Jesus, the Good Shepherd:

Every time I mention the word wolf, I want you to shout out:

It’s the wolf / It’s the wolf!

Explore the story of the hired hand and explain his position.

(Have the sheep on the sheet.)

Its just a job for the hired hand, fine when everything is okay, but when danger appears it is very different.

Here he was sitting on the mountain with all the sheep around him when suddenly there appears a wolf! It’s the wolf / it’s the wolf!

As soon as he sees the wolf! It’s the wolf / it’s the wolf!

He runs away, because he is afraid, and he just leaves the sheep to their fate, because he does not really care about them.

(Scatter the sheep.)

So, the hired hand is not a very good shepherd, Jesus on the other hand is the good shepherd.

When he sees a wolf! It’s the wolf / it’s the wolf!

Jesus remains strong and is not afraid, he puts himself in between the sheep and the wolf!

It’s the wolf / it’s the wolf!

Jesus gathers his sheep together in order to keep them safe and the sheep respond to Jesus the Good Shepherd, because they know he cares for them and wants to look after them.

(Collect the sheep and replace them on the sheet.)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we as his followers today are his sheep.

Jesus says, “I know my own and my own know me.”

But Jesus does not stop there, not only does he care for those already in the church, the sheep within his fold, but he declares that there are other sheep outside the fold, and that it is his task to bring them into the fold, and so to welcome them into his church.

**So that there will be only one flock and one shepherd.**

So, Jesus calls each and everyone of us to become his sheep, but today he calls one sheep in particular, because today we welcome by baptism Nancie Marie, she will now be brought into the sheepfold of Jesus, and he will love her, care for her, and protect her from this day forward.

So, I place her as a new member of the Church, and a new sheep within the fold of Jesus, as we now welcome her by baptism into the care of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

(Place named sheep amongst those on the sheet.)

We now move to the baptism sheets which you have before you.