Bible Study—This Women’s Bible Study meets weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the Leadership Room. Our study is focused on “The Chosen” season 1. The first season will be on our Website under Bible Studies. This is also available on Netflix or you can download the free app onto one of your devices. Each participant can watch the episode at home or come early on Thursdays at noon in the Leadership Room and watch it there. The study will be centered around Scripture that is told through the video. These shows are designed to bring forth discussion on the Biblical readings. The videos as well as the Scripture readings are to be a jumping off point for our time of discussion. For Thursday, April 18, please watch Season One Episode 3. Pastor Nanette Christofferson is facilitating the study. Each session is not dependent upon the past session, so please join us whenever you can. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org.

Upcoming Children's Events

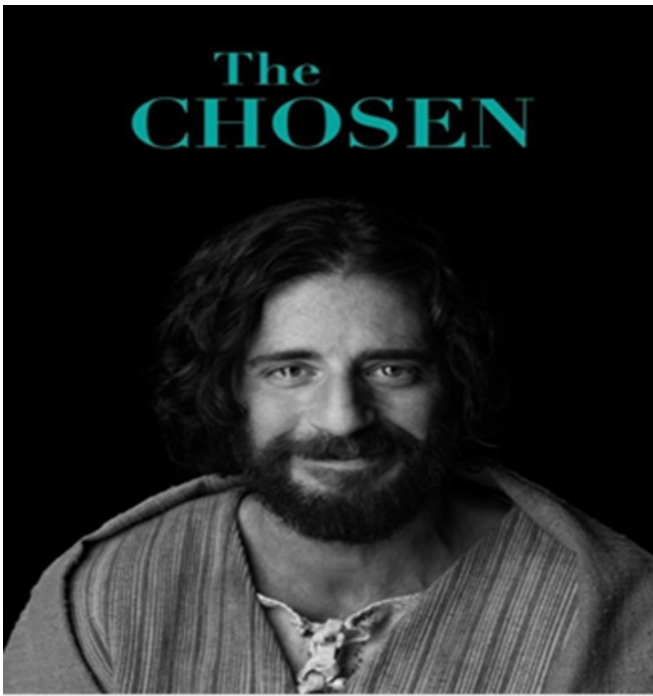


Sunday School Information: Pre-K through 2nd grade will meet for a Godly Play Lesson after the Children's Message and will return to church at communion. After Communion grades 3-6 will meet from 9:50-10:20 in the Godly Playroom for their Sunday School lesson. (If you have any questions about Sunday School, please let Pastor Nanette know at nanette@loclc.org).

Word on Wednesday (WOW)

Every Wednesday at 5:30 pm dinner is served for all ages.

- **Children's Rehearsal for the Musical.**
- **Youth Group grades 7-12-** 6:00-7:00 All youth in these grades are invited to come hang out, play games, and have a short Bible lesson. If you would like more information, please contact our **Youth Director Kevin Anderson** at kevinanderson@loclc.org.
- **Adult Bible Study:**



The Chosen:

This video study brings to life the first century world and helps bring the Bible alive! Each week we will be watching a different episode and then a discussion will follow. These shows are designed to bring forth discussion on the Gospel readings of the New Testament. The videos as well as the Scripture readings are to be a jumping off point for our time of discussion. If you would like to watch it at home before coming to class there are links below to follow. If you would like to watch each episode on Wednesday evening before class, it will be shown at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, you can contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org. If you are watching at home, this is also on Netflix

or you can also download the app onto one of your devices. This week we are on Season 1 episode 2.

April 24 Episode Three: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DPzq53O4DI>

May 1 Episode Four: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DPzq53O4DI>

May 8 Episode Five: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB3QWkTBvr4>



YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

Wednesday Youth Group will be this Wednesday at 6PM!

Sunday Hangout will meet this Sunday at 10AM in the Youth Room.

Our last Confirmation meeting for this school year will be May 5th at 12PM.

Registration for summer Campformation is open. Please contact Kevin Anderson for more information.

Faith in Action



Faith in Action

Thank you for your donations to our Lutheran Food Banks! In March demand has grown 25% from March 2023 with 562 Food boxes and 2198 people receiving assistance.



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 PETER 4:10 (NIV)



Do You Know Love of Christ has a Mission Endowment Fund?

In March households received a letter from our Endowment Committee to consider making a legacy gift to our Endowment Fund.

What is legacy giving?

Legacy giving refers to donations that supporters plan to give to your nonprofit after their passing. Legacy giving is also commonly referred to as planned giving because donors often plan these gifts years before they are distributed to the designated parties.

For many donors, legacy giving will consist of monetary donations, but some donors will give real estate or choose to set up a charitable annuity or trust rather than make a direct donation. While the specifics of each gift and how it is distributed will vary depending on your nonprofit and legacy donors, these gifts have the potential to supply your nonprofit with meaningful funds for years to come and honor the donor's legacy.

Why is legacy giving important?

Legacy giving can benefit both nonprofits and donors. Donors who choose to participate in legacy giving can experience positives, such as:

The ability to cement their legacy. Legacy giving ensures donors will be remembered for their generosity and commitment to your nonprofit's purpose long after their passing. This can be especially important to mid-level donors who lack the funds to make a major gift during their lives but can create the impact they want through a legacy gift.

- **Tax breaks.** Many wealthy donors join a legacy giving program both out of their commitment to their favorite nonprofit and the numerous tax benefits that participating can bring their families.

Control over their donation's use. With legacy giving, donors can add stipulations in their wills for how their gift will be used. This can help donors rest assured that their legacy will be preserved the way they would have wanted.

For nonprofits, legacy giving is an important revenue source because it:

- Adds an additional revenue source for organizations to secure their fiscal stability.
- Builds an endowment to provide an ongoing source of income each year in perpetuity.
- Strengthens other "asks" and deepens the connection with donors.

Broadens your donor base by providing another way to give.

Many donors don't have the capacity to give major gifts on an annual basis, but they can make a major gift by using other types of assets, like art and life insurance policies, and more through estate gifts and endowments. By promoting legacy gifts you are broadening the base of donors that can give to you in ways other than cash or securities.

For more information go to <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/endowment>



A Request from Dick Beckman

1. If you have envelopes and do not give your offering online, please use the envelopes as it assists with our keeping accurate financial giving statements.
2. Mark the amount on the outside of the envelope as to where you want to direct your contributions.
3. If you use a check, please write your envelope number on the check.
4. Please do not fold your check; we need to run it through a check reader as part of our deposit process.
5. Please do not tape the envelope shut.
6. If you use cash, please do not fold it more than once. This makes it very hard for the bank to run it through their counting machine.



Christ-centered yoga **Thursdays, 9am in the Outreach Rooms 13 & 14 (next to playground). Last class until Fall is April 25.** For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or email: nonnagg51@gmail.com .



The LOC Women's Hiking Group will be traveling to **Sedona on April 20th** to hike the **3.3 mile in-and-out Transept Trail**. Starting with our first step on the trail, we'll be greeted with beautiful views of the Red Rocks that Sedona is famous for. The hike will have just enough uphill to make it interesting. We will meet at the north parking lot by **COC at 7:00**. Contact Pat Shaw if interested, pattomshaw@cox.net, 480 981-1325, or 480 334-9123 (text).



Here are opportunities to support the Sleep in Heavenly Peace non-profit to make sure that children in our community have a bed to sleep on.

There are over 3,500 children in the valley who are on a waiting list at Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and are currently sleeping on an air mattress, sofa or on the floor. Let's pitch in and make sure kids in our community have a place to lay their heads at night.

Matthew 25:40

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Sleep in Heavenly Peace now has 326 chapters in the US, as well as chapters in Canada and Bermuda. SHP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. (Federal ID: 46-4346568)

"In Arizona, we have built and delivered more than 5,000 beds, while nationally, we expect to hit 50,000 this year," said Joe Genovese, SHP's chapter president in Phoenix.

"If a child needs a bed, we want to make sure they get one. No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!® "

WAYS TO HELP:

1. Join us in delivering beds to children: Mesa Hub Deliveries usually occur on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Upcoming delivery dates are: **January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 15.** See our website at <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/serve> to complete a waiver and sign-up.
 2. Join us in building beds—we welcome all ages, however we kindly ask that any youth under the age of 12 be accompanied and monitored by an adult. Sleep in Heavenly Peace has a new warehouse and workshop with everything set up for bed builds. Bring your family and friends. Check the website at <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/serve> for a waiver and to sign up for available dates.
 3. Provide twin size bedding—sheets, pillows, blankets, mattress protectors are all needed. (Collection boxes are in the COC and Sanctuary entries.)
 4. Join us in sewing twin sized flannel blankets for the beds. Simple and easy sew or non-sew patterns are available. See the website for a video of an easy blanket to sew.
-

If you would like more information, please check the website under the serve page or contact Jack Grant 571-334-5030 by call or text or email Jack or JoAnn Grant at jjjjgrant@verizon.net



Did you know that we have a very active book club at Love of Christ? This is a picture of our March group. Our next meeting is on May 5th. If you like to read and enjoy discussing what you read with others, please join us in May.



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2024 in the Leadership Room at 10:15 am (located just to the left of the church offices).

We will be reviewing *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline. Here is a synopsis of the book:

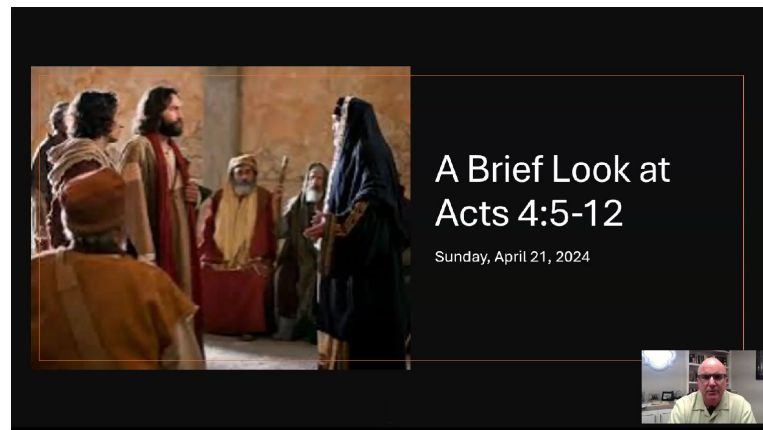
This is a stunning novel of friendship, passion and art inspired by Andrew Wyeth's mysterious and iconic painting "Christina's World." Christina Olson lived in the small Maine town of Cushing. Increasingly affected by illness she was the inspiration for the artist Andrew Wyeth, and became the subject of one of the best known American paintings of the 20th century. Fact and fiction merge as the author brings to life the little known woman behind the portrait.

Please join us for a lively discussion of *A Piece of the World*. Make sure to pick up a cup of coffee and a treat and meet us at 10:15 am on May 4th.

If you have any questions about our Book Club, please contact Barbara Hummel at otemporium@aol.com.

Happy Reading!

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Acts 4:5-12
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(11 min)

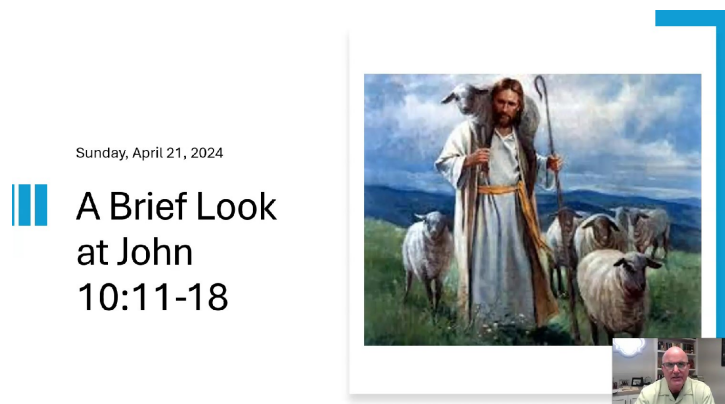


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/BoAtQv3f6Hw>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/posts/pfbid02YLbWJXeoYfvgnKAtmxmFHi2ftY8tMVPFn1GsYU2uCFkozpa-CFEbGgqKY6Kjq1yc7I>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Gospel Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at John 10:11-18
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(11 min)



Sunday, April 21, 2024

|| A Brief Look
at John
10:11-18

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/U5waXZXAFe0>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/posts/pfbid02NGsHDGbrQRa2g6fpgXykXghHrcqoPVL0SG5RGqxUr2YSc3FM2TWenmPdVqT7T4n8I>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Online Introductions to Lectionary Lessons
are available by Wednesday of each week!



Pastor Steve's sermon title: "How Do You Picture Jesus?"

Acts 4: 5-12

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Ananias the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their 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 questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the corner-stone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

1 John 3: 16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his com-

mandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

John 10: 11-18

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to 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 in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

APRIL 21, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking+
faith
home

The Good Shepherd comes with power to love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
Tuesday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Wednesday	Luke 15:1-7	Parable of the lost sheep
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-16	God, the true shepherd
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The resurrection of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Shepherding God, we thank you that your care for us is never ending and filled with your abundant goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, just as you are with us and protect us each day like a good shepherd, we thank you for feeding us with this food, a sign of your abundant love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, give you comfort and peace.



© 2023 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

APRIL 21, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Shepherd Me, O God

taking+
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you experienced fear or anxiety.
- How does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, comfort and protect you during fearful times?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 10:11-18.

The focus in John 10 on being the good shepherd is directly related to Jesus healing the man born blind in John 9. The man born blind was cast out of the synagogue, out of the religious community, out of a protective sheepfold. Jesus as the good shepherd knows us and loves us enough to lay down his life for us. Jesus does not abandon us or cast us out. Unlike the disinterest of a hired hand who runs away when our needs are the greatest, Jesus cares for us as those who need the protection of a shepherd. This is the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has power and he uses that power to care for us and to give us the abundant life, the life overflowing with goodness (John 10:10). All of this power to love, to give us life overflowing with goodness and abundance, comes not from the abusive power of Pharisees, synagogues, or any disinterested individuals or institutions, but from the divine. This is the command that Jesus has received from God and passes on to us, the command to love sacrificially.

Discuss: When has your life been blessed by the sacrificial love of another?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to know that we are not abandoned in our time of need, but blessed with overflowing love through the power and grace of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give sacrificially to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Both readings from John 10 and Psalm 23 follow the theme of shepherd. Draw the shape of a sheep on a sheet of paper. Write Jesus in the center of the shape and then words you would use to describe a good shepherd. Think or talk about what the words you wrote mean to you. Finish with prayer using the words from Psalm 23:6 as a reminder of God's comfort: **You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, LORD. Amen.** (CEV)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org