

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP
OCTOBER 18, 2026

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



FIRST READING: ISAIAH 43:1-7a

¹ 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. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:10-12

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and put a new and right spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 and sustain me in a willing spirit.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-5

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY | BAPTIZED IN WATER

ELW #456

https://youtu.be/vDMAYNQ2YDw?is=2WFiVFJA2HXPM_3C

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in God's lovingkindness made known in Christ, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need. (*A brief silence*).

God of abundance, in creation you have given us what we need to sustain life. Open our eyes to the care that is needed to preserve the earth for future generations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of diversity, you have given your children a variety of talents and desires to shine the light of your glory into the world. Give us courage to shine your light in every aspect of our lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of free will, you give us the discretion to call leaders equipped to serve in your name. Help us to choose our leaders with wisdom, so that your work may be done in this world. 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.**

God of inclusion, we give you thanks for Weston and Boden, who are washed in the waters of baptism today. Claim them as your own, surround them with your constant love, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that they may walk in the way of Jesus all the days of their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of covenant, with gratitude for the promises you make, we pray for Weston and Boden's parents and sponsors. Grant them patience, wisdom, and joy as they nurture Weston and Boden in the Christian faith. Awaken in this whole congregation a renewed sense of our shared ministry, that we may faithfully support and care for one another in the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of restoration, by teaching us to care for one another, you bestow healing of body, mind, and spirit. Help us to participate in your acts of healing and comfort for those in need. We pray especially for 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. 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.**

God of compassion, help us to support all those who 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 justice, through the gifts of your beloved children, 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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Enliven your church with the fire of your Spirit. Send out laborers into the harvest to share the good news of liberation, healing, and peace. 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

Loving God, in you we are transformed and transformed still again. May the God who is hope and healing, freedom and love, transform you anew and keep you close as you share God's love in the name of Jesus. **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: OCTOBER 18 – OCTOBER 25, 2026

Sunday, October 18th – The Blessing of Baptism: Weston & Boden Elkins

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion & Holy Baptism
Coffee & Conversation by Jim & Sally Elkins in Honor of Weston and Boden's Baptisms Immediately following Worship

Wednesday, October 20th

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

Friday, October 22nd

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

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

Sunday, October 25th – Reformation Sunday

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

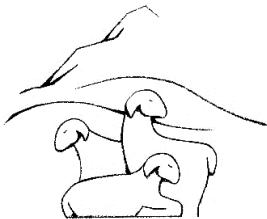
KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMAN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, we

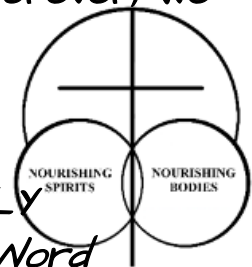
† *Gather in Love*

† *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