



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

Counting Our Blessings One by One

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God has done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.*
~Johnson Oatman, *Baptist Hymnal*, 1991

I remember singing this song as a young child in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School back in the day in my home church in Minnesota. The tune was catchy and easy to sing. You probably know it too. More than anything, this simple little song reminds us to be thankful to the Lord for everything He bestows on us.

In the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer we pray, *Give us this day our daily bread*. Martin Luther reminds us in the *Small Catechism* what our "daily bread" includes and to give thanks for it. Luther writes, *God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving*. Luther asks the question, *What is meant by daily bread?* He answers the question by writing, *Daily bread includes everything that has do to do with the support of body and life*.

This includes being thankful for the blessings we have as a congregation at Shepherd of the Hills. We can consult with Luther in his meaning of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed where he writes in part, *In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true*.

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Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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Centennial, CO 80122

303-798-0711 ShepherdHillsChurch.org

Member News

Celebrate a Successful VBS at Our Annual Carnival

Shepherd of the Hills will again host our Vacation Bible School Carnival **Thursday, June 11**, from **6-8pm**. Please come and join our VBS team for fun games and activities as we complete the VBS experience.

Breakfast With Baby Serves 14 Families; 24 Children

Breakfast with Baby is Shepherd's monthly event serving families with children 2 years and younger and women who are at least 7 months pregnant. On May 9, 33 people were served breakfast and a devotion. Then 14 families, two of which were new, were able to shop for diapers, clothes and other available items for 24 children. For the **June 13** event, **Size 3-6 diapers** are needed. Also **wipes** and **boys' size 9-month** and **3/4-year clothes** are needed. Thank for being a blessing to these families.

Decade Birthday Party: June 19

Many of us at Shepherd are entering a new decade of life in 2026. You are all invited to celebrate with Pastor Ben, Patrick/Bethany Barnthson, David/Cassie Schlecht, Ben Barstad, Angie Renner, and Gail Black on **June 19** at **6-9pm** in the gym. **No gifts**. Seriously! **RSVP to Bethany: 720-403-1060, bebarnthson@gmail.com**.



Outdoor Service and Picnic Scheduled for June 28

Shepherd will hold its annual Outdoor Service and Picnic **Sunday, June 28**. Come worship with us at our combined service at **10am** in the Quad (grassy area outside the Sanctuary). Following worship, join us in the Gym for lunch. Chicken and drinks will be provided by our church. Families whose names end in A-M are asked to bring a dessert, and those whose names end in N-Z are asked to bring a salad or vegetable. Chairs will be provided, or you may bring your own chairs and umbrellas to sit on the lawn.

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 **6:30-8pm**.

Baptism

Anastasia George Garcia
Daughter of Robert and
Veronia Garcia
Born: 8/18/2025
Baptized: 5/24/2026



SOS! Choir

SOS = "Sing One Sunday." One-time commitment. Sing parts or just melody! Questions? Contact **Gail Black, 303-707-4364, gblack@sothfamily.org**.

Sunday, July 5:

- + rehearse: July 5, 7:47am, choir loft
- + song: America the Beautiful
- + sing: at the beginning of Traditional services

June Anniversaries

- 6/2 Del and Isabel Dirks, 78 years
- 6/2 Bill and Sandy Griffis, 47 years
- 6/3 Mark and Erin Bassett, 20 years
- 6/5 Myron and Carmen Smith, 61 years
- 6/6 Howard and Marlene Dreier, 62 years
- 6/10 Ron and Barb Schuchman, 48 years
- 6/11 Ron and Carol Manuello, 59 years
- 6/11 Ben and Amelia Oesch, 4 years
- 6/12 Jim and Debbie Mulford, 50 years
- 6/15 Tim and Nancy Gropp, 53 years
- 6/19 Don and Marilyn Brummond, 66 years
- 6/20 Chad and Julie Ropte, 28 years
- 6/22 Steve and Liesbeth Osa, 52 years
- 6/23 Daniel and Deb Watkins, 31 years
- 6/25 Vincente and Christy DiLuca, 32 years
- 6/27 Gary and Judy Hillman, 62 years
- 6/28 Kurt and Kelli Slothouber, 23 years
- 6/29 Rod and Jennifer Sweeney, 30 years

"And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is Love."

*1
Corinthian
s 13:13*



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

Member News

Join a New Study Group: Lutheranism 101

Join us for Lutheranism 101, a welcoming introduction to the beliefs, practices, and history of the Lutheran faith. This class is especially geared toward those who are new to Lutheranism or curious to learn more, but all are invited to attend! Meet with Pastor Ben on **Tuesdays at 4:30pm** in the church office.

Mid-Year Voters' Assembly Set for June 14

Please join us on **Sunday, June 14 at 12:15pm** in the Sanctuary for our mid-year Voters' Assembly. We will review our progress on various projects, vote to install new Elders, and re-elect current Elders. We look forward to you joining us!



LWR Collecting School Supplies in July

During **July**, our Lutheran World Relief team will be collecting school supplies for backpacks to be used in disaster relief in the US and around the world. Needed items include:

- 400 unsharpened #2 pencils
- 400 black or blue pens (no gel)
- 320 (70 sheet) spiral notebooks
- 80 each of rulers, pencil sharpeners, blunt school scissors, pink 2 ½" erasers, boxes of 16 or 24 crayons

Items will be collected in the Welcome Center and the gym during **each Sunday in July**, or use the collection tub in the church office. Please keep your eyes open for school supply sales and consider helping us fill up our backpacks.

Summer Office Hours

May 26 – August 9, office hours will be 9am-noon. Staff will still be working, but phones will go to voicemail at noon.

Praying with an Open Heart

This month, we are **Praying with an Open Heart for...single parents, empty nesters, and the childless** (childless not by choice)

In May and June in the United States, we have Mother's Day and Father's Day. In September, we have Grandparents Day. And, as many have said, "EVERY DAY is Children's Day!" Some people are blessed with great family relationships. Others, not so much. For instance, it's hard for some—both children *and* adults—to relate to a heavenly Father who loves us and always wants the best for us, when their own parent is not a great example of this kind of love and care. How wonderful to have our Shepherd Family, because we can adopt each other as special family members. Even more wonderful? Being adopted into God's Family. We. Are. Never. Alone. Thank God!

Still, struggling to be a parent, parenting itself, and changes in parental roles can be truly difficult at times. No matter what our role in life, we are called to take care of and pray for these dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Some Scripture to aid you as you **Pray with an Open Heart for single parents, empty nesters, and the childless** this month: our theme verse Philippians 4:6-7; also:

Deuteronomy 10:17-18

Deuteronomy 31:6

Psalms 23:1

Psalms 25:5

Psalms 34:18

Psalms 68: 5-6

Psalms 71:18

Psalms 92:14

Psalms 146:9

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Isaiah 41:10

Isaiah 46:4

Isaiah 55:8-9

Jeremiah 29:11

Matthew 6:26

Matthew 11:28

Matthew 28:20

John 14:27

Romans 15:13

2 Corinthians 5:17

Philippians 4:11-13

1 Peter 4:10

1 Peter 5:7

1 John 3:1

Romans 8:28

Romans 12:12

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Ephesians 1:5

Member News / Mission & Ministries



Mark Our Blood Drive on Your Calendar

Shepherd of the Hills, in conjunction with the Red Cross, is again hosting a Blood Drive. The Red Cross will be at Shepherd **Tuesday, July 21**, from **9am-3pm** to collect donations from our members and the community. Please seriously consider helping to maintain this life-saving supply of blood.



People Gather at Capitol Despite Snowy Weather

The March for Life, April 27, was cold and snowy, but several members of Shepherd braved the weather to attend. The message was simple, "Life is a Gift." Pastor Maxwell stood on the steps of the state capitol to give the closing prayer.

Our Mission Team Wants You!

Do you have a heart for the missionaries Shepherd supports, and would you like to contribute to the mission team? We are looking for additions to our team. Requirements of your time are minimal: meeting once a month and one or two events that we host during the year. If you are interested or want more information, please reach out to:

- Maynard Buck, (mbuck@comcast.net),
- Mary Powers, (powersworld@live.com),
- Kevin Holle (kholle64@gmail.com), or
- Ginny Morgan (v_morgan@sbcglobal.net).

2026 True Impact 5k/10k

Runners. Walkers. And those who prefer to \$ponsor instead of sweat (we see you).

We're excited to announce that registration for the 2026 True Impact Ministries 5k/10k is officially open!

Invite your friends, start your training plan, and join us in supporting Susie's Higher Education Fund. This event makes higher education possible, moving students closer to financial independence. Let's make this year's event the most impactful yet.

You can register as a walker, runner, or volunteer at [True Impact Ministries](#).



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

Member News

Bible Readings for the Month

June 7 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 119:65-72; Hosea 5:15-6:6;
Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13

June 14 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 100; Exodus 19:2-8;
Romans 5:6-15; Matthew 9:35-10:20

June 21 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Psalm 91:1-10 (11- 16); Jeremiah 20:7-13;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:5a, 21- 33

June 28 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost; Outdoor Service and Picnic

Lessons: Psalm 119:153-160; Jeremiah 28:5-9;
Romans 7:1-13; Matthew 10:34-42



Usher Schedule for the Month

June 7 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – D'Wayn & Dave Stone
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde
10:45 Gym – Sue & Duane Feldmann

June 14 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Bruce Boggess / Paul Rodeck
10:45 Sanctuary – Pam & Russ Robbins
10:45 Gym – Wayne Johnson / Milo Samson

June 21 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

8 am Sanctuary – Ava Havekost / Josh Havekost
10:45 Sanctuary – Sandy & Bill Griffis
10:45 Gym – Ron Aukamp / Charley Powers

June 28 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost; Outdoor Service and Picnic

10 am Courtyard – Josh Hoener / Lindsey Jarvi



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 – June 2026

Christian World Outreach (CWO)

The mission of Christian World Outreach is to participate with the body of Christ in responsible evangelism, to bring dignity, self-worth and encouragement through leadership development, and to meet the physical needs of people through humanitarian assistance. CWO provides hope and assistance to thousands of individuals in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

Recently, Shepherd hosted a Women Helping Women Brunch which outlined the work that CWO has done in Burkina Faso and South Africa. They focus on training young women in cooking and domestic skills so they can earn a living, as well as training mothers in South Africa to raise responsible and God-centered men. They all focus on giving practical skills to women who are marginalized in Africa.



Love One Another As I Have Loved You

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job—it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who need it most.

If you know someone who is going through a difficult time, contact our Stephen Leader: **Ron Manuello (303-587-0001)** or **Pastor Stoltenow**. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love.

Pastor's Letter Continued

And, of course, there is the Biblical text we hear every Thanksgiving Day from Luke 17:11-19, where Jesus healed the ten lepers and only one came back to thank Jesus for the blessing of his healing. *One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him, and he was a Samaritan.*

Truly, we have many blessings to count and be thankful for.

I hope you have given some thought of the many blessings God has given us at Shepherd. The worship services, the Confession of sins and the Absolution where we hear from God that our sins are forgiven (the proclamation of the purest Gospel), being reminded of our Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the preaching of the Word, and the beautiful music. Bible studies, 165 kids as of this writing signed up for VBS, and all the volunteers to make it a great success. The new food bank, youth ministry, our young adult group, a new Associate Pastor, Pastor Oesch, his wife Amelia, and little Olive, whom we love. Our emphasis on *witness, mercy, and life together*, our mission work led by the Missions Committee, the leadership of our congregation, our kids and grandkids, and the fact we have been so very blessed by the Lord to have eliminated all of our debt and have very healthy reserves. How about our Active Seniors group, the choir, our praise team, *Infinite Grace*, and the instrumentalists! Wow, I could keep naming the blessings we can count.

Then there is the gift of our people. We love each other and

care for each other with the love of Jesus. We use our gifts and talents to serve the Lord and those around us, both inside the church, and outside in our community. Your love for our staff and how you empower us to work for you and the Lord is nothing short of awesome! We continue to see folks joining our congregation. We are so blessed!

We are also thankful for the opportunities and challenges at Shepherd. How will we effectively live our faith in front of others so they see and experience the love of Jesus? How do we reach out to people to invite them to Shepherd on Sunday mornings? How can we empower larger attendance in worship and our Bible studies? How can our congregation grow? Now that we have retired all our debt and have wonderful reserves, how will we continue to fund the budget to operate the day-to-day ministry of our congregation? All of these are opportunities to serve as we use our collective God-given gifts to serve the Gospel of Jesus at Shepherd. For these opportunities, we are thankful and count them as blessings!

God bless you as we continue to praise our Lord Jesus for His blessings of love, grace, and eternal life for all of us!

Pastor Brad Stoltenow

P.S. If you want to see more opportunities to participate and serve at Shepherd in support of the Gospel, please go to our website at shepherdhillchurch.org/Connect.

*Praise God from whom all
blessings flow.*



Youth

Summer Sunday School Schedule ~ 9:30-10:30am

4th grade and under - off for the summer. We'll start up again on Fall Kickoff, **Sunday, Sept. 13.**

June 7 - 6th grade and under to meet in gym for VBS Day 1.

Incoming 5th - 6th grade with Mr. Scheck in LL15 starting **June 14.**

Incoming 7th - current 8th graders - with Pastor Oesch in his office starting **June 7.**

9th- 12th grade – SHYP Summer at the Movies in the Youth Room starting **June 7** with Sina and Bethany.

Graduating seniors: You may stay with SHYP or go to the Young Adult class (HS Grads-18-35) in the Atrium with Patrick (or do some of each).



June Dates to Remember:

SHYP

- **June 7, 14, 21, 28** - High Schoolers: Join our SHYP Bible Study for Summer at the Movies. Each Sunday we'll discuss a different movie and how we can use that movie to have "God conversations" (for those who heard Pastor Ben's sermon on 5/10). This is what we're up to in June, and you can see the full schedule from June until Fall Kickoff in September on the SHYP page of the website. We encourage you to watch the movie prior to that Sunday as we'll only be showing clips during morning SHYP.
- **June 14** – Youth Activate! See info under Xtreme.

Xtreme

- **June 14** – 12:30-4pm - Youth Activate! This summer SHYP and Xtreme will combine during events, starting with a trip to Activate Aurora. We'll start with lunch in the youth room, carpool over to Activate, and be back to Shepherd by 4pm. Cost: \$20. Scholarships available. **Must register by June 12.** Join us for the fun! Friends are welcome, they just need to register. From Activate's website: Activate offers a range of games that test your physical and mental abilities. Whether you're climbing walls, solving puzzles, or dodging lasers, there's something for everyone.

Young Adults

- **June 28** (Sun) - Young Adult Lunch: We'll be joining the church picnic instead of going offsite. We hope you can join us!

Get Your Name Added to the Prayer List!

If you're attending college or trade school and would like your name on Shepherd's prayer list, call **Gail** in the office (**303-707-4364**) and ask her to add your name!

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 July issue of the Shepherd's Voice is June 15. Please have all articles entered into the Communication Request system by this date.

POSTMASTER

Send Address Changes to:
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