

Shepherd of the Hills
LUTHERAN CHURCH
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION – JULY 12, 2026
THE THRESHING FLOOR

WELCOME & GREETING

GATHERING HYMN | WE ARE AN OFFERING

ELW #692



We Are an Offering

692



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an



of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,



all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:



we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING
PM

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. Amen.

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

Loving God, when hearts and minds are intertwined, your blessings become abundant. Bless the families and communities that we strive to protect, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: RUTH 3:1-18

Lector: Naomi her mother-in-law said to Ruth, my daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.

Pastor: She said to her, all that you tell me I will do. So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and he was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came stealthily and uncovered his feet, and lay down. At midnight the man was startled, and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman! He said, who are you?

Lector: And she answered, I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin. He said, may you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman. But now, though it is true that I am a near kinsman, there is another kinsman more closely related than I. Remain this night, and in the morning, if he will act as next-of-kin for you, good; let him do it. If he is not willing to act as next-of-kin for you, then, as the Lord lives, I will act as next-of-kin for you. Lie down until the morning.

Pastor: So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before one person could recognize another; for he said, "It must not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." Then he said, bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out. So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley, and put it on her back; then he went into the city. She came to her mother-in-law, who said,

Lector: How did things go with you, my daughter? Then she told her all that the man had done for her, saying, he gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, "Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed."

Pastor: She replied, Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest, but will settle the matter today.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 130:5-7 *(Please read responsively)*

⁵I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

⁶my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 7:7-8

⁷"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:28-30

²⁸"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

REV. JANET KETTERING

733

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

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).*

God of passionate devotion, your servants Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi, loved and cared for each other. Their compassion benefitted the three of them and the greater community. Show us how to love with great devotion, so that through us your kingdom may be blessed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the seas, the sky, and the land, and the loving hands that tend to all your creation with compassion and care. Guide our hearts to provide assistance to those suffering the devastation of earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, and drought. Safeguard those who put themselves in harm's way to render aid across the globe. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve and lead, all who govern and follow, all who decide and who carry out the decisions that are made. Help us live into our callings with grace and gratitude. 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.**

Bless all who are in need of your healing touch. We pray especially for George and Jessika Crawford, Carl Chaney, "J" and their family, Chris Newkirk, Devon Warren, Pastor Phil, Matt Melton, Brett Cotter, 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.**

Bless all the communities of the world; those who look, sound, and behave as we do, and those who do not. Make our hearts big to receive those that we do not understand. 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

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, whom we love, O Lord. 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.**

All is forgiven. 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.**

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.**

SHARING THE MEAL

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

COMMUNION HYMN | AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

ELW #465

465

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

AS THE GRAINS
Irregular

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

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.

SENDING HYMN | THE LORD NOW SENDS US FORTH

ELW #538

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

Enviado soy de Dios

538

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

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 AFTER COMMUNION — REV. JANET KETTERING
BLESSING & BENEDICTION — REV. JANET KETTERING

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK
ALTAR GUILD: RAEANNE MILLER, GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY
ASSISTING MINISTER: REV. PHIL KETTERING
AUDIO TECHNICIAN: MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK
COFFEE AND CONVERSATION HOST: RAEANNE MILLER
LECTOR: CHRIS BLUM
PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING
PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: JULY 12 – JULY 19, 2026

Sunday, July 12th– The Threshing floor

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

Wednesday, July 15th

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

Friday, July 17th

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

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

Sunday, July 19th -The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY</u> <u>BIRTHDAYS</u> JESSIKA C. 7/19 PAULA B. 7/21 FUZZ N. 7/27 ERIC M. 7/28</p>

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 12, 2026

Monday, July 13, 2026

Ruth 3:1-5 Naomi’s Advice

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ruth 3:6-9 Ruth at the threshing floor

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Ruth 3:10-13 Boaz’s promise to Ruth

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Ruth 3:14-18 Ruth returns to Naomi with grain

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Ruth 4:1-11, 13-17 Boaz redeems Naomi and Ruth

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 & STEVE 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

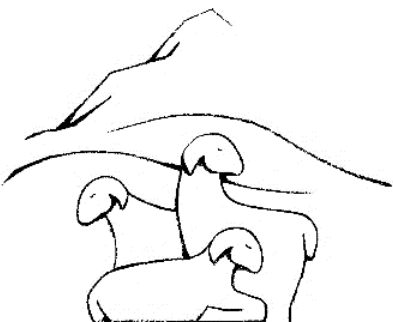
JANICE IRISH, VICE-PRESIDENT

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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