

*"The Son of Man
is coming at an hour
you do not expect."*

LUKE 12:40, ESV



We rejoice in the Lord's answers to prayers
and thank God for His goodness.

**Members Needing
Prayer:**

Robert Harris
Mona White
Julie Werfelmann
Rev. Dr. Arlynn
Turnquist
Kay Schumacher
Betty Montgomery
Neil and Verna Wal-
den
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Pauline Ritterbush
Jo Anderson
Julie Schnieder (Bender)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Kathy (Secretary) and Family
Elaine (Werfelmann)
Linda Healy (White)
Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)
Phoebe (Neer)
Phil (Anderson)
Gary Assmussen (Deuker)
Irene Goldman (Dueker)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Tonya (White)
Shanese (White)
Zyg Zee (Norris)
Claire (Vonny)
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan & Sandy Robbins
(Robbins)

Prayers For

All Good Shepherd Families Who Have Lost Loved Ones, Members of
Our Military Service, First Responders, and Those Affected by Illness,
Natural Disasters and War.

For Prayer Requests: Complete the prayer request card on the back of
the pew or call/email the church office 225-2092/gslcfresno@att.net

UPCOMING *Events*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS August

Aug. 10 - VBS @ 5:45PM (Dinner);
6:30PM (Classes)
Aug. 15 - Council Meeting @ 6PM,
Jacobson Hall
Aug. 27 - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr.
Ted's Office
Aug. 27 - KingsMen/KingKids @
6:30PM, Jacobson Hall

September

Sept. 3 Worship Committee @
4:30PM, Pt. Ted's Office
Sept. 6 - God's Work, Our Hands
Work Day @ 8AM—1PM, Jacobson
Hall
Sept. 6 - LHN Free Neighborhood
Market 9AM-12PM, GSLC Host
Sept. 7 - Rally Day Service (Happy
Birthday September babies) @
10AM, Sanctuary
Sept. 7 - Rally Day Celebration @
11:15AM, Jacobson Hall
Sept. 8 - Esther Circle @ 6:30PM,
Comm Ctr
Sept. 10 - Wednesday Evening Bible
Study, Comm Ctr
Sept. 14 - Healing Sunday
Sept. 15 - OWLS @ 1pm, The Sandy's
Home
Sept. 18 - Council Meeting @ 6PM,
Jacobson Hall
Sept. 21 - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM,
Comm Ctr
Sept. 24 - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr.
Ted's Office
Sept. 24 - KingsMen/KingKids @
6:30PM, Jacobson Hall
Sept. 27 - Westside Rescue Breakfast
for Dinner @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall

WEEKLY *Sneak Peek*

SUNDAY, August 10
10am: Worship Service
11:15: Coffee Social
11:15am: Salt & Light,
Class Rm 2
5:45pm: VBS Dinner,
Jacobson Hall
6:30pm: VBS Classes,
Comm Ctr & Jacobson

MONDAY, August 11
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, August 12
6pm - 10pm: Voices
United, Comm Ctr

WEDNESDAY, August
13

THURSDAY, August 14

FRIDAY, August 15

SATURDAY, August 16

SUNDAY, August 17
10am: Worship Service
11:15: Coffee Social
11:15am: Salt & Light,
Class Rm 2

GOSPEL

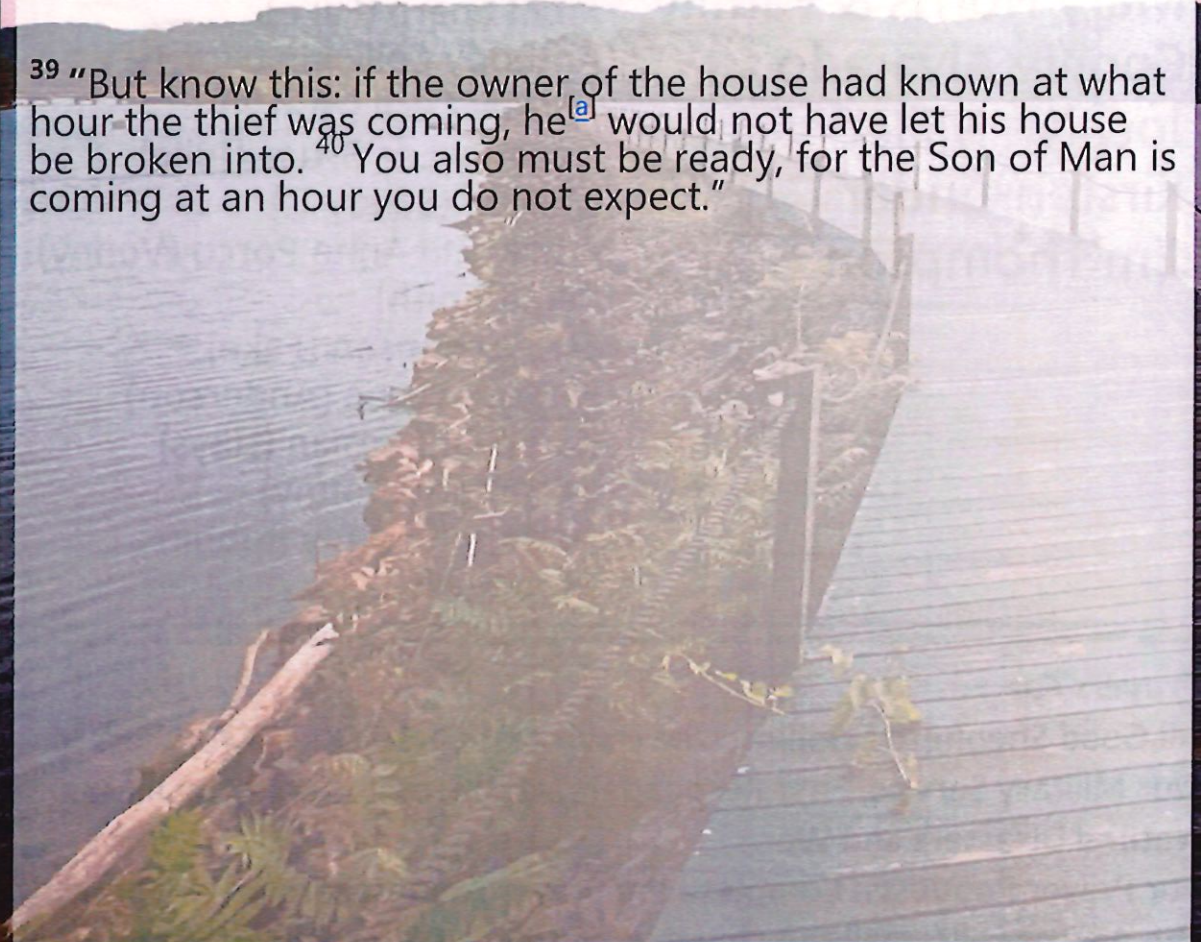
Luke 12:32-40

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Watchful Slaves

³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he ^a would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."



“LIVING ABOVE FEAR”
Preaching text: Luke 12:32-40

Our country is about as stressed out as it can get. The level of fear and anger these days is palpable. Even though we may be politically opposite of the person we are sitting next to right now there is one thing we share: we have had enough. Isn't it exhausting to be so angry and afraid? I know some people who have stopped watching the news. Maybe that is one way to keep fear and anger away.

In our Bible reading for today Jesus says, “Do not be afraid, little flock.”

Have you noticed many events in the Bible begin with those words, “Do not be afraid?” You are probably most familiar with them from the Christmas story. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of Jesus, his first words were, “Do not be afraid.” And “Do not be afraid” was what the angel said to the shepherds in the fields.

“Do not be afraid.” What words could be more meaningful for us today? They are comforting words. But how well are we at living them? And how are they even possible?

California farms are being hit hard by not being able to bring in their harvests. There is anger and fear across our agricultural landscape today.

Like I said, this had been a very scary time for our country. The problems are so loaded with anger and fear that it seeps into our relationships. The differences between us as individuals in the same country are so great. The fear and anger are so real I can't even talk about the sources of what's off kilter because we can't agree on the same reality! It seems we have good reason to be afraid.

Or what about the international scene? Things are very up in the air with our world economy. There is war or the threat of war in many places. Allegiances are changing.

And even if neither of those causes any fear in your heart, did you know on an interstellar level that scientists are tracking an object, 31 Atlas, that is possibly an alien ship. It is speeding toward Earth at 130,000 km/hr. It is expected to be here in October or November.

And all of us in our own lives ... or through those we know ... the senseless accident, the onset of disease, the pain of a relationship ended. How do we hear God's words, "Do not be afraid?"

I would like to share with you what I have found helpful in dealing with my fears. It's pretty basic. But it has worked for me. To deal effectively with the things of which you are afraid ...

- | 1st – **FACE** your fears.
- | 2nd – **EXAMINE** your fears.
- | And 3rd, with the help of God, you can **OVERCOME** your fears.

First of all, you have to **FACE YOUR FEARS**. Fear is a very real force in our lives. Show me someone who says they aren't afraid of anyone or anything, and I will show you either a colossal liar or someone whose bubble is off center. No one is immune from fear.

Fear starts early. Children use a nightlight for good reason. Loud noises can scare children. Or big animals.

What about you? We adults have fears, too. Have you ever been lost in a forest or on a hike? Have you ever suspected you had a serious disease? Have you ever worried about your job? Your kids? A relationship ending? Have you ever been afraid that you are out of control in some area of your life?

Once we've faced our fears, it is important to **EXAMINE** our fears. We should ask ourselves, "Why am I afraid?" Am I afraid of failing because I will look bad? Am I afraid of losing my job because my entire identity is wrapped up in what I do? Am I afraid of losing my health because I don't want to be dependent on others? Why am I afraid? **EXAMINE** your fears.

After we **FACE** and **EXAMINE** our fears, we then can ask God to help us **OVERCOME** those fears. This is where faith comes in ... believing that Jesus can help me change. Believing that no matter what is going on in my life or in the world, that God does have the final word.

Ask God to help you **OVERCOME** those fears you have. Have you asked for God's help with whatever you are afraid of? What are you waiting for? You don't have to face those fears alone. Oh, from the outside things might not look much different. Our world will still be the same. The situation and the circumstances leading to those fears will undoubtedly remain, but **YOU** will be different. God will help you, and with God's help you will **LIVE ABOVE YOUR FEARS!**

AMEN.

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

*Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.
—Martin Luther King Jr.*



Last year on precisely today's date, one of our granddaughters was married at a beautiful location in Vermont. We flew into Hartford, and then rented a car and headed north on the interstate. We went through Springfield, Massachusetts, which is the home of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. So, we stopped and had a great time.

In today's reading from Hebrews 11, we are given a glimpse into the Bible's "Hall of Faith"! It is known as the "faith chapter" of the Bible because it chronicles the lives of men and women whose trust in God shaped their actions and altered history. From Abel to Abraham, this chapter reveals the heart of faith: *a confident trust in God's promises, even when circumstances make them seem impossible.*

The reading forces us to ask questions about how healthy and strong our faith is. What promises of God do you need to trust in this season of your life? How can you live out your faith in a way that inspires others?

These are important questions. Fortunately, we know that faith is not blind optimism or wishful thinking; it is a deeply rooted assurance in the character of God. Verse 6 reminds us that "without faith, it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Faith acknowledges that God exists and is faithful to his promises. The chapter gives us numerous examples.

Consider Abraham, who was promised descendants as numerous as the stars. His unwavering faith not only honored God but also set an example for all believers. Faith enables us to act in obedience, even when we do not fully understand God's plan.

- Noah built an ark in preparation for a flood he had never seen.
- Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea, trusting God to make a way.

These acts of faith were not grounded in visible evidence but in the assurance of God's faithfulness. As Christians, our faith is anchored in Jesus Christ, "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

What an incredible Hall of Faith this chapter gives us! How can we not fail to be inspired by the lives of those who walked by faith and not by sight?

May we, like the HOFers of Hebrews 11, walk in faith, pleasing God and glorifying God's name.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Thank you, O God, that you will meet me where I am in order to take me where you want me to go. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: James 1-2
 Monday: Jeremiah 9-12
 Tuesday: Jeremiah 13-16
 Wednesday: Jeremiah 17-20
 Thursday: Jeremiah 21-23
 Friday: Jeremiah 24-26
 Saturday: Psalms 85-87

VERSE TO REMEMBER

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. —James 1:5

Things in Common

What is one thing shared by all three items in the same group?

- A: a cow, a shoe, a baby
 B: a doctor's office, a post office, music
 C: a zipper, a shark, a comb
 D: restaurant goer, a bird, the Senate
 E: a potato, a hurricane, a target
 F: a river, a person, a cave

Answers: *Things in Common* — A. a tongue, B. a scale (or a key), C. teeth, D. a bill, E. an eye, F. a mouth.
Yea or Nay? — Yes. The day before the day after the day before today was yesterday. The day after the day before today is today. And the day before today was yesterday. That is why yesterday was hotter than today.
Riddle 1 — An ear of corn or a chicken.
Riddle 2 — By going from one spot to another.
THE SAME AS — 1. Pressure; 2. Effectiveness; 3. Lively; 4. Disaster; 5. Humanistic; 6. Expedite; 7. Undefinable; 8. Agreement; 9. Obedient; 10. Insistent.

Yea or Nay?

Read the following question and then answer with either a "yes" or a "no."

If the day before the day after the day before today was hotter than the day after the day before today, was the day before today hotter than today?

THE SAME AS ... Can you identify the word that has a similar meaning (synonym)?

1. COERCE: reduce, mislead, improve, pressure.
2. EFFICACY: effectiveness, effortlessly, emergency, morality.
3. EBULLIENT: daring, violent, lively, ready.
4. CATAclysm: wonder, disaster, miracle, session.
5. ALTRUISTIC: greedy, humanistic, selfish, inconsiderate.
6. FACILITATE: worsen, hurt, block, expedite.
7. ENIGMA: undefinable, appease, clarify, enlighten
8. CONSENSUS: agreement, denial, refusal, opposition.
9. DOCILE: observant, obedient, headstrong, resistant.
10. EMPHATIC: weak, insistent, remorseful, trite.

RIDDLE 1

You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?

RIDDLE 2

What is the only way a leopard will change his spots?



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Service
August 10, 2025 - 10AM
Ninth Sunday of Pentecost

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" by St. Francis of Assisi, Arr. and chorus by David Crowder (Public Domain, Arr. c 2003 worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps Music/ASCAP, CCLI Song No. 3608102, CCLI Lic. 2032355)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise Him, Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam;
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O praise Him, Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness.
O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one.
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
O Alleluia! Alleluia! O Alleluia! Alleluia!
O Alleluia! Alleluia! O Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit..

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,
 You free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
 You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
 You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.
 In your mercy, forgive us.
 Do not give up on us.
 Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.
 Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
 And you are God's children through faith.
 In the cross of +Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
 Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
 Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together...

C: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lesson 1	Genesis 15:1-6	Page 11 in the cranberry Bible Page 13 in the red Bible
Lesson 2	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Page 1096 in the cranberry Bible Page 242 in the red Bible
Gospel	Luke 12:32-40	Page 949 in the cranberry Bible Page 76 in the red Bible

Kids' Talk

Pr. Ted Niemi

Children are now invited - but not required - to go with the adult leader to kids' church in classroom 2 during the sermon. They will return in time for communion with their families.

Sermon "Living Above" Pr. Ted Niemi

Sermon Hymn "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" #774 (vv. 1-3)
 Song Leaders and Congregation

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
 what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Refrain

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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

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

Sharing the Peace

Special Music

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ", words by Fred Kaan, Jamaican Folk Tune adapted by Doreen Potter (c 1975 Hope Publishing Company)
Ken Berg, Solo

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Communion shall be served using the method known as "intinction": the wafer will be handed to you, and you will dip the wafer into either the gold chalice of wine, or the ceramic chalice of grape juice. For those who are not able to come up for communion, please just remain seated and our ushers will be happy to direct the communion servers to bring communion right to you. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to come up for communion to receive an animal cracker (unless otherwise advised by the parent or guardian). Please come, for all are welcome.

Communion Hymn "Lead Me; Guide Me" #768 (vv. 1-3) Song Leaders and Congregation

Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
Refrain

2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
Refrain

3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
Refrain

Blessing

Closing Hymn "Soon and Very Soon" #439 (vv. 1-4) Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

2. No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

3. No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there,, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

4. Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Sending

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Susan Berg, Piano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer Needed—Instagram Posts



The church is needing someone to step up and begin doing the Instagram post for the upcoming events and activities.

Food Pantry Needs Restocking

We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9 - 1PM.



God's Work. Our Hands.—Saturday 9/6



Our congregation will be participating again this year in the ELCA's nationwide service project on Saturday, September 6th. Lutheran congregations throughout the U.S. will be serving our communities on this particular weekend in all kinds of different ways, and Good Shepherd is no exception.

The Lutheran Hunger Network will take place here that morning, and we will also be putting together "Blessing Bags" that afternoon for our Westside Rescue friends to distribute to their human clients. We are also baking, cooking, and/or shopping for our Roeding Elementary staff so we can provide them with a welcome back spread on the 8th. Please bring your items to the kitchen on Rally Sunday labeled "Roeding."

If you have any ideas for other group projects, please see Janet Mc or me. You are also more than welcome to come up with an individual project or a neighborhood project on your own. Start making your plans now as to how you'd like to participate, be sure to wear your yellow GWOH t-shirt, and take some pictures!

We hope to see everyone involved in some way. Thank You!
Shalom,

Julie, 559-287-3457 or 13jdixon13@gmail.com

P.S. Please see me, text, or email immediately if you don't have the yellow shirt and would like one ordered. The order has to be placed by **August 15th** to be here in time.

"At the Table" VBS @ 5:45!



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Tonight is our last "At the Table" VBS!

We'd love to have you join us!!

Join us for some summer fun, friends, & food! The

schedule will be as follows:

Dinner: 5:45-6:15

Opening: 6:15 followed by classes for all ages 6:30-7:30

Snacks & Music: 7:30-8

Save the date - 10/11 & 10/29

Save the date - 10/11 & 10/29 - Oktoberfest & Trunk or Treat!! Plan now to come out and support these safe and fun community events!



Crafting Fair on Rally Day: HVAC Fund!



Shout out to all crafters. There will be a craft fair at Good Shepherd on Rally Day Sept 7. Mary Norris will be running a craft goods table. If inspired, there will be crafting items available. Show off your crafts by donating them to the craft fair. All proceeds will go to the HVAC fund. Contact Pam Gerster for details and donations. 559-999-5443 . Remember bakers are crafters too!

Many Thanks!!

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteer Counters who have committed for the month of August to sort the Sunday Offering and prepare the weekly deposit.

August 3rd Art Mehl

August 10th Jim and Ruth Thompson

August 17th Yvonne and Steven Smith

August 24th Diane Fake and Dee Wright

August 31st Pam Gerster



HVAC GoFundMe Fundraiser Goes Live

Support New HVAC at Good Shepherd
Fresno



The Good Shepherd HVAC GoFundMe fundraiser is now live on it's website. <https://gofund.me/05d79cff>

Please send this link: to family, friends, businesses etc., via Facebook, email and any other social media platforms to get the word out to raise funds for a new HVAC system. We have a fundraising goal of \$150,000 to support the purchase of a new HVAC system.

Dear Family, Friends and Supporters,

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno, with it's iconic tent style roof, is in desperate need to replace the antiquated HVAC system. Our church has been unable to provide a comfortable environment for our congregation to gather and praise together for the past two years inside our sanctuary. We have had to use our Jacobson Hall to provide service to our congregation.

Every donation, big or small, will make a tremendous difference. Together, we can bring warmth back to our church and restore the place where our community worships and grows faith. Thank you for your support. We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Blessings, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno

Thank you, Reynaldo Villalobos



Rally Day GATHERING

Sunday, Sept. 7 @ 10am

Please join us for worship, food, and fun as we celebrate the end of summer with Rally Day. This year we will be serving barbeque after our 10a.m. Rally Day Worship, and the congregation is invited to bring salads and sides to share. We will have our traditional ice cream sundaes for dessert. **Help raise funds to replace our HVAC unit with purchases from the bake sale, book sale, and craft sale!**

*Lunch and Refreshments

*Ice Cream Sundaes

*Bounce House/Waterslide (for the kids)

*Craft/Book/Bake Sale

www.fresnogslc.org

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
(559) 225-2092