

Shepherd of the Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION – JUNE 28, 2026
RUTH AND NAOMI



WELCOME & GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place, there are no foreigners, for all are welcome in God's house.

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance, for love is the language of faith.

Here in our lives, there are no divisions, for God dwells in each of us.

Come, let us worship in unity and love.

CONFESSION

With faith in a loving God, we confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of kindness and compassion, **we are not always quick to claim you as our God. We fail to care for each other with the compassion you have shown us. Forgive our thoughts, words, and actions, and all that we have failed to do or say. Cleanse us from the inside out and make us new. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our God is faithful even when we are not. Today we are forgiven. Today we are cleansed of our sins and made into new beings. Today we follow the Lord, whose compassion never fails. Receive newness of life, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of hope, **the grief of Naomi threatened to destroy her. But the compassion of Ruth turned her despair into hope. Teach us compassion that has power to heal, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: RUTH 1:1-22

Lector: In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,

Pastor: Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband. Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, No, we will return with you to your people.

Lector: But Naomi said, Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.

Pastor: Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law. But Ruth said, Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die – there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!

Lector: When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, Is this Naomi? She said to them, Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?

Pastor: So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:1-8 *(Please read responsively.)*

- ¹ I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- ² **My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.**
- ³ O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ **I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.**
- ⁵ Look to him, and be radiant,
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
- ⁶ **This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord
and was saved from every trouble.**
- ⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.
- ⁸ **O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.**

SECOND READING: GALATIANS 3:28-29

²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:1-6

1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, **4** and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, **5** and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, **6** and Jesse the father of King David.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

REV. JANET KETTERING

HYMN OF THE DAY | GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/POYC1jRI1cU?is=H1Q1Fj5QQLNWAASz](https://youtu.be/PoYC1jRI1cU?is=H1Q1Fj5QQLNWAASz)

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

WE ARE NOT ALONE CREED

We are not alone. We live in God's world.

We believe in God: Who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: To celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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.

Compassionate God, you brought Ruth and Naomi to each other so that together they might participate in the bringing about of your Son, Jesus Christ. Show us how to live compassionately as they did, so that miracles continue in this world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The fabric of creation ripples when people love each other. Teach us to care for your creation with gentleness and kindness so that love can permeate all things. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope in times of bitterness, harvest in hunger, and life in death, we offer our prayers of blessing on the feet and lives of women and men living in poverty who take risks to feed their families and communities. Bring us into solidarity with them, and with you, as you lead us to life and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach humility to those who lead, and confidence to those who follow. Bring justice into this world, and make us instruments of your peace. 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.**

With bitterness, we sing songs of grief, illness, addiction, isolation, abuse, and neglect. For all who suffer, we pray your mercy and your healing, especially for Kaitlynn and Justin Colby, Carl Chaney, "J" and their family, Chris Newkirk, Devon Warren, Pastor Phil, Matt Melton, Brett, Rick and Kelly, Terry Schreier, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With gratitude, 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.**

With compassion, 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.**

With trust in your mercy, we confess that we so often we get it wrong in this world. We seek one outcome, but our actions bring about another. We harm instead of heal; alienate or dominate others instead of walking side by side as equals. We have far to go, and much to learn. Transform this earth with the radical power of your grace, after which nothing can ever be the same. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remind us that this world is not too big for our compassion. Show us how to love all people, no matter how different they may seem. 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.**

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

God of Love, **our hearts overflow with thanksgiving at your mercy, and we long to show this gratitude in our lives. May generosity of spirit, of heart, and of wealth be our first step toward imitating you, in Jesus' name. 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.

God, who led Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, you lead us in ways of righteousness. You have taught us that wandering does not mean that we are lost. You have taught us that the journey is just as important as the destination. We give thanks that you call us your people.

Jesus, giver of the peace that surpasses all understanding, your peace has settled on this gathering today. We have come because you first came to us. We gather to hear your word just as the disciples gathered in Jerusalem. We have both heard your word of eternal life and your word that sends us out. We give thanks that you trust us with your name.

Holy Spirit, who prays on our behalf when we have no words, you are both our counsel and our might. You convict us with truth when we forget your word. You lead us with wisdom when we do not know where to go. You comfort us when we feel we are without hope. We give thanks that you are in us and around us and ever-present with us.

Now, as people gathered in your name, we pray that you would make your presence known to us. Holy Spirit, as you have done before, breathe your breath of life through this place making this simple loaf and cup communion with you. May God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit abide with us as we share this meal.

Bind us to you and to one another as we gather at Christ's table, remembering that on the night in which he gave himself up for the world, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, 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."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, 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; and 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.**

Through Christ's sacrifice, we are redeemed. Absolutely nothing stands between us and our Lord's irresistible invitation to dinner. Come, bringing nothing but open hands and hearts. We get to start again. Hallelujah! **Amen.**

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

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, just as Ruth left her old life and clung to Naomi, we now cling to You and the nourishment of your body and blood. You are our Redeemer, stepping into our brokenness to bring redemption, hope, and restoration. Send us from this table as witnesses to your grace, that all may know life and love in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

May the LORD go with you wherever you go. May His people be your people and may He be your God. 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.**

SENDING HYMN | SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

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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)

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BLESSING & BENEDICTION – REV. JANET KETTERING

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK
ALTAR GUILD: RAEANNE MILLER, GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERP
ASSISTING MINISTER: TIM KIRCHOFF
AUDIO TECHNICIAN: MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK
LECTOR: KELLY MAURER
PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: JUNE 28 – JULY 5, 2026

Sunday, June 28th – Ruth and Naomi

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

Wednesday, July 1st

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

Friday, July 3rd

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

Saturday July 4th– Happy Independence Day!



Sunday, July 5th – Ruth Meets Boaz

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

<u>JUNE/JULY</u>
<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>
TIM K. 6/8
WAYNE O. 6/14
LYLE K. 6/17
LORI W. 6/18
JESSIKA C. 7/19
PAULA B. 7/21
FUZZ N. 7/27
ERIC M. 7/28

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 28, 2026

Monday, June 29, 2026

Psalm 34

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Judges 2:11-23

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Psalm 146

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Luke 15:11-32

Friday, July 3, 2026

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Saturday, July 4, 2026

1 John 4:7-12

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Ruth 2:1-23

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

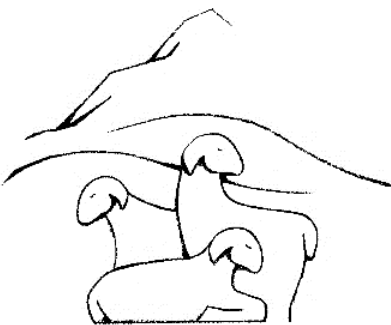
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

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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