

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
FEBRUARY 22, 2026  
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - JESUS RAISES LAZARUS

WELCOME & GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as we are, some in joy, some in sorrow.

We bring our joys and sorrows to God.

Our God receives us in love and mercy.

We trust in God's promise of eternal life.

GATHERING HYMN | LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME

ELW #599



599

Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
I may the\_e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy - at last.



## CONFESSiON

We confess our sins before God and one another. (*Pause for silence and reflection*).

Most holy God, we come to you in need of grace. Time and again we have forgotten your simple and loving call—to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. We have forgotten your promise to care for us, and in our fear, we have made choices that hurt us, those around us, and even those we don't know. Remind us who we are and whose we are, and show us the way to amend our wrongs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior and friend.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Have no fear, little flock, for God loves you exactly as you are, and desires nothing more than to restore you to wholeness. Know that you are freed from sin and death now and forever. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of life, all of us have grieved losses in our lives; many are grieving today, here and around the world. Comfort us in our grief and restore our hope in your promise to wipe away the tears from every face. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## FIRST READING: PSALM 104:27-30

(PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY)

<sup>27</sup>These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

<sup>28</sup>when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup>When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

<sup>30</sup>When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

## HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-44

**Lector:** Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

**Pastor:** But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

**Lector:** The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

**Pastor:** After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

**Lector:** Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

**Pastor:** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

**Lector:** She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said,

**Pastor:** "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

**Lector:** So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

**Pastor:** When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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 | WE COME TO YOU FOR HEALING, LORD

ELW #617

We Come to You for Healing, Lord 617

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The top staff uses a treble clef, the middle staff a bass clef, and the bottom staff a bass clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text corresponding to a line of music. The lyrics are as follows:

1 We come to you for healing, Lord, of  
 2 As once you walked through an cient streets and  
 3 You touch us through phy si ci ans' skills, through  
 4 When nights are long with wake ful ness, through  
 5 We come to you, O lov ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your  
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -  
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of  
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of  
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.  
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.  
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.  
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.  
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

## CONGREGATIONAL SHARING

### LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the power of love to overcome the darkness and that Sin is that which stands in opposition to love of God, love of others, and love of self.

I believe that love overcomes the power of Sin; that treating others as they wish to be treated, loving my enemy, praying for those who persecute others, and non-violent resistance are the Way toward the Kingdom of God.

I believe that Sin crucified Christ for loving those who were unloved, for feeding those who were unfed, and healing those who were in dis-ease.

I believe that the Cross was the greatest display of the power of Sin, but was overcome by Christ's power of love.

I believe that, by the grace of God, I can turn away from the Sin of the world and toward the love of Christ, and that I can embrace the Cross and not fear it.

I believe the grace of Christ empowers us all to eternal life. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

God of light and life, you call your church to shine with your love. Strengthen all who serve in ministry — pastors, assisting ministers, musicians, technicians, and volunteers — that they may faithfully proclaim the good news in word and deed. Guide this congregation as we seek to follow where you lead. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Beloved Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. Awaken us with the breath of your spirit, and call us forth in faith as your disciples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You created the world in beauty and order. We pray for lands and waters, for fields and forests, for creatures great and small. Where creation is wounded by neglect or disaster, bring healing and renewal, and make us wise stewards of all you have entrusted to us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are present with all who govern and lead. We pray for leaders of nations, communities, and institutions. Grant them wisdom, humility, compassion, and the courage to act with integrity, that their decisions may serve justice, peace, and the common good. We lift up regions in conflict, especially Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Iran, and all others known to you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw near to all who are in need. We pray for those who are sick, grieving, lonely, or afraid, especially 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 pray for strength for all those who provide care for those loved ones, especially James and Chris Elkins, and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon. God of grace, **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 grace, **hear our prayer.**

*(Other Intercessions offered here)*

We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, whose faith continues to inspire us. Help us to trust your promises and walk in hope until we share in the fullness of your kingdom. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, 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**

**As Jesus gave Lazarus life, so you give us life each day in your name. In gratitude for all your generosity to us, we return to you these gifts of our labor, our money, and our whole selves. Bless what we offer that it might be a blessing to all creation. Amen.**

### **CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **THE THANKSGIVING**

God is with you!

**And God is with us all.**

Open wide your hearts.

**We open them completely to the Spirit of God.**

This is a season of wilderness; a season to try to understand the Divine just a little more deeply. This is the time for us to reach inwards to find the self that God sees. This is the chance for us to gaze outwards, caring for the Christ in our midst.

As we enter this Lenten journey, let us pray: **Holy One, help us to notice your gifts when the Lenten road feels long. Help us to be warmed by the winds of the Spirit when the Lenten path feels chilly. In seeking You, help us to find Jesus, recalling his time in the wilderness: His struggles. His hunger. His peace. Help us to see Christ as our companion on our own desert roads. Amen.**

Through his-story, we remember the night before his arrest: A night of serenity, solemnity, and love. Taking bread from the table, Jesus blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, as the night grew long, Jesus took a cup, filled it with the fruit of the vine, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Drink of this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus gave us himself, and he gave us a prayer. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we remember Jesus and his great love for us, praying the prayer that he gave 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 wept at his friend's tomb now cries a joyful invitation to this holy table. Come! Be fed! And rise to new life in Jesus Christ, who meets us here in bread and wine. All is prepared, siblings in Christ. Come!

### **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 | ALL WHO HUNGER, GATHER GLADLY**

**ELW #461**

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.

You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

## 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

### LENTEN BLESSING & BENEDICTION

May the Spirit who traveled with Christ in the wilderness fill us with the hope of God. May the Spirit speak to us in this season of wilderness, become our strength on this journey and fill our lives with love. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN | I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME**

ELW #325



**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)**

1. I want Jesus to walk with me;  
 2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
 3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
 me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
 when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
 me; all along my pilgrim journey,  
 when my heart is al-most broken,  
 when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
 Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

## **WORSHIP RESOURCES:**

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS** – NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD** – ERIC MILNER WHITE

**LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – FATPASTOR.ME

**LENTEN WORDS OF INSTITUTION** – MICHELLETORIGIAN.COM, AS ADAPTED.

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## **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** CAROLINE MICHALAK

**ALTAR GUILD:** GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** REV. PHIL KETTERING

**AUDIO TECHNICIAN:** MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK

**LECTOR:** MICHELLE KIRCHOFF

**PASTOR:** REV. JANET KETTERING

**PIANIST:** MARGARET SCHARFF

## **FEBRUARY/MARCH**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

JANICE I. 2/6

ELIZABETH H. 2/15

KATHY W. 2/15

BECCA B. 2/21

CAROLINE M. 2/24

MICHELLE K. 3/5

TERRY SCH. 3/6

PASTOR JANET K. 3/21

LYNN T. 3/25

DICK W. 3/27

NINA S. 3/30

## **SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 1, 2026**

### **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – First Sunday in Lent: Jesus Raises Lazarus**

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

Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

### **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

6:00 p.m. – Pardes/Shepherd Zoom Study of “The Ten Utterances”

### **Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. – Men’s Zoom Breakfast Bible Study

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

### **Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>–Second Sunday in Lent: Jesus Washes Feet**

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

Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

# **DAILY NARRATIVE LECTORY READINGS: WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2025**

## **Monday, February 23, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-1145-57-the-plot-to-kill-jesus2026>

John 11:45-57    The Plot to Kill Jesus

## **Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-121-8-mary-anoints-jesus2026>

John 12:1-8    Mary Anoints Jesus

## **Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-129-11-the-plot-to-kill-lazarus2026>

John 12:9-11    The Plot to Kill Lazarus

## **Thursday, February 26, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-1212-19-jesus-triumphal-entry-into-jerusalem2026>

John 12:12-19    Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

## **Friday, February 27, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-1220-26-some-greeks-wish-to-see-jesus2026>

John 12:20-26    Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus

## **Saturday, February 28, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-1227-35-jesus-speaks-about-his-death2026>

John 12:27-35    Jesus Speaks About His Death

## **Sunday, March 1, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/john-131-17-jesus-washes-feet2026>

John 13:1-17    Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

# **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

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PRAYER CHAIN ADMINISTRATOR: KATHY WOOTTON

SHEPHERD COUNCIL:

MICHELLE KIRCHOFF, PRESIDENT

JANICE IRISH, VICE-PRESIDENT

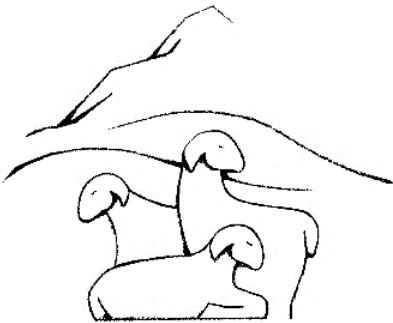
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

ERIC MICHALAK, CINDIE SCOBY & PASTOR JANET KETTERING

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ (MARK) 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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