



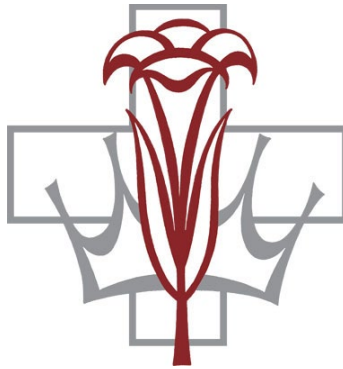
# St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 26, 2026**

**10:45 a.m. Worship**



**TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ...** go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/> Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

*The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.*

# The Voice of the Good Shepherd

*On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, often called Good Shepherd Sunday, we rejoice that the risen Christ calls us by name and leads us beside still waters. In a world filled with competing voices, His voice alone gives life, forgiveness, and peace. Today we hear again that our Shepherd laid down His life for the sheep and now lives to guide and guard His flock. Secure in His care, we gather to listen, to receive, and to follow.*

## ♪ “Raise a Hallelujah”

Words and Music by Jonathan David Helsler, Melissa Helsler, Molly Skaggs and Jake Stevens  
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I raise a hallelujah...in the presence of my enemies.  
I raise a hallelujah...louder than the unbelief.  
I raise a hallelujah...my weapon is a melody.  
I raise a hallelujah...Heaven comes to fight for me.

Chorus: I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm.  
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar.  
Up from the ashes hope will arise.  
Death is defeated; the King is alive.

I raise a hallelujah...with everything inside of me.  
I raise a hallelujah...I will watch the darkness flee.  
I raise a hallelujah...in the middle of the mystery.  
I raise a hallelujah...fear, you lost your hold on me. (*Chorus*)

(Sing a little louder.) **Sing a little louder.**  
(Sing a little louder.) **Sing a little louder.**  
(Sing a little louder.) **Sing a little louder.**  
(Sing a little louder.) **Sing a little louder.**

Sing a little louder, in the presence of my enemies.  
Sing a little louder, louder than the unbelief.  
Sing a little louder, my weapon is a melody.  
Sing a little louder, Heaven comes to fight for me. (Repeat)  
Sing a little louder.

Chorus

Ending: (4x) I raise a hallelujah.

## Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

**Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, through the life, passion, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins. As Christ is the Shepherd who seeks and gathers His sheep, and as the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep, may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

## Psalm 23 *(spoken together)*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## First Reading

*Acts 2:42-47*

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*1 Peter 2:19-25*

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For 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. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When 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. He 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. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*John 10:1-10*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "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. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

**K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir**    *“O How Majestic”*    Ruth Elaine Schram

**Children’s Message**    Stephanie Davis

## **♪ “The Lamb’s Book of Life”**

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Words and Music by Andy Cherry, Anna Golden, Bede Benjamin-Korporaal and Brett Younker  
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Songs for TIM | Viva Drive Music (Admin by Capitol CMG Publishing) | worshiptogether.com songs

Oh what mercy undeserved,  
Flowing freely from the cross.  
Oh what grace I could not earn

For my sin, the heist cost.  
Not by merit, not by might,  
Only by the blood of Christ  
My name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

Chorus: Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, what a Savior, what a Savior.

Oh what victory risen King,  
Robbed the grave and took the keys.  
Oh now death, where is your sting?  
Darkness has no grip on me.  
Though the devil schemes and tries,  
There's no power in his lies.  
My name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

Chorus (2x): Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, what a Savior, what a Savior.

Bridge: Only one way we can be saved,  
Oh, it's Jesus, oh, it's Jesus.  
Only one name worthy of praise,  
Oh, it's Jesus, oh, it's Jesus.

*(song continued on p.6)*

Only one way we can be saved,  
Oh, it's Jesus, oh, it's Jesus.  
Only one name worthy of praise,  
Oh, it's Jesus, oh, it's Jesus.

Oh, it's Jesus, oh, it's Jesus.

Oh what glory to behold  
When I gaze upon the throne.  
All the saints who've gone before  
Lay their crowns on heaven's floor.  
At the feet of Jesus Christ,  
I will worship and delight.

My name is written in,  
My name is written,  
My name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

Chorus: Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, what a Savior, what a Savior,  
What a Savior, what a Savior.

Bridge: Only one way we can be saved,  
Oh, it's Jesus, oh, it's Jesus.  
Only one name worthy of praise,  
Oh, it's Jesus, oh, it's Jesus.  
Oh, it's Jesus, oh, it's Jesus,  
Oh, it's Jesus, oh, it's Jesus.

## Sermon

## Offering

### ♪ “Freely Freely”

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Words and Music by Carol Owens  
© 1972 Bud John Songs, Inc.

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,  
I've been born again in Jesus' name;  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share His love as He told me to:  
He said

Chorus: Freely freely, you have received.  
Freely, freely give;  
Go in My name and because you believe,  
Others will know that I live.

All power is giv'n in Jesus' name,  
In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name;  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share His pow'r as He told me to:  
He \_\_\_ said \_\_\_

Chorus

## Prayer of the Church

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

# Benediction

**P** The Lord bless thee and keep thee.  
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.

**C** Amen.

## ♪ “This Is Amazing Grace”

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Words and Music by Phil Wickham, Jeremy Riddle and Josh Farro  
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Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Chorus: This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love.  
That You would take my place,  
That You would bear my cross.

*(song continued on p.8)*

You laid down Your life,  
That I would be set free.  
Jesus, I sing for all that You’ve done for me  
(All that You’ve done for me)

Who brings our chaos back into order,  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice,  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. *(Chorus)*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
Worthy, worthy, worthy. *(Chorus)*

# Announcements

## Blessing and Dismissal

**P** May God, our faithful Good Shepherd, keep you in His tender care, lead you in paths of righteousness, and fill you with resurrection hope.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

As we conclude, please feel free to stay for a few minutes if you would like to connect or chat with people Jesus has brought together today. Remember that we are all in this together!

# Announcements

## VBS Registration & Meeting

Register today for Vacation Bible School by visiting [myvbs.org/sjlmidland](http://myvbs.org/sjlmidland) ! "Illumination Station: Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is" is coming to St. John's Monday, June 15- Thursday, June 18 (6:00-8:00pm, family meals offered at 5:30pm). Children age 3 (must be potty trained) through grade 5 are invited to attend. Share an invite with family, friends, and neighbors-- all are welcome!

Interested in volunteering? Administration, teaching, music, art, construction, sports, food prep, skits... there's opportunity for EVERYONE to share their gifts. **Our first meeting is Tuesday, April 28 at 6:00pm in the Lounge.** Hope to see you there!

## National Day of Prayer –Thursday, May 7th, 2026

*“Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations”*

1 Chronicles 16:24

Every year thousands of people gather across our country to pray for our Communities, our State and our Nation. This year our St. John's prayer team invites you to join us as we pray with our community seeking our Lord's guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us.

*2 Chronicles 7:14 “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

Our prayer team invites you to join us by praying with us for “30 Days of Prayer.” Also, we invite you to come with us on Thursday, May 7th to the local prayer event held at noon outside the Midland County Courthouse. Mark your calendars, more specific information will be shared as plans are finalized.

***Altar flowers are given in celebration of  
Brad and Alisha Burrige's first wedding anniversary!***

## Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church & School  
Website QRC:



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**Church Secretary:** Kate, Carissa,  
Kathy  
(ext. 1203)

**Senior Pastor:** Daniel Kempin  
(ext. 1201)

**Associate Pastor:** Joshua Parsons  
(ext. 1202)

**Dir. of Family Life Ministry:** Anna  
Kruger (ext. 1204)

**Dir. Of Young Families Ministry:**  
Stephanie Davis  
(ext. 1204)

**School Secretary:** Sarah Graham  
(ext. 1301)

**School Principal:** Brad Massey  
(ext. 1300)

**Business Manager:** Kris Zastrow  
(ext. 1206)

**Dir. of Worship Music:** Karen Kempin  
(ext. 1205)

### Our Mission Statement

"We are here to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 28:18-20) and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This mission begins with our St. John's family and extends to the Midland Community and the world."