

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP
DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.
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.

REFLECTION BY ASSISTING MINISTER DICK WERP

In Isaiah 55, God speaks to a people who feel drained, discouraged, and far from home in Babylon. The Israelites in exile had lost much of what gave them hope – yet God invites them to come and receive everything they truly need “without money and without cost.” This chapter is a powerful reminder that God’s grace isn’t something we earn; it is a gift offered freely to all who are thirsty for His presence. Even when life feels confusing or uncertain, God assures us that His ways are higher than ours and His plans are unfolding even when we cannot see them.

The Lord calls His people to seek Him, promising compassion, forgiveness, and restoration. Just as rain brings life to dry ground, God’s word brings life to dry and discouraged hearts. His promises are not empty; they accomplish exactly what He intends. For the exiles, this meant returning home. For us, it means trusting that God’s grace will continue to transform and renew us. When we turn to Him, He meets us with open arms, ready to restore what has been broken.

Isaiah ends with a beautiful picture of joy and renewal – mountains singing, trees clapping, and thorns giving way to cypress and myrtle. It's a vision of what happens when God's grace takes root in our lives. The sorrow of the past is replaced with the joy of God's future. Even in our hardest seasons, God promises that His word will bring hope, healing, and new life. Isaiah 55 reminds us that God's grace not only sustains us but also leads us into a future filled with joy. This invitation in Isaiah connects beautifully with Jesus' words in John 4:13-14. When Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well, He offers her "living water" that will never run dry – a direct echo of God's invitation to the thirsty in Isaiah 55. Both passages show that God provides freely and abundantly what our souls most deeply need. The living water Jesus offers is the fulfillment of the grace proclaimed in Isaiah: a life renewed, a heart restored, and joy that overflows into eternity.

HYMN OF THE DAY | LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

<https://youtu.be/9QMWXPTR6L8?si=8Mk7CNC82Y1DQQAR>

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.**

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 in the rhythms of our lives. Let nothing get in the way of your coming. **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: 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 and 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 and 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

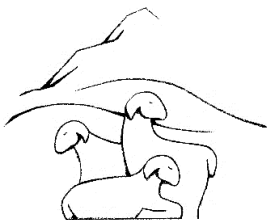
TERRY SCOBY, TREASURER

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, we

† *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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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