

*"Peace  
be with you.  
As the  
Father  
has sent me,  
so I send you."*

*John 20:21, NRSV*

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**Worship Service**  
**April 12, 2026 - 10AM**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Prelude**                      “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him” by Roland H. Prichard, Arr. By Lani Smith  
Susan Berg, Organist

**Congregation Singalong** Happy Birthday to all those with April birthdays!

**Announcements**

**Opening Songs**              “10,000 Reasons”  
   “Above All”  
   “I’ve Always Loved You”  
Praise Band and Congregation

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us get thanks for the gifts and baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside Still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Breakdown barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy one, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism and for making us a new creation. We join with Saints and angels, giving you honor and praise now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

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

**C:** Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessings, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Special Music** "Sing, Rejoice, the Lord Is Risen" Words by Charlotte Lee, Music by Douglas E. Wagner  
Choral Ensemble with The Good Shepherd Chimes

<b>Lesson 1</b>	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Page 992 in the cranberry Bible Page 123 in the red Bible
<b>Lesson 2</b>	1 Peter 1:3-9	Page 1103 in the cranberry Bible Page 250 in the red Bible
<b>Gospel</b>	John 20:19-31	Page 989 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 classroom 2 during the sermon. They will return in time for communion with their families.

## Sermon

"Peace Be With You"

Pr. Ted Niemi

## Sermon Hymn

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!" Hymn 369  
Song Leaders and Congregation (vv. 1-2, 4)

## 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** "Sing a Grateful Alleluia!" by Joseph M. Martin  
Choral Ensemble

### Offertory

**Offering Response** "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" Hymn 207  
Congregation

### Words of Institution

**The Lord's Prayer** "The Lord's Prayer" by Albert Hay Malotte  
Paul Bolm, Solo

### 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** "Come To Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty" Hymn 777  
Song Leaders and Congregation (vv.1-4)

### Blessing

**Closing Song** "Forever"

### Sending

**P:** Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** "Rise, Go Joyously into Life" by Lani Smith  
Susan Berg, Organist

**\*\*\*\*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.

Sunday, April 12, 2026

## Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

*Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.*  
—*Elisabeth Elliot*



Doubts are troubling. When I board a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, I don't have any doubt that this flying machine will get off the ground and get me to my destination. But, I confess, I don't understand the science of flying. Still, I don't let this lack of understanding get in the way of my strong belief that this airliner, weighing more than 250 tons, will get off the ground.

Doubts are different. They're nagging suspicions that won't let me go. Doubt had the disciple Thomas by the throat, making it difficult for him to believe that someone who had died could now be alive again. He was no dummy when it came to the science of death.

No surprise, then, that Thomas wasn't convinced by reports that Jesus was alive. His famous reply — "Unless I see ... I will not believe" — has echoed through history, earning him the nickname "Doubting Thomas." We often think of doubt as the opposite of faith, but for Thomas, doubt was a way of longing for something real, something personal.

Then Jesus showed up. No scolding. No shame. Only an invitation: "Put your finger here ... Stop doubting and believe." In that instant, Thomas's skepticism was transformed into the most profound confession in the gospel: "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas's journey reminds us that faith is not always instant or effortless. Sometimes, it is a process — moving from uncertainty to encounter, from questions to confession. Jesus didn't reject Thomas for his doubt; he met him in it.

We live in a time when doubt can feel dangerous. Questions about faith, Scripture or God's presence may make us fear we're slipping away. But Thomas shows that honest doubt can be a doorway to deeper faith. The key is to bring those doubts into the presence of Christ, not hide them away.

Easter faith doesn't erase our questions; it transforms them. In the light of the resurrection, our fears give way to peace, and our doubts lead us to worship. Like Thomas, we discover that the risen Christ is not far off but present — willing to meet us right where we are.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to follow your example of humility and servanthood. And may our commitment to you remain steadfast, not just now, but in every season of life. Amen.*

**Daily Bible Readings**

- Sunday: Luke 5-9
- Monday: Joshua 8-16
- Tuesday: Joshua 17-24
- Wednesday: Judges 1-4
- Thursday: Judges 5-8
- Friday: Ruth 1-4
- Saturday: Psalms 36-39

## THREE LITTLE RIDDLES

1. A father is 62 when his daughter is 36. How many years has it been since she was exactly one-third his age?
2. I'm tall when I'm young, and short when I'm old. What am I?
3. The more of me you take away, the bigger I get. What am I?



**Solutions to Three Little Riddles**  
 1. 23. She was 13; he was 39.  
 2. A candle  
 3. A hole

**Answers to Trivia Test:**  
 1. Greenland;  
 2. John Adams;  
 3. Seven;  
 4. Blue whale;  
 5. Herman Melville;  
 6. Jeremiah;  
 7. Trumpet;  
 8. Saffron;  
 9. 1896  
 10. Athens, Greece;  
 11. Michelangelo.

# Trivia Test!

- 1. Geography:** What is the largest island in the world?
- 2. History:** Who was the first U.S. president to live in the White House?
- 3. Movies:** In *The Sound of Music*, how many children did the von Trapp family have?
- 4. Animals:** What type of animal is the largest living creature on Earth?
- 5. Literature:** Who wrote the novel *Moby-Dick*?
- 6. Bible:** Who was known as “the weeping prophet”?
- 7. Music:** What instrument did Louis Armstrong play?
- 8. Food & Drink:** What spice is made from the dried stigmas of the crocus flower and is often called “red gold” because of its high cost?
- 9. Sports:** In what year did the modern Olympic Games first take place?
- 10. Art:** Which famous artist is known for painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?

## GOSPEL

### John 20:19-31

#### Jesus Appears to the Disciples

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

#### Jesus and Thomas

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

#### The Purpose of This Book

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue<sup>[b]</sup> to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, <sup>[c]</sup> the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## 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.

### Many Thanks!!

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteer Counters who have committed for the month of Apr. to sort the Sunday Offering and prepare the weekly deposit.

April 5th Art Mehl

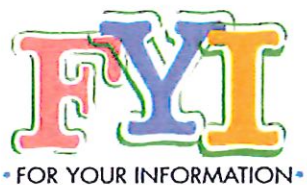
April 12th Woody Wilk

April 18th Mary Norris

April 25th Jim & Ruth Thompson



### Property Shout-Out!



This is a shout-out to everyone who has had the honor of taking care of our huge property. I would like to set aside an early morning walk through our property. I will take note of any issues that are in need of attention. I will then put this list up for everyone to see the needs we

have. I have not decided on a date; any suggestions are welcome.

Please let me know if you have interest. You may call or text me, **Mary Norris 559 905-0615**. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated!

### ATTENTION Hooties!

Our next stop is at the home of Gordon and Diane Fake on April 20th at NOON.

Gordon will showcase pictures from trips around the USA from CA to Key West to New York City and more. Buckle up!

Please bring:

- \* Your ENTIRE table service
- \* A LABELLED dish to share
- \* & maybe some Dramamine



## HVAC GoFundMe Fundraiser Goes Live

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.

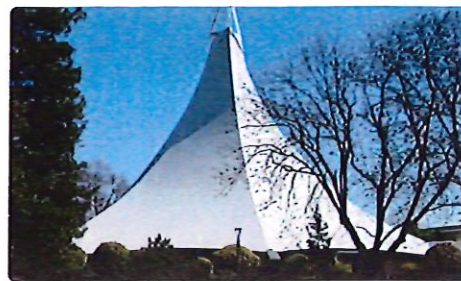
Every donation, big or small, will make a tremendous difference. Together, we can bring warmth back to our church and restore the place where our community worships and grows faith. Thank you for your support.

We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity.

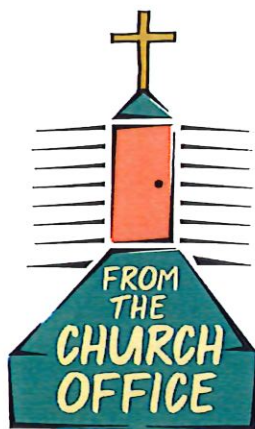
Blessings, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno

Thank you, Reynaldo Villalobos

Support New HVAC at Good Shepherd Fresno



## Church Office Organization



For those members who may not be aware, the Church office organization has changed. Ever since Kathy has moved into the Church house with her family, the financial office and computer have been relocated downstairs and are now located in the office.

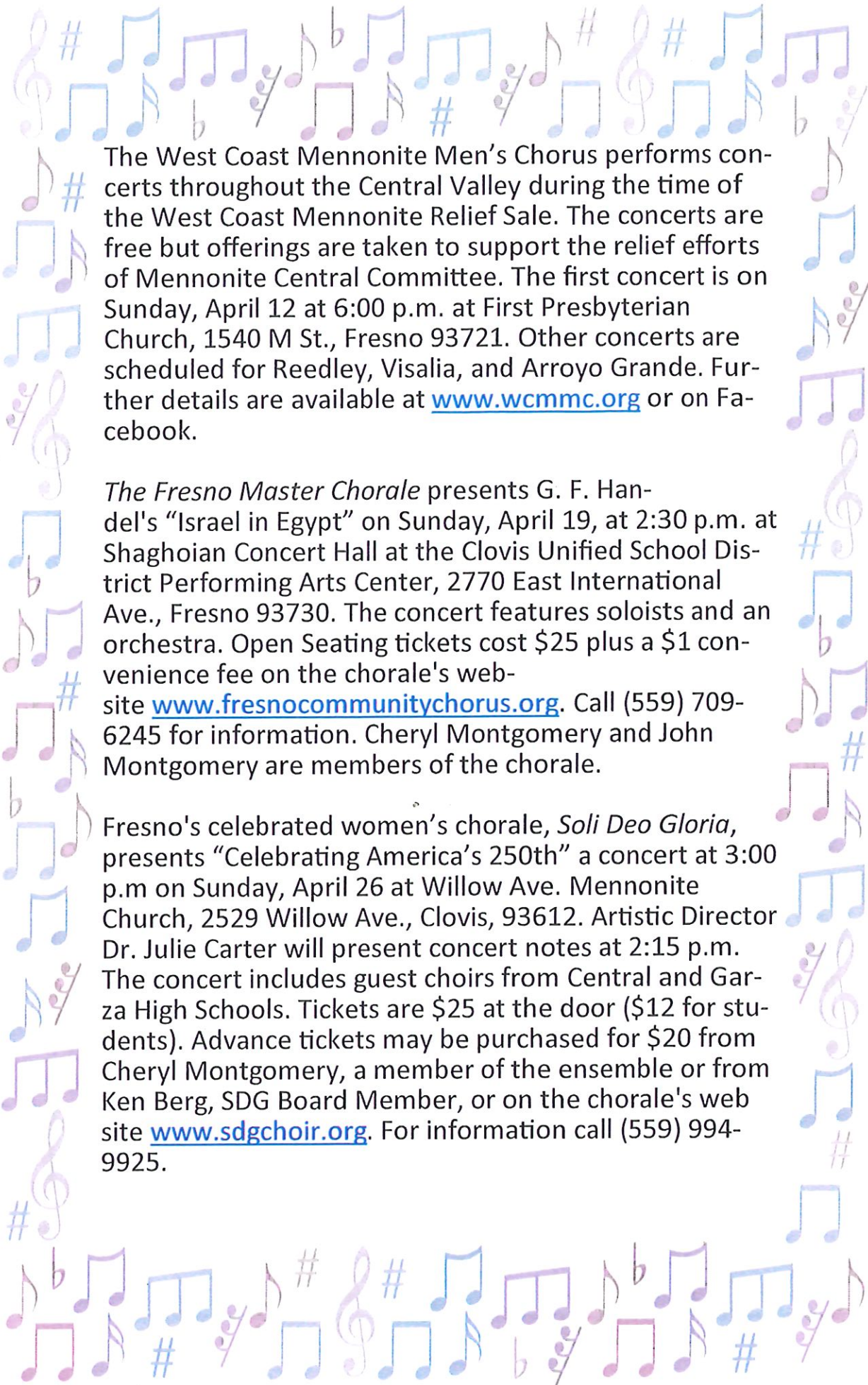
Therefore, financial information, personal financial information and personnel information are now stored in the office. Our Treasurer, Dana, has these things at her desk and in drawers and other locations in the office. As with Kathy's desk, Dana's desk and various places within the office are now very sensitive areas and should not be accessed or items used.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Kathy and secondarily, to Dana, if you need anything within the office. They are very happy to help you and accommodate your needs.

Mail Boxes can still be accessed, but all efforts should be made to come to the office when Kathy and Dana are there during the week or when Dana is there on Sunday after Church.

Your help and understanding with maintaining the confidentiality of records is very appreciated. Our members and employees need to feel their information is secure and not accessible to anyone entering the office.

Thank you.



The West Coast Mennonite Men's Chorus performs concerts throughout the Central Valley during the time of the West Coast Mennonite Relief Sale. The concerts are free but offerings are taken to support the relief efforts of Mennonite Central Committee. The first concert is on Sunday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1540 M St., Fresno 93721. Other concerts are scheduled for Reedley, Visalia, and Arroyo Grande. Further details are available at [www.wcmmc.org](http://www.wcmmc.org) or on Facebook.

*The Fresno Master Chorale* presents G. F. Handel's "Israel in Egypt" on Sunday, April 19, 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. Open Seating tickets cost \$25 plus a \$1 convenience fee on the chorale's website [www.fresnocommunitychorus.org](http://www.fresnocommunitychorus.org). Call (559) 709-6245 for information. Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of the chorale.

Fresno's celebrated women's chorale, *Soli Deo Gloria*, presents "Celebrating America's 250th" a concert at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 26 at Willow Ave. Mennonite Church, 2529 Willow Ave., Clovis, 93612. Artistic Director Dr. Julie Carter will present concert notes at 2:15 p.m. The concert includes guest choirs from Central and Garza High Schools. Tickets are \$25 at the door (\$12 for students). Advance tickets may be purchased for \$20 from Cheryl Montgomery, a member of the ensemble or from Ken Berg, SDG Board Member, or on the chorale's website [www.sdgchoir.org](http://www.sdgchoir.org). For information call (559) 994-9925.