

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF MAY 1, 2022

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jim Cleveland; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Cindy; Darlene Welsh

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Caland & Alex Sembach in loving memory of Wayne Sembach and in joyful anticipation of the resurrection of all flesh.

CHOIR: rehearsal TODAY at 11:30 to sing some Pentecost pieces. New faces and voices are always welcome!

EDLERS & CHURCH COUNCIL meet this Tuesday, May 3, at 6:00pm and 7:00pm, respectively.

NO GREEK, MATINS, BOOK OF CONCORD: Pastor & Vicar will be in Fort Wayne for meetings most of Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Greek study, Matins, and Book of Concord study are all canceled. Many apologies for the confusion and this inconvenience! Join us again next week.

VICARAGE ASSIGNMENT: congratulations to Sem. Scott Woodhouse, who has been assigned to serve our congregation as Vicar for the 2022-23 vicarage year. Scott will be installed Sunday, July 31, at both services.

CALENDAR

Sun. May 1 (Easter 3 - Misericordias)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Choir rehearsal
Tue. May 3	8:30am Greek Study <i>canceled</i> 6:00pm / 7:00pm Elders / Church Council
Wed. May 4	8:30am Matins <i>canceled</i> 9:00am Book of Concord Study <i>canceled</i> 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. May 5	7:00pm Bible Study (Ephesians)
Sun. May 8 (Easter 4 - Jubilate)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Choir rehearsal

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This week is the Third Week of Easter. In Latin it is called *Misericordias Domini*. Many know it affectionately as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” And it is easy to see why! All three readings deal with the theme that the Lord is our Shepherd. You might wonder whether Psalm 23 ought to be included in our worship! In fact, you’ll notice that our Hymn of the Day, #709 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is,” is a paraphrase of Psalm 23. How many phrases can you find which come from that beloved Psalm?

I want to take a moment to speak about the Latin name for this week of the church year. *Misericordias Domini* means “tender mercies of the Lord.” As with most of the Latin names throughout the church year, it is from the first line of the Introit, which is in Latin *Misericordia Domini plena est terra*: “The earth is full of the tender mercies of the Lord.” You might notice the translation we use in church has “steadfast love” instead of “tender mercies,” but the idea is much the same.

And how appropriate this idea is in the midst of a day all about the Lord being our Shepherd! As we consider Psalm 23, as we hear the readings today, notice how the focus is entirely on the mercy God has toward us. Even in our sins, even when we wander, our Good Shepherd seeks us out, binds up our wounds, and welcomes us back into the fold. I don’t think it’s a coincidence that this Sunday comes right after the Sunday about Thomas! Thomas was missing for a week, not where he belonged with Jesus and his fellow disciples. But Jesus came again, just like before, with words of mercy and forgiveness and peace.

So it is for all of us. We might go astray from time to time. We might wander off the path, away from our brothers and sisters, away from the church. But our Good Shepherd Jesus never gives up. He seeks us out and brings us home. We have no evil to fear, not even the shadow of death, when the Lord is our Shepherd. He is our Good Shepherd, after all! He lays down his life for His sheep. The earth is full of the tender mercies of the Lord. And our Good Shepherd always cares for us, even unto eternity. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.