

**7 May 2017 - Fourth Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday.**

**Readings:** Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10.

**INTRO: *Good Shepherd/good sheep* – John 10:14, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.”**

**Cf. Peter Wagner, “Leadership versus Followership.”**



**I. The Good Shepherd calls... Good sheep hear His voice.**

**John 10:3-4, 14, “The sheep **hear** his voice, and **he calls his own sheep** by name... I know my own **and my own know me.**”**

**Matthew 11:28, “Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** Good sheep find life (John 10:10).

**Psalm 23:1-2, “The LORD is my shepherd; **I shall not want.** He makes me lie down in green pastures.”** Cf. Jesus is their “first love.”



Letter of Call: “Lead us in fulfilling our responsibility to witness for Christ, and promote and guide the mission activity of the congregation in the local community.”

“Receive you as our pastor, a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, and accord you the love, respect, goodwill, and cooperation due your Office.”

**II. The Good Shepherd leads... Good sheep follow.**

**John 10:3-4, “The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and **leads them** out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and **the sheep follow him.**”**

**Psalm 23:2-3, “He leads me beside *still waters*...**

*Still waters* = the Gospel. Mary at the feet of Jesus; the “one thing.”

**He leads me** in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”

*Paths of righteousness*-discipleship/sanctification/the “gracious thing”

**1 Pet. 2:19-21, “This is a **gracious thing**, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a **gracious thing** in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might **follow in his steps.**”**

**John 6:66, “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.”**

**Letter of Call: “Lead us** in fulfilling our responsibility to witness for Christ, and promote and guide the mission activity of the congregation in the local community.” - “Receive you as our pastor, a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, and accord you the love, respect, goodwill, and cooperation due your Office.” Senior Profile: “a team oriented servant **leader.**” “demonstrates ‘adaptive leadership’ style.”



"Although there are dingos in the hills, And the paddocks are full of snakes, God serves up a barbecue, Of beautiful T-bone steaks!"



**III. The Good Shepherd** guards and protects/outpours... **Good sheep** grow secure, find abundant life, live out of overflow.

**John 10:29**, "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one can snatch them** out of my Father's hand."

**Psalm 23:4**, "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."

**Psalm 23:5**, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; **my cup overflows.**"

**Psalm 23:5-6**, "You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; **my cup brims with blessing.**" "Although there are dingos in the hills, And the paddocks are full of snakes, **God serves up a barbecue, Of beautiful T-bone steaks!**" **John 10:10**, "I came so they can have real and eternal life, **more and better life than they ever dreamed of.**"

**CONCLUSION:** The Good Shepherd disappears... Good sheep rise up to take His place. They grow to be shepherds, pastors, leaders of the flock and others. Illus. Last Sunday. Jesus appears, and then disappears. Why? So we step up, grow up, become the leaders God has called us to be. Philippine church motto: "Every believer, a leader." We can only lead, as we learn to follow. In so doing, others will get to know Jesus, find life, and abundant life. In Jesus name. ☺