



Shepherd's Voice

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~ Philippians 4:6-7

A Letter from Pastor Oesch

The Art of Living by Faith

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 "Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all His statutes and His commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Dear Shepherd,

Remember when Pastor Ben ditched us for half of October? Where was he? I have an answer. He was gallivanting in Breckenridge for one of those weeks. Monday-Wednesday we (Olive, Amelia, and I) were with other new pastors at the new pastors' conference (PALS - Post-Seminary Applied Learning) for the Rocky Mountain District. Wednesday-Friday we attended the Rocky Mountain District Conference with all of the church workers in the Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran-Church Missouri Synod. I'd like to share with you some of what I learned, specifically at the PALS conference, and what that means for us.

In the PALS conference, we learned about the importance of Luther's Small Catechism and creative ways to teach it in our Confirmation classes. We discussed how Luther's

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Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

7691 S. University Blvd.

Centennial, CO 80122

303-798-0711 ShepherdHillsChurch.org

Member News



Annual Salvation Army Thanksgiving Food Drive

November 1-17, we are collecting food and grocery gift cards for the needy for this Thanksgiving. You may drop off food items and gift cards on the tables in the Welcome Center and Gym. Thank you for caring for others in this tangible way!

Suggested items are:

- Turkey (preferably a \$15 grocery gift card)
- Chicken broth (1 - 14 oz can)
- Mashed potatoes (1 - 7.2 oz box)
- Stuffing (1 - 6 oz box)
- Turkey gravy (3 dry packs)
- Cream of mushroom soup (1 - 10 oz can)
- Onions ("French's" 1 can)
- Cranberry Sauce (1 - 16 oz can)
- Pumpkin pie **mix** (1 - 15 oz can)
- Evaporated milk (1 - 12 oz can)
- Pie crust (graham cracker 1 tin, or box of Jiffy pie crust)

Breakfast With Baby Serves 13 Families in October

On October 11, the Breakfast with Baby event served 11 families. After a devotion in English and Spanish, parents shopped for clothes, diapers, wipes, and other available items for 22 children. For the **November 8** event, **Size 3 and 5 diapers** are needed. Thank you for continuing to share God's love through this ministry.



Hanging of the Greens

Please join us for Hanging of the Greens on **Saturday, November 29**. We will decorate the Sanctuary and Gym stage for the Advent/CHRISTmas season. Please join us at **8:30am**. Coffee, juice and donuts will be provided!

Thank You!

Thank You, dear Lord, for my Shepherd Family. They have blessed me beyond, and it's a privilege to serve You with them! AMEN and Love to You and to them. ~Gail :-)

Memorial Service

Bob Wichmann

Died: 9/23/2025

Service: 10/22/2025



Updates
to
Our
Church
Family

Flying W Wrangler Christmas Outing

The Flying W Ranch has a Christmas program with a meal and musical entertainment led by our very own Michael Amidei! Holy Cross Lutheran, CO Springs, invites Shepherd members to purchase tickets to the **Sunday, December 7** event at **3:30pm** (Christmas at the Ranch) and all sit together (tickets/transportation handled individually). When purchasing tickets, please put in the comment box that you are with Holy Cross Lutheran Church, and they will seat you in the same section. This is a world class music event and a great fellowship time for our congregation families! Tickets will disappear soon, so please [order soon!](#)



SOS! Choir

SOS stands for "Sing One Sunday." This is a low commitment, once-in-a-while opportunity to sing. You may sing parts or just melody! Watch for "**SOS! Sing One Sunday**" announcements throughout the year. Questions? Contact **Gail Black, 303-707-4364, gblack@sothfamily.org**.

Sunday, November 9:

- + rehearse: Nov. 9, 7:47am, choir loft
- + song: *We Gather Together*
- + sing: at the beginning of Traditional services

November Anniversaries



- 3 Maurice and Susan Goldhammer, 57 years
- 16 Gary and Jane Schwankl, 57 years
- 21 Rod and Suzanne Stewart, 27 years

NOTE: Don't see your anniversary listed? Please contact the front office to have your member information updated!

Member News

A Way to Pray

Jesus taught, "You are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13

Do you have a shaker or container of salt on your counter or dinner table? The medical field reminds us to limit our salt for our heart health. Jesus uses salt in a different way for our health; He says, "Be salt for the world!" In this month of Thanksgiving, SALT is our prayer prompt.

SALT

Supplication ("asks")

Adoration (praise for our wonder-full God)

Lay your sins down (repentance)

Thanksgiving (recognition of our blessings)

When we pray for ourselves, each other, and our neighbors (and everyone else IS our neighbor!), we are being SALTy for Jesus' sake. Maybe we can't presently spend time in person with someone...or maybe someone doesn't want to be with us. Calling on our dear Lord in a **SALT** prayer for them is our privilege as Christians.

This November, as we celebrate Thanksgiving and we see or taste salt, let's also do some prayerful SALTy Thanks-living!

This Month, We Are Praying with an Open Heart for...Those Who Are Without

This month of November, our prayer prompt is for "those who are without" – without food or shelter or family. It's no accident Scripture has a TON of verses about this subject. At the time of Jesus, the whole of Scripture was just the Old Testament. In Jesus' teaching while on earth, He took those laws of the Old Testament and filled them full with meaning. Much of what He said had to do with caring for others' needs, especially physical needs. Reread His Sermon on the Mount for examples: Matthew 5-7, Luke 6.

Since the Fall, when Adam and Eve sinned, God has made a point in His Word to highlight this truth: When we live without our physical needs adequately satisfied, it's hard to focus on our spiritual condition. Thus, He had the Biblical writers spend many verses on addressing poverty in its various manifestations.

First and foremost, our Lord reminds us HE is the best Provider—our Refuge, Protector, and Defender, the Faithful God, the One who hears us when no one else does and who

answers in the exact manner to fill our need (although maybe not in the precise way we desire). He IS Love, and He loves us!

With almost equal emphasis, God repeatedly tells us: WE are the ones to care for others who are going without. He created us to be in community, and He intends for that community to notice what's happening to each other and to complete what is lacking in another's life. Are they being made fun of because they don't have good clothing or their house needs repair? Is someone taking advantage of them and they can't or don't know how to defend themselves? Do they have no family near? We are to speak up for, give to, and be the family of those who are lacking these basics of living. We are to love them with God's love. And God says those who give graciously to those who are without will also receive a blessing—He promises to take care of BOTH the giver AND the "givee!"

We are to pray for them as well! The following Scripture passages are prayer prompts for us when we pray for Those Who Are Without. As God has blessed us, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, may our prayers ALSO prompt our actions in this Giving month and always.

Philippians 4:6-7

Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 10-11, 14

Nehemiah 9:15

Psalms 27:4-5; 31:19-20; 34:4, 7; 82:3-4; 91:1-2, 9-10; 107:4-9; 113:7; 140:12; 146:5-9

Proverbs 14:21, 31; 19:17; 21:13; 25:21; 28:27; 29:7; 31:8-10, 20

Isaiah 25:1, 4; 58:9-10

Zechariah 7:9-10

Matthew 15:32; 25:34-46

Luke 1:46-53; 6:20-23; 14:12-14

Romans 13:9-10

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

2 Corinthians 6:4-13

Galatians 2:10

Philippians 4:12-13

1 Timothy 5:3-8

James 2:14-17

Revelation 7:13-17

Advent at Shepherd of the Hills

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~Philippians 4:6-7

Shepherd's theme for 2025-26 is "Praying with an Open Heart," based on Philippians 4:6-7. Three characters from Jesus' early life prayed with open hearts, and they experienced God's peace despite the unusual circumstances in which they found themselves. Their prayers were also songs to God—faithful expressions of thanksgiving and trust—because they had learned: When anything happens, pray; trust God will always answer; thank Him!

This Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus, please join us for our Wednesday evening services, where we will highlight the prayer-songs of Mary, Zechariah, and Simeon!

Praying with an Open Heart...

- Dec. 3 ...when Life Is Unexpected: Mary's Song
- Dec. 10 ...with Confident Expectation: Zechariah's Song
- Dec. 17 ...with Gratitude: Simeon's Song

Advent Wednesday schedule

- 5:30pm Supper in the Parish Hall
- 6:30pm Worship, including Children's Chat

Mission Trip Info Session – Cambodia 2025 & 2026

We're excited to invite you to a special presentation about our 2025 trip as well as our upcoming 2026 Mission Trip to Cambodia! Join us on **Sunday, November 9 at 9:30am** in the **Gym** as we share how God is leading our church to partner again with Ray of Hope, an incredible organization dedicated to helping street children in Cambodia. Our 2026 mission trip will be a powerful opportunity to serve, love, and bring hope to some of the most vulnerable. At **12:15pm**, we will have an informational meeting in the **church office conference room**.



Grief is not an enemy or a sign of weakness. It is a sign of being human. We grieve because we have loved someone who is no longer with us.

After the loss of a loved one we need to talk about what we're experiencing. Through time spent with others in a GriefShare group or seminar, we can learn what to expect and receive guidance for how to respond after the loss of a loved one. By the grace of our loving Lord, we are able to recover and *journey from mourning to joy*.

Are you dreading the approach of Thanksgiving and Christmas? Please join us for a special **"Surviving the Holidays" seminar on Saturday, December 6, from 10am to Noon**. The \$5.00 registration includes a manual and refreshments.

Register and find more information at GriefShare.org/holidays.

Lutheran World Relief



At Shepherd we create simple school backpacks and quilts which are used here and around the world in response to disaster relief. In 2025, with your help, we created 66 backpacks and 32 quilts. In 2026 we expect to increase those numbers. We kindly request your prayers for continued growth and that these items will reach those most in need.

There is a tub in the church office to place donated items like the following which are collected year-round:

- Full size or larger flat bed sheets new or good condition in colors. (no micro fiber)
- Cotton quilting fabrics
- Sewing supplies (scissors, pins, rulers, thread etc.)
- School supplies: 70 page spiral notebooks, rulers, blue or black ballpoint pens, unsharpened #2 pencils, 16 or 24 ct. crayons, pink erasers, pencil sharpeners, 1/4" cotton clothesline rope
- You may also use your offering envelope to contribute to "LWR Quilts & Kits"

For more information contact
Sharleen Jespersen
jesper417@yahoo.com



We meet the 1st
and 3rd
Wednesdays of
the month,
9 am - noon
drop ins
welcome!

Great
fellowship. No
need to be a
sewist. Tell
your friends!

Do you know of
a church or
community
group that
would like a
presentation?



Member News

Bible Readings for the Month

**November 2 – All Saints Day Observed;
Daylight Saving Time Ends**

Lessons: Psalm 149; Revelation 7:2-17;
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 9 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 148; Exodus 3:1-15;
2 Thessalonians 2:1-17; Luke 20:27-40

November 16 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 98; Malachi 4:1-6;
2 Thessalonians 3:1-13; Luke 21:5-36

November 23 – Christ the King Sunday

Lessons: Psalm 46; Malachi 3:13-18;
Colossians 1:13-20; Luke 23:27-43

November 26 – Thanksgiving Eve

Lessons: Psalm 67; Deuteronomy 8:1- 10;
Philippians 4:6-20; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Luke 17:11-19

November 30 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Lessons: Psalm 122; Isaiah 2:1-5;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 21:1-11; Matthew 24:36-44



Usher Schedule for the Month

**November 2 – All Saints Day Observed;
Daylight Saving Time Ends**

8 am Sanctuary – Chad Ropte / Kasey Ropte
10:45 Sanctuary – Pam & Russ Robbins
10:45 Gym – Sue & Duane Feldmann

November 9 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Ava Havekost / Ryan Havekost
10:45 Sanctuary – Sandy & Bill Griffis
10:45 Gym – Ron Aukamp / Milo Samson

November 16 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Bruce Boggess / Chuck Place
10:45 Sanctuary – Josh Hoener / Lindsey Jarvi
10:45 Gym – Kathy & Chris Biondolilo

November 23 – Christ the King Sunday

8 am Sanctuary – Brooklyn Schuchman / Dave Stone
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde
10:45 Gym – Wayne Johnson / Charley Powers

November 26 – Thanksgiving Eve

6:30 pm Sanctuary -

November 30 – 1st Sunday of Advent

8 am Sanctuary – Rick Monson / Paul Rodeck
10:45 Sanctuary – Pam & Russ Robbins
10:45 Gym – Sue & Duane Feldmann

Ministry Opportunities

Priscilla Circle serves meals for families after funerals and memorial services. If you are interested in being part of this circle as a helper or to bring food for these occasions, please contact **Sandy Garberding** at RSGarb@comcast.net or **Kay Stolzenbach** at gkstolzenbach@comcast.net.

Loving Meals Ministry

When someone in our Shepherd family has surgery or becomes ill, help with preparing meals may be needed. If you or someone you know could use help with small meals on a short-term basis, please contact the church office at **303-798-0711** and you will be contacted by one of our meal coordinators.

Contemporary Service Altar Setup/Cleanup Team

This setup/cleanup team takes turns preparing the altar for the Contemporary services by filling candles and setting out the altar ware on Sunday mornings. After the service, things get put away. It doesn't take much time and there are no meetings to attend. To be a part of this team, please contact either **Mary Powers** at powersworld@live.com or **Luanne Reimer** at reimer.luanne@gmail.com.

The women of **Altar Circle** prepare the chancel area in the Sanctuary for the traditional services. Communion preparations, changing paraments, filling candles with oil and vacuuming are just a few of the duties performed before services. On Communion Sundays, there is cleanup after the services. We get together for a meeting once a quarter and enjoy fellowship, a devotion and treats! We're always looking for women to help with preparations and Communion cleanup. The work is shared among our members so it isn't a big commitment of time. Even if you don't want to come to the meetings, please consider assisting with Communion cleanup after the services. Contact **Luanne Reimer** through email at reimer.luanne@gmail.com.

Used Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids

Another 30 pair of eyeglasses have been collected and delivered to the Lions Club, to be distributed to those in need throughout the world. Since 2010, Shepherd has donated 1,879 pair of eyeglasses. Several hearing aids were also collected and given to the Sertoma organization. Place any eyeglasses and hearing aids in the designated basket in the Sanctuary Welcome Center Cry Room. Thank you! Your contributions are a blessing to many!

Missionary of the Month – November 2025

Rev. Dr. Wilhelm and Angelika Weber

Wilhelm and Angelika Weber are LC-MS missionaries serving in Germany with the primary assignment of supporting the new Christian-education and Gospel-outreach ministry at the Old Latin School in Wittenberg, Germany. In the homeland of Martin Luther, only about 15-18% of the people living there profess to be Christian.

A little addition from the Old Latin School website: *As a sign of gratitude for all that the Lord of the Church has given us in this place, the International Lutheran Center at the Old Latin School now stands as a beacon of hope and as yet another place in the beautiful city of Wittenberg for people to gather, to learn, and to reflect on the saving Good News of Jesus Christ. We join Luther in pointing to Christ as we humbly say, "Here we stand. God help us. Amen."*



Who Benefits from Stephen Ministry?

Everybody benefits from Stephen Ministry! Those receiving care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout the crisis they face. Stephen Ministers benefit through the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in meaningful ministry. Our pastors benefit because caring ministry at Shepherd of the Hills is expanded, and fewer people will slip through the cracks. Most of all, you benefit from the knowledge that special care is available to you should you need it. In addition, you now have a place where you can refer a friend, neighbor, coworker, relative, or anyone else you know who is going through a difficult time so that they can receive special care when they need it most. Stephen Ministry makes Shepherd of the Hills a much more caring place!

If you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact **Ron Manuella (303-587-0001)** or **Pastor Stoltenow**.



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Catechism is really a guidebook for the Christian life and not restricted to cognitive understanding. I took a class at seminary titled, "The Art of Living by Faith." It was a class about Luther's Catechism. That is what Luther's Catechism is about: LIVING by faith, not just knowing the faith. The Catechism is all about the practical application of the truths of God's Word to the Christian life. This is what I have sought to implement in our Confirmation program at Shepherd.

Confirmation at Shepherd now not only includes class time but also is expanded into all areas of life. Students complete 40 benchmarks, starting in 5th grade, guided by a mentor throughout the whole process. Benchmark categories include Faith Builders (Sam Scheck's class), First Communion, Faith Alive (Pastor Ben's class), Faith in Action (hands-on faith-related activities), Kingdom Adventure (camps or mission trips), Service (in the community and in the congregation), Congregational Participation (participating in youth group and church events), Dynamic Listening (sermon notes), By Heart (memorization), CrossGen (cultivating intergenerational relationships in the congregation), and Unashamed (the culminating project). We have sought to embrace the values of Deuteronomy 6:1-9 in Confirmation: to engage the whole Christian life and experience and cultivate LIVING by faith.

Some of what our Confirmation students are required to do actually involves you! Yes, you! Believe it or not, you have

an impact on young people. Your presence at church and your relationship with young people matters. So, from time to time a young person at Shepherd may ask to interview you or show you an accomplishment during Bible Study hour. I would encourage you to participate, encourage them, ask them about their Confirmation program, engage with them, and build relationships with them. That's not just Sina's job! You matter. You matter to all of us, including God. God has promised you a land someday flowing in abundance with milk and honey (the new heavens and the new earth) and that He binds Himself to you always and forever in Christ Jesus. Live faithfully in these promises, dear friends. Cultivate that faith in regular worship attendance, congregational participation (including with young people), devotional life at home (maybe even cracking open that dusty ol' Catechism), and loving those whom God has placed in your life. As our catechumens are learning, living by faith in Christ is an art. It is cultivated and tended to. It is filled with treasures, joys, peace, and challenges. In the end, it is the way, the truth, and the life for the Christian.

I am grateful for you and count it as a joy to be able to live by faith together with you. 😊

Peace,

Pastor Ben

Luther's Small Catechism

Living By Faith

Service

Dynamic Listening

Faith Alive Class

Faith in Action!

What does our Confirmation Program look like today?

Faith Builders Class

Camps & Mission Trips

Congregational Participation

Memorization

First Communion

Intergenerational Relationships

Culminating Project

40 Benchmarks

Youth

Teach Me to Give Faith Milestone

The Teach Me to Give Faith Milestone will be held on Sunday morning, **November 9**. At this milestone, the third and fourth grade students will be recognized and celebrated in their faith journey as they learn about Christian Stewardship, financial literacy, and how to use God's gift of treasure to bless others. Students will be blessed during the worship service and will attend a class with their parents during the Sunday School hour.

November Family Event – “Free Birds” & Family Fun!

Join us **Sunday, November 9**, from **4–6:30pm** in the **Kids of the Kingdom Zone** for an afternoon of games, laughter, and connection! Enjoy pizza, popcorn, and plenty of fun zones for all ages—plus a showing of “Free Birds” at 5:00pm! Don’t miss this family favorite as we kick off the holiday season together!



November Dates to Remember:

SHYP

November 2 (Sun) – 4-7pm. Join us in the Youth Room for the 4th annual monster cereal taste test plus dinner and a movie! Hope to see you there!

Xtreme

- **November 9** (Sun) – 12:30-2pm

Young Adults

- **November 30** (Sun) – Lunch at 12:15pm. Meet in the Gym

Protecting Our Children

Te Weber and Martha Johnson are gathering signatures to put three petitions on the November 2026 ballot. These petitions focus on protecting children by:

- Combating child sex trafficking by proposing life imprisonment without parole for anyone convicted of buying or selling a minor for sex
- Restricting sex change procedures for minors under the age of 18
- Preserving single-sex sports and locker rooms for biological females

Information about these topics will be available on **November 2** and **9**:

- In the **Welcome Center** before and after the 8am service
- In the **Gym** during coffee time and Bible Study
- In the **Gym** after the 10:45am services until 12:30pm

*NOTE: The Board of Elders and Pastor Stoltenow have approved this effort.

Youth Group Notes

Shepherd of the Hills’ **Spiritual Formation Plan** encompasses your child's spiritual formation from the womb all the way to when they leave the nest after high school. It is age appropriate and designed to assist your children to mature as Lutheran Christians so they may take a joyful stand for Christ.

For specific information about Shepherd’s Confirmation Program, please contact **Pastor Ben Oesch** at BOesch@sothfamily.org. For information about junior and senior high youth groups, please contact **Sina Williams** at swilliams@sothfamily.org. For information about Family Ministry, contact **Jodie Stoltenow** at jstoltenow@sothfamily.org. You can also find specific youth information and upcoming events online under either the Connect tab or the Calendar tab at ShepherdHillsChurch.org.



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Shepherd's Voice is the monthly newsletter for the church family at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
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The deadline for the December issue of the Shepherd's Voice is November 17. Please have all articles entered into the Communication Request system by this date.

POSTMASTER

Send Address Changes to:
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