

# Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

1205 North Lincoln Ave O'Fallon, IL  
(618) 632-0126  
www.mybslc.org  
Worship –9:30 am.

Rev. Vernon Lintvedt, Pastor  
Assisting: Seminarian Matt Martin  
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist  
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 am

**Easter 4**

**April 30, 2023**

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 06 – Prayer Vigil (6AM -12PM) Prayer helps will be available.  
Congratulations to Seminarian Matt Martin who has received his vicarage  
assignment to Christ LC, Remsen, IA



## OPENING HYMN No. 475

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Lord of life is ris’n this day;  
Bring flow’rs of song to strew His way;  
Let all the world rejoice and say:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise we in songs of victory  
That love, that life which cannot die,  
And sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## INVOCATION

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C:** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: The Lord is our Good Shepherd;

C: **He leads us and restores our souls.**

L: He walks beside us through the darkness

C: **and never abandons us, even in death.**

L: He goes before us and prepares a table for us,

C: **and we will dwell in His house forever.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father. *(Silence for reflection)*

L: Heavenly Father,

C: **we have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.**

L: Though we have strayed, Jesus always keeps searching for us. Though we have been lost in our priorities, Jesus is always and ever devoted to us. We see this most clearly as almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for us, and for His sake forgives us all your sins. Jesus, the Good Shepherd presents Himself to us also as the door to the abundant life, saying, "If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." May He who carries us in His arms also bring us through the door of eternal life; in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.**

## SHARING THE PEACE

### SONG OF PRAISE

"You're Worthy of My Praise"

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Good Shepherd who has brought together sheep from every tribe, nation, and language to be one flock ever following You. Strengthen us to devote ourselves to Your Word and Sacraments, to prayer and fellowship, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**FIRST READING**     *Acts 2:42–47* (Devoted to the Apostles' teaching, prayer, fellowship, and the breaking of the bread)

**PSALM**     *Psalm 23*     (*A Shepherd Devoted to His Sheep*)

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

**C: He makes me lie down in green pastures.**

L; He leads me beside still waters.

**C: He restores my soul.**

L: He leads me in paths of righteousness

**C: for his name's sake.**

L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

**C: I will fear no evil,**

L: for you are with me;

**C: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**C: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

**C: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**EPISTLE**     *1 Peter 2:19–25*

(We are returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.)

**VERSE**     *Romans 6:9; John 10:14*

L: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

**C: I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia!**

**HOLY GOSPEL**      *John 10:1–10* (Jesus is the door of the sheep.)

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

C:      **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

L:      This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C:      **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN No. 709**      “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

**The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His  
And He is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,  
My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death’s dark vale I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight  
From Thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever.**

**SERMON**      “A Devoted Shepherd for Wayward Sheep”      Ps. 23      Pastor Vern

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED *stand*

**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

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**L:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C:** **within Thy house forever.**

**L:** Lord Jesus Christ, we have filled our lives with so much busyness and chaos. Help us to remove those things from our lives which are not beneficial, so that we may lead lives that are devoted to Your Word and Sacraments, to prayer and fellowship. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C:** **within Thy house forever.**

**L:** Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all pastors, missionaries, musicians, educators, and all who serve within Your one holy Christian and apostolic Church. Embolden them to teach Your Word that restores the souls of Your people. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C:** **within Thy house forever.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Carry on Your broad shoulders all who grieve any loss today. Anoint with Your soothing Word, all who are in need of healing or comfort. Today we call out to You on behalf of all who are suffering any affliction of body, mind, or spirit. Hear our prayers on behalf of **(congregation may call out names...We give thanks to You, O Lord, for the many times You have restored lives and fixed the brokenness of our lives. We thank You today for restoring Diana Schefelker's mother, Doris whose ankle has mended so that she has been able to return to her home. For all who are still awaiting healing touch of ouron the mend and for those still seeking restoration,** Point them and us to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with You, where You will prepare a table before us, and we shall dwell in Your house forever. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C: within Thy house forever.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we ask Your blessing upon all who labor in the agriculture industry, for farmers, ranchers, shepherds, and all who tend animals and grow food. Give them seasonable weather and joy in their labors. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C: within Thy house forever.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that You would open a door for Your Word that we might proclaim Your excellencies to those who have not yet believed in Your name, that they might be sheep of Your pasture and sing Your praises with us. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C: within Thy house forever.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon our loved ones celebrating birthdays this week. Give Your good gifts to **Autumn Kesting, Pastor Perry Schefelker, Oliver Sanchez, Kris McManus, Kyle Kesting and Kasen Schefelker.** Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C: within Thy house forever.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and tend to our needs as our Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C: within Thy house forever. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**                      *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

L: Unite us, O God, as one flock, with One Shepherd who leads us to pray saying:

**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 OF THE LORD**     *Numbers 6:24–26*

**HYMN No. 461**     “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (vss. 1,4,6,8)

**I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever living head!**

**He lives to grant me rich supply;  
He lives to guide me with His eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint;  
He lives to hear my soul’s complaint.**

**He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly friend;  
He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while He lives, I’ll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!**

**He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence give:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

**SENDING**

**L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
C:     Thanks be to God!**