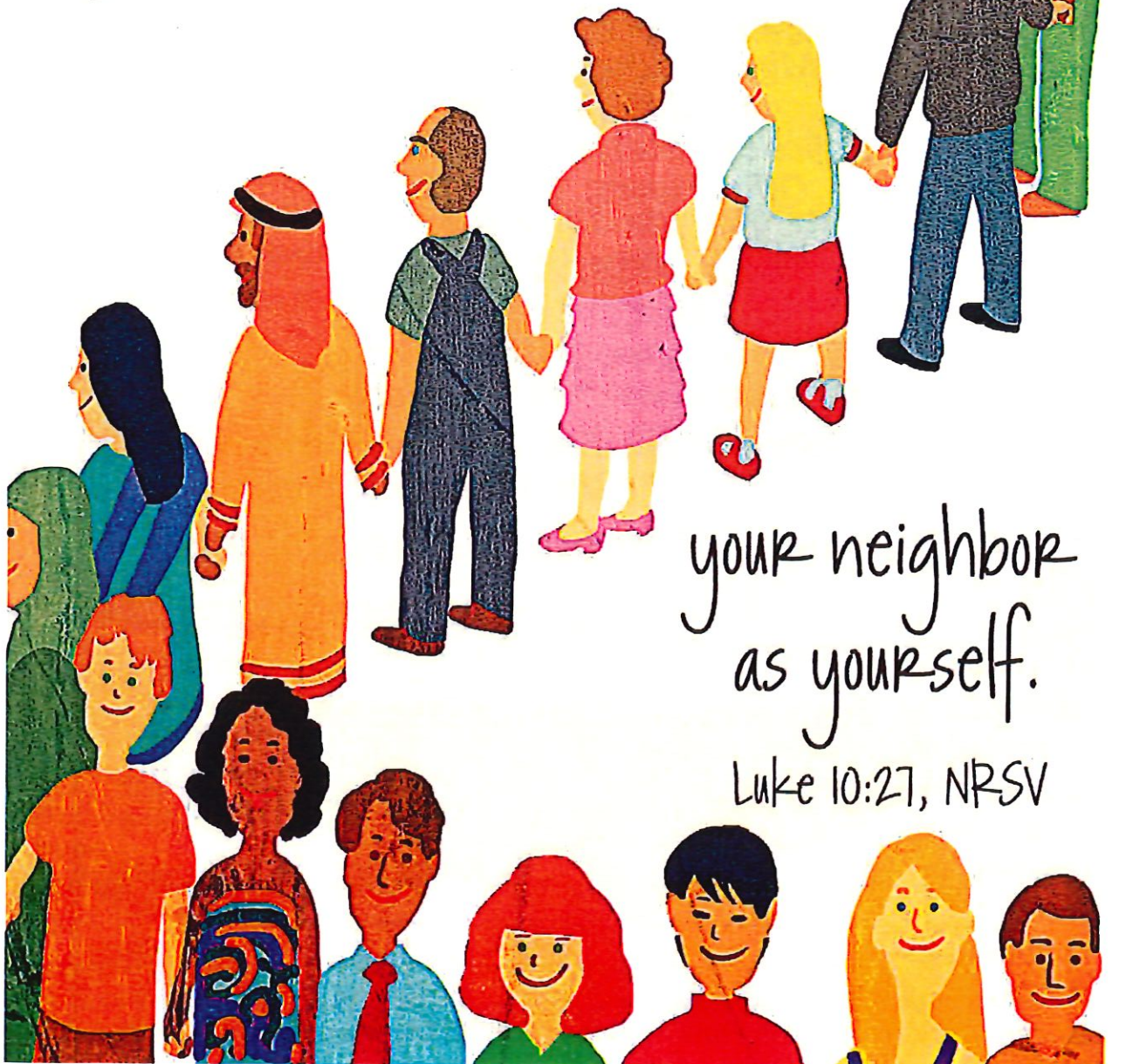




You shall love ...



your neighbor  
as yourself.

Luke 10:27, NRSV



# UPCOMING *Events*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July

**July 2** - Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:30PM, Pr. Ted's Office

**July 2** - GSLC Summer Book Club @ 6:30PM, Comm Ctr

**July 12** - LHN Free Neighborhood Market @ 8-12PM

**July 20 & 27** - VBS @ 5:45PM (Dinner), Jacobson Hall; 6:30PM (Classes), Jacobson Hall and Comm Ctr

**July 30** - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr. Ted's Office

**July 30** - KingsMen/KingsKids' @ 6:30PM, Jacobson Hall

### August

**Aug. 2** - LHN Free Neighborhood Market @ 8-12PM

**Aug. 2** - GSLC Summer Book Club @ 9:30AM, Comm Ctr

**Aug. 3 & 10** - VBS @ 5:45PM (Dinner); 6:30PM (Classes)

**Aug. 6** Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:30PM, Pr. Ted's Office

**Aug. 15** - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall

# WEEKLY *Sneak Peek*

## SUNDAY, July 13

10am: Worship Service

**11:15: Coffee Social**

**11:15am: Salt & Light, Class Rm 2**

## MONDAY, July 14

## TUESDAY, July 15

6pm - 10pm: Voices United, Comm Ctr

## WEDNESDAY, July 16

## THURSDAY, July 17

## FRIDAY, July 18

7pm: Accion de Fe, Comm Ctr

## SATURDAY, July 19

## SUNDAY, July 20

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**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**Worship Service**  
**July 13, 2025 - 10AM**  
**Fifth Sunday of Pentecost**

**Prelude** Susan Berg, Piano

**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn** "For the Beauty of the Earth" #879 (vv. 1-5)  
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
5. For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven;  
for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely given:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

**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:** O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
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

<b>Lesson 1</b>	Deuteronomy 30:9-14	Page 185 in the cranberry Bible Page 213 in the red Bible
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Colossians 1:1-14	Page 1072 in the cranberry Bible Page 202 in the red Bible
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 10:25-37	Page 946 in the cranberry Bible Page 73 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**

"Closer To The Heart Of Jesus"

Pr. Ted Niemi

## **Sermon Hymn**

"We Are Called" #720 (vv. 1-3)

Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and blindness will be no more.

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

## **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**

"Alleluia, from Exultate Jubilate" by Wolfgang  
Amadeus Mozart, Arr. Stephen DeCesare (c 2018,  
2020 Exultet Music)  
John Montgomery, Cello 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**     "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"  
Song Leaders and Congregation # 502 (vv. 1-2, 5-6)

1. The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth  
and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight from they put chalice floweth!
6. And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faith never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within they house forever.

### **Blessing**

**Closing Hymn**     "Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)" by Paul Baloche and  
Brenton Brown (c 2205, 2006 Thankyou Music/  
Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI Song #4662491,  
CCLI License # 2032355)  
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You; We turn to you;  
Hope is stirring hearts are yearning for You; We long for You;

Chorus:

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day;  
In your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.  
Hosanna, hosanna, You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises;  
Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way among us;  
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.

2. Hear the sound of hearts returning to You; We turn to You;  
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new;  
Chorus

**Sending**

**P:** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**      Susan Berg, Piano

## **CLOSER TO THE HEART OF JESUS**

***preaching text: Luke 10:25-37***

This week it became legal for churches to endorse political parties and candidates. We won't lose our tax exempt status like we would have in the past. I want to assure you that is not going to happen. I will never tell you who to vote for.

My sermon today is not political. It is about Jesus. It is also about us because whether we are going to follow Jesus' example or not is up to us.

I like to think my religion affects all areas of my life, including politics. In case there was any question whatsoever in terms of contemporary issues what is right and what is wrong Jesus is very clear here. For some of us, we will hear Jesus' words and take them to heart. And, I imagine, there will be those who will dismiss his words as impractical because it goes so against your politics. It is interesting how we can have different reactions to the same Bible story.

Today we hear about someone who was not afraid to help. Jesus tells this story after an expert in the Law asks Jesus how he can get to eternal life. But, says Luke, this expert in the Law wanted "to justify himself." That's an interesting phrase, isn't it? He wanted to justify himself and so he asked Jesus, "*And who is my neighbor?*"

There are 3 basic attitudes about life in this great story that say a lot about a person. First, we have the lawyer who asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. His attitude was basically: **"What's in it for me?"** Think about his question to Jesus, "*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*" He's not asking what he can do to build a better world. He's not asking even what he can do to be a better person. All he's interested in is finding out what he must do to get into Heaven.



It's an increasing reality of our complex society where there are so many real needs. We need to see that because we are connected to one another in God's family, they are really our problems. So the first attitude we see: What's in it for me? The second attitude: Not my problem.

These are the basic problems I see with the direction we are heading in today. Medicaid benefits for people living in abject poverty are being cut so we can give a \$4 trillion tax cut to the billionaires. There is something profoundly evil about the richest man in the world taking away food and medicine from the poorest among us. If we hear Jesus' words and think these things are ok, we are fooling ourselves!

Then there is the Samaritan. His attitude is: **“What can I do to help?”**

Jews and Samaritans despised each other. And that's significant, of course. It does make it even more remarkable that he helped him. The Samaritan was a foreigner. How have we been treating foreigners lately? ICE has a bigger budget than the IRS now . People are being rounded up, caged, and sent to the other side of the world. South Sudan? ICE was supposed to be picking up just criminals. Instead there have been instances of innocent brown people being indiscriminately shipped out of our country without any rights.

No matter what else he saw, the most important thing was that this foreigner was programmed to see someone in need. Whoever it was, here was someone in need and he responded. He simply acted and did what needed to be done. Thank God that there are people like that. There are people like that here today.

Three attitudes. Where do you stand? Which dominates your life? What's in it for me? Not my problem? Or, what can I do to help?



Sunday, July 13, 2025

## Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37

*The first question the priest and Levite asked was, “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?” But the good Samaritan reversed the question: “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?” —Martin Luther King Jr.*



Thomas Merton (1915–1968) was an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion. And a prolific writer. He has an interesting take on the Good Samaritan. Here’s what he writes: “Let us remember that while to us all Samaritans are Good Samaritans, it was not so to those who first heard the parable. In their eyes all Samaritans were, by the very fact, bad. Indeed, that was why a Samaritan had to be the subject of the parable: since it was necessary for the hearers to realize that at least one Samaritan could be a good one.”

The parable of the Good Samaritan can be found in today’s reading. There are many lessons that can be drawn from Jesus’ parable, but Merton points us to one that is often overlooked. The kindness, generosity and compassion found in this story came from a person who was commonly thought to be devoid of these positive qualities.

The Good Samaritan was not one of “us.” He was one of “them”! Shocking!

This leads us all to reflect on who might be one of “them” from our point of view. Someone beyond our religious, political, ethnic and cultural experience (think music, tattoos, piercings, for example)?

Get this point? One of the lessons of this parable is about our prejudices we don’t even realize we have. The Good Samaritan is a story about how one of “them” helped one of “us.”

Ask yourself about persons, ethnicities, political perspectives with which and with whom you have trouble. We all have these negativities.

But the fabulous nature of the gospel is that the people who inhabit our negativities are, according to Jesus, our neighbors! And Jesus is on record as saying we should love our neighbors as ourselves!

It’s a tall order, isn’t it? I know it is for me. But God is faithful and will give me and all of us the courage to realign and redefine who is our neighbor. And when that happens, we have a huge opportunity to put a little love on them, and make their day! Thanks be to God!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, thank you for the Good Samaritans of the world! Amen.*



**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** Acts 3-5

**Monday:** Isaiah 40-42

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 43-45

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 46-48

**Thursday:** Isaiah 49-51

**Friday:** Isaiah 52-54

**Saturday:** Psalms 73-75

***Verse to Remember***

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned ... for I am the LORD, your God.* —Isaiah 43:2-3a

**CAN YOU SORT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER?**

1. The American Civil War begins.
2. The Berlin Wall comes down.
3. Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated.
4. Don Larsen pitches a perfect game in the World Series for the Yankees.
5. Alexander Graham Bell makes the first phone call.
6. Queen Victoria begins her reign.
7. John Glenn orbits the Earth three times.
8. Charlotte Brontë publishes *Jane Eyre* under the name Currer Bell.
9. The Hindenburg blimp catches fire and crashes.
10. Quarterback Joe Namath predicts a victory in Super Bowl III.
11. U.S. President Nixon resigns.
12. Charles Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic.
13. Princess Diana dies in car crash.
14. Napoleon is exiled on Elba.
15. Composer Beethoven dies at the age of 56.

[Use this white space for figuring]

**Directions:**

Write the number of the events here in chronological order. The first one is provided for you.

**14. 1814**

**ANSWERS:** 14. 1814; 15. March 26, 1827; 6. June 20, 1837; 8. October 19, 1847; 1. April 12, 1861; 5. March 10, 1876; 3. June 28, 1914; 12. May 21, 1927; 9. May 6, 1937; 4. October 8, 1956; 7. February 20, 1962; 10. January 9, 1969; 11. August 8, 1974; 2. November 9, 1989; 13. August 31, 1997.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>.



### 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*

### Food Pantry Needs Restocking

We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), 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.





## 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



### 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. 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 July to sort the Sunday Offering and prepare the weekly deposit.

June 29 Diane Fake  
July 6 Yvonne Smith  
July 13 Jim and Ruth Thompson  
July 20 Art Mehl  
July 27 Woody and Deb Wilk



## **"At the Table" VBS @ 5:45!**



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Our Vacation Bible School will be on 5 Sunday nights again this year: 6/29, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, and 8/10.

Please mark your calendars now and 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

Please see Julie if you'd like to help with crafts, games, &/or science activities, Janet if you'd like to join in the kitchen tomfoolery (her words!), or pastor Ted for any questions about the adult class. It's free, and all are welcome!

## **Save the date - 10/29**

Save the date - 10/29 - Trunk or Treat!! Plan now to come out and support this safe and fun community event!



## **Thank You!**



*Thankful*  
FOR YOUR KINDNESS

Thank you to all of our Good Shepherd family. Patrick is on the mend and I am waiting for my test results to hopefully come back negative.

We are forever thankful for the outpouring show of love, support and prayers. Your cards, texts and emails have been a true blessing.

Mary and Patrick Norris & Family

## **Pastor Ted's New Phone Number**

Pastor Ted has a new phone number. The number is 559-918-1969. Remember to make the change in your directory.





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

**Members Needing  
Prayer:**

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

## GOSPEL

### Luke 10:25-37

#### The Parable of the Good Samaritan

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. <sup>[a]</sup> “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”