

# Shepherd of the Hills

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
APRIL 12, 2026 – “THOMAS”



### WELCOME & GREETING

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

God is near to all who call on God. **We call on God in truth.**  
Let us speak God's praise. **All creation will bless God's name forever.**

#### CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another. *(Pause for silence and reflection).*

Merciful God, **give us the willingness to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you about the ways in which we have caused harm in this world. Give us the openness to see where our actions or failures to act have led to pain in those closest to us and in those far away. Do not let us sink further into self-harm through self-blame and hatred, but give us the courage to set right our wrongs, and to return to you again and again for forgiveness.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The risen God has raised you to newness of life in Jesus' name. In Christ, you are a new creation, and God forgives you every wrong. Celebrate a world redeemed with all of creation and lavish the love you have received on all that is. **Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Risen God, **you come into our midst and breathe your Holy Spirit on us. Empower us to believe that you are with us, no matter how we experience you in our lives, and make us witnesses to one another of your very real presence among us. In your name we pray. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: PSALM 145:13-21***(PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY)*

<sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

<sup>14</sup>**The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.**

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

<sup>16</sup>**You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.**

<sup>17</sup>The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

<sup>18</sup>**The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.**

<sup>19</sup>He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them.

<sup>20</sup>**The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.**

<sup>21</sup>My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

**HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31**

**Lector:** When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

**Pastor:** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."

**Lector:** But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

**Pastor:** Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY | YOU RESTORE IT ALL**

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/411L40HUD7Y?si=GRFZs4OINVLAYQWH](https://youtu.be/411L40HUD7Y?si=GRFZs4OINVLAYQWH)

**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.

**CONGREGATIONAL SHARING****EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In a time before all knowing, God is, and God's breath fills the emptiness, creating: A universe, a world, an ecology, a biology and us – humankind.

All humankind: No exceptions, no imperfections; all of us beloved, just as we are.

In a time before all knowing, the Christ is, watching the creating, and stepping into it: Becoming, living, dying, and rising, for all of us. All humankind: No exceptions, no reservations; all of us just as we are, God's beloved.

In a time before all knowing, the Spirit is, and moves through every part of creation: Consoling, interceding, leading, and refreshing all the world, including us. All humankind: No exceptions, no exclusions; all of us, just as we are, God's beloved.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

With renewed confidence in your power and love, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*(A brief silence).*

Loving God, in a world where proof is everything and faith often seems foolish, give us courage to proclaim what the Spirit has revealed to us. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We cannot doubt that this blue planet is steadily changing and the effects of our abuse and neglect are made plain. Teach us to recognize and heed the warnings while we yet have a chance to be part of the solution in preserving our cosmic home. We praise you for the awesome power and quiet beauty of the world's waters and humbly ask that you bless the earth with moisture wherever it's needed. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Breathe new life and inspiration into leaders at every level, that they might work to govern with equity and justice, for the good of every human being on earth. Forgive us for engaging in the atrocities of war which result in the suffering of the innocents. We pray for the world, and especially those engaged in war: the United States, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Russia, and all others known to you. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Give our leaders faith in the people they serve, that they would listen carefully to the needs of their constituents and craft policies that see to the flourishing of all people. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

You are near to all who call on you. Be now with all those who need to feel you close, and long for your healing touch. We pray especially for Devon Warren, Pastor Phil, Matt, Brett, Rick and Kelly, Terry, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

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. God of new life, **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. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With Thomas, Mary, the other disciples, and all the witnesses of the resurrection we join in thanksgiving, united in your love and held forever in the power of your eternal life. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Hear all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and gather them into your loving arms, for the sake of our risen savior, Jesus Christ. **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/OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, **we offer these gifts out of the abundance you have first given us.**

**Accept them, we pray, and use them to bear witness to your life-changing power, that all might come to love you and their neighbors as themselves. Amen.**

## **CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The LORD be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the LORD.**

Let us give thanks to the LORD our GOD.

**It is right to give GOD thanks and praise.**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many places, differing in age, differing in race, differing in orientation, politics and even religion. As we come together around the table, we discover that our differences are indeed a blessing, not just something we tolerate. The more difference we bring, the more fully we experience the presence of the sacred in our midst.

So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life, you are welcome here, here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember with us.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

We remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared, feeding a multitude; stories of being gathered together, enemy and friend, around tables; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

We say that it was on a night of both celebration and betrayal that he took the bread leftover on the table, blessed it and broke it, saying "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you," reminding them that it is in the breaking that we become whole, that in losing our lives we find them, that in serving we are served. As the grain scattered becomes one in the loaf, when we eat this bread, we become one with one another.

We say that he took the cup also leftover on the table, poured out and shared, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the renewed covenant I give to you, poured out in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin, remembering with them the life-giving breath which still pounds a rhythm through our veins: The breath of life from which we come, the breath that precedes and follows all that we can see. As the grapes find life in the vine, when we drink this cup, we become at one with the source of life itself.

And so we pray: **Come, holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking, that our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst; indeed, in one another. Come, holy Spirit, come. Amen.**

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.**

The one who stood among his disciples and breathed on them the Holy Spirit stands among you here and invites you to experience his presence in this holy meal. Come, be fed and nourished for a life of faith.

### **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 | ONE BREAD, ONE BODY**

<https://youtu.be/WHAU3FLF7NI?si=UKTRR-UWRGCDohV7>

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy, gracious God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love and tasted your nourishing presence. At this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept that life and give you thanks. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that all may know life and love in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **EASTER BENEDICTION**

Go forth with renewed hope, trusting in the transforming love of God.

**God does not leave things as they are; with God, all things are made new.**

All creation responds to God's presence. The world is alive with possibility.

**We open ourselves to this truth: With Christ, we trust our whole lives to this power.**

**Nothing is beyond the reach of God; neither evil, nor hardship, nor death.**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed.**

**SENDING HYMN | RISEN**

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/2V2BAPVzCUs?si=UT2ILX6fM65IPOOI](https://youtu.be/2V2BAPVzCUs?si=UT2ILX6fM65IPOOI)

**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:**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY** — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2025 CLERGY STUFF

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** — NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD** — ERIC MILNER WHITE

**LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** — FATPASTOR.ME

**LENTEN WORDS OF INSTITUTION** — MICHELLETORIGIAN.COM, AS ADAPTED.

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**LENTEN BLESSING & BENEDICTION** — MICHELLETORIGIAN.COM, AS ADAPTED.

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** CAROLINE MICHALAK

**ALTAR GUILD:** GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** TIM KIRCHOFF

**AUDIO TECHNICIAN:** MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK

**GUEST PASTOR:** REV. PHIL KETTERING

**LECTOR:** KELLY MAURER

**PASTOR:** REV. JANET KETTERING

## **SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: APRIL 12 – APRIL 19, 2026**

### **Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - Thomas**

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In Person/ Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

### **Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> - Paul’s Conversion**

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In Person/ Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>APRIL</u></b> <b><u>BIRTHDAYS</u></b> SHERILYN W. 4/6 KAY W. 4/9 DOROTHY F. 4/13 CINDIE S. 4/27</p>
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## **DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF APRIL 12, 2026**

### **Monday, April 13, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-61-7-seven-chosen-to-serve2026>

Acts 6:1-7                      Seven Chosen to Serve

### **Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-68-15-the-arrest-of-stephen2026>

Acts 6:8-15                      The Arrest of Stephen

### **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-71-22-stephens-speech-to-the-council2026>

Acts 7:1-22                      Stephen’s Speech to the Council

### **Thursday, April 16, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-723-43-stephens-speech-to-the-council2026>

Acts 7:23-43                      Stephen’s Speech to the Council

### **Friday, April 17, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-744-53-stephens-speech-to-the-council2026>

Acts 7:44-53                      Stephen’s Speech to the Council

### **Saturday, April 18, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-75481-the-stoning-of-stephen2026>

Acts 7:54-81                      The Stoning of Stephen

### **Sunday, April 19, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-91-19a-pauls-conversion2026>

Acts 9:1-19a                      Paul’s Conversion

**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, Pastor Janet at 507-360-1625, or Dick Werpy at 720-771-6767.

## **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: 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

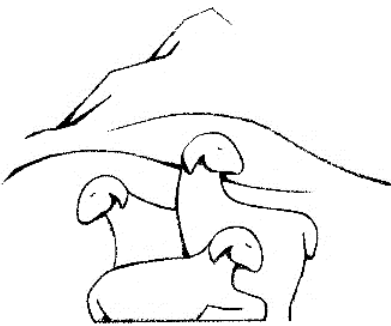
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

CINDIE SCOBY & PASTOR JANET KETTERING

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ (MARK) NEWKIRK



### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, v*  
*+ 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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