

## First Reading: Acts 4:1–12

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

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

## Epistle: 1 John 3:16–24

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

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

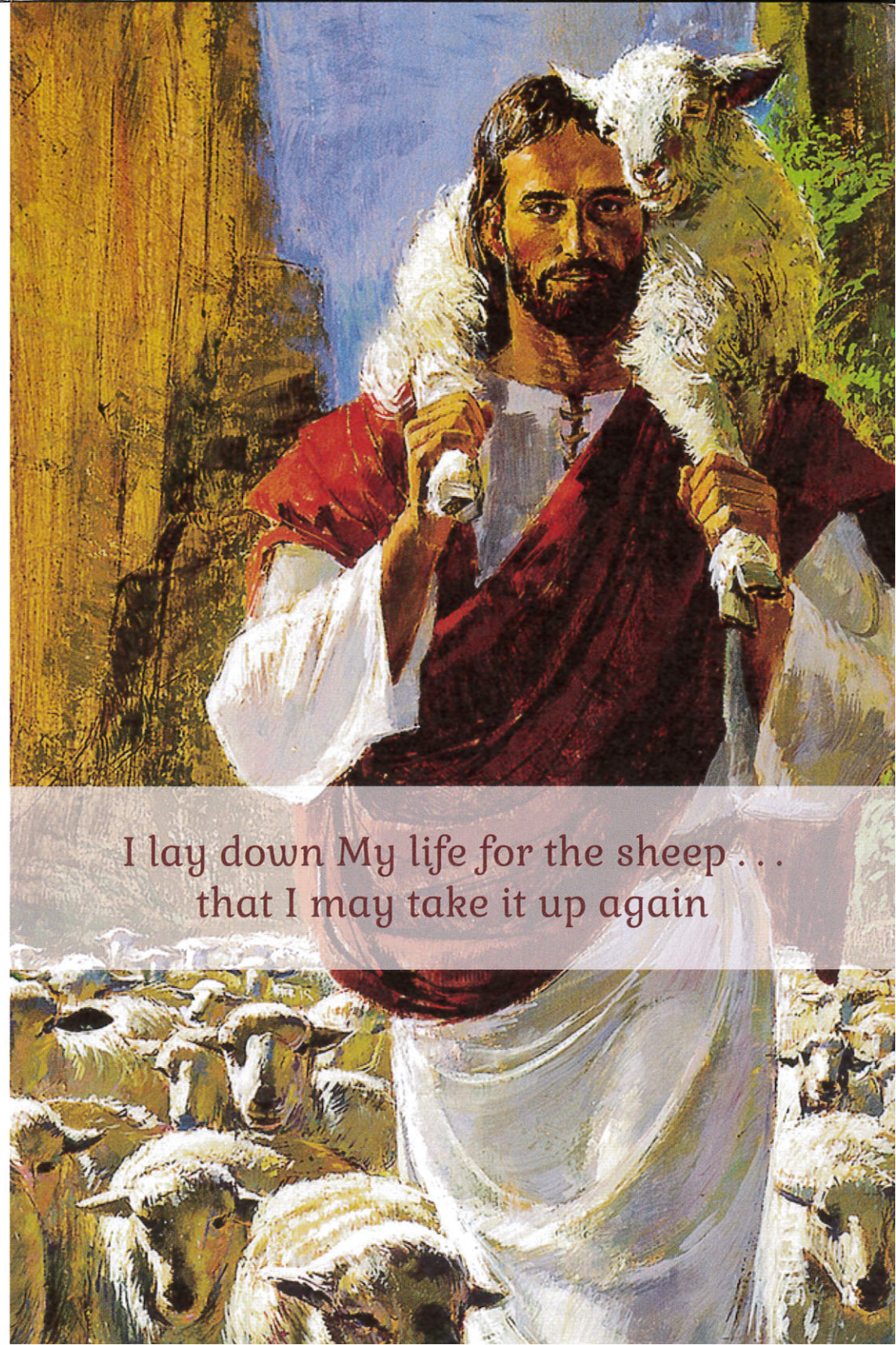
## Holy Gospel: John 10:11–18

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



Easter

**About the Cover:** The Good Shepherd does not withhold His own life for His sheep. He laid down His life on Good Friday as a sacrifice for our sins in order to take it up again on Easter Sunday. He did it all of His own authority for us. Therefore, we know that when He takes our lives up like the Good Shepherd that He is, we are in good hands that will carry us safely to eternal life.



I lay down My life for the sheep . . .  
that I may take it up again



St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254  
309-949-2516

April 21, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter

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*Divine Service Setting One (Lutheran Service Book, pg. 151)*

Hymn of Invocation 475

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

Invocation and Versicles (p. 151)

Introit

*Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,  
and I lay down my life for the sheep.

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

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

**He restores my soul.**

**He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

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.

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,  
and I lay down my life for the sheep.

The Kyrie (p. 152)

Hymn of Praise: *This Is the Feast* (p. 155)

Salutation and Collect (p. 156)

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened  
from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy  
Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may  
know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He

leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever.

**G** Amen. (*sung*)

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Gradual

*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

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.**

Alleluia and Verse (Common, p. 156)

Hymn of the Day 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Sermon

Nicene Creed (p. 158)

Prayer of the Church

*After each petition:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** ...one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory (p. 159)

Service of the Sacrament (p. 160)

*(Please see the Communion statement in the pew pads for receiving the  
Sacrament at St. John's.)*

Distribution Hymns

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

487 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

462 All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding

Post-Communion Canticle: *Thank the Lord* (p. 164)

Hymn to Depart 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS**

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org  
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org  
https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE  
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**Rev. Timothy Nerud** **Pastor**  
309-949-2516 (Office), 612-940-8138 (Cell), 309-949-2517 (Home)

Elder: Aaron Raschke

Greeter: Janet Bertso

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

**WE PRAY:** Gracious Lord, Shepherd of our lives and Guardian of our souls, who has set us all to shepherding each other, give us time, determination, and opportunity to share with others the kind of love and care that You constantly give to us; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

**WELCOME TO ALL!**

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

**IF YOU DESIRE**, a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

**OFFICE HOURS**

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm  
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)  
(Tuesday— Friday) please call ahead

**STREAM SERVICES** <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: [www.stjohnsgeneseo.org](http://www.stjohnsgeneseo.org).

**DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES** - use this website ([www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)) to have daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

*All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.*

**ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

Sunday school—7 Adult Bible Class—7 Worship—54

**OFFERING**

Offering last Sunday \$2,630.00  
Weekly giving needed per 2024 Budget \$4,481.54

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S**

Today	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Youth meeting
Wednesday	5:00 pm	Confirmation
Thursday	6:30 pm	SS Teachers' meeting
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship
	11:00 am	Quarterly Voters' meeting

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."  
Psalms 122:1*

**1 John 3:2** – "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is." This is the essence of our sanctification: becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will only be completed in the Resurrection. But until then, we are called to trust His grace and to grow into His image more and more.

**ATTENDANCE BOOK**—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

**CHRISTIAN LIVING**—John 10:11-18: Jesus taught His disciples and, by extension, we as His people, that He is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep. What can stop the witness of those who no longer fear death? Every enemy has been vanquished by the Good Shepherd. What Good News this is for our comfort and all of the sheep not yet in the fold. So, boldly share the Good News that there is a very Good Shepherd in the Risen Jesus Christ who came for the sake of all of the sheep.

**LIFE THOUGHTS**—The joy that comes from the risen Christ cannot be taken away (John 16:22). This is not a feel-good happiness dependent upon circumstances. It is a fruit of Christ's Spirit, the joy of our salvation in Christ that circumstances cannot change or diminish. Many of the life issues we deal with today are "joy robbers" and present opportunities to share the joy of the resurrection. *Gracious Savior, fill my words with the comfort and hope of resurrection to everlasting life with You. Amen.*

**DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS:** DFM is funding new prison ministries in central Illinois. If a congregation lends its pastor to prison ministry one day a week, Central Illinois District is in a position to thank that church with \$5,000 per

year. In 2023 it received DFM funds for starts of new ministries in as many as four prisons or county jails. Now in 2024 the project is to gather sufficient money to continue such new work into 2025. The current target is \$10,000. See the video at <https://youtu.be/BcyFWxB-A-ww>

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK-# 17**—Is believing that Christ is the only way to heaven a narrow point of view? To hear an answer to this question, go to <https://www.cidlcms.org/myth-or-faith/4.2.mp3>

**CLA'S GOLF OUTING/FUNDRAISER**—Will you consider being a sponsor for Concordia Lutheran Academy golf event June 8, 2024? See the flyer on the office window for more details or ask Terri Hock for a sponsorship form.

**CONCORDIA SEMINARY CALL DAY**—Anticipation is building for Call Day 2024! Join us for two special services Tuesday, April 23, when second-year students receive their vicarage or deaconess internship assignments at 3 p.m. (CDT) and concluding students receive their pastoral and diaconal calls at 7 p.m. (CDT) in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. Watch the services at [csl.edu/call-day](http://csl.edu/call-day). NOTE: Our seminary student, Anthony Sedotto, will receive his call to serve God at the 7 pm service. Anthony will graduate in May.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**—The 2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. Please sign up for a Sunday.

### PRAYER MINISTRY

**Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray:**  
**MISSION**—Pray for all congregations that reach out to members of our military through Operation Barnabas, that they would uphold them in prayer as they help to meet their physical, psychological and spiritual needs through the training they have received and the Lord's provision.

**ST JOHN'S—Mrs. Stephanie Andre**—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Al-gerson and Stephanie (Mosher) asking Your blessings upon them.

**ST. JOHN'S FAMILY**—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Elizabeth Bjork	Paula Chapa	Joyce DeFauw
Betty Firch	Arlyn Helke	Jessica Johnson
Lynne Johnson	Linda Lundquist	Aaron Raschke
Drew Schillinger	Carolyn Wildermuth	
Denise Winchell	Marilyn Woods	

Anthony/Sami Sedotto (2022/2023 Adopted seminary student)

**Don Eggers** (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)  
**Jodi Martins** (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)  
**Jon/Anita Clausing** (missionaries in Kenya)  
**Mike Erdman** (nephew of Bob Erdman)  
**Shandel Loenser**  
**Paul Werner** (brother of Dan Werner)  
**Ron Powell** (friend of Brad Gehn)  
**Justin Rittenhouse** (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)  
**Marty Cavato** (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)  
**Todd Erbst** (former member of St. John's)  
**Ellen Bauer** (grandmother of Joel Werling)  
**Don Lutz** (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)  
**Carol Eggers** (friend of Marilyn Woods)  
**Dale Doxsee** (former member of St. John's)

**MILITARY**—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:  
**Mandy/Richard Davila** (daughter/son-in-law of Linda Aper)  
**Luke/Nicole Thompson** (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)  
**Karl Flynn** (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)  
**Casey Powers Jr.** (step son of Lisa Powers)  
**Brittany Loenser** (daughter of Gabe Loenser)  
**Rylie Hallendorff** (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

### LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“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](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**ANNUAL HOG ROAST**—The Camp CILCA Hog Roast is Sunday, May 26th and we are looking for willing hands to assist with set up, clean up, and serving. There will be a Matins service at 10:30am followed by dinner from 11:30am-2:30pm. We are also looking for about 300 servings of dessert. If you would like to contribute, please sign up on the link here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAEAC2FA5FFC43-49079918-dessert>. If you would like to assist with set up, serving or clean up, please follow this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAEAC2FA5FFC43-camp>