

# flock

## MAGAZINE



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SPONSOR  
A SHEEP

# PSALM 23

"The lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."  
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WHAT'S YOUR  
IMAGE  
OF GOD?

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flcfargo.org

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jokes & fun facts



# PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>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.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to FLOCK Magazine!

We are excited to kick-off our fall Christian education programming. As we are adjusting to hybrid learning models at school, we also will offer hybrid options for Kids at First Sunday and Wednesday school. To help us stay connected and keep learning about Jesus as best we can, we've created **FLOCK: First Lutheran Online Community for Kids**. This community was built to help kids learn about and grow in God's love. It's like getting Sunday school in your mailbox! We will refer to this content as **FLOCK Online** (see back page for details).

In addition, each month, **FLOCK Magazine** will be sent to your home! In it, you will read a story from the Bible and discover background details, facts, and characters, as well as

why the story was important then and how it fits into your life today. The magazine is packed full of fun facts, games, arts and crafts, recipes, contests, and more!

We hope you use this magazine to grow your faith and guide you to live, love, and lead like Jesus and have fun doing it!

God is Good! In-person, at-home, and online – you are WELCOME here at Kids at First and First Lutheran. We are glad you are here.

Peace,  
*Marlee*  
Marlee

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 Count-the-Shepherd GAME: pg 14!

Talking to God

When you pray do you ever wonder if you are "doing it right"? You are not alone.

Even the people who spent a lot of time with Jesus, the disciples, asked Jesus how to

pray because they were not sure they were "doing it right."

Friends, please know there is no "right" way to pray. Jesus tells us we only need a right heart to talk with him. Prayer

is talking with God, either out loud or silently. We can use the words in the Bible to help us start!

Here is an example prayer about Psalm 23:

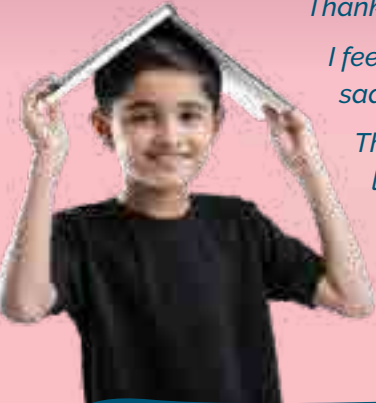
God,

*Thank you for leading me and protecting me.  
Thank you for providing me with what I need.*

*I feel safe because you promise to be with me when I feel calm or scared or sad or mad. I know I will be ok because you promise to always be with me.*

*Thank you for showing me grace and kindness and love. Help me to share it with all the people in my life, the ones I like and even the ones I have a hard time liking.*

*Amen*



**Now it's your turn!** Re-read Psalm 23 on page 2, and write out your prayer to God.







*he makes me lie down in green pastures*



*he leads me beside  
still waters*



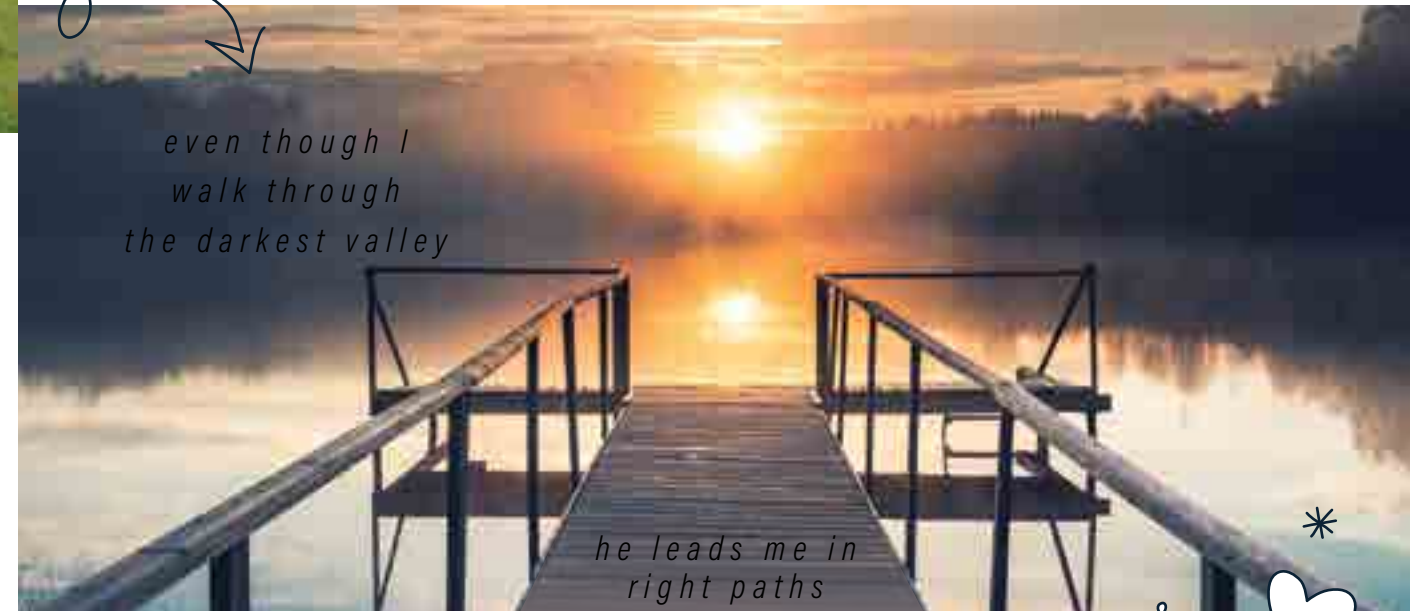
# Photos OF THE Month



*goodness  
& mercy  
shall  
follow me*



*your rod  
and staff*

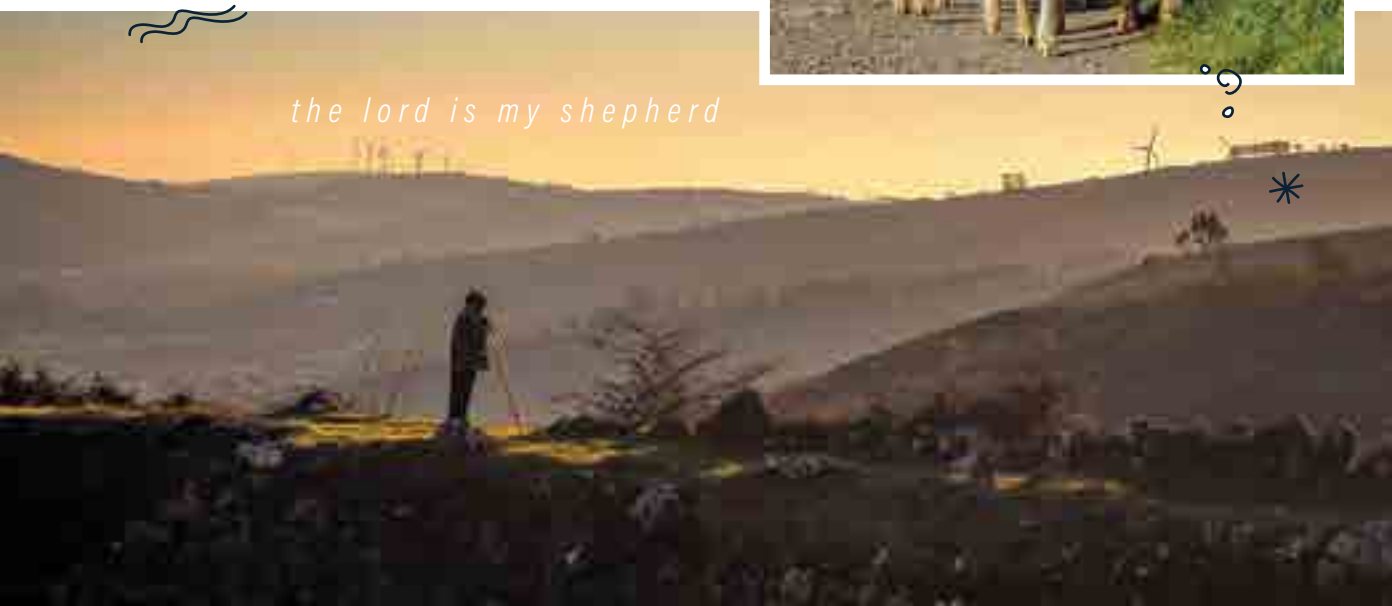


*even though I  
walk through  
the darkest valley*

*he leads me in  
right paths*



*a table before me*



*the lord is my shepherd*



*anoint my head with oil*

see page 19 to draw your  
own table of favorite foods





# THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD



by Pastor Steph

The Lord is my Shepherd.

**For as long as I can remember this has been my favorite image of God.**

When I close my eyes and pray, it is often a shepherd holding a sheep that I see, and I imagine that God is the shepherd and I am the sheep.

I grew up on a farm and ranch in western North Dakota and my grandpa and dad were shepherds of sorts. They raised sheep. When a sheep has lambs, she rarely has just one. Twins, triplets, and quadruplets (4 babies born at the same time) are the norm. Sometimes the mama

sheep doesn't have enough milk to feed all of her babies and so she rejects one or two of them so she has enough for the others. When this happens, the **rejected lambs are called "bummer" lambs** and need to be bottle-fed.

I bottle fed many bummer lambs on the farm. There was one bum lamb that my grandpa picked up out of the icy snow pile and brought it into the house. The ewe (the mama sheep) had left it there to die, but grandpa believed he could save it. He wrapped the lamb up in a bath towel and rubbed its body fast to help it warm up. Then grandpa heated



who are you callin' a bummer?



from left to right:  
Steph's father Loyal, and  
grandfather Lewis



see page 12  
to read more  
about the  
Shepherd's  
staff



left: Steph's father, Loyal,  
in the checkered shirt



right:  
Timmy, Steph's  
bummer lamb



up milk and fed the little sheep right in our bathtub. He and my dad set up a heat lamp so the little lamb would stay warm and dry and we all took turns feeding the lamb during the day and night. This little bummer lamb became one of our pets and I named him Timothy. **"Timmy" would follow me around the farm** and helped to lead the flock of sheep.

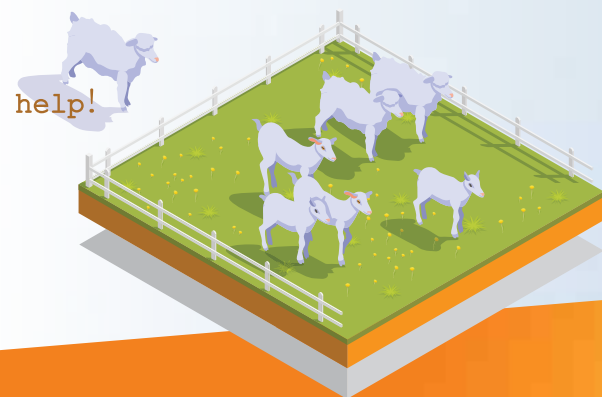
Psalm 23 was one of the first Bible verses I ever memorized, and it remains

one that I think about often. Just like my grandpa rescued that rejected lamb from the ice and snow, **Jesus rescues me and cares for me.** I am like a sheep that needs the Lord as my Shepherd. Like my grandpa did for the bum lamb, God gives me everything I need to live. God will never leave me or reject me, but instead fills me full of love. God picks me up, dries me off and feeds me. My cup runs over!

# What is a shepherd, anyway?

A shepherd, or a sheep herder, is a person who tends, herds, feeds, and protects sheep.

The job of shepherd is one of the oldest jobs, starting thousands of years ago! In the past, the shepherds kept their flock together, protected the flock from predators, milked the sheep, and guided the flock to market for wool or meat.



If he starts the day with a 150 sheep, there should be 150 sheep at the end of the day! If not, he will be sure the rest are safe and then will search and search and search until all the sheep are found! Shepherds can have BIG flocks. Some shepherds today have as many as 1,000 sheep!

Today, shepherds are different depending on where you live. There are fewer predators to keep watch for, and sheep do not need to be moved as much because they are fed by the sheep farmer.

## Shepherds in the Bible:

- **Abraham**
- **Jacob**
- **Moses**
- **King David**
- **Amos**
- **Jesus "The Good Shepherd"**

But Jesus was not a shepherd of sheep. Instead, Jesus' FLOCK was people, Christians, us!



From Shepherd Dave to

## KING DAVID of Israel

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Meet Samuel.

Samuel was not a doctor or a teacher. Samuel was a prophet.

Samuel's job was to hear what God said and tell it to the people.

Samuel worked a lot with King Saul, helping Saul rule God's people well.

But Saul was not a good King. Saul did whatever he wanted. Saul did not care for God's people. Saul did not care about God.

So God told Samuel: "I'm done with Saul. We need a new king of Israel. Here's what you need to do: Go to the town of Bethlehem and find a man named Jesse. He has many sons. One of them will be the next king."

So Samuel went to Bethlehem and found Jesse.

Jesse lined up all his sons for Samuel to see. Samuel took one look at Jesse's oldest son and thought, "Wow! What a guy! He is so strong and good-looking. This must be the one!"

But even as he thought this, God said, "No, not

this one. You are only thinking about what they look like on the outside. Think about who they are on the inside."

And so, Samuel moved on to the next son. One by one, all the sons stood before Samuel. One by one, God said, "Nope, not this one."

Samuel asked Jesse, "Do you have any other children?" Jesse said, "Yes, just one. But he's the youngest and he's just a shepherd. He's out in the field with the sheep and goats."

"Bring him in," said Samuel.

A little boy named David came in. He smelled like sheep and goats, but his eyes sparkled with joy and kindness.

Samuel tried to see David from both the inside and the outside.

God told Samuel, "Yes, this is the one."

Samuel shared the Good News, "David has been chosen as the next king!" And everyone celebrated.

Sure enough, when David grew up, David became the next King of Israel.

## Timeline of David's Life

- 1040 B.C.** - David is born
- 1025 B.C.** - David is chosen to be the next King of Israel
- 1024 B.C.** - David fights Goliath
- 1024 B.C.** - David plays harp for King Saul
- 1023 B.C.** - David meets his new best friend: Jonathan son of Saul.
- 1020 B.C.** - Saul is mad at David and kicks him out of the palace.
- 1010 B.C.** - King Saul dies and David becomes King.
- 1002 B.C.** - David brings the Ark of Covenant to Jerusalem
- 1001 B.C.** - David wants to build a temple to worship God. God says to wait.
- 999 B.C.** - David's son Solomon is born.
- 970 B.C.** - David dies and Solomon becomes King.





# MUSIC from the HARP



**A** PSALM IS A SONG or poem written by King David. Did you know there are 150 Psalms in the Bible? We sing many of them in worship to this day!

Fun fact: The original language used in the Old Testament was Hebrew. This is what the word Psalm looks like in Hebrew: תהלים

The harp is a stringed musical instrument; the strings are plucked with the fingers. In King David's day this is the kind of harp he would have played. It was smaller and could be played by placing it on his lap.

Here is what most harps look like today.

Have you ever heard a harp? It has a beautiful and relaxing sound. Visit **FLOCK Online** to listen to harp music and some Psalms we sing in church today:

- ♪ The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- ♪ I Am Not Alone
- ♪ Where You Lead Me



Katie (Lyngstad) Johnson  
playing the harp.



**What do you call a sheep with no legs?**

A cloud

**Where do sheep go on vacation?**

To the Baa-hamas!

**Where does a sheep go to get a haircut?**

The baa-baa shop

**What do you call a dancing sheep?**

A baa-lerina

**What do you call a quiet sheep?**

A Shhhhheep

## SHEEPISH FUN JOKES & RIDDLES



**Where do sheep take a bath?**

In a baaaa-th tub?

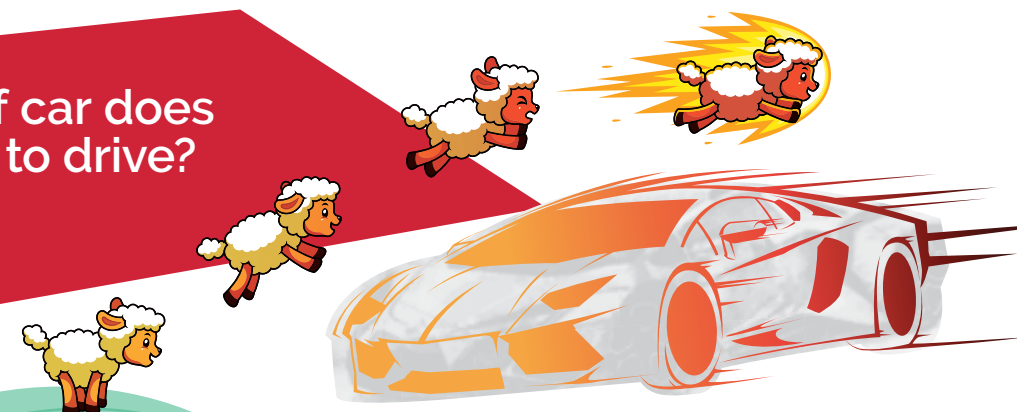
**What do you get if you cross a kangaroo and a sheep?**

A wooly good jumper

**What kind of car does a sheep like to drive?**

a LAMBorghini >>>

(Source: jokes4us.com)



## facts about flocks

- » There are over 1 billion sheep in the world.
- » China has the largest number of sheep in the world.
- » Adult female sheep are known as ewes.
- » Adult male sheep are known as rams.
- » A group of sheep is known as a herd, flock, or mob.
- » Young sheep are called lambs.
- » Sheep are herbivores that eat vegetables such as grass.
- » In 1996, a sheep named Dolly was the first mammal to be cloned.
- » 1 pound of wool can make up to 10 miles of yarn. A sheep can produce between 2 and 30 pounds of wool each year.

### DID YOU KNOW?



Sheep have a field of vision of around 300 degrees, allowing them to see behind themselves without having to turn their head.

## What's with the staff, Steph?

The shepherd's staff was a long stick, often with a crook or hook on one end. Shepherds leaned on the staff when climbing and walking. They also used it to guide the sheep and to rescue them when they got stuck.



"You're not the only shepherd with a stick!"





# JESUS: THE LAMB OF GOD

Before Jesus came along, if someone did something wrong, they would show they were sorry by bringing an animal, usually a lamb, to a priest who would put the lamb on an altar and say something like this, "You have sinned, but God has allowed this lamb to die in your place so you can be forgiven." And then the priest would kill the lamb.

The blood of the lamb would be the payment for the things one had done wrong. Why? **God loves us and wants us to be forgiven,** and blood represents life. The

life of the blood covers our bad behavior, which is like death because it separates us from God. God doesn't want us to be apart from him!

So, when Jesus came along, he was considered the last, perfect lamb of God. When he died and his blood was spilled, it was for all people and all times. Now, we don't have to use lambs anymore because Jesus, **"the Lamb of God,"** covers **our wrongdoing** and patches things up between us and God.



**Let's Play!** Count how many times you find me (the FLOCK Shepherd) in this issue of **FLOCK Magazine**. Look closely, I can be any color! (Answer on back page.)



# ANAGRAMS

An anagram is a word puzzle. Below are real words, but the letters are jumbled up! Re-arrange the letters to form real words and solve the puzzle. (Hint: Psalm 23)

pheeshdr	torofcm	maspl
ord		eerng
ebtal	ftsfa	lofwol
yevall	dorl	recym

- WORD BANK
- mercy

psalm

comfort

staff

rod

lord

valley

follow

green

table

# Photo Scavenger Hunt

Let's go on a scavenger hunt together! Take a picture or a selfie with some of these 23 items (can you find them all?):

- dandelions
- leaves
- the number 23
- candy
- pair of socks
- shirt
- stack of books
- something green
- cup
- path
- table
- oil
- house
- rod or staff
- bible
- musical instrument
- animal
- vegetable
- cloud
- bubbles
- feet
- cross
- pasture

Send your photos in to Erik Carlson 619 Broadway, Fargo or email them to [ecarlson@flcfargo.org](mailto:ecarlson@flcfargo.org)