

**SHARING THE FAITH: WEEKLY EMAIL DEVOTION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 2010**

Readings for April 25, Fourth Sunday of Easter:

JOHN 10:22-30

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

Faith Questions:

1. Jesus says that the works that he does in God's name testify to who he is (verse 25). What things do you do in your life that testify to who you are as a Christian?
2. When have you been told something by Jesus and not believed? When have you felt led somewhere by God and not followed? On the contrary, when have you believed, and when have you followed?
3. Jesus says in verse 26, "You do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep." How do you think someone becomes a part of Jesus' flock? Which do you think shows more concretely that one is a part of Jesus' flock: membership in a congregation or a life of service and discipleship? Can one still be faithful and not have both of these pieces? Why or why not?
4. This Easter season we as the community of believers at Trinity Lutheran Church are focusing on "Easter New Life: Christ, Trinity, You." How have the death and resurrection of Jesus brought Trinity new life? How have they brought you to new life? What do you think this might have to do with being a "sheep" of Jesus, as mentioned in the text above?
5. As a community of Christians, we are learning how to be disciples of Jesus. How do we learn to recognize the voice of God, and how do we learn to follow?

Let us pray:

Oh God, you tell us and show us that you are the Lord, and we are slow to believe. And when we do believe, we often don't live lives that show our belief. Help us to hear your call to service, and help us to learn to follow you. Thank you for your presence in our lives and your patience with us day after day.

For whom else, and for what else, shall we pray? (Insert your own prayer here)
Amen.

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Devotion prepared by staff at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, under the direction of Rebecca Kolowé, Diaconal Minister.

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