

This Sunday at St. Luke's
April 19, 2026

8 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion with organ, hymns, choir
and anthem

ORGAN: STEVEN CAGLE

The Second Sunday after Easter



Jesus the Good Shepherd

The picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd has often been interpreted too sentimentally. Pretty things are said about sheep and shepherds. But in Biblical scenes, behind all the intimacy and pastoral care, there always lurked the hidden danger. “The good shepherd will give His life for the sake of His sheep . . . and I am giving my life for the sake of the sheep.” This point is taken up in the Epistle appointed for the Second Sunday after Easter: “Christ suffered for you . . . He personally bore our sins in His own body on the cross.” There the Good Shepherd is shown doing something for the sheep that the sheep are powerless to do for themselves – a thought which finds

expression in the words of the Collect, “to be unto us a sacrifice for sin.” This is the “inestimable benefit we pray “always most thankfully to receive.” (H.W. Dobson)

THE COLLECT FOR EASTER 2

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same thy son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – 1 St. Peter 2:19-25 (J.B. Phillips)

Following Christ's example

¹⁹⁻²⁰ A man does something valuable when he endures pain, as in the sight of God, though he knows he is suffering unjustly. After all, it is no credit to you if you are patient in bearing a punishment which you have richly deserved! But if you do your duty and are punished for it and can still accept it patiently, you are doing something worthwhile in God's sight.

²¹⁻²⁵ Indeed this is part of your calling. For Christ suffered for you and left you a personal example, and wants you to follow in his steps. ‘Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in his mouth’. Yet when he was insulted he offered no insult in return. When he suffered he made no threats of revenge. He simply committed his cause to the one who judges fairly. And he personally bore our sins in his own body on the cross, so that we might be dead to sin and be alive to all that is good. It was the suffering that he bore which has healed you. You had wandered away like so many sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

NOTE: Christ who suffered for us has a true shepherd's concern for those who “follow in His steps.” (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. John 10:11-16 (J.B. Phillips)

Yahweh Himself is coming to be the Shepherd of His people

10 ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd will give his life for the sake of his sheep. But the hired man, who is not the shepherd, and does not own the sheep, will see the wolf coming, desert the sheep and run away. And the wolf will attack the

flock and send them flying. The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and has no interest in the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know those that are mine and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I am giving my life for the sake of the sheep.

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ “And I have other sheep who do not belong to this fold. I must lead these also, and they will hear my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd. This is the reason why the Father loves me—that I lay down my life, and I lay it down to take it up again! No one is taking it from me, but I lay it down of my own free will. I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it up again. This is an order that I have received from my Father.”

NOTE: [Here is the Fourth Gospel description of the Good Shepherd.](#) (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 30-31 (RSV)

The Lord God describes His relation to His people through the example of a shepherd

¹¹ “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep^[a] have been scattered abroad, 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. ¹³ And 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 fountains, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and upon the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on fat pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over;^[b] I will feed them in justice.

²⁹ And I will provide for them prosperous^[c] plantations so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land, and no longer suffer the reproach of the nations. ³⁰ And they shall know that I, the Lord their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, says the Lord God. ³¹ And you are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture,^[d] and I am your God, says the Lord God.”

NOTE: [Here is the Old Testament counterpart to the Gospel for this Sunday.](#) The Lord God describes His relation to Israel through the example of a shepherd. (William Sydnor)

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Preacher: The Rector

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector – Tim Kirby (Old Testament)

Lector – Al Cash (Epistle)

Acolyte – Reed Ferrell

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Tim Kirby and Judy Brooten

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

April and May

- **Teaching Tuesday, The Church Sacraments and Rites** - Tuesdays, Apr. 14 - May 19, at 10 a.m. For more information, contact DJ Fulton. 770-713-4202.
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, Apr. 26, following the 10:15 a.m. service.
- **St. Phillip and St. James, Apostles** – Friday, May 1, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **AARP Smart Driver Class** – Saturday, May 2, from 9-4. Contact Kelly Cherry #423-243-8146.
- **SLMG Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday, May 5, 11 a.m.
- **Women’s Enrichment Center Annual BBQ and Yard Sale**- May 8 and 9. Learn more at wecfamilyresources.org/events.
- **Eastern Orthodox Services** – May 10 and 24, at 2 p.m.
- **WSL Bi-Monthly Meeting** – Wednesday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m.
- **Ascension** – Thursday, May 14, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, May 24, following the 10:15 service.
- **Fellowship Luncheon** – Sunday, May 31, following the 10:15 service.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS

Genesis the Prelude to the Gospel

GENESIS AND CREATION CLASS

Synopsis:

This class meets once a week for 6 weeks. It covers the entire book of Genesis, which is so foundational to an understanding of and earth and civilization are contained in Chapters 1-11, and then the beginnings of the nation of Israel through the lives of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are covered in Chapters 12-50, the last several chapters of which is the story of Joseph, ending with the young nation residing prosperously in Egypt, which is however, not their promised land.

The Instructor:

Charles Lutz, 63 years old, lives in Blairsville, but is from Indiana. For the past 31 years, he has put his seminary training to use in a variety of Christian ministries. He currently is a visiting instructor at a Native American Bible college, and is a writer and musician. He loves teaching passionately about both books God has written: the Bible and Creation!

Options

In-church.

Online. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on YouTube. To access both put “Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga.” In the search bar.



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Valery Rice for coming up with the theme and decorating Thomason Hall for last Sunday's lunch, along with those who assisted her: Judy Brooten and Teresa Wankel.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED – DONATE A CHILDREN'S BOOK

WSL Women of St. Luke's book drive to benefit The Craddock Center continues this week. Please bring books for children 0 to 5 years old to the collection box downstairs.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

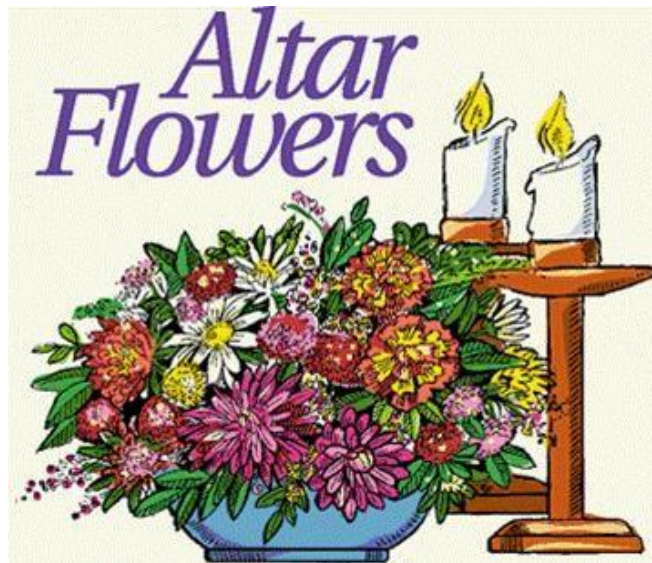


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



OUR MISSION

St. Luke's mission is to grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to share our faith, our hands and hearts for the sake of the Gospel, our community and the world.



SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2025.

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email or call Kathryn Noblett at the church office to sign up.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2026

*As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to
the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2025*

Name

Address

Amount

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



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www.stlukesblueridge.org; stlukes@tds.net.