



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 Stoltenow

What Joy It Is to Be a Forgiven Sinner!

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! #475 LSB

The joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is ours as God has sent His beloved Son into the world to live, die, and rise again for us. God has forgiven our sins by rescuing us from sin, death, and the devil, thus releasing us from the clutches of the devil. God has declared us righteous by the merits of Jesus. Our Lord looks at us, His redeemed children, as if He were looking at His only beloved Son.

John, writing the Revelation he received, says of the great multitude of forgiven sinners, *These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them. Never again will they hunger, never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their Shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes* (Revelation 7:14b-15). What a joy it is to be a forgiven sinner!

God bless you and your loved ones as we celebrate the empty grave! *Do not be alarmed, the angel said. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here!* (Mark 16:6). Now we go and proclaim to the world the *Good News* of the Gospel!

Jesus has arisen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Blessings and Happy Easter to you!

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- 4 Holy Week Schedule
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Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

7691 S. University Blvd.

Centennial, CO 80122

303-798-0711 ShepherdHillsChurch.org

Member News



Join Us for Breakfast on Easter Morning!

Easter breakfast will be served **April 5, 7-10:30am**, with last seating at 10am, in the Parish Hall. A delicious meal of housemade egg bake, pancakes, artisan croissants from Trompeau Bakery, bacon, sausage, fresh fruit cup, coffee, and orange juice will be served. Your generous donations will help support the Cambodia mission trip. Please make reservations on the [SignUpGenius](#).

Breakfast With Baby Serves 14 Families in March

On March 14, after a buffet breakfast and devotion, Breakfast with Baby served 14 families by providing breakfast to 30 people and clothing, diapers, and other available items for 28 children. For the **April 11** event, **wipes** and **Size 4, 5, and 6** diapers are needed, **especially Size 6**. Thank you for reflecting God's love.

Cambodia Mission Trip Fundraiser – Now Boarding!

Our Cambodia Mission Trip fundraiser has officially taken off! Stop by the display in the gym and help us fill the suitcase for Cambodia. Choose a ticket showing an item you would like to donate toward. Tear off the small reminder stub to keep and clip the larger ticket onto the suitcase line so we can watch it fill up together. Every ticket represents supplies and support for children in Cambodia. Let's work together to fill the suitcase and send love across the world!

Online Worship Services

Each week Shepherd livestreams our 8am Traditional and 10:45 Contemporary worship services. Whether you are traveling, under the weather, or just discovering our community for the first time, our online worship services provide a meaningful way to stay connected from anywhere: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Worship.

Every service is recorded and archived in our Worship Service Video Library, allowing you to catch up on a missed week, revisit a particularly impactful message, or explore previous sermons at your own pace. We will also be including the previous Sunday's worship service in our Friday eblasts for your convenience.



VBS Decoration Help Needed – The Incredible Race

Help us transform our space for VBS! We're creating fun, colorful decorations inspired by countries and cultures from around the world—and we'd love your help. Join us on **Wednesdays** from **3–5pm** or **6–8pm**, starting **April 15** through **May 27**. If Wednesdays are hard for you, join us on **Sundays**, **May 3** and **May 31** from **12:15–4:00pm** to help make props and decorations. There's something for everyone—cutting, painting, building, and creating together. Come for an hour or stay the whole time—no special skills needed, just willing hands! All ages welcome. Let's build something amazing together!

Have Felt?!?!?!?!?

Several of our VBS crafts require large pieces of felt, so if you have felt **sheets** or **lengths** you no longer want, drop them off in the **Main Office** labeled **VBS**. Thanks!!!



Thank you to all who helped make my 90th birthday so memorable. I appreciated all of your cards and well wishes and loved the gathering in the Parish Hall. The Lord has blessed me over the years, especially with a loving church family here at SOTH. I love you all!

~Marge Duffy

April Anniversaries

- 2 - Sue and Eugene Bargaquast (24 years)
- 4 - Susan and David Bredehoeft (37 years)
- 5 - Kathy and Chris Biondolilo (40 years)
- 28 - Audrey and Rick Monson (59 years)
- 28 - Judy and Paul Norman (35 years)



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

Member News

Praying with an Open Heart

This month, we are **Praying with an Open Heart for...our Shepherd Neighborhood.**

“Who are the people in your neighborhood? They’re the people that you meet when you’re walking down the street...they’re the people that you meet each day!” That line comes from an old “Sesame Street” song, sung by Bob (who was my favorite real person on that show!).

Do you know your neighbors? As the song states, it’s not just the people on your street; it’s the people you meet regularly. This could be work colleagues, the folks in the park where you walk, the checkers at your favorite grocery store, your classmates, the employee at the garden center who always knows where to find what you can’t, your kids’ pediatrician, the pharmacy technician, the coffee barista, the “regulars” at your gym, teammates...the list goes on.

Your neighbor may also be someone with whom you have a challenging relationship—that whole “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” command from Jesus.

By the time you read this, Shepherd will have had its second *Jesus Door 2 Door* canvassing event. The primary focus of *JD2D*? The folks in the neighborhoods around Shepherd. Do you know any of the people in the neighborhoods surrounding Shepherd? Some of you do, because you ARE one of those people! 😊 What about the rest of us? Have we walked the neighborhood, greeted those we see, prayed for those who could be looking for a place to call their second home?

Consider doing that very thing: Park at Shepherd (free parking!). Get a little exercise on the streets around our campus. Pray for each household as you walk. And if the opportunity presents itself, greet the neighbors with a smile and a friendly hello. You could even wave and say, “I’m just taking a walk and praying for you” as you stroll by!

P.S. If walking is not something you’re able to do right now, you can always drive through the neighborhood or have someone drive you. And if you can’t physically leave your home, isn’t it wonderful you can still pray for Shepherd’s neighborhood? God’s gift of praying for others can be done no matter what our physical situation.

Some Scripture to aid you as you **Pray with an Open Heart for Shepherd’s Neighbors** this month: our theme verse Philippians 4:6-7; Leviticus 19:18; Psalm 10:12; Matthew 5:43 and 18:20; Mark 12:31; John 13:34; Acts 1:8 and 2:46; Romans 12:10, 18; 13:9; and 15:2, 7; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 Timothy 2:1 and 5:3; Galatians 5:14 and 6:2, 10; Ephesians 4:25; Philippians 2:3-4; Colossians 3:13-14; Hebrews 10:24-25; James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:8, 15 and 4:10; 1 John 1:7; 3:11, 16; and 4:7.

A Way to Pray ~ Some Thoughts on Prayer

Be persistent in prayer ~ pray continually, regularly. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

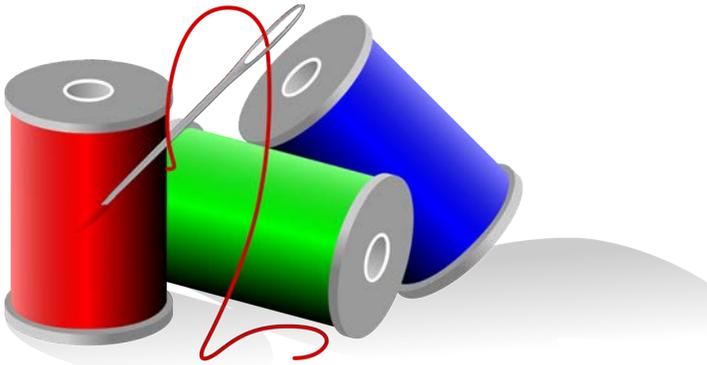
Carry each other’s burdens [to the Lord], and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ [which is to love your neighbor]. Galatians 6:2

Have you ever done a Prayer Walk? (or Drive?) This *Way to Pray* is something you can do on your own or with others, such as a friend or group of friends, your spouse, or your child(ren)/grandchild(ren). You can do it for any length of time, in any place, for any person/group of people. And if you can’t walk, you can pretend by sitting in a chair and “walking” in place. 😊

This month, in our “Praying with an Open Heart” series, we are praying for people in our Shepherd neighborhood. Especially in this first week of April, as we approach Resurrection Sunday, we can ask God to send us neighbors on Easter so we can welcome them into our Shepherd family. Christ is risen for ALL of us!

Check out the other article on this page, “Praying with an Open Heart,” for more on praying for our Shepherd neighbors. May our prayer relationship with our Lord continue to grow as we pray for others!





LWR Quilts & Kits Update and Blessing Sunday

We thank you, Shepherd, for donating fabric, sheets, and even sewing machines. Your generosity is inspiring. At this point, we currently have enough sewing machines and sheets. We will continue to need quilting fabric, and if you're a garage sale shopper, please be on the lookout.

Our yearly Quilt Blessing will be held **Sunday, April 26**. All of our work will be displayed in the Sanctuary. Take time to look at the quilts and school backpacks after the service. Perhaps you'll see some fabrics that you've donated! Just a few days after the Blessing, everything will be boxed and shipped and we will begin again.

Christ Is Risen!
EASTER

Palm Sunday March 29 8 & 10:45a	Maundy Thursday April 2 7p - Lord's Supper
Good Friday April 3 Tre-Ore Noon-3p Tenebrae 7p	Easter Worship April 5 6:30a - Easter Sunrise 8a 10:45a
Easter Children's Event April 5 9:30-10:30a	

ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Easter

Attend Denver March for Life via Charter Bus

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Denver is coordinating with Faith Lutheran Church to charter a bus for anyone wanting to attend this year's Denver March For Life on **Friday April 17**. Flyers with more information are on the Welcome Center counter and the information table in the Gym, or you can email or talk to **Mary Powers: powersworld@live.com**. **Registration** is required by **April 10**.

Christian World Outreach

Women Helping Women Brunch

Please join us on **Saturday, April 25** from **10-11:30am** at Shepherd of the Hills Parish Hall for the annual Women Helping Women brunch and presentation.

This year we look forward to sharing with you what a day in the life of women who have participated in CWO ministries looks like.

- How are women impacting their families and their communities?
- How has their faith grown?
- How have CWO ministries changed their lives?

Join us as we celebrate these women and all God is doing through them!

Please contact Kevin Holle, ksholle64@gmail.com, if you plan to attend. **RSVPs** must be made by **April 20**. If we have enough attendees, Missions will buy a table, but we need to know you are attending.



Stuck in Grief?

When a car gets stuck in mud, all forward motion stops. No matter how hard you push the gas pedal, the spinning tires can't gain traction against the slippery, pervasive mud. Grief is similar. It can be persistent, and when you get stuck in grief, it can feel impossible to move forward. Getting unstuck requires purposeful effort in the right direction.

Join our next 13-week session of support groups.
Meetings are in the Atrium.

Beginning
August 25, 2026
6:30-8:30PM

Member News

Bible Readings for the Month

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

Lessons: Psalm 116:12-19; Exodus 24:3-11;
Hebrews 9:11-22; Matthew 26:17-30;
Matthew 6:9a, 13a

April 3 – Good Friday Tenebrae

Lessons: Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12;
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18/19 Passion account;
Matthew 6:9a, 13b

April 5 – Easter Sunday, Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunrise Lessons: Psalm 118:15-29; Exodus 14:10-15:1;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

Lessons: Psalm 16; Jeremiah 31:1-6;
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

April 12 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Lessons: 148; Acts 5:29-42;
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 19 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Lessons: Psalm 116:1-14; Acts 2:14a, 36-41;
1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

April 26 – Good Shepherd Sunday

Lessons: Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47;
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Usher Schedule for the Month

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

7 pm Sanctuary – D'Wayn & Dave Stone

April 3 – Good Friday Tre-Ore

12 pm Sanctuary –

April 3 – Good Friday Tenebrae

7 pm Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde

April 5 – Easter Sunday, Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunrise Sanctuary – Chuck Place / Paul Rodeck
8 am Sanctuary – Bruce Boggess / Dave Stone
10:45 Sanctuary – Josh Hoener / David Renner
10:45 Gym – Sue & Duane Feldmann

April 12 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

8 am Sanctuary – Julie Ropte / Kasey Ropte
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde
10:45 Gym – Wayne Johnson / Charley Powers

April 19 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

8 am Sanctuary – Brooklyn Schuchman / Dave Stone
10:45 Sanctuary – Pam & Russ Robbins
10:45 Gym – Kathy & Chris Biondolilo

April 26 – Good Shepherd Sunday

8 am Sanctuary – Heidi Dudley / Chuck Place
10:45 Sanctuary – Sandy & Bill Griffis
10:45 Gym – Ron Aukamp / Charley Powers

Mission and Ministries

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 81 pair of eyeglasses have been collected. **We are nearing 2000 pair collected since 2010!** The eyeglasses have been delivered to the Lions Club and will be distributed to those in need throughout the world. Several hearing aids were also collected and given to the Sertoma organization. Place any eyeglasses and hearing aids in the designated basket in the Welcome Center cry room. Your contributions are a blessing to many! Thank you!

Missionary of the Month – April 2026

Rev. James and Angela Sharp- Puerto Rico

The Sharps have moved from Uruguay, South America and are now serving as LCMS missionaries in Puerto Rico. Pastor Sharp is helping to plant churches throughout Puerto Rico – in Bayamón, Ponce, and Mayaguez. Soon there will be another church in Carolina. Church planting takes a dedicated team of pastors, deaconesses, and workers/volunteers. The full team meets once a month in Ponce for devotions, planning, and fellowship. You can follow the Sharps on social media:

- [Facebook.com/sharpmission](https://www.facebook.com/sharpmission)
- [X.com/sharpmission](https://www.x.com/sharpmission)
- [Instagram: sharpmission](https://www.instagram.com/sharpmission)

Angie is busy with After School Club in Ponce, English classes, and training teachers, while James is moving around the island, preaching and meeting with new contacts. Also, in Bayamón, Angie is teaching Sunday School to adults and children. Please pray that their teaching and preaching bear fruit for His kingdom.



Equipping the Saints

In Ephesians 4 (NRSV) Paul talks about pastors and other leaders as gifts God has given the church “to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” Stephen Ministry has given us an organized way to equip those gifted for caring ministry, so they can build up the body of Christ by providing Christian care and support to those experiencing a difficult time.

If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry, please contact **Ron Manuella (303-587-0001)** or **Pastor Stoltenow**.

Seeking Him Prayer Group

The Seeking Him prayer group meets on the **third Thursday** of the month, **6:30-7:30pm** in the **Atrium**, to pray for the Staff and Lay Leaders of the congregation based on specific prayer requests that come from them. Everyone is welcome to attend and join in this ministry of prayer. Our April meeting is **Thursday, April 16**.

Food Bank Coming to Shepherd

Food Bank Coming to Shepherd of the Hills!

Some of you have heard that Shepherd is opening a food bank in the next couple of months. If you've heard this and have been wondering about it, let me share: What you've heard is true! We are excited about this opportunity to feed people in our community who are hungry and who need the love of Jesus to provide their daily bread.

This opportunity came to us when a member of our congregation found out the Littleton Church of Christ Food Bank could no longer operate in the building they were occupying. Our member called me and asked if I thought Shepherd might consider providing space for the food bank. I took the idea to the Elders, the Church Council, the Missions Committee, and our staff. Members of those boards and committees went to visit the current operation and it was enthusiastically decided we would invite and welcome this food bank to make Shepherd its new home. Talk about *Witness, Mercy, and Life Together!*

During our visits with the food bank Director, Birdy Brown, we discovered Birdy has been donating food to Shepherd's Breakfast with Baby program for a long time. It seemed like God had been positioning Shepherd to have a relationship with the food bank. I was amazed how we had a meaningful relationship before we ever knew each other!

To tie all of the steps together, after Pastor Ben and I examined this opportunity and shared our thoughts with the leadership of Shepherd, after the leadership went to the food bank's current site to observe the operation and see the people being served, and in consultation with our Administrator, Kenny Hong, and John Larkin, our Director of Buildings and Grounds, the decision was made to move toward establishing the food bank at Shepherd by May 1.

The food bank will come to Shepherd and bring a good number of volunteers who ran the operation at the current site. I am hoping members of Shepherd will also volunteer to be a part of this opportunity to engage with our community and witness the Gospel of Jesus through this act of mercy. In terms of some volunteer information, I give you the following points:

1. The food bank will be named *Shepherd of the Hills Food Bank*, or something along those lines. This is yet to be determined.
2. Distribution days are every other Monday from approximately 3-5pm.
3. Distribution of the food will take place in the north parking lot. We will explain more about this later.
4. All food is carted out to the 45 to 60 cars who come to get the food. Only volunteers are in the building.
5. Food includes vegetables, canned goods, meat, eggs and dairy, desserts, and boxed foods. Every family is given enough food to feed a family of 5 for two weeks. There is no candy or soda.
6. All food items are donated by various grocery stores and businesses.
7. Food bank volunteers can come to Shepherd on Mondays around 1:30pm and be finished by 5:30pm, which includes building clean-up. You can come and work as often as you desire.
8. Food items will arrive at Shepherd all during the week and will be stored in three rooms in the basement level at Shepherd. The food bank will bring its own refrigerators and freezers for cold storage. You can volunteer on the delivery days to put food into storage.
9. The cost to run the food bank to Shepherd is estimated to be less than \$4,000 a year.
10. You will meet new people who are volunteers AND you will meet the folks who receive food as you load their cars. We can pray with them, distribute information about our Lord Jesus to them, and invite them to join us for worship.
11. The food bank is separate from Shepherd's *Breakfast with Baby* program as BwB is about distributing clothing, toys, diapers, and wipes. The food bank is about food only.
12. **Please do not publicize the food bank outside of Shepherd until we make the decision when to do so. Our first concern is to make sure the current folks who come to the food bank make the transition from the current site to Shepherd. When that happens, we will make a public announcement. "Mum" is the word for now.**

If you would like to volunteer with the food bank, please let me know, bstoltenow@sothfamily.org, or Pastor Ben at boesch@sothfamily.org. You can also contact us at **303-798-0711**. Please leave a message if we do not answer. We will get back to you.

Then the King will say to those on His right, Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me."

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me."
Matthew 20:34-36, 40

Blessings!

Pastor Brad Stoltenow

ELC

The ELC will be hosting its annual Art Show in the Great Hall area **April 24-26, 2026**. This year's theme is Children's Authors. Please come and see all the amazing and creative artwork that our students have worked so hard to create throughout the year.

Youth



April Dates to Remember:

SHYP

April 5 (Sun) – Help run a station at the Kids Easter Event – 9:15-10:30am.

April 5 – No SHYP. Celebrate Easter with your family!

Xtreme

- **April 10 (Sun)** – 12:30-2pm in the Youth Room

Young Adults

- **Every Thursday** – 7-9:30pm - Young Adults Sports Night in Shepherd's Gym
- **April 26 (Sun)** – Lunch at 12:15pm. Meets offsite.

Everyone!

April 15, 22, and 29 – Help with VBS decorations **3-5pm** or **6-8pm** in the Kids Zone.



Young Adults

Calling ALL young adults (ages 18-35) to join us for our weekly sports night for a chance to meet new people, build friendships, play volleyball, basketball, dodgeball, laser tag, etc., and have a short group-led discussion on topics from today's world. In **April**, we meet every **Thursday** night, **7-9:30pm**. Enter the north gym door (the side by King Soopers). Bring your friends, whether they attend a church or not! For any questions, contact Sina at swilliams@sothfamily.org.

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.



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Bradley Stoltenow
Senior Pastor
BStoltenow@sothfamily.org

Rev. Benjamin Oesch
Associate Pastor
BOesch@sothfamily.org

Gail Black
Director of Parish Music
GBlack@sothfamily.org

Jodie Stoltenow
Director of Family Ministry
JStoltenow@sothfamily.org

Sina Williams
Director of Christian Education
SWilliams@sothfamily.org

Michael Amidei
Contemporary Music Leader
MAmidei@sothfamily.org

Kristen Hatton
Dir., Early Learning Center
KHatton@sothfamily.org

Kenny Hong
Business Administrator
KHong@sothfamily.org

Cooper Luckinbill
Worship and Admin Assistant
CLuckinbill@sothfamily.org

Ann Thomas
Accountant
AThomas@sothfamily.org

Lauren Ryan
Bookkeeper
LRyan@sothfamily.org

Jonathan Larkin
Facilities Manager
JLarkin@sothfamily.org

LAY LEADERSHIP

Lindsey Jarvi
Congregation President
jarvi.lindsey@gmail.com

Don Matern
Head Elder
dmatern1988@gmail.com

Chris Skirde
ELC Chair
ChrisSkirde@comcast.net

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7691 S. University Blvd., Centennial, CO 80122
303-798-0711 www.ShepherdHillsChurch.org

The deadline for the May issue of the Shepherd's Voice is April 20. Please have all articles entered into the Communication Request system by this date.

POSTMASTER

Send Address Changes to:
Shepherd's Voice
7691 S. University Blvd.
Centennial, CO 80122