



The Shepherd's Voice

July 2023

**GOOD
SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
MISSION
STATEMENT**
Sharing The
Love of
Jesus



PASTOR TED NIEMI
Telephone:
(559) 225-2092
Church Office Email:
gslcfresno@att.net
Pastor Ted's Office
Email:
PastorT-
edGSLC@gmail.com
Web Site:
www.fresnogslc.org
Facebook

**You are welcome
to join us at
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church**

Dear Friends,

One reason I love this time of year is because we are forced to slow down. With the heat being what it is we have no choice. It forces us out of our routines in different ways. Our schedules permit this too. Some meetings are cancelled for the summer. Kids are doing all kinds of different things.

One of the patterns that can change if we are not careful is getting out of the habit of coming to church. I am not just talking about those who stay in Fresno all summer, but I am also thinking about those travelling. It used to be that often when people would come back from their vacations they would bring me bulletins from the church(s) they had attended while being gone. That doesn't happen as much anymore. I suppose, like us, churches may have cut back on their printing, but it does suggest that we are not worshipping when away as much. I encourage you to remain faithful in worship even while on vacation.

I look forward to worshipping with you at GSLC this summer! Each Sunday morning, no matter how hot it is outside, I assure you our sanctuary will be one place you can come to cool off! Invite your friends!

God's Peace,

Pastor Ted

Prayer Concerns

Members in Need of Prayer:

Verna Walden
Mona White
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Susan Berg
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Lori (Anderson)
Melissa (Sand T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Emily Burton (Hays)
Marilyn Molen (Linn)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
LeAnn, daughter of Tonya.
Mona White's Care Giver
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sierra Ramirez (Norris)
Krystina Ramos (Norris)
Dora Barraza (Norris)
Shauna Espinosa
Carlos & Anne Cortez (Norris)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
Pauline Ritterbush
Autumn Dunlop (Anderson)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Gloria Valdez (Norris)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Michelle B. (Norris)
Bonnie Wolfe (Norris)
Janet Sharp
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)
Darlee (Norris)



"If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."
John 14:14, NRSV



Mick Konkol – 7/05
Heather Walker – 7/08
Steve McQuillan – 7/13
Kevin Bolm – 7/15
Nathan Montgomery – 7/20
Robert Boehringer – 7/22
Cheryl Montgomery – 7/26
Julie Werfelmann – 7/26
Arlynne Turnquist – 7/27

*Any one that has seen a missing or incorrect birthday, baptismal, or anniversary date please contact Kathy in the office. 559-225-2092



Allan Hofmann – 7/01
Caroline Sullivan – 7/01
Ruth Thompson – 7/06
Diane Fake – 7/28



Dave & Lori DeGiovanni -
7/10

PRAYERS FOR

All Good Shepherd Families Who Have Lost Loved Ones, Members of Our Military Service, First Responders, & Those Affected by Natural Disasters and COVID-19.

For Prayer Requests Call or email the Church Office 225-2092/gslcfresno@att.net

STEWARDSHIP OF WORSHIP & OFFERINGS	June 4, 2023	June 11, 2023	June 18, 2023	June 25, 2023
Attendance	51	44	49	47
General Fund	\$5,130.00	\$2,405.00	\$5,417.00	\$6,180.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)				
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)				
Community Center Capital Fund	Loose Plate: \$10.00	Loose Plate: \$	Loose Plate: \$	Loose Plate: \$120.00
Loose Plate				
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	Weekend Cust: \$205.00			Pantry: \$200.00 Roeding: \$100.00 Sewing Saints: \$100.00 Youth: \$100.00 OWLS: \$54.00
BIA Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.				Prop. Use: \$170.00 Misc. (ATT Refund): \$81.04
	\$5,345.00	\$2,405.00	\$5,417.00	\$7,105.04

BIBLE VERSES

for the

FOURTH OF JULY

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- **2 Corinthians 3:17**

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

- **1 Peter 2:16**

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

- **Galatians 5:1**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

- **Psalms 33:12**

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- **John 8:32**

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

- **John 8:36**

Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.

- **Psalms 118:5**

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

- **Galatians 5:13**

June Financials

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

There have been no major unexpected expenses this month. Our giving was down - BIA's rent for June came in the last week of May which accounts for most of it. We have spent **\$11,508.15** than we have taken in year-to-date. Frankly I am worried as we head into summer, traditionally a lower giving time of the year. We still have our Synod proposed benevolence of \$1,179.71 for the first half of the year that I should have paid in June, and really should pay this next month. There just wasn't sufficient funds to pay that and pay our salaries, so the synod had to wait.

Please continue to pray for the financial health of our church. The council is looking into a couple of options to help including investigating receiving Employee Retention Credit under the CARES act (any money from that won't be realized for months from now).

Have a safe and Happy Independence Day!

Yours in Christ, Caroline Sullivan

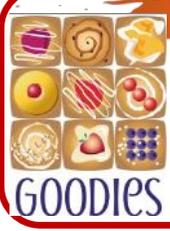
Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$29,767.46	\$28,676.00	\$1,091.46
Feb	\$16,632.38	\$26,498.19	(\$9,865.81)
Mar	\$26,340.90	\$27,231.47	(\$890.57)
Apr	\$31,706.88	\$29,665.56	\$2,041.32
May	\$27,528.38	\$25,258.92	\$2,269.46
Jun	\$19,452.00	\$25,606.01	(\$6,154.01)
Jul			\$0.00
Aug			\$0.00
Sep			\$0.00
Oct			\$0.00
Nov			\$0.00
Dec			\$0.00
Total	\$151,428.00	\$162,936.15	(\$11,508.15)

Three WAYS to GIVE

-  Mail-In
|5140 N. Fruit Ave.|
-  Online Giving
|www.fresnogslc.org|
-  Drop Off or In-Person



Check Out These Announcements & Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events!



Coffee Hour

We need people to sign up to be host/hostess for the months of July/Aug. If you are able to host/hostess for a Sunday, please sign up in Jacobson Hall.



JULY/AUG. UPCOMING EVENTS

July 3 & 4 - OFFICE CLOSED

July 8 - LHN Free Neighborhood Market 9AM-12PM, All Nations 7th Day Adventist Church

7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 8/6 & 8/27 - GSLC VBS @ 5:30-8PM, Jacobson Hall

July 12 - GSLC Book Club @ 6:30PM, Comm Ctr

July 20 - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Conf Rm

July 23 - MEF Sunday

Aug. 5 - LHN Free Neighborhood Market 9AM-12PM, Hope Lutheran Church

Aug. 12 - GSLC Book Club @ 9:30AM, Comm Ctr

Aug. 17 - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Conf Rm



VBS Dates July - Aug. for Adults to Preschool



Join us at Vacation Bible School!

VBS dates are set for June and July, Sunday evenings from 5:30-8PM. We hope everyone will find the time to join together on these upcoming summer Sundays to be nourished and encouraged through God's Word to us. Pastor Ted will lead an adult class in the community center and activities will be offered for children of all ages in Jacobson Hall. Dinner will begin at 5:30 in Jacobson Hall, the opening for all will be at 6:15, and then classes divided by age will run from 6:30-7:30. Closing music and snacks will be from 7:30-8 in Jacobson, and the adults are invited to join the children once again for this time of fun and praise. Mark your calendars for 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 8/6, and 8/27.

Please contact Julie @ 559-287-3457 or 13jdixon13@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to help. Come be transformed and see how we are agents of God's C.H.A.N.G.E.

Bring your friends and family, too!



Kingsmen-Kingskids ON BREAK Until September

The Kingsmen is the men's group here at Good Shepherd, and men of all ages are invited to come take part in a short Bible study and share in plenty of fellowship. For this meeting, we will be having a potluck dinner so bring a dish to share and join in the fun .

The Kingskids is the monthly kid's group here at Good Shepherd and kids of all ages are invited to come have some fun and fellowship, too.



LHN Free Neighborhood Market

@ All Nations 7th Day Adventist Church, 7/8, 9 -11a.m.

There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market at All Nations 7th Day Adventist Church located at 1135 E. Alluvial Ave. on Saturday, 7/8, from 9-11 a.m. Central CA Food Bank will provide gloves, but volunteers need to bring their own masks if desired and wear close toed shoes. As in the past, **anyone planning to volunteer on Saturday who is or has been feeling ill - especially if they have or have had a fever, cough or flu-like symptoms - is asked to PLEASE stay home.** Please share this information with anyone you know who could benefit and with those who might want to volunteer.

Questions can be directed to Julie @ 13jdixon13@gmail.com or 559-287-3457.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry!

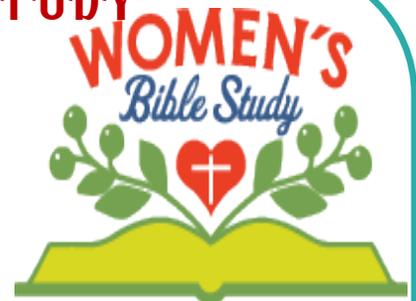


HOPE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY June 7- July 19 @ 6:30-8PM

We would like to invite the women of your congregations to join us for a Women's Bible Study at Hope Lutheran Church. Below is the information. Please share this with the women in your congregation, encourage them to get in touch as soon as possible so we can order the appropriate number of books.

Blessings, Candy Paulsen (559-313-9567)

The nearly annual Women of Hope Bible study will begin on the evening of June 7th. Candy Paulsen and Donna Lippmann will lead the discussion of the book "The Heart of Jesus : Women in the Gospel of Luke". The study starts with a look at Elizabeth and Mary, visits the Sinful Woman and the Dead Girl, and concludes with the Women who Rejoiced at the Resurrection. We will meet nearly weekly from June 7 until July 19 (skipping July 5) from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Hope Lutheran church adult education room. The study will also be available via Zoom.



Pastor Ted's 21st Year with Good Shepherd

On July 17th we will celebrate Pastor Ted's 21st year as our Pastor. We thank him and pray for his continuing spiritual protection and development.

A lot of wonderful things have taken place during the past 21 years as we all have

"Shared the Love of Jesus" together.
Congratulations, Pastor Ted!



OWLS ON BREAK Until September



OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)—The OWLS will be on break until September. Keep an "OWL" eye out for the announcement in the August Newsletter for the details of our next activity. Give a Hoot, join the O.W.L.S! The O.W.L.S. is Good Shepherd's senior fellowship group that meets to foster community through fun activities such as games, potlucks, and local outings.

Help Celebrate MEF's 26th Anniversary July 23rd

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, July 23rd join the board of the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) in celebrating 26 years of promoting Christian stewardship and the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd. There will be a short temple talk and refreshments provided after service to highlight the difference your donations have made here at Good Shepherd, in our community and around the world.

Thank you for all of your support over the years!"



MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

SAVE THE DATE SEPT. 9TH GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS



Our congregation will be participating again this year in the ELCA's countrywide service project. 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, and the Sewing

Saints will be working on a project. We will put together "Blessing Bags" for our Westside Rescue friends to distribute to their human clients. If you have any ideas, please see Janet Mc, Art, Sharon, or me. Start making your plans now as to how you'd like to participate. We hope to see everyone involved in some way.

GSLC Summer Book Club Celebrates it's 10th Anniversary!!

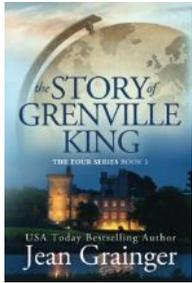


We began in 2013 with "Sensible Shoes" by Sharon Garlough Brown and "Gone South" by Meg Moseley. That summer we were able to Skype with author Meg Moseley which was quite exciting. **Since then we have read 89 books!!**



Celebrate with us as this summer we read:

"The Story of Grenville King" by Jean Grainger; a book that takes you to the real heart of Ireland.



Conor O'Shea has had enough of driving and guiding tours of Ireland. So when an opportunity to renovate and run the magnificent but rundown Castle Dysert as a five-star resort presents itself, he grabs it with both hands. But problems arise almost immediately when his business partner appears to have more on her agenda than just business. To add to that, his darling wife seems discontented as a stay at home mom, and his in-laws have moved in.

With his family's future now entangled in a stunningly beautiful old castle on the coast of Clare, Conor undertakes a mammoth project, and in so doing, he uncovers the troubled past of this ancient stronghold. The mystery of the family who lived, loved, and lost their lives within the walls of the castle are reflected in his own family as they too struggle to let go of the past. Like in every small Irish village, gossip abounds. But do the ghosts of regret still haunt these ancient hallways? It is now left to Conor to explore the truth and uncover a heartbreaking lesson on the power of memory and the long threads that bind us together.

We will discuss "The Story of Grenville King" on WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, at 6:30 in the Community Center.

"The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise" by Colleen Oakley

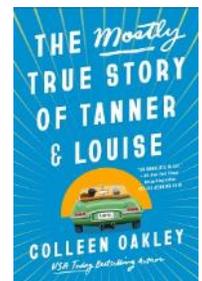
Twenty-one-year-old Tanner Quimby needs a place to live. Preferably one where she can continue sitting around in sweatpants and playing video games nineteen hours a day. Since she has no credit or money to speak of, her options are limited, so when an opportunity to work as a live-in caregiver for an elderly woman falls into her lap, she takes it.

One slip on the rug. That's all it took for Louise Wilt's daughter to demand that Louise have a full-time nanny living with her. Never mind that she can still walk fine, finish her daily crossword puzzle, and pour the two fingers of vodka she drinks every afternoon. Bottom line -- Louise wants a caretaker even less than Tanner wants to be one.

The two start off their living arrangement happily ignoring each other until Tanner starts to notice things—weird things. Like, why does Louise keep her garden shed locked up tighter than a prison? And why is the local news fixated on the suspect of one of the biggest jewelry heists in American history who looks eerily like Louise? And why does Louise suddenly appear in her room, with a packed bag at 1 a.m. insisting that they leave town immediately?

Thus begins the story of a not-to-be-underestimated elderly woman and an aimless young woman who—if they can outrun the mistakes of their past—might just have the greatest adventure of their lives.

Discussion of "The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise" will be SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, at 9:30 in the Community Center.



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY - TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tues., July 18th - For women and men.

9:30 a.m. to noon - Leader will be Julie Werfelman

We hope you will attend!

Every summer - on the third Tuesday of July - we enjoy a morning of what we call our **Summer Bible Study**. We have been doing this for many years, and anyone interested is invited to attend. That means men, women, and youth - members and friends - are welcome.



Our teacher will be **Julie Werfelman**, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She holds a Master of Divinity Degree, and runs engaging, educational, and fun programs for youth of all ages.

Our tentative schedule:

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., concluding with a "plant-based" sack lunch.

Cost for the lunch will be \$3,

and we'll need reservations to know that you will be staying.

Email margieback@icloud.com

No reservation needed for the study only.

The study will cover three topics, divided by a brief "coffee break."

Author is Dr. Anna Madsen.

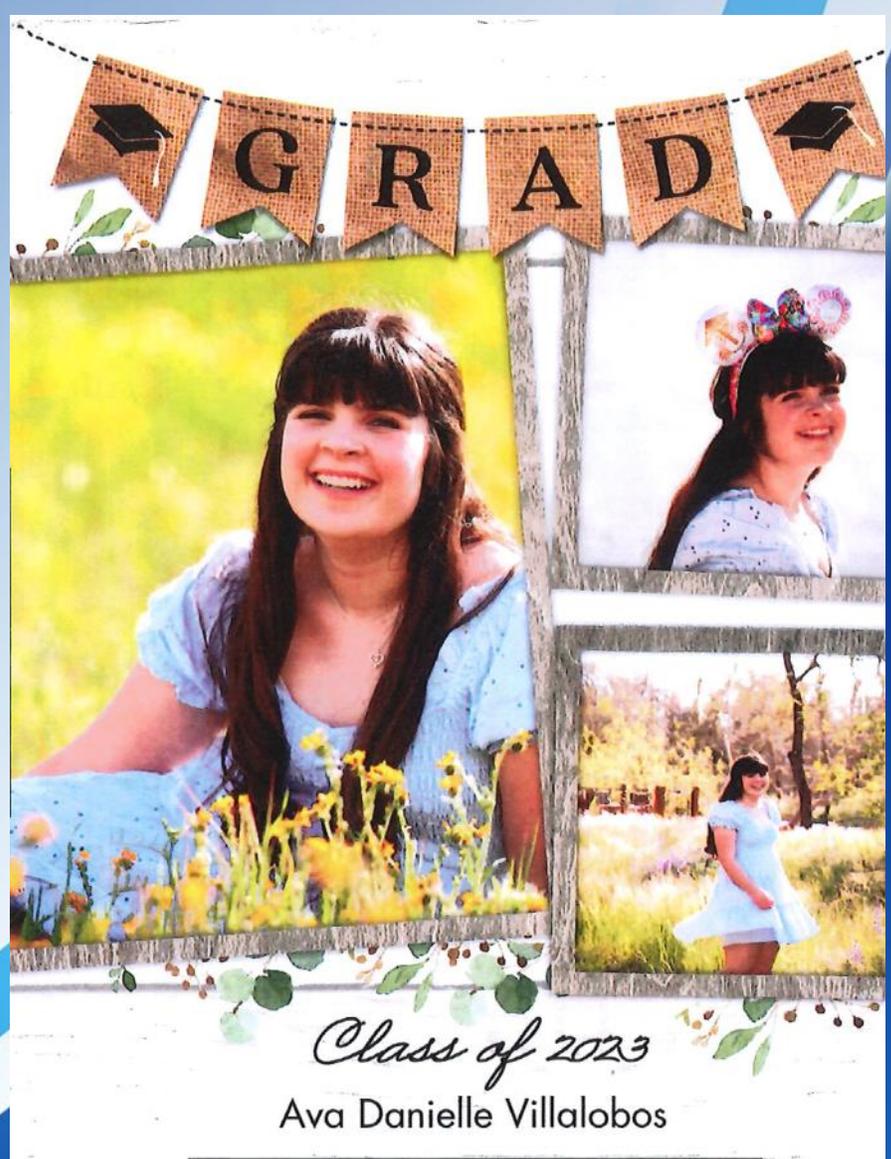
#1: Promised Salvation Now - Jesus Brings Wellness

#2: Tangible Salvation Now - Christians Bringing Wellness

#3: Needed Salvation Now - A World Wanting Wellness



**Ava Danielle Villalobos graduates from Bullard High School. Ava is the daughter of Reynaldo & Kim Villalobos and sister to Ivan. Ava is a Bullard Valedictorian and a President's Scholar at Cal State Fullerton—Fall, 2023
Congratulations Graduate!!!**



2023 Valedictorians Summa Cum Laude 4.32 GPA (With Highest Distinction)

Ava Villalobos is graduating with a 4.32 GPA, 5 AP classes, and a Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish. She is a four-year member of choir and choir president. Ava is a two-year participant of FMCMEA Honor Choir, and recently participated in Fresno Unified's honor choir as a section lead. She has also been the co-manager of Bullard's softball team for three years. Ava enjoys volunteering for Circle of Friends at Hinds Hospice. She will take part in the President's Scholars Program at CSU Fullerton where she will major in Communications with a concentration in Entertainment & Tourism. Because Ava is a massive Disney fan, she plans to work at Disneyland and hopes to someday be in upper management for the park.



Best Wishes to the

Happy Couple

Eric Brown
and
Autumn
Hays
Married
June 23, 2023



Mr. and Mrs. Eric Brown





ROEDING Book

Distribution



2023 Roeding Book Project Distribution

Woody and I delivered all the books to Roeding and were helped out by various staff and older students with the set up on all the tables in the cafeteria. Then I got to greet each class as they came in and sat down. I told them I was from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and that we thought the Roeding Rockets were so cool that we wanted to adopt all of them. Roeding Rockets rule!

I teasingly asked them if anyone had been there more than 10 years.

I also asked them if anyone was more than 12 or 13 years old - because that's how long we'd been bringing books to Roeding. They were amazed! Truly. When asked if any of them had received any gloves and candy canes at Christmas time, most of them raised their hands and were very enthusiastic. I told them those were from us, too! I told them we brought them because we loved them and wanted them to have warm hands and warm, kind hearts. (One of the kids asked what the candy canes were for, and I told them they were because they were so sweet!)

I said that we also want them to have smart brains, and we know that reading books is very important for that. "When you read things, you know more things, and when you know more, you can DO more! WE believe in you and know you are going to do all kinds of amazing things. We hope these books will always remind you that you are deeply loved."

The children were all told they could pick out 2 books to keep forever or to share with someone else when they were done with them. There are always several kids who are just boggled by this. They ask things like, "I can take them home?" "I can keep them forever?" It is the sweetest thing, and Woody and I both had a wonderful morning getting to do this! Thanks, Woody!!

More than 1500 books were put into the hands of Fresno children, so a hearty thank you to all who helped collect and label books. It is definitely a labor of love and truly a community effort to tackle this big of a project that shares the love of Jesus with so many kids.

With love and joy,
Julie



Carnival Cupcake Walk



Cupcake
Walk



Roeding Elementary Cake Walk Fun!

Thanks to all who contributed \$\$ to the Roeding Elementary fund so that we had plenty of cash on hand to buy treats for the Cake Walk Booth at their carnival. Many, many thanks to Russell for coming out to help run the booth and to Carol S for making the Costco run to buy all the goodies! We had a young volunteer whose high school was already out for the summer join us to spin the dial for winners, check off the box on the passports, and distribute treats to the winners. Thanks for all your help, Eduardo! It was a fun way to wrap up the school year and to spend time on the campus of our adopted school. Yum!

*Shalom. Peace. Paz.
Julie Werfelmann*





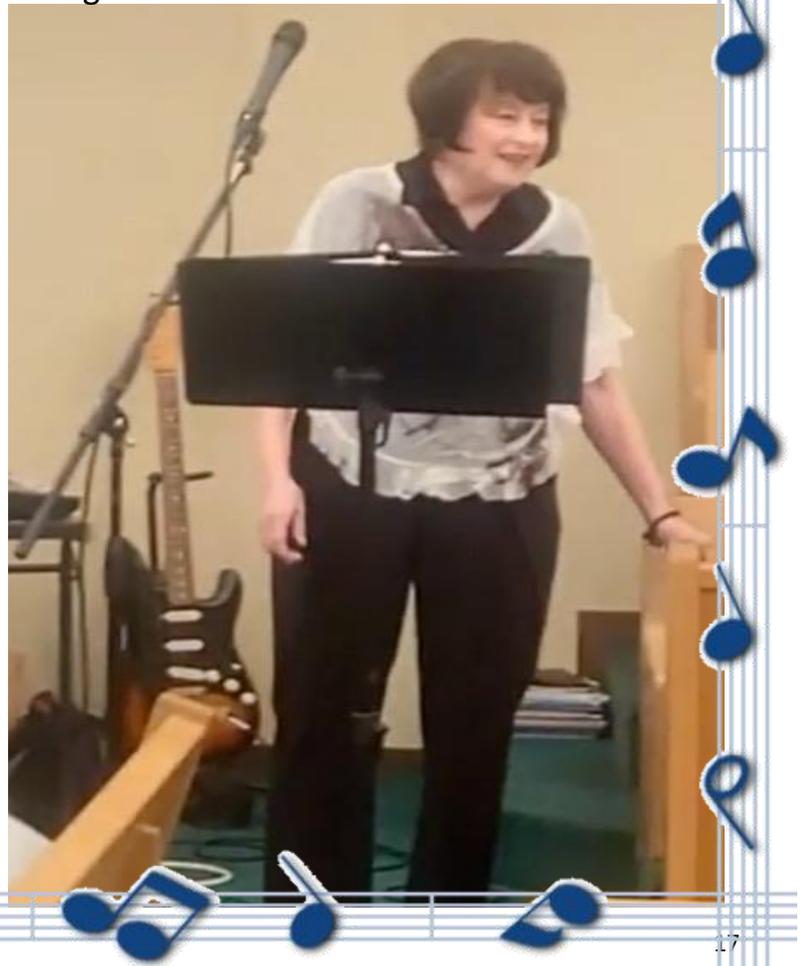
**Where's a Mirror when you Need One!
Ken Berg getting ready to read
the scripture on Sunday
morning???**

(You know we've all done this, but maybe you've been lucky enough to not get caught.)

Choral Song Leaders

"Keep Your Lamps!" is a spiritual arranged by Andre Thomas. According to Mr. Thomas the song encouraged slaves to be ready for Jesus to deliver them from slavery. The song adapts Jesus' parable about the 10 virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 who took lamps with them in the evening to meet the bridegroom. However, the bridegroom delayed and they fell asleep. They awakened at midnight, when they heard a shout that the bridegroom was coming, but their lamps had gone out. Only 5 virgins had also brought containers of oil to keep their lamps trimmed and burning while they accompanied the bridegroom to the wedding. The other 5 virgins left to purchase oil and so missed accompanying the bridegroom when he came. This rhythmic spiritual with Paul's wonderful Bongo accompaniment and Gloria's soaring soprano solo has become a favorite of our choral singers, and we are pleased that our Good Shepherd family has also enjoyed it and been encouraged by it.

Susan Berg





A Heart for Worship...

Just to add another note to thank the faithful who use their musical talents each Lord's Day to praise Him through music.

They are

–The Praise Band: Pastor Ted, Paul Bolm, and Alan Hofmann; –The Good Shepherd Choral Ensemble: Susan Berg, Ken Berg, Paul Bolm, Cheryl Montgomery, John Montgomery, Jennifer Neer, and Mona White with generous sprinkles of added musical talent on special occasions from Pam Gerster, Carolyn Linn, Gloria Miller, Mary-Fey Long Norris, Dee Wright, and Alan Hofmann.

–Cello Accompaniment and Solos by John Montgomery –The Good Shepherd Chimes: Cheryl Montgomery, John Montgomery and Jennifer Neer

We are blessed by the joy and talent our friends bring to each worship service, whether instrumental or vocal.

Thank you all for the loveliness through the gift of music as you share your gifts as you live in His light and share the love of Jesus.

Thank you so much!

Susan Berg



From the
**MUSIC
DIRECTOR**

OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

June's Journey



OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

June's Journey



Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors



OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

June's Journey



OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

June's Journey

Gordon and Diane Fake's home was packed with 21 OWLS on June 19th. We have a record breaker people! The Rookie Roster rounded up Bill and Dana Biggs, Marlene Beasley, Ken and Susan Berg, and Susan Linder. A dinner plate suggestion aided the balancing of desserts. Our generous Hooties contributed a \$54 donation.

Gordon the Narrator expanded our knowledge while Captain Diane kept us on a timely course reliving their 2020 Moroccan get away. Casablanca blinded us with a sea of all white buildings. Morocco is a mix of cultures and traditions. The three main languages spoken are French, Arabic and Berber. Berber wasn't adopted as an official language until 2011. Sometimes a young man who has left the country and has become successful elsewhere will return and fund the building of a brand new mosque as a gift for his home village.

Many (2,127) films have been made in Morocco. "The Ten Commandments", "Lawrence of Arabia", "Game of Thrones", "Black Hawk Down", "Gladiator", and some "James Bond" movies to name a few.

The popular king was celebrating his 20th reign. Every business is required to display a picture of the king. Plural marriages are not legal unless the first wife is unable to bear children. Her permission allows the second marriage. For some Moroccans a wedding is celebrated for a duration of 5-7 days. Loads of money and gobs of gold are necessary.

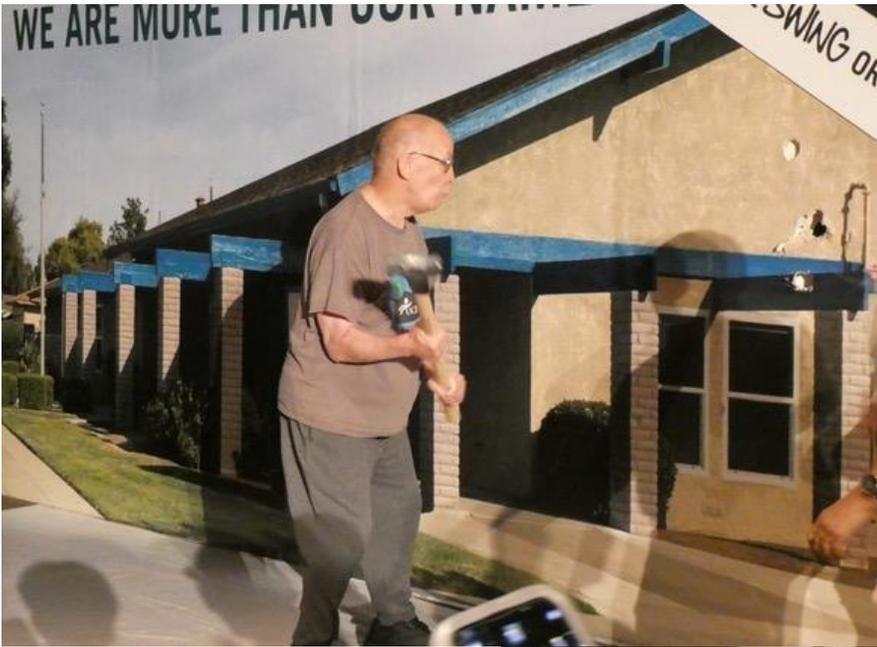
Homes called riads aging 500-700 years old have been converted into hotels. The "Blue City" of Chefchaouen looked like you were under water in the city swimming pool. The gorgeous, intricate Islamic art tiles rely heavily on geometry with Arabic texts which lined door entrances and the building's interiors. Colorful rugs and woven fabrics and pillows embellished rooms. A Tajejan meal of vegetables and meat that is cooked in a lidded pot over charcoal is consumed often. Olives of numerous varieties are eaten at each meal.

Storks were EVERYWHERE for it was the season of love. Babies were tended to in huge, tall nests built on top of buildings and flat boards provided by the people. Baby blankets were not visible. We enjoyed Diane's photography of numerous cats and the cute donkeys. Buuuuut the SNAKES we could have done without. Diane is one brave serpent sister who got close and personal.

It was March of 2020 and near the trip's end when two ladies were awakened by a son's phone call at 3 am. He told them they must leave immediately because the president was closing the US border in 24 hours. COVID! Forty-five minutes later it was noted that a "slight" error had been made. Americans would be allowed to come home. The son who had called obtained tickets anyway and the ladies flew home a week before the end of the trip. Later ALL flight reservations had been cancelled. Could the remaining get a flight out? The Fake's heads spun with six new reservations and six cancellations in 6 days due to various countries closing their borders. So, the group continued on with their trip not knowing just how or when they would be able to fly home.

The Casablanca Hotel was closed on their last day. Only grocery stores and pharmacies were allowed to be open due to COVID's shut down. Their guide "bribed" the clerk for rooms and dinner for the group since they had no place to go. The airport ordeal would take an ENTIRE newsletter to explain. It was a long trip home to LA but without the souvenir of COVID. And the two ladies who made it out early with tickets obtained by one son? They will always remember their \$4,000 flight home!

Brian Sturgeon Swings a Sledgehammer!



On June 22, the public was invited to be a part of the demolition process by taking a sledge hammer to a wall as UCPC takes ownership of their 35,000 square foot campus! Nearly 70 years in the making the new campus will unlock the potential of students with disabilities to expand their development goals. The Sturgeons became involved with UCP because their son, Brian, had cerebral palsy.

Children as well as adults joined Brian in wielding a sledgehammer that evening symbolizing shattering limitations and breaking through barriers for folks with disabilities. Brian represented not only those with special needs but the entire Sturgeon family as they have played a major role in the advancements toward the acknowledgement of people with special needs and the work toward inclusion.



Back in the early 1960's McDonald's began to play a big role as an event sponsor when a telethon was held under the direction of **Good Shepherd member Art Bender**. The telethon educated the audience about cerebral palsy and informed them of the services available. Others were held throughout the years.

In 1973 the Lanterman Act was passed by the state and funds were made available to serve people with developmental disabilities. Those disabled were described in the legislation as having cerebral palsy, mental retardation and epilepsy. As a result of the Lanterman Act, and in order to access those funds, a coalition of six Central Valley counties was formed and **UCP became UCP of Central California. Ed and Vonny** together with about four other couples **were founders of this new affiliate!** They eventually held various offices on the local, state and National levels.

During that time the Sturgeons moved to Visalia to take advantage of a pilot program which included children with cerebral palsy, who were blind or who had emotional challenges. For the first time, their children all attended the same school and learned by experience what "inclusion" was all about. It was a huge emotional dynamic for their entire family and one of the best decisions they ever made. Fresno Unified eventually developed a program similar to Visalia's project so the family moved back to Fresno.

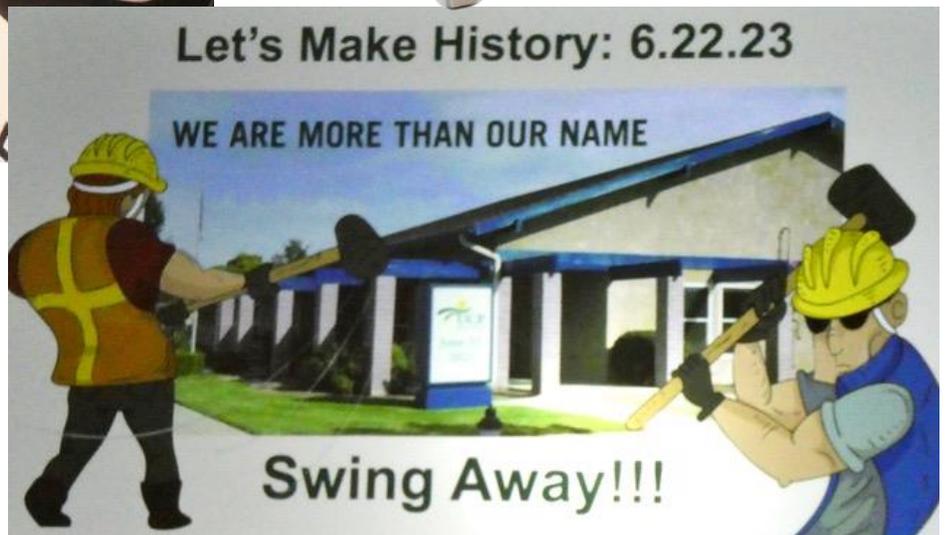
In the 1980's the first **Americans With Disabilities Act** was passed by Congress. **Ed and Vonny had the honor and privilege of testifying before Congress** on its behalf. Congressman Tony Coelho sponsored that historic bill and when President Lyndon Johnson signed it, the huge audience was shouting "Tony, Tony, Tony!" Vonny said it was so thrilling to know that one of the Valley's own made this possible.

In 2002 Brian served as a torch bearer for the Winter Olympics inspiring persons with disabilities to participate in every kind of sport! Along the way the Sturgeon family has been recognized with **State and National awards** in the field of disabilities. **Vonny says the zenith of her career was being asked to speak at the 70th Anniversary of the National UCP organization. She got a standing ovation!**

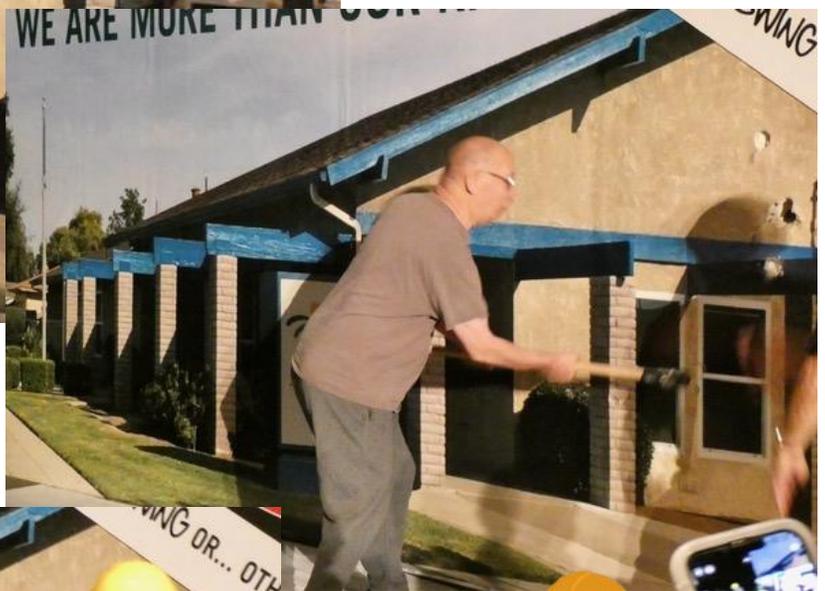
The Sturgeon family has been a vital part of the UCP Community for 65 of those 70 years. It began in 1954 with one program and 15 children. Today UCPC is a community without boundaries, unlocking the potential of more than 1,100 children and adults alike with a broad range of disabilities. Vonny said the family thinks that Brian is a true example of the meaning of inclusion. **Brian has been the key** to the Sturgeon family involvement all these years.



**Welcome
Family and Friends**



I Double Dog
Dare You...
TAKE A SWING!



Notes of Gratitude



You're Appreciated!!

Thanks to all who contributed \$\$ to the Roeding Elementary fund so that we had plenty of cash on hand to buy treats for the Cake Walk Booth at their carnival. Many, many thanks to Russell for coming out to help run the booth and to Carol S for making the Costco run to buy all the goodies!

*Shalom. Peace. Paz.
Julie Werfelmann*



Thank You Contributors!!

Thank you to all the members that contribute every month to the newsletter in some form or another. Your contribution makes creating the Newsletter a blessing and a success. Whether it's pictures, articles, expressions of gratitude, or upcoming events the effort is greatly appreciated. The Newsletter is vital to keeping connected.

God Bless!! Kathy





2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

2

- 10AM Worship Service
- 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)
- 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light (Jacobson Hall)

9 GSLC VBS

- 10AM Worship Service
- 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)
- 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light (Jacobson Hall)
- 5:30 - 8PM GSLC VBS (Jacobson Hall)

16 GSLC VBS

- 10AM Worship Service
- 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)
- 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light (Jacobson Hall)
- 5:30 - 8PM GSLC VBS (Jacobson Hall)

23 GSLC VBS

- 10AM Worship Service
- 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)
- 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light (Jacobson Hall)
- 5:30 - 8PM GSLC VBS

30

- 10AM Worship Service
- 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)
- 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light (Jacobson Hall)
- Kid's Salt & Light, Jacobson Hall

3

OFFICE CLOSED

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 5PM - 10PM Boy Scouts (Comm Ctr)

10

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 5PM - 10PM Boy Scouts (Comm Ctr)

17

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 5PM - 10PM Boy Scouts (Comm Ctr)

24

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 5PM - 10PM Boy Scouts (Comm Ctr)

31

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 5PM - 10PM Boy Scouts (Comm Ctr)



4 Happy 4th of July!!!

OFFICE CLOSED

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)
- 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)

11

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)
- 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)

18

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)
- 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)

25

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)
- 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)

5

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

12

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)
- 6:30PM GSLC Book Club

19

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

26

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

6

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

13

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

20

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 6:00PM Council Meeting (Conf Rm)

27

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

7

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

14

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

21

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

28

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)

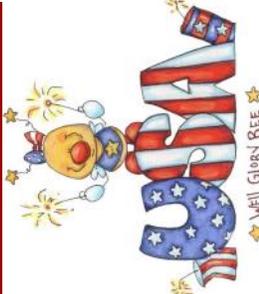
1

8

15

22

29



Well Glory Bee



Independence Day Blessing

Deuteronomy 28:8
(KJV)

The Lord
shall bless
thee in
the land
which the
Lord thy God
giveth thee.

May You Have
a Blessed
4th. of July!

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

The Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ELCA

5140 North Fruit Ave., Fresno, CA 93711

MISSION STATEMENT

SHARING THE

LOVE OF

JESUS

Pastor Ted Niemi

Carolyn Linn: Assistant Lay Minister

Congregation President : Mary Norris

Organist: Susan Berg

Youth Ministries: Julie Werfelmann

Church Office Secretary: Kathy Edison

Worship Service 10:00 am

Office Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm

Phone: (559) 225-2092

Church office e-mail: gslcfresno@att.net

Pastor Ted's office e-mail:

PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com

Church Web Site: www.fresnogslc.org

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