

**St. James Episcopal Church**  
**A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!**  
**SEPTEMBER 11, 2016—THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**NEVER LOST, ALWAYS FOUND**



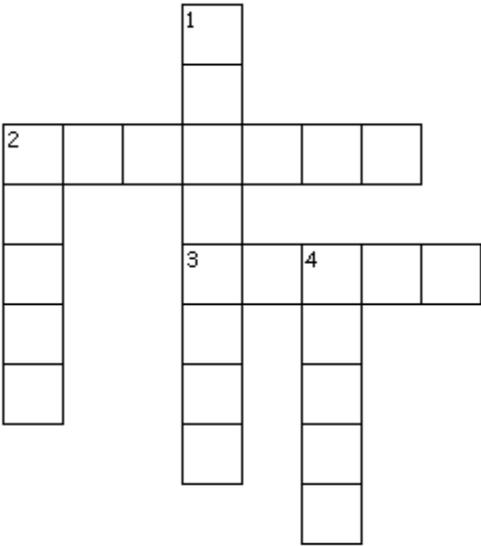
Jesus told this story—"A shepherd had 100 sheep. But one of the sheep ran away. So the shepherd went out and searched and searched until he found the sheep and brought it home. When he got home the shepherd called all of his friends together to celebrate. 'I found my lost sheep!' he shouted with joy." *Luke 15:3-7*

**BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME:  
THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS**

The story of the lost sheep tells us about how much God loves us, and how God wants each and every one of us to be part of God’s family. The shepherd has many sheep. You might think, so what if he loses just one little sheep? He still has 99 left! That’s a pretty good average, right? It may be a good average if you are one of the 99, but not so much if you are the one lost sheep. God is not willing to lose even one of us. We are all dearly and individually loved. This story describes the joy that God feels in having us in his care.

Children understand the importance of valuable objects and people. We all understand the notion of certain things, places or people that just can’t be replaced—a best friend, a favorite toy, a beloved relative, or perhaps a traditional vacation destination. How much we love these things—how much we grieve when they are lost or celebrate when they are restored—is just a glimpse of how much God loves each and every one of us individually.

**GOOD SHEPHERD CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



**Across**

- 2. people you like
- 3. how you might feel when you find something that you lost

**Down**

- 1. someone who takes care of sheep
- 2. a group of sheep
- 4. a way to celebrate with people

*(Answers: flock, shepherd, friends, party, happy)*

**Dinner Table Conversation:**

*What is your favorite possession?  
 How would you feel if it were lost? What would you do to get it back?  
 What people do you love? How do you feel when you are around them?  
 God loves you even more than you love \_\_\_\_\_. (fill in the blank.) That’s a lot of love! How does that make you feel?*