

Good Shepherd

Numbers. Our lives are filled with numbers. Every year we fill our income taxes—numbers. The government knows us by our tax number. The bank knows us by our account number. The state knows us by our driver's license number. In a busy restaurant we are given a number.

God, however, knows our name. He knows us intimately, even better than we know ourselves. Find comfort and encouragement from the Gospel today.

John 10:7-16, 27-28

- If there is a good shepherd, then there must be a shepherd who is not good.
- We have a shepherd who leads us, if we let him.
- When we say, "the Lord is my shepherd..." we are simply admitting our need of Almighty God in our lives.

Good Shepherd knows us by name.

- I wish I were better with names.
- There is sound better than hearing one's own name. Who remembers the television show *Cheers*? What happened every time when a certain fluffy obvious alcoholic bellied up to the bar? **NORM!**
- When we know God believes in us, we begin to believe in ourselves.
- One of the greatest joys in life is knowing that God knows me.
- Listening to Good Shepherd's voice is vitally important. It is the key to finding good pastures, still waters and the path of righteousness.

Good Shepherd sustains us in our faith journey.

- This walk of faith is a long journey. Only Good Shepherd keeps us on the narrow path.
- If we stray away, he searches for us to bring us back home.

Good Shepherd sacrificed his life for the sheep.

He sends us out to shepherd his lost sheep.

- **John 20:21-22** - So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on [them], and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
- **Matthew 9:35-10:1**
- **John 21:15-17**
 - Feed my lambs (adolescent sheep)
 - Tend (guide & guard) my sheep
 - Feed (provide food) my sheep