# Shepherd of the Hills LUTHERAN CHURCH

# WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CONSECRATION SUNDAY DECEMBER 7, 2025

# WELCOME & GREETING

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ezekiel wrote of a people given new life.

Jesus, you are the source of this new life for us.

We cry to you to heal our brokenness, and revive our spirits.

We light the first candle in expectation of your coming.

We light the second candle in hope of new life in you.

(Light first and second blue candles)

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

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh; in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.



# ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to this house worn down by the world. **Breathe new life into our hearts, O God.** Receive the Holy Spirit, here in this place. **We receive it with joy and thanksgiving!** 





Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751 Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

CHESTERFIELD CM

# **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 find ourselves time and again 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

Living God, all of creation is your beloved child. Hear the cries of all who are in pain, in grief, in fear. Give heed to the lost, the despairing, and the dying. Draw all into your loving embrace and breathe into all things your life-giving Spirit, that we might be renewed to be bearers of your light and love to one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

**Lector:** The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, Mortal, can these bones live?

Assisting Minister: I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.

**Lector:** So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

**Assisting Minister:** I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me,

**Lector:** Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, Says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

# **PSALM: PSALM 85:1-13**

(Please read responsively.)

- <sup>1</sup>Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.
- <sup>3</sup> You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- <sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.
- <sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- <sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?
- <sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- <sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- <sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- <sup>11</sup> Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- <sup>12</sup> The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

# HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 11:25-26

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

This is the Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

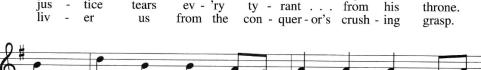
# RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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.

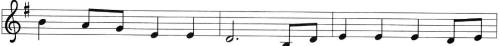
HYMN OF THE DAY | CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

ELW #723





fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my Your ver y name puts the proud to shame, and to hun - gry The poor shall . . weep no more, for the This sav ing word that our fore - bears heard the is



weak-ness you did not spurn, those who would for you yearn, nev - er food they can earn; prom - ise which holds us bound,

so from east west shall my to you will show your might, put the there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry till the spear and rod can be

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a - bout to turn. mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn. crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS: WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES TO GOD

In this moment of worship, we embrace Your presence again, O God.

And we offer You our love.

In this moment of prayer, we proclaim again Your purpose for the world, O Savior.

And we offer You our resources.

In this moment of giving, we hear Your call again, O Lord.

And we offer You ourselves.

Use us, and all that we have, to touch the world with the Christmas Message: God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us. Amen.

# **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 shame the proud and the rich.

We believe in the incarnate Word, leaping in a woman's womb, cradled in poverty.

We believe in Jesus, true son of Mary, true Son of God, who came among us in weakness, that we might come to know the profound strength available to common people through the gift of the Holy Spirit, who turns 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. On this Consecration Sunday, guide our hearts as we consider the needs of our church and our gifts in support of our ministry in the coming year. **Gracious God, hear our prayer.** 

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, out of what you have first given us, we bring to you our humble gifts. As you gave new life to a pile of dry bones, give life to our offerings, that they might become an overflowing blessing to renew a world in need. 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.

Jesus, who breathes new life into all things, invites you to this holy table, where he offers his own body and blood to give you life—and that abundantly! Come to the meal where our friend and sibling, Jesus Christ, is fully present, and be made new.

# 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

ELW #474



# **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, so 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** | JOY TO THE WORLD

ELW #267



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 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

# Joy to the World

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### **WORSHIP RESOURCES:**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY - NARRATIVE LECTIONARY WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2025 CLERGY STUFF

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: ERIC, CAROLINE & EVERETT PEARL MICHALAK

ASSISTING MINISTER: TIM KIRCHOFF AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ NEWKIRK LECTOR: CAROLINE MICHALAK

**PASTOR:** REV. JANET KETTERING **PIANIST:** MARGARET SCHARFF

# SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 14, 2025

# <u>Sunday, December 7th - Advent II - Consecration Sunday</u> Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones

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

# Wednesday, December 10th

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

# Friday, December 12th

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

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

# **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

LAURA F. 12/10 KELLY M. 12/11 CHRIS B. 12/27 DAN W. 12/30

# 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

# DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

# Monday, December 8, 2025

https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/ezekiel-11-14-the-vision-of-the-chariot2025

Ezekiel 1:1-14 Vision of the Chariot

# Tuesday, December 9, 2025

https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/ezekiel-115-28-the-vision-of-the-chariot2025

Ezekiel 1:15-28 The Vision of the Chariot

# Wednesday, December 10, 2025

https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/ezekiel-21-311-the-vision-of-the-scroll2025

Ezekiel 21:3-11 The Vision of the Scroll

# Thursday, December 11, 2025

https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/ezekiel-401-19-the-vision-of-the-new-temple2025

Ezekiel 40:1-19 The Vision of the New Temple

# Friday, December 12, 2025

https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/ezekiel-4020-37-the-vision-of-the-new-temple2025

Ezekiel 40:20-37 The Vision of the New Temple

# Saturday, December 13, 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 14, 2025

https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/isaiah-551-11-word-accomplishes-gods-purpose2025

Isaiah 55:1-11 Word Accomplishes God's Purpose



# **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, I

- + Gather in Love
- + Grow in Faith
- + Share God's Love & Grace
- † We are Empowered to BOLDLY Proclaim & Witness God's Word



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