

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Shepherd of the Hill ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love
by Gathering, Growing, Giving."



Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreement to be on our live broadcast.

INTRODUCTION

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

GATHERING

Please stand for the parts of the service designated with †

The congregation's parts are in **bold type**.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

LITANY FOR PENTECOST

The Spirit descends like a dove, bringing peace to unite the world in a just and caring community.

The Spirit comes like a breath,

bringing life to renew the people of God.

The Spirit spreads like fire, bringing energy for witnessing to the love of God.

Spirit of the living God,

come to us and transform our lives by your power.

~ from the United Church of Christ. Posted on Life in Liturgy, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>

† REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

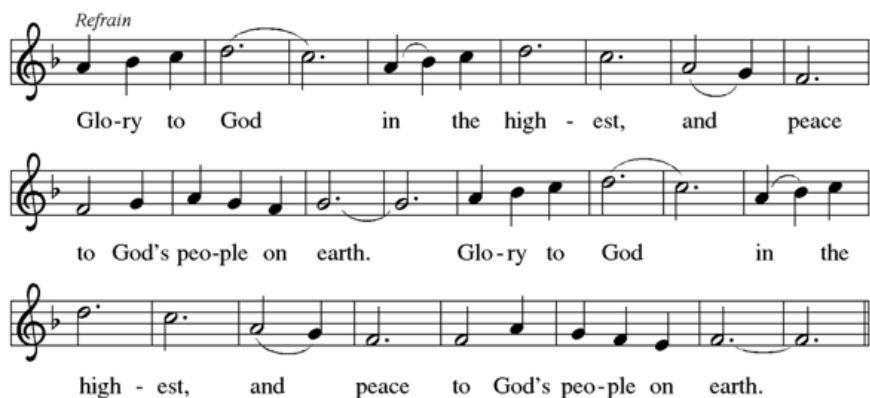
† KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

† CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

† PRAYER OF THE DAY

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, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13

We will read Psalm 65 responsively.

[¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³ Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]**

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

- ¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.
- ¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- ¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

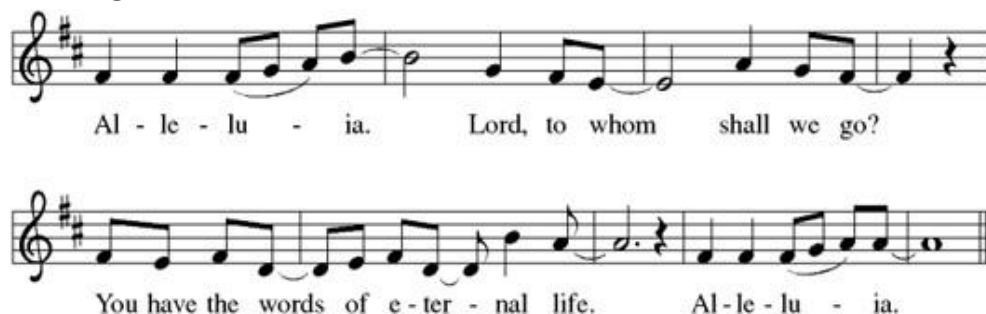
¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

† GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



† GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

† The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Natalie Leske

† HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (2x)

WOV 713

† CONFESSION OF FAITH- Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to hell.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

† PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Prayers followed by: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

† GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Please share God's peace with each other!)

† OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

† LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

† BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

† SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

LBW 221

† DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SENDING MUSIC

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Leader

Musician

Usher

Video

Reader

Pastor Natalie Leske

Michelle Young

Tim Jenson

Billy Heltne

Diane Rose

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

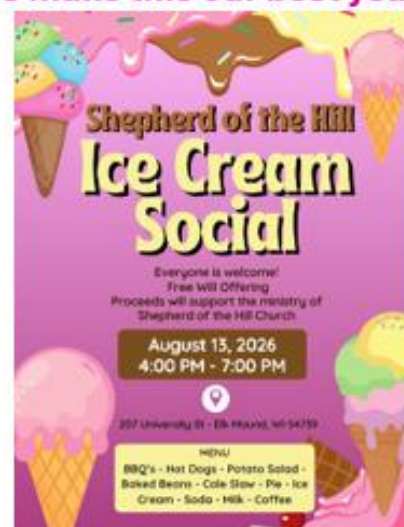
**Pastor Natalie is out 7/19-25, for pastoral care and emergencies call
Pastor Hal Schroetter at 715-828-1112.**

We Done Gone Hog Wild! 🐷

Thank You to Everyone Who Helped Us Complete the Pig Puzzle!
We raised \$1010.00 for the General Fund!



**Sign-Up Sheets for donations and volunteers
are in the gathering area!
Let's make this our best year yet!**



If you are a VISITOR with us today, we are so grateful that God brought you here. Please share your name and contact info in either the Guest Book or a purple Visitor info sheet found in the Gathering Area.

Pastor Natalie's Office Hours:

Pastor Natalie's office hours are Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm or by appointment. You may call Pastor Natalie's cell phone 715-829-8324 to see if she can meet you Monday - Thursday.

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

SUNDAY	7/12	10 am	- 5 th Sunday after Pentecost
MONDAY	7/13	7 pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	7/14	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
FRIDAY	7/17	10 - Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY	7/19	10 am	- 8 th Sunday after Pentecost

Elk Mound Community Food Pantry

Tuesdays: 4-6 pm

Fridays: 10-Noon

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

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and Holly Sweeney

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Giving questions contact: Ali Sullivan

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