

Shepherd of the Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION — AUGUST 16, 2026

WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US

WELCOME & GREETING

GATHERING HYMN | AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE

ELW #522



1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
 There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,

teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
 may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

IN BABILONE
87 87 D

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 restoration, **You have loved us with a perfect love. Because you first loved us, we have the capacity to love others. Show us how to love as you love, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, our saving Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-21

Lector: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Pastor: God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Lector: No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

Pastor: God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Lector: Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

Pastor: We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:8-17 *(Please read responsively)*

⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.**

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³ **As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.**

¹⁴ For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ **As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;**

¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷ **But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

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

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 13:34-35

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

HYMN OF THE DAY | GREAT GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US

ELW #358

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

358

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

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 perfect love, your love was revealed to us in the death and resurrection of your son. Receive our gratitude for showing us a love that conquers sin and death and breaks down all barriers between God and humanity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All that you have made is infused with your love and 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.**

Your chosen leaders can govern with force and hate, or with wisdom and love. Help all who lead to lead with the love that you have made perfect in Jesus Christ. Guide them to be 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 Ken, Ben Harvey and his family, Janice, Kelly, Rick and DeeDee, 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 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 | 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

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 | WE ARE CALLED

ELW #720

We Are Called

720



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

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:

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 WERP

ASSISTING MINISTER: TIM KIRCHOFF

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION HOST: RAEANNE MILLER

LECTOR: CAROLINE MICHALAK

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: AUGUST 16 – AUGUST 23, 2026

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

Wednesday, August 19th

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

Friday, August 21st

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

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

Sunday, August 23rd – 10 Commandments Summer Series: I Am the Lord Your God

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

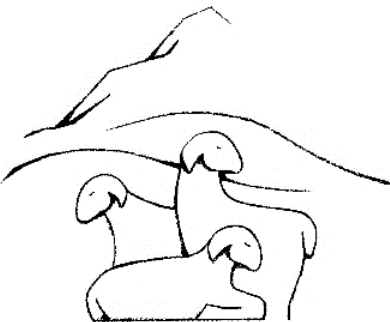
KELLY MAURER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

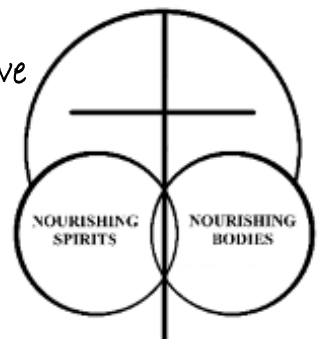
JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

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



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