



## ***ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH***

*6 South Second Street  
Oakland, Maryland 21550*

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*connect@stmarksoakland.com*

*stmarksoakland.com*

*Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 a.m.*

*Our Daily Ministers are The People of St. Mark's*

*Rev. Carrie Hoff, Pastor*

***WELCOME***

*We extend a sincere welcome to all who join us for worship.*

**April 26, 2026**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Order of Worship**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

“ *Ave Maria* ”      Bach-Gounod/ arr. Kevin Norris

**\*\* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*✠ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*\* SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**\*\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**No. 807**

*“ Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ”*

**\*\* GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*\* KYRIE**

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.  
Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. 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. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>2</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> 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.

## PSALM: Psalm 23

We will start with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

**Refrain: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.** (Ps. 23:1)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. R**

### SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

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

### \*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*\* GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “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. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**\*\* HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 789

*“ Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us ”*

**\*\* APOSTLES CREED**

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(Please be seated)*

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

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF PRAYER SHAWLS AND BLANKETS**

**L:** Today we bless these shawls and blankets, tangible signs of love and care, created and shared by this community.

We give thanks for the hands that made them and the prayers that surround them, and we ask God to continue inspiring this ministry of care, comfort, and presence.

**C: Loving God, our Shepherd, bless those who create these gifts and those who will receive them.**

**L:** Gracious God, bless these shawls and blankets.

May they bring comfort in times of need  
and a quiet reminder that you are near.

When the path is uncertain or the valley feels deep,  
may these gifts point to your care—  
that you are our Shepherd,  
leading, guarding, and walking with us through all things.

**C: Bless these gifts, O Lord. May they bring comfort and the assurance of your abiding presence.**  
**Amen.**

### **OFFERING**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“ My Worth Is Not In What I Own ”*

**\*\* OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 686

*“ We Give Thee but Thine Own ” vs 1*

**\*\* OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

**\*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*\* PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*\* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*\* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\*\* LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**\*\* COMMUNION SONG**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## COMMUNION

Distribution of Communion

*All are welcome to receive the wine and bread at our Lord's table. Grape Juice is in pre-poured glasses and gluten-free wafers are available on the tables as you come forward.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## COMMUNION HYMN

*"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"*

No. 484

*"My Shepherd, You Supply My Need"*

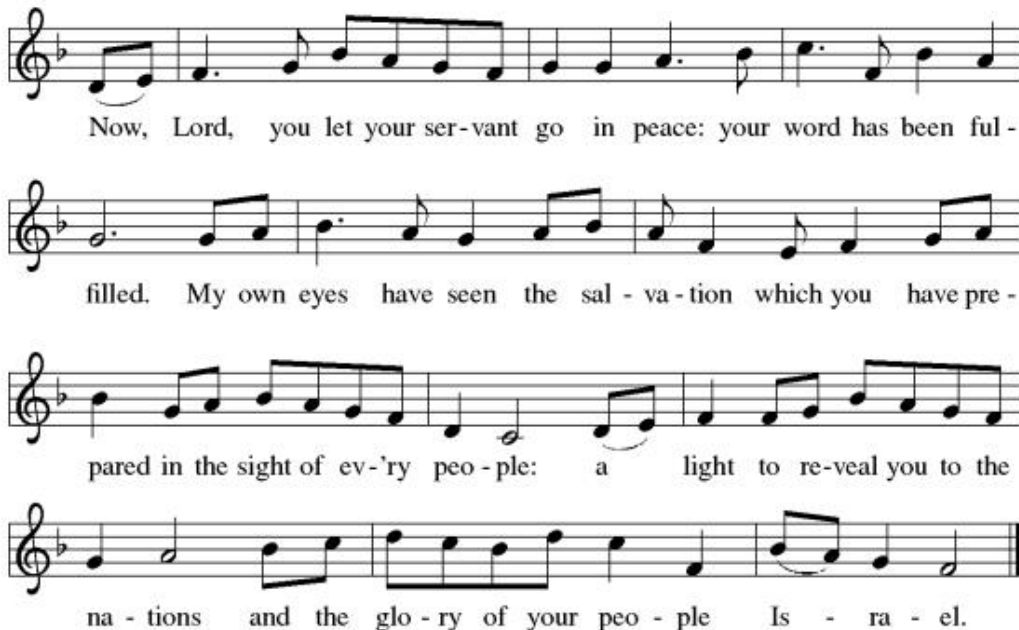
No. 782

## \*\* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## \*\* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## \*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## \*\* BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**\*\* RECESSIONAL HYMN**

*“ Guide My Feet ”*

Leader All

1 Guide my feet  
 2 Hold my hand  
 3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
 4 I'm your child  
 5 Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet  
 Hold my hand  
 Stand by me while I run this race.  
 I'm your child  
 Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet  
 Hold my hand  
 Stand by me while I run this race,  
 I'm your child  
 Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God... We Will!**

**POSTLUDE**

*“ Postlude on ‘St. Drostane’ ”*

by Lani Smith

## St. Mark's Mission Statement

“United in Christ, Sharing his Good News,  
we invite all people to grow in God’s love.”

### Church Calendar April 26, 2026 – May 3, 2026

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
- with Holy Communion  
- with Blessing of the Blankets
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 4:30p.m.
- Wednesday** - Bell Choir at 6:30 p.m.  
- Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Adult Forum 8:30 a.m.  
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

### Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Dave Hoff
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recording:	Renate Murray
Communion Pourers:	Nicole Bosley & Stephanie Berger
Communion Clean-up:	Nancy & Monty Pagenhardt
Safe Keeper:	Liz Lewis & Sherry Beach
Flower Delivery:	Liz Lewis & Peggy Jamison
Ushers:	Terry Savage, Capt. Carol Savage, Paul LeDuc, Donna Swift

Pastor Carrie can be reached by email at [carriehoff@outlook.com](mailto:carriehoff@outlook.com) or  
phone 443-974-1738 for any pastoral needs or concerns.



Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are dedicated today by Janet & Jeff Gregory,  
in loving memory of Jay Maffett on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



## Prayer Requests

**Illness:** Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, Peter, Robert Hodges, Ava, Connie Leary, Emily, Marie, Joyce Chaney, Debbie, Bill & Diana Bachtel, Sig Blamble, Norma, Joe, Kimmie, Abe, Angie, Fred Meyer, baby Davis Wilson who is recovering from heart surgery, Tom Bingham, Senta Heinrich, Mary, Eric, Jeff Gilbert, Marylynn, Michael, Sally, George, David, Roger, Clint, C.J. Bennett

**Special Needs:** Chase, Jeremy Lewis, Bil McGahn, Debra Lohman, Family of Becky Preston, Christine Chaney, Autumn and Jordan, Bravo, Erina, Miss Ann Collins, Shania, Joey Welch & his family, Mr. Kittle, Eli

## Upcoming Events

### **Today**

Blessing of Prayer Shawls and Blankets  
Garrett County Band Concert

### **Saturday, May 9**

Bikes For the World Collection Day

## **Announcements**

### **Bikes for the World**

The April Special Offering will support Bikes for the World. Since 2011, B4W has provided transportation for more than 217,000 individuals in all parts of the world. B4W does much more than provide transportation; it strives to transform communities. Bikes are donated to partner organizations to make positive change ongoing and sustainable. One central focus for these bikes is on making schools more accessible to students.

Your financial contribution will go towards greatly supporting this endeavor. On May 9, St. Mark's will hold its second collection. Details are on the website at

[https://stmarksoakland.com/bike\\_min.php](https://stmarksoakland.com/bike_min.php). Please spread the word and if you can, consider helping on collection day, May 9 for a few hours.

# Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church

We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. Here are a few things to help you feel comfortable in our space and more fully participate in worship. If you have questions at any time, our ushers will be happy to help.

## **Restrooms**

- A first-floor restroom is available. Facing the pulpit, use the door to the left, enter the church office, and the restroom is located on the right.
- Restrooms and water fountains are also available downstairs. From the back of the sanctuary (narthex), take the steps downstairs, turn right into Fellowship Hall, restrooms are on the right and the water fountain is on the left.

## **Accessibility & Comfort**

- Our bulletins contain the order of worship so you can easily follow along. You are invited to participate in the liturgy in areas indicated in bold and hymns can be found in the red hymnal.
- If standing during worship is uncomfortable, please feel free to remain seated.
- Hearing assistance devices and large-print bulletins are available—please ask an usher.

## **Visitors**

- If you are visiting, we invite you to sign the guest registry located on the stand near the front doors or fill out a visitor envelope found in the pew rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate.
- If you or someone you know is in need of an extra prayer, please fill out a card in the pew back in front of you, and an usher will be by during the prelude to collect it.

## **Children**

- Children's worship bags are available in the narthex. You are welcome to pick one up for your child(ren).

## **Electronics**

- Please silence or turn off cell phones and electronic devices so that all may focus on worship.

## **Holy Communion**

- If Holy Communion is celebrated today, please know that all are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who prefer not to receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice is available on the side tables and wine will be poured from the chalice. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

Thank you for worshiping with us today—we are glad you are here.

## Shepherd Search

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he is like a shepherd, and not like a thief. Can you find all these shepherd words?



Find the four letters that are shared by two words in the puzzle. Unscramble these letters to find out what Jesus brings to us as the Good Shepherd.

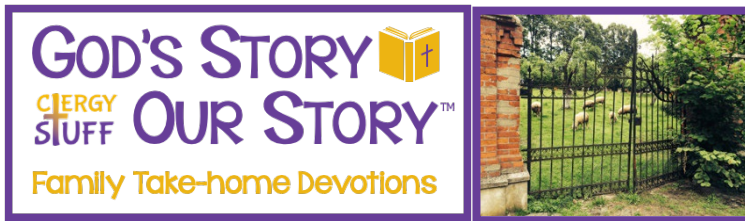
Shepherd	Lead	Lamb
Sheep	Flock	Fleece
Wool	Shearing	Staff
Protect	Guide	Graze

"I came that they may have \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_, and have it abundantly."  
John 10:10b

## Everything In Common

The earliest believers of the Christian church shared everything in common with each other. Can you figure out what these groups of words have in common? Answers are on the back page.

- |        |          |
|--------|----------|
| Apple  | Scissors |
| Letter | Balloon  |
- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Brown Coconut | Quiet Rhino   |
| Funny Girl    | Tiny Umbrella |
- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| Ohio    | Iowa   |
| Alabama | Hawaii |
- |       |         |
|-------|---------|
| Kayak | Racecar |
| Mom   | Eye     |



## April 26, 2026, Fourth Sunday of Easter John 10:1-10

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Shepherding God, lead us each day in your way, caring for our needs, and showing us by your example how to love and care for others. Draw all the world into your loving arms, that all people and creation might flourish. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*"I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*  
(John 10:9-10)



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus uses shepherding images to distinguish himself and outline the nature of God's love and care.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- As Christians live into an increasingly diverse cultural and religious landscape, how can we engage in respectful conversations with people of different world views? How would you describe the Good Shepherd to people who believe differently?
- How are you like a sheep? How are you different?
- For the littles: If you raised sheep, what would you do with its wool?



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God guide you as only the Good Shepherd can. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Go to the nearest zoo, farm, or park. Observe the animals. How are they like us? How are they unlike us? What can we learn from God's beloved creatures?



**Go Deeper:** Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:17-23; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31; Hebrews 13:20-21

Wednesday, Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 6:8-15

Friday, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Exodus 3:1-12; Acts 7:1-16

Saturday, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59