





SEEKING THE LOST...FEEDING THE FOUND...WITH GOD'S WORD AND SACRAMENTS

WELCOME!

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord!

If you are a guest today, know that we are glad you have joined us for worship, and hope that you will join us again soon. Later in the worship service you'll be asked to fill out your contact information in the worship register binder in your row. We would simply like to thank you for joining us for worship today. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Holtz.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus in our order of service. In the sermon, in specially selected Bible readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers and creeds, our order of service proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish.

Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out in the following pages. If a song is not found in the service folder, it can be found in the red hymnal. Parts marked **M** are spoken or sung by the minister, and parts marked **C** and printed in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- If you are in need of **restrooms**, they are located on the left as you exit the worship area. There are also restrooms on the right side of the Fellowship Hall.
- If your child needs a moment to be quieted, a **children's room** is available in the Fellowship Hall (exit the worship area and turn to your right down the hallway) in the first room on the right. A television in that room has a live audio/video feed of the service.
- **Children's activity sheets**, which include activities and lessons pertaining to today's Bible readings, are available from the ushers in the entryway.

WORSHIP SERIES: UNLOCKED

July 1:	The Keeper of the key
July 8:	The kingdom's power
July 15:	The kingdom's foe
July 22:	The kingdom's worth
July 29:	The kingdom's providence
August 5:	The kingdom's protection

TODAY'S FOCUS

The ways of God sometime confuse more than they comfort. At times we are painfully aware that Christ's kingdom "is not of this world." Thankfully, the Lord unlocks the secrets of his heavenly kingdom using simple, down-to-earth terms. He not only reveals the way his kingdom operates, he also convinces us of its beauty and wisdom.

This Sunday we realize the kingdom's power. Jesus uses a commonly understood agricultural metaphor to point to the power of God to bring people into his kingdom: The message of the kingdom is like seed scattered on the ground. While different circumstances lead to different reactions, where there is growth it is given by God's power for our enduring benefit.

"Other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Matthew 13:8

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

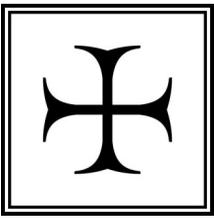
Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord
Christian Worship 533

STAND

Matthew 28:19

M In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8,9

C If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

M Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
With his holy life and innocent death.
Trusting in him, I pray:
God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

ABSOLUTION

M Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Mark 10:47

Kyrie

M In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE



C Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-11



The Lord promises that, like the rain that falls to the earth, his Word will not return to him empty.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”

declares the LORD.

⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

M This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!



PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 65

Refrain



The earth is full of the good-ness of



God, the good-ness of our God.

Psalms have been used in worship by God's people since the Old Testament.

Psalm 65 describes how the entire earth is full of God's goodness and proclaim his glory.

Psalm tone



Women *Praise awaits you, O God,**

Men *you call forth songs of joy.*

Women *You care for the land and water it;**

Men *you soften it with showers and bless its crops.*

Women *The streams of God are filled with water.**

Men *to provide the people with grain.*

C *Refrain*

Women *You crown the year with your bounty,**

Men *and your carts overflow with abundance.*

Women *The grasslands of the desert overflow;**

Men *the hills are clothed with gladness.*

Women *The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;**

Men *they shout for joy and sing.*

C *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,*

*as it was in the beginning,**

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

C *Refrain*

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 3:5-11

Christ's servants plant the seed, but only God makes it grow.

⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹ For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

M This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



G Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Because we are about to hear the very words and works of Jesus in the Gospel, the congregation acknowledges the Lord's presence in their midst through the Gospel by standing and singing "Alleluia" (which means "Praise God!").



*The message of
the kingdom is like
seed scattered on
the ground.*

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

M This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast
Christian Worship 324

SERMON

STAND

APOSTLES CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

In response to God's love, we bring him our offerings. The members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

*We ask that everyone, both guests and members, sign the **worship register** during the collection of the offering so that we might thank our guests who have joined us today.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Terry & Caryn Heller

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M** Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.
- C** **Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.**
- M** Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.
- C** **Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.**
- M** Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.
- C** **Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.**
- M** Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.
- C** **Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.**
- M** Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

Silent prayer.

- M** Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.
- C** **Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C Amen.

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

Almighty Father, Bless the Word

Christian Worship 323

*Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall
(take the hallway to the right) following the service!*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Elizabeth Hohenstein, *Pianist*
Ahmad Sedaghat & Jon Wilson, *Ushers*
Claretta Coffey, *Altar Care*
Thomas Krafft, *Elder*

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Today	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class and Sunday School
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Kid's Power Hour
Saturday		Church Cleaners: Krafft/Seckler & Boker/Recknor
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Worship with The Lord's Supper
	10:15 a.m.	Bible Class and Sunday School

Next Sunday Ushers: Hohenstein & Goforth
Next Sunday Snacks: Bollmeier & Coffey
Next Sunday Elder: Bollmeier
Next Sunday Communion Assistant: Goforth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Classes for children age 3 through Grade 7 will meet in the Bible Study Room in the Education Wing at 10:15 a.m. for "30 Minutes in the Son."

Summer Adult Bible Class: 30 Minutes "In the Son": Summer brings a change in all of our schedules — but it's still a great time to be growing stronger in our faith. This summer we'll gather together to spend 30 minutes "In the Son" on Sunday mornings after worship (10:15 — 10:45 a.m.) The adult class will meet in the Fellowship Hall. The Summer Bible Class Resource "Growing in Grace & Knowledge" is available in the church entryway

Pastor Holtz Out of Town: Pastor Holtz will be on vacation with his family from Monday through Friday. If you are in need of pastoral care while he is out of town, please call or text him at 970-576-1154.

Position Opening: Beginning immediately, our church leadership will be accepting applications for our open position of *Office Assistant*. Our current Office Assistant is willing to continue working while we find someone for that position, as well as train our newly hired person.

The role of *Office Assistant* is to oversee all activities of the church and preschool office and provide a welcoming, positive, and confidential environment for all visitors during office hours. This position handles many aspects of behind-the-scenes communication, administration, and logistical duties to support the church and its preschool.

A Job Description and Application Form can be found on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. Completed applications can be given to Pastor Holtz.

Retro T-Shirts: “Retro” Shepherd of the Hills Grade School t-shirts are available for free on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Most t-shirts are Adult Small; one t-shirt is Youth Large.

Also available for free are Thrivent “Live Generously” t-shirts of all sizes. Help yourself.

Church Member Pictures: If you have not recently had your picture taken for our updated Member Picture Board and Member Pictorial Directory, please do so today. Go to Pastor’s Office in the Education Wing during “Snack Time” after the worship service today.

Church Work Day: Your Facilities Elder, Kevin Goforth, is organizing a Church Work Day for this Saturday, July 21. Work will begin at 9 a.m. and you can join in the work anytime after that. You can stay as long as you would like. There will be numerous indoor and outdoor jobs for people of all ages and abilities. Contact Kevin (goforthkj@gmail.com, 970-692-7714) if you have any questions.

WELS Marriage Enrichment: Routine maintenance pays off. You change oil in your car to keep it running longer. Give your marriage the attention it needs to flourish and run all the way to the end. Let the upcoming WELS Marriage Enrichment and Get-Away Weekend, Mysterious Marriage, help you. Spend the weekend growing closer to your Savior and each other at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Breckenridge, CO, October 5-7, 2018. See the poster in the Fellowship Hall or visit www.wels.net/adult-discipleship.

Kid’s Power Hour: Want your kids to dive into some great stories and educational activities without them even knowing about it? Join us for our *Kid’s Power Hour!* It’s full of stories, activities, and movement all designed for parents and kids ages 1 - 8.

Our final session for the summer is: July 11 from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Flyers are available on the Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board to hand out to your friends and family.

ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church began public worship in 1975, so that with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we might strengthen the faith of our members and reach out into our community and the world. Shepherd of the Hills has Jesus', the Good Shepherd's mission, to SEEK THE LOST and FEED THE FOUND with God's Word and Sacraments.

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

950 43rd Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
(970) 353-6582
sothgreeley.org

OUR MINISTRY

Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study and Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

OUR STAFF

Matthew Holtz, *Pastor*
pastor@sothgreeley.org
(970) 576-1154

Karen Schott, *Preschool Director/Teacher*
preschool@sothgreeley.org
(970) 353-6582

Kevin Goforth, *Facilities Elder*

Elizabeth, Hohenstein, *Pre-K Teacher*
ellie.r.hohenstein@gmail.com
(970) 353-6582

Bret Bollmeier, *Fellowship Elder*

Ron Ehrlich, *Finance Elder*

Liz Ham, *Teacher's Assistant/School Nurse*

Phil Prellwitz, *Outreach Elder*

Kim Schulz, *Office Assistant*
sothlutheran@sothgreeley.org

Thomas Krafft, *Spiritual Growth Elder*

OUR CHURCH BODY

Shepherd of the Hills proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). The WELS—so-named because it began in Wisconsin—has about 400,000 members, congregations in all 50 states, and missions throughout the world. For more information about WELS go to www.wels.net.