

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 21, 2024**  
United Church of Christ - Neillsville  
Pastor James Mohr

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**PRELUDE** *"The Faithful Shepherd"* G.F. Handel  
arr. E. Power Biggs Karen Mohr

**RINGING OF THE CARILLON**  
**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EASTER ACCLAMATION** *'Jesus the Lord is Risen'*  
(#69 Taizé: Songs for Prayer)  
Jesus, the Lord is risen! Alleluia, alleluia.  
Jesus, the Lord is risen today! Alleluia, alleluia.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather together in the presence of our  
Shepherd God,

**All: who calls us each by name,**

One: who restores our souls,

**All: who leads us in the way of righteousness,**

One: and whose goodness and love never stops  
pursuing us.

**ALL: This is the God we have come to worship!**

**HYMN** *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp Bradbury

**#252 NCH** (3 verses in English)

**1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need your tender care;  
in your pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use your folds prepare.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us, yours we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us, yours we are.**

**2 We are yours, in love befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep your flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear your children when we pray;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear your children when we pray.**

**3 Let us always seek your favor;  
let us always do your will;  
Jesus Christ, our only Savior,  
with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still.**

**OPENING PRAYER (All)**

Loving Shepherd,  
through the gift of gathered community  
may we know your attentive care,  
abundant beauty,  
and the power of reconciliation.

We pause now and, in the silence,  
we hear you call each of us by name  
and are welcomed and enfolded by your love.

(Pause)

Guide us, protect us, feed us, renew us, love us. Amen.

**EASTER ACCLAMATION** *'Jesus the Lord is Risen'*  
(#69 Taizé: Songs for Prayer)

Jesus, the Lord is risen! Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus, the Lord is risen today! Alleluia, alleluia.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (All)**

Written by Beth Merrill Neel with inspiration from - Psalm 23

**O Lord, you are our shepherd,**

**And yet we want.**

**We lie down when we could act,**

**We stir the pot when we could offer peace,**

**We wander tempting paths instead of following you.**

**We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather  
than in you.**

**We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with  
them,**

**We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance.**

**We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and  
mercy,**

**So that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever.**

**Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

Give voice to God's love and peace; those around us need to hear the Good

**ALL: The Peace of God be with you.**

All are invited to greet one another with words such as "The peace of Christ be with you, and the response: "And also with you".

**EASTER ACCLAMATION** *'Jesus the Lord is Risen'*  
(#69 Taizé: Songs for Prayer)

**Jesus, the Lord is risen! Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Jesus, the Lord is risen today! Alleluia, alleluia.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### **FIRST LESSON**

##### **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

#### **EPISTLE LESSON**

##### **1 John 3:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

<sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

### **GOSPEL LESSON**

#### **John 10:11-18**

<sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own 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 have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

**SERMON** "What's Good About the Good Shepherd?"  
Pastor Jim

**HYMN** *"My Shepherd is the Living God"*

#### **#247 NCH**

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, and Isaac Watts

**1 My shepherd is the living God,  
I therefore nothing need;  
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams  
you settle me to feed.  
You bring my wandering spirit back  
when I forsake your ways,  
And lead me for your mercy's sake  
in paths of truth and grace.**

**2 When I walk through the shades of death,  
your presence is my stay;  
A word of your supporting breath  
drives all my fears away.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,  
does still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows,  
your oil anoints my head.**

3 The sure provisions of my God  
attend me all my days;  
O may your house be my abode,  
and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest,  
while others come and go -  
No more a stranger or a guest,  
but like a child at home.

whose rod and staff will comfort me  
and all my fears abate.

4 No enemy can overcome,  
no power on earth defeat  
the one anointed by God's grace  
and fed with manna sweet.  
My cup is filled and overflows  
as I my Savior greet.

5 Goodness and mercy all my days  
will surely follow me;  
and where God reigns in heaven and earth,  
my dwelling place will be.  
My shepherd blesses, cares, and leads  
through all eternity.

### MORNING PRAYERS

#### PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not  
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is  
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen

#### THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN "God Is My Shepherd"

#479 NCH Adapt. Lavon Bayler

1 God is my shepherd, I'll not want,  
I feed in pastures green.  
God grants me rest and bids me drink  
from waters calm and clean.  
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led  
by one I have not one seen.

2 Restored to life each morning new,  
I rise up from the dust  
to follow God whose presence gives  
me confidence and trust.  
I praise the name of God today;  
in God I put my trust.

3 When I must pass through shadowed vale,  
where loss and death await,  
I will not fear for God is there,  
my shepherd strong and great,

### COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

#### POSTLUDE

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN  
98.5FM and 1370AM

This week's radio broadcast  
is sponsored anonymously  
in appreciation of our pastors,  
Pastor Jim and Pastor Sue

## WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!

We are glad that you have joined us in person, through the internet or on the radio.

We pray that you will hear God's call, seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

YouTube link for Sunday, April 21, 2024

<https://youtube.com/live/nAsQvHx6EqA>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sunday, April 21st – Worship

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen
- Greeter(s) – Larry & Kathy Marshall
- Usher(s) – Mickey Marty, Joel Raine

### Tuesday, April 23rd –

- **1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –**  
\*will meet in the lounge of church
- **5:30 PM – Trustees Meeting**

### Wednesday, April 24th –

- **6:30 – Council Meeting**

### **Coffee fellowship after worship -**

Sign up on back bulletin board

|   |
|---|
| Apr 21 – Mission & Outreach Comm.       |
| Apr 28 – Susie Karl                     |
| May 5 – Lydia Schumacher, Karen Northup |
| May 12 – Christian Ed                   |

Please join us on  
this Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> –



A “**THANK YOU and Recognition**”  
Service to show our appreciation  
for our interim pastors –  
Pastor Jim Mohr  
Pastor Sue Vornholt  
**A free meal will be served  
following worship.**

## Free Ham Lunch



**April 21, 2024**

11:00 am - 12:00 Noon

United Church of Christ-Neillsville

515 West 2nd Street

Fellowship Hall

Meal Giveaway-Chicken Tetrazzini prepared by Living Hope  
10:45-11:00 am

## **60<sup>th</sup> Holiday Fair in 2024!**

Exciting news ... did you realize that this year it will be our 60<sup>th</sup> Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 9, 2024? Yes, the Neillsville United Church of Christ has been working very hard for 60 years making money for our church and it is greatly appreciated by all. From your donations of supplies, money, and/or items to sell, we have helped our church budget by donating money to the parking lot, new round tables in the fellowship hall, new carpet in the sanctuary and much more.

Now we would like your input on how to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> year. **Please attend an informal meeting on Sunday, April 28** in the sanctuary after the church service to discuss ideas on how to make this event extra special this year. Bring your ideas for crafts, sales, luncheon ideas, etc. If you cannot attend this meeting and have any suggestions, please send me an email with your ideas [emilejmiller@yahoo.com](mailto:emilejmiller@yahoo.com). Everyone's opinion is welcomed and needed to make this a success.

Thank you for your continued support and ideas on this great annual fundraising event.

