An abstract painting featuring a bright, yellow and white sunburst or sunrise scene. Several sharp, triangular rays of light in shades of yellow, green, and blue emanate from a dark, silhouetted landscape in the foreground. The background is a textured, mottled mix of yellow, orange, and white, suggesting a hazy or misty atmosphere. The overall composition is dynamic and vibrant, with a strong sense of light and hope.

**Christ has been raised
from the dead,
the first fruits of those
who have died.**

1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV

UPCOMING *Events*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS April

- pr. 20** - Sunrise Service @ 8AM
Pancake Breakfast @
8:30AM
Worship Service @ 10AM
Easter Egg Hunt @ 11AM
- pr. 21** - OWLS @ 12PM, The Fake's
ome
- pr. 23 & 30** - Wednesday Evening
ible Study @ 6:30PM, Comm Ctr
- pr. 27 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**
- pr. 27** - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM,
omm Ctr
- pr. 30** - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr.
ed's Office
- pr. 30** - KingsMen/KingsKids' @
:30PM, Jacobson

May

- May 3** - LHN Free Neighborhood
arket @ 8-12PM, GSLC Host
- May 7** - Worship Committee
eeting @ 4:30PM, Pr. Ted's Office
- May 7—28** - Wednesday Evening
ible Study @ 6:30PM, Comm Ctr
- May 12** - Esther Circle @ 6PM,
omm Ctr
- May 15** - Council Meeting @ 6PM,
acobson Hall
- May 18** - Memorial Garden Meeting
fter church, Comm Ctr
- May 18** - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM,
omm Ctr
- May 19** - OWLS @ 12PM, Gloria Mil-
r's
- May 28** - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr.
ed's Office
- May 28** - KingsMen/KingsKids' @
:30PM, Jacobson Hall

WEEKLY *Sneak Peek*

SUNDAY, April 20

Easter Sunday

- 8am: Sunrise Service**
**8:30am: Pancake Break-
fast, Jacobson Hall**
10am: Worship Service
**11:15: Easter Egg Hunt,
Court Yard**

MONDAY, April 21

- 12pm: Owls, The Fake's
Home**

TUESDAY, April 22

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

WEDNESDAY, April 23

- 6:30pm: Wednesday Even-
ing Bible Study, Comm Ctr**

THURSDAY, April 24

FRIDAY, April 25

SATURDAY, April 26

SUNDAY, April 27

- 10am: Worship Service**
11:15: Coffee Social
**11:15am: Salt & Light, Class
Rm 2**
**4pm: GSLC Book Club,
Comm Ctr**



*Easter Lilies
In Memory or in Honor
of a Loved One!*



We wish to donate Easter Lilies in memory of all laid to rest in the Columbarium.

The Memorial Garden

We wish to donate an Easter Lily in memory of our grandson Alex and in honor of our children & grandchildren.

Gordon and Diane Fake

I wish to donate an Easter Lily in memory of Robert and James Gerster.

Pam Gerster

We wish to donate Easter Lilies in memory of Lilly Villalobos, Sandy Clark, Herb Sellers, Linda Coffejan and Gail Tompkins.

Villalobos Family

I wish to donate a lily in memory of and in honor of my family in heaven and on earth.

Carolyn T. Linn

We wish to donate an Easter Lily in memory of Louis & Eloise Copp and Gene & Phyllis Hofman

Alan & Brenda Hofmann

We wish to donate an Easter Lily in honor of our Risen Lord.

Steve and Janet McQuillan

We wish to donate Easter Lilies in memory of Paul Werfelmann "Papa".

Wilder, Maxwell, Jordan, Lacey, Jude, Travis, Jacob, Abbe, Jen, Steve, JJ, Camille, and Amelia

We wish to donate two lilies in memory of our parents Adair and Williard Johnson & Fred and Fern Slusser.

Pat Haynor-Slusser & Bill Slusser

I wish to donate an Easter Lily in memory of my husband, Rev. Jack Niemi.

Ruth Niemi

I wish to donate an Easter Lily in honor of my fiancée, Melissa Littlewood.

Pr. Ted Niemi

I wish to donate Easter Lilies in memory of Thurmon Smith, I.L. Stucker & Cherrie Smith, Cecil & Lorene Smith, Melanie Kelton, Vickie Farr and Katherine Smith.

Judith Smith

EASTER

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Service
April 20, 2025 - 10AM
Easter Sunday

Prelude "Jubilation" By Jason D. Payne
Susan Berg, Organist

Announcements

Call to Worship "Sing, Rejoice, the Lord Is Risen" Words By Charlotte Lee, Music By Douglas E. Wagner
Easter Choir with The Good Shepherd Chimes

Processional Hymn "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" Hymn 365
Easter Choir (Congregation Please Join) (vv. 1-4)

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 peptized 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 God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lesson 1	Acts 10:34-43	Page 1002 in the cranberry Bible Page 134 in the red Bible
Lesson 2	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Pg. 1048 in the cranberry Bible Page 187 in the red Bible
Gospel	John 20:1-18	Page 988 in the cranberry Bible Page 119 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 Jacobson Hall during the sermon. They will return in time for communion with their families.

Sermon	"Time to Let Go"	Pr. Ted Niemi
Sermon Hymn	"Thine Is The Glory"	Hymn 376
	Easter Choir (Congregation Please Join)	(vv. 1-3)

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the Church

Sharing the Peace

Special Music	"Crown Him Lord This Easter Day!" Words By Bon Besig and Nancy Price, Music By Don Besig Easter Choir
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Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer	"The Lord's Prayer" By Albert Hay Malotte Paul Bolm, Solo
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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 "There Is A Redeemer" By Melody Green, Arr. By Keith Phillips (c 1982 Birdwing Music/Cherry Lane Music Pub. Co., CCLI #2032355)
Easter Choir (Congregation Please Join)

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus Christ, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Refrain

Thank You, oh my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.
Refrain

3. When I stand in Glory, I will see His face,
There I'll serve my King forever In that holy place.
Refrain

Blessing

Choral Benediction: "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah"
Easter Choir, Directed By Paul Bolm
Congregation Please Join at the Choir Loft

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!

Postlude

"Toccata Jubiloso" By Lani Smith
Susan Berg, Organist

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

4-20-2025 Contemporary/Traditional Worship

On this triumphant Easter Sunday, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, you gave to Mary Magdalene the honor of being the first person to share the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. How confused and disheartened the disciples of Jesus were those three days after the gruesome crucifixion. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Mary rose early to anoint Jesus' body, and she was weeping. Jesus met her in her grief. He spoke her name, and the sound of angels filled the air with the joy of personal recognition. It was Jesus! He was alive! But He was different: a resurrected body. He gave Mary a message, "*Go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father.'*" ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. Lord, may the world see Easter with new eyes this year, not just as a holiday weekend, or a time for bunnies and Easter eggs, but as a supremely Holy Day in which the God of the Universe, stooped down to become one of the creatures He created. God entered this world as a human being, with the frailties and weaknesses of life in a world dominated and controlled by God's arch enemy, Satan. From that position, the Son of Man overcame the power of the Devil and his fiercest weapon, death. ***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...***

And now we join Mary with the message of New Life, proclaiming, "*I have seen the Lord.*" Or as the Apostle Paul proclaimed, "*Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died... he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*" Yes, come Lord Jesus; in your Mighty Name, we pray. ***Amen.*** CAROLYN T. LINN

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12

*Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins
with the resurrection. —Watchman Nee*

It's Easter Sunday when we are reminded that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very heart of our faith. More than that, Easter triumphantly proclaims that God is always at work, bringing life amid death, hope amid despair.

To that end, let's think of a metaphor. In a peaceful meadow, there was a caterpillar who lived a simple and content life. She was unaware that a great transformation awaited her.

One day, she entered a deep sleep, all while weaving an intricate cocoon around herself. She remained there for many days, hidden away and quiet. The other creatures of the meadow wondered if she had died, and some even grieved their loss.

But after some time, the cocoon began to move, and shortly thereafter, a monarch butterfly emerged. The transformation had not been easy, and the butterfly's gossamer wings were weak and fragile at first. She struggled to fly, and for a time, she remained on the branch to which the now-discarded cocoon was still attached.

Then, slowly, the butterfly's wings grew stronger. With the sun shining down on her and the wind encouraging her, she spread her wings and took to the sky. The other creatures of the meadow marveled at how death had been transformed into life; how the earthly had been transfigured into something beautiful; how what had been old had miraculously become new — dazzlingly new!

There are parallels to what is going on at Easter. *Theologically*, like the butterfly's cocoon, the tomb seemed like a place of death and loss. But in the resurrection of Jesus, what seemed like an end became the ultimate beginning — a new life for all believers. Just as the butterfly was transformed, we, too, are transformed by the power of the resurrection, given new hope and life.

But *experientially*, the message of Easter is that even in the darkest moments, when all seems lost, there is always the promise of renewal and resurrection, just as the butterfly emerges from its cocoon to soar into the sky.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the victory of life over death, hope over despair, and love over fear. Through Jesus, you have given us the promise of eternal life, and the assurance that no darkness is too great for your light to overcome. We thank you for the new beginnings you offer us, for the power of your redeeming grace. May we live in the joy and freedom of your resurrection, sharing your love and hope with a world in need. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 7-9

Monday: Joshua 19-21

Tuesday: Joshua 22-24

Wednesday: Judges 1-4

Thursday: Judges 5-8

Friday: Judges 9-12

Saturday: Psalms 37-39

EASTER WORD HUNT

Directions: Look for ten (10) words related to the Easter season. Words can be read forwards or backwards or either direction vertically. Answers below.

T	D	W	M	H	H	T
E	Y	D	N	A	C	E
N	E	C	H	I	C	K
N	Q	T	N	U	H	S
O	L	I	L	Y	G	A
B	U	N	N	Y	G	B
P	A	R	A	D	E	F

NAME THE STATE

In the space provided, write the names of the states in which the following three-letter words are found:

EXAMPLE: OUT/ SOUTH DAKOTA

ASK:

SIP:

ORE:

EGO:

WAS:

ASH:

TON:

GIN:

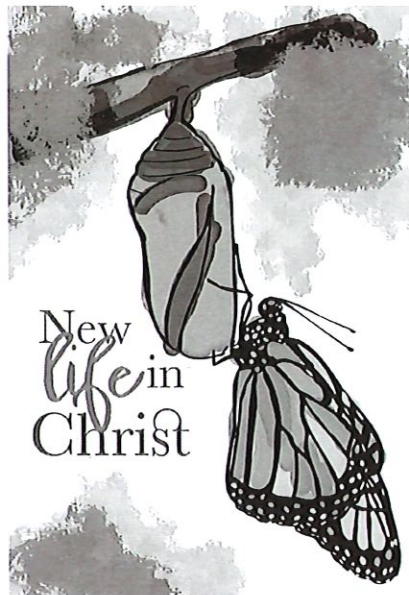
CUT:

SEE:

INN:

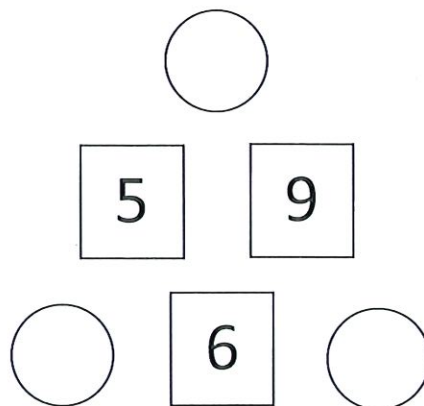
USE:

SET:



ARITHMOGRAM

Place a number in each of the circles on either side of the squares so that the sum of the numbers in the adjoining circles equals the number in the square.



ANSWERS to NAME

THE STATE:

ASK=Nebraska, or Alaska
 SIP=Mississippi
 ORE=Oregon
 EGO=Oregon
 WAS=Washington
 ASH=Washington
 TON=Washington
 GIN=Virginia
 CUT=Connecticut
 SEE=Tennessee
 INN=Minnesota
 USE=Massachusetts
 SET=Massachusetts

ANSWER TO

ARITHMOGRAM:

Clockwise from the top circle — 4, 5, 1

Answers to Easter

Word Hunt: lily, parade, chick, bunny, candy, hunt, dye, basket, egg, bonnet

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

John 20:1-18

The Resurrection of Jesus

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look ^[a] into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, ^[b] if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ^[c] "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

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



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**.

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!



Kinsmen/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

Directory Correction

Birthdays for Neil & Verna Walden are incorrect. Please make the following Changes:

Neil Jan. 26th; Verna Nov. 25th



Earth Sunday Celebration @ GSLC on 4/27



Please plan to join your church family to celebrate God's beautiful creation at worship on 4/27. You are invited to bring in plants of all sorts to share, as well as any items to add to our Give & Take Table in Jacobson Hall. This year we are also asking people to bring any sustainable products you endorse that we can display on a table at the entrance. See Julie or Suzie G with any questions or suggestions!

Church Clean up Day April 22 @9am

Church Council has set a date of **Tuesday, April 22 at 9:00** to clean-off debris on the church building roofs. Our insurance company flew a drone over the property to check the status of the roofs. We need to attend to several safety issues in order to keep our insurance.

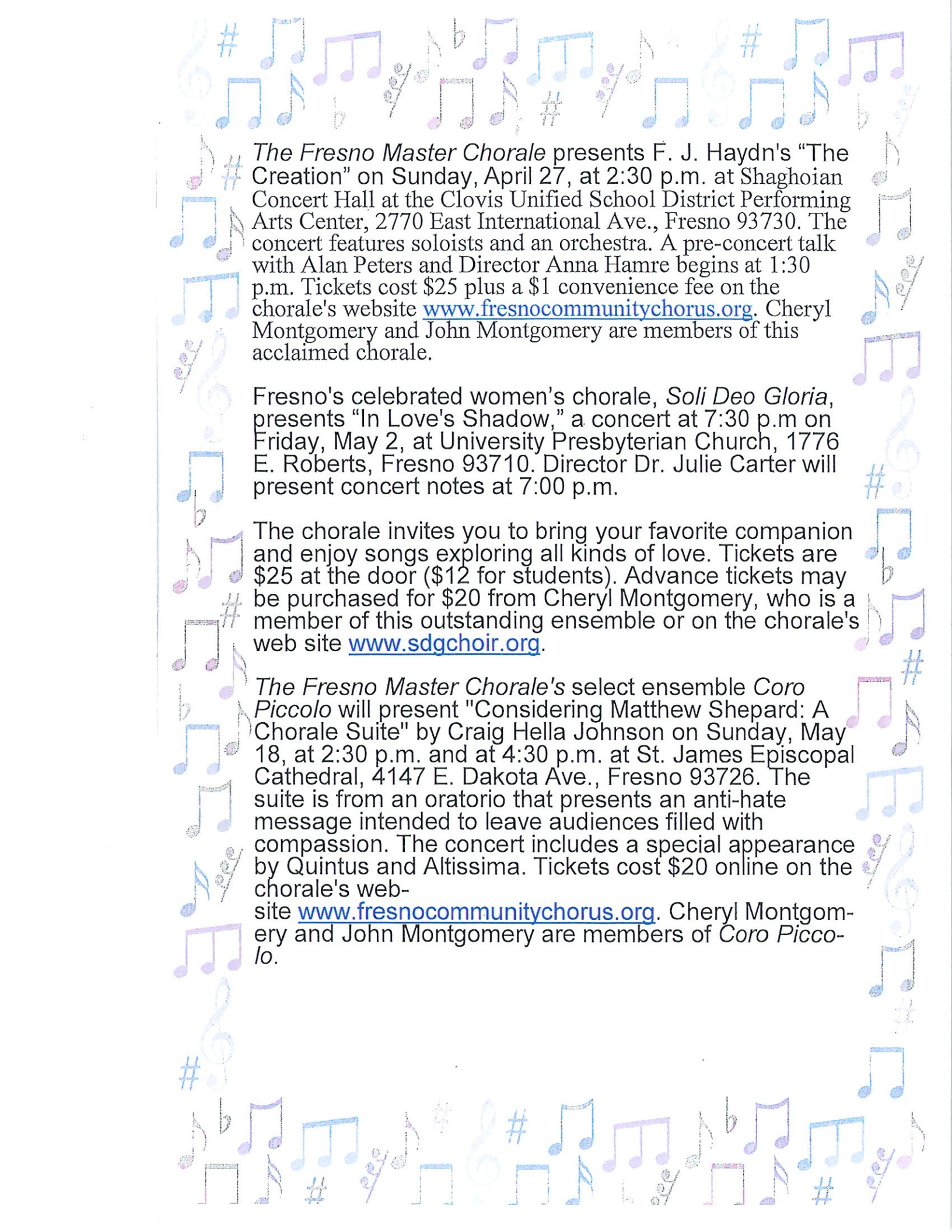


These are some of the issues required by Good Shepherd to complete by the last week of May.

- Leaves in rain gutters.
- Leaves on the roof.
- Possible repairs on roof tiles.
- Overhanging tree limbs.
- Repair possible leaks.

Anyone willing to come out and help for a few hours, will be greatly appreciated. I am bringing out my ladders, blower, brooms etc. to get a good start on the maintenance. This will be a good start to address the needs to continue with our insurance. Any questions, you can contact me by text (559-341-2042) or email (rmvilla@comcast.net).

Thanks, Reynaldo Villalobos



The Fresno Master Chorale presents F. J. Haydn's "The Creation" on Sunday, April 27, at 2:30 p.m. at Shaghoian Concert Hall at the Clovis Unified School District Performing Arts Center, 2770 East International Ave., Fresno 93730. The concert features soloists and an orchestra. A pre-concert talk with Alan Peters and Director Anna Hamre begins at 1:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 plus a \$1 convenience fee on the chorale's website www.fresnocommunitychorus.org. Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of this acclaimed chorale.

Fresno's celebrated women's chorale, *Soli Deo Gloria*, presents "In Love's Shadow," a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2, at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts, Fresno 93710. Director Dr. Julie Carter will present concert notes at 7:00 p.m.

The chorale invites you to bring your favorite companion and enjoy songs exploring all kinds of love. Tickets are \$25 at the door (\$12 for students). Advance tickets may be purchased for \$20 from Cheryl Montgomery, who is a member of this outstanding ensemble or on the chorale's web site www.sdgchoir.org.

The Fresno Master Chorale's select ensemble *Coro Piccolo* will present "Considering Matthew Shepard: A Chorale Suite" by Craig Hella Johnson on Sunday, May 18, at 2:30 p.m. and at 4:30 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Cathedral, 4147 E. Dakota Ave., Fresno 93726. The suite is from an oratorio that presents an anti-hate message intended to leave audiences filled with compassion. The concert includes a special appearance by Quintus and Altissima. Tickets cost \$20 online on the chorale's web-site www.fresnocommunitychorus.org. Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of *Coro Piccolo*.