



"TAKE
HEART;
IT IS I.

DO NOT
BE AFRAID."

MATTHEW 14:27

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

Members Needing

Prayer:

Please pray for Gordon and Diane Fake upon the three recent losses of Diane's family members: her sister Janet Sharp in April, her nephew Russ Pate in June and most recently her sister Linda Hannah in July.

Gloria Miller
Steven Smith
Jo Anderson
Cate Casa
Yvonne Smith
Chris Dueker
Arlene Robbins
Robert Harris
Mona White
Julie Werfelmann
Betty Montgomery
Neil and Verna Walden
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

The Hannah Family (Fake)
Stormy White (Mona)
Paula (White)
Ro (Sandy T.)
Randy Williams (Dueker)
Christopher Robbins (Robbins)
Nels (Harris)
Karen Tabler (Vonny)
Julie Schneider (Vonny)
Kaitlyn (Lisa K.)
Pauline Ritterbush
Julie Schnieder (Bender)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Elaine (Werfelmann)
Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)
Phil (Anderson)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Zyg Zee (Norris)
Claire (Vonny)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)

Prayers For

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

For Prayer Requests: Complete the prayer request card on the back of the pew or call/email the church office 225-2092/gslcfresno@att.net

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Service
August 9, 2026 - 10AM
Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost**

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Call to Worship "Now Sing We Joyfully Unto God," by Gordon Young
(c 1962 Shawnee Press, Inc.)
Choral Ensemble

Opening Hymn "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" #883 ((vv. 1-5)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3. Oh, enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

4. For why? The Lord our God is good:
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

5. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose compassion, endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ name, we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me all you who are weary, and are carrying, heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
In the name of God, father, son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together...

C: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Special Music

"The Lord Is In This Holy Temple" by Douglas E. Wagner (c 2004 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation)
Choral Ensemble with The Good Shepherd Chimes

Lesson 1	1 Kings 19:9-18	Page 322 in the cranberry Bible Page 362 in the red Bible
Lesson 2	Romans 10:5-15	Page 1032 in the cranberry Bible Page 167 in the red Bible
Gospel	Matthew 14:22-33	Page 892 in the cranberry Bible Page 16 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.

Sermon

"Get Out of the Boat"

Pr. Ted Niemi

Sermon Hymn "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" #779 (vv. 1-3, 5)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Amazing grace! – how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

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

"Trust in God" Original Words by Fanny Jane Crosby,
Add'l Words and Music by Brandon Lake, Chris
Brown, Mitch Wong and Steven Furtick (c 2023
Brandon Lake Music, Music by Elevation Worship
Publishing, A Wong Made Write Publishing,
Integrity's Prase! Music, CCLI Song # 7206001, CCLI
Lic. # 2032355)
Choral Ensemble

Offertory

Offering Response

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"
Congregation

Hymn 207

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.

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 "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" #763 (vv. 1-4)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
(Refrain)

3. What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord, my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.
(Refrain)

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?
(Refrain).

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Forever" by Chris Tomlin (c 2001 Rising Springs Music/Vamos Publishing/worshiptogether.com songs, CCLI Song # 3148428, CCLI Lic. # 2032355)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King.
His love endures forever.
For He is good, He is above all things,
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.

2. With a mighty hand and outstretched arm,
His love endures forever.
For the life that's been reborn,
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise.
Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,
forever God is with us, forever, forever.

3. From the rising to the setting sun,
His love endures forever.
By the grace of God we will carry on,
His love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise.
Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,
forever God is with us, forever, forever, forever...

Sending

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Walking on water wasn't built in a day. —Jack Kerouac

The year 2025 was a year of some amazing but deadly and costly natural catastrophes. The southern California wildfires in early 2025 had an economic impact of \$112 billion. Then in July, the skies opened over the central Texas hill country, dumping more than 20 inches of rain in under six hours, causing the Guadalupe River to surge 26 to 31 feet in less than 90 minutes. At least 135 deaths were reported, making it the deadliest U.S. inland flooding event in nearly 50 years. As for hurricanes, the season was comparatively quiet in 2025.

Storms have a way of revealing our limits. The disciples were seasoned fishermen, but the storm on the Sea of Galilee that Matthew describes in our reading for today was so fearsome that the disciples just about forgot how to breathe. Still, they strained at the oars, exhausted and afraid.

It's often in those moments — when our strength is spent — that Christ draws near.

Jesus comes to them “early in the morning,” which means sometime between 3 and 6 a.m., the darkest, coldest, most discouraging hours of the night.

At first, the disciples don't recognize him. Fear blurs their vision. They think he's a ghost. But Jesus speaks the words every frightened heart needs to hear: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (v. 27). God's timing may not be early, but it's always faithful.

Peter's brave step onto the water is both inspiring and familiar. He does something impossible as long as his eyes are on Jesus. But the moment he notices the wind, he begins to sink. We know that feeling — holding steady for a while, then wobbling when fear rises.

But Jesus does not shame Peter. He reaches out instantly and catches him. The miracle here is not just water-walking; it's the grace that grabs us when we go under.

For those in later seasons of life, storms may take many forms — declining health, loneliness, family worries or spiritual fatigue. But the promise of this story is clear: The presence of Jesus is stronger than any storm. And even when our faith falters, his hand does not.

So, remember, faith is not the absence of fear; it's reaching toward Jesus, even while the waves rise.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, meet us in life's storms. When fear grows loud, speak your peace. When our steps falter, hold us fast. In your name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: James 3-5

Monday: Jeremiah 27-29

Tuesday: Jeremiah 30-32

Wednesday: Jeremiah 33-36

Thursday: Jeremiah 37-39

Friday: Jeremiah 40-42

Saturday: Psalms 88-90

VERSE TO REMEMBER

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations. Before the mountains were brought
forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. —Psalm 90:1-2*

QUESTIONS

Question 1

What is it that was given to you, that still belongs to you, that you have never lent to anyone, but that is used by all the people you know?

Question 2

Can you write five odd figures that add up to 14?
(Be careful! This is tricky.)

MAGIC SQUARES

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the grids, so that each column, diagonal and row add up to the given sum.

Given Sum: 15

2		
	5	3

Given Sum: 30

	10	6
12		

USE WHITE SPACE HERE TO MAKE MATH NOTES



Questions: 1. Your name; 2. $1+1+1+11=14$. We said "figures," not numbers!

2	9	4
7	5	3
6	1	8

4	18	8
14	10	6
12	2	16

MAGIC SQUARES

GOSPEL
Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, ^[a] for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, ^[b] he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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 July to sort the Sunday Offering and prepare the weekly deposit.

July 5th Art Mehl

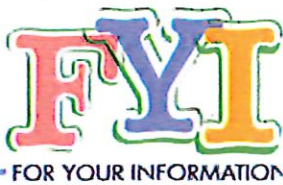
July 12th Art Mehl

July 19th

July 26th Jim And 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!

Paint Night HVAC Fundraiser - Aug. 22nd in Jacobson Hall 4-6 pm



Please plan to come exercise your creativity as we paint our own canvases and enjoy one another's company. All proceeds benefit our HVAC fund.

Also, we would like to offer a bake sale in conjunction so people can buy some snacks to eat while they're painting.

Please let Julie know by text (559-287-3357) or email

(13jdixon13@gmail.com) if you'd like to contribute. Items could be

dropped off at the office Friday, 8/21 between 9-1 or brought along on the 22nd. Questions - see Julie or Shauna. Thank you!

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.

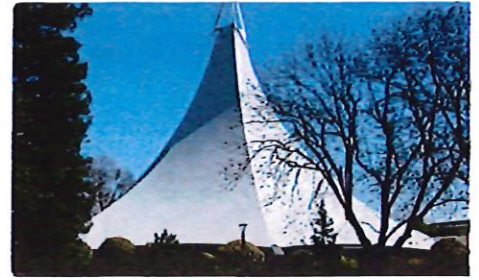
Every donation, big or small, will make a tremendous difference. Together, we can bring warmth back to our church and restore the place where our community worships and grows faith. Thank you for your support.

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



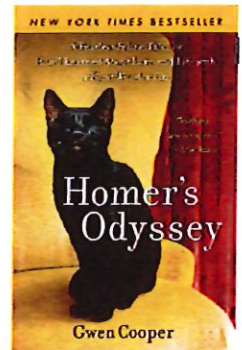
SUMMER BOOK CLUB

For the **Summer Book Club**, we usually read books that are lighter or more "summer reads." This year we have a book about a cat adventure.

Sun, August 9th at 4 pm in the Community Center

Homer's Odyssey by Gwen Cooper

Everyone warned that Homer would always be an "underachiever," since he was blind. But the kitten nobody believed in quickly grew into a three-pound dynamo with a giant heart who eagerly made friends with every human who crossed his path.



KingsMen/KingsKids 8/26 @ 6:30PM



Hello all, the next KingsMen/KingsKids will be on Wednesday evening, August 26th at 6:30 pm. It will be in Jacobson Hall. Food will be pizza. Please, if you can, bring a fruit salad or a dessert. Hope you all are keeping cool. Will Hayes



New Number

Please make note of the new number for Mona White: (559) 242-0466.



"God's Work. Our Hands." September 12th

Our annual day of service will be coming the 2nd Saturday in September, on 9/12. Please plan now to join in one (or more!) of the following ways to serve.



We will be hosting the Lutheran Hunger Network FREE food distribution here @ GSLC from 9-11 (plus set up and clean up), and that will also be our first Saturday Sports & Crafts at Roeding Elementary. In the afternoon there will be an opportunity to assemble Blessing Bags for our friends @ Westside Rescue. Please see Julie or Janet if you have other ideas of ways to serve our community, and be sure to add this to your calendar now. Thank you!

Collecting Toiletries Until 9/12/26 for Blessing Bags



Please help GS bless the unhoused clients of Westside Rescue. We are collecting all kinds of toiletries, which need to be travel sized please.

We are looking especially for the following: Deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes,

chapstick.

We also will need soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, combs, and some granola bars and cookies or other treats. Please bring in your items and place them in the bin labeled Westside. We have put together 40-50 bags in the past. Thank you!!

Rally Day is September 13th! Please make a note of it.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 8/9, and 8/16

VBS will begin with an intergenerational opening, followed by a class with Pastor Ted for adults while the kids have games, crafts, and the like. We will all be focusing on the Apostle Paul and his journeys.

