# "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD."



# Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ April 24 & 25, 202 I



# St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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Pastor Jeffrey Bovee revbovee@gmail.com 507-217-6364 Cell



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# Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

**Prayer before worship:** Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep, Who your Father's flock does keep, Safe we wake and safe we sleep, Guarded still by you. In your promise firm we stand; None can take us from your hand. Speak -- we hear -- at your command, We will follow you. Amen.

# OPENING HYMN The King of Love My Shepherd Is

*CW* 375

- 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. Confused 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!
- P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C: Amen.

- P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.
- **1**: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

# P: 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 him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**J**: Amen.

# ANTHEM

# I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

Mark Shepperd

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.

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.

Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still; Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

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.

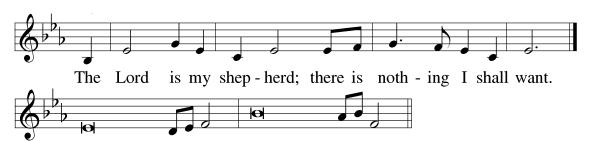
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FIRST LESSON Acts 4:23-33

went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather

On their release, Peter and John together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.' Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy

servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.



The LORD is my <u>shep</u>herd,\*
I shall not <u>be</u> in want.

He makes me lie down in green <u>pas</u>tures;\* he leads me beside quiet <u>waters</u>.

He restores my soul;\*
he guides 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.

### Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my <u>en</u>emies.\* You anoint my head with oil; my cup <u>o</u>verflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days <u>of</u> my life,\* and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for<u>ev</u>er.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son\* and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,\* is now, and will be forever. Amen.

#### Refrain

#### SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:1-2

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

#### VERSE of the DAY

■: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired

hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and Father loves me is that I lay my sheep know me-- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-- and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep lay it down and authority to pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, I received from my Father."

and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my down my life-- only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to take it up again. This command

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

#### HYMN of the DAY Lord, You I Love with All My Heart

*CW* 434

1. Lord, you I love with all my heart; I pray you ne'er from me depart; With tender mercies cheer me.

Earth has no pleasure I would share; Heaven itself were void and bare If you, Lord, were not near me.

And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in you no one could shake.

You are the treasure I have sought; Your precious blood my soul has bought.

Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord, Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

2. Lord God, 'twas your rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have In this poor life of labor.

Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place May glorify your lavish grace And serve and help my neighbor.

Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile.

Give strength and patience unto me To bear my crosses willingly.

Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord, Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

3. Lord, let at last your angels come; To Abram's bosom bear me home

That I may die unfearing.

And in its narrow chamber keep My body safe in peaceful sleep

Until your reappearing.

And then from death awaken me That my own eyes with joy may see,

O Son of God, your glorious face, My Savior and my Fount of grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my prayer attend, And I will praise you without end.

SERMON John 10:11-18

#### THERE IS ONE FLOCK AND ONE SHEPHERD

- 1. THE GOOD SHEPHERD OWNS THE SHEEP
- 2. THE GOOD SHEPHERD KNOWS THE SHEEP
- 3. THE GOOD SHEPHERD CARES ABOUT THE SHEEP

# **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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 everlasting. Amen.

#### OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

#### PRAYER of the CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

- M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.
- C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.
- M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.
- C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.
- M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.
- C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

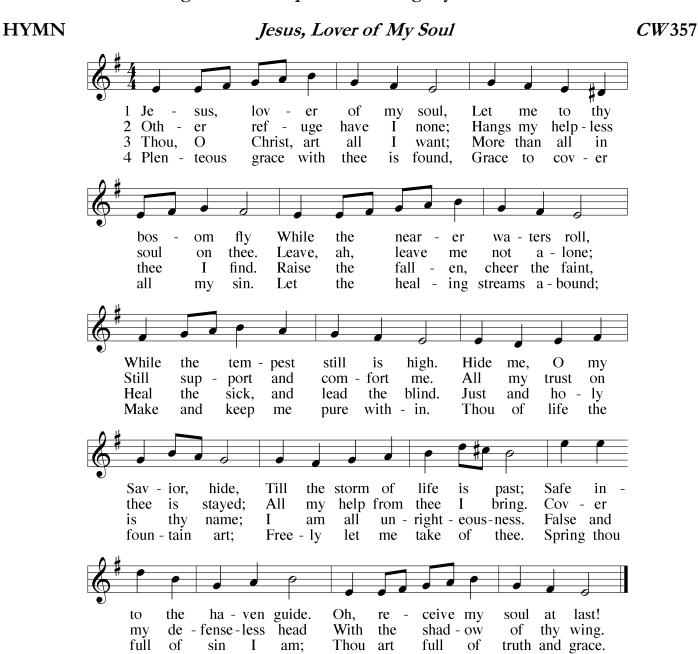
M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.



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Rise

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my heart;

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# **↓**: Amen.

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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. Amen. Amen.

# CLOSING HYMN Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

*CW* 436

- 1. Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep, Who your Father's flock does keep, Safe we wake and safe we sleep, Guarded still by you.
- 2. In your promise firm we stand; None can take us from your hand. Speak—we hear—at your command, We will follow you.
- 3. By your blood our souls were bought; By your life salvation wrought; By your light our feet are taught, Lord, to follow you.
- 4. Father, draw us to your Son; We with joy will follow on Till the work of grace is done, There to live with you.
- 5. We, in robes of glory dressed, Join th' assembly of the blest, Gathered to eternal rest In the fold with you.



PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST
CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Gr. 3-4)
MLC LECTORS

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee Pastor Rob Guenther Becky Berg

Throughout the year, St. John's asks men who are studying for the pastoral ministry to read for a service. We are in a privileged position to see our Lord's answer to our prayers for future called workers.

Saturday	Evan Turriff	Gloria Dei, Memphis, TN
8 am	Jacob Biesterfeld	St. John's, New Ulm, MN
9:30 am	Nathan Golisch	St. Paul, Slinger, WI
11 am	Joseph Wessel	St. John's, New Ulm, MN

# Former St. John's Confirmands

#### 1 year ago 2020

Eva Bellig
Aaron Black
Gabbie Bleick
Miranda Deters
Kathryn Dinse
Mercy Dobberpuhl
Zachary Fischer
Cassondra Goeglein
Jacob Guenther
Ella Hunter
Pearl Kowalke
Meaghan Martin
Sebastian Smith
Peyton Toltzman
Ella Wurster

# 5 years ago 2016

Michael Bovee
Carter Brandes
Kincaid Diersen
Lee Fischer
Logan Fischer
Cole Gostonczik
Megan Jewison
Isaak Pehling
Molly Scheid
Mara Weisensel
Noah Wellner

#### 10 years ago 2011

Claire Boeder
Caleb Dinse
Jennifer Fox
Emily Grob
Rachel Hartwig
Trapper Holden
Joshua Koelpin
Brandon Kowalke
Jared Schmit
Brandon Vonderharr
Sophia Weisensel
Daniel Wessel

#### 25 years ago 1996

Russell Buck Jessi Bloedel Jennifer Carlson Patrick Cortright Jeremy Fluegge Jon Hermanson Sara Lingl Clete Olson James Rieger Katie Schwartz

## 30 years ago 1991

Justin Black Christian Brumm Angela Clobes Rhonda Ebling Beniamin Enter Jason Jaspersen Sarah Klockziem Rebekah Kuster Barbara Marti Todaeo Meinert Karl Paulsen Justin Pettersen Joel Plocher Alissa Raddatz Michael Roman Jessica Stoering Aaron Tanley Kristi Wendler Amy Wieland

# 40 years ago 1981

Cheryl Benson Darvin Bode Marlis DeHorse John Eastham Darren Gaub Paul Gutzke John Koelpin Laura Kuster Amy Licht Doyle Meinzer Eric Paulsen David Plagge Steven Plagge Joyce Raddatz Scott Schmidt Konnie Spoon **Grace Wessel** Andrew Willems

# 50 years ago 1971

Warren Backer David Berg Kristine Blackstad James Dehn Trudy Filzen Norman Grams John Hartwig Kristine Hirsch David Huebner Mervin King Ruth Luetke Randy Milbrett Cheryl Portner Lori Scheitel Ronald Starke Beth Wessel

# 60 years ago 1961

Bonnie Arndt Steven Benson Nona Brick Marilyn Brockhoff Judith Gruber Richard Johnson Marlys Krueger Diane Marier Paul Morse Lynn Spelbrink Joan Trapp Norman Wieland, Jr.

#### 70 years ago 1951

Joan Grunet
Gene Gronholz
Gertrude Vrochlich
Ruth Blackstad
Eva Karstens
Janet Gatzke

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Attendance** for the past weekend was 330 with 259 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:				
\$18,132	Home Operations ~ \$17,191 is our weekly need		į	
\$458	MVL ~ \$1,154 is our weekly need	\$825	Audio/Video Equipment	
i \$1,478	Missions ~ \$1,731 is our weekly need	\$400	LWMS	
\$565	Building Fund	\$65	St. Paul's School Building Fund	
j \$70	K-12 Education Assistance	\$35	Altar Guild	
\$20	WELS Special Ministries	\$2	Food & Fellowship	
İ	-			

**God Bless Our Confirmands** ~ We commend into the hands of our merciful Savior all those who make the good confession before God's altar today:

Grace Allison Biesterfeld	Gage Michael Stanoch
Kaden Cole Peterson	Tatum Annabella Toltzman
Benjamin Ray Price	Zachery Joe Toltzman
Dylan James Schroeder	Claudia Frances Weisensel

**Quarterly Voters' Meeting** ~ The St. John's voters' assembly will meet in the sanctuary of the church on Tuesday, April 27, at 7 pm. The meeting will include quarterly reports from our called workers, officers, boards, and committees. All voters are encouraged to attend. Social distancing constraints will be in place during the meeting.

**Online Church Directory** ~ Lifetouch Photography is no longer providing pictorial directories for churches. Because of this, the Board of Evangelism looked into different ways to be able to provide a pictorial directory to our members.

After researching options available and balancing overall value in terms of both cost and substance, we decided to move forward with an online church directory. This option is very affordable while giving us far more flexibility than we had previously. Some of these benefits include things like always being up to date, viewable securely online for members, and has the option to create printable directories.

You can see demos and features at www.instantchurchdirectory.com. Once the church enters email addresses for members you will be able to sign up. If you aren't receiving emails from St. John's please contact the church office at stjohsnewnulm@gmail.com or 354-6744. More detailed information is available in the May issue of the Fortress, but please feel free to reach out to me at thezahrts@gmail.com with any questions you may have. Jesse Zahrt, Board of Evangelism

**Prayer Calendar** ~ In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul told the Thessalonians to "pray continually." How are you doing with that? To help you with that endeavor the Evangelism board has put together a monthly prayer calendar. Cf. this week's bulletin insert for April's. We hope it helps you as a daily reminder to pray continually! The Prayer Calendars can be found in the narthex.

**St. John's Church Campout** ~ We are so excited to announce the first ever St. John's Church Campout at the Sleepy Eye Sportsmen's Park the nights of June 25-26. Both one or two night reservations are possible. The link to reserve your campsite is: bit.ly/SJcamping21. Once a reservation has been made, please make your payment within a week to hold your spot. There will be a church service at the campsite at some point during the weekend, and other fellowship activities will be included as well. We can't wait to see you there!

**In-Person Bible Classes** ~ Thursday Bible classes topics include Civil Government at 10:30 am given by Pastor Bovee and Pastor Guenther will lead a study of the book of Revelation at 7 pm.

Sunday morning Bible class starts at 9:30 am. There are 25 tables available in the church basement with one family per table. Please sign up for a table at bit.ly/SundayBibleClass. Prof. Dave Scharf will lead a class entitled "Lies About God."

All of the in-person classes will be held in the church basement or join online at bit.ly/StJohnsBibleClass.

**St. John's Cancer Group** ~ will begin to meet again on Sunday, May 16, at 2 pm. Members of St. John's who were diagnosed with cancer or who have a close family member who was diagnosed with cancer are encouraged to join us. Come whether the cancer was diagnosed recently or long ago, is being treated, is post treatment, or is in remission. Spouses or a person with whom you are sharing your journey are also welcome to attend. We will gather upstairs in the church sanctuary, where maximum social distancing can be done. Masks or face coverings are required by state order. In deciding whether to attend, please follow other state and CDC guidelines that apply to you. No food or drink will be served. Pastor Guenther will lead us in a devotion, followed by time to share and encourage each other. If you have questions, contact Wayne Wagner (359-7371) or Pastor Guenther.

# **AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Save the Date** ~ Bang! Kapow! Zap! Splat! Have you purchased your tickets for the event of the spring? As we look forward to the St. Paul's Virtual Dig In Gala in two weeks, we are hopeful that you are able to join us! We will be streaming the Gala for our ticket holders via the St. Paul's Church and School YouTube account. Key dates:

- -April 28 Auction site link will be shared, with items added daily until the auction begins
- -May 3 Auction goes live!
- -May 1 Deadline to purchase Party Boxes
- -May 5 Deadline for all ticket purchases
- -May 6 Unlisted YouTube link will be sent to ticket holders via email
- -May 7 Pick-up of Party Boxes at St. Paul's Church from 12-6:30 pm, the Main Event from 7-8 pm, auction ends at 9 pm
- -May 8 Drive-through auction item pick-up from 9-11 am at St. Paul's church

All proceeds benefit the St. Paul's School Building Project. For tickets and detailed information head to https://buytickets.at/stpaulsschoolnewulm

**Teacher Appreciation Week** ~ The week of May 3 - 7 will be Teacher Appreciation Week at St. Paul's Lutheran School. During the week we say an extra THANK YOU to our amazing faculty and staff for all they do every day for our students. Throughout the week the teachers and staff will be treated to breakfast, lunch, and a variety of other fun surprises to show our thanks to them. If you would like to show your appreciation by contributing to this fun week, please contact Sarah Zahrt at recsplnewulm@gmail.com.

**MVL News** ~ Have you seen Harvey? Some say they have seen him now and then at MVL, and even out and about a bit! If you'd like to see Harvey, too, come on out to MVL's theater production of the play Harvey! This year's production will be held at State Street Theater Company in New Ulm. Performances are Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 at 7 pm, and Sunday, May 2 at 2 pm. Advanced tickets are required and may be purchased online at www.eventbrite.com/o/mvl-drama-department-33087882139. If you have questions or issues with ordering, call Mrs. Jennifer Uher at 262-893-9457. We'd love to share the joy and wonder of Harvey with you!

The 2021 MVL Classic is coming July 12 at the New Ulm Country Club. This annual outing supports our Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for a Christ-centered education at MVL. Each year - through sponsorships, golf fees, and outright donations - thousands of dollars are raised for MVL families in the coming school year. Sponsorship opportunities are currently open for both businesses and individuals; contact Kristin Matzke at kmatzke@mvlhs.org for more information. Let's tap-in for tuition assistance!

Palmer Bus Service provides safe and reliable transportation for students. We are now hiring *school bus drivers* for MVL routes. Full-time and part-time positions available with paid training! Contact Site Manager Ray Vulcan at rayv@palmerbusservice.com to learn more.

**Mission Trip Update** ~ Trips are being planned to San Antonio, Texas for basketball camp and to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho for a Bible camp. Those finishing Confirmation instruction and older are welcome to participate. If you are interested, please pick up an application at church. Email Mr. Kuschel at kkuschel@splnewulm.org with questions.

**Job Opening** ~ Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for one full-time Early Childhood Learning Center Assistant Teacher. A comprehensive description for this position can be found at mlc-wels.edu/hr. Interested individuals should apply online. Applications will be accepted through 12 pm on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Additional information and details can be obtained by contacting the Martin Luther College Human Resources Office at 507-354-8221.

**ProMusica Minnesota Chamber Music Series** ~ presents a concert called "Pale Yellow", performed by pianist Bethel Balge, New Zealand cellist Richard Belcher, and violinist Peter McGuire, on Sunday, May 9, at 3 pm, at St Paul's Church. For more information visit ProMusicaMN.com.

**About the Cover** ~ Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Unlike a hireling who is in it only for personal profit and as a result cares little about the flock when danger approaches, Jesus puts his very life on the line for the sheep he loves. That is because we are his family by his grace through faith in his name.