New Schedules, Same Faithful God Jesus Christ is the same yesterday & today & forever. Hebrews 13:8

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

Members Needing Prayer:

Jo Anderson Robert Harris Mona White

Julie Werfelmann Rev. Dr. Arlynne

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:

Linda Healy (White)
Cousin Gary (Sandy T.)

Karilee (Neer)
Pauline Ritterbush

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Worship Service August 31, 2025 - 10AM Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

Prelude

Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn

"Come, Thou Almighty King" #408 (vv. 1-4)

Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing; help us to praise; Father all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

- 2. Come, thou incarnate Word, merciful, mighty Lord; our prayers attend. Come and thy people bless, and give thy word success, and let thy righteousness on us descend.
- 3. Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour! Thou who almighty art, rule now in every heart, never from us depart, Spirit of power.
- 4. To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence evermore! Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

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 God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lesson 1	Proverbs 25:6-7	Page 595 in the cranberry Bible
		Page 674 in the red Bible
Lesson 2	Hebrews 13:1-8,	Page 1098 in the cranberry Bible
	15-16	Page 244 in the red Bible
Gospel	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Page 951 in the cranberry Bible
•		Page 78 in the red Bible

Kids' Talk

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

"Great Preachers"

Pr. Ted Niemi

Sermon Hymn

"All Are Welcome" #641 (vv. 1, 3-4)

Song Leaders and Congregation

- 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
- All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:: a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: All are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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 "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing, The Feast Is Ready" by Graham Kendrick (c1989 Make Way Music, admin. Music Service in the Western Hemisphere)
John Montgomery, Solo, Paul Bolm, Bongos,
Michelle Norris, Bongos

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 "Lord, Be Glorified" #744 (vv. 1-4) Song Leaders and Congregation

- 1. In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In my life, Lord, be glorified today.
- 2. In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In our song, Lord, be glorified today.
- 3. In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In your church, Lord, be glorified today.
- 4. In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In your church, Lord, be glorified today. In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Lord, Reign in Me" by Brenton Brown (1998

Vineyard Songs, CCLI Song #409181)

Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Over all the earth You reign on high; Every mountain stream, ev'ry sunset sky. Buy me one request, Lord, my only aim Is that You reign in me again.

Refrain

Lord, reign in me, reign in Your pow'r, Over all my dreams in my darkest hour. You are the Lord of all I am, So won't You reign in me again?

2. Over ev'ry thought, over ev'ry word,
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing,
So won't You reign in me again?
Refrain

Sending

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Susan Berg, Piano



Sunday, August 31, 2025

Scripture Reading: Psalm 112

I am a slow walker, but I never walk back. —Abraham Lincoln



In the 2002 movie, "Catch Me If You Can," Frank Abagnale, Sr. (Christopher Walken) receives the highest honor at his local rotary club. In response, he tells the story of two little mice — a story about perseverance.

Two little mice fell into a bucket of cream. The first mouse quickly gave up and drowned. The second mouse, wouldn't quit. He struggled so hard that eventually he churned that cream into butter. And crawled out.

The moral of the story: *It's not over til it's over*. This is an aphorism attributed to Yankees catcher Yogi Berra who played in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. But the moral isn't just about sports. It's a reminder for all of us to keep pushing forward when life gets tough.

We all face situations that feel overwhelming — whether it's a personal loss, a health challenge, financial strain, or broken relationships. In those moments, it's easy to throw in the towel. But Yogi's wisdom calls us to stay the course, to trust that the story isn't finished yet.

In the Bible, we find many stories where it seemed "over" for God's people, but the final outcome proved otherwise.

Moses and the Israelites at the Red Sea: Trapped between the sea and Pharaoh's army, it seemed hopeless. Yet, God parted the waters, making a way where none existed (Exodus 14:21-22).

David and Goliath: A shepherd boy with a sling and stones appeared to have no chance against a giant. Yet, with God's strength, David triumphed (1 Samuel 17:50).

Even the resurrection! For the disciples, when Jesus was crucified, it must have seemed that it was over. But on the third day, Jesus rose, defeating sin and death forever (Matthew 28:5-6).

God's plans often defy human logic. When we feel at our weakest or most defeated, God is still at work. As Galatians 6:9 reminds us, "Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up" (CEB).

This is another way of saying that if we fall into a bucket of cream, like the little mouse, there's hope — if we keep churning!

-Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, when I feel like giving up, remind me that my story isn't finished. Help me to trust your timing and to persevere, even when the road ahead seems impossible. Thank you for being my strength and my guide through every challenge. May I always look to you with hope, knowing that you are at work in ways I cannot see. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Week of August 31, 2025





Saturday: Psalms 94-96

Verse to Remember

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

—Galatians 5:22-23

LABOR DAY AND THE PEOPLE WHO LABOR

Tomorrow is Labor Day. To remember with gratitude those who work hard, go through this list and make a check mark beside each occupation, if the description identifies a friend or family member. On the margins, write the names of people you know who work in occupations not listed here. Remember to pray for these people this week and to be grateful for all they do.

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i 🗆	Accountant		Firefighter	i 🗆	Politician
□ Actor/Actress			Flight Attendant		Postal Carrier
□ Cashier			Homemaker		Professor
i 🗆	☐ Computer Programmer		Hotel Manager	i 🗆	Psychologist
	Babysitter		Journalist	0	Real Estate Agent
	Baker/Cook		Judge		Salesperson
	Bank Clerk		Landscaper	i 🗆	Secretary
i 🗆	Barber/Hairdresser		Lawyer	¦ 🗆	Security Guard
! 	Bus Driver		Librarian		Social Worker
	Business Executive		Mechanic		Stockbroker
	Banker		Model		Tailor
! _□	Carpenter		Nurse		Teacher
	Dentist		Office Worker	i 🗆	Trash Hauler
	Doctor		Photographer		Travel Agent
	Electrician		Pilot		Truck Driver
	☐ Factory Worker		Plumber		Waiter/Waitress
	Farmer		Police Officer	i 🗆	Writer
I		L		L	

GOSPEL Luke 13:10-17

Jesus Heals the Man with Edema

14 On one occasion when Jesus^[a] was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

Humility and Hospitality

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. The rall who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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, 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

OWLS Sept. 15th @ 12 PM

Hooties! Run from the heat to Sandy's on Monday, September 15 at NOON. Find out how we all endured the summer. Bring your LABELLED table service and a dish to share. I'll even kick the AC down for ya:)



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! Look for tickets to our outstanding event, Ok-



toberfest, to go on sale the last Sunday of August, the 31st.

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 BTING available. Show off your crafts by donating them to the YOU craft fair. All proceeds will go to the HVAC fund. Contact CTGFTS 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 Aug./Sept. to sort the Sunday Offering and prepare the weekly deposit.

August 31st Art Mehl September 7th Sharon Hart September 14th Pam Gerster September 21st Jim and Ruth Thompson September 28 TBD

HVAC GoFundMe Fundraiser Goes Live

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

Fresno



Support New HVAC at Good Shepherd 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.

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

Come, Make a Joyful Noise!

Lift your voice in praise as we begin the new church year. Vocal and instrumental solo gifts and ensembles are providing music for our worship services. Many thanks to our Good Shepherd Ensemble, which leads our congregation every Sunday in our worship services. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful music ministry, contact Susan Berg, (559) 362-0389.



Community Concert



The 17th Annual Keyboard Chamber Concert will be held on September 7, 2025, 3:00, at **Community** First Congregational Church, Fresno. Come and enjoy an afternoon of wonderful presentations of talented, local musicians and the majestic sounds of the church's Casavant pipe organ,

played masterfully by organist-in-residence, Scott Horton.

