

## St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Mark Gaschler, **Vacancy Pastor**

Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, **Organist**

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### Member - Linn Lutheran School Association

Email: [linnluth@bluevalley.net](mailto:linnluth@bluevalley.net)

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Principal & Teacher: Mr. David Beikmann; Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel,

Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Emily Harding, & Mrs. Renae Bott

**May 11, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Gaschler, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

### Liturgy - Divine Service Setting Three (pg. 184)

**Opening Hymn:** 740 "I am Jesus' Little Lamb"

**Hymn of the Day:** 709 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

**Distribution Hymn:** 710 "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

**Distribution Hymn:** 622 "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

**Distribution Hymn:** 630 "Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling"

**Closing Hymn:** 791 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

### Prayer Requests

Please email prayer requests to Pastor Gaschler at

[pastormarkgaschler@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarkgaschler@gmail.com).

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

**Angie Reinert, Marilyn Ohlde, Lorna Heitman, Loren Bott, JoAnn Ohlde, Gladys Stone, & Marilynne Ohlde** (nursing home); **Addie Voelker & Micah Helms** (cancer)

**Acolyte today** - Hendrix Stunkel

**Acolyte Sun., May 18th** - Lydia Voelker

**Ushers today** - \*Daniel Nabors, Aiden Sweet, Greyson Ohlde, & Emitt Tiemeyer

**Ushers May 18** - \*Ryan Stuenkel, Zac Hiltgen, Dylan Ohlde, & Mason Tiemeyer

### Upcoming Events

**May 11** 8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

**May 14** 6:30 p.m. LLS Preschool & 8th Grade Graduation at St. John

**May 18** 8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

### Announcements

- Life Choice Ministries in Manhattan is in urgent need of diapers. Sizes 5,6,7. LWML will be collecting diapers from April 28 through May 18. Please put your donation in the box in the back of the church.
- Linn Lutheran Preschool Graduation will be **Wed., May 14**, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John. There are eight preschoolers that will graduate on to kindergarten. 8th grade graduation will follow at 7:00 p.m. at St. John. We have seven 8th grade students graduating this year. There will be refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards.
- Last day of school for Linn Lutheran is **Thursday, May 15**. Closing Chapel at Zion will be at 8:30am. It will be a full day of school.
- Bethlehem's LYF is having their annual Mother's Day Smorgasbord **today, May 11th**, from 11 am to 1 pm. Adults \$12 and kids 6 - 12 \$6.
- Adam, Ben and Daniel invite you to come and celebrate our parents' (Neal & Janis Kurtz) 50th wedding anniversary with us on **Saturday, June 14th**. Open house at their home from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. (330 West Fremont Street O'Neill, NE 68763) Snacks and a light meal will be served. No gifts (please). We would just love to spend time with you remembering past days (years).
- Donation slips for the capital campaign to fund the construction of a new parsonage were placed in your bulletin boxes. Please prayerfully consider what you would donate toward this major project for the long-term benefit of our church. We have a minimum goal of raising \$450,000, which is the estimated price of building a new parsonage.

### As We Gather...

### The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came from the Father and became flesh among us in order to rescue us, His sheep. He laid down His life for us and took it up again in order to give us eternal life. By the preaching of His Gospel, He calls His sheep to Himself and keeps them with Him forever. As they hear His voice and follow Him, "they will never perish" (John 10:28), for "no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand" (John 10:29). In the same way, faithful pastors (literally, "shepherds") "care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" (Acts 20:28), "testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). Therefore, with all the company of heaven, the Good Shepherd gathers His flock in worship, as they cry: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:10).

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily, according to Holy Scripture, do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. Mark Gaschler, Vacancy Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination:

- ☐ I admit that I am a sinner. **(1 John 1:8-10)**
- ☐ I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death. **(Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6)**
- ☐ I desire to live as God wants me to. **(John 14:15; 1 John 2:6)**
- ☐ I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again. **(John 3:16; Romans 8:14; & 1 John 5:11-12)**
- ☐ I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood. **(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Luke 22:17-20)**
- ☐ I forgive those who have wronged me.

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### Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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**Introit** (*Psalm 78:70–72; 79:13; 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.

**He chose David his servant and took him from the | sheepfolds;\***  
**from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob**  
**his people, Israel his in- | heritance.**

**With upright heart he shep- | herded them\***  
**and guided them with his | skillful hand.**

**But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you**  
**for- | ever;\***

**from generation to generation we will re- | count your praise.**

**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.

### Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

- LCMS memory verse challenge: **Psalm 103:13** - "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him."

## First Reading: *Acts 20:17-35*

<sup>17</sup> Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup> And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup> And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, <sup>27</sup> for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. <sup>32</sup> And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

## 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.**

## Epistle Reading: *Revelation 7:9-17*

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> “Therefore they are before the throne of God,  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

## Verse (*Romans 6:9; John 10:14*)

**Alleluia.** We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. **Alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading: *John 10:22-30*

<sup>22</sup> At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.”



# Catechetical Review

## An Explanation of the Small Catechism The Apostles' Creed – The Second Article (Cont.)

### The Savior in the State of Exaltation

#### 149. What do the Scriptures teach about Christ's second coming?

A. Christ will return visibly and with great glory on the Last Day.

513 **Matthew 24:27** - As lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

514 **Luke 21:27** - At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

515 **Acts 1:11** - "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you to heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

516 **2 Peter 3:10** - The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

517 **Revelation 1:7** - Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen.

B. Christ will return to judge the world, not to set up an earthly government.

518 **Matthew 25:31-32** - When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

519 **John 12:48** - There is a judge for the one who rejects Me and does not accept My words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

520 **John 18:36** - Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world."

521 **2 Corinthians 5:10** - We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

*Bible narrative:* The final judgment (**Matthew 25:31-46**).

C. Christ will return on a specific day known by God alone.

522 **Matthew 24:44** - You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.

523 **Mark 13:32** - No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

524 **Acts 17:31** - He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed.

*Bible narrative:* The parable of the 10 virgins (**Matthew 25:1-13**).



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