

Shepherd of the Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

AND

BAPTISM OF BODEN & WESTON ELKINS

OCTOBER 18, 2026

WELCOME & GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we pass through the waters,
God is there with us.

When we suffer and feel hopeless,
God is there with us.

When we are joyful and celebratory,
God is there with us.

Whether we feel triumphant or defeated,
God is there with us, always.

Come, let us worship together with Emmanuel,
God with us. Amen.



GATHERING HYMN | CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

ELW #186

186

Create in Me a Clean Heart



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

CONFESSION

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and life of Jesus the Christ into our world.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love and forgives us all our sins. We have been forgiven and strengthened in all goodness. Since we have been raised with Christ, let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 43:1-7a

¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth — ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:10-12 *(Please read responsively.)*

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain me in a willing spirit.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-5

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."

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.

HOLY BAPTISM OF WESTON JAMES AND BODEN BRUCE ELKINS

Pastor Janet: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. The power of sin is put to death in this holy flood, and we are raised with Jesus the Christ to new life. In this new life we are joined across time and space to our ancestors who have lived and died in the faith and to the whole Christian community on earth. Their witness supports our Christian journey. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent out in mission for the life of the world.

PRESENTATION

Sponsor: I present Weston James and Boden Bruce for baptism.

Pastor Janet: Amelia and Drew, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and Love of God, do you desire to have Weston and Boden baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

As you present Weston and Boden for baptism, you are entrusted with gifts and responsibilities: To live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, and nurture them in faith and prayer so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace among all people.

Amelia and Drew, do you promise to help Weston and Boden grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

James, do you promise to nurture Weston and Boden in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsor: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Weston and Boden and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

People: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor Phil: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your Living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Weston James, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Boden Bruce, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Weston and Boden with the gifts of your Holy Spirit: The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Weston James, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Boden Bruce, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative redeeming word to all the world. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY | BAPTIZED IN WATER

ELW #456

Baptized in Water

456

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932
 Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

BUNESSAN
 558 D

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in God's lovingkindness made known in Christ, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need. *(A brief silence.)*

God of abundance, in creation you have given us what we need to sustain life. Open our eyes to the care that is needed to preserve the earth for future generations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of diversity, you have given your children a variety of talents and desires to shine the light of your glory into the world. Give us courage to shine your light in every aspect of our lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of free will, you give us the discretion to call leaders equipped to serve in your name. Help us to choose our leaders with wisdom, so that your work may be done in this world. 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.**

God of inclusion, we give you thanks for Weston and Boden, who are washed in the waters of baptism today. Claim them as your own, surround them with your constant love, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that they may walk in the way of Jesus all the days of their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of covenant, with gratitude for the promises you make, we pray for Weston and Boden's parents and sponsors. Grant them patience, wisdom, and joy as they nurture Weston and Boden in the Christian faith. Awaken in this whole congregation a renewed sense of our shared ministry, that we may faithfully support and care for one another in the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of restoration, by teaching us to care for one another, you bestow healing of body, mind, and spirit. Help us to participate in your acts of healing and comfort for those in need. We pray especially for 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. 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.**

God of compassion, help us to support all those those who care for their loved ones, especially James and Chris Elkins, and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice, through the gifts of your beloved children, 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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Enliven your church with the fire of your Spirit. Send out laborers into the harvest to share the good news of liberation, healing, and peace. 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 PRAYER

God of peace, **you call us to be the light of the world. We offer these gifts that, with them, you might shine the light of hope on all who are in need. 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.

Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You made us all, each wonderfully different, and give us happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children.

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live through the gift of the Spirit.

Holy God, your Spirit has never been limited by the boundaries of time and space or life and death which seem insurmountable to us. So, too, we know your Spirit was present on the night in which he gave himself up for the sake of the world when he 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, and when he had given thanks, he 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.

Together as the body of Christ, we trust that any distance that separates us is bridged by the Holy Spirit who makes us one. Send your spirit to once again fill us this day, wherever we may be, joining our prayers with the prayers of your people of every time and place. **Amen.**

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.**

COMMUNION

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 in love for you.

This is the blood of Christ, poured out in forgiveness of you.

COMMUNION HYMN | AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

ELW #465



465

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

AS THE GRAINS
 Irregular

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, **through this meal**, you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Loving God, in you we are transformed and transformed still again. May the God who is hope and healing, freedom and love, transform you anew and keep you close as you share God's love in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN | BORNING CRY

ELW #732

Borning Cry

732



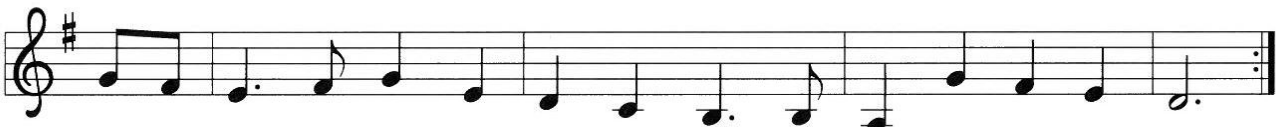
- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

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 — REV. MINDI, *REV-O-LUTION*

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON — PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA, *AS ADAPTED*

PRAYER OF THE DAY — CLERGY STUFF NARRATIVE LECTIONARY RESOURCES

RESPONSE TO THE WORD — ERIC MILNER WHITE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM — EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

BLESSING — VOX VENIAE, *AS ADAPTED*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD:

RAEANNE & STEVE MILLER, GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD,

LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ASSISTING MINISTER: REV. PHIL KETTERING

COFFEE & CONVERSATION: JIM & SALLY ELKINS IN HONOR OF WESTON & BODEN'S BAPTISMS

LECTOR: JIM ELKINS

PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: OCTOBER 18 – OCTOBER 25, 2026

Sunday, October 18th – The Blessing of Baptism: Weston & Boden Elkins

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion & Holy Baptism
Coffee & Conversation by Jim & Sally Elkins in Honor of Weston and Boden's Baptisms Immediately following Worship

Wednesday, October 20th

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

Friday, October 22nd

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

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

Sunday, October 25th – Reformation Sunday

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion
Rev. Phil Kettering preaching & presiding
Coffee & Conversation Immediately following Worship

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

EVERETT 10/3

KEN M. 10/7

BOB S. 10/20

RICK M. 10/30



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 WERPY

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

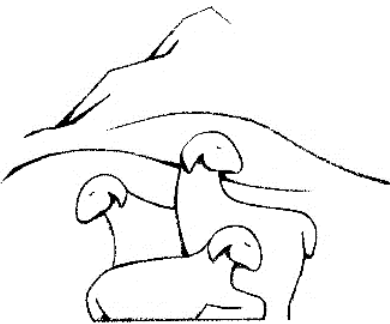
JANICE IRISH, VICE-PRESIDENT

KELLY MAURER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

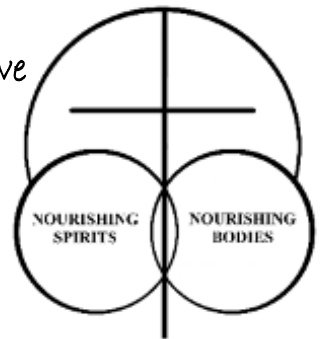
JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

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



7077 Harvest Road, Boulder, CO 80301 Office: 303-530-4422
Email: shepherdboulder@gmail.com Website: www.shepherdboulder.org