

May 10th, 2020

MOTHER'S DAY

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church: 905-685-8294, Fax 905-685-7661, www.christlutheransc.ca

Vacancy Pastor: Pastor John Makey (905-834-0516) johnmakey@gmail.com

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SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen, Gillian Leaver, Joanne Guetter

Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings for this week: Acts 6: 1-9, 7:2a, 51-60; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will; therefore grant to Your people that they may love what You command and desire what You promise, that among the manifold changes of this age our hearts may ever be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer: *“Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of great distress. In mercy put an end to the coronavirus epidemic that is afflicting many people around the world. Grant relief to those who are suffering, and comfort to those who mourn the death of loved ones. Sustain all medical personnel who are attending to the sick, and bless the efforts of those who are working tirelessly to discover a treatment for this disease. In these times of affliction and distress, strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit to continue steadfast in the one, true, saving faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our suffering Lord and Saviour, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”*

Pray also for *all of our congregations and Pastors in LCC and all people in Canada and throughout the world dealing with this **Covid 19**. I have been in contact via messenger with many people throughout the world. Africa, South America, Mexico, England and the population of the whole world is dealing with it, and some governments like in Uganda are just ignoring it, there are going to be millions of people wiped out because of this. We know God is in control but also that sin and mankind has brought this upon ourselves. He is our Refuge and Strength and ever-present help in trouble. ...Pastor Makey*

REJOICING AND THANKING GOD IN PRAYER: We thank God for our wonderful shepherds Pastor John Makey & Linda as they continue their work among us during our vacancy. We rejoice also with Pastor Todd and family at the purchase of their new home here in St. Catharines. Their intention is to move for July. May God continue to give each of these gifted pastors His wisdom, discernment and compassion; and may He keep them and their families safe and healthy during this time of crisis.

ANNUAL REPORT: It's that time again. Please send your annual reports to: secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

NOTE: If you have something that you would like added to the bulletin, please send to Pat by Thursday morning as usual at, secretary@christlutheransc.ca. Thank you!

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN:

Readings for this Sunday: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a; 51-60 / 1 Peter 2:2-10 // John 14:1-14

Dear friends in Christ:

I like to give you something to think about in our **e-bulletins** these days, this is a letter to the Editor in the newspaper from my home community: The Haldimand Press.

“Is the pandemic changing me?”

To the Editors, I realized, last night as I lay quiet and alone, that for the first time in a very long time, I had no rushing agenda –no harried plans – no heavy wants. The calendar isn’t stained with scrawls of appointments and “must do’s”. It’s bare! Beautifully, freshly bare! I’ve been praying to let go of this earth; to not have any more idols. Jesus wants me to “forsake all others and take up my cross.” Well, I realized I don’t really have anything more I want...just to love and be in peace with my family and friends ...to be together; yet I know I need Him first before anything else can really work. This isolation of the pandemic is showing me how crazy busy I was; how I was ignoring “what was needful”. It’s like the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 1:38-42). Martha was doing good, right, necessary things but Mary was doing what was spiritually necessary --- feeding her soul on God. You know. I’ve ever liked this story because I thought Jesus was being harsh towards Martha! After all, someone had to prepare the food, serve it and then clean it up! Yet it was Mary whom He commended. She was partaking of His manna and needing it desperately. She could not think of her sister as she normally may have. She meant no offence. But her hunger was too great. She knew she needed every piece of His “*Words*” – of Him - the “*Bread of Life*”.

Is this pandemic changing me? When I think of this story of the two sisters then, I wonder if it is; for I am the “Martha” --- running, hurrying, overbooked, overtired, anxious, irritable, overwrought, angry, bitter, resentful, exhausted! Wasn’t the life before the pandemic a “Martha” And now, it is quiet. I can hear the clock ticking, the rustle of the pine boughs against the house, the birds singing; there are bunnies on the lawn, many squirrels, blue jays, cardinals, robins. I hear my neighbour’s voices --- we talk, not a rushed “hi how are ya?” as I’m flying out the door to the car towards the next tyrannical task. We slowly converse; actually engage in each other’s world. Out walking, people smile and wave; there is a pleasant awareness of each other. Inside again, I recline in my chair and contemplate the silence and listen to the thoughts shuffling about in my head --- strangers who had been allocated into corners and cupboards of my mind for so long because I have no time – or was too tired --- to process them; now, they venture out slowly, looking around wondering if now is their time to be known ... and I think these repressed thoughts – I savor them --- get to know them --- access them; I let them express themselves and I just lay back and rest and listen to the silence. And then, I pray. But not the way I did before, with vicious, racetrack, fervent, fevered statements, supplications, demand; basically as “Emily of the New Moon” put it: “Giving God good advice!” And at the end of the ordeal, more tired and desperate than ever! No, now the praying is very different --- very short ... a word here...a whisper there; there is a fair bit of crying, even soft weeping and I remember Psalm 56:8, “Thou tellest my wanderings; put Thou my tears into thy bottle; are they not in Thy book?” There is a sort of breaking down and repenting; a sort of calling out His Name” ...and then I find that it is enough... He is enough ... just to speak His Name and then be still, I realize then that I have no words. I am quieted, at rest ...there is a shalom --- a holy hush... just His Name “*Jesus*”.

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

“And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20)

“My Presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.” (Exodus 33:14, KJV)

Virginia Alfieri Greene, Dunnville April 30, 2020

Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul thy best, thy heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the Past,
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still my soul when dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears
Then shalt thou better know His love His heart
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears
Be still my soul the waves and winds shall know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Composer: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlege (1697-1752)

Love in Christ, Pastor John and Linda

Reminding Children of God's Faithfulness through Prayer:

The following is written by Adele Werner:

Hailing from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Adele Werner is a copywriter at Concordia Publishing House. Devoted to Jesus, she has a passion for serving others and sharing the Gospel. She is an alumna of the University of Michigan, where she served in multiple ministries. In her spare time, you can find her spending time with her husband and friends, reading, or watching movies.

My friend's son is having a hard time with this unique time of isolation. He's frustrated, angry, sad, and scared. He misses his friends, his school, his Sunday School teachers, and going to the park. Every day in the morning, at meals, and before bed, his mother encourages him to pray for the emotions he is having and for the struggles going on in his little mind. Children are called to participate in the kingdom of God. They are not excluded from Jesus and His ministry. God does not shy away from our emotions. We're allowed to come to Him with whatever we're feeling. Children need to know that they are allowed to bring their frustration, anger, sadness, and anxieties to the heavenly throne. Prayer is a way to remind ourselves and our children that God's promises are true, that we need not fear, because Jesus has overcome it all. Your children may need to run to their heavenly Father with their fears, frustrations, and anxieties.

There are many ways you can help develop and teach healthy spiritual practices. The best way is to just start. We know that children imitate behavior, so it is important that your children see you praying. However, don't neglect initiating and finding activities that remind children their heavenly Father is there for them in prayer

Reminding That God Answers Prayer:

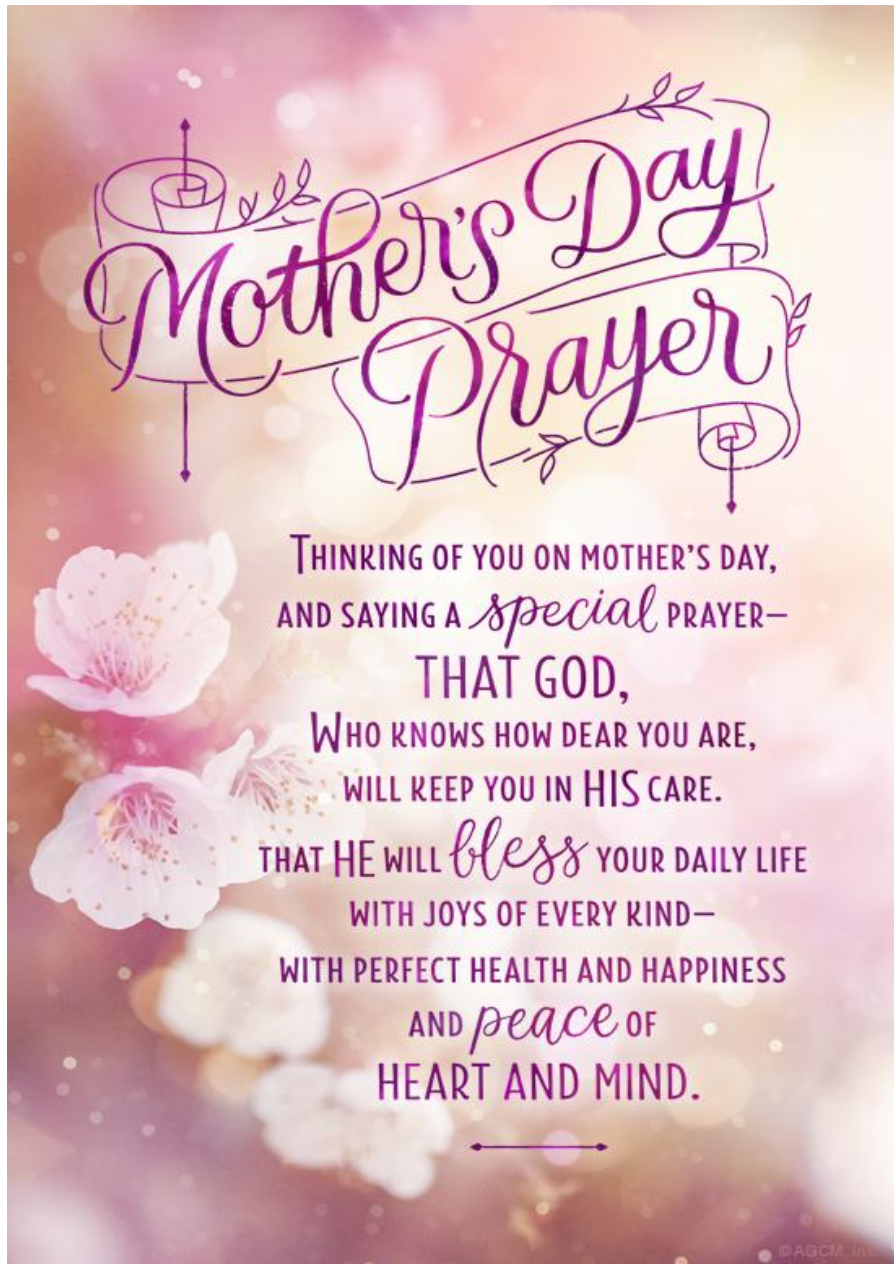
In Psalm 18, David recognizes that God hears our prayer. He says in verse 6, "In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears." David goes on to remind himself how the Lord delivered him from all of his enemies, as he recounts a specific time when he experienced deliverance. Have your children imitate David's prayer. Ask them to give thanks to God by recounting a time that one of their prayers was answered. This not only helps children learn to speak prayers of thanksgiving but it also works to help them notice all that God has done for them.

God Fixes Bad Feelings:

We also see over and over again throughout Scripture that people cry out to the Lord with all of their emotions and feelings. They pray out of frustration ("How long, O Lord"; Psalm 13:1), sadness ("For these things I weep"; Lamentations 1:16), and every emotion in between. But that's not how the story ends. God promises to wipe away all tears. In Psalm 51, David calls on the Lord, asking for forgiveness from a sin he had committed. In doing so, He also prays, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (v. 10) cover their sins but to also fix the "bad feelings" and return them to a right spirit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES are available on our church website or on our Facebook page. **Precious Moments** is also online. If you or someone you know would like to receive these please text Louise (905-339-8579) or send an email.

V.B.S—Mark your calendars now—Monday, July 27th to Friday, July 31st!



SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Eph. 5: 8-14

Wednesday: Col. 3: 16-24

Friday: 11 Tim. 2: 8-13

Tuesday: John 16: 66-69

Thursday: Matt. 21: 12-17

Saturday: 1 Sam. 16: 14-23

WOMEN'S (online) BIBLE STUDY: We invite you to join us **Friday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m.** as we discuss "*The Miracles of Jesus; a study of what Jesus makes possible*" with Jeanie Allen. Discover how all four of the gospels shows Jesus generous, compassionate and honouring towards all people. Take time to log onto the www.rightnowmedia.org site and listen to 2-3 of the sessions (about 10 minutes each). Take notes, learn and be refreshed as you study the overflowing kindness Jesus demonstrates to all kinds of people and then we will discuss what we have all learned. REMEMBER "whatever you feed - grows"; so feed your mind and soul with God's Word. This week we will focus on sessions 4-6.

All LWML-C / Mary Martha Events are paused for now.

Please remember: Church on-line - Not Cancelled
Quiet Time with God - Not Cancelled
Praying for the Sick - Not Cancelled
Praying for the lonely - Not Cancelled
Checking in on a friend - Not Cancelled
Helping Others - Not Cancelled
Being the Church - Now more important than ever
Remember it is physical distancing (not social distancing).

"Come let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." (Lorraine Kaija)

IMPACT: So during this time of isolation how are you making an impact on your family, on your neighbours, on those around you? Colossians 3:12, 16 &17—As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience...Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts whatever you do, do it in the name of Jesus.

ART ENTHUSIASTS: We are asking members to share a favourite Bible Verse. You may choose to make a Bible Verse poster, you may choose to display it in the window of your home, write it on your bathroom mirror, get out some chalk and write it on your sidewalk or driveway; however you choose to display your Bible Verse, please take a picture and share it with us, and we will put it on our Facebook page. This is a great opportunity to get the entire family involved and a wonderful way to impact our community. May God continue to help us **GROW IN HIM!**

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Have you had a chance to start this challenge? Memorizing God's Word is ALWAYS a wonderful thing. You can do it as a family, couple or even as individuals while we are in self isolation. Some people are copying a verse and placing it on their kitchen table to read at each meal, or on their bathroom mirror. May you be blessed as you meditate and memorize God's Word and encourage others to do the same.

A = "Ask and it will be given to you, Seek and you shall find, Knock and the door will be open to you." Matthew 7: 7 (April 19, 2020)

B = "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe". John 20:29 (April 26, 2020)

C = "CAST your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you." 1 Pet. 5:7 (May 3, 2020)

D = "DO NOT BE ANXIOUS about anything, (but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.) Phil 4:6 (May 10th, 2020)

Right Now Media Video Picks:

During this time of self-quarantine, we have opportunity to share videos from our [Right Now Media Streaming Video Library of Bible Studies](http://www.rightnowmedia.org) (www.rightnowmedia.org). Below are some videos to check out this week for the entire family. Some suggestions are:

Children: "Veggie Tales" or "What's in the Bible"

General: "Overcoming Anxiety during Covid 19" with Jonathon Pokluda

Women: "What the Women Saw" with Sadie Robertson Huff

Men: "This is the Day" with athlete Tim Tebow

Youth: "Different" with Jonathon Evans

Couples: "Ready or Knot"

This is the perfect time to be making use of this wonderful tool-site. For more information about how to join, feel free to text Pastor or Louise (905-329-8579). May God bless you as you continue to listen to and study His Word.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:

During these uncertain times, it's important for members to keep in mind that although the Church is closed for services, expenses continue to accumulate. Expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue whether we hold services or not. We have an awesome tool available to us in the form of EFT donations. Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church during these troubled times, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing on Christ's website, (PDF form under "*Coming Events*" tab --> "*Bulletin Board*" tab --> *LCC-ED-EFT Authorization Form-Parishioner*) or follow the link: http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation
275 Lawrence Ave.
Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church
140 Russell Ave.
St.Catharines, ON
L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA:

Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church. Just visit LCC's website: www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca and click on the "*Support My Home Congregation with Online Donations*", select "*St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950*" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ).

This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES INFORMATION:

Lutheran Hour Ministries—all info.—www.lhmcanada.org

LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR, Sundays on CHAM 820 at 8:00 a.m. Next Sunday, May 17th — "**Words Matter**": Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler – Words matter. People matter. You matter to God, and He will stop at nothing to get your attention. (Exodus 19)

**(Some Bible Learning Puzzles and Colouring Pages for
the Children (and the Adults ☺)**



**Kids Lectionary Learning
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

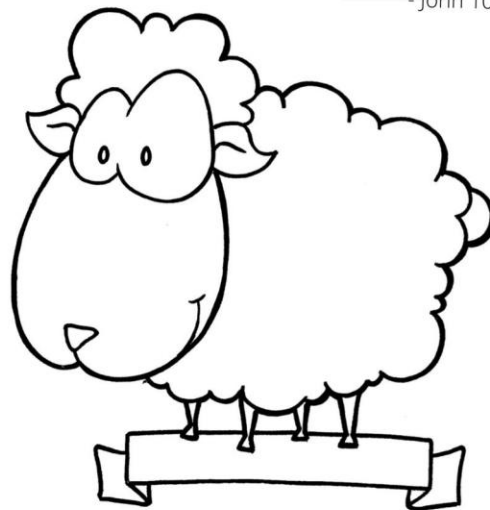
Today we read and learn about how Jesus is our Good Shepherd and the door for us, His sheep. He knows us, and He speaks to us through the clear Gospel.
Grab your Bibles and some colours and let's learn more.

*"Truly, truly,
I say to you,
I AM
THE DOOR
OF THE SHEEP."*

- John 10:1-10

**Lectionary
Readings:**

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10



Good Shepherd Craft

For the sheep picture above, grab your colours and colour the face and legs of the sheep. Then get some cotton balls and a bit of glue (ask your parents if you need help) and paste the cotton balls on the sheep like wool.

Then, write your name in the banner below the sheep.

When you are done, share with your family or friends about how Jesus is our Good Shepherd and how He takes care of you.

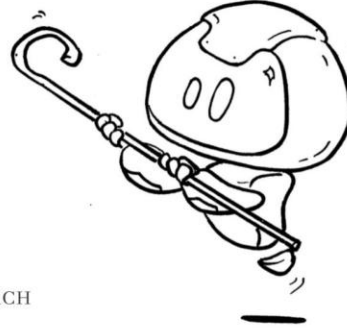


Children's Lectionary Learning
Fourth Sunday of Easter



PSALM 23 IS A BEAUTIFUL PSALM WRITTEN BY KING DAVID.
IT SHOWS US JUST HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US AND
THAT HE IS ALWAYS WITH US GIVING US FORGIVENESS AND HOPE.

BB the Bible Bot is reading Psalm 23.
In Psalm 23 King David talks about a
rod and a staff. Do you know what
these are or what they are used for?
Or have you ever thought about how
God guides us?
Ask your parents or pastor if you
would like to learn more.



PSALM 23 WORDSEARCH

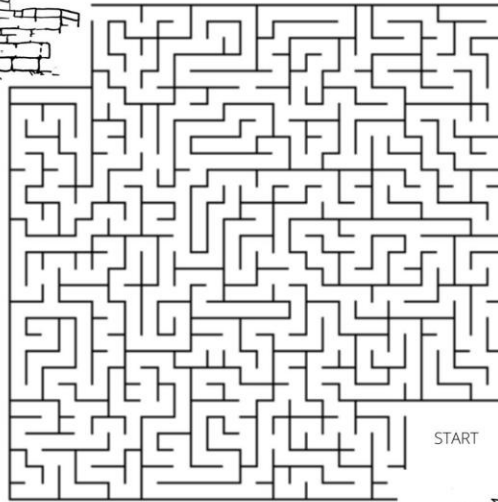
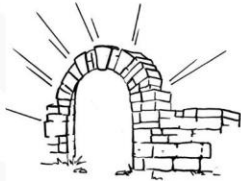
I S H E P H E R D O B F M D W
B H P G F Z X V R V E G D F I
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G G S P B S K D W S O Q M A F
C J R Y N S G W A O I B E V F
O W K E P H H E T U N Y R E F
P M Z V E M W L E L T J C Z C
F I D K B N P L R P C V Y O V
N S D L Q N F V A L L E Y X S

SHEPHERD
PASTURE
WATER
SOUL
VALLEY
GREEN
WALK
ROD
STAFF
COMFORT
ANOINT
GODNESS
MERCY
DWELL
FOREVER

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING TELLS US THAT JESUS IS THE GATE FOR HIS SHEEP. WHY MIGHT SHEEP NEED A GATE? WHAT IS A GATE FOR? HOW IS JESUS OUR GATE? WHAT DO WE GET THROUGH JESUS ACCORDING TO JOHN 10?

Hint: check out verse 10 of John 10

Colour *Gumps* and then help him through the maze to reach the gate.



START

Verse to remember:
"By His wounds you have been healed."
(1 Pet. 2:24)



**DO YOU HAVE A PET, OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO TO TAKE CARE OF A PET?**

**GOD TAKES CARE OF US, TOO.
JUST LIKE A SHEPHERD TAKES CARE OF THEIR SHEEP
GOD PROVIDES FOR US.
HE PROVIDES FOR US SPIRITUALLY BY SENDING JESUS TO BE
OUR SAVIOR, AND BY GIVING US HIS SACRAMENTS OF
HOLY BAPTISM AND COMMUNION.**

Can you draw a picture of your pet or an animal you think might be a good pet.
Or draw a picture that reminds you of one way God provides for us.



Ivan loves animals (as long as they don't step on him). Colour Ivan and then pray the little prayer below thanking Jesus for all His love.

Dear Jesus, You are our Shepherd. Help us to always listen to Your Word and Gate. Thank you for providing for us. Help us now to live our lives as your sheep and to hear your Word, In Jesus name we pray, amen.