

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
EPHESIANS 2:11-22: BUILDING THE CHURCH



PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of unity and peace, where we see differences, you see similarities. Where we see division, you see unity. Make us one in your Spirit with all those who walk this earth. Amen.

FIRST READING: EPHESIANS 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” – a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands – remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

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

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**²Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,**

³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

**⁶The nations are in an uproar;
the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice;
the earth melts.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**⁸Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

**¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:12-15

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 10:11-16

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY | THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

ELW #654

<https://youtu.be/U3GzjLXA2fQ?is=ut4apwzu-caxp8ox>

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.)

Unifying God, with your vision we celebrate, rather than tolerate our differences. Help us to see the beauty of your colorful world and honor the things that make us unique and wholly yours. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us beauty in your creation. Help us care for your earth by healing and mending, rather than tearing down or destroying. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us strength in your chosen leaders. Help us build systems which provide and nurture, rather than withhold or condemn. 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.**

Show us healing in the bodies, minds, and spirits of your children, especially Terry and his family, Ken, Dorothy, Ben, George and Jessika, Carl, Devon, Matt, Brett, 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. Where there is no earthly healing, comfort us in our grief. Where there is restoration, rejoice with us. 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.**

Show us magnificence in those who are often dismissed as insignificant. Let us see what is truly remarkable in all your children. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With all the saints we celebrate the harmony of colors represented in your majestic world. 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 27 – OCTOBER 4, 2026

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

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

Wednesday, September 30th

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

Friday, October 2nd

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

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

Sunday, October 4th – Ephesians Summer Series: Unity of the Church

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

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

JIM E. 9/9
SCOTT F. 9/24
EVERETT 10/3
KEN M. 10/7
BOB S. 10/20
RICK M. 10/30



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

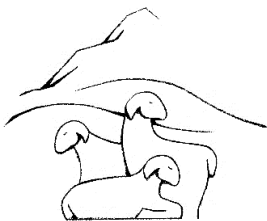
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, we

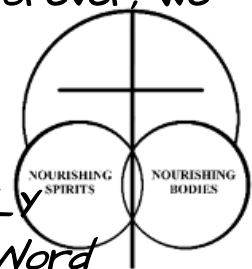
† *Gather in Love*

† *Grow in Faith*

† *Share God's Love & Grace*

† *We are Empowered to BOLDLY*

Proclaim & Witness God's Word



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Check out our Facebook page at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran