

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**Worship Devotional**  
**July 14, 2024**  
**Eighth Sunday of Pentecost**

**Prelude** Susan Berg, Piano

**Announcements**

**Opening Song** "For The Beauty of the Earth"  
Song Leaders and Congregation

**Verse 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 Lord, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

**Verse 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**

**Verse 4**

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild;

**Refrain**

**Verse 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, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance., let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,  
help us.

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the works of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, +the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

You are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

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

**C:** O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works.

Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

**Special Music**      "The Lord Is In This Holy Temple" by Douglas E. Wagner  
Choral Ensemble and The Good Shepherd Chimes

### **FIRST LESSON**

Amos 7:7-15

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

<sup>7</sup>This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what

do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,  
"See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will spare them no longer;  
<sup>9</sup> the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

### **Amaziah Complains to the King**

<sup>10</sup> Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying,  
"Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the  
land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup> For thus Amos has said,  
'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.' "

<sup>12</sup> And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn  
your bread there, and prophesy there, <sup>13</sup> but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it  
is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

<sup>14</sup> Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am<sup>[a]</sup> no prophet nor a prophet's son, but I  
am<sup>[b]</sup> a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup> and the LORD took me from  
following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

## **SECOND LESSON**

Ephesians 1:3-14

### **Spiritual Blessings in Christ**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in  
Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in  
Christ<sup>[b]</sup> before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him  
in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us<sup>[c]</sup> for adoption as his children<sup>[d]</sup> through Jesus Christ,  
according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that  
he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his  
blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that

he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,<sup>[e]</sup> having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this<sup>[f]</sup> is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

## **GOSPEL**

Mark 6:14-29

### **The Death of John the Baptist**

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard of it, for Jesus's<sup>[a]</sup> name had become known. Some were<sup>[b]</sup> saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod<sup>[c]</sup> had married her. <sup>18</sup> For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup> for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed,<sup>[d]</sup> and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup> But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When his daughter Herodias<sup>[e]</sup> came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup> And he swore<sup>[f]</sup> to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother,

“What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.”<sup>25</sup> Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”<sup>26</sup> The king was deeply grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.<sup>27</sup> Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s<sup>[g]</sup> head. He went and beheaded him in the prison,<sup>28</sup> brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.<sup>29</sup> When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

**Sermon** “God Wins In The End”

**Sermon Hymn** “To Be Your Presence”  
Song Leaders and Congregation

**Verse 1**

To be your presence is our mission here, to show compassion’s face and list’ning ear, to be your heart of mercy ever near, al-el-lu-ia!

**Verse 2**

To be your presence is our mission bold, to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold, to be your hands of justice, right uphold al-el-lu-ia!

**Verse 3**

To be your presence is our mission blest, to speak for all the broken and oppressed, to be your voice of hope, your love expressed, al-el-lu-ia!

**Verse 4**

We are your heart, O Christ , your hands and voice, to serve your people is our call and choice, and in this mission we, the church, rejoice, al-el-lu-ia!

## Prayers of the People

**Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.**

Father God, the prophet Amos was called by God to give a harsh word to Israel. God would no longer tolerate the people's sin against God. He would destroy the idols they were worshipping, along with the king, and send the nation into exile. It came to pass, just as Amos foretold. *Lord in your mercy...*

In Jesus' day, another prophet, John the Baptist, also gave the king a harsh message. He admonished the king for his conduct in marriage, and the king was deceived by his sin to bring about the death of John. Both Amos and John proclaimed the truth and suffered for it. But God's word was true and had consequences. *Lord in your mercy...*

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. Lord, how many times does our sin deceive us and cause us to be disobedient to God? But God is merciful and forgives our sins when we repent. In Ephesians Saint Paul says, "*In [Jesus Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace<sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us.*" Yes, we can turn our lives around because of God's grace. Paul continues, "*[God] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,<sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment.*" *Lord in your mercy...*

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayers with healing, comfort and new life. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? *Lord in your mercy...*

Paul's word of hope continues: "*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*" Alleluia, Lord God, we give your praise and glory now and forever. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray.

*Amen.*

CAROLYN T. LINN

**Special Music**      "Praise Ye the Lord" by Jefferson Cleveland  
Choral Ensemble

## Scripture Reading: Psalm 24

*The secret to permanently breaking any bad habit is to love something greater than the habit. —Bryant McGill*

In Thailand, elephants are not uncommon. They used to be very important to the economy, especially in the logging industry. But since their use for logging was banned in the 1980s, elephants exist primarily to entertain and delight tourists.

While living in southeast Asia, my wife and I visited Thailand on numerous occasions. We frequently saw elephants. Often, they were idle and just tied with a small rope to a post, much like cowboys used to do in old TV and movie Westerns.

This reminded me of the story of a man passing a couple of Indian elephants in a marketplace of Chiang Mai. He suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by *only a small rope tied to their front leg!* No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds. But for some reason, they did not try to get away.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to escape.

“Well,” the trainer said, “when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it’s enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free.”

Isn’t this amazing? Isn’t it true that sometimes our bad habits are *learned* behaviors, and once we have learned them, we forget that we can also unlearn them and step away into freedom?

What bad habits do we need to unlearn today? The apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, saying, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).

To be “conformed” is to look like, behave like, sound like everyone else. Conformity to the world is like an elephant standing mutely by a post, believing that that little tiny rope is strong enough to keep him in his place.

We are bigger than the habits that hold us captive. Our God is bigger than any habits that control us. We can walk away. Those little ropes of sin have no strength or power to tame us! Thanks be to God!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, thank you for the strength to break the bonds of sin! Amen.*



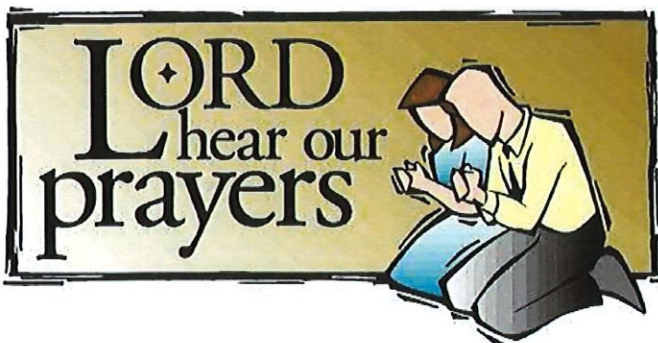
## Prayer Concerns

### Members in Need of Prayer:

Mary Schmidt  
Kay Schumacher  
Mona White  
Betty Montgomery  
Diane Fake  
Yvonne Smith  
Neil and Verna Walden  
Liz Smith  
Bill Biggs  
Mary Norris & Family  
Connie Alvarado  
Jocelyn Miller  
Kirsten Linder  
Jim Thompson

### Family and Friends:

Phil (Anderson)  
Gary Assmussen (Deuker's Cousin)  
Please pray for the Bob Krause family on his passing. (Anderson)  
Irene Goldman (Dueker)  
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)  
Betty (Anderson)  
Tonya (White)  
Shanese (White)  
Dirk Rathwick (Norris)  
Zyg Zee (Norris)  
Claire (Vonny)  
Janet Sharp (Fake)  
Anthony Collichio (Norris)  
Mickey Cecil (Norris)  
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)  
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)  
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)  
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)  
Melissa (Sandy T.)  
Joy Kensinger (Miller)  
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)  
Jim D. (Norris)  
Jade Dixon (Julie)  
Pam (Smith)  
Grace Johnson (Fake)  
Hudson Otten (Anderson)  
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)  
Rosemary (Vonny)  
Nathan & Sandy Robbins (Robbins)





## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy Kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**Matthew 6:9-13**

### **Blessing**

### **Closing Song**

**"Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)"**

**Song Leaders and Congregation**

### **Verse 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  
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day  
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

### **Chorus**

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

### **Verse 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  
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day  
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

**Chorus**

**Verse 3**

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day

In Your Presence all our fears are washed away

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day

In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

**Chorus**

**Ending**

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

Hosanna, hosanna

Hosanna, hosanna

**Sending**

**P:** Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Susan Berg, Piano


**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

# U.S. PRESIDENTS

A week ago, we celebrated our independence and the founding of our country. The two puzzles below are about the presidential leaders of our country.



**YES or NO?** Were the following ever presidents of our country? Yes or No? Circle the correct answer.

Aaron Burr	YES / NO
Andrew Jackson	YES / NO
Millard Fillmore	YES / NO
Harry Truman	YES / NO
Alf Landon	YES / NO
Benjamin Franklin	YES / NO
Thomas Edison	YES / NO
Grover Cleveland	YES / NO
John Tyler	YES / NO
Warren Harding	YES / NO
Daniel Webster	YES / NO
James Garfield	YES / NO
William McKinley	YES / NO
Henry Clay	YES / NO
Bob Dole	YES / NO
Franklin Pierce	YES / NO

**Presidents by Last Name**

The United States has had 46 presidents.

5 presidents have a last name beginning with T. Can you name them?

5 presidents have a last name beginning with H. Can you name them?

4 presidents have a last name beginning with J. Can you name them?

4 presidents have a last name beginning with C. Can you name them?

*Answers below*

**ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD:**

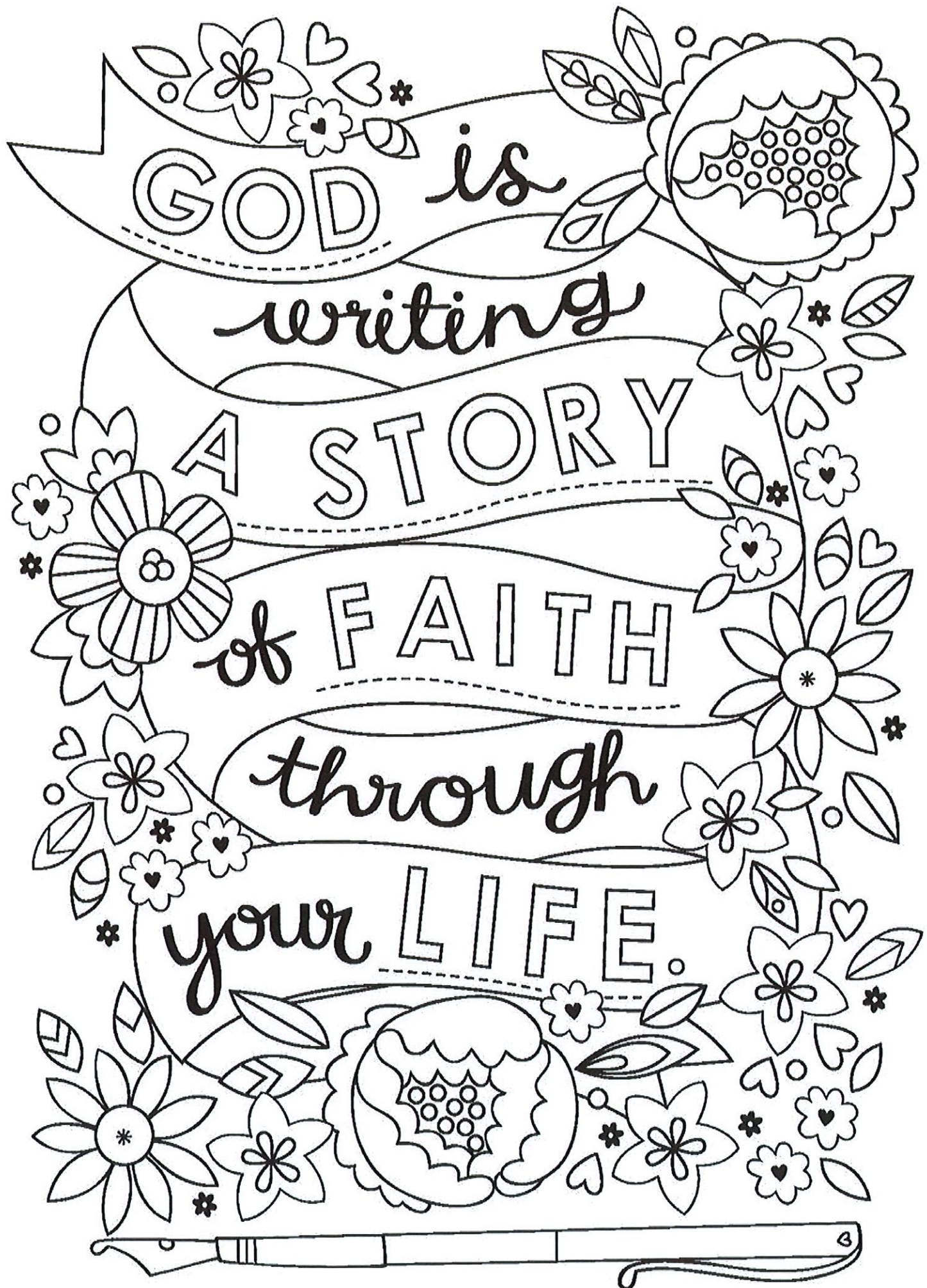
**Across** — 2. loyal; 8. stripes; 10. flag; 11. colonies; 13. citizenship; 16. celebration; 19. picnic; 23. constitution; 24. British; 27. Congress; 28. bell; 29. anniversary. **Down**—1. bands; 3. freedom; 4. union; 5. cannons; 6. Jefferson; 7. government; 9. patriotic; 12. Philadelphia; 14. democracy; 15. declaration; 17. independence; 18. England; 20. fireworks; 21. birthday; 22. stars; 25. states; 26. July.

**BACKWARDS GEOGRAPHY**

Think of the last place you visited on a holiday — a city, state or country. This visit might have happened last week or last year or several years ago. Doesn't matter. Then, think of any place in the world that begins with the last letter of your starter location. For example, if you said RENO, then your next location would start with an O. Perhaps OLYMPIA, and so your next place would start with an A, and so on. Do this until you have ten (10) places in the world to complete this backwards geography ladder. *WRITE YOUR ANSWERS HERE:*

**God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. —Psalm 73:26**

**ANSWERS TO YES / NO:** Aaron Burr, Alf Landon, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and Bob Dole were NOT presidents. **ANSWERS TO PRESIDENTS BY LAST NAME:** The letter T (5), Taft, Taylor, Trump, Truman, Tyler; The letter H (5), Harding, Benjamin Harrison, William Henry Harrison, Hayes, Hoover; The letter J (4), Jackson, Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, Lyndon Baines Johnson; The letter C (4), Carter, Cleveland, Clinton, Coolidge.



GOD is

writing

A STORY

of FAITH

through

your LIFE.

LOVE

your enemies

DO GOOD

to those who hate you

BLESS

those who curse you

PRAY

for those who mistreat you

- LUKE 6:27-28 -

## Newsletter from the Congregational President of GSLC

Hi there GSLC Family!

I hope everyone is doing well and taking care of themselves with the heat. I received a request to start a newsletter to keep everyone updated and in the know. I have quite a few things to touch base on.

- Our Directory update is a crucial step towards fostering community connection and achieving our financial sustainability goal. As the year progresses, this will enable us to stay connected and support each other.
- We are eagerly awaiting a response from Central Valley Training Center(CVTC) regarding our rental proposal. Your prayers and support are invaluable. Let's all pray for the acceptance of our proposal.
- Whether CVTC accepts our proposal or not, we are getting ready to clean and paint the Educational wing and the Fireside room.
- We will be starting a Neighborhood Watch program for our immediate area. Our first meeting is July 24th at 6:30. There are flyers that are going to be made with outreach to our neighbors for participation.
- We are working on Oktoberfest. Suzie Gutierrez is creating a logo so that we can start promoting our event.
- A registry, much like a wedding registry, has been created on Amazon to furnish our Fireside room. Our registry and gifting name are GSLC. You may also find us by searching Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fresno, CA, Parish House.

For less than \$1500, I found a Sofa and loveseat with an ottoman. A dining room set with 4 chairs and a bench. An area Rug, 2-floor lamps, a coffee table, and a matching table for the TV(Which I already have). All are delivered for free. I thought it would be helpful With the Amazon Prime Sales on July 16 & 17.

Any questions, please feel free to reach me. Your love and support for GSLC is greatly Appreciated!

Mary C Norris,  
Congregation President  
(559)905-0615

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### From Generation to Generation VBS Tonight @ 6:15PM

#### 2 Sundays Remaining In August

Our VBS will pick back up on Aug. 4th @ 6:15pm so tell your friends, neighbors, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and so on! Our VBS will be for all ages, FREE, and begin with dinner each night @ 6:15. The remaining dates will be Aug 4th & 11th from 6:15-8:30. We will eat and open together and then adults are invited to Pastor

Ted's class while kids are invited to participate in art, crafts, science, and games. Then we will gather back together for music and snacks. All are welcome! Thank you! *Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann*



### Directory Update—Photo, Address, Email Address or Phone Number



We will once again be updating the directory. If you are fine with us using the current picture then there is nothing that you need to do but if you never had a picture or want to update the current one you can send it to the office email at [gslcfresno@att.net](mailto:gslcfresno@att.net) or text it to Kathy's cell phone: 559-593-5321. Also, if there have been any changes to your address, email address, or phone number, please send that information to the office email as well.

### Pantry Needs Restocking

We could especially use: **Bagged pasta & egg noodles, canned meat & fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), ramen noodles, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter & Mayo.**



We will continue to take all donations of other food stuffs like: Rice, Boxed pasta meals, Canned vegetables, sauces & chili beans, soups and Jelly (Grape preferable). Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.

### Instagram Posts



Sue Hays is needing some content to put on the GSLC Instagram page. Kathy already provides her with the upcoming events but it would be nice for people to send pics that they take from the events. It's good to get another's perspective on the events. Please email any content to the church email at [gslcfresno@att.net](mailto:gslcfresno@att.net) and Kathy will forward it to Sue.

### Bring a Friend to Worship

There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.



## OWLS are grounded for July and August.



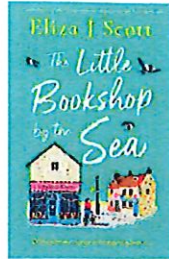
Get your passports ready for a vacation with Pilot Gordon and Co-Pilot Diane Fake on Sept. 18. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for details.

## Neighborhood Watch Meeting—July 24th @ 6:30PM

Wednesday, July 24th will be our first neighborhood watch meeting. We will meet @ 6:30PM in Jacobson Hall.



## GSLC Summer Book Club—July 28 @ 4pm, Comm Ctr



In case you have wanted to join our book club discussions but did not have time, here is your chance to come read for fun with us. Books available from your favorite book seller. There are a couple of copies available to borrow. For questions, contact Sharon Rowle (email [shandrow@outlook.com](mailto:shandrow@outlook.com) - put summer book club in the subject line).

### Book #2 - THE LITTLE BOOKSHOP BY THE SEA by Eliza J Scott

Join us Sunday, July 28 at 4pm in the Community Center.

A widowed artist. An old crush. One summer to get her life back.

## KingsMen/KingsKids, July 31 @ 6:30PM



Hello folks, KingsMen and KingsKids will take place on July 31st at 6:30 pm. This time for dinner, we are going to do something special. It will be build your own subway sandwich. I'll bring the bread for the subways. I just need a few folks to bring the rest. Meat, cheese and pickles. Also whatever else you like to put on your subway.



We do have mayo and mustard in the kitchen. Hope to see you all there.  
William Hayes

## Saturday Sports at Roeding Elementary

We have several Volunteer Opportunities at GSLC!! Come Have Some FUN!!



## Happy Anniversary Pastor Ted!!!



Monday, July 15th, is the 22nd anniversary of Pastor Ted's service as pastor at Good Shepherd. Join everyone in wishing Pr. Ted a 'Happy Anniversary' and thank him for his 22 yrs. of service.

## Happy Anniversary Mona White!

Just for your information, on July 15 I celebrate my 34th. Anniversary as a Deaconess. Thanks to you, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, I can continue to serve Jesus, my Saviour. Join everyone in wishing Mona a 'Happy Anniversary' and thank her for her 34 yrs. of service.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!