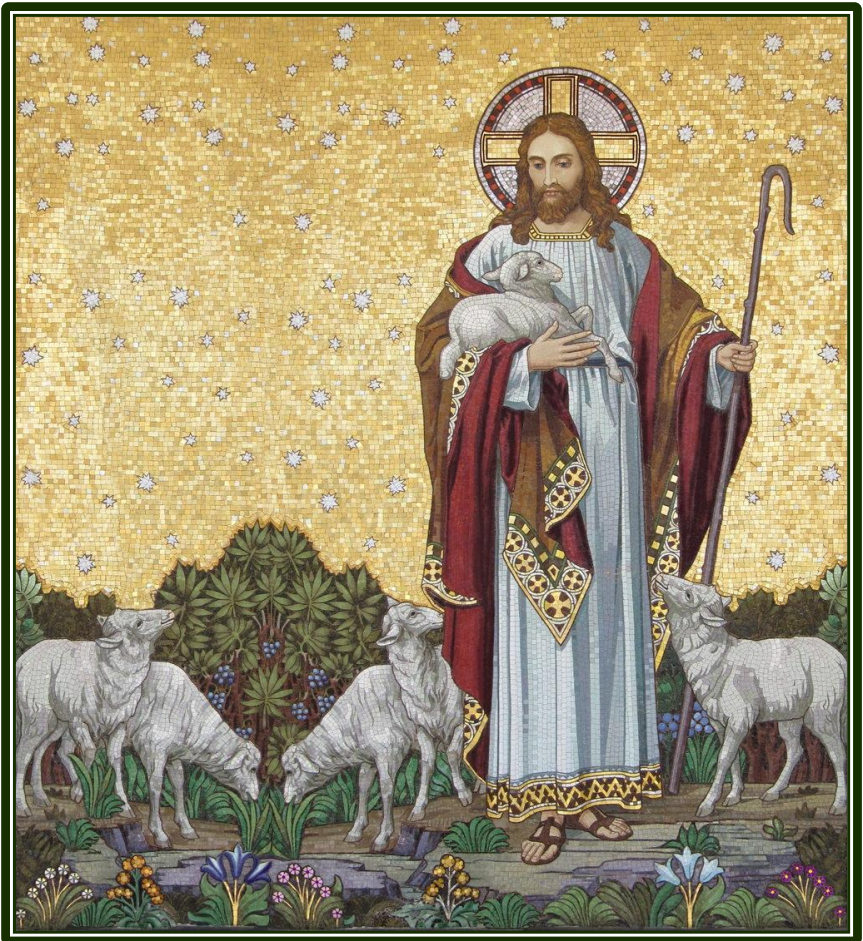


Holy Cross Lutheran Church

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday**

Divine Service One

April 25, 2021





The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod)

9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd.

Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services.....8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Bible Classes and Sunday School.....9:25 a.m.

Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office.....303-683-1300

Kristen Foss, Director, Early Learning Center.....303-683-1311

Fax..... 303-470-0165

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:

Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

O Jesus, our Good Shepherd, You see us, Your sheep, as frightened and alone, as tired and lonely. You became one of us. You, the Son of God, came to find us. You stood between us and Satan on the bloody hill of Calvary. As death clamped its jaws around Your heart, You suffered alone, abandoned by Your Father, so that we could live forever safe in the Father's family. Now You live to ever nourish and defend us. You, our Good Shepherd, care for us—soul and body—in Your Word, at Your altar, directly and through other people. We thank You for those who serve us in Your name: those people You use to touch, heal, restore, and strengthen us. We pray that all those who work in Your name remain faithful, having, by Your grace, hearts quick to hear and obey Your voice. Thank You, heavenly Father, for the comfort You have given us in "the Shepherd [who] dies for the sheep who love to wander." Amen.



Confession and Absolution

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence
5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly

down to lie In pas - tures green; He
walk doth make With - in the paths of
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
of my foes; My head Thou dost with
fol - low me; And in God's house for -

lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**



Service of the Word

Introit



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 re- | stores 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 for- | ever.

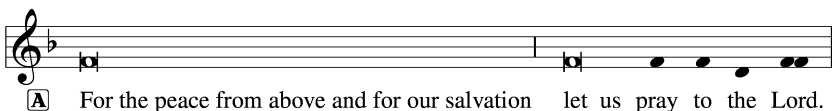
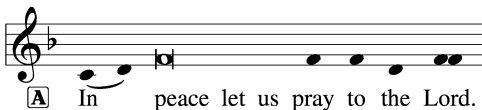
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*,
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

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



Kyrie

Mark 10:47





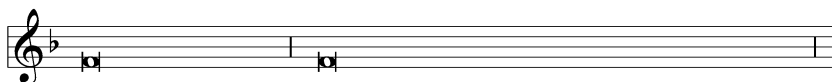
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



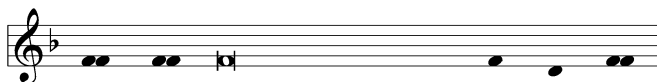
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



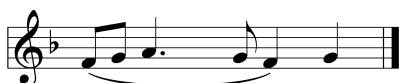
let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



G A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29




A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



G Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:
 You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
 You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.
 For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P 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.



C A - men.

First Reading: Acts 4:1–12

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

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 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. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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 un- | der his feet.**

Epistle: 1 John 3:16–24

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

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

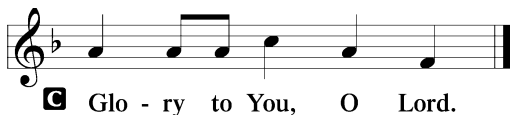
John 6:68



G 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.

Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own

and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Sermon

"The Good Shepherd – I am His and He is Mine"

Text: John 10:11-18

740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the

heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,

Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me

day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand



Apostles' Creed

**☐ 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.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.



Offering

There is an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit your offerings.

Offertory

Psalms 116:12-13, 17-19

A musical score for the Offertory, featuring six staves of music in a single system. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics are: 'What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.' The score ends with a double bar line.

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

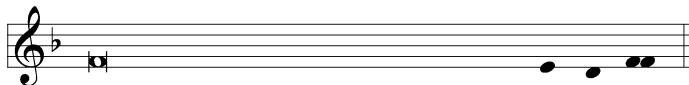
Closing Collect

P Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26



P 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.



C A - - men.



473 Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free



1 Our Pas - chal Lamb, that sets us free, Is sac - ri - ficed. O keep
2 Let all our lives now cel - e - brate The feast; let mal - ice die.
3 Let all our deeds, u - nan - i - mous, Con - fess Him as our Lord



The feast of free - dom gal - lant - ly; Let al - le - lu - ias leap:
Let love grow strong a - new, and great, Let truth stamp out the lie.
Who by the Spir - it lives in us, The Fa - ther's liv - ing Word.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A -



gain Sing al - le - lu - ia, cry a - loud: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Tune and text: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017611



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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So What's the Big Deal ...



about shepherds and sheep? Maybe we understand that the narratives in Genesis make more sense when set in the nomadic, sheepherder culture of the ancient Near East. But why pick up the metaphor again and again in the Psalms and the writings of the prophets?

When we read Ezekiel 34 in light of John 10 and think about the meaning of both texts, we see how aptly the word picture fits.

The “shepherds” Ezekiel excoriates in chapter 34 included both national and spiritual leaders. (Kings were often called “shepherds” in that time and place.) These false shepherds held their positions as a sacred trust from Yahweh. Yet, instead of functioning as servant leaders, these false shepherds fleeced the flock. Instead of humbly acting in the best interests of their people, these undershepherds led those people away from their one, glorious Good Shepherd.

Ezekiel 34:2-10 outlines what the Lord expected of His undershepherds. They should have

- fed the flock (34:2-3).
- strengthened the weak (34:4).
- treated and cured the sick (34:4).
- gone after the lost and straying (34:4).

The false shepherds did none of this. The straying in their care died in their sins. The spiritually hungry grew weak. The broken languished, separated from their God. In short, the flock was scattered across a dozen hillsides, prey to Satan and ripe for spiritual death. Those who bore responsibility for them let it happen.

Yahweh saw all this. Yahweh knew. He heard His people cry out in hunger and pain. He did not take the arrogance, carelessness, and laziness of the false shepherds lightly. He did not ignore their malfeasance.

No, the Good Shepherd came—in person—to rescue His weak and wandering flock. When you read Ezekiel 34:11-16, can't you picture our Lord Jesus? Can't you see Him

- engaged in earnest conversation with the Samaritan adulteress in John 4?
- touching the paralyzed man in John 5 with His Father's forgiveness and physical wholeness?
- multiplying the loaves and fishes of John 6 while He described to the crowds the bread of life that never goes stale?

This Good Shepherd cares for you, soul--and body--too! In His Word. At the altar. Directly and through other people, He touches, heals, restores, and strengthens you. Thank Him for that today. Pray for those who serve you in His name. Pray that they remain faithful. Ask for a heart quick to hear and obey, by His grace.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod traditionally designates the Fourth Sunday of Easter as Good Shepherd Sunday. April 25 is Good Shepherd Sunday this year.

Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Scott Schlapkohl

10:30 a.m. – Curt Oliver



While standing during various parts of the Divine Service shows respect and honor given to our Lord and Savior during worship, it is not a requirement. If at any time you feel the need to take a seat, please feel free to do so.



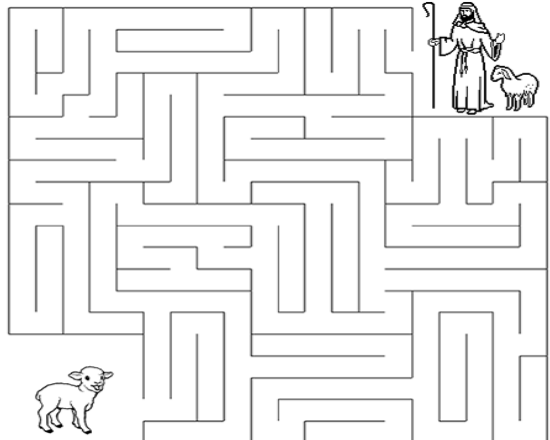
KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find

programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

This week on KFUO.org, study 1 Peter 4 through 2 Peter 1 on Sharper Iron's "The Imperishable Inheritance" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), learn about 1 Kings 4-7 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (Saturday at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts!

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15



HEART HEART - a Non-Profit

We have been working with this neighborhood group for a few years. Heart 2 Heart provides start-up goods for the homeless who are moving into their own housing. This includes Veterans, sheltered families and battered women, and young people transitioning from foster care. Other organizations find the housing and basic furniture, we provide the start-up needs.

The organization was founded by our neighbor, Linda Garrity, about 10 years ago. Caseworkers provide the names, ages, and needs of the families and a few of us “grandmas and grandpas” put together the orders for these families and load them into the cars for deliveries.

Donations come in from our neighbors and from those who have heard about Heart 2 Heart through word of mouth. Additionally, we scour thrift stores and purchase some new items, especially toys for the kids. One organization provides homemade quilts!

Needed donations include lightly used bedding, towels, books, toys, kitchen items such as pots, pans, dishes, cups, mugs, glasses, silverware, coffeemakers (each Veteran gets one), plastic storage like Glad or Tupperware, baking dishes, spatulas, etc. We do not deal with food, furniture, or clothing. However, we do purchase outfits for newborns, as no baby should leave the hospital in hand-me-down clothing.

If you have something that you no longer need, you can bring your items to church and we will drop them off at Linda's. If you have any questions, please call me, Becky White, at 303-506-8417. Thank you.

Steve and Becky White – 303-979-5978

Thank you note from recipients of Heart 2 Heart:

Thank you for
everything you
helped make
a home for me

Ashley N

Thank you!
Q

I really appreciate
the things you
gave me

Patches

VOA PSH Program

Mrs Linda & Donors,

Holly

grow gratitude

Stephen
Serina

Thank you so much what you
give our youth is so much more
than "stuff" it is giving them
a sense of home, dignity and
feeling cared for + worthwhile.

Petitions and Prayers: Prayer is to seek “the Lord and His strength.



Health concerns:

Heavenly Father, Your Son, Jesus Christ, bore our sicknesses and infirmities and “with His wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). Give Your Holy Spirit to those who are sick so that they have confidence that You hear them when they cry out to You. If it be Your will, ease their pain and heal them. Assure them of Your love for them. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Sonja Bowles - Surgery on Monday, April 26
- Kevin Koessel (Karlee Shavlik’s brother) – cancer
- Harlan Kurtz (Lisa Oliver’s father) – recovering from infections

Prayer of intercession:

A Prayer for Good Shepherd Sunday

Heavenly Father, thank You for having wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep. Grant us an eagerness to read the Scriptures, given by inspiration of God, and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness so that we may ever know the voice of our Shepherd, Jesus. Also grant us the zeal and the willingness to follow Him all our days so that sin and death not pluck us out of Your hand. Amen.

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life April 25, 2021

“Death is the one thing no Christian has to do on his or her own. Jesus has already been through suffering and death before us. He knows the way through death and the way back to life, too. Our friends and family cannot go with us—but Jesus can. He will never let go of our hands. And He will bring us back to life with Him because He has promised, and He will never lie.”

*Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



Find Pastor Skelton’s Bible Study based on First Samuel posted on facebook.com/holycrosshighlandsranch and click on videos to see the Bible Study and worship services.



Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook.
Check us out and Like us at
facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch.



**By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and
we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.**

1 John 3:16

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod)

9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd.

Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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Bible Classes and Sunday School.....9:25 a.m.

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Kristen Foss, Director, Early Learning Center.....303-683-1311

Fax..... 303-470-0165

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:

Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!



Check out

The Lutheran Hour

Sunday mornings at

6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio

or

go to www.lhm.org and click on

"Listen Now" anytime.

**Holy Cross
Lutheran Church**



**If you can't sleep,
don't count sheep.
Talk to the Shepherd!**

