



April 26, 2026 – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

AS WE GATHER

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. It is sometimes referred to as “Good Shepherd Sunday,” because when you listen to the readings, you begin to pick up on this theme of Jesus as our Good Shepherd. In the Gospel reading, we hear that Jesus is the shepherd to us, the sheep. We hear His voice; He calls us by name (John 10:1-10). In the Psalm, we pray that the LORD is our shepherd who leads us to green pastures, still waters, and restores our soul (Psalm 23). Even our Epistle reading shows us how we “were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of [our] souls” (1 Peter 2:25). And although our Acts reading does not use the Shepherd-sheep imagery, it discusses what it means for us to live as Jesus’ sheep. Praise be to God that He has made us sheep of our Good Shepherd Jesus Christ!

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 709, “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: O Lord,

People: **have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,
People: **have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,
People: **have mercy. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest (Music and words in hymnal, LSB 204).*

- All: 1. **To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing – our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**
2. **To You, O sole begotten, the Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heartfelt cry, where You in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high.**
3. **For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, be worshipped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High, in God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Acts 2:42–47*

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 23*

Pastor: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

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

Pastor: He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

People: **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.**

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

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

EPISTLE READING *1 Peter 2:19–25*

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *John 10:1–10*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the tenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 711, “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

SERMON *Sheep of the Shepherd*

APOSTLE’S CREED

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 781, “We Give Thee But Thine Own”*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For... let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: **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.**

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *LSB 740, "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Service adapted from Divine Service Setting 4, LSB 203-212.



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of April 26, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

**Family for the Week: Bill & Joanne Michel & Homebound Families
St. John's, Purdy - Pastor Schnackenberg**

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Cody (Cheryl Lile's son – health and healing)

Blazi & Jamie (Friends of Jaycee & Ty – health and healing from cancer)

Ardella (health and healing)

Rebecca (Kathy Holly's relative – health and healing from cancer)

Glenda (Teri Ediger's step mother – health and healing)

Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son to Teri)

McGee family – (health and healing)

Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoyer-Wolf)

Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)

Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)

Tammy Ardrey (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
 Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
 Becky – (daughter of Diane and Bill Thompson)
 Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
 Opal Bulow (niece of Linda Myers)
 Treasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
 Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)
 Linda Lampe (Harold & Gwen’s daughter–in–law, for upcoming tests)

Donnie Munden – (brother–in–law of Cathy Munden)
 Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel’s brother – health and healing)
 Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
 Joe Pennington – (brother–in–law of Bill Michel – health and healing)
 Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
 Tim Tucek– (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
 Baby Vada (Cathy Munden’s great grandchild – health and healing)
 Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden’s cousin – health and healing)
 Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
 Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
 Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
 Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman’s friend – healing from a broken–hip)
 Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
 Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
 Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
 Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
 Betty Gordon – (health and healing)
 Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)
 Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden’s granddaughter)
 Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
 Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
 Pat Michel – (Bill Michel’s sister–In–Law – health & healing)
 Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
 LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
 Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
 Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
 Bill Thompson – (health and healing)
 June Winger – (Sharon Barlow’s mother – health & healing)

WEEK

Sunday	April 26th	Happy Half Hour, Bible Study – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service – 10:00 am Voters’ Assembly Meeting after service
Monday	April 27th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Wednesday	April 29th	Bible Study - 6:00 pm
Thursday	April 30th	Confirmation - 5:30 pm
Friday	May 1st	Pastor’s Day Off
Sunday	May 3rd	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour Bible-Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with Communion
Monday	May 4th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm LWML – 1:30 pm in Freistatt

Birthdays: May 3-Joe Lynn; May 4-Diane Heisner
Anniversaries: None

	April	
Greeters		Ushers
26: Charlie & Edee Chambers		26: David Lampe
	May	
Greeters		Ushers
05/03: Rick & Bernie Thomas		05/03: Charlie Chambers
05/10: Bill & Joanne Michel		05/10: Rick Thomas
05/17: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer		05/17: Harold Lampe
05/24: Cathy Munden & Teri Ediger		05/24: David Lampe
05/31: Charlie & Edee Chambers		05/31: Bill Mitchel



Transportation Help Needed: One of our shut-ins is in need of transportation help to and from her doctors' appointments. We would like to have a list of people who are willing to help. You would **not** be signing up to be a driver for every appointment. You would only be signing up to be on the list of individuals willing to be contacted, if needed. Please contact Pastor Heitshusen if you are willing to put your name in the list and/or if you have any questions.



Portals of Prayer are now available.

Join us for Bible class on Sundays and Wednesdays. On Sundays, we meet at 9 am in the Sanctuary. We are currently going through the book of Colossians, where we have heard that we have been raised with Christ in our baptism and because of that, we live our lives as baptized children of God. On Wednesday, April 15, we re-started our Wednesday evening Bible study at 6 pm in the conference room. We are reading through the Gospel of John. Come and join us as we study God's Word together.

LWML will be meeting on May 4, 2026, at 1:30 pm in Trinity Chapel in Freistatt. The program is Friendship and Quilts. There will be a business meeting following the program. Please join us.

To Answer Some Questions that have come up: Contributions to Grace can be given to Pastor or in the offering plate in the narthex. Additionally, we have credit card donations available on our web site: <https://GraceLutheranAurora.com/give.php>

Outreach News and Updates

Saturday, June 6th – Aurora City Wide yard sale - If you have items to donate, please make sure they are priced. The lot will be open for members and to the public.

Saturday, October 3rd – Annual Car and Truck Show. Are you crafty? Grace would like to sell your treasures. We will have a small booth, and we would love to sell a couple of your crafts for the benefit of the church.

Questions? See or call Bernie (Phone 417-838-2022)