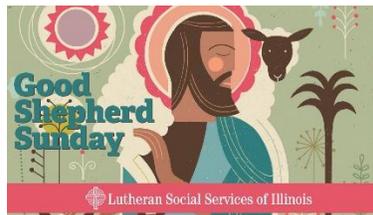


Children's Message

Good Shepherd Sunday SEASON 2026 with LSSI

For use with other resources available at LSSI.org/GSS



Supplies needed:

A photo of your pet *or* a stuffed animal

Optional – a story bible with a photo of a shepherd and sheep

Introduction:

Today, I brought in _____ . (*Introduce your pet or stuffed animal.*)

We've been together for a long time, and I try to take care of them as best as I can. I know that they appreciate all that I do for them, because they are always there to comfort me when I am sad, and they remind me to take time to play and relax!

Opening Question:

- Do any of you have an animal friend at home?
- How do you help to take care of that friend, and show them how much you love them?

(allow any reasonable answers)

Bible Connection:

In today's Bible Story, Jesus talks about shepherds.

Shepherds are people who take care of SHEEP!

Can anyone think of anything that shepherds might do to take good care of their sheep?

(Protect them from dangerous animals, give them food and water and shelter, shear their wool, keep them with other sheep friends, etc.)

Sounds like taking care of sheep is a lot like taking care of my *animal friend [pet or stuffed animal]*.

Application:

In today's Bible story, Jesus says that we are like sheep, and he is like the very best shepherd. Jesus knows our names and knows how to take good care of us. Jesus loves us, always, and even if we grow up into very big adults, we are still cared for by Jesus.

Jesus knows that we need things like safety, and food, and time with our friends and family, and so sometimes, Jesus sends us other people to help take care of us, too. Can you think of any people who will help to take care of us?

(parents, teachers, first responders, pastors, etc.).

Because we're not *really* sheep, we're people, sometimes Jesus asks us to help in taking care of other people and pets and the whole planet. Can you think of anyone or anything that you can help to take care of?

(my family, my pets, my friends, etc.)

LSSI Connection

Today, our church is celebrating an organization called “Lutheran Social Services of Illinois” or “LSSI”. This is a group of people whose job it is to help other people across the state, and we get to help them do that, too! We partner with them by:

(Explain any of your connections to LSSI: prayers, donations, angel tree gifts, or local partnerships.)

We help take care of other people because Jesus takes care of us. Jesus is the best Shepherd ... but we can be good shepherds, too!

Final Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for taking good care of us, and giving us people and animals to care for. Help the people of LSSI to keep taking good care of our neighbors. In your name we pray, Amen.