



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

Fiscal Foolishness

Luke 12:13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶ And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Dear Shepherd,

I'm going to write about money. Now that's foolish! The young pastor who just got here telling people how to spend their money?! Yikes! That's a bad look. The thing is, Jesus spends approximately 15% of His time talking about money in the Gospels. Thanks a lot, Jesus! Here goes.

God is poking this fool (me). The topic of finances and financial stewardship has seemed to come up in many different areas of my life over the last couple of months, from conferences to our personal life to church ministry and business. I want to share what I've been learning and what's been on my heart. Just for a moment, let's focus on The Parable of the Rich Fool.

Continued on page 7

Inside You'll Find

- 2 Member News
- 6 Mission & Ministries
- 7 Pastor's Letter Continued
- 8 ELC/Youth News



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

7691 S. University Blvd.

Centennial, CO 80122

303-798-0711 ShepherdHillsChurch.org

Member News



Volunteer to Help at VBS; Provide Us with Supplies

We are looking for volunteers to serve as Crew Leaders, Crew Assistants, and Crafters in order to make VBS a success. 125 children are currently signed up and registration is still open!!! Please prayerfully consider volunteering, especially if you would be willing to be a Crew Leader or Assistant. We have only 19 folks in those positions and need at least 28. You can sign up online by going to [this link](#) and selecting the **VBS Volunteer Sign-Up** link or adding your name to our volunteer sign-up sheet on the VBS table in the gym.

If you can't work the event, you can support us by providing us with needed supplies. Click on this link to take you to our [Amazon Wish List](#).

VBS Decoration Help Needed – The Incredible Race

Join us on **Wednesdays** from **3–5pm** or **6–8pm**, on **May 6, 13, 20** and **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.

Breakfast With Baby Serves 13 Families in April

At the April Breakfast with Baby event 21 children from 13 families (**including 3 new families**) were served a buffet breakfast followed by a devotion. The families were then able to shop for clothes, diapers, wipes and other available items. For the **May 9** event, **Size 6 diapers** and **wipes** are needed. Also, spring/summer clothing for **boys, size 9 month** and **3 / 4 years**, and **girls Size 2** year would be helpful. Thank you for helping to share God's love.

Cambodia Mission Trip Dinner and Trivia Night

Join us on **Friday, May 29, 6-9pm** in the gym and Parish Hall for a dinner and trivia night to support the Cambodia Mission Trip. Save the date and watch for more details coming. You won't want to miss it!

Baptism

Delilah Jane Hizer
 Daughter of Derek and
 Emily Hizer
 Born: 2/14/2016
 Baptized: 4/12/2016



Sponsors: Alex and Brooke
 Knopf

Class of 2026 Senior Blessing Sunday

Be a part of blessing our seniors at each service and join us in between services for a cake reception in the gym on **Sunday, May 3**. Peruse their tables (also in the gym) and congratulate our seniors as they approach the huge milestone of graduating high school.

Baptismal Remembrance

Beginning May 3, as a way to remember and give thanks for our Baptism, the baptismal font will be filled with water and available before and after worship. You are invited to dip your fingers in the water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead—a simple reminder that you are baptized and belong to Christ.

Summer Nights at Shepherd

Join us this summer for three special midweek evenings of worship, community, and connection. Each night will include a brief Evening Prayer service in the Sanctuary, followed by time on the lawn to relax and enjoy fellowship together—complete with a cold sweet treat! Event dates are: **July 8, 15, and 22** from **6:30-8 pm**.

May Anniversaries

- 5/15 Sharon and Ernie Meier, 55 years
- 5/18 Jan and John Hoener, 29 years
- 5/19 Margo and Ray Ferguson, 47 years
- 5/21 Sandy and Maynard Buck, 54 years
- 5/22 Nancy and Craig Loos, 22 years
- 5/23 Mary and Dave Hudson, 39 years
- 5/24 Connie and George Rosel, 51 years
- 5/25 Cassie and David Schlecht, 7 years
- 5/28 Gudrun and Ernie Kuemmerer, 60 years
- 5/28 Patrice and Sam Scheck, 48 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...the military—military chaplains and members of the armed forces and their families**

In May, the United States has two national holidays recognizing the military: Armed Forces Day (for those presently serving in the armed forces—3rd Saturday in May) and Memorial Day (in memory of those who died while serving in the armed forces—last Monday in May).

Our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has a Ministry to the Armed Forces. Information on this ministry will be in the Welcome Center and Gym entry table by the middle of May. You may also access information at: lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces.

One large group of those involved in the military is the families of military personnel. The Scripture for this month is fitting for armed forces members, military chaplains, and military family members. In addition to praying this month, please share LCMS Armed Forces ministry materials and these Scripture verses with those you feel might benefit from them. Our Lord serves us so that we may be filled to serve others!

Some Scripture to aid you as you **Pray with an Open Heart for the Military** this month: our theme verse Philippians 4:6-7; also:

Psalm 34:8	Psalm 31:14-16
Deuteronomy 20:1-4	Psalm 33:20-22
Deuteronomy 31:6, 8	Psalm 56:3-4
Joshua 1:9	Psalm 73:23-28
2 Samuel 22:30, 33, 47	Psalm 91:11, 14
1 Chronicles 16:11	Psalm 116:5-6
Isaiah 2:4	Psalm 139:9-10
Isaiah 26:3-4	Psalm 144:1-2
Isaiah 40: 29-31	Matthew 24:6-8
Isaiah 41:10	Mark 10:45
Psalm 4:8	Luke 14:31-32
Psalm 18:34	John 3:16
Psalm 23:4	John 14:27
Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14	John 15:13
Psalm 28:7	John 16:33
Psalm 29:11	Romans 8:18, 38-39

Romans 13:1-5
 Romans 15:13
 1 Corinthians 16:13
 2 Corinthians 9:8
 2 Corinthians 10:4
 Galatians 5:13
 Ephesians 6:10-18
 Colossians 3:23-24
 1 Thessalonians 5:24
 2 Timothy 1:7
 2 Timothy 2:3-4
 1 Peter 2:13-14
 1 Peter 4:10
 1 Peter 5:8-9
 2 Peter 5:7
 1 John 3:16



A Way to Pray

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

Shepherd of the Hills is a praying community. Shepherd's devoted prayer life was one of the first things we noticed when we visited Shepherd. This prompt for **A Way to Pray** is a quote from Max Lucado's book, "When God Whispers Your Name." It is also a picture of Shepherd:

Do you want to know how to deepen your prayer life? Pray. Don't prepare to pray. Just pray. Don't read about prayer. Just pray. Don't attend a lecture on prayer or engage in discussion about prayer. Just pray. Posture, tone, and place are personal matters. Select the form that works for you. But don't think about it too much. Don't be so concerned about wrapping the gift that you never give it. Better to pray awkwardly than not at all. And if you feel you should only pray when inspired, that's okay. Just see to it that you are inspired every day.

AMEN

P.S. In May, we are Praying with an Open Heart for the military (see the previous *Praying with an Open Heart* article.) **A Way to Pray** would be to take the Scripture passages and send them to someone you know who is active in the military or who has an active military family member, letting them know you are praying for them.

Member News / Mission & Ministries



Concordia University WI Choral Concerts in CO

Kammerchor, the touring choir of Concordia University Wisconsin, under the direction of Dr. Alexa Doebele, is in Colorado May 8-10. Concerts are free.

+May 8, 6pm: Trinity Lutheran, Greeley

+May 9, 7pm: Our Father Lutheran, Centennial

+May 10, 8am: Our Father, in the worship service

For more information go to: cuw.edu/musictour.



Thirteen weeks seems like such a long time...too big a commitment. You've lost your loved one and have so much to take care of. Your grief is too overwhelming.

These thoughts may be common before joining a 13-week session of GriefShare. But the rewards for bravely attending the first, second, and third group meetings are many. By the third meeting, you know you're with others who will listen to your story and who understand the pain of grief. By the thirteenth meeting, you will wonder how the time could have flown by so quickly and how you learned and grew more than you thought possible. You will know that, trusting in God's promises, you can find peace in the midst of grief.

You're welcome to join our next session or invite someone you know who is grieving the loss of a loved one. All meetings are in the Atrium and include refreshments. More information/registration at griefshare.org.

Loss of a Spouse

Tuesday, August 11, 2026
6:30-8:30pm

Group Meetings

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm
August 18 - November 10, 2026

Thanks for Supporting Our Cambodian Mission

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Easter breakfast to support our upcoming mission trip. Your generosity was overwhelming, and we are thrilled to bring your love and the gospel to the people in Cambodia.



What Kind of Man Would Receive the Care of a Stephen Minister?

- A man like Adam
Who was cut from all that gave meaning to life and needed someone to remind him of God's promise.
- A man like Noah
Who witnessed the destruction of everything around him and needed someone to wait with him for a new day.
- A man like Abraham
Who had to leave everything he knew and loved behind him and needed someone to journey with him to a new life.
- A man like Moses
Who faced great opposition and needed a companion to support him and speak on his behalf.
- A man like David
Who grieved the death of a wayward child and needed a shepherd's care.
- A man like Elijah
Who thought he was all alone and needed a still small voice to encourage him.
- A man like Job
Who lost everything and needed someone to silently endure his pain with him.
- A man like Peter
Who found himself in over his head and needed the strong hand of a faithful friend.
- A man like Paul
Who knew the unending distress of a thorn in the flesh and needed someone to rejoice when he rejoiced and weep when he wept.
- A man like you

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, please see or call our Stephen Leader: **Ron Manuella (303-587-0001)** or **Pastor Stoltenow**.

Member News

Bible Readings for the Month

May 3 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Lessons: Psalm 146; Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 10 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Lessons: Psalm 66:8-20; Acts 17:16-31;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 14 – Ascension of Our Lord

Lessons: Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 17 – 7th Sunday of Easter; Armed Forces Observed

Lessons: Psalm 68:1-10; Acts 1:12-26;
1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

May 24 – Festival of the Day of Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 25:1-15; Numbers 11:24-30;
Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

May 31 – Festival of the Holy Trinity; 5th Sunday

Lessons: Psalm 8; Genesis 1:1-2:4a;
Acts 2:14a, 22-36; Matthew 28:16-20

Usher Schedule for the Month

May 3 – 5th Sunday of Easter

8 am Sanctuary – Ava Havekost / Josh Havekost
10:45 Sanctuary – Josh Hoener / Lindsey Jarvi
10:45 Gym – Sue & Duane Feldmann

May 10 – 6th Sunday of Easter

8 am Sanctuary – Bruce Boggess / Paul Rodeck
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde
10:45 Gym – Wayne Johnson / Milo Samson

May 14 – Ascension of Our Lord

7 pm Sanctuary –

May 17 – 7th Sunday of Easter; Armed Forces Observed

8 am Sanctuary – Julie Ropte / Kasey Ropte
10:45 Sanctuary – Pam & Russ Robbins
10:45 Gym – Kathy & Chris Biondolilo

May 24 – Festival of the Day of Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Brooklyn Schuchman / Dave Stone
10:45 Sanctuary – Sandy & Bill Griffis
10:45 Gym – Ron Aukamp / Charley Powers

May 31 – Festival of the Holy Trinity; 5th Sunday

8 am Sanctuary – Heidi Dudley / Chuck Place
10:45 Sanctuary – Josh Hoener / Lindsey Jarvi
10:45 Gym – Sue & Duane Feldmann

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 25 pair of eyeglasses have been collected. **We are nearing 2000 pair collected since 2010, currently at 1985!** 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 – May 2026

Rev. Tim and Heidi Norton – Navajo, New Mexico

In 1968, Shepherd of the Valley was established as a Gospel-outreach ministry to the Navajo people. Shepherd of the Hills has been a sister church with Shepherd of the Valley for decades.

In 2013, Pastor Tim Norton (who at that time was a Director of Christian Education) answered the Lord's call to serve God's people and replant the church (there was only one family connected to S.O.T.V. at the time). By God's grace there are presently 36 baptized members of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. To learn more about S.O.T.V., check out their website: [Home | Navajo Lutheran Outreach](#).

Tim has several projects coming up this summer, and Shepherd of the Hills hopes to help meet some of his needs. Please pray for Tim and the Navajo nation he serves. Some of his projects are:

1. Catechism Camp: June 15-18. Seven students and two adult leaders planning to go. Downpayment made; costs still to cover: \$2,190
2. Painting the outside of the small parsonage (guest house)
3. Vacation Bible School: Most costs covered by the volunteer group coming to lead. Still needed to cover: increase in utilities of around \$400
4. Painting the outside of the large parsonage July 10-17. Cost for the paint: \$450-500. Volunteers are set to do the painting.



The Son & Reins Ranch
Horses. Healing. Hope.

Worship in the Barn

Son and Reins Ranch invites you to Worship Night in the Barn, **Friday, May 15, 6:30-8pm**. All ages are welcome; bring the whole family! The Discovery Church worship team will lead us. RSVP: thesonandreinsranch@gmail.com.

Pastor's Letter Continued

At first glance, you would think the man described in the parable is a wise man. He did well for himself, worked hard, invested, was “successful,” and enjoyed his life! He’d be a great American! This is an important qualifier. Those things—working hard, investing, saving, getting bigger, increasing, enjoying, etc.? Not bad in and of themselves. Providing for the people God has given us to serve is certainly important, and enjoying God’s creation is also not bad. Yet God yells at the man, “Fool!” Why? Because he was thinking only of himself. To this, Jesus says, “...one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions....This night your soul is required of you....So is the one (a fool) who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Why give money away?

We give because life isn’t about keeping all our money. Life is so much more than money and stuff and possessions. Life is about relationships—our relationship with God in Christ Jesus and our relationships with one another. Better is the person filled with the fruit of the Spirit who lives humbly rather than the greedy miserable person who lives glamorously. The fruit of the Spirit are much more of a treasure than anything we could ever collect or buy. Giving helps us realize and embody where true life is found. God shapes and forms our hearts through our giving. Giving as a spiritual discipline is an antidote to greed.

We give because people need our gifts. A generous soul is required of us. Your neighbor needs your gifts. The local church needs your gifts, including your offering. The church leverages money to accomplish the important ministry that God has placed before us. Your offering demonstrates that your church matters and the gospel matters. It is a tangible and active way in which you directly contribute to gospel-driven ministry in your local community and across the world.

How much should you give?

Historically and culturally, the church has advocated the tithe (a tenth), that is, a tenth of one’s gross income (before taxes). This doesn’t just come out of thin air. It has its roots in Old Testament giving. The people of Israel would give a tenth of their yearly income to the Levites who took care of the temple and the worship. Now, little did I know, until I attended a conference back in February and heard a

pastor’s comment, that the Israelites actually gave a much higher percentage of their income every year: 20% (a tithe for the Levites and a tithe for the festivals). Every third year they gave 30% (an extra tithe for the poor). You read that right! I was taken aback as well, so I looked it up. Deuteronomy chapter 14 references this practice of tithing. (If you are interested in this subject, the *ESV Study Bible* provides extra information regarding tithing and giving.) The New Testament doesn’t give a specific number; the laws of the Old Testament are fulfilled in Christ. But using the generosity of the Israelites of old as a model is not a bad idea, and 10% is certainly a doable number to aspire to (potentially in baby steps in your budget), no matter who you are.

This may feel heavy, a little frightening, or maybe a little overwhelming. The good news in all of this is that God promises to take care of you and love you. He promises to provide, no matter what, no matter the amount you have or haven’t given. This is true for pastors too! God’s promises in Christ are not based on anything you do or don’t do. He sent His Son for you. Christ is risen! Nothing can take that away.

Recently in Confirmation class, we were talking about God’s provision. The question was asked, “If you were stranded on a raft in the middle of the ocean with no food or water for days and you were probably going to die, would God be enough?” The students emphatically responded, “Yes!” Philippians 4:19 says, “*And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*” To be rich toward God is simply to follow Jesus in His sacrificial giving to the world and to you.

By the world’s standards, giving is foolish. By Christ’s standards, giving is wisdom. Then so be it. Let us be fiscal fools for Jesus, so others may know His foolishness to go to the cross for them.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Ben

ELC

ELC Closing Program

The ELC Closing program will be **May 13 at 6pm** in the gym. Please join the ELC as we close out our school year with presentations from all of our classes - some a whole school year in the making!

Youth



May Dates to Remember:

SHYP

- **May 3** (Sun) – 12-3pm in the Kids Zone. Help with the ALL congregation VBS Decoration Sunday. Lunch is included!
- **May 31** (Sun) – 12-3pm in the Kids Zone. Help with the ALL congregation VBS Decoration Sunday. Lunch is included!

Xtreme

- **May 3** (Sun) – 12-3pm in the Kids Zone. Help with the ALL congregation VBS Decoration Sunday. Lunch is included!
- **May 10** (Sun) – No Xtreme. Happy Mother's Day!
- **May 24** (Sun) – 12:30-2pm - Xtreme Youth Group in Youth Room
- **May 3** (Sun) – 12-3pm in the Kids Zone. Help with the ALL congregation VBS Decoration Sunday. Lunch is included!

Young Adults

- **Every Thursday** – 7-9:30pm - Young Adults Sports Night in Shepherd's Gym
- **May 3** (Sun) – 12-3pm in the Kids Zone. Help with the ALL congregation VBS Decoration Sunday. Lunch is included!
- **May 31** (Sun) – Lunch at 12:15pm. Meets offsite.
- **May 31** (Sun) – 12-3pm in the Kids Zone. Come back to church and help with the ALL congregation VBS Decoration Sunday.

Everyone!

May 6, 13, 20 and 27 (Weds) – Help with VBS decorations **3-5pm** or **6-8pm** in the Kids Zone.

Young Adults Sports Nights every Thursday

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 **May**, 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! Questions? Contact **Ben Barstad** at benbarstad16@gmail.com.

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 June issue of the Shepherd's Voice is May 18. Please have all articles entered into the Communication Request system by this date.

POSTMASTER

Send Address Changes to:
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