

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP

JUNE 28, 2026

RUTH AND NAOMI



PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of hope, the grief of Naomi threatened to destroy her. But the compassion of Ruth turned her despair into hope. Teach us compassion that has power to heal, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: RUTH 1:1-22

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband. Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, No, we will return with you to your people.

But Naomi said, Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying?

No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me. Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law. But Ruth said, Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die – there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, Is this Naomi? She said to them, Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?

So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

PSALM 34:1-8

- ¹ I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- ² **My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.**
- ³ O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ **I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.**
- ⁵ Look to him, and be radiant,
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
- ⁶ **This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord
and was saved from every trouble.**
- ⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.
- ⁸ **O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.**

SECOND READING: GALATIANS 3:28-29

²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:1-6

¹ An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, ⁴ and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY | GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

<https://youtu.be/POYC1jRI1CU?is=H1Q1fJ5QQLNWAASZ>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Confident that God acts on our behalf, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Compassionate God, you brought Ruth and Naomi to each other so that together they might participate in the bringing about of your Son, Jesus Christ. Show us how to live compassionately as they did, so that miracles continue in this world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The fabric of creation ripples when people love each other. Teach us to care for your creation with gentleness and kindness so that love can permeate all things. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope in times of bitterness, harvest in hunger, and life in death, we offer our prayers of blessing on the feet and lives of women and men living in poverty who take risks to feed their families and communities. Bring us into solidarity with them, and with you, as you lead us to life and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach humility to those who lead, and confidence to those who follow. Bring justice into this world, and make us instruments of your peace. We pray for the world, and especially those engaged in war: the United States, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Russia, and all others known to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bitterness, we sing songs of grief, illness, addiction, isolation, abuse, and neglect. For all who suffer, we pray your mercy and your healing, especially for Kaitlynn and Justin Colby, Carl Chaney, “J” and their family, Chris Newkirk, Devon Warren, Pastor Phil, Matt Melton, Brett, Rick and Kelly, Terry Schreier, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With gratitude, we pray for strength for all those who provide care for their loved ones, especially James and Chris Elkins, and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With compassion, 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.**

With trust in your mercy, we confess that we so often we get it wrong in this world. We seek one outcome, but our actions bring about another. We harm instead of heal; alienate or dominate others instead of walking side by side as equals. We have far to go, and much to learn. Transform this earth with the radical power of your grace, after which nothing can ever be the same. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remind us that this world is not too big for our compassion. Show us how to love all people, no matter how different they may seem. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With grateful praise, we thank you for the saints who have gone before us, teaching us how to live with mercy, kindness, and compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With gratitude for your faithfulness, we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

May the LORD go with you wherever you go. May His people be your people and may He be your God. May His presence be your home in times of uncertainty and may He give you the courage to follow His leading wherever it takes you. **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: JUNE 28 – JULY 5, 2026

Sunday, June 28th- Ruth and Naomi

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion
Coffee and Conversation Immediately following Worship

Wednesday, July 1st

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

Friday, July 3rd

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

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

Saturday July 4th- Happy Independence Day!



Sunday, July 5th - Ruth Meets Boaz

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy
Communion Coffee and Conversation Immediately following
Worship

**JUNE/JULY
BIRTHDAYS**

TIM K. 6/8

WAYNE O. 6/14

LYLE K. 6/17

LORI W. 6/18

JESSIKA C. 7/19

PAULA B. 7/21

FUZZ N. 7/27

ERIC M. 7/28

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 28, 2026

Monday, June 29, 2026

Psalm 51:1-12 A prayer for cleansing and a right spirit

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Genesis 50:15-21 Joseph forgives his brothers

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Colossians 3:12-15 Clothe yourselves with compassion and forgiving one another

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Matthew 18:21-35 The parable of the unmerciful servant

Friday, July 3, 2026

Luke 7:36-50 The woman who washed Jesus' feet; those forgiven much, love much

Saturday, July 4, 2026

Ephesians 4:25-32 Be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving as God in Christ forgave you

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Matthew 6:13 Save us from the time of trial...deliver us from evil



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 MILLER, KEN & GERRY MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ASSISTING MINISTERS: TIM KIRCHOFF & REV. PHIL KETTERING

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PRAYER CHAIN ADMINISTRATOR: KATHY WOOTTON

SHEPHERD COUNCIL:

MICHELLE KIRCHOFF, PRESIDENT

JANICE IRISH, VICE-PRESIDENT

KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

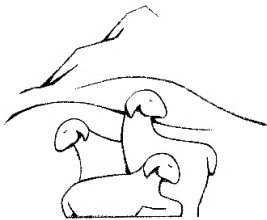
REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

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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