

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP
NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of deliverance, **make us strong in our faith, unafraid to hold fast to your word, inspired to act on behalf of those in need no matter what resistance we might face. Walk with us, protect us, and liberate us to speak your truth in word and deed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**



SCRIPTURE READINGS: FIRST READING: DANIEL 3:1, 8-30

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

⁸Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews.

⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.

¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O King. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up." ¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king.

¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?" ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O

Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, ²⁰and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²²Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. ²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." ²⁵He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." ²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." ³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 18:36-37

³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

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

REFLECTION BY ASSISTING MINISTER DICK WERP

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Furnace Fire.

During the time of Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon was the most powerful empire in the world, and the king expected complete loyalty from everyone under his rule. The Jewish people had been taken from their homeland and brought to Babylon after Jerusalem was conquered. Life in exile meant pressure to adopt Babylonian culture, language, and religion. When Nebuchadnezzar built a huge golden statue and ordered everyone to bow before it, it showed both the pride of the empire and the demand for obedience. This was the world that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were living in—a place where refusing the king could mean death.

In Daniel 3:1, 8–30, these three young men stood firm when everyone else bowed. They refused to worship the image because they believed worship belonged to God alone. Even when they faced the fiery furnace, they trusted that God could save them, but they also said that even if He did not, they would remain faithful. Their courage did not come from power or status, but from a deep confidence in who God is. This moment shows that faith sometimes means standing alone, even when the world pressures us to blend in.

What is most powerful in this story is that God did not leave them in the fire. A fourth figure appeared with them, and they were unharmed. This shows God's grace—not just in rescuing them, but in **walking with them during the trial**. Sometimes we ask God to remove our hardships, but this passage reminds us that God often meets us in them instead. His presence is a reminder that we are never abandoned, even when life feels overwhelming or dangerous.

Today, this story teaches us that faith may require us to resist cultural pressures and stay true to what is right. We are reminded that God sees our struggles and stands with us when we feel tested, isolated, or afraid. The story encourages us to trust that God's grace is real and active, not only when we are delivered, but also while we are still “in the fire.” Because of this, we can live with confidence, courage, and hope, knowing that God walks beside us no matter what challenges we face. **Amen!**

HYMN OF THE DAY | CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

ELW #245

<https://youtu.be/FHL7RR2F5WI?si=454P58C-V5J64VYf>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in the promise of Jesus' advent among us, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(A brief silence).

Saving God, as you walked in the fiery furnace with your faithful servants, protect and empower all who stand up to injustice, that their message might transform even those who condemn them. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide those who work on behalf of this beautiful world you have created, and all forms of life that inhabit it. Charge us with the knowledge to protect what is yours for the generations to come. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give us a peace which the world cannot, O God. Discourage us from seeking after temporary assurances or flimsy hopes. Instill generosity within us during a season that can often become a frantic scramble to take care of our own concerns. Open us to the unfolding mystery of your presence among us. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice, guide those who govern. May leaders seek peace, equity, and the common good. Grant them the discernment and courage to act with integrity. We pray for peace among nations and an end to violence and war. We lift up regions in conflict, especially Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, and all others known to you. Guide world leaders to seek justice, reconciliation, and the dignity of all people. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, stay close to all who are suffering – especially those who are sick, grieving, hungry, fearful, or without a safe place to live. 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, 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 Elkins and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon. Surround them with your peace and healing love. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Bless and empower those who nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of children and adults living on the Autism Spectrum, and help us to help them reach their fullest potential. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, you give thoughtfully and unconditionally. Help us to remember what we should be thankful for, knowing all we have is from you. Be with those who are traveling this week to be with family and friends. Give comfort and your healing touch to the homeless, the lonely, the sick and the hungry. Teach us to care for all of your children in need. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

So many of the saints who have come before us have dealt with persecution and other challenges to their faith, yet have remained steadfast. Make us bold to live as they did. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift all these prayers, and those of our hearts, to your loving care, O God. Receive them and restore our hope in your promises. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 7, 2025

Sunday, November 30th – Advent I - Daniel: The Fiery Furnace

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion
Shepherd Potluck Luncheon immediately following worship

Wednesday, December 3rd

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

Friday, December 5th

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 7th– Advent II - Consecration Sunday

Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones

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



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)

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Monday, December 1, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-224-49-nebuchadnezzars-dream-interpreted2025>

Daniel 22:4-49 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Interpreted

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-51-12-belshazzars-feast2025>

Daniel 5:1-12 Belshazzar's Feast

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-513-30-the-writing-on-the-wall2025>

Daniel 5:13-30 The Writing on the Wall

Thursday, December 4, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-66-27-the-lions-pit2025>

Daniel 6:6-27 The Lion's Pit

Friday, December 5, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-71-18-the-four-beasts2025>

Daniel 7:1-18 The Four Beasts

Saturday, December 6, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/daniel-121-3-5-13-the-end-of-days2025>

Daniel 12:1-3, 5-13 The End of Days

Sunday, December 7, 2025

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/ezekiel-371-14-ezekiel-valley-of-dry-bones2025>

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Ezekiel Valley of Dry Bones



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

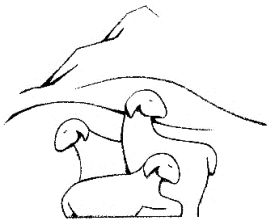
TERRY SCOBY, TREASURER

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

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