



All people  
will know  
that you  
are my  
followers  
if you love  
each other.

JOHN 13:35, NCV



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Worship Service  
May 18, 2025 - 10AM  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Prelude**

"Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him"  
By Roland H. Prichard, Arr. By Lani Smith  
Susan Berg, Organist

**Announcements**

**Opening Songs**

"Your Love is Extravagant"  
"How Great is Our God"  
"Praise"  
Praise Band and Congregation

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross.*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of +the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** We pray together...

**C:** O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

<b>Lesson 1</b>	Acts 11:1-18	Page 1003 in the cranberry Bible Page 135 in the red Bible
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Revelation 21:1-6	Page 1132 in the cranberry Bible Page 282 in the red Bible
<b>Gospel</b>	John 13:31-35	Page 982 in the cranberry Bible Page 112 in the red Bible

### **Kids' Talk**

Julie Werfelmann

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.

<b>Sermon</b>	"Can People Tell You Are A Christian?"	Pr. Ted Niemi
<b>Sermon Hymn</b>	"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Song Leaders (Congregation Join)	Hymn 631 (vv. 1-2, 4)

### **Apostles' Creed**

### **Prayers of the Church**

### **Sharing the Peace**

<b>Special Music</b>	"Always Loving Him" By Bryan Jeffery Leech, Arr. By Roland Tabell Choral Ensemble
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### **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.

<b>Communion Hymn</b>	"Jesus Loves Me"	Hymn 595
	Song Leaders (Congregation Please Join)	(vv. 1-3)

## **Blessing**

<b>Closing Song</b>	"Let it Rise"
	Praise Band and Congregation

## **Sending**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

**P:** Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

<b>Postlude</b>	"Rise, Go Joyously into Life" By Lani Smith
	Susan Berg, Organist



Sunday, May 18, 2025

## Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

*Tears are made of one percent water and 99 percent prayers. —Anon.*

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In Revelation 21:1-6, we encounter one of the most beautiful promises in Scripture: the renewal of all creation — offering hope to anyone who has experienced pain, loss or brokenness. God is not only bringing an end to suffering but replacing it with something entirely new — a world where sorrow and death are no more. Imagine!

Not only will suffering end, but the tears that so often accompany suffering will dry up as fast as a dewdrop in Death Valley. Think about the tears we shed and their purpose and function. We know that tears serve emotional, physiological and social purposes, making them essential for both mental and physical well-being. Biologically, they act as a microbial wash to keep the eyes lubricated and protect against irritants. Emotional tears, on the other hand, release stress-related chemicals which can reduce tension and improve mood.

There's more. When your body is racked by a torrent of tears, it's very definitely expressing vulnerability, and could be a way of seeking comfort. Crying also allows us to process grief, sadness and joy, thus promoting emotional healing. Spiritually, tears can symbolize repentance or spiritual renewal, marking profound moments of personal transformation.

In short, tears remind us that we're human.

Here's my question: Can you imagine a world without tears? Yes, if you can imagine a world without suffering, illness, hatred, wickedness and evil. Would not that be the most wonderful thing in the world?

In this passage, the apostle John reminds us that no matter how broken our lives may seem, God is in the business of restoration. The Creator is not finished with us yet. The reading for today is a call to persevere and to hold fast to faith, knowing that God's promise of renewal is certain.

Perhaps, now, a simple tear of joy is permissible!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord, thank you for the promise that you are making all things new. Help us to live with hope, even in the midst of brokenness, knowing that you are working out your perfect plan. Give us faith to trust in your promises and to embrace the joy of your presence. Amen.*

Week of May 18, 2025

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 22-24

Monday: 2 Samuel 9-12

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 13-15

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 16-18

Thursday: 2 Samuel 19-21

Friday: 2 Samuel 22-24

Saturday: Psalms 49-51

## Verse to Remember

*The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

—Psalm 51:17

## The Peril of Plurals

Tobias Schmidt is an international student from Hamburg, Germany. He is having trouble learning the plural forms of nouns in English. Can you help him? This study sheet is from his "English as a Second Language" class. What are the plural forms of the following nouns?

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. beau _____       | 11. crisis _____     |
| 2. hypothesis _____ | 12. leaf _____       |
| 3. alumnus _____    | 13. potato _____     |
| 4. scarf _____      | 14. fish _____       |
| 5. sheep _____      | 15. attorney _____   |
| 6. salmon _____     | 16. philosophy _____ |
| 7. son-in-law _____ | 17. church _____     |
| 8. mouse _____      | 18. wife _____       |
| 9. ax _____         | 19. deer _____       |
| 10. goose _____     | 20. moose _____      |

**ANSWERS:**

1. beaux or beaus
2. hypotheses
3. alumni
4. scarves or scarfs
5. sheep
6. salmon/s
7. sons-in-law
8. mice
9. axes
10. geese
11. crises
12. leaves
13. potatoes
14. fish (species=fishes)
15. attorneys
16. philosophies
17. churches
18. wives
19. deer
20. moose





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

**Members Needing  
Prayer:**

Mona White  
Julie Werfelmann  
Dee Wright  
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:**

Steve Lower (Terstegen)  
Jade Dixon (Julie)  
Kathy (Secretary) and Family  
Elaine (Werfelmann)  
Linda Healy (White)  
Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)  
Barbara Shakespeare  
Phoebe (Neer)  
Phil (Anderson)  
Gary Assmussen (Deuker)  
Irene Goldman (Dueker)  
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)  
Betty (Anderson)  
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




## GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

### The New Commandment

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, <sup>33</sup> God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

A photograph of a stone bridge over a river, with dense foliage in the foreground. The bridge has a wooden railing and is supported by stone pillars. The river is visible in the background, and the foreground is filled with green plants and branches.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Shoe Fund Raiser

This fundraiser is for 60 days starting from 5/11/25 thru 7/20/25. Start collecting your shoes starting now and the truck will come to pick them all up around August 18<sup>th</sup> or 19th.

### Volunteer Needed—Instagram Posts



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

### OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

Financial Secretary & Counters Needed  
**Counter Job Description (2 counters each week):**



- Collect tithes and offerings from collection plate
- Check the Financial Secretary mailbox for checks received from previous week
- Total all checks and cash, provide adding machine tape for Treasurer
- Make copies of all checks for data entry purposes (include on the copy the cash received; I just handwrite this)
- Prepare Bank of America deposit slip and place in B of A deposit bag.

Take to the bank (This May be done by Financial Secretary or Treasurer)

Financial Secretary Job Description

Weekly:

- From copy of checks enter in "ICON" our church financial software
- Email to Treasurer the weekly report of donations

Monthly:

Every month provide to Kathy the fund totals of donations for the newsletter, this report is run from ICON

Quarterly:

Every quarter run statements for our donors and end of year the full year for our donors

We are also in need of a Property person.

*Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann*



## Wednesday Bible Study



We have begun *The Gospel on the Ground* which picks up as the gospel begins spreading with the new church. The book is available from your usual book seller. *The Gospel on the Ground* is also written by Kristi McLelland. Mark your calendars, get a copy of the study book, and plan to join us in the Community Center, Wednesday's at **6:30pm**.

## Collecting Books for Summer Reading!

We will once again be providing books to the entire student population over at Roeding. We have a good start thanks to Thrivent's generosity, but we can always use more. Please bring in new or gently used books for preschool through 8th grade. Thanks for your support of our adopted school!



## OWLS Gathering May 19th @ Noon



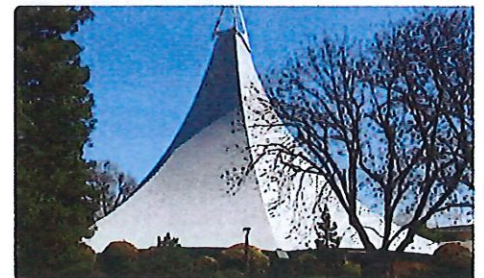
Hooties, let it all hang out at Gloria Miller's on May 19th, NOON. Diane will conduct the activities. Bring: A LABELLED dish to share, Your ENTIRE table service, Energy to play UNO ??? See Sandy T for a map & to sign up.

## HVAC GoFundMe Fundraiser Goes Live

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.

Support New HVAC at Good Shepherd Fresno



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