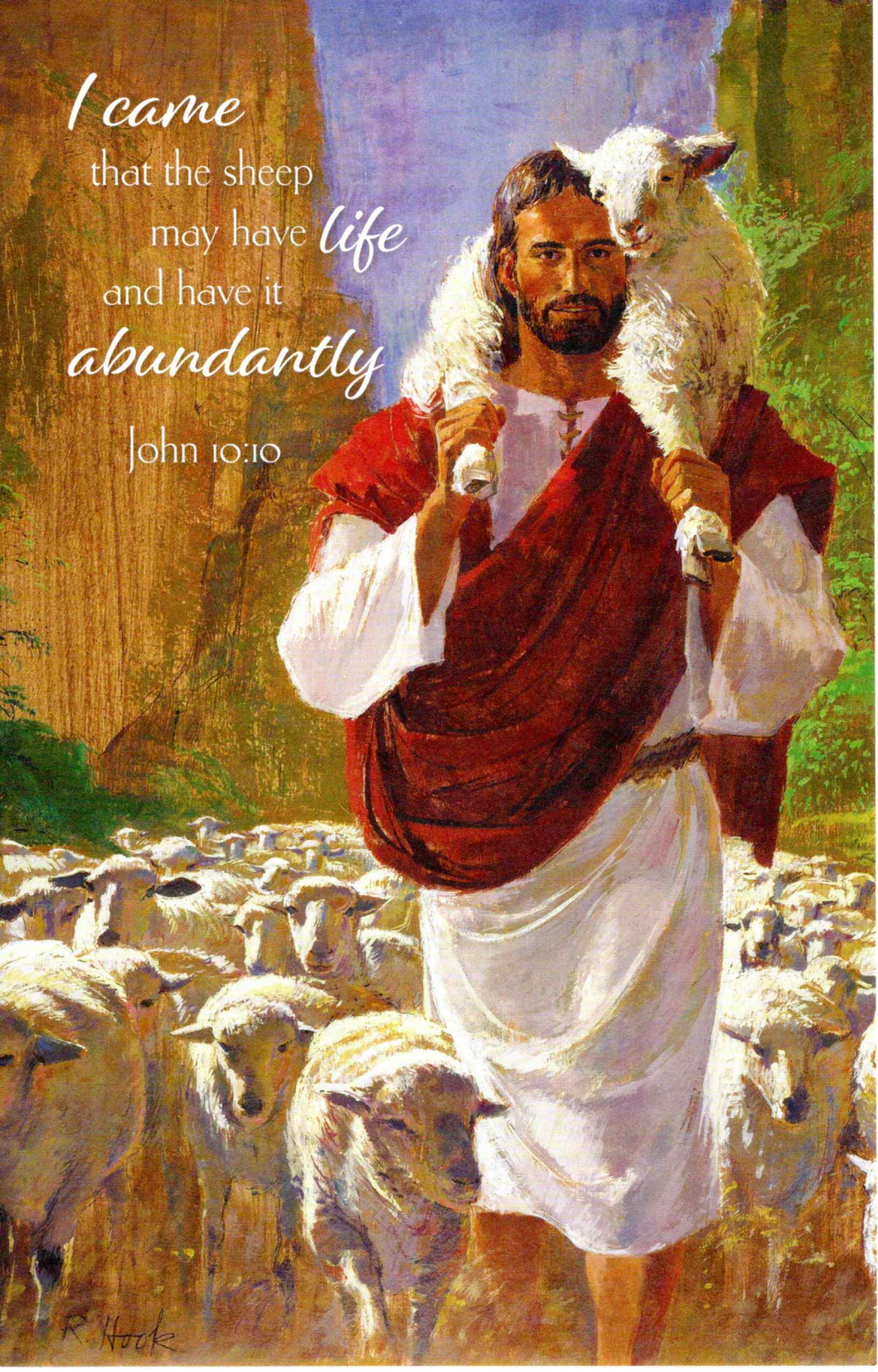


I came
that the sheep
may have *life*
and have it
abundantly

John 10:10



R. Hoek

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Prelude	“As The Deer”	Bell Choir
*Gathering Hymn	“Come Thou Font...”	G Hymn #499
Announcements		
Brief Order of Public Confession		Page 56
*The Apostolic Greeting		Page 57
*The Kyrie		Page 57
Hymn of Praise		Page 58
*The Prayer of the Day		Insert
Anthem		Choir
The First Lesson		Acts 2:42-47
The Psalm		Psalm 23
The Second Lesson		1 Peter 2:19-25
The Verse	“Alleluia”	Page 62
*The Gospel		1 John 10:1-10
Children’s Sermon		
Sermon Hymn	“The Lord’s My Shepherd” vs.1- 3	G Hymn 451
Sermon		Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Sermon Hymn	“The Lord’s My Shepherd” vs.4	
Affirmation of Baptism		Page 198
Prayers		
Offering		
*Offertory Psalm		Page 66

THE SACRAMENT

*The Prayers		Page 67
*The Great Thanksgiving/Preface		Page 68-69
*Words of Institution		Page 69
*The Closing Prayer/ Lords Prayer		Page 71
Hymn	“Lamb of God...”	Page 72
Distribution of Elements		
Post Communion Canticle	“Thank the Lord...”	Page 72
*Benediction		
Closing Hymn	“Children of the Heavenly...”	G Hymn #474
Postlude		
*Stand as you are able		

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron, Pastor Brodie Taphorn

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God are given by Mike & D-Ann Geiger in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Confirmation will be held today for Joey Jenks son of Troy & Angie Jenks and Abigail Karl daughter of Jeff & Deb Karl.

God Squad will meet Thursday, April 30 at 7 PM.

Thank you to everyone for all their prayers and cards. All are appreciated very much. *Susie Leonhardt*

I would like to thank Jim Leonhardt for his wonderful phone call and Mark Schanzenbach for picking out a great variety of food from Carle's and delivering it from the God Squad, and staying to visit. Also Kate Britton for the beautiful flowers from the altar, and all of the nice cards I have received from the congregation. I appreciate your thoughts and prayers, and will see you when I can. *Betty Vance*

Margo June Custenborder was born on Thursday, April 16th, 2026 at Wilson Health Family Birth Center in Sidney, Ohio. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 21 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Connor & Lexi Custenborder of Versailles, Ohio. Maternal grandparents are Brian & Rhonda Evak along with aunts Julia Evak and Ella Evak. Maternal Great Grandparents are Dick & Betty Vance. The Custenborders address is as follows: 237 E. Wood St. Versailles, Oh 45380

Dear Women of the Church,

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the lovely tribute to honor Carrie last Sunday. The bench is beautiful and creates such cozy conversation spot to sit and talk with friends. It is just what she would want. Thank you for your thoughtful, generous gift to the church. Love & Blessings

The Robertson Family

Posted on the bulletin board: Information about free First Aid Classes provided by Life First Ambulance District, our local ambulance service for Liberty Township, and are in celebration of EMS Week. These classes are for all ages. Included will be classes for pre-teen grades 4 –8 focusing on children staying at home and /or babysitting. Just scan the QR code to register.

Next Sunday, May 3 will be Food Pantry Sunday. Non-perishable items will be given to The Salvation Army

Noisy Change Sunday will be next Sunday. Money will be Given to Feed Crawford County. This is always the first Sunday of each month.

Graduating seniors please submit a brief write up of your school days, future plans etc. for the newsletter. They must be in the office today so they can be in the next newsletter.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry April 19, 2026

Bell Choir	75.00
Benevolence	295.00
Current	5,198.00
Feed Crawford County	235.00
Filling Home	90.00
God Squad	50.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	40.00
Missionary	105.00
NALC Seminary	275.00
NALC Disaster Relief	195.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	135.00
Special Projects	5,255.00
Women of the Church	120.00
Total	\$12,068.00
Attendance 113	

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornado and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andrea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 AM—Noon**. If another time works better for you, feel free to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

Those persons interested in applying for the Robert & Ruby Schimpf Scholarship can pick up information from Joyce Schanzenbach in the church office or see John Britton. Qualifications include: currently enrolled as a college senior (Fall of 2026), fulltime student (12 credits per semester), have a minimum 2.6 GPA, an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs. If no education majors apply, the scholarship is open to other major fields of study. All forms should be returned by June 1.

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship/Confirmation 10 AM
Wednesday	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM God Squad 7 PM
Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Reception for graduates after worship

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgeton Rd. Bucyrus, Ohio
419-562-5858
Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
David Halsey, Lay Assistant
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Rittenour
Email: stpaul Lutheran@embarqmail.com
Web Page: www.stpaulsulphur.com
Webmaster, Sam Hopkins
samhopkins@columbus.rr.com
Pastor Andrea's number 614-256-4318
Pastor Brodie's number 614-204-3064

Sheep Need a Shepherd

A group of shepherds from a small town in Turkey were in charge of the town's one big flock of sheep. While the shepherds were eating breakfast, a strange thing happened. One of the sheep in this huge flock took off and jumped off a cliff. Amazingly, the remaining 1,500 sheep followed that sheep by jumping off the same cliff one by one. Unfortunately, 450 sheep perished. The rest survived because the 450 sheep that fell before them provided a soft landing for the remaining 1,050 sheep.

It is amazing to see what sheep will do when a shepherd is not watching. Today, Jesus reminds us that He is our Good Shepherd. We need a shepherd to feed us, guide us, and care for us. He is our Good Shepherd because He lays down His life for the sheep. He did this for us on the cross. Through His death and resurrection, we know that there is no other Good Shepherd. By His grace, He watches over us and gives us the life that we so desperately need. As our Lord's sheep, we find our security in Him. We do not need to search for other worldly shepherds. He alone is the Good Shepherd in whom we trust.

Lord Jesus, thank You for being my Good Shepherd. Watch over me and give me what I need most. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
cph.org/magazines



Easter

About the Cover: Christ, the Good Shepherd, leads His sheep to eternal life. The Good Shepherd is intent on giving life as He searches for the lost, gives guidance for the wandering, provides protection for the helpless, and delivers food for the hungry. He gave us this abundant life by laying down His own for His sheep and taking it up again. Since Christ gave His life for us on the cross and rose from the dead, we can have confidence that the life He promises us is in His hand forever (see John 10:28).

The Word of God



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you show those in error the light of your truth that they may return into the way of righteousness. Grant to all that are admitted into fellowship with Christ the power to avoid all things that are contrary to the faith and to follow you according to the will of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

⁴²{The believers} devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD | is my shepherd;*

I shall not | be in want.

²**He makes me lie down | in green pastures***

and leads me be- | side still waters.

³He re- | vives my soul*

and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

I shall | fear no evil;*

for you are with me; your rod and your staff,

they | comfort me.

⁵You spread a table before me in the presence

of those who | trouble me;*

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is | running over.

⁶**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me**

all the days | of my life,*

and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

¹{Jesus said to the Jews,} “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

For Faithful Worship

Holy God, your Holy Spirit calls your church together. Bless our corporate worship, that it may continue to faithfully proclaim the riches of your grace and honor you. Strengthened and nourished by your Son's body and blood through the bread we share in communion, may we also share abundantly with people in every place. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Spring

Lord of all things living, we celebrate your gift of spring. In the blooming flowers and budding leaves, the gentle rain and warming sun, remind us of the promise of our lives renewed. Give us new life in faith and in growing obedience to your Word Lord in mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Justice and Peace

Almighty God we pray for justice and peace among the nations. Curb the desire for vengeance; turn us from dishonest speech and deceitful living; by the power of your Spirit lead us in your truth. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Merciful God, be present and bring comfort among those in need: the poor, the homeless, the suffering, the afflicted, the ill and hospitalized. We pray particularly for those on the prayer list of this congregation and those we name either silently or aloud. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60; Psalm 146;

1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14