

ONE FLOCK—ONE SHEPHERD

(John 10:11-18)

Intro: After a week of hearing so much about:

- Pigs.
- Swine flu.

Today's lessons are about:

- Sheep.
- Shepherd.

#"I am the good shepherd."

*Jesus says.

#"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

*John 10:11.

I. When It Comes To Sheep And The Shepherd.

A. We Are The Sheep.

1. On a tour of:

- a. New Zealand.
- b. Australia.

-Few years ago.

-I visited a couple of sheep ranches.

#In New Zealand.

2. Most everything I know about sheep I learned in New Zealand.

a. Sheep are good for:

-Wool.

-Meat.

#One evening we attended a lamb roast.

*At a winery.

#Wine was good.

#Lamb was even better.

*Slow roasted.

+Good part of the day.

+On an outdoor fire.

b. Sheep are also:

-Dumb.

#Among the dumbest of four-legged creatures.

-Skittish.

#Easily spooked.

-Pliant.

#Easily led.

#Easily misled.

B. Jesus Is The Shepherd.

1. Good shepherd.

a. Lays down his life for the sheep.

-No one takes his life.

#He lays it down.

*Jesus' crucifixion.

*Jesus' death.

+Not simply a miscarriage of justice.

+But an act of:

=Love.

=Sacrifice.

#He takes it up again.

*On the third day.

*He has the:

+Power.

+Authority.

+Freedom.

=ἐξουσία.

=Greek word can mean all of those things.

*We might be able to lay down our lives.

+But not to take them up again.

b. Good shepherd lays down his life for us.

-Because we sometimes do dumb things.

-Because we are often skittish and afraid.

-Because we are too often misled.

c. Good shepherd takes up his life again.

-So that he might continue to care for:

#Sheep. #Us.

2. 23rd Psalm.

a. Shepherd psalm.

b. Favorite of many.

c. Expresses this personal relationship we have with the shepherd.

-Notice a few things about this psalm.

#First part.

*Like:

+Creed.

+Profession of faith.

*Speaks of the shepherd in the third person.

+ "He."

#Second part.

*When we get to:

+Darkest valley.

+Valley of the shadow of death.

=Psalm 23:4.

*More like a prayer.
+Speaks about the shepherd in the second person.
="You."

#Psalmist speaks in the first person.

*"I."

*"My."

+It's all very personal.

-You may know it by heart.

#The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside still waters;

He restores my soul.

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

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.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

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.

3. Good shepherd knows his sheep.

a. Story of a Minnesota sheep breeder.

-An expert in his field.

-Was at his local country fair.

#Farmer from a neighboring county.

*Came up to him.

*Started to ask him all kinds of questions.

+About his breeding operation.

=Where it was.

=How he did it.

*Left.

-When the sheep breeder got home.

#Noticed strange tire tracks.

*In his farm yard.

#All his sheep were gone.

-Couple of weeks later.

#Neighboring county had its county fair.

*Sheep breeder went.

#There were his sheep.

*New ear tags.

- #When he was asked.
 - *How he could be so sure.
 - +Those were his sheep.
 - *He simply said:
 - +“I know my sheep.”
 - +“My sheep know me.”
- b. Something very comforting about this personal relationship.
 - Good shepherd knows his sheep.
 - Sheep know him.

II. But There Are Other Sheep.

A. There Were In Jesus’ Day.

1. He said so.
 - a. “I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.”
 - “I must bring them also.”
 - b. “So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”
 - John 10:16.
2. Who were the other sheep?
 - a. John is writing his Gospel.
 - At a time when Christians had lost the battle for the synagogues.
 - #Previous chapter.
 - *John 9.
 - #We had a story of man who had been blind from birth.
 - *When Jesus healed him.
 - +Man professed Jesus to be the Lord.
 - *When this man made his confession of faith.
 - +Religious leaders kicked him out of the synagogue.
 - b. The “other sheep” in Jesus’ flock.
 - Could be those Jewish Christians.
 - #Who still belonged to the synagogues.
 - #Who were more secretive about their faith in Jesus.
 - *So as not to get kicked out of the synagogue.
 - Could be the Gentiles.
 - Could be believers who have had to leave home.
 - #Because of persecution.
 - Could be people of another time and place.
 - #Like us.
3. Jesus must bring them also.
 - a. There is one flock.
 - b. There is one shepherd.

- B. Who Are The Other Sheep Of Our Day?
1. People of other:
 - a. Races.
 - b. Cultures.
 - c. Nationalities.
 - d. Ethnic groups.
 - e. Sexual orientations.
 2. Other:
 - a. Faiths.
 - b. Christians.
 - c. Protestants.
 - d. Lutherans.
 - e. ELCA Lutherans.
 3. Who is God calling us:
 - a. To lay down our lives for?
 - b. To sacrifice for?
 - People we know.
 - People we like.
 - People who like us.
 - People who are like us.
 4. Have you heard about Tour de Revs?
 - a. Article.
 - In the latest issue of the Synod Supplement.
 - #In the April issue of The Lutheran magazine.
 - Just above the piece on our anniversary banner.
 - #Copy on the bulletin board in the narthex.
 - b. There are three ELCA pastors.
 - David Twedt.
 - Ron Schlak.
 - Fred Soltow.
 - #Each one 60 years old.
 - #Each one a pastor in West Virginia.
 - c. They're going to take a bike ride this summer.
 - 13,000-mile bike ride.
 - #In 100 days.
 - *That's about 130 miles per day.
 - +About what I might ride in a good week.
 - =If there aren't any rainy days.
 - Starting with a blessing at the Lutheran Center.
 - #In Chicago.
 - #On May 13.
 - Concluding at the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA.
 - #In Minneapolis.
 - #In August.

- In between.
 - #They will be visiting 65 cities.
 - *Including:
 - +New Orleans.
 - =For the National Youth Gathering.
 - =July 22-26.
 - +Tulsa.
 - =July 28-29.
- d. Why are they doing this?
 - To raise:
 - #Awareness.
 - #Money.
 - *For the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal.
 - *Their goal is to raise \$5 million.
 - +For people:
 - =They don't know.
 - =They will likely never meet.
 - +For other sheep.
 - =Who are not of this sheepfold.
 - When they come to Tulsa.
 - #Plan is that some of us.
 - *Who are bicycle enthusiasts.
 - *Will ride out to meet them.
 - *Will escort them into Tulsa.
 - +Where there is likely to be a gathering.
 - =To raise awareness on world hunger.
 - Stay tuned for further details on that.
 - #I hope that there is a way for us to combine:
 - *Bike riding.
 - *Fund raising for world hunger.
 - +Stay tuned for further details.
 - But there are other sheep who need to be fed.
 - #Just as the Good Shepherd feeds us.
 - *With daily bread.
 - *With the bread of life.

- Concl: This morning we welcome:
- New sheep.
 - #Josee Violet Wright.
 - *Through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.
 - Her mom Andie.
 - #To the sheepfold at Ascension Lutheran Church.
 - *Through her Affirmation of Faith.

There are many sheep.
-One flock.
-One shepherd.
#Good shepherd.

