

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP

AUGUST 16, 2026

WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of restoration, **You have loved us with a perfect love. Because you first loved us, we have the capacity to love others. Show us how to love as you love, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, our saving Lord. Amen.**



FIRST READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:8-17

⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.**

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins

nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,**

so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³ **As a father has compassion for his children,**

so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

¹⁴ For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ **As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;**

¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷ **But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 13:34-35

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY | GREAT GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US

ELW #358

<https://youtu.be/HN7ACVRxMMO?is=DhTTGY74oXQPRAMN>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving because you first loved us, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *(A brief silence.)*

God of perfect love, your love was revealed to us in the death and resurrection of your son. Receive our gratitude for showing us a love that conquers sin and death and breaks down all barriers between God and humanity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All that you have made is infused with your love and creation speaks your truth when it survives and thrives. Make us faithful stewards of all that you have created so that it can continue to speak to your goodness. We pray for all affected by the devastation of earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, heat waves and drought. Safeguard those who put themselves in harm's way to render aid across the globe. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your chosen leaders can govern with force and hate, or with wisdom and love. Help all who lead to lead with the love that you have made perfect in Jesus Christ. Guide them to be examples of righteousness and decency, fighting against the powers and temptations of the world, and surrendering to the power and justice of your truth. We pray for all 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.**

Heal all who suffer from addiction, disease, isolation, neglect, despair, or abuse. We pray especially for Ken, Ben Harvey and his family, Janice, Kelly, Rick and DeeDee, George and Jessika, Carl Chaney, Devon Warren, Pastor Phil, Matt Melton, Brett Cotter, Terry Schreier, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. Let none fall, but restore them to wholeness. 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.**

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thankful hearts we remember all the saints who have gone before us, who have shown us how to testify to your love and bring people into fellowship with Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With confidence in the restorative power of your love, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Go now, sent by the one who was sent by God. Walk in the light and testify to the resurrection of Christ. Forgive the sins of all, live at peace with one another, with the Holy Spirit leading you into the life and light of God. **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: AUGUST 16 – AUGUST 23, 2026

Sunday, August 16th – We Love Because God First Loved Us

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

Wednesday, August 19th

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

Friday, August 21st

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

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

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

GEORGE C. 8/1

GERRY M. 8/2

RAEANNE M. 8/2

MARGARET S. 8/9

PEYTON S. 8/9

MOLLY V. 8/15

Sunday, August 23rd – 10 Commandments Summer Series: I Am the Lord Your God

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



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

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

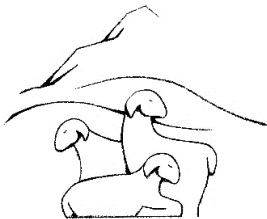
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, we

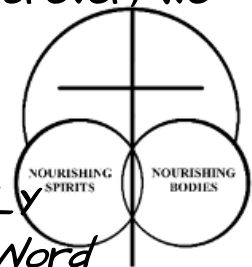
† *Gather in Love*

† *Grow in Faith*

† *Share God's Love & Grace*

† *We are Empowered to BOLDLY*

Proclaim & Witness God's Word



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Email: shepherdboulder@gmail.com Website: www.shepherdboulder.org
Check out our Facebook page at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran