

**898 Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit**

CW 898

- 1     Send, O Lord, your Holy Spirit  
        on your servants now, we pray;  
let them all be faithful shepherds  
        that no lamb is led astray.  
Your pure teaching to proclaim,  
to adore your holy name,  
        and to feed your lambs, dear Savior,  
        make their aim and sole endeavor.
- 2     You, O Lord, yourself have called them  
        for your precious lambs to care;  
but to prosper in their calling,  
        they the Spirit's gifts must share.  
Grant them wisdom from above,  
fill their hearts with holy love;  
        in their weakness, Lord, be near them,  
        in their prayers, Good Shepherd, hear them.
- 3     Help, Lord Jesus, help them nourish  
        our dear children with your Word,  
that in constant love they serve you

till in heav'n their song is heard.  
 Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow  
 on your servants' work below  
 till by grace to them is given  
 their reward, the crown of heaven.

Text: tr. Frederick W. Herzberger, 1859–1930, alt.; Lieder-Perlen, St. Louis, 1905

Text: Public domain

**(Stand)**

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the  
 Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Confession**

CW 173

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
 whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count  
 against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and  
 desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**Glory to God in the Highest**

*CW 176*

*Refrain:* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen.

*Refrain*

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and

reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

**First Reading**

*Acts 20:28–32*

<sup>28</sup>Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup>Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. <sup>32</sup>“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 23 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

*Psalm 23*

- 1 My shepherd will supply my need,  
Jehovah is his name;  
in pastures fresh he makes me feed  
beside the living stream.  
He brings my wand'ring spirit back  
when I forsake his ways  
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,  
in paths of truth and grace.
- 2 When I walk through the shades of death,  
his presence is my stay;  
one word of his supporting breath  
drives all my fears away.  
His hand, in sight of all my foes,  
will still my table spread;  
my cup with blessings overflows;  
his oil anoints my head.
- 3 The sure provisions of my God  
attend me all my days;

oh, may his house be my abode  
and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest  
while others go and come,  
no more a stranger or a guest  
but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.

Text: Public domain

## Second Reading

*1 John 4:1–6*

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit who does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world. <sup>4</sup>You are from God, dear children, and you have overcome the false prophets, because the one in you is greater than the one in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world. That is why they speak from a worldly perspective and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. The one who



knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we can distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*John 10:14*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel**

*John 10:11–18*

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.

<sup>14</sup>“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me <sup>15</sup>(just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*(Be seated)*

**552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

CW 552

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
     whose goodness fails me never;  
 I nothing lack if I am his,  
     and he is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,  
 my Savior gently leads me,

and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feeds me.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me  
and on his shoulder gently laid  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with you, dear Lord, beside me,  
your rod and staff my comfort still,  
your cross before to guide me.

5 You spread a table in my sight,  
a banquet here bestowing;  
your oil of welcome, my delight;  
my cup is overflowing!

6 And so through all the length of days  
your goodness fails me never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
within your house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.

Text: Public domain

## **Sermon**

Acts 20:28-32

Faithful Shepherds of God's Flock...

I. Act as overseers (28)

II. Watch out for wolves (29-31)

III. Trust in God (32)

*(Stand)*

## **Nicene Creed**

**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 in unity with the Father and the Son**

**is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

*(Be seated)*

**Prayer of the Church**

**Offering**

**THE SACRAMENT**

*(Stand)*

**Preface**

CW 183

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right . . . and join their glorious song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

CW 184

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of 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, hosanna in the highest!

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us

from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Words of Institution**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Amen.**

### **Jesus, Lamb of God**

CW 186

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace.

***(Be seated)***

## Distribution

### 677 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

CW 677

1 The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
we celebrate with one accord;  
it is our comfort in distress,  
our heart's sweet joy and happiness.

2 He blotted out with his own blood  
the judgment that against us stood;  
he full atonement for us made,  
and all our debt he fully paid.

3 That this forever true shall be  
he gives a solemn guarantee;  
in this his holy supper here  
we taste his love, so sweet, so near.

4 His Word proclaims and we believe  
that in this supper we receive  
his very body, as he said,  
his very blood for sinners shed.

5 A precious food is this indeed,  
it never fails us in our need,

a heav'nly manna for our soul  
until we safely reach our goal.

6 How blest is each believing guest  
who in these promises finds rest,  
for Jesus will in love abide  
with those who do in him confide!

7 They who his Word do not believe  
this food unworthily receive,  
salvation here will never find—  
may we this warning keep in mind!

8 Help us sincerely to believe  
that we may worthily receive  
your supper and in you find rest.

Amen! They who believe are blest.

Text: tr. Olof Olsson, 1841–1900, alt.; Haquin Spegel, 1645–1714, abr.

Text: Public domain

**(Stand)**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

### 804 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

CW 804

1 I am Jesus' little lamb;  
 ever glad at heart I am,  
     for my Shepherd gently guides me,  
     knows my need and well provides me,  
 loves me ev'ry day the same,  
 even calls me by my name.

2 Day by day, at home, away,  
 Jesus is my staff and stay.

    When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,  
     into pleasant pastures leads me;  
 when I thirst, he bids me go  
 where the quiet waters flow.

3 Who so happy as I am,  
even now the Shepherd's lamb?

And when my short life is ended,  
by his angel host attended,  
he shall fold me to his breast,  
there within his arms to rest.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–1782

Text: Public domain

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## MESSAGE BOARD

### Job Postings at the School

**School Janitor** – 5 days a week after school hours - 1-1.5 hours/day

**School Secretary** – mornings 3-5 days a week – beginning at 8:00 AM

**Education Assistant** – 5 days a week from 1-3 PM

Full job description and applications are available at the school office. For more information, please speak to Mr. Lange, John Korthals, Aron Korthals or Josh Denniston.

**Celebration!** We will honor and celebrate our two amazingly dedicated retiring teachers, John and Cynthia Lange. An organizational meeting will take place on April 21<sup>st</sup> following bible class. Please reach out to Carla Schultz or Paula Walker. The dinner date is June 9<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow.

**Class Trip Bottle Collection:** The five upper grade girls are raising funds for a class trip to the historic Straits of Mackinac! Here is a

great opportunity to let someone else take in your odoriferous, sticky cans or bottles. Your donation may be brought to the church or picked up from your home. If you'd like them picked up, you can contact Mr. Lange at his **home 989-823-8400** or at the **school 989-823-7304**. TIA (*Thanks in Advance*)

**Online Resources:** For those who take advantage of our livestreamed services, you can follow along with the addition of the bulletin. The bulletin can be found at **vassarlutherans.org**, once there select the bulletin tab.

**Attention 6th-8th graders and their families!** The Lock-In at MLS will run from 7:00 pm on Friday, April 26 until 7:00 am on Saturday, April 27. Attending is free! Registration closes on April 20. If you have questions, feel free to contact us at (989) 793-1010 ext 252 or [admissions@mlsem.org](mailto:admissions@mlsem.org).

**School Yard Signs Available** – There are several school yard signs available for you to display on your front lawn this spring, several are already placed on their standards. If you are interested in a low-key way to proudly boast of your school and its programs, grab a sign today!

**May 4<sup>th</sup> Yard Sales:** The church council would like our members to know that the church parking lot will be available for your personal yard sales.

### **Greetings Friends,**

It's a beautiful spring day that brings a smile to most people's faces, including mine! I'm reaching out today with the desire to update and inform all of you on several topics. First, ministry. Three years ago, Pasto Arnold accepted our call. What a blessing! After a

shut down from Covid 19, and many months of a fill-in pastor, we were ready for a new Pastor to call his home St. Luke's. We all enjoy Pastor Arnold's church services and sermons, and I would encourage you to also come check out Bible class after church. Pastor is relaxed, has a sense of humor, but is also so passionate in his teaching!

As many of you know, Principal John Lange will be retiring in June, after 33 years serving our children at St. Luke's school. So many students have graduated from our school and excelled in so many ways with Christ as their foundation. John and Cynthia will be moving to Wisconsin in late June, and I encourage you all to join us on June 9<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the Lange's ministry here at St. Luke's, with a special program.

On that note, we look forward to welcoming Mr. Michael Chappell as our new school principal, in early July. We are so blessed God chose to have our call answered so quickly!

On the home front financially, we passed a budget at our January's voter's meeting, with a weekly offering needed around \$7,800.00. Many have asked, so here are the details. This budget amount includes all payroll. This includes the new called principal's position. It includes moving Mr. Chappell to his new home in Vassar! The beautiful new parking lot has a monthly payment which is included in this weekly number. Plus, all estimated utilities, insurances, and repairs for both the school and church. Historically, we have borrowed from "ourselves" during shortfalls, to avoid borrowing and interest payments. That option is depleted after a long struggle through Covid and struggling church attendance numbers that have never really come back like we had hoped.

We have been blessed in so many ways and we have more ministry to accomplish! Meeting the weekly budget numbers allow us that

opportunity. Currently, we have around \$2,900.00 in our checking account with payroll due. My friends, can we pull together and fund the budget

that was approved? Together we can!

And finally, we will have confirmation on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. How awesome it would be to have the church service full to encourage these young people as they make their vows and join us at the communion table! There's no better feeling than to serve our Creator and Redeemer and to be blessed to worship Him.

Yours in Christ,  
Nate Rupprecht

### **Christian Education Organization (CEO)**

The CEO had a small but productive gathering at school on the 15th. Thank you to all that could attend! We would like to meet again in May to keep things rolling.

We have a few activities planned yet for this year:

- Sponsor overnight field trips for both the Upper Grades (Mackinac) and 4th Grade (Camp Timbers)
- End of the year School Picnic (Carla Schultz)
- Teacher Appreciation Week (Paula Walker)
- Ice Cream Social after 8th Grade Graduation Service (Elizabeth Rupprecht)

All church members are welcome and invited to support these events. If you have an interest in helping, please contact the person organizing the event listed above. Keep watch for more information to follow.



**Mrs. Einhardt's class** has had a busy week. On Friday April 12th, the students hosted next year's kindergarten class for an afternoon of fun. Then on Monday the class made the most of the beautiful weather and **Packed a Perfect Picnic** and ate outside under a tree! Can you guess which letter our kindergarten is studying?

**Update:** Following last week's offerings, we were able to meet expenses. Our checkbook balance, however, is hovering near zero. We have mapped out expenses through May, and month to month to manage our payments. Any shortfall in offerings going forward may trigger the need to borrow from our line of credit, which I pray we can avoid. May God continue to bless our ministry here at St. Luke's.  
Yours in Christ, Nate Rupprecht

Sunday 04/21

9:00 AM Communion Worship Service

10:15 AM Adult Bible Class

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Choir Practice

Monday 04/22

7:00 PM Communion Worship

Tuesday 04/23

3:30 PM Public School Catechism

Saturday 04/27

9:00 AM LWMS Rally - Sebewaing

Sunday 04/28

9:00 AM Communion Worship

10:15 AM VOTERS MEETING

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Lange Retirement Meeting

Monday 04/29

7:00 PM Worship Service

### April Servers

**April Sunday Ushers:** Paul Schultz, Silas Schultz, Carter Korthals,  
Eric Korthals

**April Monday Usher:** David Atkins

**April Finance:** Gabe Fall, Ed Baldwin, Sam Korthals

**April Altar Guild:** Jenny LaPratt and Kerri Hubbard **Organist:** Olivia Marker

### Event Attendance

Sunday Service: 104

Monday Service: 21

Sunday School: 9

Bible Study: 43

### Stewardship at St. Luke's

For 2024, the planned giving needed is \$7,910.00 per week to meet our ministry goals.

Last Week's Budgetary Offerings: \$4,950.00

Sunday School: \$ 4.00

Electronic Donations: \$445.76

Meditations: \$50.00

Scholarship: \$20.00

# JOIN OUR COMMUNICATION TEAM!

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**EXCITING NEWS!** St. Luke's is assembling a brand-new Communication Team and we want YOU to be a part of it! Are you passionate about social media, tech-savvy, and bursting with creativity? This is your chance to shine!

Our team will be responsible for managing our social media platforms, keeping our website up-to-date, live streaming our services, crafting engaging newsletters, and exploring other fun communication methods. We're looking for individuals who not only love Facebook but also have a knack for creating eye-catching photos and videos.



- Worship Reminders
- School updates
- Bible passage of the week
- Upcoming events
- MLS updates



YouTube

- Run live stream
- New videos of church and school



- Create monthly newsletter for both email and print



- Update website
- Add bulletins
- Create events page

## PLUS OTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITIES!

Join us on this exciting journey of connecting with our community and sharing our message of love and faith. **Any confirmed member is welcome to join.** If you're interested, reach out to Jess Zieroff and let's make this happen!

**TEXT JESS: 989-670-3760**

**EMAIL JESS: JKZIEROFF@GMAIL.COM**