

Shepherd of the Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

EPHESIANS 2:11-22: BUILDING THE CHURCH

WELCOME & GREETING

GATHERING HYMN | JUST AS I AM

ELW #592



592

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world,
who destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ,
who has forgiven our sins according to the riches of his grace,
and has made known to us the mystery of his will.
This is our God! Let's worship him together. Amen.

CONFESSION

Loving God, remind us that we are your children, even when we stray. In keeping with our covenant with God, we confess our sins before God and one another.

(Pause for silence and reflection.)

You have chosen us to be your children, but so often we squander what you have given us. Too many times we fail to forgive and fail to ask for forgiveness. We harm the world and those in it with our words, our actions, and our apathy. We ask now for your forgiveness, confident in your gracious mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our faithful heavenly God acts with mercy and grace. Receive now the entire forgiveness of all your sins, and bask in the cleansing shower of God's love, given in the name of Jesus Christ our savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of unity and peace, **where we see differences, you see similarities. Where we see division, you see unity. Make us one in your Spirit with all those who walk this earth. Amen.**

FIRST READING: EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Lector: So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" – a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands – remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Pastor: For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

Lector: He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

Pastor: So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Lector: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear,**
 though the earth should change,
 though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

³ though its waters roar and foam,
 though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
 the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city;
 it shall not be moved;
 God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ **The nations are in an uproar;**
 the kingdoms totter;
 he utters his voice;
 the earth melts.

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ **Come, behold the works of the Lord;**
 see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
 he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
 he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **"Be still, and know that I am God!**
 I am exalted among the nations;
 I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:12-15

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 10:11-16

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

HYMN OF THE DAY | THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

ELW #654



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

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

WE ARE NOT ALONE CREED

We are not alone. We live in God's world. We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating;

who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new;

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God's presence; to live with respect in Creation;

to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil;

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With full confidence that your ear is open to us, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(A brief silence.)

Unifying God, with your vision we celebrate, rather than tolerate our differences.

Help us to see the beauty of your colorful world and honor the things that make us unique and wholly yours. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us beauty in your creation. Help us care for your earth by healing and mending, rather than tearing down or destroying. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us strength in your chosen leaders. Help us build systems which provide and nurture, rather than withhold or condemn. We pray for all the world, and especially those engaged in the devastation of war: the United States, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Russia, and all others known to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remind us that there are parts of the world, everywhere in the world, that are slaves to the messages of the world. Make us instruments of peace and love so that none are forgotten. Give us hearts to remember those whose lives are so different from ours that forgetting seems easiest. Help us to never forget and turn our remembering into action. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us healing in the bodies, minds, and spirits of your children, especially Terry and his family, Ken, Dorothy, Ben, George and Jessika, Carl, Devon, Matt, Brett, Jim and Sally, Dave, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. Help us to offer with grace and compassion the love and care they need for healing and wholeness, as well as support for all those who provide care for them, especially James and Chris Elkins, and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon. Where there is no earthly healing, comfort us in our grief. Where there is restoration, rejoice with us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through the needs of others, you extend your grace into the world. 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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us magnificence in those who are often dismissed as insignificant. Let us see what is truly remarkable in all your children. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With all the saints we celebrate the harmony of colors represented in your majestic world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We know you are good. We know you are God. With gratitude and confidence we pray all these things in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Gracious God, **we thank you for this fellowship and offer our gifts to you in the light of your grace. Cleanse our hearts from selfishness, and use these gifts to shine your light of hope, healing, and love into a dark world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the LORD.

Let us give thanks to the LORD our GOD.

It is right to give GOD thanks and praise.

O Divine Mystery we name as God, it is right and proper that we should come together as your people to offer you thanks and praise, acknowledging our utter dependence on you.

We come to this table not by our own merit, but because we have been saved by grace through faith – and this is not from ourselves, it is Your gift, given to us, not by works, so that no one can boast.

In this bread and cup, we see the mystery of Your will made known. Through the blood of Christ, we who were once far away have been brought near. You have broken down the dividing wall of hostility to create in Christ's own self one new humanity, making peace.

By partaking of this one loaf and this one cup, we declare that there is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Therefore, let us take this holy sacrament, rooted and established in love, so that we may grasp how deep and wide is the love of Christ, filling us to overflowing with the fullness of God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We recall the stories of Jesus' birth and baptism, his ministry of healing and teaching, his proclaiming God's kingdom and re-shaping of the religious structures of his day.

We remember that the night before Jesus gave himself up for the sake of the world, he shared a meal with his disciples. He taught them and prayed for them, then took bread, gave thanks, 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."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Let us pray. **Spirit of God, bless this loaf and cup, transformed and transforming, that as Christ becomes part of us, we might become part of him, symbols of your work in this world. Amen.**

By eating this bread and drinking this wine we become one in hope...the hope that is ours in 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.

SHARING THE MEAL

This is the body of Christ, broken for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION HYMN | ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

ELW #496

496

One Bread, One Body

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.
1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,
Refrain
wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939
Music: John Foley, SJ
Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ, and OCP Publications

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY
4 4 6 and refrain

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

Go out now to share God's purpose revealed in Jesus the Christ.

Share that purpose with others by the way you live:

With the words on your lips and the deeds of your hands;

with the prayers in your minds and through the love in your hearts.

The grace of Christ redeems you. The enduring love of God supports you.

The friendship of the Holy Spirit accompanies you, this day and ever more.

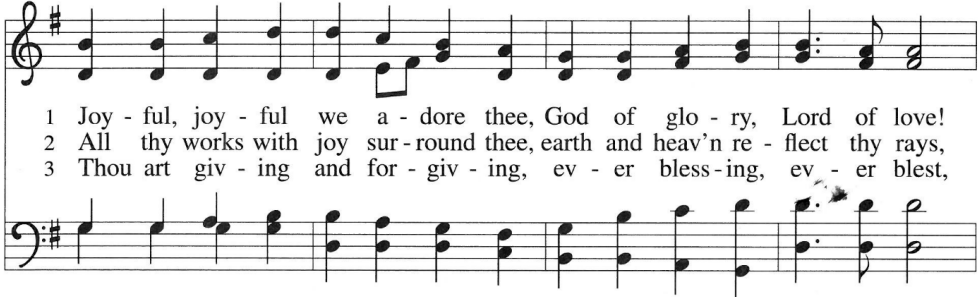
Amen!

SENDING HYMN | JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

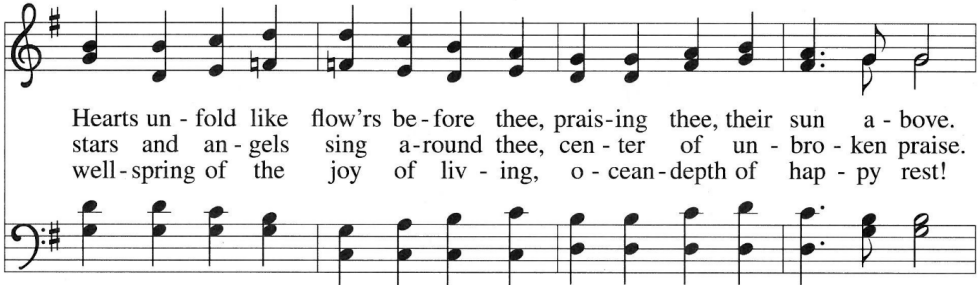
ELW #836

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

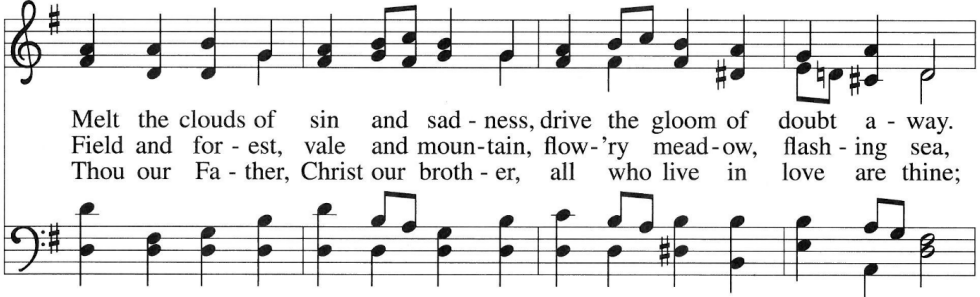
836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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:

CALL TO WORSHIP — RE-WORSHIP

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY *EPHESIANS* WORSHIP RESOURCES

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PRAYER OF THE DAY — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY *EPHESIANS* WORSHIP RESOURCES

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SCRIPTURE READINGS — NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION

RESPONSE TO THE WORD — ERIC MILNER WHITE

WE ARE NOT ALONE CREED — UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY *EPHESIANS* WORSHIP RESOURCES

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BLESSING & BENEDICTION — BRUCE PEWER, AS ADAPTED

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: RAEANNE & STEVE MILLER, GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ASSISTING MINISTER: TIM KIRCHOFF

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION HOST: POTLUCK IN HONOR OF RICK AND KELLY

LECTOR: KELLY MAURER

PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 4, 2026

Sunday, September 27th – Ephesians Summer Series: Building the Church

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

Potluck Immediately following Worship

Wednesday, September 30th

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

Friday, October 2nd

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

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

Sunday, October 4th – Ephesians Summer Series: Unity of the Church

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

Coffee & Conversation Immediately following Worship

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

**JIM E. 9/9
SCOTT F. 9/24
EVERETT 10/3
KEN M. 10/7
BOB S. 10/20
RICK M. 10/30**

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 or Pastor Janet at 507-360-1625.

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: RAEANNE & STEVE MILLER, KEN & GERRY MOORHEAD,
LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERP

ASSISTING MINISTERS: TIM KIRCHOFF & REV. PHIL KETTERING

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ (MARK) NEWKIRK

COUNTER: ERIC MICHALAK

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PRAYER CHAIN ADMINISTRATOR: KATHY WOOTTON

SHEPHERD COUNCIL:

MICHELLE KIRCHOFF, PRESIDENT

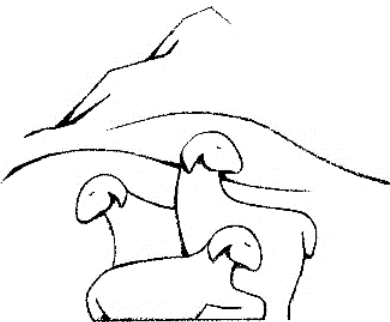
JANICE IRISH, VICE-PRESIDENT

KELLY MAURER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

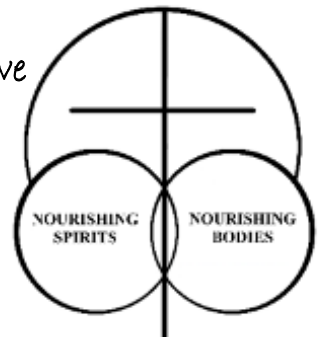
JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

PASTOR JANET KETTERING



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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