The background of the image is a scenic photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, there are steep, green slopes. In the middle ground, there are several mountain peaks, some of which are covered in snow or have patches of white. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall tone of the image is peaceful and majestic.

**"I TELL YOU ...
UNLESS YOU
REPENT.
YOU TOO WILL
*ALL PERISH."***

Luke 13:5, NIV

UPCOMING Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS March

- Mar. 23** - Making Soup with Suzie @ 11:15AM
Mar 26 - Lenten Gathering, Soup @ 1:15PM and class @ 7PM, Jacobson Hall
Mar. 26 - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr. Ted's Office
Mar 30 - Brunch and Brainstorming @ 11AM, Jacobson Hall

April

- Apr. 2** - Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:30PM, Pr. Ted's Office
Apr. 2, 9 - Soup Supper @ 6:15PM & class @ 7PM Jacobson Hall
Apr. 5 - LHN Free Neighborhood Market @ 8-12PM, GSLC Host
Apr. 13 - Palm Sunday
Apr. 14 - Esther Circle @ 6PM, Comm Ctr
Apr. 15 - Tax Day
Apr. 17 - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall
Apr. 17 - Maundy Thursday Service @ 7PM, Jacobson Hall
Apr. 18 - Good Friday Service @ 7PM, Jacobson Hall
Apr. 20 - Sunrise Service @ 8AM
 Pancake Breakfast @ 8:30AM
 Worship Service @ 10AM
 Easter Egg Hunt @ 11AM
Apr. 21 - OWLS @ 12PM, The Fake's Home
Apr. 23 & 30 - Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30PM, Comm Ctr
Apr. 30 - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr. Ted's Office
Apr. 30 - KingsMen/KingsKids' @ 7:30PM, Jacobson Hall

WEEKLY Sneak Peek

SUNDAY, March 23

- 10am: Worship Service
11am: Coffee Social
11:15am: Making Soup w/ Susie
11:15: Salt & Light, Class Rm 2

MONDAY, March 24

TUESDAY, March 25

- 6pm - 10pm: Voices United, Comm Ctr
 6:30pm: Pentecostal Tabernacle, Jacobson Hall

WEDNESDAY, March 26

- 6:15pm: Soup Supper, Jacobson Hall**

- 7pm: Lenten Study, Jacobson Hall**

THURSDAY, March 27

FRIDAY, March 28

- 6pm - 10pm: Men's Choir, Comm Ctr

SATURDAY, March 29

SUNDAY, March 30

- 10am: Worship Service
11am: Brunch & Brainstorm
11:15am: Making Soup w/ Susie

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Service
March 23, 2025 - 10AM
Third Sunday of Lent

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn "When Morning Gilds the Skies"
Song Leaders and Congregation Hymn 853
(vv. 1, 3-5)

1. When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries;
may Jesus Christ be praised! When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call: may Jesus Christ be praised!

3. No lovelier antiphon in all high heav'n is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised!" There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard: oh, Jesus Christ be praised!

4. Let all of humankind in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised!

5. Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!" God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore shall Jesus Christ be praised!

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives don't always reflect you and your love for the world.

We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.
We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.
In +Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together...

C: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Special Music

"The Lord Is in This Holy Temple" by Douglas E. Wagner (c 2004 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation)
Choral Ensemble with The Good Shepherd Chimes

Lesson 1	Isaiah 55:1-9	Page 671 in the cranberry Bible Page 760 in the red Bible
Lesson 2	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Page 1044 in the cranberry Bible Page 180 in the red Bible
Gospel	Luke 13:1-9	Page 950 in the cranberry Bible Page 77 in the red Bible

Sermon	"Repentance—Who Needs It!"	Ken Berg
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Sermon Hymn	"Wonderful Merciful Savior" by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse (c 1989 Dayspring Music LLC, Word Music LLC) CCLI Song #106879, CCLI License #2032355 Song Leaders and Congregation	
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1. Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Chorus:

You are the One that we praise. You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
oh, our hearts always hunger for.

2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way.
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

Chorus

3. Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne.
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.

Chorus

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Sharing the Peace

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

3-23-2025 Contemporary/Traditional Worship

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Father, your ways are higher than our ways. You see the world and each life with a perspective that is beyond our understanding. In the Old Testament lesson, God gives us an invitation to choose what is truly important in life. Isaiah says "*Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?*" Rather, God says, "*Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.*" **Lord in your mercy...**

Isaiah continues, "*Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.*" God's offer of New Life is available to all who come to him. "*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.*" **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that all people everywhere would seek after the God of Creation and find the restoration and forgiveness that can make them a New Creation. Lord, you look down on the people you created and weep over the pathways they have chosen. You want to give us so much more than we know. Yet, we chose the ways of the world around us, a world dominated and ruled by the enemy of our souls. Forgive us, Lord. **Lord in your mercy...**

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and new life. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? **Lord in your mercy...**

Isaiah declares God's words: "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*" Lord, give us the courage to choose you every day that we might walk in the light and victory of Jesus Christ, our Lord. In his mighty name, we pray. **Amen.** CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music

"In Thee Abundant Grace" words by John S. B. Monsell, music by Craig Courtney (c 1987 by Fred Bock Music Company),
Choral Ensemble

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

"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"
Song Leaders and Congregation

Hymn 777
(vv. 1, 3-4)

1. "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live."

Refrain:

Jesus, overflowing fountain, give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

3. "Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face."

Refrain

4. "Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain

Blessing

Closing Song

"Rock of Ages" by Rita Baloché (c 1997 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing) CCLI Song #2240547, CCLI License #2032355
Song Leaders and Congregation

Verse:

There is no rock, there is no rock like our God.
No other name worthy of all our praise.
The Rock of Salvation that cannot be moved,
He's proven Himself to be faithful and true.
There is no god like ours.
(Repeat Verse)

Chorus:

Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock.
Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock.
Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock.
There is no rock, there is no god like ours.

(Repeat Verse and Chorus)

There is no rock, there is no god like ours.
There is no rock, there is no god like ours.
Rock of Ages.

Sending

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Susan Berg, Piano

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

**Members Needing
Prayer:**

Dee Wright
Rev. Dr. Arlynn
Turnquist
Mona White
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)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family
(Werfelmann)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
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

Luke 13:1-9

Repent or Perish

13 At that very time there were some present who told Jesus ^[a] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem?" ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Third Sunday in Lent, March 23, 2025

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door. —Milton Berle

Our reading for this Sunday has many wonderful verses worth some serious meditation. But today, I want to lift up one verse: “Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near” (v. 6). The idea is well-known:

- “A bird in hand is better than two in the bush.”
- “Strike while the iron is hot.”
- “Window of opportunity.”
- “Carpe diem.”
- “Make hay while the sun is shining.”

We get the point: a wise person will take action at the most opportune time, lest the opportunity disappear.

What is striking is that the Bible often suggests that opportunities for spiritual growth or even salvation *are not always available!*

You'd think that it would not matter *when* we seek the Lord. Why? Because God is *always* available, isn't he? Like an ER doctor, or insurance people. The idea that we might seek the Lord and not be able to find him is absurd! Right?

Verse 6 suggests otherwise: “... While he may be found ... while he is near.” These phrases imply that certain *moments in our lives are particularly ripe for seeking God*. These are often times when our hearts are more attuned to spiritual matters — moments of crisis, transition or deep reflection. During such times, we are more likely to sense God's presence and respond to his call. This doesn't mean that God is unavailable at other times, but rather that there are seasons in life when we are more receptive to the divine presence.

Even the apostle Paul made reference to the most propitious time to respond to God's call to repentance: “See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

You might want to call on God now, because *our human hearts can grow hard or indifferent*. Moreover, there is great *danger when we delay*. Spiritual opportunities can pass us by if we're not attentive.

Let's not let this opportunity to call upon the Lord to slip by us.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Gracious God, may I respond to the call to seek you earnestly, consistently, and with an open heart, ensuring that I will not miss divine opportunities to draw closer to you. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Numbers 18-20

Monday: Numbers 21-24

Tuesday: Numbers 25-27

Wednesday: Numbers 28-30

Thursday: Numbers 31-33

Friday: Numbers 34-36

Saturday: Psalms 31-32

VERSE TO REMEMBER

*Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

—Psalm 32:1

FIND THE MESSAGE

Directions: The readings in Numbers this week describe some of the events the children of Israel experienced while on their long sojourn in the wilderness. Below, using the clues provided, write the words in the spaces to the right of the clues. **The first letter of each word**, when read from top to bottom, should reveal a hidden message that relates to the wilderness experience. Write the message on the line below.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. To rip into shreds | — — — — |
| 2. To track wild game | — — — — |
| 3. Home to Adam and Eve | — — — — |
| 4. Middle Eastern tree | — — — — |
| 5. A form of precipitation | — — — — |
| 6. Columbus is its capital | — — — — |
| 7. Another word meaning "Christ" | — — — — — — — |
| 8. Old Testament book with 66 chapters | — — — — — — |
| 9. The first king of Israel | — — — — |
| 10. Also known as "wapiti" | — — — |
| 11. This river forms part of the western border of New Jersey | — — — — — — — |
| 12. Smaller than an ocean or sea | — — — — |
| 13. Noah put animals into this | — — — |
| 14. First name of astronaut Armstrong | — — — — |
| 15. The capital of Colorado | — — — — — |

Hidden Message:

Answers:
 1. tear
 2. hunt
 3. Eden
 4. palm
 5. rain
 6. Ohio
 7. Messiah
 8. Isaiah
 9. Saul
 10. elk
 11. Delaware
 12. lake
 13. ark
 14. Neil
 15. Denver
 Hidden message: The promised land

ANNOUNCEMENTS

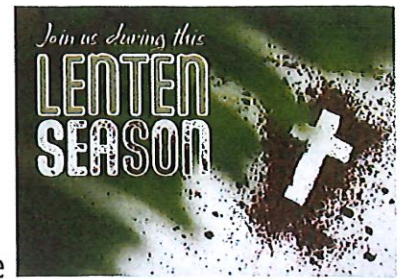
Join Us Wednesdays For Lent

For all the Wednesdays of Lent we will be offering food for the body and soul.

6:15 Soup Supper in Jacobson Hall

7-8 Adult Class with Pastor Ted & Kids' Time with Julie.

Please plan to make Wednesday nights @ Good Shepherd part of your Lenten journey this year. Come and be fed!



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)

NEW VOLUNTEER
POSSIBILITIES

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:

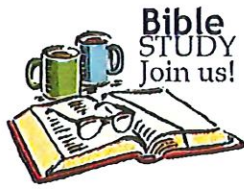
Every quarter run statements for our donors and end of year the full year for our donors

We are also in need of a Property person.

Shalom. Peace. Paz.

Julie Werfelmann

Wednesday Bible Study



Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study is not meeting during Lent. We have very much enjoyed the study of ***Luke in the Land*** by Kristi McLelland. BEGINNING **April 23**, the Wednesday after Easter, we will begin *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 at **6:30 on April 23**.

We will use the soup we make on Sunday mornings for each Wednesday Soup Supper during Lent. If you'd like to help offset the cost of food supplies, please see Suzie. We will also put out a basket for a free will offering each Wednesday night and a sign up sheet for people to take turns bringing bread.

Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann

Prayer List

If you no longer need to be on the prayer list please let Kathy know so she can remove you from the list. Unless notified, all names will remain as they are.



GSLC Brunch and Brainstorm—HVAC Capital Campaign



March 30, 2025

Calling all Good Shepherd Lutheran Church members and congregants!

Join us in Jacobson Hall on

Sunday March 30, 2025,

for a Brunch and Brainstorming session immediately after church

We are looking for fund-raising ideas for our HVAC Capital Campaign and to sign up for

"Talents, Gifts and Service Auction"

Please join us for a time of brainstorming and fellowship!

Lunch will be provided and prepared by Steve & Janet McQuillan!

Your Church Council is excited to share our ideas for the Capital Campaign and to hear any and all of your ideas for getting back into our Sanctuary Year-Round!

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!



Thank YOU!

Many Thanks to Tom and Jo For Helping Make Both Soups!
Thanks also to Jill and Kay for Supplying the Bread for the
First 2 Lenten Gatherings! Kudos to Chef Suzie for shopping
and teaching and making delicious, nutritious soups for us to
enjoy on the Wednesdays of Lent!



Roeding Saturday Update



We had a great time crafting and playing with the Roeding children and some of their families on March 8th. Thanks to Jo and Woody from GS and Celia and Krystal from Roeding for volunteering and helping to make the day both safe and fun for all. Hope to see some of you next month on 4/12!

Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday

We had such a great time!! Mikey found the most letters from the word Alleluia and won the special saxophone Mardi Gras beads, and Tom was our Mardi Gras king because he found the baby Jesus in his cake. He led us in a parade around Jacobson where we strutted our stuff to Louis Armstrong's "When the Saints Go Marching In." We played games, ate together, and laughed a ton! Thanks to Janet for providing the ham, cheesy potatoes, and all the toppings, to everyone for staying to help clean up, and to Tom & Carol for cooking all the pancakes. It was one of the best yet!



KingsMen/KingsKids' Wednesday April 30th



The next KingsMen and KingsKids meeting will be on Wednesday April 30th at 6:30 pm. We will be kicking off Spring with a KingsMen classic: pizza!! I shall provide the pizza. If you can provide a salad or dessert, that would be appreciated of course. Thank you.

Will

OWLS Gathering April 21st

Gordon and Diane Fake have announced their next tour will be to the mainland of Greece and the Greek Islands. Embarkment is set for April 21, NOON. HOOTIES are to bring their ENTIRE table service and a dish to share. Find that passport and pack your Chiton (tunic) and Himation (draped cloak) for an enjoyable visit of the Hellenic Paradise.

