

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
JANUARY 4, 2026
JESUS SAYS COME AND SEE

WELCOME & GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

John proclaims, "Look! Here is the Lamb of God!"

What does this mean? We want to know.

Come and see what Jesus is all about.

We open our minds and hearts to the Word.

CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another.

(Pause for silence and reflection.)

God of grace and mercy, **we who have seen the signs of Jesus' presence in the world still fall into doubt and despair. We put our trust in ourselves and in the powers of the world, in material goods and in finite and fallible people. In our fear, we act out against our neighbors and hurt those most in need of our help. Restore our faith, O God. Forgive us for our failings and make us one with our beloved siblings throughout creation.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Your God hears and answers, beloved children, and with love and tenderness washes away all your sins. As a called and ordained minister in the church of Christ, and by his power, I declare this good news: You are always whole, always loved, and always held, even in your doubts and failings. Go forth with joy in this knowledge. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, you invite us each day into the Word, into our communities of faith, into the work of 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.

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.



HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 1:35-51

Lector: The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

Pastor: When 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?" He 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.

Lector: One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah," (which is translated Anointed). He 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).

Pastor: The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip 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." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Lector: When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Pastor: Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And 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.

SERMON

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

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.

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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.**

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, we offer now these gifts, gathered together in gratitude for all that you have given us in our daily need. Bless what we offer here that it might be a blessing to this community and the world. **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.

The one who told the first disciples, "Come and see," still invites us into his holy presence. Come and see Jesus here in this bread and wine, and be strengthened to carry the good news of Jesus' love into the world.

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 | I RECEIVED THE LIVING GOD

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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.

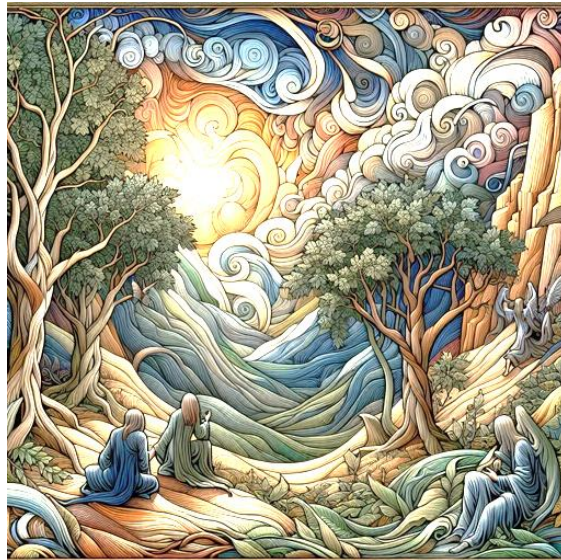
CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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.**

SENDING HYMN | MAKE ME NEW, O GOD

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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)

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

APOSTLES CREED — EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP

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BLESSING & BENEDICTION — CAROL PENNER

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

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

ASSISTING MINISTER: TIM KIRCHOFF

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ NEWKIRK

LECTOR: REV. PHIL KETTERING

PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: JANUARY 4 - JANUARY 11, 2026

Sunday, January 4th – Jesus Says Come and See

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

Sunday, January 11th – Wedding at Cana

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

MARY M. 1/27

DAVE N. 1/27

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2026

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

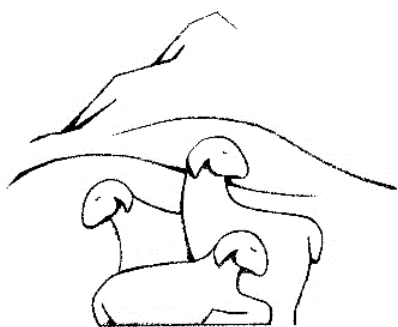
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

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, ✓
+ 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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