



# 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 Annual High Point of Shepherd of the Hills

**Revelation 7:9-12**

**A Great Multitude from Every Nation**

*<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."*

Dear Shepherd,

The annual high point of Shepherd of the Hills? Holy Week, right? Pastor Ben, you're a few months too late. Answer: yes, in a very real sense Holy Week is the high point of our annual calendar, especially liturgically.

However, what if I told you that Shepherd hosted a 4-day event where 250+ people, young and old, come onto campus each day? At this event you hear a *crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"* from these people each day. 175+ children and 75+ volunteers sing praises to God, hear and read God's Word, and sometimes encounter Jesus for the first time. At this event, Shepherd gets the most visitors by far surpassing anything Shepherd hosts - 150 children and their families, 30 of which do not have a church home. At this event, Shepherd sees the most amount of volunteers and hours put in by volunteers of all ages, by far surpassing anything else that Shepherd does. At this event, Jodie and Sina sleep 6-8 hours in a 48-hour period. At this event, the Pastors throw out their mancards

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**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**

7691 S. University Blvd.

Centennial, CO 80122

303-798-0711 [ShepherdHillsChurch.org](http://ShepherdHillsChurch.org)

# Member News

## **Palisade Peach Sale!**

Enjoy delicious Colorado Palisade peaches while supporting our Cambodia Mission Team! Proceeds help offset travel expenses for our upcoming mission trip to Cambodia. Cost of the peaches are: \$57 for an 18 lb. box and \$38 for a 9 lb. box. Peaches are expected to arrive during **the first two weeks of August**. Thank you for supporting our mission team as we share Christ's love in Cambodia! **Order deadline is July 7**. Contact the church office or a Cambodia team member for details. You can order [online](#).

### 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**.

For those who want to play games, chat while sitting on couches, or just want to hang out longer after the ice cream social, the youth room will be open for an hour after the Summer Worship Night service ends. \*Anyone under 5th grade needs to be accompanied by a parent.

### Sanctuary Wall Crosses

Sanctuary wall crosses come from all over the world!—some in memory of a person or event, others from travels or made especially for our cross walls. If you have a cross you would like to donate—maybe from summer travels!—bring it to Gail Black in the church office, with an explanation of where it came from and, if you wish, why you are giving it. This can also be done anonymously, if you prefer!

### 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](mailto:mbuck@comcast.net)),
- Mary Powers, ([powersworld@live.com](mailto:powersworld@live.com)),
- Kevin Holle ([kholle64@gmail.com](mailto:kholle64@gmail.com)), or
- Ginny Morgan ([vmorgan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vmorgan@sbcglobal.net)).

### Baptisms

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



Daniel William Stone  
 Son of Devin and Julie Stone  
 Born: 4/27/2026  
 Baptized: 6/7/2026

### SOS! Choir

SOS = “Sing One Sunday.” One-time commitment. Sing parts or just melody! Questions? Contact **Gail Black, 303-707-4364, [gblack@sothfamily.org](mailto:gblack@sothfamily.org)**.

### Sunday, July 5:

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

### Breakfast With Baby Serves 9 Families; 18 Children

At the June Breakfast with Baby event, 18 children from 9 families (including 2 new families) were served breakfast followed by a devotion. The families were then able to shop for clothes, diapers, wipes, and other available items. For the **July 11** event, **Size 4 and 6 diapers** are needed as well as **boys’ size 3 and 4-year clothes**. Thank you for continuing to share love with these families.

## July Anniversaries

- 7/7 Scott and Nicole Barton, 20 years
- 7/8 Dave and Kaellyn Norby, 37 years
- 7/11 Patrick and Bethany Barnthson, 17 years
- 7/13 Dan and Val Cromar, 30 years
- 7/15 Eric and Kathy Kufeldt, 54 years
- 7/19 Kevin and Christie Holle, 29 years
- 7/19 Hannelore and James Ramsey, 57 years
- 7/20 Gilda and Dave Baker, 2 years
- 7/21 Bill and Jan Hizer, 42 years
- 7/28 Mark and Jennifer Luckinbill, 26 years
- 7/29 Gail and Dave Black, 37 years



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





## Communication Request Form

Have an event you want to promote? Need a room for your church group's meeting? An announcement to share? Go to **ShepherdHillsChurch.org**. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on: **Communications Form**. Fill out the form and submit to our Communications Team. Your deadline is 3-4 weeks prior to your event in order to properly advertise or send out your announcement. Questions? Email [info@sothfamily.org](mailto:info@sothfamily.org).



We would like to thank everyone for the prayers and well wishes during our medical and emotional struggles over the past six months. God and your prayers have carried us. Thank you! ~The Boggess Family



## New Infinite Grace AV Team

We have a new member of the AV part of our Infinite Grace team: Kayla Scileppi. She is pursuing a career in studio engineering and already has previous experience on several church AV teams. She is working with Michael, JT, and the rest of Infinite Grace to get acclimated to Shepherd's AV system and worship practices. Welcome, Kayla!



## NEW! A CHRIST-CENTERED APPROACH TO CAREGIVING

If you are caring for a loved one, you may feel overwhelmed by responsibilities, unsure of what comes next, and emotionally exhausted. You may be carrying grief over what has been lost while still needing to show up day after day. Learn more about this new resource and purchase your digital copy at:

<https://christiancaregiving.org/>



**JOIN US OR REFER A FRIEND:**  
**"Loss of a Spouse"**  
Tuesday, August 11, 6:30-8:30pm

**Support Group Meetings**  
Tuesdays, August 18-November 10  
6:30-8:30pm

Register at [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org)

Watch upcoming announcements for testimonials of Shepherd's GriefShare participants.



# Celebrate

**MORE LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.**



## **Blood Drive** **Shepherd of the Hills** **Lutheran Church**

Parish Hall  
7691 S University Blvd  
Centennial, CO 80122

**Tuesday, July 21, 2026**  
**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)  
or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).  
Use sponsor code: ShepherdLutheran

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass!  
Visit [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) for more information.

# Member News

## Bible Readings for the Month

**July 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost;  
Independence Day, Observed**

*Lessons:* Psalm 145:1-14; Zechariah 9:9-12;  
Romans 7:14-25a; Matthew 11:25-30

**July 12 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Lessons:* Psalm 65:(1-8) 9-13; Isaiah 55:10-13;  
Romans 8:12-17; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**July 19 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Lessons:* Psalm 119:57-64; Isaiah 44:6-8;  
Romans 8:18-27; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**July 26 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Lessons:* Psalm 125; Deuteronomy 7:6-9;  
Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 13:44-52



## Usher Schedule for the Month

**July 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost;  
Independence Day, Observed**

8 am Sanctuary – Heidi Dudley / Chuck Place  
10:45 Sanctuary – Tina & Chris Skirde  
10:45 Gym – Kathy & Chris Biondolilo

**July 12 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**July 19 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8 am Sanctuary – Bruce Boggess / Paul Rodeck  
10:45 Sanctuary – Sandy & Bill Griffis  
10:45 Gym – Wayne Johnson / Milo Samson

**July 26 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

8 am Sanctuary – Ava Havekost / Josh Havekost  
10:45 Sanctuary – Joshua Hoener / Lindsey Jarvi  
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](mailto:RSGarb@comcast.net) or **Kay Stolzenbach** at [gkstolzenbach@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:powersworld@live.com) or **Luanne Reimer** at [reimer.luanne@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 – July 2026

### Ray of Hope - Vimol Chan

Joe and Viya Stoltenow established Ray of Hope mission through Global Lutheran Outreach (GLO) in Battambang, Cambodia. Joe and Viya are now living stateside and have placed their mission in the capable hands of Vimol Chan, Viya's sister. Vimol has been integral in the establishment of the mission and its ongoing operation.

Ray of Hope serves street kids and their families in Battambang, Cambodia. Many of the families have little hope and need to learn about salvation through Jesus Christ. Ray of Hope is supported through your contributions made to Shepherd and forwarded to Global Lutheran Outreach. A Mission Team from Shepherd will visit Ray of Hope the last week of June to give support and to lead a VBS program like the one Shepherd just led: Race Around the World, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ: One Race, One Family, One Savior! Please pray for their safe travels and for the children they are supporting in Cambodia.



### Can You Hear Jesus' Words of Comfort?

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus tells his followers, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Do you feel weary?

Does the yoke of life seem too difficult for you to carry alone?

Are your burdens too much to bear?

God has called some persons within our midst to Stephen Ministry. These persons are trained and supported in walking with others through difficult times in their lives.

Could you benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister? If so, please contact our Stephen Leader: **Ron Manuella (303-587-0001)** or **Pastor Stoltenow**.

# Pastor's Letter Continued

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and dress up in ridiculous costumes and act silly in skits. At this event, we hear about more "God sightings" than any other time of the year.

Have you already guessed? Vacation Bible School. In another very real sense, VBS is the annual high point of Shepherd of the Hills.

This year's theme was "The Incredible Race! - One Family, One Race, One Savior", based on Revelation 7. The theme song in particular has been in my head for a while! 29 country student groups learned about other cultures and how we are all one family in Christ, one human race made by God, with one savior from sin, Jesus. They went through the hallways of Australia, Europe, Asia, and South America into the Discovery Terminal (science), Destination Truth (bible), World Market (9 country craft tables), and Runway Adventures (outside games). In Destination Truth, Mr. Sam witnessed a student dragging his mom into the sanctuary saying, "Mom you gotta see Jesus' house!" In the World Market, Ron, who only volunteered one day last year, received a freshly picked bouquet of flowers from a little girl who said "I wish you were my leader again this year!" One girl asked another, "Do you go to church?" The girl replied, "no, but I really really, really want to go here." A middle

school volunteer was asked, "Will we be llamas in heaven?" This was possibly due to a certain pastor putting on a llama head every day (definitely not me). The young volunteer replied, "No, but in the new heavens and new earth God will give us renewed bodies."

The camp-like energy and connection and interacting with the kids, volunteers, and staff throughout the week was rejuvenating. There were generations of volunteers, from middle schoolers to the retired, stepping out of their comfort zones and leading kids with joy. Olive (my 15-month old) got to hang out with her church family all week, dancing, laughing, and sleeping with glee. All in all, dad heart and pastor heart were full.

Yes, sometimes the kids fell on their faces (literally) and oftentimes they *fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God*. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! *Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.*

Peace in Christ,

*Pastor Ben*

A HUGE **thank you** to all who contributed to our Vacation Bible School. From those who donated off our Amazon wishlist or brought in supplies, to those who helped decorate or prepare crafts, to the 75 volunteers who were able to serve during the week of VBS, those who donated toward our mission project, and for those who lifted us up in prayer: **each one of you were vital to helping spread the gospel to more people.** Thank you! ~Sina



We raised  
\$2,341  
for missionaries!  
THANK YOU

## Youth

### Youth Movie Night

On **Friday, July 31** from **5:30-9pm** in the youth room, join us for dinner and *Descpicable Me 4* as we watch the movie we'll be discussing for High School Sunday School on August 2. Xtreme and SHYP youth as well as friends are invited (5th-12th grade). RSVP to Sina by Wednesday July 29.



### July Dates to Remember:

#### July Youth Events (Xtreme & SHYP)

- **July 8, 15, 22** (Wed) – **Summer Worship Nights - 6:30pm** service in the Sanctuary, ice cream social to follow. The youth room will be open for an hour after the service ends for anyone who wants to hang out.
- **July 31** (Fri) – **Movie Night, 5:30-9pm**, Youth Room. We're watching *Descpicable Me 4*. Dinner and popcorn included!!!

#### Young Adult Events

- **July 9, 16, 23, 30** (Thurs) – **Sports Night, 7-9:30pm** in the gym.
- **July 27** (Sun) – Lunch off site, 12:15pm.

#### Sunday School Hour – 9:30-10:30am

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Faith Builders with Sam Scheck in the Kid Zone

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Faith Alive with Pastor Oesch in his office

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – God Conversations through movies with Sina Williams and Bethany Barnthson in the Youth Room

- 7/5 – Glory (with Denzel Washington)
- 7/12 – Captain America: Civil War
- 7/19 – Lilies of the Field
- 7/26 – The Matrix (the first one)

Youth Adults – Revelation with Patrick Barnthson in the Atrium

#### What Were Youth Doing in June????



SHYP Service Sunday helping Quilts & Kits Ministry.



Having fun at Activate!

## 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](mailto:boesch@sothfamily.org). For information about junior and senior high youth groups, please contact **Sina Williams** at [swilliams@sothfamily.org](mailto:swilliams@sothfamily.org). For information about Family Ministry, contact **Jodie Stoltenow** at [jstoltenow@sothfamily.org](mailto: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](http://ShepherdHillsChurch.org).



**CHURCH STAFF**

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Shepherd's Voice is the monthly newsletter for the church family at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
7691 S. University Blvd., Centennial, CO 80122  
303-798-0711 [www.ShepherdHillsChurch.org](http://www.ShepherdHillsChurch.org)

The deadline for the August issue of the Shepherd's Voice is July 13. Please have all articles entered into the Communication Request system by this date.

**POSTMASTER**

*Send Address Changes to:*  
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7691 S. University Blvd.  
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