

Shepherd of the Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION – AUGUST 9, 2026
TESTING THE SPIRITS

WELCOME & GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

For those times when we move in the shadows,
we come together, in the light, to find our joy in God.
For those times when we deceive ourselves,
we come together in the truth,
to find forgiveness in fellowship.
For those times when life has been revealed,
we come together to touch grace
in the presence of the Spirit of Christ. Amen.



CONFESSION

Although sin separates, God's love restores, so we confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of tangible love, **in darkness we walk in sin. Forgive our thoughts, words, and actions that harm you, others, and ourselves. Forgive us when we fail to live and speak your word. Bring us into your light, restore us to fellowship with one another, and embrace us with your love. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our holy God exists wholly in light. In God's presence all our sins are exposed and then cleansed by God's healing light. With the recognition and confession of our sins, today our sins are forgiven, in the name of Jesus Christ, our light and life. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of truth, you spoke and your spirit moved through this world with wisdom and truth. Help us discern your word from the words of the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word of Life. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 JOHN 4:1-6

Lector: Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Pastor: By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world.

Lector: Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them.

Pastor: We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27:1, 4, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:

to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

¹³I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

¹⁴Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-21

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 14:15-19, 25-27

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

REV. TERI HERMSMEYER

HYMN OF THE DAY | WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR

https://youtu.be/gE_hEQVTOPI?is=QsJJBLQJ2GLKzBNr

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. Amen.

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 wisdom, our ears are filled with the noise of the world. Help us to quiet unnecessary chatter and help us allow the space we need to hear your word of truth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your 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.**

Make our world's leaders 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 Janice, Kelly and Rick, 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.**

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, we thank you for this fellowship and offer these gifts to You, in the light of Your grace. Cleanse our hearts from selfishness, and use these gifts to shine Your light of hope, healing, and love into a dark world. In Jesus' name, we pray. **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.

O Divine Mystery we name as God, it is right and proper that we should come together as your people to offer you thanks and praise, acknowledging our utter dependence on you.

With holy creativity you wrote a new story, calling the world into being. In the story of the Hebrew people, we hear our own story, slowly discovering a world charged with your grace and glory, and growing in faith. 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.

Through the prophets, we draw closer to your way of life and love. In the surprising story of Jesus, we encounter you as God-with-us and are drawn to your light. With Jesus we are crucified and resurrected into new life, knowing that sin and death will never have the final word, for he is your Word, spoken to us and for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are bound in covenant in one to another and to the common cause of seeing your will be done in our world.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We recall the stories of Jesus' birth and baptism, his ministry of healing and teaching, his proclaiming God's kingdom and re-shaping of the religious structures of his day.

We remember that the night before Jesus gave himself up for the sake of the world, he shared a meal with his disciples. He taught them and prayed for them, then 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."

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Let us pray. **Spirit of God, bless this loaf and this cup, transformed and transforming, so that as Christ becomes part of us, we might become part of him, bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh, symbols of God's work in this world. 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 | ONE BREAD ONE BODY

https://youtu.be/WHAU3FLF7NI?is=xV392ofTP_HA-8D9

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

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.**

SENDING HYMN | GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD

<https://youtu.be/CZVDClnAx9E?is=OYTUEVQRERYGAXPe>

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>

WORSHIP RESOURCES:

CALL TO WORSHIP — RE-WORSHIP, AS ADAPTED

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY 1 JOHN WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2017 CLERGY STUFF

PRAYER OF THE DAY — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY 1 JOHN WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2017 CLERGY STUFF

SCRIPTURE READINGS — NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION

RESPONSE TO THE WORD — ERIC MILNER WHITE

WE ARE NOT ALONE CREED — UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY 1 JOHN WORSHIP RESOURCES

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION — CONSTRUCTIVE FAITH, PRAYERS OF A PROGRESSIVE PASTOR, AS ADAPTED.

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WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

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

ASSISTING MINISTER: TIM KIRCHOFF

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION HOST: MICHELLE & TIM KIRCHOFF

GUEST PASTOR: REV. TERI HERMSMEYER

LECTOR: CAROLINE MICHALAK

PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: AUGUST 9 – AUGUST 16, 2026

Sunday, August 9th – Testing the Spirits

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

Wednesday, August 12th

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

Friday, August 14th

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

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

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



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

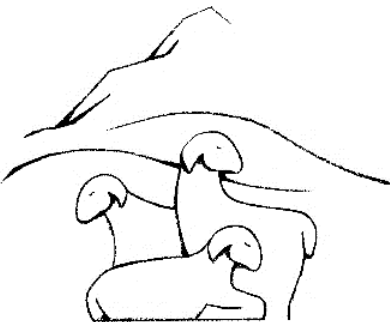
KELLY MAURER, SECRETARY

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



7077 Harvest Road, Boulder, CO 80301 Office: 303-530-4422

Email: shepherdboulder@gmail.com

Website: www.shepherdboulder.org