

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP

JULY 12, 2026

THE THRESHING FLOOR



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, **when hearts and minds are intertwined, your blessings become abundant. Bless the families and communities that we strive to protect, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: RUTH 3:1-18

Naomi her mother-in-law said to Ruth, my daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do. She said to her, All that you tell me I will do. So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and he was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came stealthily and uncovered his feet, and lay down. At midnight the man was startled, and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman! He said, who are you? And she answered, I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin. He said, may you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman. But now, though it is true that I am a near kinsman, there is another kinsman more closely related than I. Remain this night, and in the morning, if he will act as next-of-kin for you, good; let him do it. If he is not willing to act as next-of-kin for you, then, as the Lord lives, I will act as next-of-kin for you. Lie down until the morning. So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before one person could recognize another; for he said, "It must not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." Then he said, bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out. So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley, and put it on her back; then he went into the city. She came to her mother-in-law, who said, how did things go with you, my daughter? Then she told her all that the man had done for her, saying, he gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, "Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed." She replied, wait,

my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest, but will settle the matter today.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 130:5-7

(Please read responsively)

⁵I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶my soul waits for the Lord
**more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 7:7-8

⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:28-30

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY | GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

ELW #733

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/7SB7VJW6CBy?is=XPGGRAENISVS2HJW](https://youtu.be/7SB7vJW6CBy?is=XPGGRAENISVS2HJW)

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).*

God of passionate devotion, your servants Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi, loved and cared for each other. Their compassion benefitted the three of them and the greater community. Show us how to love with great devotion, so that through us your kingdom may be blessed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the seas, the sky, and the land, and the loving hands that tend to all your creation with compassion and care. Guide our hearts to provide assistance to those suffering the devastation of earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, and drought. Safeguard those who put themselves in harm's way to render aid across the globe. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve and lead, all who govern and follow, all who decide and who carry out the decisions that are made. Help us live into our callings with grace and gratitude. 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.**

Bless all who are in need of your healing touch. We pray especially for George and Jessika Crawford, Carl Chaney, "J" and their family, Chris Newkirk, Devon Warren, Pastor Phil, Matt Melton, Brett Cotter, Rick and Kelly, Terry, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. Bring all who suffer to wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of provision, 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.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all the communities of the world; those who look, sound, and behave as we do, and those who do not. Make our hearts big to receive those that we do not understand. 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 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: JULY 12 – JULY 19, 2026

Sunday, July 12th- The Threshing floor

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

Wednesday, July 15th

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

Friday, July 17th

7:00 a.m. – Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study
5:00 p.m. – Friday Night Perspectives Zoom Gathering

Sunday, July 19th - The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

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

<p><u>JULY</u> <u>BIRTHDAYS</u> JESSIKA C. 7/19 PAULA B. 7/21 FUZZ N. 7/27 ERIC M. 7/28</p>

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 12, 2026

Monday, July 13, 2026

Ruth 3:1-5 Naomi's Advice

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ruth 3:6-9 Ruth at the threshing floor

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Ruth 3:10-13 Boaz's promise to Ruth

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Ruth 3:14-18 Ruth returns to Naomi with grain

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Ruth 4:1-11, 13-17 Boaz redeems Naomi and Ruth

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

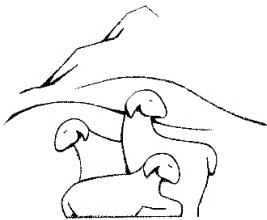
REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

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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Check out our Facebook page at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran