

THE PARISH CONNECTION



**Tri-County Lutheran Parish
Issued on April 28, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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From Pastor Beth

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain. "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

These verses from Genesis 4 were part of our Bible study this past week. Cain used these words to distance himself from what he had done referring to keeping track of the location of his brother. Of course, Cain was lying as he knew where Abel's body lay. What does it mean to you to be your brother's keeper?

Let's start with what it doesn't mean. To be your brother's keeper does not mean that we keep track of another's movements, take care of their every need, fix their problems, or force them to do what we want them to do even if it would be good for them. When we do these things, it is really about our own needs and emotions or even a symptom of our lack of control in life. But forcing ourselves on others to fulfill our own needs only leads to resentment, anger, and hurt.

To be a brother's keeper is not about us. Take a look at Martin Luther's explanation of the 5th and 7th commandments. The 5th commandment states that you shall not murder. Luther writes "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need." The 7th commandment states that you shall not steal. Luther writes "We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income." Both of these commandments are about caring about our brothers and sisters, not controlling them.

Luther would have us examine our motives in all our interactions with others. Help a neighbor with yard work because you see they could use the help, not because you think they are doing it wrong or you don't like what they are doing! Take a meal to someone because you know they could use the company. Hold a door or elevator because you notice

someone with their arms full or in a hurry. Invite someone to church because you hope they will find a meaningful encounter with God, not because your congregation could use another person in the pew.

Luther points us to the needs of others and away from ourselves and our own motives. When we serve others for their sake, not our own, we are truly serving God.

News and Information

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sam (whiteginger20@gmail.com) or Pastor Beth (chellman4557@gmail.com) should you have a pastoral care concern. If you would like to reach both pastors at the same time, please email clergy@tclparish.org.

- If you have a congregational concern, please contact your council president.
- If you have a parish concern, please contact TCLP board president Harry Avery (harryavery@yahoo.com).
- If you have a Human Resources concern, contact Phyllis Keeler at poetphyl@gmail.com or Jeannette Wilber at tam20kfw@tclparish.org.

Bible Study & Book Study

Bible Study Schedule

May 3rd (7PM) and 4th (10AM) - Vicar Care
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82942949555>)

May 10th (7PM) and 11th (10AM) - Pastor Sam
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84463965481>)

May 17th (7PM) and 18th (10AM) - Pastor Beth
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>)

May 24th (7PM) and 25th (10AM) - Vicar Care
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82942949555>)

May 31st/June 1st - No Bible Study for Memorial Day observance
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

Book Study Schedule: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117264894>

***Sunday, May 2nd Zoom service will be from Emanuel's at 8:30 a.m.
with Pastor Samantha Perret***

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84926059309>

To Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone for Worship

Use this Meeting ID: 849 260 59309

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,88996300296# US (New York)

Dial by your location:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 849 260 59309

Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJTm PrA-l1qlv8PJ-g>

Social Media Sharing

Hopefully, you now understand the difference between our Facebook group and page. So, let's look more closely at the page. These are the public things that we really want you to share such as our worship services, special events, and other public information.

Why is this an important step? Because that is how we get the word out!

When you share a post from our page to your newsfeed, all your friends will be able to see it. And when each Facebook user in the whole parish does it, that's a lot of free advertising. Even if you are going to worship in-person, please still share the zoom worship information. We have been getting

some visitors on zoom because of this. It can be a first step to getting people to join us in person.

If you have questions or need more technical help, please just ask. Let's make the most of this free tool so others will know we are here.

The Parish Prayer Group is meeting the first and third Tuesdays at 4PM via Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Sam.

We have reached out to many of the youth and parents in our parish regarding a Parish-wide Sunday School. From the feedback we received, **we will be starting this in the fall**, when we can hopefully have Sunday School in person! Please stay tuned for more information!

If you need food, necessities, masks, or help of any kind, please reach out to one of us. We have plenty of resources available to us in our parish and we are excited to be God's hands and feet for each other!

Donate Blood In Honor Of Pam Polashenski



Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood. Blood is needed for many different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend involved in a car accident. Please schedule an appointment to donate at this special blood drive. You'll feel good knowing you've helped change the lives of patients in need.

Northern Columbia County Pints for Pam Blood Drive St Luke's Church

1010 Kinderhook Street, Valatie
Church Hall

**Friday, May 7, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

To schedule your appointment,
please call 1-800-RED CROSS,
visit www.RedCrossBlood.org, or,
download the free Blood Donor App.
Use sponsor code: northerncolumbiacounty

Power Red Donation available at this drive!

**Come to give May 1-15 for a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email
from Suburban Propane. rcblood.org/life**



American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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Opportunity to Help!!! Columbia County Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers. Most volunteers do one or two days a week. Most routes take about an hour to an hour and a half at the most. The volunteers do not enter the individual's home, they place the meal on a table or chair outside the door, knock, back up 6 feet and wait for the individual to answer the door. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Amy Anderson, Nutrition Program Coordinator @ 518-672-5323.

Pr. Sam's MMC (Mutual Ministry Committee)

Do you have any comments, questions, or constructive critiques concerning Pr. Sam? Perhaps you really enjoyed the way she did something, or perhaps you have a suggestion. Your feedback is very much desired and appreciated. You may either contact her directly, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may contact the MMC using this email distribution list: mmcps@tclparish.org, which will automatically send an email to the entire team (except Pr. Sam.)

OR you may contact individual members:

Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Karen Schubert 4schubertkara4@gmail.com (H) 518-731-1190

A Note from your Parish Admin, Sharon Smith

Send me your prayer additions, questions, Parish Connection updates, and anything else you may need to ask me to parishadmin@tclparish.org. Please submit for the bulletins and the Parish Connection as soon as possible, however by Monday, noon is preferred.

My hours are: 9 am - 3:45 pm. My lunch time is 1pm -2 pm and I will not be available during this time. You can, however, always leave a voicemail at: (518) 758-6526 or send an email to: parishadmin@tclparish.org

Should I have to leave the office for any reason, I will leave a note as to when I will be back. Peace, Sharon

Bible Study

Have you ever said, "I don't know the Bible stories well enough to talk to people about faith"? Have you forgotten some of those stories you learned back in Sunday School? Or are you new to the faith and finding some of the stories confusing?

In Bible Study, we will be going back to the basics to examine some major Bible stories! We will listen to the stories, hear what God is doing in the story, see how these stories impact our own lives and make God's story our own.

The clergy team will take turns leading and hosting this new study so keep an eye on the Parish Connection for the appropriate link! We will be meeting on Mondays on Zoom at 7pm and Tuesdays on Zoom at 10am. For April 26 & 27 here is the link for both: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>)

Book Study

The TCLP book study has started with a new book: Erika Lee's America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States. We are looking into the history of anti-Asian racism.

If you are interested, please join us on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117264894>

2021 TCLP Board

Harry Avery	Chair	harryavery@tclparish.org
Jackie Menagh	Vice-Chair	jamsprit@tclparish.org
Teresa Avery	Recorder	harryavery@yahoo.com
Chuck Race	Treasurer	ctracejr@tclparish.org

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH MAY

May 2

Stuyvesant Falls & Valatie
Castleton
(E. Schodack)
Chatham & Hudson
Athens & Oak Hill

Pr. Sam
Pr. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher
SAM Duane Keeler
Pr. Beth
Vr. Care

May 9

Stuyvesant Falls & Valatie
Castleton & E. Schodack
Chatham & Hudson
Athens & Oak Hill

Vr. Care
SAM Duane Keeler
SAM Charles Senrick
Pr. Beth

May 16

Stuyvesant Falls & Valatie
Castleton & E. Schodack
Chatham & Hudson
Athens & Oak Hill

Pr. Beth
Vr. Care
Pr. Sam
SAM Charles Senrick

May 23 (Pentecost Sunday)

Stuyvesant Falls & Valatie
Castleton & E. Schodack
Chatham & Hudson
Athens & Oak Hill

Pr. Sam
Pr. Beth
Vr. Care
Pr. John Knarvik

May 30 (Holy Trinity Sunday)

Stuyvesant Falls & Valatie
Castleton & E. Schodack
Chatham & Hudson
Athens & Oak Hill

Vr. Care
Pr. Dan Hahn
SAM Duane Keeler
Pr. Sam

Congregation Announcements

In-person worship has returned!

Check your congregation's announcements.

EMANUEL, STUYVESANT FALLS

Contact – Leslie Dumont lesliesd35@gmail.com

In-person worship 8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Leslie Dumont	Term Expires 2023	President
Olivia Dumont	Term Expires 2022	Vice President
Linda Frick	Term Expires 2022	Co-Treasurer
*Dick Frick		Co-Treasurer
*Chuck Albertson		Secretary
Jennifer Dunn	Term Expires 2024	
Shirley McThenia	Term Expires 2024	
Pr. Sam	Ex Officio member	
Pr. Beth	Ex Officio member	

* Non-elected council member

PARISH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

Chair:	Harry Avery (Chair)
Primary:	Harry Avery
Alternate:	Chuck Albertson

Committees

OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)

Teresa Avery, Karen Albertson, Phyllis Keeler

WORSHIP COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)

Phyllis Keeler

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM (Parish Team)

Karen Albertson

HUMAN RESOURCES (Parish Committee)

Chair: Phyllis Keeler

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Parish Committee)

Will be from St. Luke's this year.

ST. LUKE'S, VALATIE

Contact -- Karen McIntyre klym61@hotmail.com

In-person worship 10:30 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2021

Tim McGlaulin	Mike Schunk	Janis McGlaulin	Dana Berntson
Sharon Smith	Karen McIntyre	Gail Paone	Ted Fiebke

Council Officers

Karen McIntyre -- President

Ken Schomaker -- Treasurer (not on council)

Sharon Smith – Secretary

Sharon Campbell is the new financial secretary (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps – Tim McGlaulin, Jon Strodl

Readers during Worship

5/2	Karen Lasher
5/9	Ethan Race
5/16	Beegee Roppolo
5/23	Kara Udway
5/30	Sharon Smith

EMANUEL/ST. JOHN'S

Contact -- Richard Fitzgerald rfatbellspond@yahoo.com

In-person worship 11 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Brundage	President
Dick Fitzgerald	<u>Treasurer</u> (not a Council Member)
Debra Garrison	Secretary
Linda Baker	
Kirk Dixon	Sexton

TCLP Board Reps – Richard Fitzgerald, Joanne Lugert

ZION, ATHENS

Contact -- Gethen Proper gethen7@gmail.com

In-person worship 9 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Darling	President	518-943-4293
Tim Mercer	Vice President	518-859-1356
Bob O'Leary,	Treasurer	845-797-6084
<u>Gethen Proper</u>	Church & Financial Secretary	518-755-8395
<u>Carol Serazio</u>		518-731-9050
Karen Schubert		518-731-1190
John <u>Wais</u>		518-719-5754
John Van Valkenburg		518-945-1184

Financial Secretary needed! Please see Bill, Gethen or anyone on the Council.

TCLP Board Reps: Tim Mercer, Bob O'Leary

The many outreach projects of Zion are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for 2 action team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carrol Mercer Or Christine Wanek. If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member.

Associate Membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one-time Thrivent grant for \$250.00 for our congregation's outreach projects.

Contact Thrivent either by Phone at 845-849-1267, or at Thrivent.com.

Five Loaves Project -- MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED Thursday's @ 4:30 pm

ST. PAUL'S, OAK HILL

Contact – Jackie Menagh jamspirit@hardsdisk.net 518-256 2496 (cell)

In-person worship 11 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jackie <u>Menagh</u>	President	518-634-2026 home -- leave a message
(TBA)	Treasurer	
Sally Lord	Secretary	

TCLP Board Rep – Jackie Menagh

Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

A Big Thank You to all those who have been sending their Offerings in by mail or dropping them off at the church. We really appreciate your faithfulness. The work of the Church and God continues and in this time of crisis, is more important than ever. As discussed at our Annual Meeting in March, we are very short on our budget each month and will need to start dipping into our savings to pay the bills unless giving increases. Hopefully, once we return to full attendance at in-person worship things will improve. Until then, please continue to mail in your offering. Thank you!

CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL, CHATHAM

Contact – Jeanette Wilber tam20kfw@aol.com

In-person worship 9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jeanette Wilber	President
Kurt Hoelter	Vice President
Heidi Brennan	Recording and Corresponding Secretary
Cate MacPherson	
Richard Mac Donald (Mac)	
Henry Bartel	
Patty Bervy	

TCLP Board Reps – Jeanette Wilber, Patty Bervy

Did you know there is a new way to send your offering? We have an online donation portal!

Please visit our website at www.chathamLutheran.org to get started!

ST. STEPHENS, E. SCHODACK

Contact – Charles Mayrer 518-479-3640 or
cjmay33@gmail.com

In-person worship 11 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Charles Mayrer	President
Brian Schell	Vice President
Charles Senrick	Treasurer
Cathy Teeter	Secretary
Deborah Holtz, Diane Middleton.	

OUTREACH : Alice Senrick Asenrick29@gmail.com

518-479-0819 or 518-852-1504 (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps – Brian Schell, Charles Senrick

St. Stephen's has a collection basket for non-perishable foods, that are given to the Anchor in Castleton, and Doors of Hope in Sand Lake, to help people in need.

TRINITY, CASTLETON

Contact –Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Nicole Gardner scullynik@yahoo.com (H) 518-336-4077 (C) 518-312-8603

In-person worship 9 a.m.

Council Members

Anne Philipp	President
Eric Knodler	Vice President
Elaine Dickson	Treasurer (not on Council)
Rik Cosgrave	Financial Secretary (not on Council)

TCLP Board Reps -- Anne Philipp, Nichole Gardner

The Castleton Girl Scouts are still collecting bottles and cans and will continue to collect them until July of 2022. They can reach out to Nicole Gardner with questions or to make arrangements for pick up. She can be reached at 518-336-4077 (home) 518-312-8603 (text) or via email scullynik@yahoo.com.

Financial Secretary Needed Wondering how you can help your church. A Financial Secretary is needed. Training is available. if interested please see Rik Cosgrave or anyone on the council.

What would you like to see in “The Parish Connection?” Drop a line to the TCLP office at parishadmin@tclparish.org

Parish Administrator OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is from 1-2 pm. Call any time!

If you have questions regarding the Tri County Lutheran Parish or for any other church issues or pastoral concerns, please call Sharon at 518-758-6526 or email her at: parishadmin@tclparish.org and she can help direct you to the right person!

CONTACT US:

Tri-County Lutheran Parish, PO Box 158, Valatie, NY 12184

Phone: (518) 758-6526

Pastor Samantha Perret (*Parish*) Phone – 518-229-4128

E-mail: whiteginger20@gmail.com

Pastor Beth George (*Parish*) Phone – 717-364-4557

Email: chellman4557@gmail.com

Pastor Dan Hahn, (*Intern Supervisor*) Phone – 518-281-8127

E-mail --pastordanhahn@gmail.com

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence

E-Mail: Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu

TCLP Website: <https://www.tclparish.org>

CHATHAM WEBSITE: <https://www.chathamlutheran.org>

VALATIE/STUYVESANT FALLS PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.slelc.com>

Devotions and Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

A Prayer by Martin Luther

O my heavenly Father,
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
God of all comfort,
I thank you for revealing to me
your dear Son, Jesus Christ,
in whom I believe,
whom I have preached and confessed,
whom I have loved and praised.

I pray, my Lord Jesus Christ,
take my soul into your hands.

Heavenly Father,
I know that
although I will live this body
and be taken from this life,
I will live with you forever,
and that no one can pluck me
out of your hands.

God so loved the world
that he gave his only-begotten Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish,
but have eternal life.

Our God is the God of salvation,
and the Lord delivers from death.

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well.

When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, that must be the Lord's anointed right in front.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven't selected him. God doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart."

Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, "The Lord hasn't chosen this one either." So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "No, the Lord hasn't chosen this one." Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord hasn't picked any of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Is that all of your boys?"

"There is still the youngest one," Jesse answered, "but he's out keeping the sheep."

"Send for him," Samuel told Jesse, "because we can't proceed until he gets here."

So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, "That's the one. Go anoint him." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The Lord's spirit came over David from that point forward.



A Prayer for Mercy by Theodore the Studite

O Lord, you gave your apostles peace,
shed down on us all your holy calm;

gather together with your hand
all those who are scattered,
and bring them like sheep into the fold of your holy Church,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Strengthen and confirm me, O Lord, by your cross,
on the rock of faith,
that my mind be not shaken by the attacks of the enemy.
For you alone are holy.

You know, O Lord,
how many and great are my sins,
you know how often I sin,
from day to day,
from hour to hour,
in the things I do
and the things I leave undone.
No more, O Lord,
no more, O Lord my God,
will I provoke you.
No more shall my desire be for anything but you,
for you alone are truly lovable.
And if again I offend in anything,
I humbly ask your mercy
to grant me strength
to live in a manner more pleasing to you.
Amen.

Easter 4 Sermon - Good Shepherd Sunday by Pastor Sam Perret (based on Psalm 23, John 10:11-18)

When you think about or hear the words of Psalm 23, what comes to mind? I think we often associate this psalm with funerals - as these comforting words have been used in funeral services for as long as we can remember. Does anyone think of anything else when they hear these words?

Because I came to the faith a little later than many, I remember exactly where I was when I first heard these words. It was an early evening on a summer day in the Helderberg Mountains. I was maybe 9 years old or so and spent much of my time next door at Grandma's house. I had just positioned my grandmother's lawn ornaments back into place after my mother mowed her front yard. I was enjoying a popsicle and sitting on the freshly cut grass under the maple tree. My grandmother sat in her lawn chair next to me. The air smelled of grass and the flowers in the nearby flower bed.

As I sat with my popsicle, Grandma started reciting the words to Psalm 23. I asked her what that was and she told me it was from the Bible, that Jesus was the shepherd, who protected and comforted us, who brought us peace. She told me that God was responsible for the beautiful creation around us and on evenings like that, she was reminded of the words to that Psalm. I asked her to repeat it and she did. Over and over she recited and I repeated after her until I had it memorized as well.

Now, even all these years later, when I hear those words, I hear them in my grandmother's voice. She only had an 8th grade education, but she knew her scriptures well and knew just how to introduce me to the Jesus she loved with her whole heart. She didn't tell me *about* Jesus, rather she gave me the opportunity to *meet* Jesus myself. She didn't give me dates, timelines or even a history of miracles that Jesus performed. Instead she

shared stories with me - about how the lessons from the Bible shaped her, the miracles she had encountered in her own life, and when she felt the comforting arms of Jesus around her during times of struggle and hardship. I witnessed the way her life was changed by her relationship with Jesus. And I wanted that for myself.

In the Gospel lesson today, we hear Jesus referring to himself as the Good Shepherd - hearkening back to the words of David's psalm. Those listening to Jesus would have known the psalmist's words - and seen how Jesus was creating a connection between the words of old to his existence in front of them. Jesus would be the One to offer comfort. Jesus would be the one to guide his flock. Jesus would be the one to protect. Jesus would be the one to give sacrificially and abundantly. Jesus would abide in us and we in him.

Jesus knows his own, and his own know him. Jesus doesn't just know *about* us, like we are a mere acquaintance - he *knows us*. We are welcomed into a relationship with Jesus so that we don't just know *about* him, but *truly know him* and listen to his voice. This is the one time that we WANT to be sheep! And Jesus has other sheep that are not of this fold - though they are also his.

Now this lesson talks about a fold of sheep and flocks of sheep, so I'm going to clarify the difference. The fold was an enclosure, a fenced-in area, a safe space for the sheep of various flocks to be kept at a given time. If we were talking about horses, we might use the term "paddock." If we are talking about people, we might use the term sanctuary or church building.

Because Jesus knows all of us in this fold and we all know him, we hear his voice - maybe not literally, but it may be that gentle nudging we get when the Spirit wants us to act, or a feeling we get when we need to seek forgiveness or repair relationships. We are his own. He knows us - just like he knows other sheep of his flock - though some of them might not know him yet. And the beauty is that Jesus is collecting us all together - to be one. One flock with one shepherd is what Jesus says.

Though we are but sheep, we can help our shepherd. We can help other sheep to hear the voice of Jesus - to recognize and KNOW the voice of Jesus. We do this by sharing Jesus with others. By sharing what Jesus means to us, what Jesus has done for us, and how much better our lives are because we know and love and trust Jesus. We do not only talk about Jesus here in this building, in this fold. We mingle with sheep from other flocks. We demonstrate how we are affected by

Jesus, and the sheep of other flocks will see it. They may further bless us by becoming a part of this fold, if they seek that kind of relationship with Jesus. But first they have to meet him.

My grandmother had brought her children to church every Sunday to meet Jesus - but as they grew, they resisted - they didn't like being forced or guilted to go to church so they stopped going and didn't really bring their own children. As my generation grew (there are 20 of us), we just didn't know Jesus well at all.

So instead of my grandmother bringing me to a church building to hear about Jesus, she brought Jesus to me, in the grassy lawn on a summer evening, through her stories of her relationship with him. She made me curious. Her stories were an encouragement for me to go to the fold to hear from others, to worship together the God who is so powerful in our lives. In our parish evangelism team, we are just learning these lessons now, how our stories are intermingled with God's story and how powerful the art of storytelling is when it comes to spreading the Gospel.

"I am the good shepherd" - the one who has sacrificed his life for his flock out of abundant love and has triumphed over death to reign with God. This is good news - if we tell it and tell it right so that others *feel* how we are impacted by this news, we may help other sheep to know the Good Shepherd. One flock, one shepherd, one love, one God.

Amen.

Tri-County Lutheran Parish
May 2, 2021, Fifth Sunday of Easter
Based on the ELW, Setting 1, with Communion
Worship Leader: Pastor Samantha Perret
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84926059309>

Announcements *(*) notes where you may rise in body or spirit.*

Gathering Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

*** Call to Worship**

L: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*** Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God, and of one another.

C: Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal. God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free. Receive the forgiving love of God.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*** Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray.

C: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet

say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not

know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

*** Gospel Acclamation**

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*** Gospel: John 15:1-8**

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

L: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

*** Nicene Creed**

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into

heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Bless our Bishops, Synod Staff, Conference Deans, Pastors, Vicars, Seminarians, Church Musicians, Lay Leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. We pray for military personnel John

Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all, especially Sandy, the Slater/Dickson/Bachman family, Kim Roppolo, Katharine Kolb, William Pennant, Louis Martino, Jo Ann Lowe, Douglas LeBrecht, Barbara Slater, Bob S., Thomas Horan, Danny, Rob Gransfors, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Bethany and family, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Sue Haverly, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefina Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Huble, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides. Grant respite and renewal... Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19. We pray for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, whether we speak them aloud on our lips, or in the silence of our hearts. [Pause for prayers.] Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit (*especially with Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria and those we name before you*) We pray for the family and friends of Lorene Bowes and Gloria LaCrosse. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*** Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

Offering

L: We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask blessings on the offerings given for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*** Offertory**

L: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

C: and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

L: Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

C: that we may be fed with the bread of life.

L: Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

C: unite them with the prayers we offer.

L: Grace our table with your presence,

C: and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

*** Dialogue**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*** Preface**

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*** Holy, Holy, Holy**

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*** Thanksgiving at the Table**

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

L: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*** Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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.

*** Distribution of Communion**

*** Post Communion Blessing**

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

*** Prayer After Communion**

L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

*** Blessing**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C: Amen.**

*** Dismissal**

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

L: And all God's people say:

C: Thanks be to God. Amen and ALLELUIA !!

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Bishops, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean Jo Page, Pastor Dan, Pastor Samantha, Pastor Beth, Vicar Carolyn Lawrence, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders.

For the families and friends of Lorene Bowes and Gloria LaCrosse.

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19 and especially for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick.

For those serving in the military: John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman.

For those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing: Sandy, the Slater/Dickson/Bachman family, Kim Roppolo, Katharine Kolb, William Pennant, Louis Martino, Jo Ann Lowe, Douglas LeBrecht, Barbara Slater, Bob S., Thomas Horan, Danny, Rob Gransfors, Phyllis Keeler, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Bethany and family, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Sue Haverly, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefine Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela &

Jake; Doris Smith, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Richard Fitzgerald, their caregivers, and our parish members who due to COVID19 are unable to attend In-Person worship.