

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
December 14, 2025, 8:00 a.m.
Pastor Christian Magnell

WELCOME AND GREETING

SONG *“Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In John 10, Jesus says, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

We come today to the One who knows us by name,
calls us His own,

and laid down His life so that we may live.

As sheep who have strayed, take a moment to reflect on the ways you’ve run from God.

(time for reflection)

Let’s pray together:

Good Shepherd, we confess that we have wandered. We have not listened to Your voice; we have followed other paths; we have trusted in other shepherds. We confess that we have run from Your guidance and resisted Your care. Forgive us, Lord. Seek us, find us, and bring us home.

In love stronger than death, the Good Shepherd has gathered you in His arms. In His name, your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SONG *“Make Way”*

READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16

God promises that He will search for and find His sheep.

¹¹“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and will bring them into their own

land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. ¹⁶I will

seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will

strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

READING: 1 Peter 2:20-25

We are the sheep who have strayed but, thanks be to God, He chases after us.

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.

HYMN

“Holy Forever (Christmas)”

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

In this passage, Jesus calls Himself “the Good Shepherd.”

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I

have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

SERMON – He's Called: The Good Shepherd

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION – Gracefully Broken

PRAYER AND BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

Amen!

CLOSING SONG

“Start a Fire”

DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!