

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

EPHESIANS 1:1-14: SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Parent, **your gift of inheritance is more than we can deserve or imagine. With humble gratitude we thank you for the spiritual blessings you bestow upon all your children. Amen.**

FIRST READING: EPHESIANS 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

PSALM 103:8-13

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.

SECOND READING: ISAIAH 43:1-3a

⁴³ But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers,
they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON BY LAY PREACHER TIM KIRCHOFF
STAY TUNED FOR TIM'S SERMON COMING OUT ON SUNDAY!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With full confidence that your ear is open to us, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *(A brief silence.)*

Holy God, as your children we look to you for wisdom, insight, forgiveness, and redemption. Show us how to honor your gifts by living with righteousness and acting with mercy. Inspire us to hold fast to your promises as you reveal your vision for the mission and ministry you have placed in our keeping. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As your beloved created, show us how to care for all things that you have made. Help us to tread lightly upon your delicate earth and to use the resources you so generously provide wisely. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As your hands and feet in the world, show us how to lead with compassion and follow with humility. Make your presence known to our world's leaders, that they might govern with wisdom and insight. We pray for all the world, and especially those engaged in the devastation of war: the United States, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Russia, and all others known to you. 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. Give us hearts to remember those whose lives are so different from ours that forgetting seems easiest. Help us to never forget and turn our remembering into action. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As creatures with limits, show us how to care for our bodies, minds, and spirits. When our care is not enough, extend your own healing hand upon all who are in need, especially Ken, Dorothy, Ben and Pam, George and Jessika, Carl, Devon, Matt, Brett, Terry, Jim and Sally, Dave, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. Help us to offer with grace and compassion the love and care they need for healing and wholeness, as well as support for all those who provide care for them, especially James and Chris Elkins, and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through the needs of others, you extend your grace into the world. 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.**

As people of plenty, remind us regularly of those who do not have enough. Make us grateful for your gifts, and generous to share them with the world. Teach us to love one another so deeply, that treating each other with kindness and respect, ethically and honorably, comes more naturally to us than hatred and fear. Show us how to love boldly. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With all the saints we celebrate the undeserved gift of the inheritance of eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We know you are good. We know you are God. With gratitude and confidence, we pray all these things in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Go out now to share God's purpose revealed in Jesus the Christ.

Share that purpose with others by the way you live:

With the words on your lips and the deeds of your hands;

with the prayers in your minds and through the love in your hearts.

The grace of Christ redeems you. The enduring love of God supports you.

The friendship of the Holy Spirit accompanies you, this day and ever more.

Amen!



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)

SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: SEPTEMBER 20 – SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Sunday, September 20th – Ephesians Summer Series: Spiritual Blessings

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Service of the Word Worship (No Communion)
Coffee & Conversation Immediately following Worship

Wednesday, September 23rd

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

Friday, September 25th

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

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

<u>SEPTEMBER</u> <u>BIRTHDAYS</u>
JIM E. 9/9 SCOTT F. 9/24

Sunday, September 27th – Ephesians Summer Series: Building the Church

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

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

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ NEWKIRK

COUNTER: ERIC MICHALAK

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PRAYER CHAIN ADMINISTRATOR: KATHY WOOTTON

SHEPHERD COUNCIL:

MICHELLE KIRCHOFF, PRESIDENT

JANICE IRISH, VICE-PRESIDENT

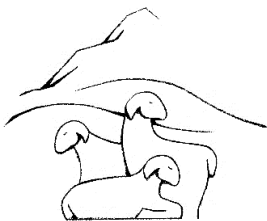
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, we

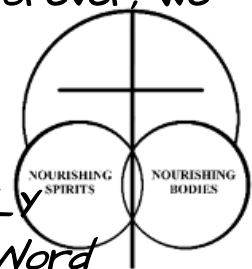
† *Gather in Love*

† *Grow in Faith*

† *Share God's Love & Grace*

† *We are Empowered to BOLDLY*

Proclaim & Witness God's Word



7077 Harvest Road, Boulder, CO 80301 Office: 303-530-4422
Email: shepherdboulder@gmail.com Website: www.shepherdboulder.org
Check out our Facebook page at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran