**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, March 18, 2018 – The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Sermon Title: I Am: I Am the Good Shepherd**

**Scripture: Exodus 3:14-15 (NIV)** 14God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” 15God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

**John 10:11 (NIV)** 11“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

**Revelation 1:8 (NIV)** 8“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) *faithandworship,com***

**Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
and a generosity of service
that gives without counting cost.
A life overflowing with Grace
poured out from the One
who gave everything,
that we might show
the power of love
to a broken world,
and share the truth
from a living Word.
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,
and a yearning to share it.**

**Basic Theme:** **Lent is “season” in our faith that leads us to Easter. The purpose of Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, Christian growth, penitence, conversion, and simplicity. Lent, which comes from the Teutonic (Germanic) word for springtime, can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him. Lent is a time to acknowledge who God is and who we are in Jesus Christ. The “I Am” is our reason for being.**

**Sermon Snapshot:Jesus communicated to his followers in everyday language that made it possible for them to understand the magnitude of God’s love.** **When Jesus Christ said to the disciples, “I am the good shepherd,” he was communicating that he is the protector and sustainer of the “sheep” and he was also foreshadowing his death which would make possible our life.**

**So What? We are all sheep - the question is, who is your shepherd? Who are you following? What will it take for you to begin following the good shepherd and be led to life?**