

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**1111 N. Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070**

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# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

## MAY 2021



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Lent a huge success!

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## The Dawn Has Arrived

We celebrated EASTER Sunday 4 weeks ago, but we are still in the season of EASTER for 3 more Sundays. And in fact, every Sunday throughout the year is an EASTER celebration. If Christ has not been raised, you and I would not have any reason to gather every week.

The RESURRECTION: We get small glimpses of this already. When people comment excitedly about their new-found understanding and appreciation of the grace of God and the new peace they have found in life. When members witness to their hope and trust from sick-beds and deathbeds. When the worried look on the faces of parents of a hungry family clearly shows signs of hope again when they leave the Wheeling Food Pantry. When people comment that having been at worship the past Sunday somehow makes a qualitative difference in their lives through the whole week. When a Sunday School child “catches on” and you can see the young mind racing, anxious to share the meaning of a new discovery by relating a recent life-experience. And so on and so on...

That's what the RESURRECTION is all about!! We get small glimpses of its future reality for us when people struggle out of the dark, when they face darkness with a light of their own, when somehow the (Risen) body of Christ signals the presence of a new energy, an eternal promise that's here, real and available in the middle of an excruciating existence.

“And no one and no thing can ever separate you from the love of God, which is ours in Jesus Christ, our Lord.” Romans 8:39

“O Thou who hast given us so much, mercifully give us one thing more: A grateful heart.”

***Pastor Dave***







## Easter Thank You's!!

We are so blessed to have such dedicated people in our congregation! We could not have been ready for Easter - our first indoor worship service in months — without the help of the generous people who stepped up to make this happen. We hope you were as blessed to be back as we were to have you back!



## Social Ministry's Ongoing Donation



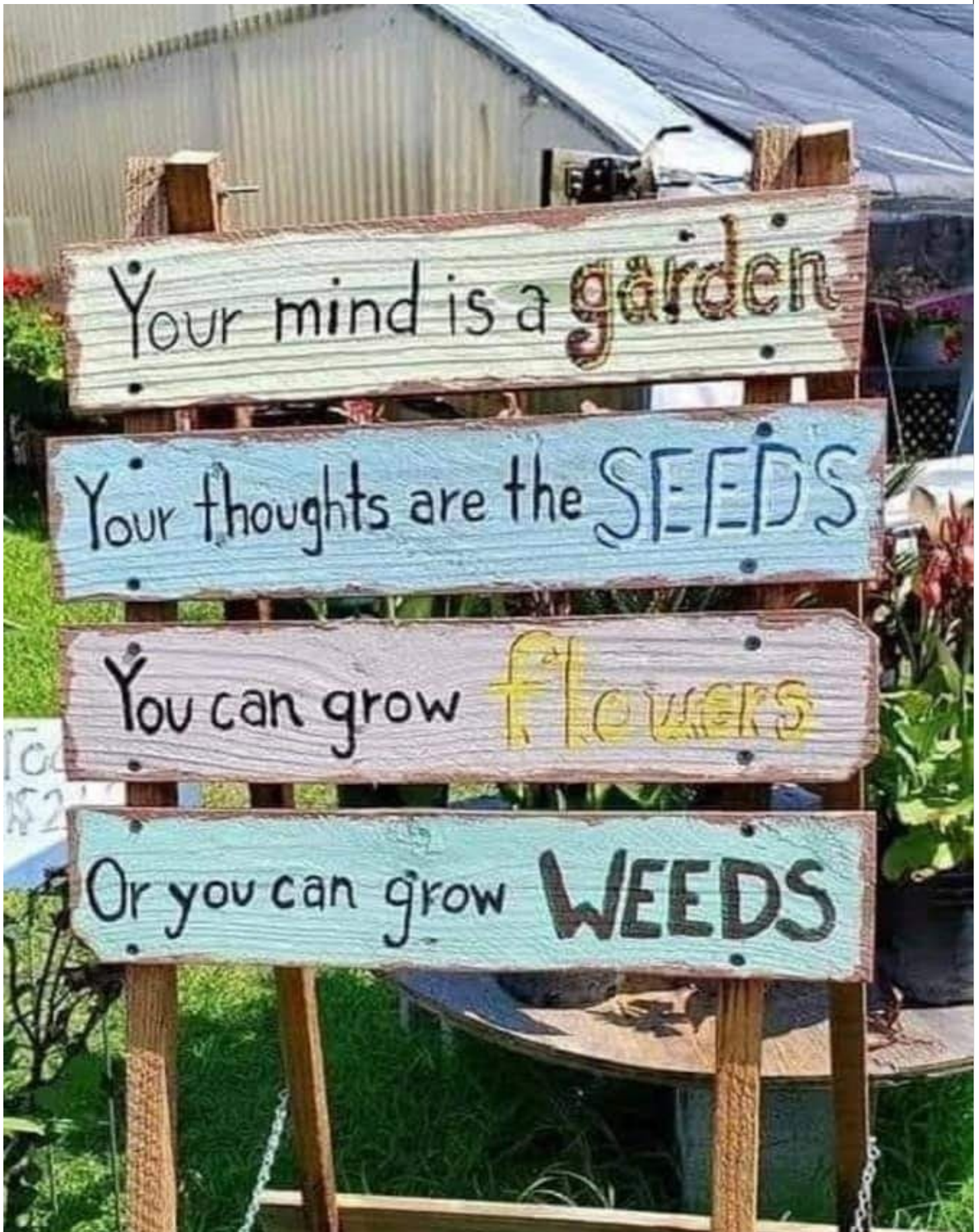
The Social Ministry Committee continues to be blessed by our ability to help worthy organizations with our Generosity Fund. In April, the donation of \$600.00 was given to the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, which is urgently working with their network of service partners, community groups, and volunteers to address the critical needs of the children at the southern border. These children are supposed to receive certain protections & care under the law. The large influx has resulted in hundreds of children arriving each day. These needs include working to reunite them with family members here in the United States. Our thanks, once again, to the generous contributors who have made these donations possible!

## ELCA World Hunger's 40 DAYS of Giving -

### 40 DAYS OF GIVING DURING LENT

Alleluia! God's light shines through our generosity! Thank you for your dedication and financial contributions to *40 Days of Giving* during the 2021 Lenten season. Our congregation's total donation from various sources to support the ministry of ELCA World Hunger is \$5,045. Together we show our love and care to those in need as Jesus taught us!







## HYMN FOR DISTRAUGHT CHOIR DIRECTORS

(to the tune of "Immortal, Invisible")

1. Immoral, impossible, God only knows  
how tenors and basses, sopranos, altos  
at service on Sunday are rarely the same  
as those who on Thursday to choir practice came.
2. Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,  
nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their throats.  
The descant so piercing is soaring above  
a melody only a mother could love.
3. They have a director, but no one knows why;  
no one in the choir deigns to turn him an eye.  
It's clear by his flailing, he wants them to look,  
but each singer stands there with nose in the book.
4. Despite the offenses, the music rings out.  
The folks in the pews are enraptured, no doubt.  
Their faces are blissful, their thoughts appear deep,  
but this is no wonder, for they are asleep.

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What did the pirate say when he turned 80?

“Aye Matey.”

## BOARD BRIEFS

At the Board of Ministers meeting on Tuesday, April 13th, the following was discussed:

1. We're hoping to have a flower sale this spring; if it happens it may look a little different than in the past. But profits would still go to the Mission fund. Gary S. will keep us posted.
2. Looks like the butterfly garden (via the interfaith group) is a GO. They will provide seeds and plants, we just have to have a few volunteers to maintain it. Location will be on the west side around the corner from the kitchen door.
3. The Synod assembly is June 5 and will be virtual. Let Pastor Dave know if you would like to be one of our 2 delegates.
4. We are trying to rebuild the Christian Education group. This group would plan for all facets of education, children and adults. Contact Pastor Dave or Bev M. with your ideas for growing our Sunday School, Adult Ed., Bible Study, or other programs.

### Financial Report for March

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$19,759	\$52,347
Expenses	20,146	59,473
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(\$ 387)</b>	<b>(\$ 7,126)</b>



This is the day which the  
LORD hath made; we will  
rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24 (KJV)

## This Is the Day

This is the day  
That the Lord has made.  
I will rejoice  
And be glad in it.  
O this is the day  
That the Lord has made.  
I will rejoice  
And be glad in it.

Scripture is always prompting us to embrace today. "Now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2); "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15). God knows we can only live in the present, and He encourages us to make good use of it.

This day is our gift from God. We can waste it with regrets over our past or worries about our future. We can squander it trying to outrun yesterday's miseries. We can ignore it, lost in our wishful thinking. It's up to us to decide what to do with it. God would have us make the most of this day. What are you seeking for tomorrow? More opportunities? Better relationships? Personal growth? Embrace today. Learn the lessons the Lord requires of you today. Be faithful with the things God entrusts you with today. Let God's presence sustain you through this day's trials. Rejoice in the opportunities God brings to you today.

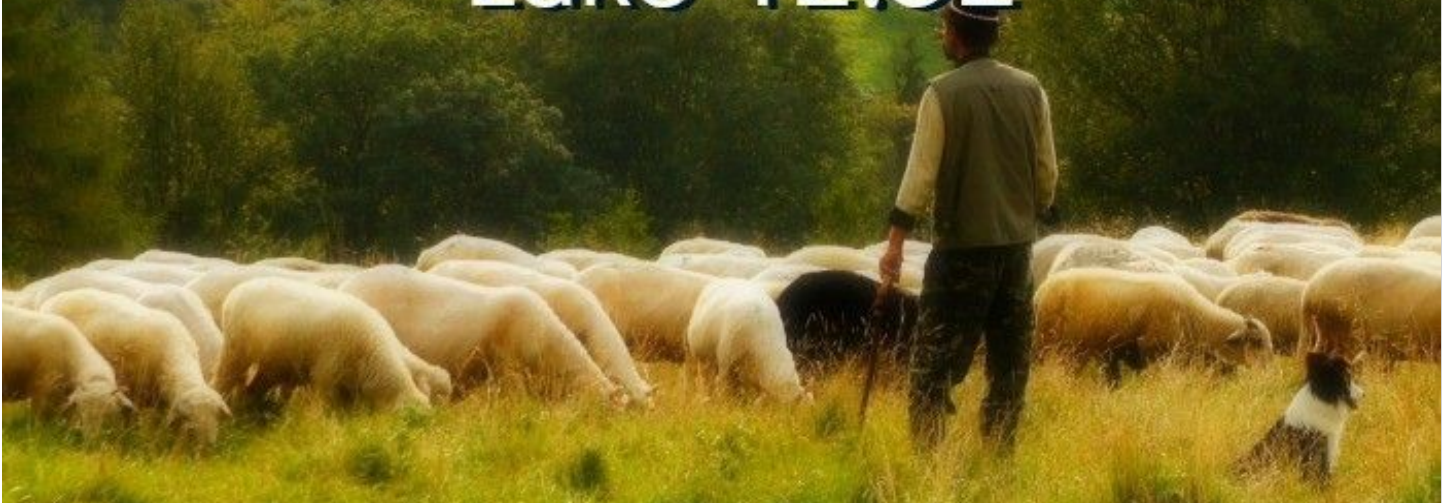
God has a future for you, but you have to live in today to get there. Step out in faith when God asks you to trust Him. This is the day that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad!

*This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)*

**PRAYER:** Ask Jesus to help you trust the past and the future into His hands. Affirm that He will lead you into His future for you and prepare you for it, as you are faithful today. Then listen to what He has called you to do today.



Fear not, little flock,  
for it is your  
Father's good  
pleasure to give you  
the kingdom.  
-Luke 12:32







## JOYS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Jesus said to his disciples: "Let the little children come to me: do not stop them for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Mark 10:14*

*The two May Sunday School sessions will meet in person at church!! If you know a child ages 3-11 years who does not have a church home, please invite them to experience the Joys of Sunday School at Good Shepherd. Information and registration forms are available by contacting the church office.*

Spring has sprung and April was an exciting month for Sunday School lessons. Once again, lessons were sent through the mail. The beginning of the month, our lesson centered on John 20:19-31. The "Doubting Thomas" story was a great lesson to explore right after celebrating Easter. We all have our doubts at times, just like Thomas. Taking that leap of faith and believing that Jesus rose from the dead, without seeing it for ourselves, brings us to the take-away verse for this lesson, "blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!"

The second lesson of the month was on the 4th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday. In this lesson, centered on John 10:11-18, we explored what it means to celebrate Jesus as our Good Shepherd. We looked at what the attributes of a "good" shepherd are. Words such as nurturing, caring, guiding, and protecting were highlighted. We also acknowledged how we sometimes feel stressed and afraid, just like the lamb in the story who was lost. We noted that ways to handle our stress, such as our faith and prayer, can bring us peace and bring us closer to our loving God. Thank you Good Shepherd!

We had a nice selection of songs this month from Mrs. Barb. Always uplifting! We can't wait until our voices are joined together in praise and song!

There are only two more sessions of Joys of Sunday School  
before the summer break!

Sunday, May 9 - Class meets at 10:30 AM  
Sunday, May 23 - Class meets at 10:30 AM

# Spring Fling Medley



*These are a Few  
of My Favorite Things*

*A Virtual Event*

BENEFITING LSSI'S FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Join us for this year's Spring Fling Medley, and treat yourself to a four-course cook-along class from a master chef, learn how to make new cocktails, "walk" on the beach alongside a master naturalist, dish about the British royal family, try out chair yoga, and more! To view the full schedule with session descriptions, visit [LSSI.org/SpringFling](https://LSSI.org/SpringFling).

Spring Fling Medley is presented by the Women's Network of LSSI. Every dollar raised will support LSSI's Foster Care Program and the many children and families we serve each year. Watch testimonials from our foster families, and learn how your support is changing lives.

## Spring Fling Medley

Wednesday, May 12 to Saturday, May 15, 2021

Tickets are \$45 per person, which includes access to all events.

**Register Now!**



The Renew, Revise and Rekindle Task Force met twice in March as the eight participants continued to discuss ideas and communications for reaching out to the congregation and surrounding community. As it gets closer to having safe gatherings, our advance preparations can start to take shape for summer and autumn. Thanks be to God!



# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA*

*A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION*

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Rev. David Beese, Pastor

Gloria Sun Oh, Organist

Susan Baushke, Choir Director

Nancy Krieg, Office Administrator

COVID-19 Office hours: Monday – Friday

8:00 AM to noon

*“Knowing Christ and Making Him Known”*

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

