

I am the good shepherd,
and I know mine
and mine know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I will lay down my life
for the sheep.

JOHN 10:14-15



In the early church, before Jesus was depicted as suffering and dying on the cross, he was depicted as “the Good Shepherd.” This image was central to early Christian identity. The cross seems to have been too painful or too inappropriate to be an effective way to portray Jesus. The Good Shepherd conveyed the Christian message more clearly.

Today we celebrate “Good Shepherd” Sunday as we read this famous gospel story from John. We are no longer in the realm of resurrection appearance stories, but now we have entered the world of Jesus’ “I AM” parabolic discourse. In John, Jesus doesn’t preach in parables, “The kingdom of God is like... a shepherd, a gate, a vineyard, etc.” Instead, we hear Jesus say, “I AM the good shepherd, I AM the gate, I AM the vine.” The Gospel of John has an intense emphasis on the person of Jesus, reflected in a high Christology.



The image of a shepherd is certainly one rooted in antiquity. There are not as many shepherds today as there were then. And the site of a shepherd was much more common in that culture than it is today. Yet, even though most of us probably do not know any shepherds we are all familiar with the image.

In the gospel today, Jesus makes a distinction in this discourse about himself as the “good Shepherd” and a “hired man” who works for money. The latter has no real concern for the sheep. He is in it only for the pay. Jesus, on the other hand, loves the sheep and has concern for them. He lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand will run away at the first sign of danger. The result of this running away is that the sheep are scattered. As we consider this in our own time we can see the many Christians, many of us, who have been scattered. As we listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd and come to him, we will be reunited. *Living Liturgy, p. 114*

In Christianity, blessing a home is an ancient tradition, that can be found in Protestantism, Orthodox Christianity, and Roman Catholicism. Many Christians when moving into a new home, or after renovating an old one, like to offer the house to God, and ask for a blessing on those who live within it, or might visit. I was reminded of that with a number of families that have recently asked for their homes to be blessed. I am offering to come and bless your home, even if you have lived there for many years, but have not had it blessed. Give me a call.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 25, 2021



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Fourth Sunday of Easter

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

— 1 John 3:1

Readings for the Week

Mon: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10

Tue: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wed: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50

Thu: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20

Fri: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Sat: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sun: Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8



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St. Anastasia Catholic Church
460 Lake St SW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Office Hours: M-F, 8am-4:30pm
Phone: 320-587-6507
Emergencies: 507-829-0965

St. Boniface Catholic Church
551 Main Street, Stewart, MN 55385
Phone: 320-562-2344

This Week's Area Worship Schedule

DATE/TIME LOCATION INTENTION

Eucharistic Adoration: 5am on Monday until 5pm on Wednesday.

MONDAY, April 26

5pm, Mass St. Anastasia ++Wyllis & Loretta Reiner

TUESDAY, April 27

7am, Mass St. Anastasia ++T.G. & Ruth Carroll

WEDNESDAY, April 28

5pm, Mass St. Anastasia

THURSDAY, April 29

9am, Mass St. Anastasia +Greg Jodzio

FRIDAY, April 30

7am, Mass St. Anastasia +Terry Hess

SATURDAY, May 1

3pm, Confessions St. Anastasia

4:30pm, Mass St. Anastasia

6pm, Confessions St. Boniface

6:30pm, Mass St. Boniface

SUNDAY, May 2

7:30am, Mass St. Anastasia

10:30am, Mass St. Anastasia +Judith Blazinski

7:30pm, Mass St. Anastasia For Our Faith Community

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, April 28

7pm, Youth Group St. Anastasia youth room

THURSDAY, April 29

7pm, School Playground Committee St. Anastasia youth room

TUESDAY, May 4

7pm, School Advisory committee St. Anastasia

WEDNESDAY, May 5

2 hour late start at St A's School

7pm, Youth Group St. Anastasia youth room

7:30pm, KCs St. Anastasia cafeteria

WEDNESDAY, May 12

7pm, Youth Group St. Anastasia youth room

THURSDAY, May 13

noon, St A Finance Council St. Anastasia parish office

SUNDAY, May 16

12:30pm, Piano Recital St. Anastasia church

TUESDAY, May 18

7pm, St A Admin. Council St. Anastasia hospitality area

WEDNESDAY, May 19

7pm, Youth Group St. Anastasia youth room

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC AREA FAITH COMMUNITY OF ST. ANASTASIA & ST. BONIFACE

Parish & Community Events



This week was National Volunteer Week (April 18-24), and we'd like to take this opportunity to extend a big "Thank You!" to the dozens of volunteers who

give their time and energy to advancing the mission and vision of St. Anastasia Catholic Community and School. We appreciate each and every one of you!

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation year 2020-2021 has come to a close and we are so grateful for all the good the Lord has done! Please join us in thanking the Lord for the seeds planted, for them to be watered at home and for the fruit to be plentiful. We are also grateful for our catechists: Barb, Mary, Ann, Taylor, Linda, Jean and Kenzie and adoration with Cathie. Blessings to all our families and see you in the fall!

Spring SCRIP Reminder

As you start to look toward the spring clean up, yard work, flower planting, building projects, etc. remember that St A's SCRIP program has you covered. SCRIP is available for Menards, Wal Mart, Ace Hardware, Amazon and other suppliers of spring necessities. Buying SCRIP is like buying a gift card—you always get your full dollar's value on the card. And St A's gets a small rebate directly from the company. If you shop on line you don't have to worry about any personal information being compromised.



AND a portion of the profits generated by your purchases go to cover the cost of tuition for any student you designate participating in St A's School, Faith Formation or Kids Depot programs. If you do not designate a particular student, that share of the profits goes into the Education Fund to support on going education programs at St A's.

SCRIP is available in the parish office during regular business hours and after weekend masses. If you like, we can set you up with a regular order (weekly, e/o week, monthly—you choose). It can be a direct withdrawal from your account if you prefer. Questions? Call the parish office at 587-6507.

Renovations and Capital Campaign Update

We have completed a phase of renovations to our church with the addition of the audio/visual system. We are continuing to fine tune our understanding of the equipment and train volunteers into how to best use the equipment. The cost of this phase was \$ 150,000. Thank you for your support to these improves.

The building committee is now looking at a second phase that will include the renovation of the sanctuary (altar area). We are looking at leveling off the sanctuary platform, adding a ramp for people to get into the sanctuary, and lightening the colors of the sanctuary. Second, we will also be looking at a light reduction material for the windows, to lessen the intense sunlight on the interior of the church. Third, we will also be studying the additional use of acoustical material to help the audio concerns for the building. And last, we will be looking at enhancing the lighting of the church with addition lamps, upgrading wiring, and replacing the dimming panel. Estimated costs: \$ 500,000.00 Thank you for your ongoing support of our renovations.

Sacramental Celebration



This weekend we celebrate the baptism of Harmony Charlene Whitaker, daughter of Gerald and Crystal (Pietrobon) Whitaker.

May she grow strong in her faith, surrounded by the love of her family,

the support of our community and the enduring presence of her Lord.



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FEAST OF FAITH

The Gospel Reading

The climax of the Liturgy of the Word comes with the proclamation of the Gospel. Everything tells us that something important is happening. We stand. We sing special acclamations. Servers with candles and sometimes incense lead the deacon or priest to the ambo, where the reading is proclaimed from a special book.

All of the readings are important, but the liturgy directs special attention to the Gospel for a reason. “[A]mong all the inspired writings, even among those of the New Testament, the Gospels have a special place, and rightly so, because they are our principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Saviour” (*Dei Verbum*, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation of the Second Vatican Council, 18). In the Gospels, the narrative of Christ’s saving life, death, and resurrection continues to be proclaimed in our midst.

Our Sunday Lectionary is structured so as to allow us to hear as much of the Gospels as possible. The readings are arranged in a three-year cycle. In Year A, the Gospel readings are taken mainly from Matthew; in Year B, from Mark and John; and in Year C, from Luke. In this way, over the course of three years, we hear a substantial portion of all four Gospels.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

Do we truly know the voice of Christ? Do we truly respond to the voice of our shepherd with our own distinctive voice? How often we attempt to imitate those around us, appropriating the response of another member of the flock to Christ. Perhaps we need to balance the image of being sheep of one flock with the image from the second reading, which tells us

that we are all children of God. What child has precisely the same interaction with parents as his or her siblings? Instead, they frequently do and say things to distinguish themselves in the eyes of their parents.

Whether we use the image of children or of sheep to understand our relationship with Christ, we believe that we are all known and called by name. With this great gift comes a responsibility: to respond to the call with our own distinctive voice, to take time to discern exactly what our call is, to determine precisely what the will of the Father is for each of us.

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VBS

DISCOVER ST. JOSEPH VBS!

In the year of St. Joseph, we will discover him through rallies, wacky games, small group time, team challenges and more! Monday June 7th to Thursday June 10th 5:30 pm to 7 pm. We welcome kids 4 years old and up. Please pray for beautiful weather as we are planning to be outside this week! \$30 per families. Registration form on the website & in the entryway

VBS Volunteers are needed to make the week a success! Please contact Jen

@ religioused@stanastasia.net to volunteer. We need Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers to help guide the younger students and parents too.

Wheels of Mercy

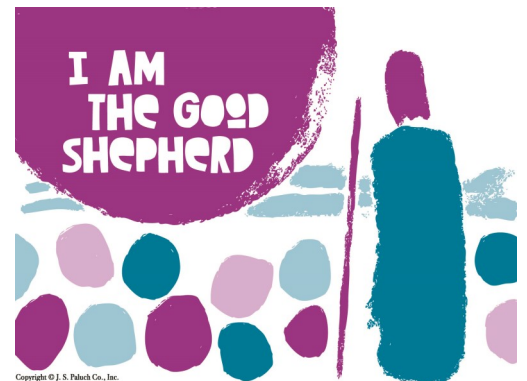


Wheels of Mercy provides free bicycles to those without other means of transportation. If

you have a “road ready” adult bicycle sitting around your garage collecting spiders and dust, please drop it off at Christ the King Church offices and give it—and a needy neighbor—a new lease on life. If you have a kid’s bike that is in good shape but just not needed, they’ll find it a good home, however, it’s adult bikes that are desperately needed. Thank you for your help!

McLeod Emergency Food Shelf

The Food Shelf is currently seeking applications for potential Board members. Duties include: providing financial oversight, ensuring MEFS has adequate resources, overseeing MEFS’ programs and policies and helping advance MEFS’ mission. For more information contact Lennie Albers, Executive Director at 320-864-2088 or glencoe@mcloedemergencyfoodshelf.org Make an impact in your community!



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THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The scriptures of the Fourth Sunday of Easter present images of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Many people think the most beautiful psalm in the entire Bible is Psalm 23, the psalm about God as a loving shepherd.

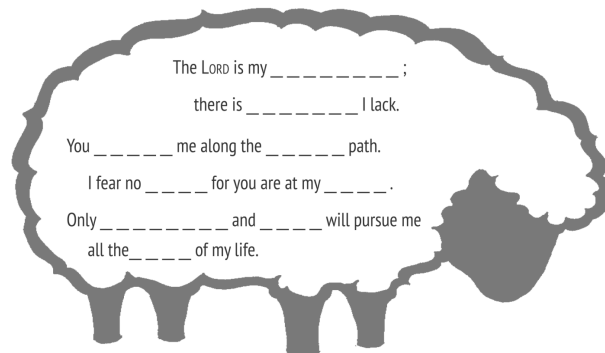
The words comfort us and remind us that God takes care of us, gives us courage, and promises us joy.

Inside this sheep are some verses from Psalm 23 (23:1, 3b, 4b, 6ab).

Choose from the list below to fill in the missing words. Each line stands for a letter, so you can use that as a clue.

Which words comfort you most?

Try to learn some of the verses of this psalm by heart so you can pray them when you need them.



guide goodness days shepherd harm nothing side right love

Pastor Al®



"Now *what* made you think using the fire sprinklers would be a good way to shorten the sprinkling rite?"

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Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd.
A good shepherd lays down his ...

O	R	E	P
T	F	F	E
H	I	S	E
	E	L	H

L _ _ _ _ _ ."

Answer: *life for the sheep*

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Please Keep In Your Prayers

Nicole Glesener Sandy Jerabek Margie Navara Maureen Reiner Barb Olson Jenny Trettin Al Cotter Delores Beich Clinton Gruett Roger Steintl Belinda Bureke Delores Muetzel Gloria Pohlmann Eric Haffley Wendy Stoll Sr Carmen Sonnek Teri Niemeyer Betty & Larry Gunderson Darlene Artmann Terry Bisbee Sheryl Mose Marilyn Reinarts Colleen Carlson Jerome Stoll Norbert Mohs Keitha Bomstad Amanda Kotila Connie Ericson Janice Kay Bogenrief

For the deceased: Leonard Blazinski

For all those in the military, serving our country at home and abroad. All those suffering with illness, loneliness, mental illness and those who are helping them. All those who are making extra efforts to be of service to their family, friends and community. For a clear path in our troubled times.



Stewardship

St. Anastasia

Total Contributions for:
March 29, 2021

Contribution Budget 2020-2021	\$800,000
March 29 Contributions	\$19,193
Total Contributions YTD	\$607,718
Total Budget YTD	\$600,000
Average weekly given in 2020-21	\$15,583
Average weekly needed during 2020-21 to make budget	\$15,385
Average weekly needed for remaining 17 weeks to make budget	\$14,791

Capital Campaign

Pledges Received	\$1,501,059.88
Contributions Received	\$574,030.03

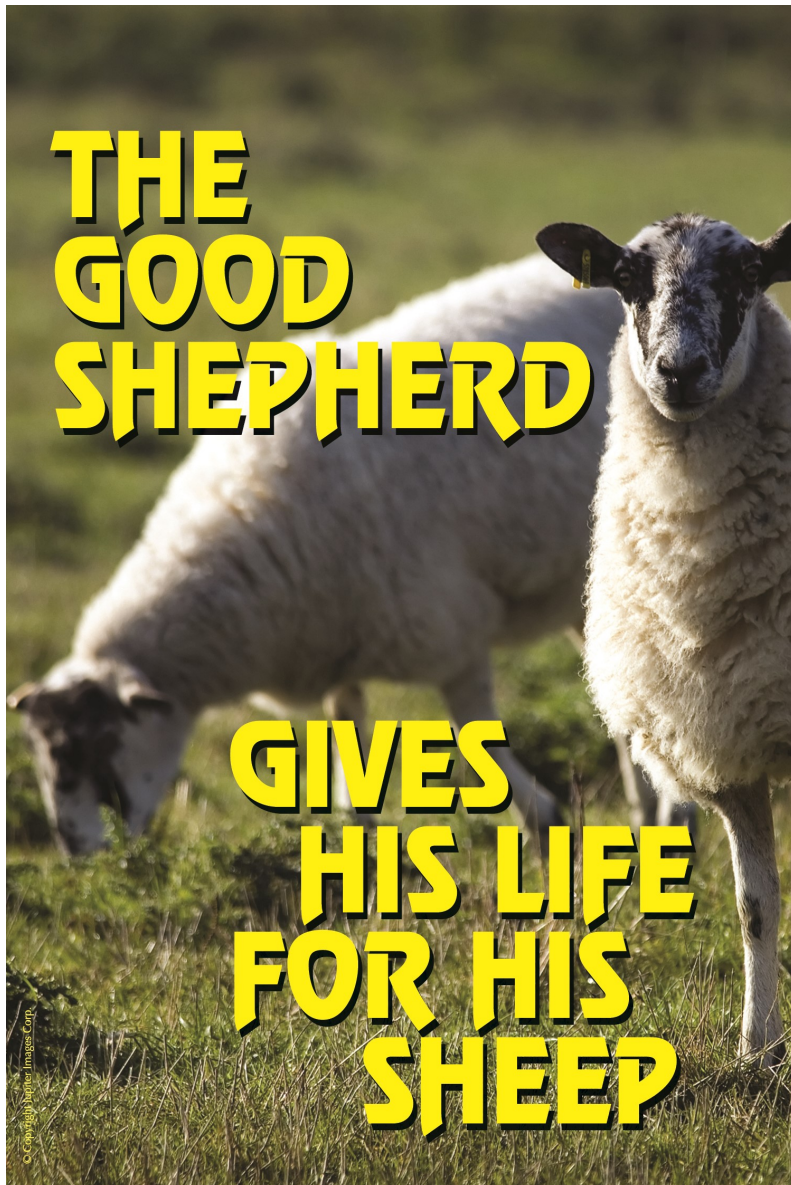
DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL

<u>St A's</u>	Parish
Goal	Total rec'd Portion
\$50,517	\$38,627 \$7,725

<u>St B's</u>	
\$3,999	\$3,425 \$685

TRY ONLINE GIVING AT ST A'S!

Online Giving is a secure way to give to the parish. Manage your account and donations by computer, tablet, or smart phone. Go to www.stanastasia.net, and click on the Online Giving icon to find out more. You can download the free App in the App Store, Google Play Store, or go to OLGapp.com. Register by entering our church ID of 78.



**THE
GOOD
SHEPHERD**

**GIVES
HIS LIFE
FOR HIS
SHEEP**

Apologies

Our accounting/contribution program has recently gone through a system wide upgrade (their idea, not ours) and has left us with some major issues to reconcile. We are working through them as quickly and accurately as we can, but we have no new financial corner information at this time. Thanks for your patience.

General Information

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at 3pm on Saturday at St. Anastasia or by appointment.

Marriages

Contact the Area Faith Office at least 6 months in advance of the planned wedding date. Couples complete a premartial inventory and are required to attend an approved pre-marriage program.

Baptisms

Contact Fr Paul Wolf, 320-587-6507, to schedule a baptism and the necessary preparation. The pre-Baptism program helps parents take an active role in their child's Baptism. It provides reflection and instructions for parents as they assume their new responsibility as the primary teachers of their child.

Hospital Visitation

If you, or anyone you know, is hospitalized or ill at home, notify the Area Faith Office to arrange for visitation.

Prayer Requests

You may list your prayer intentions in the Book of Communal Prayer in the Eucharistic Chapel.

Prayer Chain

St. A's has a prayer chain that prays for any needs you have. Anyone can call with a prayer request, and anyone can be a part of the prayer chain. If you would like to participate or ask for prayer support, call Janet Hall at 320-455-7927 email 3furballmom@gmail.com.

New Parishioners

Please register! Call or stop by the Area Faith Office.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation)

Considering becoming fully Catholic? Call Fr Paul Wolf, 320-587-6507.

Coffee Sales

Coffee from San Lucas, Guatemala is available in the Area Faith Office during business hours. Cost is \$10 per bag.

Area Bulletin Deadline

Tuesdays, 12pm, at St. Anastasia.

KC Picnic Shelter Rental at St. A's

Call Mark Lewandowski, 320-583-0357.

Adoration Hotline

For the latest changes to the Adoration schedule call 320-484-7126.

Area Faith Community Leadership

STA Administrative Council

Chair: Jim Fahey

usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month
May 18, 7pm St Anastasia parish office

STB Administrative Council

Chair: Mark Maiers

TBA, 9am St Boniface church basement

Cemetery Committee

Chair: Jeff Lehn

July 8, 3pm St Anastasia parish office

School Advisory Committee

Chair: Jason Jennissen

usually meets on the 1st Tuesday each month
May 4, 7pm St Anastasia hospitality area

Home & School Association

Chair: Gina Jennissen

TBA, 6:30pm St Anastasia library

Worship & Outreach Committee

TBA, 7pm St Anastasia parish office

Maintenance Committee

TBA 5pm St Anastasia parish office

Social Concerns Committee

TBA, 6pm St Anastasia parish office

STA Council of Catholic Women

TBA, 10am St Anastasia hosp. kitchen

STB Council of Catholic Women

TBA, 6pm St Boniface basement

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight: Mark Maiers

May 5, 7:30pm St Anastasia cafeteria

Knights of Columbus Squires

TBA, 5pm St Anastasia hosp. kitchen

Area Faith Community Staff

Fr. Paul Wolf, Pastor

507-829-0965 (cell) pwolf@stanastasia.net

St. Anastasia Parish Staff

Diane Pedersen, Business Manager
Meghan Laffen, Development Director
Merrienne Miller, Bookkeeper
Donna Conrad, Secretary
Kevin Scott, Facility Manager

320-587-6507
320-587-6507
320-583-0807 (cell)
parishadmin@stanastasia.net
development@stanastasia.net
mmiller@stanastasia.net
dconrad@stanastasia.net

St. Boniface Staff

Millie Navara, Administration
Merri Schaufler, Contributions

320-562-2463
320-562-2245
mmnavara@embarqmail.com

St. Anastasia School

Betty Jodzio, Principal
Marilyn Schreiner, Secretary

320-587-2490
320-587-2490
principal@stanastasia.net
secretary@stanastasia.net

Kids' Depot Daycare & Preschool

Michelle Nies, Director

320-587-4760 depot@stanastasia.net

Religious Education & Youth Ministry

Jennifer Eckstein, RE Dir, St Anastasia
Karen Maiers, RE Dir, St Boniface
Jake Burmis, YM Director

320-234-6129
320-833-6020
320-587-6507
religioused@stanastasia.net
karenmaiers1@gmail.com
youthmin@stanastasia.net

St. Anastasia Cemetery

Mike Schall, Manager

1 mile north of Hutchinson on Highway 15
320-583-7199 mgschall@mediacombb.net

St. Boniface Cemetery

Richard Navara, Manager

1 mile south of Stewart on City Rd 7
320-562-2128 rnavara@embarqmail.com

TO REPORT ABUSE: If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy (priest, deacon or bishop), and you need to talk with someone about abuse, exploitation, or harassment, please contact the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator or the Bishop's Delegate in Matters Pertaining to Sexual Misconduct, 1421 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; phone: (507) 359-2966.