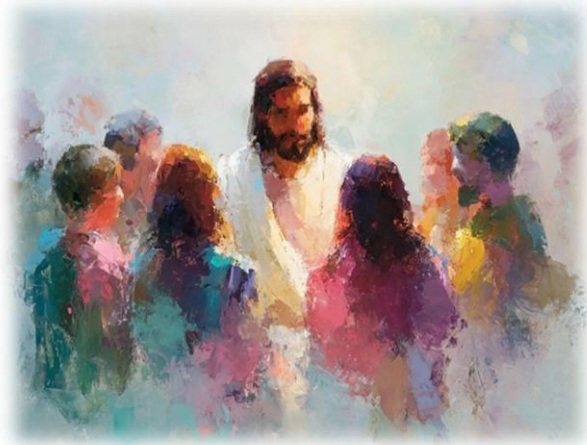


Shepherd of the Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

MAY 3, 2026 – “PAUL’S SERMON AT ATHENS”



WELCOME & GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

No one has ever seen God.

But in Jesus, God is made known to us.

God has given us grace upon grace.

Praise God for God’s grace and mercy.

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

God of all, you are present in all places and in all peoples, and the gospel story is spoken in every language. Open our hearts and minds to traditions different than our own, that we might learn from them, grow toward you, and become one unified Body of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING: ACTS 17:16-31

Lector: While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him,

Pastor: "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new. Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

Lector: From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Pastor: Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 1:16-18

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

SERMON

REV. JANET KETTERING

HYMN OF THE DAY | AND NOW MY LIFESONG SINGS

https://youtu.be/dx1_7GfCY38?si=jYCTPGPDR2E6SUPH

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 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).

God, your servant, Paul, is a model for approaching others and sharing the gospel in a spirit of generosity and openness. May we follow his lead and respectfully accompany those whom we serve. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

You are present and alive to us in the natural world and all that is in it. Make us to care for creation as for our own selves, with love and tenderness, that all living things might thrive together. 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.**

Forgive us for engaging in the atrocities of war which always result in the suffering of the innocents. Teach us and our leaders to use our gifts for good and not for dishonest gain. Help us to focus our efforts on behalf of those in need instead of exploiting others for our own benefit. May honesty, integrity, and love prevail over greed and manipulation. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

As the Greeks listened to Paul with open curiosity, help our leaders listen to the ideas of those different from their own. Enlighten us with new ways of addressing challenges that further peace and prosperity rather than war and destruction. 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.**

We hold in our hearts today all those in our community and beyond who are dealing with challenges to their physical, emotional, and or spiritual health. Bring hope and healing to all in need. We pray especially for Chris Newkirk, 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We are a motley and diverse group, your saints. Thank you for making us different from one another, yet united in your love and redeemed by your salvation. 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

Gracious God, you created all things, and out of your fullness, you have showered us with all that we need. Accept now these gifts, returned to you in joy and gratitude. Bless and use them for your holy work, that all the world might know your boundless love. 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 Christ's table. We come from many places, differing in age and 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: in this place, in this community, 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 enemy and friend, gathered together around tables; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

It was on a night of both celebration and betrayal that Jesus took the bread leftover on the table, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Later, 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, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Together, we remember that it is in the breaking that we become whole; that in losing our lives we find life; that in serving we are served.

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, and 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.**

Jesus Christ, our Savior and friend, invites us now to feast at the table where you are showered with grace upon grace. Come and meet him in this simple meal of bread and wine and be made whole. All is prepared.

SHARING THE MEAL

This is the body of Christ, broken for you.
This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION HYMN | ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/WHAU3FLF7NI?SI=UKTRR-UWRGCD0HV7](https://youtu.be/WHAU3FLF7NI?si=UKTRR-UWRGCD0HV7)

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 | YOU ARE GOD ALONE

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/ZOARGNFIDD4?SI=LZQZ6IZAEA2CKZTD](https://youtu.be/ZOARGNFIDD4?si=LZQZ6IZAEA2CKZTD)

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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SCRIPTURE READINGS – NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION
RESPONSE TO THE WORD – ERIC MILNER WHITE
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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: REV. PHIL KETTERING
AUDIO TECHNICIAN: MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK
LECTOR: MICHELLE KIRCHOFF
PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: MAY 3 – MAY 10, 2026

Sunday, May 3rd- Paul's Sermon at Athens

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

Wednesday, May 6th

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

Friday, May 8th

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

Sunday, May 10th- Partnership in the Gospel

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

<p><u>MAY</u> <u>BIRTHDAYS</u> SALLY E. 5/16 DONNA S. 5/26 TERRY S. 5/27</p>

SAVE THE DATE!!!

RYSSBY ANNUAL WORSHIP W/POTLUCK WILL BE SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH!

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF MAY 3, 2026

Monday, May 4, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-181-17-paul-in-corinth2026>

Acts 18:1-17 Paul in Corinth

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-191-10-paul-in-ephesus2026>

Acts 19: 1-10 Paul in Ephesus

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-2127-36-paul-arrested-in-the-temple2026>

Acts 21:27-36 Paul Arrested in the Temple

Thursday, May 7, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-2137-225-paul-defends-himself2026>

Acts 21:37 – 22:5 Paul Defends Himself

Friday, May 8, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-2312-22-the-plot-to-kill-paul2026>

Acts 23:12-22 The Plot to Kill Paul

Saturday, May 9, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-2823-30-paul-preaches-in-rome2026>

Acts 28:23-30 Paul Preaches in Rome

Sunday, May 10, 2026

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/philippians-11-18a-partnership-in-the-gospel2026>

Philippians 1:1-18a Partnership in the Gospel



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: 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

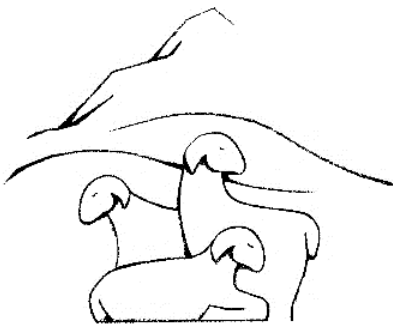
REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

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



7077 Harvest Road, Boulder, CO 80301 Office: 303-530-4422
Email: shepherdboulder@gmail.com Website: www.shepherdboulder.org

Bread Belonging

Bread+Belonging is a campus ministry partnership between Lutheran Campus Ministry and St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

We offer students:

Inclusive and affirming community	Chaplain support
Weekly free student dinner	Leadership development
Bible studies & faith conversations	Service opportunities
Retreats	and more!

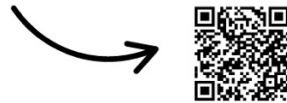
Support Campus Ministry

Pray

For students, for the campus community, and for our Bread + Belonging community.

Connect

Sign up for our newsletters.



Give

Contribute to the LCM annual fund. Checks can be made out to LCM-CU and mailed to us.

Donate groceries for Tuesday student dinners



Volunteer

Gather a team to help cook a Tuesday student dinner

Volunteer at CU Football Concessions fundraisers

Lutheran Campus Ministry CU
2425 Colorado Avenue - Boulder, CO 80302
Pr. Monica Butler - chaplain@saintaidans.org