

Welcome to Worship at  
***Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church***  
Growing Together for Christ  
*Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor*  
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5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051  
[www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)



**April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**We worship in-person and on-line at 9:00 am. There is a link on our website to join the on-line Worship Service through Zoom!  
Stay safe and God bless!**

## Gathering

### Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

#### Call to Worship

P: In the laughter of children, we hear Your voice and find our way home.

**C: In the lap of a parent,**

**God's compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.**

P: The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door into life with him forever.

**C: We are baptized with living waters which refresh us, restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.**

P: The Holy Spirit, is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

**C: The Breath of life stills our worries and fears, as we are lead to that peaceful place of God's heart.**

**Opening Song:**      Come Now is the Time to Worship

#### Confession & Forgiveness

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*(silence is kept for reflection)*

P: Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Faith Song:** The Lord is My Shepherd

## **Prayer of the Day**

### **Word**

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM: Psalm 23:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall 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, and my cup is running over.

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

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit

was found in his mouth.”<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.<sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

P: [Jesus said:]<sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the.....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Children’s Message**

**Tessa Ancona**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Ken Gibson**

**Hymn of the Day:** Have No Fear Little Flock

**Prayers of Intercession**

A: “Merciful God”, ...**C: “Receive our prayer”**

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Offering Invitation:** Friends, an offering is an act of Worship, given freely to share God’s love through this congregation. Please place your offering in the basket as it is passed around, you may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, or send your gifts to the church at: **5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051** or give online at [www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)

**Offering Prayer**

**Lord’s Supper**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**

**Lord’s Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

**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.**

**Invitation to Communion:** *Christ is truly present with us today, especially in the gifts of bread and wine. God's table is open; we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table! After the choir is served, come up the center aisle, from front to back. If you are unable to come forward, please let the pastor or another worship leader know, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, simply keep your hands folded. The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light-colored liquid is juice. Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten free wafer. All are welcome!*

**Communion Song:** 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus/Agnus Dei

## **Prayer After Communion**

### **Sending**

#### **Sending and Benediction**

P: Day by day, God will lead us:

**C: to those pools of peace where we can gather with our friends and strangers.**

P: Day by day, Jesus will call us:

**C: to give ourselves in service, to anoint others with hope.**

P: Day by day, the Spirit shows us:

**C: the people we might be, the community we might become.**

#### **Commissioning**

P: At Joyful Harvest Church,

**C: our mission is growing together for Christ.**

P: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value:

**C: Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.**

**Sending Song:** Blessed Be Your Name

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

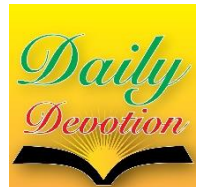
**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Announcements**

*If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

#### **Daily Devotionals with Pastor Ken Gibson @ 8:00am.**

Pastor Ken has started doing daily devotionals on FaceBook live Monday-Thursday at 8:00am. Go out to FaceBook and search for "Pastor Ken Gibson". Be sure to find the correct one, as there are multiple. Then send a friend request to join the group. He is looking forward to seeing you there!



## Memorial Day Luminaria Fundraiser for Veterans:

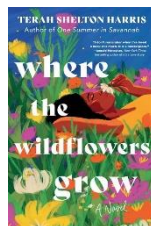
On Sun. May. 10<sup>th</sup> & Sun. May. 17<sup>th</sup> we will be selling Luminaria bags & bracelets for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Luminaria Lighting Ceremony". On Sun. May 24<sup>th</sup>, we will line the corner with our decorated bags, say a special prayer and light the bags in honor of our fallen heroes!



## Spring Clean-up! Sat. May 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-Noon:

Join us in helping to make our church "Shine". Helpers are needed to do inside and outside sprucing up of our church community environment. Please sign-up on the board in the narthex to let us know if you would like to work inside or outside. We will have hot dogs, chips & potato salad afterwards.

Joyful Readers Book Club: Do you like to read, are you looking for a way to connect with other women? Consider joining the ladies of Joyful Harvest as they embark in this fellowship opportunity. The next meeting will be Sat, Jun 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m. They're reading "Where the Wildflowers Grow" by Terah Shelton Harris. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!



## Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	<b>Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken</b>	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Apr 28	<b>Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast</b>	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Apr 28	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Apr 30	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. May 03	<b>Sunday Worship</b>	9:00 a.m.
Sun. May 03	<b>NO Faith Formation Class</b>	10:30 a.m.
Sun. May 03	<b>Giving Closet</b>	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

Sun. May 10	<b>Luminaria Sales</b>	10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
Sat. May 16	<b>Spring Clean-up</b>	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Sat. May 16	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Night Service</b>	4:00 p.m.
Sun. May 24	<b>Luminaria Lighting Ceremony</b>	9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

## Save The Date!

*Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.*

**June 13 – Joyful Readers**

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**APRIL 26, 2026**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY**  
**OF EASTER**



*Followers of Jesus shepherd one another.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 10:1-10</b>	<b>Christ the shepherd</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 2:42-47</b>	<b>Life among believers</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Peter 2:19-25</b>	<b>Example of Christ's suffering</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 Peter 5:1-11</b>	<b>Tending the flock of God</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 34:11-31</b>	<b>God, the true shepherd</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Romans 12:14-18</b>	<b>Marks of the true Christian</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 23</b>	<b>The Lord is my Shepherd</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 14:1-14</b>	<b>Jesus is the way, truth, and life</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Acts 2:44-45 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and merciful God, keep us close to your care, and in our times of suffering may we trust in you and be cared for by others through Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, thank you for preparing a table for us that we may be strengthened for our journey as we follow you, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the Good Shepherd guard you always. (1 Peter 2:25)



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## WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does a shepherd do to care for the sheep?
- Jesus says his sheep listen to his voice and follow him (John 10:3-4). When and where do you hear Jesus' voice?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Acts 2:42-47.

Every year the Fourth Sunday of Easter is the "Good Shepherd Sunday." Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd. 1 Peter 2:25 states that Jesus is "*the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*" John 10:4 speaks of the sheep who follow because they know the voice of the shepherd. Acts 2 gives a picture of what the community of the Good Shepherd looks like. It is a people who shepherd one another by sharing their possessions. Together they study the word of God, have fellowship, break bread and pray. Christian shepherds do these things. Daily they worship publicly but also break bread in homes with "*glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people*" (vv. 46b-47a). The result is a community that by its very way of life and by the power of God adds "*to their number those who [are] being saved*" (v. 47b). A community of people caring for one another witnesses to God's love. The outcome is more souls in the sheepfold.

*Discuss:* How is your home a place to shepherd souls?

*Pray:* **Good Shepherd, thank you for calling out to us through a community that cares for one another publicly and also in our daily lives. Amen.**

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you provide food, clothing, or shelter to someone in need?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Draw or find a picture of a sheep. Imagine you are the shepherd for this sheep. Make a list of things you would do to take care of the sheep. Psalm 23 begins with the words, "*The Lord is my shepherd.*" Read Psalm 23 and compare your list with the ways the Lord cares for sheep. How are the lists the same? How are they different? Then take a moment to breathe in and say: **The Lord is my shepherd.** Breathe out and say: **I shall not want.**



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