

Shepherd of the Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 14, 2025

WELCOME & GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Holy God, Isaiah wrote that your word does not return to you empty.

Jesus, you are the Word who fulfills the promise of this return.

We light the first candle in hope and expectation of your coming.

(Light first blue candle)

We light the second candle in the peace new life in you brings.

(Light second blue candle)

We light the third candle in joy of your fulfillment of God's word.

(Light pink candle)

These are the Candles of Hope, Love and Joy illuminating God's Promise.

CONTEMPLATIVE GATHERING | O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

<https://youtu.be/JH55PKAG71o?si=TuoE0XTNRDA49EOG>

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

O Seek our God, beloved children.

We call upon our God in this place.

God's Word will be spoken and heard here.

We will let it take root in our hearts.

Let God's Word grow and flourish there.

God's Word will bear fruit in our lives.



CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another.

(Pause for silence and reflection.)

God who was and is and is to come, **despite our best intentions, even our deepest desires, we often find ourselves turning away from you to follow after other gods – possessions, people, comforts – in an effort to fill the hole that only you can. In so doing, we have harmed ourselves, others, and your holy creation by what we have said and done, and by the things we have neglected to do. Open our eyes to see that you alone are the source of our wholeness. Forgive us our wrongs and inspire us to the work of making them right, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved of God, like the prodigal son, you are always received with great joy, and your sins are forgiven. Go forth in newness of life. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, **you send out your Word of life into the world to accomplish your purpose of redemption for all of creation. So transform us by this Word that we might deeply internalize it and live our lives according to its guidance. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 55:1-13

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM: PSALM 146:5-10 *(Please read responsively)*

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸**the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰**The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 4:13-14

¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

REV. DIANA LINDEN, *SYNOD MINISTER FOR LAY AND ROSTERED LEADERSHIP*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY | LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

<https://youtu.be/9QMWXPtR6L8?si=8Mk7CNC82Y1DQQAR>

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING

ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in the Living God, who is directly involved in the affairs of the world. We believe that God chooses the meek and the poor to humble the proud and the rich.

We believe in Jesus, the incarnate Word, true son of Mary, true Son of God, leaping in a woman's womb; who came among us in weakness, cradled in poverty.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who comes to us as the gift of God, reminding us of Jesus' teachings and turning us to God in trust and with love. Yes, this we truly believe. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we await the coming of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence).

God who was and is and is to come, show us the places where we have given up — on ourselves, on others, on ever seeing peace and justice on earth. Re-animate our hope and motivate us to live into your promises. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

God of renewal, protect creation and renew the earth. Teach us to live in harmony with all that you have made. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, strengthen your church throughout the world. Make us bold in proclaiming your mercy and steadfast in preparing the way of Christ. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice, grant all those in authority the discernment to seek reconciliation and the courage to act with integrity, that your righteousness may flourish. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, comfort the suffering, heal the sick, and uphold the grieving. Surround all those in need with your tender care, especially Pastors Janet and Phil, Matt, Brett, Rick and Kelly, Terry, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those seeking help through our Prayer Chain. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

God of provision, strengthen all those who provide care for loved ones, especially James and Chris Elkins and Gwen, Kirk and Clare Fallon. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

God of wholeness, we pray for the work of the Joshua School. May our relationship with them reflect your love and care for those with special needs. We pray that all those on the Autism Spectrum, especially those in our faith family, might find fulfillment, joy, and love. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

God of abundance, bless this congregation. Deepen our faith and prepare us to welcome Christ with joy. Guide our hearts as we consider the needs of your church, the world, and all who are in need. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way of your Son. Grant us courage to repent, turn from what is broken, and live into your kingdom of justice and peace. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

(Please share a sign of God's love and peace with each other.)

OFFERING/OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, **just as your Word returns to you in fullness, so we return these gifts to you for the purpose of accomplishing your work for the flourishing of all creation. Accept these, our offerings, for the sake of the one who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and good to give you thanks and praise, O God, because from the beginning, you invited us on a journey with you: A journey of wonders and miracles, a journey of healing and joy, a journey of mystery, full of life and love.

In You, we have a constant source of hope: Hope as a rainbow for a world in chaos. Hope as bread for wanderers in the desert. Hope as a land restored and renewed. Hope as a baby born long ago. Hope at a table set with symbols.

At this table we remember the child and the man. A child born in poverty. A man rich with grace. The child, a promise of love and salvation. The man, a fulfillment of forgiveness and grace.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In his last hours, as in his first, Jesus was surrounded by love. Celebrating the meal and sharing a wonderful new birth of hope, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was ending, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you, for this is my blood which is shed for you. This cup is a new covenant that God is making with us. A covenant of hope, a covenant of peace, a covenant of love, a covenant of joy.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Hear us now as we boldly pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

As Isaiah cried welcome to the bounty of God, so our savior and friend Jesus Christ cries welcome to this table of mercy. Come and be nourished on bread and wine in which Jesus himself meets us with joy and forgiveness. All is prepared for you.

SHARING THE MEAL

This is the body of Christ, broken in love for you.

This is the blood of Christ, poured out in forgiveness of you.

COMMUNION HYMN | BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/CW_AQ4NMOE4?SI=V3SHPAMQCYYBUWUG](https://youtu.be/CW_AQ4NMOE4?si=v3sHPAMQCYYBUWUG)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy, gracious God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love and tasted your nourishing presence. At this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept that life and give you thanks. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that all may know life and love in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Go with us now into the world. We can begin again! Everything is about to change. You make everything new. Make us new. Reveal your glory in our lives and let nothing get in the way of your coming. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN | BREAD OF LIFE

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/I_BZLFJ95Qs?si=0oVEqO3Q9Cic7sgZ](https://youtu.be/I_BZLFJ95Qs?si=0oVEqO3Q9Cic7sgZ)



This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.
Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

CLICK LINK TO ACCESS READINGS, SERMONS & SPECIAL EVENTS FROM PAST SUNDAYS:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@SHEPHERDOFTHEHILLSLUTHERAN6221/VIDEOS](https://www.youtube.com/@shepherdofthehillslutheran6221/videos)

WORSHIP RESOURCES:

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SCRIPTURE READINGS — NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION

RESPONSE TO THE WORD — ERIC MILNER WHITE

ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH — NATHAN NETTLETON, *AS ADAPTED*.

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BLESSING & BENEDICTION — APRIL YAMASAKI, *AS ADAPTED*.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: TIM, MICHELLE AND LYLE KIRCHOFF

ASSISTING MINISTER: DICK WERPY

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ NEWKIRK

LECTOR: CINDIE SCOPY

PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

GUEST PASTOR: REV. DIANA LINDEN, *SYNOD MINISTER FOR LAY AND ROSTERED LEADERS*

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: DECEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 21, 2025

Sunday, December 14th – Advent III - Word Accomplishes God's Purpose

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

Wednesday, December 17th

11:00 a.m. - Amazing Grace Bible Study

Friday, December 19th

7:00 a.m. — Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study

5:00 p.m. — Friday Night Perspectives Zoom Gathering

Sunday, December 21st– Advent IV – Word Made Flesh

9:30 a.m. — Hybrid In Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

LAURA F. 12/10

KELLY M. 12/11

CHRIS B. 12/27

DAN W. 12/30

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025

Monday, December 15, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-401-11-gods-people-are-comforted2025>

Isaiah 40:1-11

God's People Are Comforted

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-532-12-the-suffering-servant2025>

Isaiah 53:2-12

The Suffering Servant

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-5714-21-a-promise-of-help-and-healing2025>

Isaiah 57:14-21

A Promise of Help and Healing

Thursday, December 18, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-591-8-injustice-and-oppression-to-be-punished2025>

Isaiah 59:1-8

Injustice and Oppression to be Punished

Friday, December 19, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-611-13-the-good-news-of-deliverance2025>

Isaiah 6:11-13

The Good News of Deliverance

Saturday, December 20, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/ezekiel-4038-47-the-vision-of-the-new-temple2025>

Ezekiel 40:38-47

The Vision of the New Temple

Sunday, December 21, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-11-18-word-made-flesh2025>

John 1:1-18

Word Made Flesh

WELCOME! *Thank you for worshiping with us today!*

GUESTS

Please sign our Guestbook and/or fill out the brightly-colored Info Slip and place it in the offering plate. This helps us get to know you better so that we can serve you more effectively.

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED PRAYERS?

Prayer Changes Things. The Shepherd Prayer Chain members stand by ready to help. You'll find our Prayer Box on the table to your left as you enter the building, as well as paper and pencils. Please write your prayer request and place it in the box. *You are not required to sign your request or give the name of the person for whom we will pray, unless you wish.* If you desire a private conversation with Pastor Janet, please contact the Church Office or call her on her cell phone at 507-360-1625. **All prayer requests will remain confidential.**

CHILDREN ARE CHERISHED AT SHEPHERD!

In our Sanctuary, you'll see a coloring table and soft toys. Children's bulletins are available on the table just outside the Sanctuary. If at any time you wish to take your child out for some quiet time, our Nursery/Library is stocked with supplies for playing, coloring, studying the Children's Bulletin, or reading.

REMEMBRANCE

On the north wall of the Sanctuary a table is set with candles. You are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one at any time before, during, or after our worship service.

COMMUNION

At Shepherd of the Hills, we recognize that the Table of Communion is not our table. It is not a Lutheran table. It is our Lord's Table—a meal prepared for all—prepared in love. *Please come.* All who long for the Good News in Jesus Christ are truly welcome at this table. As Jesus called children to be close to him, we, likewise, extend this invitation to all children. Should you not feel comfortable receiving the Sacrament, please come forward indicating that you wish to receive a blessing by folding your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP

Arrangements can be made to bring communion to you at a time convenient for you. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend normal services, such as a hospital stay or for personal reasons, and wish to have communion brought to you, please contact the Church Office, Pastor Janet at 507-360-1625, or Dick Werpy at 720-771-6767.

MEMBERSHIP

At Shepherd, we worship as one Faith Family. If you wish to extend your worship to include membership, please see Pastor Janet.

Shepherd of the Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

THE MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE

PASTOR: REV. JANET COLBY KETTERING

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: KEN & GERRY MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ASSISTING MINISTERS: TIM KIRCHOFF, DICK WERPY & JOHN YARBERRY

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PRAYER CHAIN ADMINISTRATOR: KATHY WOOTTON

SHEPHERD COUNCIL:

JOHN YARBERRY, PRESIDENT

DICK WERPY, VICE-PRESIDENT

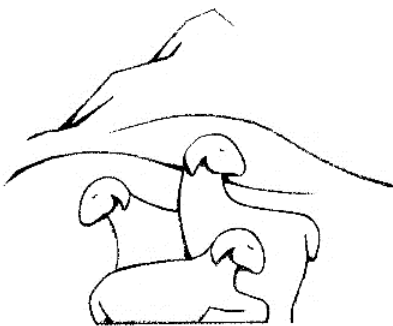
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

TERRY SCOBY, TREASURER

WAYNE OTTO & JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

JANICE IRISH, MICHELLE KIRCHOFF, CINDIE SCOBY & PASTOR JANET KETTERING

ZOOM TECHNICIAN: FUZZ NEWKIRK



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, v
+ Gather in Love
+ Grow in Faith
+ Share God's Love & Grace
+ We are Empowered to BOLDLY
Proclaim & Witness God's Word



7077 Harvest Road, Boulder, CO 80301 Office: 303-530-4422
Email: shepherdboulder@gmail.com Website: www.shepherdboulder.org

Bread Belonging

Bread+Belonging is a campus ministry partnership between Lutheran Campus Ministry and St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

We offer students:

Inclusive and affirming community	Chaplain support
Weekly free student dinner	Leadership development
Bible studies & faith conversations	Service opportunities
Retreats	and more!

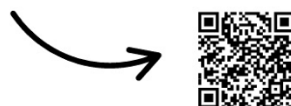
Support Campus Ministry

Pray

For students, for the campus community, and for our Bread + Belonging community.

Connect

Sign up for our newsletters.



Give

Contribute to the LCM annual fund. Checks can be made out to LCM-CU and mailed to us.

Donate groceries for Tuesday student dinners



Volunteer

Gather a team to help cook a Tuesday student dinner

Volunteer at CU Football Concessions fundraisers

Lutheran Campus Ministry CU
2425 Colorado Avenue - Boulder, CO 80302
Pr. Monica Butler - chaplain@saintaidans.org