

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP

JULY 19, 2026

THE MARRIAGE OF RUTH AND BOAZ

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of blessing, you blessed your servants Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz with the birth of a son, an ancestor of Jesus. Bless us now as inheritors of Jesus' kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our reigning Lord. Amen.



FIRST READING: RUTH 4:1-22

No sooner had Boaz gone up to the gate and sat down there than the next-of-kin, of whom Boaz had spoken, came passing by. So Boaz said, come over, friend; sit down here. And he went over and sat down. Then Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, sit down here. So they sat down. He then said to the next-of-kin, Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our kinsman Elimelech. So I thought I would tell you of it, and say: Buy it in the presence of those sitting here, and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not, tell me, so that I may know; for there is no one prior to you to redeem it, and I come after you. So he said, I will redeem it. Then Boaz said, the day you acquire the field from the hand of Naomi, you are also acquiring Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead man, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance. At this, the next-of-kin said, I cannot redeem it for myself without damaging my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.

Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one took off a sandal and gave it to the other; this was the manner of attesting in Israel. So when the next-of kin said to Boaz, "Acquire it for yourself," he took off his sandal. Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, today you are witnesses that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses. Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, we are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem; and, through the children that the Lord will give you by this young woman, may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to

Judah. So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him. Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, a son has been born to Naomi. They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David. Now these are the descendants of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron of Ram, Ram of Amminadab, Amminadab of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon, Salmon of Boaz, Boaz of Obed, Obed of Jesse, and Jesse of David.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113

God the Helper of the Needy

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

² **Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

⁴ **The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,

⁶ **who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?**

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

⁸ **to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.**

⁹ He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 1:46-55

Mary's Song of Praise

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION BY ASSISTING MINISTER TIM KIRCHOFF

The journey that Ruth has undergone is simply amazing. She went from being an outsider that a man of Israel marries, being widowed and back to being an outsider, to marrying another man of Israel which destined her to be the grandmother of the most celebrated king of Israel, and of course a part of the blood line which bore Jesus our savior. The whole book of Ruth seems to showcase how so many dominos needed to fall perfectly for the right outcome to transpire. It almost seems impossible, but there is most certainly a master player behind the scenes making all these events happen, and that can only be God.

Ruth is blessed beyond imagination. But it was certainly not an easy journey for her. Staying with Naomi after the death of her first husband was a giant leap of faith, when she could have returned to her homeland to start a new life. Instead, she dived deep into Israelite culture and remained a part of her former husband's family. Boaz obviously saw the strong character Ruth possessed and wished to take over her former father-in-law's land and Ruth as his wife but had to negotiate with the kinsman first in line for this opportunity.

That brings us to the reading from chapter 4. Boaz is quite clever here if not a little shrewd. For his part, he makes the effort, in front of witnesses, to offer the next of kin of Naomi's dead husband Elimelech the right to the property. Boaz almost loses the deal until he mentions Ruth has to be a part of that offer. The man backs off due to complications the estate would make on his inheritance, presumably how this would affect his other children. I must admit, this whole affair of deception made me pause a little bit. It reminds me of the phrase “the ends justify the means”. We know the outcome was good, but I can't help but feel sorry for this other man.

Ultimately I feel like we should be thankful for the blessings God has given us. We've all gone through many trials and tribulations throughout our lives, but think of how all the dominos must have fallen perfectly to get us to where we are now. I know I'm thankful for my family and for sharing our faith together through this faith family we are all a part of. Amen!

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 promise, with the birth of a son, Obed, to Ruth and Boaz, the hope of new life in your earthly kingdom was born. With the birth of his descendant, Jesus, the hope of new life in your heavenly kingdom became a reality as well. Bless us with the hope that one day we will become inheritors of all that is yours. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All the things that you have created, both big and small, carry the hope of newness of life. Show us how to be intentional caretakers of all that you have made so that this earth sustains life long beyond our years. Guide us through the devastation of wildfires, floods, earthquakes and drought and safeguard those who put themselves in harm's way to protect your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All the leaders that you have chosen and equipped carry the hope of new ways of living with justice and peace. Make them stewards of your people so that peace reigns in this world. 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.**

All the children who suffer in body, mind, and spirit carry the hope of healing. Bring to health and wholeness all who cry for your healing touch. We pray especially for Janice Irish, George and Jessika Crawford, Carl Chaney, Devon Warren, Pastor Phil, Matt Melton, Brett, 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.**

All the people who wake each morning in parts of the world that suffer from exile, oppression, or torment carry the hope that one day soon you will bring an end to their suffering. Inspire and empower us to make that day a reality soon so that all may live without fear or pain. 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 19 – JULY 26, 2026

Sunday, July 19th– The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz – Final Week

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

Coffee and Conversation Immediately following Worship

Wednesday, July 22th

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

Friday, July 24th

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

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

Sunday, July 26th – 1 John Summer Series – Week 1

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

Coffee and Conversation Immediately following Worship

JULY

BIRTHDAYS

JESSIKA C. 7/19

PAULA B. 7/21

FUZZ N. 7/27

ERIC M. 7/28

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19, 2026

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ruth 4:1-6 Boaz at the city gate

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Ruth 4:7-12 The sandal and the redemption

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ruth 4:13-17 The birth of Obed

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Ruth 4:18-22 The Lineage of David

Friday, July 24, 2026

Romans 8:31-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God

Saturday, July 25, 2026

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 The traditional doxology roots: “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness...”

Sunday, July 26, 2026

1 John 1:1-4 God’s tangible Word of Life

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

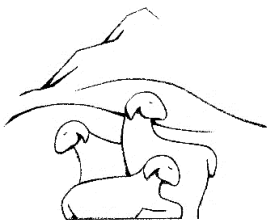
REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

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