

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP

JANUARY 4, 2026

JESUS SAYS COME AND SEE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, you invite us each day into the Word, into our communities of faith, into the work or the well being of the world. Help us to hear in this joyful invitation the call to know and love you more deeply, and to live more richly and authentically, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: FIRST READING: PSALM 66: 1-5

¹Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

²**sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.**

³Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

⁴**All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."**

⁵Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 1:35-51

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).

⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."



⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

REFLECTION BY ASSISTING MINISTER JOHN YARBERRY

⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). This is one of the first instances of evangelism into the Christian faith. Andrew wanted his brother Simon to feel the same unbounded joy at discovering the Messiah. Andrew took Simon to Jesus where Jesus gave him a new name, Cephas, which is translated Peter or the Rock.

Our church name, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, by its name commissions each of us to spread the joy of our relationship with Jesus. To bring Jesus to our friends, family, all those we care about, and yes to everyone. Andrew's witness to his brother was simple, he took him to Jesus so that Simon could meet Jesus, and his life was forever changed. A fisher became the Rock that Jesus would build his church upon. Matthew 16:18, Jesus states, "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." Andrew's act of evangelism helped change the world forever. Sometimes the simplest act of faith can have life changing profound effects. Like Andrew, all we are called to do is make the introduction. Jesus took over from there and did the rest.

Many of us feel that evangelism requires some special knowledge or communication skills to be meaningful when it is nothing more than a simple invite. Andrew's obvious excitement short circuited any fear or hesitation he might otherwise have had. In time, excitement is supplemented with a growing love and faith in the Lord. That love fulfills Jesus's only commandment, Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." To love God, to believe in his promise of salvation, it follows then that to extend the invite to meet Jesus is loving your neighbor.

For mature Christians, a part of the invite can include sharing life's experiences where God has walked with us, in sickness, in loss, in life's decisions, that have cemented our belief and love. Making the introduction to Jesus then becomes personal and profound for everyone.

Jesus, help us to fulfill your commandment. May we invite others to experience your love, and your forgiveness, as we ourselves have. Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY | WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

<https://youtu.be/GiXNB0ORTAU?si=EKM6wJPj1W4vRTj8>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Called together by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(A brief silence)

Holy God, you invite us to "come and see" Jesus, to witness with our own lives and hearts his presence in our hurting world. Empower us to proclaim him among us in the here and now. God of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, you revealed your light to the world through Jesus Christ. Renew your church in this new year. Open our hearts to fresh vision. Deepen our faith and help us follow where you lead, even when the path is unfamiliar. Make us bold witnesses to your grace and truth. God of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, you make all things new. As this year begins, bring healing to the earth. Guide those who care for land, water, and air. Inspire all people to live as faithful stewards of your gifts. Where creation groans, bring restoration and hope. God of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you call leaders to serve with wisdom and humility. At the start of this year, grant renewed commitment to justice, peace, and the common good. We lift up regions in conflict, especially Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, and all others known to you. Turn hearts away from fear and division, and toward cooperation, mercy, and compassion for all people. God of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, you meet us at every turning point. We pray for those longing for a fresh start: for people facing illness, grief, unemployment, broken relationships, or uncertainty about the future. Where there is weariness, give strength; where there is despair, bring hope; where there is fear, speak peace. God of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for members of our faith community who are sick, healing, or facing hard news. We lift up Pastor Phil, Matt, Brett, Rick and Kelly and their brother, Pat; Terry, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. We also pray for those who care for them – family, doctors, nurses, and caregivers – especially James and Chris Elkins and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon. Surround them with your peace and healing love. God of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you place us in families, friendships, and neighborhoods. As this new year unfolds, help us grow in love for one another. Heal old wounds, open new possibilities for reconciliation, and teach us to see each day as an opportunity to serve with joy. God of new beginnings, **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. God of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of promise, we remember those who have gone before us in faith. As they now rest in your eternal care, strengthen us to trust your future for us, confident that you are always at work bringing life out of death and hope out of endings. God of new beginnings, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your renewing love made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior, **Amen.**

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

By the tender mercy of our God love has broken upon us! Light is given where once there was darkness and hope where there was only death. We go into this season knowing that God will guide our feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**



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](https://www.youtube.com/@SHEPHERDOFTHEHILLSLUTHERAN6221/VIDEOS)

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: JANUARY 4 – JANUARY 11, 2025

Sunday, January 4th – Jesus Says Come and See

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

Wednesday, January 7th

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

Friday, January 9th

7:00 a.m. – Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study
5:00 p.m. – Friday Night Perspectives Zoom Gathering

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

MARY M. 1/27
DAVE N. 1/27

Sunday, January 11th – Wedding at Cana

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

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2025

Monday, January 5, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-661-5-praise-for-gods-goodness-to-israel-i2026>

Psalm 66:1-5

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel I

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-666-7-praise-for-gods-goodness-to-israel-ii2026>

Psalm 66:6-7

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel II

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-668-12-praise-for-gods-goodness-to-israel-iii2026>

Psalm 66:8-12

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel III

Thursday, January 8, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-6613-15-praise-for-gods-goodness-to-israel-iv2026>

Psalm 66:13-15

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel IV

Friday, January 9, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-6616-19-praise-for-gods-goodness-to-israel-v2026>

Psalm 66:16-19

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel V

Saturday, January 10, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/psalm-6620-praise-for-gods-goodness-to-israel-vi2026>

Psalm 66:20

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel VI

Sunday, January 11, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-21-11-wedding-at-cana2026>

John 2:1-11

Wedding at Cana

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

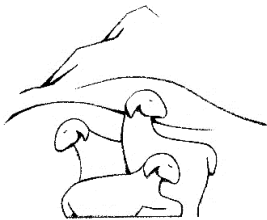
TERRY SCOBY, TREASURER

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, we

† *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
Check out our Facebook page at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran