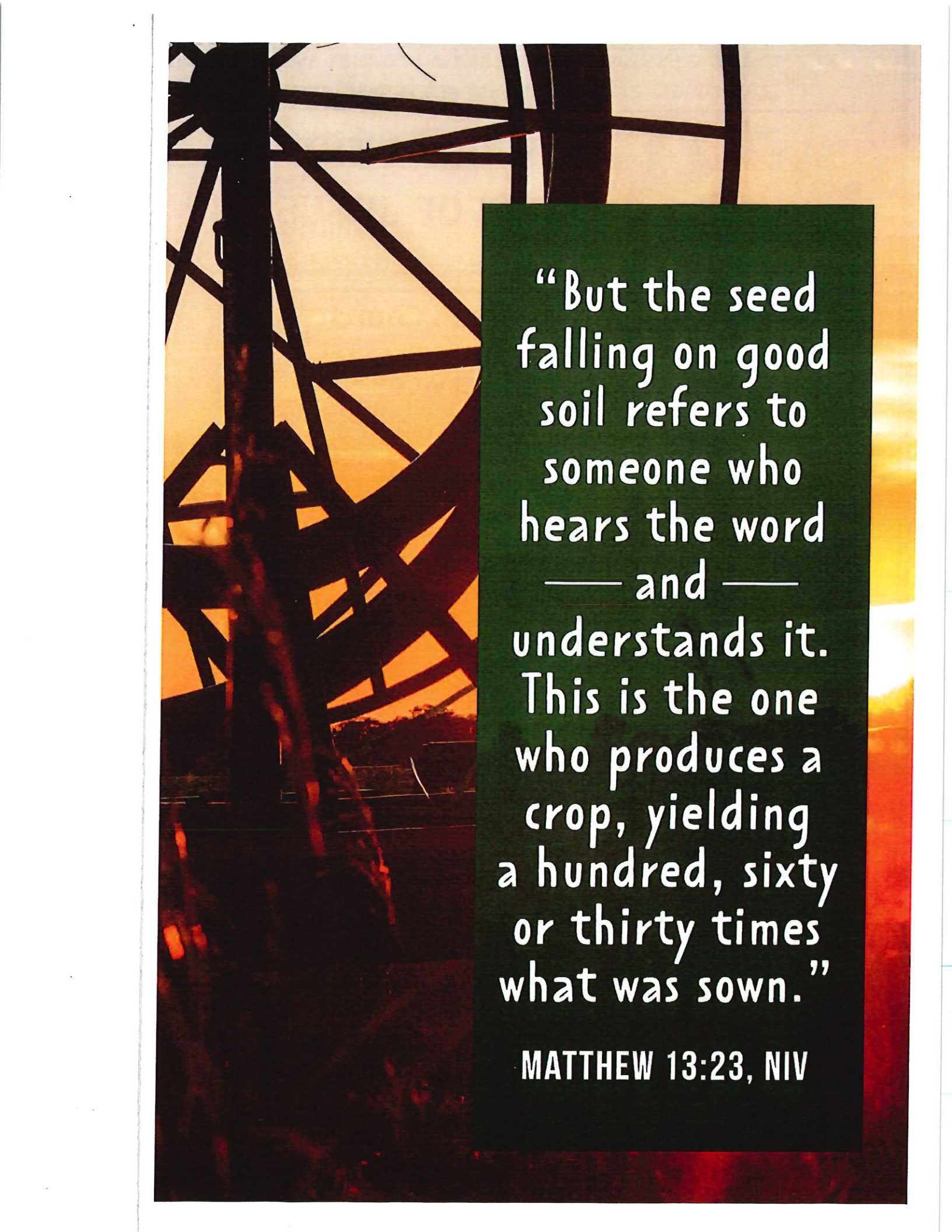




“But the seed
falling on good
soil refers to
someone who
hears the word
—— and ——
understands it.
This is the one
who produces a
crop, yielding
a hundred, sixty
or thirty times
what was sown.”

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

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

Members Needing

Prayer:

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
July 12, 2026 - 10AM
Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" #879 (vv. 1-5)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain:

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
(Refrain)

3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
(Refrain)

4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
(Refrain)

5. For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n,
for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n:
(Refrain)

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: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.
By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through 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	Isaiah 55:10-13	Page 672 in the cranberry Bible Page 761 in the red Bible
Lesson 2	Romans 8:1-11	Page 1029 in the cranberry Bible Page 164 in the red Bible
Gospel	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Page 889 in the cranberry Bible Page 14 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

"The Real Holy Land"

Pr. Ted Niemi

Sermon Hymn

"Thy Word" by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith
(c 1984 Word Music, LLC (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.), Meadowgreen Music Company
(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), CCLI Song #14301, CCLI License #2032355)
Song Leaders and Congregation

Chorus:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, and think I've lost my way.

Still, you're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near;

Please be near me to the end.

(Chorus)

2. I will not forget your love to me and yet,

My heart forever is wandering.

Jesus be my guide, and hold me to your side,

And I will love you to the end.

3. Nothing will I fear as long as you are near;

Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

And a light unto my path.

You're the light unto my path.

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

"Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God" by G. F. Handel, Arr.
by Hal Hopson (c MCMLXXIII Harold Flammer, Inc.)
Cheryl and John Montgomery, Duet

Offertory

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" by Handt
Hanson (c 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing,
Changing Church, Inc.)
Choral Ensemble

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

"Break Now the Bread of Life" #515 (vv. 1-3)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O living Word.
2. Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
3. You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

“Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)” by Paul Baloche and Brenton Brown (c 2205, 2006 Thankyou Music/ Integrity’s Hosanna! Music, CCLI Song #4662491, CCLI License # 2032355)

Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You; We turn to you;
Hope is stirring hearts are yearning for You; We long for You;

Chorus:

‘Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day;
In your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.
Hosanna, hosanna, You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises;
Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way among us;
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.

2. Hear the sound of hearts returning to You; We turn to You;
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new;
(Chorus)

Sending

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

GOSPEL
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, ^[a] hear!"

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ^[a] ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this ^[b] age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:105-112

*There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle
or the mirror that reflects it. —Edith Wharton*

It doesn't matter where you live in the United States. At some point, you're going to have severe weather that knocks out your power and leaves you in the dark at night.

We live on the Oregon coast. When the North wind starts a-blowin' and the rain starts a-fallin', we're not surprised if there's a power outage. But we used to live at the base of the Front Range in Colorado, and it wasn't uncommon for the power to go out when a severe electrical storm passed through on its way to the eastern plains. If you live in the Midwest or Southeast, you're all too aware of the threat of severe thunderstorms and tornados. And along the Eastern seaboard, you've learned to keep your ears attuned to hurricane activity during the season.

Sometimes in life, you need to have an additional light source. So, when the power goes out, you light a candle or look for a flashlight. If you've ever walked through a dark room at night, you know the value of a small light. You don't need to see the whole house — you just need to see enough not to stumble. This is the image Psalm 119 gives us: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Notice what the psalmist does *not* say. God's word is not a *floodlight* revealing every twist and turn of the future. It is a *lamp* — a small, steady light that shows just the next step.

For many of us, especially in later seasons of life, the future can feel uncertain. Health changes. Loved ones come and go. The routines we once depended on shift beneath our feet. But God promises that we never walk in darkness alone.

The psalmist also speaks of commitment — holding fast to God's word "to the end," even when life becomes difficult. He speaks of suffering, but not with despair. He knows that the same God who gives the light also gives the strength to follow it.

So let's not forget that while *God may not show us the whole journey, he will always give enough light for today*. And sometimes that is all we can handle — and all we need.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, be the light for our steps today. When the path feels uncertain or the road ahead seems dim, shine your gentle truth into our hearts. Give us courage to trust you with what we cannot see. In Jesus' name. Amen.

HOME TOUCH® Activity Page

Week of July 12, 2026

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 6-9

Monday: Isaiah 55-57

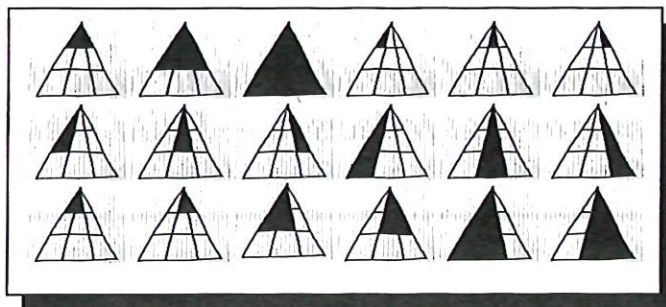
Tuesday: Isaiah 58-60

Wednesday: Isaiah 61-63

Thursday: Isaiah 64-66

Friday: Micah 1-4

Saturday: Psalms 76-78



Solution to last week's triangle puzzle: 18

WHAT BOOKS IN THE BIBLE DO NOT HAVE THE LETTERS B-I-B-L-E IN THEM? (Hint: There are 12. Answer below)

PAIRS IN THE BIBLE

Using a pen or pencil, draw lines to connect well-known pairs in the Bible. (Answers below)

SAMSON

WATER

LOAVES

ADAM

PAUL

DAVID

MARY

CAIN

LEAH

MOSES

JACOB

FISHES

GOLIATH

ESAU

WINE

RACHEL

SILAS

MARTHA

AARON

DELILAH

ABEL

EVE

BOOKS IN THE BIBLE: Joshua, Ruth, Amos, Jonah, Nahum, Mark, John, Acts, Romans, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John. **PAIRS:** Samson/Delilah, water/wine, loaves/fishes, Adam/Eve, Paul/Silas, David/Goliath, Mary/Martha, Cain/Abel, Leah/Rachel, Moses/Aaron, Jacob/Esau.

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!

Thank You!

I contacted each of you personally to share my gratitude for your concern and expressions of sympathy, but I wanted to again thank you for the cards and sharing your condolences to our family on the loss of my sister Janet. Your kindness means so much at such a difficult time. Diane



Many Thanks!



Many thanks to all of you who sent me cards and greetings. Every single one warmed my heart. I am looking forward to seeing you again. Love from Gloria

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.

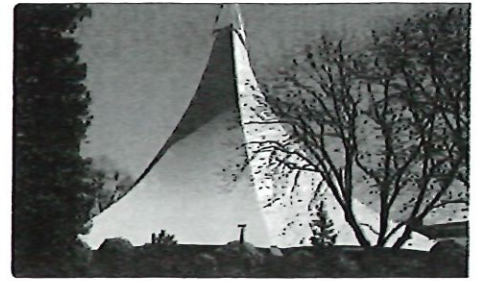
Every donation, big or small, will make a tremendous difference. Together, we can bring warmth back to our church and restore the place where our community worships and grows faith. Thank you for your support.

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



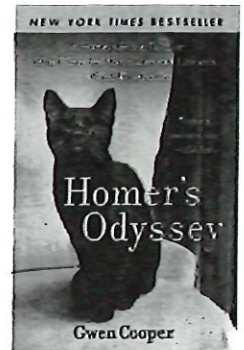
SUMMER BOOK CLUB

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' 7/29 @ 6:30PM



Hello, hope everyone had a nice 4th of July. The next KingsMen and KingsKids will be on Wednesday evening, July 29th at 6:30 in Jacobson Hall. For dinner we will have an old fashioned pot luck. So if you can, please bring a dish, salad or dessert to share. Thank you.
Will



"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.

