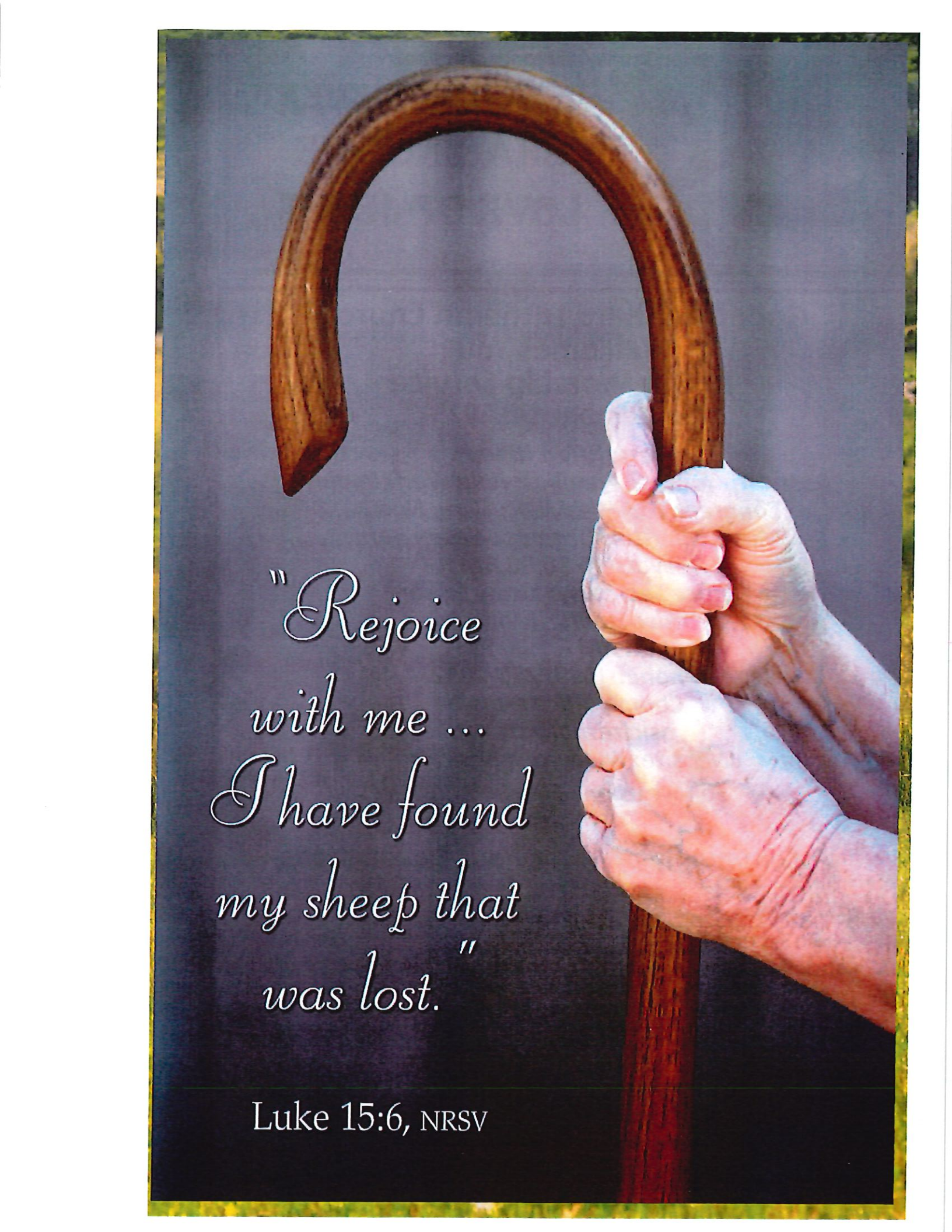




*"Rejoice  
with me ...  
I have found  
my sheep that  
was lost."*

Luke 15:6, NRSV

# UPCOMING *Events*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS September

**Sept. 8** - Esther Circle @  
6:30PM, Comm Ctr  
**Sept. 10** - Wednesday  
Evening Bible Study @  
6:30PM, Comm Ctr  
**Sept. 14** - Healing Sunday  
**Sept. 16** - Tom & Linda  
Rogers Potluck @ 6PM,  
Jacobson Hall  
**Sept. 15** - OWLS @ 12pm,  
The Sandy's Home  
**Sept. 18** - Council  
Meeting @ 6PM, Jacob-  
son Hall  
**Sept. 21** - GSLC Book Club  
@ 4PM, Comm Ctr  
**Sept. 24** - Staff Meeting  
@ 10AM, Pr. Ted's Office  
**Sept. 24** - KingsMen/  
KingKids @ 6:30PM, Ja-  
cobson Hall  
**Sept. 27** - Westside Res-  
cue Breakfast for Dinner  
@ 6PM, Jacobson Hall

## WEEKLY *Sneak Peek*

**SUNDAY, September 14**  
10am: Worship Service  
**11:15: Coffee Social**  
**11:15am: Salt & Light,**  
Class Rm 2

**MONDAY, September 15**  
**12pm: OWLS, Sandy's**  
Home

**TUESDAY, September 16**  
6pm - 10pm: Voices United,  
Comm Ctr  
**6pm: Tom & Linda Rogers**  
Potluck, Jacobson Hall

**WEDNESDAY, September 17**  
**6:30pm: Wednesday Even-**  
ing Bible Study, Comm Ctr

**THURSDAY, September 18**  
**6pm: Council Meeting, Ja-**  
cobson Hall

**FRIDAY, September 19 7pm:**  
Accion de Fe, Comm Ctr

**SATURDAY, September 20**

**SUNDAY, September 21**  
10am: Worship Service  
**11:15: Coffee Social**  
**11:15am: Salt & Light,**  
Class Rm 2  
**4pm: GSLC Book Club,**  
Comm Ctr

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

**Members Needing  
Prayer:**

The Rev. Dr. Arlynne  
Turnquist has passed  
into the Church Tri-  
umphant, please pray  
comfort for Carolyn  
Linn and her family.  
Robert Harris  
Mona White  
Julie Werfelmann  
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:**

Bill Phillips (Breanna D.)  
Kaitlyn (Lisa K.)  
Coach (Sandy T.)  
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)  
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**  
**September 14, 2025 - 10AM**  
**Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

**Prelude** Susan Berg, Piano

**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn** "Lift High the Cross" #660 (vv. 1, 3-4)  
Song Leaders and Congregation

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adores his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ the Son of God.

Refrain

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou has promised, draw us all to thee.

Refrain

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory.

Refrain

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,  
**We are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.  
We grumble about your grace to others.  
We turn away from the poor.  
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.  
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.  
Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.  
In the name of +Jesus, your sins are forgiven!  
**Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

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

**C:** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through 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> | Exodus 32:7-14    | Page 77 in the cranberry Bible<br>Page 86 in the red Bible    |
| <b>Lesson 2</b> | 1 Timothy 1:12-17 | Page 1080 in the cranberry Bible<br>Page 228 in the red Bible |
| <b>Gospel</b>   | Luke 15:1-10      | Page 952 in the cranberry Bible<br>Page 80 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> | "Never Too Lost" | Pr. Ted Niemi |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sermon Hymn</b> | "Above All" by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche<br>(c 1999 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, LenSong Publishing, CCLI Song # 2672885, CCLI License # 2032355)<br>Song Leaders and Congregation |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

1. Above all powers, above all kings,  
above all nature and all created things;  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,  
You were here before the world began.

2. Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,  
above all wonders the world has ever known;  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,  
there's no way to measure what You're worth.

### Chorus

Crucified, laid behind the stone;  
You lived to die, rejected and alone;  
Like a rose, trampled on the ground,  
You took the fall, and thought of me, above all.

### **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**

#### **Offering**

**Offering Response**      "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" #207  
Song Leaders and Congregation

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.  
Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Special Music**

"John 3:16" by Kevin A. Memley (c 2014 Kevin A. Memley)  
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** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #803 (vv. 1-4)  
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss  
and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood,
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

## Closing Hymn

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" #671 (vv. 1-2)  
Song Leaders and Congregation

### Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness  
shining;

Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me: (refrain)

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your like-  
ness,  
ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me: (refrain)

### Blessing

### Sending,

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

**\*\*\*HEALING STATION\*\*\*** Anyone who would like  
personal prayers for healing for themselves or loved ones is  
invited to come forward to the pulpit to receive them - with  
laying on of hands if desired.



At this service/event,  
photos/videos  
may be recorded.

By attending, you may be included in these photos and videos.  
Your attendance at this service/event grants your permission to  
be in these photos or videos, which may be used for publication  
in print and online, including social media.

**Please alert the photographer at the event should  
you not wish to have your photograph taken.**

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

5140 North Fruit Avenue, Fresno, California 93711

Phone (559) 225-2092

Church office e-mail: [gslcfresno@att.net](mailto:gslcfresno@att.net)

Pastor's office e-mail: [PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com](mailto:PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com)

Web site: [www.fresnogslc.org](http://www.fresnogslc.org)

Pastor Ted Niemi



Sunday, September 14, 2025

## Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-10

*Finding what was lost restores not just what you had,  
but the joy of knowing it was yours all along. —Anon.*



Everyone can commiserate with those who are searching frantically for their car keys, or house or room keys, or the wallet or purse. It happens all the time.

But consider the loss of grander things, like for example, the Rosetta Stone, a key artifact that unlocked the mysteries of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. It was lost to history for centuries until it was unearthed in 1799 by a French soldier. Its discovery transformed our understanding of ancient civilizations, and its recovery was celebrated worldwide. Sounds like something out of “Raiders of the Lost Ark.” Similarly, the “lost” Leonardo da Vinci painting, *Salvator Mundi*, disappeared for centuries before it resurfaced about 13 years ago.

I bring this up because our Bible reading for today speaks of two lost things, a lamb and a coin. In this passage, Jesus is speaking to a mixed audience: tax collectors, sinners and religious leaders. The Pharisees grumble because Jesus welcomes and eats with sinners. But by referring to the zeal with which a shepherd — who already has 99 sheep — looks for the last lost lamb, and the conscientious cleaning of a woman searching for a coin, Jesus is able to teach us something about the heart of God.

God is not content to leave even one person lost. Like a shepherd who risks everything to find one missing sheep or a woman who diligently searches for one coin, God actively pursues us, not stopping until we are found. And when found, all heaven rejoices.

The emphasis here is not on the worthiness of the lost object, but on the extravagant love of the seeker. In God’s eyes, every soul is precious. Whether we’ve wandered far from God or feel forgotten, God still sees us and values us deeply.

Sometimes, we feel like the 99 sheep — secure and accounted for — but we’re called to rejoice over those who are still being sought. At other times, we may feel like the one lost sheep, separated and far from safety. In either case, God invites us to trust in his relentless pursuit and to celebrate his unending grace.

Take a moment to reflect: Are you the one God is searching for today? Or is there someone in your life who needs to know about his love?

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for seeking us when we are lost and for rejoicing over us when we are found. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

## Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday:** 1 Thessalonians 1-5

**Monday:** 2 Chronicles 7-9

**Tuesday:** 2 Chronicles 10-13

**Wednesday:** 2 Chronicles 14-16

**Thursday:** 2 Chronicles 17-19

**Friday:** 2 Chronicles 20-22

**Saturday:** Psalms 100-102



## Global Awareness

**Directions:** This is a rearrangement or unscrambling exercise. Each set of letters when rearranged will spell out the name of a country. Answers below.



1. A D E K M R N

---

2. G R B A A I L U

---

3. H P E I T I A O

---

4. D A U R O H N S

---

5. O A N M A R I

---

6. G L E D A N N

---

7. S H I N I N E C L T E E T

---

8. H F N N A A S T G A I

---

9. Y N G A R M E

---

10. S A T N K P I A

---

## BRAIN TEASERS

Forrest left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?

A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?

### ANSWERS to Global Awareness:

1. Denmark, 2. Bulgaria, 3. Ethiopia, 4. Honduras, 5. Romania, 6. England, 7. Liechtenstein, 8. Afghanistan, 9. Germany, 10. Pakistan. **BRAIN TEASER:** The catcher and the umpire. The river was frozen.

## GOSPEL

### Luke 15:1-10

#### The Parable of the Lost Sheep

**15** Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

#### The Parable of the Lost Coin

<sup>8</sup> "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."



## 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



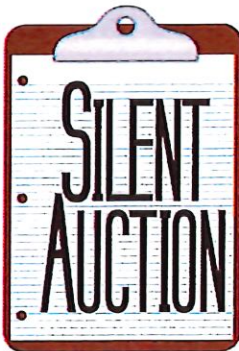
We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables, canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9 - 1PM.

### 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.



### Oktoberfest Silent Auction



Let's make this year's Oktoberfest Silent Auction even bigger than it was last year! We need YOUR help! Please bring your donations to church from now until the deadline which is Sunday, October 5. We are looking for things such as wine baskets, new or like-new home goods, holiday decor, and homemade crafting items like those we had at our Rally Day Craft Fair. For each item you donate, please fill out the short form you will find on the table in the entry. This form is **required!** **Hand your donation with the form to Sandy or Diane.** Many thanks for your help!

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



## 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 28th Alan & Brenda Hofmann



## 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.

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



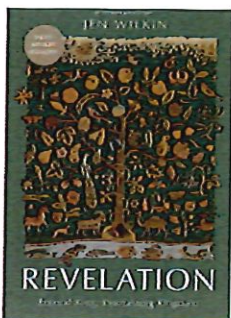
## Potluck this Tuesday

Our old friends Tom and Linda Rogers will be back in Fresno from South Dakota next week.

## POTLUCK SUPPER

We are hosting a potluck on Tuesday, 9/16, from 6-7:30 to welcome them home for a visit! Please bring a dish to share - main course, salad, or side preferred. We will break out the ice cream and toppings from Rally Day so we shouldn't need too much in the way of desserts. Drinks will also be provided. Make plans now to come on over to Jacobson Hall for an hour or 2 next Tuesday to eat a meal together and catch up with the Rogers. Hope to see you there!

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study Begins Sept. 10



Join us **September 10 at 6:30**, as we begin a new study year.

We will begin with "**Revelation - Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom**" by Jen Wilkin.

"No other book of the Bible feels as inaccessible and as intimidating to us as *Revelation*. It overflows with images and ideas that confound our modern ears. But if all Scripture is God breathed and profitable, we should assume Revelation

is as accessible and helpful as any other book of the Bible. Two thousand years ago, John's Revelation was circulated and read aloud among seven churches in Asia Minor. Those who heard the letter understood it and drew encouragement from its message. The same can be true for us today. In this 10-session Bible study, Jen Wilkin helps you discover how the last book of the Bible speaks both a steadying word of assurance and a strong call to endure to the church in every age."

**REVELATION? - AGAIN??? DIDN'T YOU JUST DO THAT??? YES, IT IS THAT GOOD.**

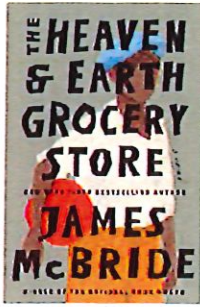
I cannot tell you enough about how good this study is. This is a repeat of the study we did a year ago. It is presented in a way that "it all makes sense." It is not an easy study, but DO NOT let that discourage you. Revelation is not preached on much, and is rarely studied as a whole book. You will go through the whole book of Revelation, in 2-3 chapters a week. We are repeating this study because it is truly "mind-blowing" in its concepts. Come sit with your brother and sisters in Christ, as we dive in again.

Come join us **September 10 in the Community Center** as we study again, **with new eyes**, all that God has for us in the final book of our Bibles. You really don't want to miss this!! Questions? Contact Sharon Andreasen Rowley or ask one of the Good Shepherd regular attendees of the Wednesday evening studies.

The book is available from all the usual places: Amazon, Christianbook.com, Lifeway. Or order it with your local Christian book seller. Those who have already done this study, you can buy a new book or use your old one.

## GSLC Book Club

Our book for SEPTEMBER: **"The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride**



In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us. Join us for very casual but meaningful discussion **Sunday, September 21, 4:00 in the Community Center.**