

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

MAY 2025

Volume 28 Number 5

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

1717 Hampton Hall Road
Post Office Box 576
Callao, Virginia 22435
www.goodshepherdcallao.org
[www.facebook.com/goodshepherd
callao](https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdcallao)
www.instagram.com/gslc.callao/

Robert C. Hull, Pastor
(704)787-4999
roberthull1687@yahoo.com

WELCOME!
EACH SUNDAY
JOIN US for
WORSHIP at 9 am
COFFEE following
and SUNDAY SCHOOL
& BIBLE CLASS
at 10:30 am

WELCOME!
COUNT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY
IN WITH THE GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
Join with all of America on the National Day of Prayer, **Thursday, May 1**, to pray for our nation. The theme this year is '**Pour Out to the God of Hope and be Filled**' based on Romans 15:13. More information inside.



CELEBRATE ALL MOMS
THIS MOTHER'S DAY!
SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP DINNER OUT AT GREAT FORTUNE

Join us for our monthly Fellowship Dinner Out **THUR, MAY 15, 5:30 pm, at Great Fortune Chinese Restaurant, 443 N. Main St., Kilmarnock.** Good fellowship! Dutch treat. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

ARMED FORCES SUNDAY

Join us **Sunday May 18** for Armed Forces Sunday as we honor those in our congregation who have served in the United States military. Worship is at 9:00 AM, coffee, fellowship, and the Voters Meeting to follow.

VOTERS' MEETING - MAY 18
The Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held **SUN, MAY 18**
immediately after Worship Service
in the Fellowship Hall.
Plan to attend!

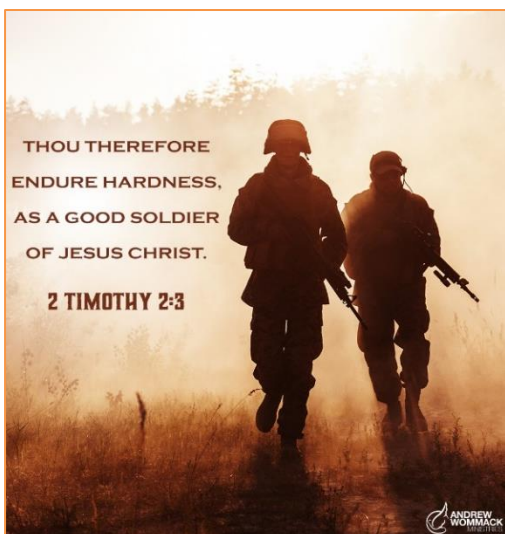
WOGS RUMMAGE SALE

WOGS (Women of Good Shepherd) are planning a Rummage Sale at the end of September. We are in need of volunteers to help with this fundraiser as well as items to sell. All profits support WOGS Community Outreach programs. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOUND INSIDE.**



UPDATE DIRECTORY

Friends & members are asked to review their church directory info and make corrections as necessary. A draft copy is on the piano in the back of the Sanctuary to make any corrections to or email Lisa with any updates. If pictures are needed, see Lisa Sweeney after service or contact at **804/337-9308** or marksweeney@mindspring.com. The updated directory will be issued in JULY.



THOU THEREFORE
ENDURE HARDNESS,
AS A GOOD SOLDIER
OF JESUS CHRIST.

2 TIMOTHY 2:3

ANDREW WOMMACK



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! CELEBRATING IN MAY

2 Rick Kohli
29 Linda Hobson
31 John Sweeney



TO PLACE CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Sunday Flower Chart is posted in the Hallway. Please consider signing up for your special occasions. There are two arrangements for a Sunday and the **Sundays may be shared**. To place flowers, sign up on the Flower Chart on the selected date, give your phone number and note the dedication. **The cost to dedicate flowers for a Sunday is \$90 or \$45 if shared.** Use a Flower Fund envelope provided at the chart, make checks payable to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church," and deposit in the offering plate. The Flower Coordinator will contact you to discuss your preferences.

If you would like to donate any amount to the Flower Fund to help cover the cost for flowers on any Sunday, use a Flower Fund envelope and deposit it in the offering plate.

**The Road of Life Is
Traveled By Faith
And Completed By
Grace**

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

"Pitiful People"

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

Dr. Bart Ehrman isn't trying to destroy anyone's faith.

On the other hand Dr. Ehrman, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has concluded

- 19 of the 27 books in the New Testament are forgeries;
- the divinity of Jesus isn't based on anything the Savior or His early followers said;
- Jesus didn't rise from the dead and the disciples had "visions" of Jesus.

No, Dr. Bart Ehrman, like many other scholars, isn't trying to destroy people's faith. On the other hand, when he is done sharing his point of view, a great many who listen to him will find their faith is left with, well, nothing.

That is the point St. Paul made centuries ago when he said, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile"

Paul was right and the logic is simple: if Jesus didn't rise, then those who die with faith in Him will not rise. If believers don't rise from the dead, then what is the point of Christianity? The faith becomes nothing more than a compilation of wise, but non-inspired sayings, which encourage people to do good stuff.

But Christianity is more than just another compendium of deep thoughts.

More than 1900 years before Dr. Ehrman and his fellow non-believers were born, our all-knowing Lord anticipated their doubts and denials. Not only did God anticipate these doubting deniers of the resurrection, He also spoke to them through Peter who said, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19b-20).

That is the way it has always been. People can believe fallible man or their faithful Lord. For me there is no choice. I pray it is the same for you.

THE PRAYER: Dear heavenly Father, I am thankful You have not only saved me through Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, but You have also anticipated and answered those who would sow seeds of doubt in the fields of faith. Send Your Holy Spirit to guide souls to the truth of the Savior's victory. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant
and yours,

Ken R. Klaus



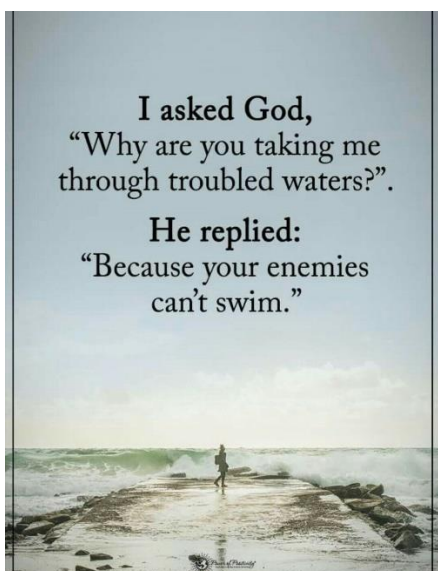
Pastor Ken Klaus
Speaker emeritus of The
Lutheran Hour®
Lutheran Hour Ministries
May 25, 2009

SUMMER BUILDING SECURITY



When you
leave the
church
facilities,
please ensure
that **all**

appliances used are off (fire
safety); that **all interior doors**
are closed (fire suppression);
that **all lights** are off (utility
conservation); that **thermostats**
have been set back to 80
degrees (expense reductions)
and that the **external doors**
used are re-locked and then
RATTLED (facility security) to
make certain the doors are
completely latched.



WOGS NEWS



RUMMAGE SALE

The Women of Good Shepherd will be holding a Rummage Sale, **Saturday, September 27, 2025**. In order to make this a successful fundraising event, WOGS will need everyone's participation in some capacity. – many easy volunteer opportunities.

People like to shop for bargains and unique items, therefore we will be collecting items from you that you might no longer want or need. **Items that are in good shape, clean, not broken.** WOGS will **start collecting items June 1**. Items could be small furniture, kitchen ware, gardening, home décor, tools, plants, jewelry, craft supplies, etc. For questions on what to donate contact **Cathy Kohli or Linda Hobson or Lisa Sweeney**. **No clothing or large pieces of furniture will be accepted.** Items may be stored in the Sunday School hallway and along the front wall of the Fellowship Hall. **Collection will end September 15.**

WOGS will also open up the Rummage Sale to **outside vendors @ \$25.00 per reserved space**. They must bring their own table and all items not sold must be removed by the vendor.

WOGS will offer a **bake sale** – cakes, pies, bread, cookies - **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY.**

LUNCH: Chef Ted and Chef Rick have already agreed to head-up and show off their culinary expertise along with Sous Chef Mark in the preparation of lunch to be sold. Hot dogs, Brats, Sauerkraut, Chips, Cookie and Water. **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** to package and serve and help clean up.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Advertising
- Pricing
- Set Up
- Kitchen Help
- Cashiers
- General Helpers to walk around and be where needed
- Clean up

WOGS thanks you for helping and making this a successful fundraising event in helping our community organizations.

**Our next meeting will be May 13 at 2:00 pm in the
Beasley Room.**

All ladies of the congregation are welcome to join us!

**“DON'T SHINE SO THAT OTHERS CAN SEE YOU.
SHINE SO THAT THROUGH YOU,
OTHERS CAN SEE HIM.**

C.S. Lewis



Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:

Karen Henderson - shut-in.

Mary & Richard Schmidt – shut-in.

Pastor Robert Hull – prayers for guidance, strength and successful treatment as he has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Lou Kress' sister Viola – prayers for strength and healing as she recovers from surgery as a result of a fall in which she fractured her hip and ribs. The surgery went well, but she will be in rehab for a while.

Betty Cornwell's brother Vance Hough – prayers for courage, strength and healing as he has advanced cancer – he is currently receiving radiation therapy to a tumor at the base of his neck to shrink it. He and his wife have sole care of their son who is disabled, blind and cannot walk.

Marilyn Dempsey's sister Shauna – prayers for strength and healing as she recovers from surgery to remove a large sarcoma on her quadricep.

Lou Kress' granddaughter Ashley – prayers of thanksgiving as she is doing well, pretty much healed up and back to work nursing in DC.

Bonnie Hughes – prayers for

strength and healing of ongoing health issues.

Dianne Bertsch – prayers for strength and healing.

Larry Krug – prayers of hope for helpful treatment in regards to his health issues.

Terry & Ruth Cooper – prayers for continued strength.

Tootie Cornwell – prayers for continued strength and healing.

Betty Cornwell - prayers for continued strength and healing.

Diane Alkire – prayers for continued strength and healing.

Charles Bertsch, Dave and Dianne's son – continued prayers for Charles that he will remain strong in his faith and stay physically, mentally and spiritually healthy in his current situation.

HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE AND HAVE SERVED ON ARMED FORCES DAY

May 17, 2025



REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED THIS MEMORIAL DAY

May 26, 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER		
				1	2	3
9a Comm 10:30a SS & BC		Noon BC-E In F'Hall				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mother's Day 9a Comm 10:30a SS & BC		Noon BC-E In F'Hall 2p WOGS		10a – N F'Hall Rsvd CG Aux 5:30p F'ship Dinner Great Fortune		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Armed Forces Sunday 9a Comm TF Council/ Qtrly Voters Meeting		Noon BC-E In F'Hall				
18	7p CG Aux	19	20	21	22	23
9a Comm 10:30a SS & BC	Memorial Day	Noon BC-E In F'Hall		Ascension Day		Memorial Day
Weekend		25	26	27	28	29
						30
						31
<p>Pastor Robert C. Hull Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Callao, VA 704-787-4999 roberthull1687@yahoo.com</p>						

MAY

2025

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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NOTES:

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 1 – Pray for Our Nation
- 11 – Celebrate Moms!
- 13 – WOGS Meeting
- 15 – CG Aux Training in F'Hall
Fellowship Dinner Out @ Great Fortune
- 17 – Armed Forces Day
- 18 – Honoring Those in the Armed Forces
Council/Voters Meeting
- 26 – Memorial Day
- 29 – Ascension Day

APRIL 2025

JUNE 2025



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 1, 2025

**‘POUR OUT TO THE GOD
OF HOPE AND BE
FILLED’
based on Romans 15:13**

**“Now may the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace
in believing, so that you will
abound in hope by the power
of the Holy Spirit.”**

The Heart Behind the Art

Our 2025 National Day of Prayer theme artwork was painted by an extraordinary United Kingdom artist, Julie Ann Scott. There are so many significant and biblical details but the first and foremost is the stunning image of Revelation 19:11-14.

Revelation 19:11-14 says, *"And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses."*

NDP Task Force president Kathy Branzell prayed and talked with Julie from start to finish in the painting of this incredible work. It was a powerful and prayerful process and Julie beautifully describes shaking and sobbing as she painted what the Lord was showing her, only after much prayer and fasting asking Him what He wanted her to paint, to show her what HOPE looks like – the God of HOPE – and our greatest HOPE – His reign and return!

Don't Miss the Seven Lamps

Julie writes, "I knew I should include seven lamp stands on the shore. These are the seven churches from Rev 2. and to The National Day of Prayer Task Force they also represented the seven centers of influence that we cover in prayer and "light" as we worship, live, learn, work, serve, consume and connect with as well. Luke 12:35 tells us, *"Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit."*

Julie did not know our theme in 2024 was, "Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World" and the NDP theme verse for 2024 was 2 Samuel 22:29 *"For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness.³⁰ For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.³¹ This God--his way is*

perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

The NDP Task Force spent 2024 year lighting the lamps. The Lord has always been, is now, and forever will be our HOPE. Jesus, *the light of the world* (John 8:12) and He is calling His people in every area of influence to be the light and disperse the darkness.

The sword in His left hand represents His righteous judgment that must come. The shepherd's crook in His right hand is His Father's heart of grace. The fact that both of these things come out of love is represented with His heart painted on His chest.

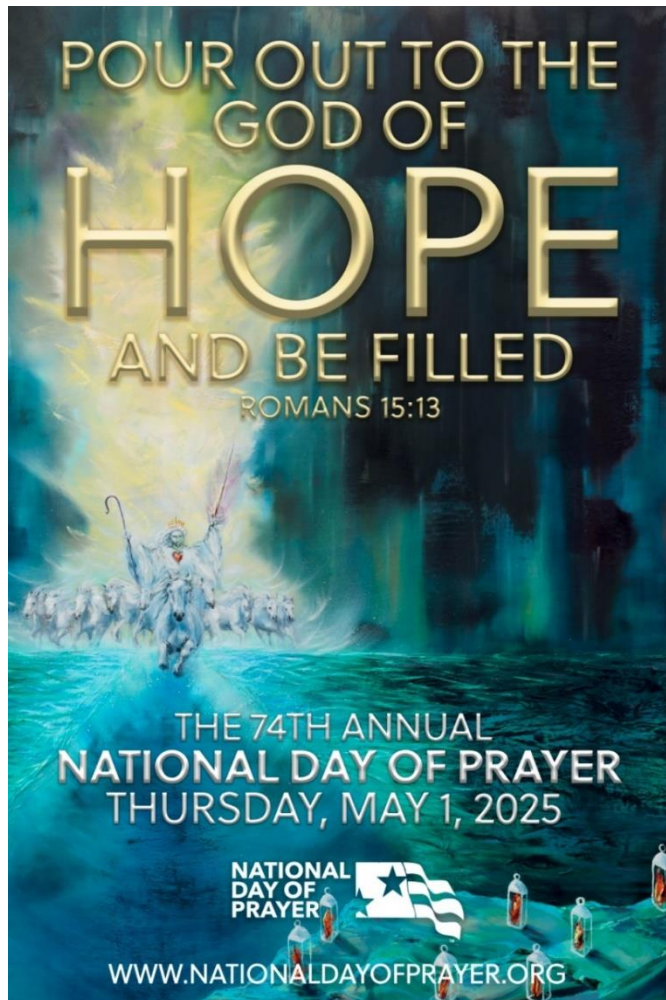
You see the God *"who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea"* (Job 9:8),

the one who walked on the water, who will one day part the heavens to return and to reign.

<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/2025-theme>

The 2025 National Prayer for America can be found at

<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/equipping/2025-national-prayer>



The Earliest Christian Symbols

[July 29, 2021/Series/ By Edward Riojas/1 Comment/Art, David, Good Shepherd, Phoenix, Series: Christian Art](#)
Artwork and visual symbolism seen in a church building often make a confession long before parishioners hear what is confessed in the liturgy. Some of the symbolic meaning, however, may be lost to us. This is the first of nine articles devoted to those images which we often see — but may not always understand — in the sanctuary.

The Bible records God working through creation to save His people and to reconcile His creation. God's people have sought to echo the metaphors found in Scripture as they provide art for the church. The Holy Scriptures remain the source of the images (shepherd, angel, anchor, resurrection), yet when artists sought visual inspiration for their depictions, they often found beneficial examples from pagan artwork. Just as Jesus' parables employed normal life to illustrate the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, so Christian artists have often found examples from non-Christian artists of beneficial ways to depict the teachings of Scripture.

What are some of the early Christian images and ideas that we still see today? Where did they come from? Why were they used? The answers are as varied as the background of

each symbol.

Hebrew customs



Fig. 1: Hermes Kriophoros

To understand some early symbols, we must first understand the Hebraic customs and those of neighboring cultures that existed at the time of Christ. While the Jews were keen to avoid blatant offenses against the commandment concerning graven images, they were not opposed to ornamentation. They often took cues from motifs found at the temple, and floral themes consistently found their

way onto Jewish manuscripts, into their homes and onto everyday objects.

They were also fully aware of heroes from Scripture. King David was arguably their greatest earthly hero, both as ruler of the chosen people and as brave shepherd boy. The Hebrews would also visually present the gentle pastoral themes written in the Psalms.

At the time of Christ, however, Israel was not a cultural island. Surrounding peoples influenced Israel's culture at every turn. The Israelites were also force-fed the Babylonian culture during their exile there. When Roman rule marched into the land, it brought along its own customs and religion, some of which were borrowed from the Greeks.

One common thread that ran through many of these cultures was the pastoral history of shepherding. Sheep were an economic commodity, and the vocation of shepherd found its way into different religious beliefs.

David, the shepherd

While being careful not to violate the command against graven images, later medieval Jewish manuscripts included illuminations of biblical figures, such as King David, the shepherd. He was not worshipped as a deity, but they held him in high regard.



Fig. 2: Good Shepherd in catacomb of Priscilla

Among the plethora of deities that Roman rulers brought along in their baggage was Hermes. One common depiction of this god was Hermes Kriophoros, or "Hermes the ram-bearer." This image of a Roman copy of a Greek sculpture was created during the fifth century B.C. Hermes carries a sheep over his shoulders and has a pleasant demeanor. The primitive

pose is a mirror image of the quintessential Christian depiction of the

Good Shepherd.

It is clear that the Early Church shrewdly took familiar images and put them to better use. The representations of the Good Shepherd, while visually connected to the Hebraic David and the Greco-Roman Hermes Kriophoros, portray a far different Being than either visual donor. Upon reading John 10, early Christian artists might have used some popular imagery to illustrate Jesus' teaching about the Good Shepherd who is both God and man.

Resurrection phoenix

The Good Shepherd, however, was not the only instance in which the Early Church reappropriated images from other cultures. The phoenix was a mythological bird from Greek folklore, of which Bennu was an Egyptian counterpart. Part of the myth was that the bird would be consumed by fire but would later rise from its own ashes. Admittedly, such pagan beliefs are not ideal images on which to build Christian symbolism, but the church saw strong similarities to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and could not resist using the symbol for its own benefit.

The symbol is still used within the church and occasionally finds its way to conspicuous places. A good example is Grace Lutheran Church, Regina, Saskatchewan, whose altar has a phoenix carved into it, along with the quote from Scripture, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).



Fig. 3: Altar at Grace Lutheran Church, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Other early symbols

Early Christians also used nautical themes. Anchor symbols not only portrayed the Lord's steadfastness, but they also gave a gentle nod to the cross via the anchor's crossbeam (Heb. 6:19). Early Christians also frequently used fish. We are so accustomed to the Greek *ichthus* acrostic emblazoned on the trunks of cars that we hardly give them a second thought. Early Christian artwork often simply showed natural renditions of fish rather than the graphically simplified versions used today.



Fig. 4: Fifth-century ossuary in Konya, Turkey.

One of the more unnatural yet fascinating depictions is on a fifth-century ossuary found in Konya, Turkey. It has, among other symbolism, the

image of a fish in the process of swallowing a man. The carving is a bit unnerving to look at — that is, until you realize that the imagery depicts Jonah, which in turn illustrates Christ's admonition to the Jews that "No sign will be given ... except the sign of the prophet Jonah" (Matt. 12:39). As a symbol of the resurrection, it is appropriate for such a funerary vessel.

One of the most common Christian symbols used today originated with the Roman emperor Constantine the Great. The Chi-Rho, the fusion of the first two Greek letters in the word "Christ," was employed as an imperial device by Constantine, and he placed it on the shields of his soldiers. Interestingly, the abbreviation was also used in pre-Christian times as a marginal notation device on manuscripts to mark particularly valuable sections of text. We do the same today when marking passages with an asterisk, which in turn points to another early Christian symbol, the Iota-Chi, the Greek monogram for Jesus Christ.

<https://witness.lcms.org/2021/the-earliest-christian-symbols/>



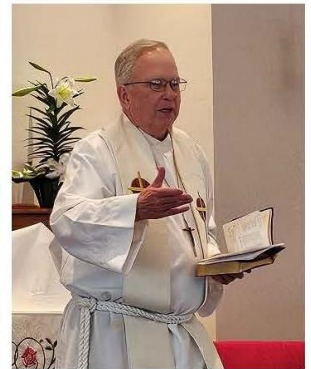
CHRIST IS RISEN

Celebation At

Good Shepherd LC-MS

Callao, VA 20 April 2025

Rev Robert HULL, Minister





**GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

PO Box 576

Callao, Virginia 22435



1717 Hampton Hall Road

PO Box 576

Callao, Virginia USA 22435

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Welcome! Count Yourself and Your Family In!