

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Family Connecting in Christ



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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

At this time our services are for people wearing masks and social distancing!

Please know that even as we experience this awkwardness, your Good Shepherd holds you close to his heart and goes with you to share his love!

To Our Guests

- We pray that you receive a warm welcome and are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns. If you have questions, please ask!
- Our service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ – forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven.

Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church.

We invite our congregation members and visitors from sister WELS or ELS congregations to join us, but ask Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice. Further explanation is in the pew racks or from our pastor.

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

- If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

- **Hearing Assistance** for those with hearing aids is provided through our Hearing Loop or personal hearing devices available at the "sound table."
- A **wheelchair lift** is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.



Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.

Our Ministry

St. John offers an excellent preschool-8th grade school program. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - www.wels.net.

May 2, 2021

DIVINE SERVICE II

IN OUR WORLD TODAY... we tend to think of lambs as cute and sheep as dumb, helpless, and stinky. With the trouble sheep can find, and with the trouble out to find sheep, sheep need a shepherd they can count on.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we celebrate one of our favorite Sundays in the church Year - Good Shepherd Sunday. We see that in Jesus we have the Good Shepherd we can count on.

OPENING HYMN

"Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep"

Hymn 436

Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep, Who your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep, Guarded still by you.

In your promise firm we stand; None can take us from your hand.
Speak -- we hear -- at your command, We will follow you.

By your blood our souls were bought; By your life salvation wrought;
By your light our feet are taught, Lord, to follow you.

Father, draw us to your Son; We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done, There to live with you.

We, in robes of glory dressed, Join th' assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest In the fold with you.

+THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM+

Michael Rodriguez, Nevaeh Crouch,
and Noah Jones

CHRIST'S COMMAND

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

OUR NEED FOR BAPTISM

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death.

GOD'S PROMISE IN BAPTISM

But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

In coming to be baptized, you are doing what is God-pleasing. Ananias said to the apostle Paul after his conversion, "Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away.

Receive the sign of the cross on your head and heart to mark you as a redeemed child of God.

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - has forgiven all your sin. By your baptism you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

EXHORTATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands us that we teach his precious truth to all who are baptized. Christian love urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever way possible so that _____ may remain a child of God to eternal life. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

Yes, as God gives me the strength.

PRAYER

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on _____ and grant ____ a rich measure of your Spirit that ___ may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

HYMN (See Pages 14&15)

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”
Hymn 737

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-16, 23-24, 30-31

“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD. You my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

HYMN

“The Lord’s My Shepherd; I’ll Not Want”

Hymn 360

The Lord’s my shepherd; I’ll not want. He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E’en for his own name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy, all my life, Shall surely follow me,
And in God’s house forevermore My dwelling-place shall be.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 10: 11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Hymn 374

My shepherd will supply my need -- Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed Beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back When I forsake his ways
And leads me, for his mercy's sake, In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, His presence is my stay;
One word of his supporting breath Drives all my fears away.
His hand, in sight of all my foes, Will still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows; His oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God Attend me all my days;
Oh, may his house be my abode And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest While others go and come,
No more a stranger or a guest But like a child at home.

SERMON

John 10: 11-18

You Have a Shepherd You Can Count On!

Why do those sheep look so content, so secure? One reason could be that sheep are stupid. They don't know the danger around them, the lions and wolves. They don't know how the green grass on the other side of the fence is laced with poison. They don't know how helpless they are to protect themselves and take care of themselves. Why might those sheep look so content? Perhaps they don't know any better.

What is the lion and wolf danger around us?

How is the green grass outside the fence laced with poison?

What makes us helpless to protect and take care of ourselves?

Why are so many people around us content?

Is their contentedness a contentedness to envy?

Here's another possibility. They know the voice of their Shepherd. Whether or not they know all the danger, whether or not they know how helpless they are by themselves ... they know the voice of their Shepherd. And in his voice they hear their Shepherd committed to care. So that contented look on their faces isn't ignorance, but a look that says: "We have the Shepherd We Can Count On!"

Do you see yourself in that picture? Why? Why not?

What might keep people from seeing themselves in that picture?

What keeps you from seeing yourself in that picture?

Do you see yourself in that picture? Like sheep we live in a world of danger. Peoples around the world want us crushed and broken. Closer to home, more and more people are willing to cheat, to bully, to take advantage of us. Fewer and fewer are the people we can trust. Sickness stalks ready to take us down; joints grind and groan. All around us the Evil One works his wickedness. Like sheep we live in a world of danger.

What are the dangers facing you, or sneaking up on you?

What forces in our world (and in our hearts) today are especially dangerous for you?

And like sheep we are helpless to save ourselves. By ourselves we don't have enough wool to keep our hearts safe, our bodies healthy. By ourselves we don't have the fight in us to put evil in its place. By ourselves, we are so much like sheep - the more we go our own way, the further we get from God.

But like those sheep, we have reason to feel content and secure. We have the Good Shepherd committed to care for his sheep. Listen to his voice: **"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd."** Which of those two shepherds do you want watching over you? The hired hand or the Good Shepherd? Why? Because the Good Shepherd is committed to care for you no matter what the cost. Jesus wasn't just talking about a possibility, that he might have to give his life for his sheep. No, Jesus was committed; he would give his life for his sheep.

What does it mean for you to have this kind of Good Shepehrd for you?

How is this kind of Good Shepherd in you?

*Agree / Disagree The life of a content and secure sheep will always
look more and more like the life of the Good Shepherd.*

Why? Because these were prize sheep, best of breed, winners inside and out? No, these were prized sheep, prized by the Shepherd and his Father. But on their own, without the Shepherd these sheep were hopeless losers. On their own they couldn't keep themselves safe or out of trouble. These sheep were nothing but trouble. The whole breed deserved to be wiped out. But the Shepherd and his Father prized them.

You know who those in-bred, evil-bred, trouble-bred sheep are. We've met them. People who want the Shepherd's time, but don't have time for the Shepherd. People who ask and beg and demand more and more and more of the Shepherd's blessing, but can't be bothered with the Shepherd's work. People who forget to thank the Shepherd for the green grass, but sure remember to complain about the brown grass. People who pray "lead us to blessing," as long as it doesn't interfere in their plans. We've met those sheep, haven't we? Day after day we meet them - in the mirror. We are a breed of sinner that deserves to be wiped out. And yet the Shepherd and his Father prize us.

So the Father commissioned his Shepherd Son to take our place, the Shepherd for the sheep. Isaiah put it this way: **"We all, like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."** On Good Friday, our Good Shepherd didn't have his life taken by the lions and wolves; Jesus' life wasn't taken by the crowds shouting: "Crucify," or the soldiers who pounded nails. Our Good Shepherd gave his life as the Lamb of God. On Good Friday, the LORD laid on the Shepherd the guilt of the sheep. There Jesus gave his life so we don't have to pay with ours. There Jesus gave his life so we can have life. That's why those sheep can look so content and secure. Their Good Shepherd is committed to care for his sheep no matter what the cost.

But what good is a dead good shepherd? No matter how good he was, a dead good shepherd can't lead his sheep ... can't feed his sheep. A dead Good Shepherd can't bring his sheep home safe. We need more than a dead Good Shepherd; we need a living Good Shepherd who is able to take care of us. With Easter, in Jesus, we have the Good Shepherd we can count on.

Listen to our lesson. Jesus didn't just say: **"I am the Good Shepherd. I give my life for the sheep."** Jesus also said: **"I am the Good Shepherd, I have authority to take my life up again."** No matter how impossible that sounds, on Easter Jesus exercised his authority and did just that. Jesus raised himself back to life. That stained-glass window isn't just a memorial showing us what a Good Shepherd Jesus was; that picture shows us our living Good Shepherd today.

On the cross, when Jesus said: "It is finished," he didn't throw in the towel and become the "done" Shepherd." When Jesus went to heaven he didn't become the "don't bother me, I'm retired Shepherd." Jesus is still the Good Shepherd, committed to care.

Listen to that commitment. Thinking of you, Jesus said: **"I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."** Knowing you, Jesus says he "must" have you safe in his flock. Knowing you he "must" have you safe in his care. With a "must-do" in his heart, your Good Shepherd knows which lamb needs to be picked up and carried; with a "must" He knows when you need to be held close. With a "must" in his heart, our Good Shepherd knows which sheep need to be poked, pulled, given a little kick; he knows when you need that nudge. With a heart that "must" for his sheep, your Good Shepherd Jesus knows when you can't take any more, when you need a rest. He knows when your heart is hungry; he knows what gives you the shakes; and he knows what you need, how to keep you warm and safe. For Jesus, there's no doubt, no maybe; it's a "must" in Jesus' heart: "I love you, I forgive you; I'm here to take care of you."

What does the "must" in Jesus' heart mean for you?

Does the "must" in Jesus' heart ever scare you?

So, why do those sheep look so contented and secure? They know their Good Shepherd; they know their Good Shepherd has a heart that must love and care for them. And you? You have that same Good Shepherd - committed to care for you, with a heart that "must" for you - yes, a Shepherd you can count on! Amen.

HYMN

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Hymn 375

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My Savior gently leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feeds me.

Confused and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still, Your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight, A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight; My cup is overflowing!

And so through all the length of days Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise Within your house forever!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **(Spoken) And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

BEFORE COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

AFTER COMMUNION PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”
Hymn 141 (Choir)

*At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from his piercé side. Alleluia!*

*Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight; You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!*

*Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!*

*Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!*

*Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days, Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!*

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" Hymn 432

I am Jesus' little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am,
Even now the shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By his angel hosts attended,
He shall fold me to his breast,
There within his arms to rest.

OFFERING

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Divine Service II **Glory Be to God and Lamb of God** © 2006 Stephen P. Starke. **Lamb of God** © 2005 Dale Witte. **God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It** Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, b. 1957 © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695-1755, alt. Setting: Henry V. Gerike, b.1948 © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. **My Shepherd Will Supply My Need** Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Tune: A Compilation of Genuine Church Music, Winchester, VA, 1832 Setting © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer **At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing** Text: Latin hymn, 17th century, abr.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-68, alt. Tune: Kirchengeseng, Ivancice, 1566 Setting © 1969 Concordia Publishing House **I Am Jesus' Little Lamb** Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. Composite Tune: Choralbuch...Bruder-Gemeinen, Leipzig, 1784 Setting © 1982 Concordia Publishing House

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God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



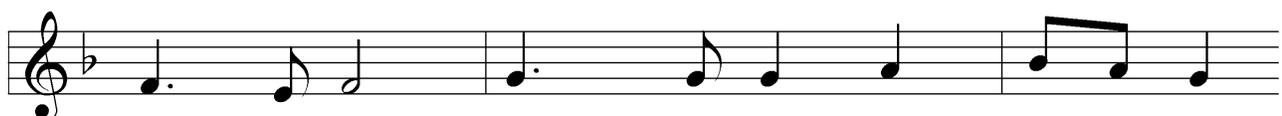
1 God's own child, I gladly say it:
 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
 3 Sa - tan, hear this pro - cla - ma - tion:
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness:
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing



I am bap - tized in - to Christ! He, be -
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! I have
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! Drop your
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! When I
 To this life - long com - fort sure! O - pen -



cause I could not pay it, Gave my full re -
 com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus' cleans - ing
 ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion; I am not so
 die, I leave all sad - ness To in - her - it
 eyed my grave is star - ing: E - ven there I'll



demp - tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures
 sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con - science
 soon en - ticed. Now that to the font I've
 par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and
 sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its



man - y? I have one worth more than an - y
seize me Since my bap - tism did re - lease me
trav - eled, All your might has come un - rav - eled,
ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es:
rais - ing, Still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing:



That brought me sal - va - tion free,
In a dear for - giv - ing flood,
And, a - gainst your tyr - an - ny,
Bap - tism has the strength di - vine
I am bap - tized in - to Christ;



Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
Sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood?
God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
To make life im - mor - tal mine.
I'm a child of par - a - dise!

[Seven home missions to receive funding](#)

Our WELS Board for Home Missions has approved funding for seven locations, including funding for four new home mission starts and three existing mission congregations.

New home mission plants include:

- **Waco, Texas:** The Heart of Texas mission core group has been meeting regularly since March 2020. They are active in the community and participate in family-friendly activities around town while representing their new church plant. This mission is being supported by Trinity in nearby Temple, Texas.
- **Durham, N.C.:** Our WELS congregation in Raleigh, N.C., is launching a second site in nearby Durham. The three universities in Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill are creating jobs and drawing a diverse group of young professionals and families to the area. The gospel is especially needed in this area, as studies show that 75 percent of people in the area do not know their Savior.
- **Parrish, Fla.:** Our congregations in Lakewood Ranch and Sarasota, Fla., are starting and supporting this new mission plant. Parrish is located in a growing area; 20,000 to 30,000 homes are expected to be built there in the next 10 years. This new mission will be reaching out with the gospel to a community that is 85 percent unchurched.
- **Dickinson, N.D.:** A committed core group has been meeting regularly for livestreamed worship and monthly gatherings since 2012, served by pastors from WELS churches in Mandan and Bismarck, N.D. Dickinson, the hub of the area, has seen recent economic growth alongside the oil industry, which is drawing new young families to the community.

Home Missions is also providing financial support to three existing ministries:

- **Willoughby, Ohio:** King of Kings in the suburbs of Cleveland is one of only two WELS churches in northeast Ohio, where 2.8 million people reside. It will be calling a new pastor to reach out to young professionals and families who have moved from downtown Cleveland to the suburbs.
- **Hutto, Texas:** Located north of Austin, Christ the Rock has been an unsubsidized mission since 2016. It recently started worshiping in a new facility and is aggressively serving its community. Financial support will assist with ministry expenses.
- **Summerlin, Nev.:** Summerlin Lutheran Church owns a large facility in a growing master-planned community on the west side of Las Vegas. Three years of Home Missions financial support will allow the congregation to call a pastor and partner in outreach with nearby home mission congregation Shepherd of the Hills, whose pastor has been serving as Summerlin's vacancy pastor.

Learn more about Home Missions at wels.net/missions.