

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
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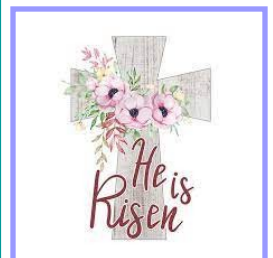
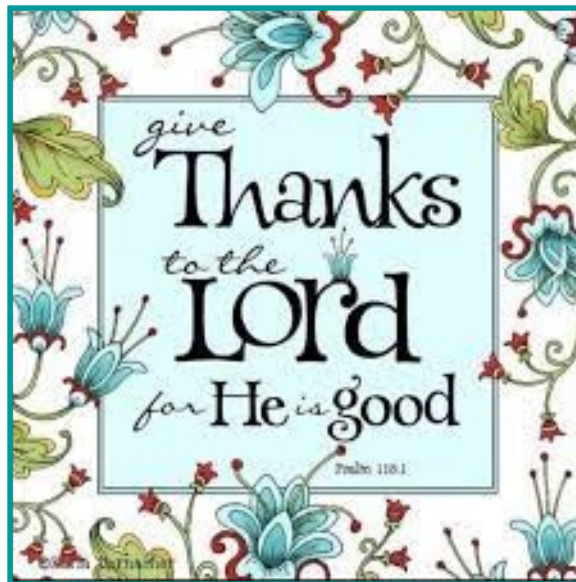
# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

## APRIL 2023



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**Reflections by Pastor Dave...***April 2023*

On Friday Jesus died. He died pretty much alone. The crowds which had watched him and listened to him and followed him were no longer there. Even most of his closest followers had fled the scene.

But something happened early Sunday morning. Something remarkable. It was still dark when Mary Magdalene fumbled around for her sandals and wrapped a tunic over her shoulders and headed for the tomb. The sun had not yet broken the darkness when Mary reached the tomb, the place where Jesus had been buried.

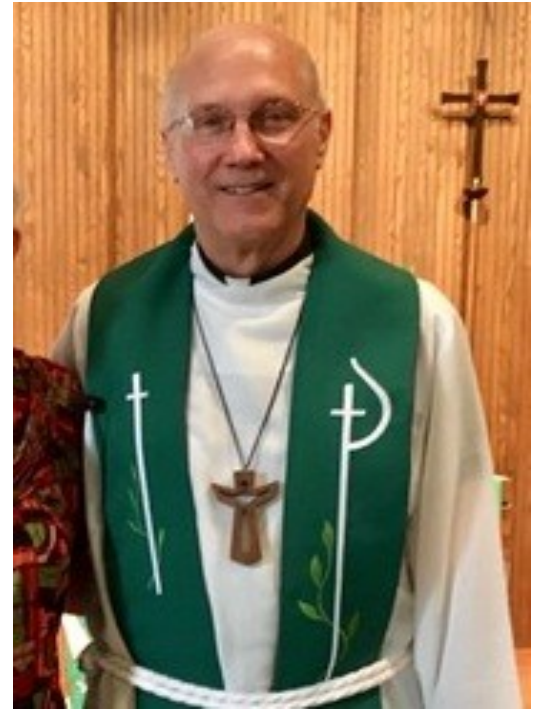
When she got there, she gasped, for she saw that the tomb was not as she had left it. Something was wrong, terribly wrong. The stone which had sealed the tomb had been moved. The grave was open! Frightened, confused, bewildered, she turned and ran as fast as she could. She went straight to the house where Simon Peter was staying. She banged on the door, loudly, frantically, her heart pounding within. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!" Peter found John and woke him up. They raced to the tomb. It was still dark when they got there. The younger disciple reached the tomb first. He stopped, looked in. It was just as Mary had said. The body was not there, only the linen wrappings. Peter, panting and holding his side, stopped, looked at John, then entered the tomb. He stared at the linen wrappings and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, now rolled up neatly right where the head of Jesus had lain.

What had happened? Where was the body? Who would do such a thing? Simon's muscles tightened as he stared at the empty grave clothes. The other disciple followed him into the tomb. He looked around. We are told he believed. But what did he believe? For in the very next sentence, we are told that these early visitors to the tomb did not understand the scripture, that Jesus must rise from the dead. They looked. They saw. But they did not understand. Shocked and confused, they left the grave and returned home.

What a strange Easter story. Mary is perplexed by the missing body. Peter does not know what to make of an empty tomb. The other disciple believes. But none of them understand.

It is not unlike what many experience in 2023. They know it is Easter, a holiday. Perhaps they know the story of Jesus. They react, though, with doubt and disbelief. Many today are perplexed by the Easter story and don't know what to make of it. But something happened. Something remarkable. A community was born. A world-wide community.

Today there are billions of men and women and boys and girls who follow Jesus. Billions



who confess faith in him. Billions who live and die for him. In every continent. Young and old. Of all races. And it started that first Easter morning.

Later that morning Mary returned to the tomb, shedding tears and filled with grief. She wept as she stared at the stone which had been shoved aside. She wept as she stared at the linen wrappings which had covered the body of Jesus. She wept as she stared at the place where Jesus had lain. She wept. Her whole body shook as tears gushed from her eyes. She wept tears of grief. But they were also tears of confusion, tears of consternation, tears of trepidation. Two angels appeared. "Woman, why are you weeping?" "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him," replied Mary. She turned around and saw the gardener, or at least she thought it was the gardener. "Woman, why are you weeping?" "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him?"

Then it happened. "Mary." The darkness was broken. "Mary." No longer was she left alone to grieve. "Mary." A voice was calling. "Mary." It was Jesus, the Risen Lord. "Mary." The Risen Lord was calling her to faith. "Mary." The Risen Lord was calling her into a community of believers. "Mary."

This is the miracle of Easter! Perhaps you are not sure what to make of it all. Perhaps you are wondering what Easter means for you. Perhaps the future looks uncertain. Perhaps you are grieving the death of a loved one. Perhaps you are worried about your health. Perhaps you are having trouble at work. Perhaps your stress level is getting out of hand. Perhaps you are worried about your family or about your church. Perhaps you are distraught about what is happening in society. Perhaps you are just drifting through life. Or perhaps life is treating you well and you are feeling great.

So, what about Easter? Just what does this empty tomb have to do with you and your life in 2023? Just as Mary was called to faith when Jesus called her by name, so it is with us as well. The community of believers is called to life by the word of Jesus. It happened with Mary. It has happened with me. It happens with you. This is the Word we hear in Baptism. This is the Word we hear when our name is spoken and the water splashes over us. This is the Word which has been spoken to you. "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine," says the Lord, the Risen Christ. Take this Word to heart and let it change your life. Listen! Your name is being called. The Risen Lord is calling you. Jesus who died on the cross and buried in the tomb, has stepped out of that tomb and is calling you, calling you by name, calling you into the community of believers, calling to give you new life, calling to give you life with God!

Do not fear! This is the work of God! You move into an uncertain future not alone, but with the Risen Jesus! Keep the faith. Love God. Love others. Be the people of God!

The peace of Christ be with you,

*Pastor Dave*

## Take care of our planet. There is no Planet B.



Things you can do to help:

- Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Volunteer in your community.
- Educate yourself and help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.
  - Conserve water.
  - Choose sustainable products.
- Shop wisely by buying less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.
  - Save energy by using energy efficient products.
  - Plant a tree.
- Choose non-toxic chemicals at home and in the office.
- Drive less. Walk, bike, car pool, use public transportation.

### Financial Report for February

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$21,731	\$43,696
Expenses	\$23,439	\$44,813
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(\$1,708)</b>	<b>(\$1,117)</b>

**Thank you for your faithful giving.**





## Parking Lot Hunger Drives

Mark your calendar for the next Hunger Drive:

**Friday, April 21st from 10:00 AM to noon.**

**The Wheeling Township Food Pantry  
needs your help now, more than ever!**

Emergency SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) allotments return to pre-pandemic levels as of March 1, although grocery prices have climbed 11.3%.

**Here's what that means:**

On average,

Individuals will receive \$82 less each month

Households with multiple people will receive \$223 less each month

Households with children will receive \$300 less each month

All donations are so appreciated by Wheeling Township and especially by those they serve! Feel free to bring your donations each Sunday. Ask your family, friends and neighbors to contribute also.

Spread the word: Tell your friends and neighbors!

*Please remember that we cannot accept fresh fruit or fresh vegetables.*

**THANK YOU** For your faithful and generous support of our monthly Parking Lot Hunger Drives!

## Small Groups

*"sharing in fellowship and spiritual enrichment"*

"Out to Lunch" is a newly organized small group that welcomes people who live alone to meet socially in a café to enjoy discussions, jokes, and sharing. The group will gather on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 for lunch or brunch – each person paying his or her own food bill. No obligation to come each month. Next gathering is April 19. Make your reservation in advance via the church office.

**Easy Exercise Class (EEC)** enjoys stretching and muscle-building with simple exercises every Monday morning in All Saints Hall at 9:30 AM. We do not believe in "no pain, no gain." Rather we are learning how to move our bodies at our own pace with simple movements that can also be done at home. We have eight to 12 men and women regularly attending the class but there is plenty of room for more. Everyone in the class agrees that it is good way to start the week!



## WHAT'S NEW IN SOCIAL MINISTRY

We are blessed again this year to be able to help ministries each month by what we call the Generosity Fund. A family in our church is funding this \$700.00/month gift again in 2023. What a blessing for the Social Ministry to give to ministries outside our own that do good works in the community!

In March, \$700 went to **Lutheran Disaster Response** of the ELCA teaming with Lutheran World Relief for the earthquake survivors providing critically needed care like water, medical care, shelter, & essential supplies.

## RENEW, REVISE & REKINDLE TASK FORCE

The six church members of this Task Force recently held their *final meeting*. Three years ago, the Renew, Revise, and Rekindle Task Force was established by the church board to look at possibilities to *renew* our congregation's mission "Make Christ known every day in all we do and say"; to *revise* our way of thinking about the church and explore what the community is looking for spiritually; and *rekindle* our congregation by welcoming people of diversity of ages & cultures.

At our final meeting, the Task Force team discussed how many of the goals were accomplished with guidance from the Holy Spirit:

- + researched other congregations' websites, video & printed communications.
- + looked for new ways to reach out to community during Covid-19 Pandemic.
- + new easy-to-read outdoor church signage plus smaller boulevard signs.
- + sent postcards to neighborhood households each of the three years --  
determined that "seeds" were planted about our church and Jesus Christ.
- + organized a Congregational Gathering where members discussed ideas on how to share their faith with others and signed up to participate in small groups.
- + Small Group Ministry was introduced and currently has 9 active small groups where people get to know each other and share concerns.
- + welcomed new members into our congregation in 2021. Last year, God blessed us with La Iglesia Spanish congregation meeting in our building.
- + hosted a Community Gathering in Fall 2022 in our lovely backyard where 12 non-profit/community organizations and towns provided information.

Recommendations for the future to committees and members include activities and outreach; plus establish a deep relationship with one or more community organizations that participated in our Community Gathering.

## Kingswood Summer Suppers

Below is an update on the PADS location.

Dear PADS Volunteers,

Thank you for all the donations and help you provided for our hotel meals. Beginning in May, Kingswood will stop providing hotel meals and begin offering Summer Suppers. This program provides dinner to anyone in the community that needs a meal. The meals are hosted by a group of local churches from May through September. Dinner is served from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm almost every night each month.

Kingswood will participate by offering indoor dining on the following Tuesday evenings: **May 2, May 30, June 6, July 18, August 1 and September 5.** In order to keep it simple, our plan is to barbecue the main dish item (with help from the Kingswood men's group) and include sides, beverage and dessert.

If you would like to participate, we are looking for volunteers to:

- Provide a food item for the meal (main dish, side dish, dessert, beverage)
- Help set up the gym for indoor dining (beginning at 5:30 pm)
- Help serve the meal (food will be plated and served)
- Help with cleanup
- Make a monetary donation to help purchase food and supplies

Please respond to both me and Mary Baranowski ([marybaro@gmail.com](mailto:marybaro@gmail.com)) if you are interested in helping and the date(s) you are available. We hope that you can join us in this worthwhile effort.

With gratitude,  
Susan Wilson  
Kingswood PADS Site Director







## *Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*

### *Christian Education*

The Adult Ed class is scheduled to meet the first and third Sundays of the month. Everyone is welcome to come to the Library/Lounge following the worship for a variety of interesting subjects are presented & discussed.

#### **Sunday, April 2**

Pastor Dave will give an overview and lead discussion on the **Gospel of Matthew**, lectionary text for 2023.

#### **Sunday, April 16**

*Gallop through the Bible lands from Abraham to St. Paul".* Researched and presented by Dick W. with map illustrations. It will be a unique and interesting presentation!

**Invite your friends and neighbors!**

Take a picture with your cell phone of the below QR code for easy access to our Facebook page or our Website.





During the Lenten season, our congregation supports the “40 Days of Giving” efforts of ELCA World Hunger to reach out and help people in need. Every day one hears about the droughts, disasters, lack of housing, and hungry & thirsty folks throughout the world and in our own country. If you would like to contribute to ELCA World Hunger, please consider writing a check (*made out to Good Shepherd with ELCA World Hunger on Memo line*) or drop currency in the Coin/Dollar Jar in the Narthex. Our campaign of “40 Days of Giving” will conclude on Easter Sunday.

Thanks be to God for you!

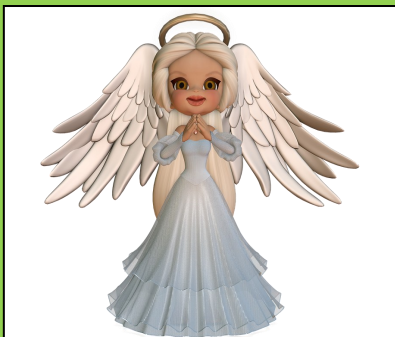


Thank you to Lynn & Barbara S., Bud & Shirley B., Don & Jan Z., and Barb & Bill K. for delivering Meals on Wheels through Wheeling Township during the month of March.

Have you seen our newest member?



## Angel services wanted



The altar is one of the most important parts of a church service. The altar guild is a faithful group that devotes their time to set up, maintain and clean the altar.

The LCGS **Altar Guild** is looking for additional members (angels to volunteer). If you or someone you know is interested, please speak to Denise M. or an **Altar Guild** Member.

**Altar Guild volunteers** set up for Communion prior to services and clean up following services 2 times every 3-4 months.

## Lenten Supper on March 29th

Some of La Iglesia members joined LCGS for a nice supper followed by Mid-Week Lenten Worship.



## Holy Week Schedule



**Maundy Thursday Service is**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

**Good Friday Service is**

**April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**



**Easter Sunday Service is**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**



# April 2023

## *Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:30 AM Communion 10:00 AM La Iglesia - ASH 10:30 AM Adult Christian Education	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM EEC - Easy Exercise Class 6:30 PM TOPS	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Abigail Circle 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Finance 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Choir Practice	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM Rebekah Circle	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM Thurs Nite AA 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Bible Study 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship	<b>8</b> 8:00 AM Men's Study Group
<b>9</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:30 AM Communion 10:00 AM La Iglesia - ASH	<b>10</b> 9:30 AM EEC - Easy Exercise Class 6:30 PM TOPS	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM Board of Ministers 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Choir Practice	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM Thurs Nite AA	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Bible Study	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM Cursillo
<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Communion 10:00 AM La Iglesia - ASH 10:30 AM Adult Christian Education	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM EEC - Easy Exercise Class 6:30 PM TOPS	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Choir Practice	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Thurs Nite AA	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM Hunger Drive in Parking Lot 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Bible Study	<b>22</b> 8:00 AM Men's Study Group
<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Communion 10:00 AM La Iglesia - ASH 10:45 AM Exploring the Gospel	<b>24</b> 9:30 AM EEC - Easy Exercise Class 6:30 PM TOPS	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Choir Practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Thurs Nite AA	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Bible Study	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Communion 10:00 AM La Iglesia - ASH						



# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA*

*A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION*

1111 N. Elmhurst Road  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Phone: 847-537-4353

Email the church office at  
[goodshepnk@aol.com](mailto:goodshepnk@aol.com)

Rev. David Beese, Pastor

Gloria Sun Oh, Director of Music for Traditional Services

Susan Baushke, Director of Musical Ensembles

Teresa Swinson, Office Administrator

Office hours: Monday – Friday

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

*“Knowing Christ and Making Him Known”*

We're on the web:  
[www.lcgoodshepherd.com](http://www.lcgoodshepherd.com)

