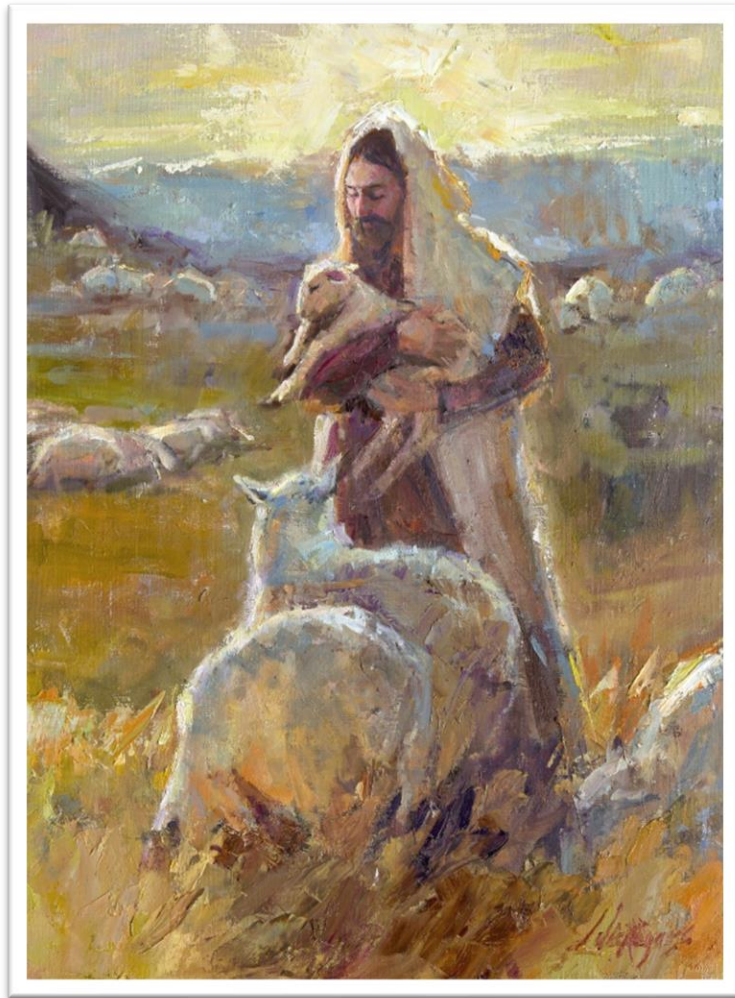


St. John United Church of Christ

New Holstein, Wisconsin



April 21, 2024

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2111 CHURCH STREET NEW HOLSTEIN, WISCONSIN

Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy Pastor
Pastor's Phone 920-286-1956
Organist: Penny Geiger

Church Phone: 920-898-4259
Church Secretary: Mary Keran
Choir Director/Keyboardist: Linda Hau

Church webpage <http://sjuccnh.wixsite.com/nhsjucc>
Church email: sjucc.desk@outlook.com
Facebook [stjohnucc.nh](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnucc.nh)

April 21, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter

TOLLING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures. We are refreshed beside still waters.

People: We have been given everything we have. God offers us everything we need.

Leader: When we walk through shadowed valleys, God is with us. We are comforted and reassured.

People: God leads us in the right paths. Our cups are filled to overflowing.

Leader: God welcomes us to the table where love is expressed. We are invited to partake of the truth that God offers.

All: We have received plenty that we might share. We are called to be God's helpers.

***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Good Shepherd, we meet in your name, confident that we are known and loved by you. Here we draw close to one another and to you, expecting to be empowered by fresh insights to live as your people. We want to care for one another in life-giving ways. We seek to reach out to those who deny you or suspect us. Help us grow in love that is genuine in its caring and self-sacrifice. We embrace the wholeness you offer and dare to risk acceptance of a healing role for ourselves and this faith community. Equip us for service beyond this hour of meeting. Amen.

***RESPONSE (Gloria Patri)**

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Holy Manna

TIME WITH YOUTH

HYMN # 16 The God of Abraham Praise

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison, using debts and debtors)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory...forever. Amen.

SHARING THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin
Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped

and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above the Heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

How can we express our thanks, O God, for the one who laid down life itself in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need and want to respond. Use what we offer to you to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN # 440 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Listen for the Word of God in Psalm 23
Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in John 10:11-18

SERMON Power To Lay It Down

*HYMN # 425 Christ Beside Me

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Psalm 23 (NRSV)

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- ² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
- ³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
- ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

John 10:11-18 (NRSV)

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reader: Nic

Today, Sunday, April 21:

- **Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.**
- **Sunday School**

Wednesday, April 24:

- **Wired Word** at 10:00 a.m.
- **Chancel Choir** at 6:30 p.m.
- **Confirmation Class** at 7:00 p.m.

❖ **Herald articles are due Tuesday, April 23**

❖ If you are available **Friday, May 17, please consider signing up to help with the St. John Brat Fry** at Piggly Wiggly. There is a sign-up sheet available in the narthex. Thank you!

❖ **Zion Lutheran Church** in New Holstein is hosting their **71st Annual Pancake Supper on Sunday, April 28 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.** at 1702 Van Buren Street to benefit the Lutheran Youth Fellowship. Along with Potato & Buttermilk Pancakes there will be brats, hamburgers, applesauce, and dessert. \$14 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6-12 (free for children 5 and under).

❖ **St. James UCC** in Spring Valley is hosting a **Brat Fry on Wednesday, May 8 from 4-7 p.m.**, carry-out only, at 13312 Pioneer Rd., Newton, WI.