

MY SERMON notes

date:

today's scriptures



things to remember

prayers



to study at home:





BLESSING

of the Animals

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Worship Bulletin

October 22, 2023 – 10AM

“Season of Creation: St. Francis Blessing of the Animals”

Prelude

Susan Berg, Organ

Announcements

Welcome

Opening Songs

“My Savior My God”

“Peace Prayer”

“This is Amazing Grace”

Call to Worship

All dogs, large and small:

Praise the Lord!

All rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs:

Praise the Lord!

All goldfish, guppies and swimming creatures:

Praise the Lord!

All horses, cows and sheep:

Praise the Lord!

All lizards, salamanders and crawling creatures:

Praise the Lord!

Every animal in the sky, the sea and the forest:

Praise the Lord!

Confession and Absolution

Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

We thank you, God!

Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

We thank you, God!

Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

We are sorry.

Lord, for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

We are sorry.

Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests,
oceans or fields,

We are sorry.

I speak for Christ. For all your sins against the creatures of Earth, I forgive you and

I call upon you to honor and protect all animals. Yes, I speak for Christ. May the animals of Earth be your companions in life and lead you to celebrate your place in the circle of life.

Amen! Amen! Shalom! Shalom!

Prayer for the Day

God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as kin, all animals as partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all minute beings as expressions of your mysterious design and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 2:18-25

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man^[a] there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,
“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.



“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain to receive power and... honor and glory and praise!”

Revelation 5:12, 13

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-29

Do Not Worry

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,^[a] or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?^[b] ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Sermon “F.E.L.I.N.E”

Sermon Hymn “O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth”
words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette,
melody “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

*You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.**—Amy Carmichael*

The Bible reading for today tells the story of some religious leaders asking Jesus if it was okay to pay taxes to the emperor. Jesus wondered if they had a coin of the realm. They dug into their robes and produced one, whereupon Jesus noted that the image on the coin was of Caesar. Then he said, “Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

Speaking of coins, without looking, can you list the human faces on our coins and paper money? While you are thinking about that, let me suggest that it is the *first part of Jesus’ comment* that gets the most attention. We’re told that paying our taxes is the proper thing to do, and the implication is that taxation of individuals is necessary for the good of the whole.

But, we don’t dwell as much on the *second half* of Jesus’ comment: “Render to God the things that are God’s.”

Back to U.S. coins and currency. Our coins are stamped with images of Lincoln, Jefferson, Roosevelt, Washington and Kennedy. Our bills feature the images of Washington, Lincoln, Hamilton, Jackson, Grant and Franklin. These face shots represent our “Caesar,” and every year, Americans dig into their pockets and shell out a portion of their annual income to provide for the common good, including the benefits we enjoy as seniors.

But there is never a time when God expects us to “retire” from rendering to God. God expects us to give to God the things that belong to God.

The big question is, “What?” What belongs to God? What does God expect that we should give to the Creator of the universe, the God who reigns supreme in the heavens? We don’t have much money. We can’t sing and speak like we used to. Teaching Sunday school is out of the question. Even visiting our neighbors can be troublesome. What does God expect us to render unto him?

Everything. That is to say, “Ourselves.” All that we are in our present condition. We are God’s. We belong to God. We are in God’s hands. And that is a good place to be.

—Timothy Merrill.

Prayer: I freely give my all — money, time, possessions and my gratitude. It is yours. Amen.

Special Music

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

words by Mrs. C. F. Alexander, music by John Rutter

John Montgomery, Solo

Prayers of the People

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

Heavenly Father, by the Sixth Day of creation, God had made all of the creatures of the earth; only humankind remained. Then God made man in his own image and breathed life into his frame. God made woman to be a helper for man, out of his own body. God said, "They would '*become one flesh.*'" And it was so: the perfect union. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Our lesson from Revelation gives the scenario at the end of time, the culmination of the world God created. All of God's creations join together at the throne of God, "*Living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands.*" And what do they do? They give praise to Jesus! They shout with a loud voice, "*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!... every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, 'To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!'*" ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. We pray for this congregation as we share the love of Jesus. Show us how to love another, respect our differences and work together for care of the creatures God created. We name those among us who have asked for prayers. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? ***Lord in your mercy...***

These weeks of emphasis on God's creation have given us insight into our responsibilities in caring for one another and our earth. But are we to stress over doing too much or too little to maintain our planet? No, Jesus words in Matthew give us the answer. "*I tell you, do not be anxious about your life.... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.*"

We need to "Abide in God" until the end of time. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray.
Amen

CAROLYN T. LINN

Prayer Concerns

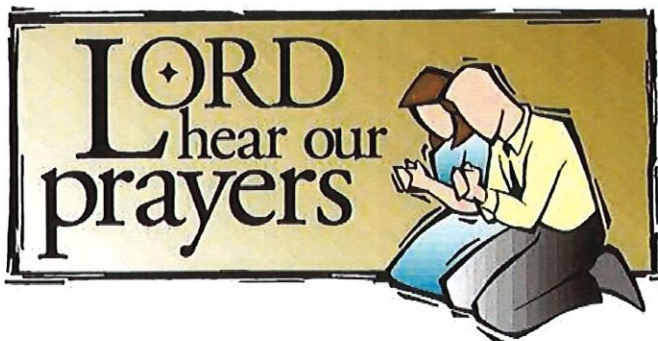


Members in Need of Prayer:

Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy & Stacy Lairson
Sue Hays & Family on the passing
of her Uncle Bill
Essman.
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
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:

Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Ken & Becky (Lairson)
Russel DiGirolamo
Blaise (Linn)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
Belinda Zavala (Norris)
Renee Family on her passing. (Norris)
Dan Fey & Family (Norris—No
Relation)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Emily Burton (Hays)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Gloria Valdez (Norris)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan 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

Communion Hymn

"Here Is Bread"
Congregation Please Join

Hymn 483
(vv. 1-3)

Communion Blessing

Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind and your body to heal your wounds, to calm your fears and through you to bring healing to Earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Closing Hymn

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Sending

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's wisdom permeating nature on this planet and guiding the course of its climate.

Go in peace!

Serving Christ and loving Earth!

We go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth.

Postlude

Reprise on "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
Arr. Brent Endstrom
Susan Berg, Organ

This is a quote from Pastor Ted in the August 2023 Newsletter that bears repeating.

"If you find yourself wondering what in the world is going on in our world, like I do, there is peace in reading Psalm 46. I hope it can be a reminder to you that God is in control!"



Week of October 22, 2023

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 19:11-41,

2 Corinthians 1-3

Monday: Ezra 5-7

Tuesday: Ezra 8-10

Wednesday: Nehemiah 1-3

Thursday: Nehemiah 4-6

Friday: Nehemiah 7-9

Saturday: Psalms 124-126

Verse to Remember

*May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.*

—Psalm 126:5-6

MYSTERY WORD!

	A	B	C	D	E
1	J	O	X	V	N
2	T	L	W	U	D
3	A	N	S	T	G
4	F	I	K	C	B
5	E	M	P	O	R

- Use the box to the left to fill in the letters in the grid below.
- There are 7 letters in the mystery word corresponding to the 7 columns in the grid below.
- In the grid, the correct letter may be the bottom one or the top one. Hint: Fill out all the boxes. Then see if you can find the word.

What is the word?

B5	D2	C3	B1	D5	D4	E2
A1	A5	E5	D3	B4	A3	A5

RIDDLE: I am round on both ends and high in the middle.
I have two friends that have the same first initial. What U.S.
state am I?

Answer to
Mystery
Word:
Justice.
Answer to
Riddle:
Ohio.



COME NEAR

to God,

and he will come

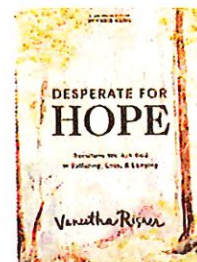
NEAR TO YOU

JAMES 4:8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30PM

We will be studying from the Bible Study written by Vaneetha Risner. **"Desperate for HOPE - Questions we ask God in suffering, loss, and longing."** The study book is available at all the usual places including, Amazon, and Christian Book Distributors. This study book includes video access. This will be a 7-week study and will end November 8. We meet at 6:30 in the Community Center. Questions? Contact Sharon Rowley 313-0757 or shandrow@outlook.com (Put Bible Study in subject line).



Pet Blessing TODAY Oct. 22 @ 2PM, Court Yard



We will be having our Blessing of the Animals Service once again this year. We will gather in the courtyard with our animal companions @ 2 PM on October 22nd. Pets of all kinds are welcome to join us as long as they are leashed or in carriers. Each and every pet will receive a blessing and a certificate as we join together to thank God for our animal friends. Please spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to bring their pets, too. It'll be a "pawsome" time for all!



Reformation Sunday, Spooooooky Potluck, and Pumpkin Carving - ALL on 10/29!



Please plan to wear your red for worship on 10/29, since it is the closest Sunday to October 31st and thus designated as Reformation Sunday. Please also plan to bring something to share with the congregation for a "Spooooooky Potluck" after worship in Jacobson. It's fun to get creative with what you make - or at least what you name it! There will also be pumpkins for carving for any who desire to do so. All are welcome to join in this congregational meal as we celebrate both Halloween and the Great Reformation that Martin Luther began!

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Thank you for Climate Sunday

Thanks to all of you who attended our service last week where we learned about weather and climate change. We even remembered what climate zone we lived in when we were 15 years old! Many thanks to those who enriched our worship experience: Diane, Tom, Janet, Will, Don Dueker, Lori, Susan, Ken, Mona, Cheryl, John, Craig, Carol, Kathy, Jill, Julie, Carolyn, Paul and Pastor Ted. If anyone's name is not listed, we apologize..



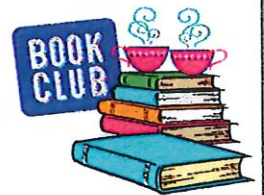
Memorial Garden Committee 2023 Raffle:



Don't forget! The Memorial Garden Committee Drawing will be on November 19. Meet us in Jacobson Hall after church to find out who will win prizes. It just might be YOU!!

GSCL BOOK GROUP—Nov. 19 @ 4PM

November 19: "The Last thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave
Plan to read this month's selection and join us for a casual discussion, **Sunday, November 19, at 4:00** in the Comm Ctr. No long-term commitment required - join us any month a book catches your interest.



ALSO ... There has been a revision in the order we will be reading books this year:

January 21: "The Dictionary of Lost Words" by Pip Williams
February 18: "The Book Woman's Daughter" by Kim Michele Richardson
March 17: "A Spanish Sunrise" by Boo Walker
April 21: "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak
May 19: "To End All Wars" by Ernest Gordon

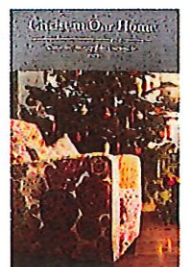
Coffee Hostess Leftovers Sunday



We'll be doing a Leftover Sunday every last Sunday of the month. There always seems to be leftover cookies, chips or crackers - what better way to use up those leftovers than by having one Sunday where we have some of the treats we've previously enjoyed? Steve will freeze those cookies or cakes, so they they'll still be fresh. Also, if you have any leftover snacks you'd like to contribute, bring them in any other Sunday - Steve will freeze those too!

'Christ in Our Home' Devotional

The 'Christ in Our Home' Devotional for Oct.—Dec. is available on the ushers table and the office. You may pick one up M-F, 9 -1pm or you can email Kathy and she will send one out, just let her know if you prefer regular or large print.



OWLS—November 20th @ 12PM, Jacobson Hall



OWLS will touchdown on JACOBSIN HALL on November 20th, Monday at noon. Washdown liquid and devouring gear available. Buffet dishes subject to each attending Hootie's desire. "How to Survive A Friend" and "Prayers by Children" are on the program. Tote your favorite board game to enjoy with fellow Hooties.

Sunday Bulletins Available Online

Bulletins/Devotional with announcements are available prior to each Sunday's worship on our website, so you can follow along if you're watching on Facebook! <https://fresnogslc.org>

Please spread the word.



Trunk or Treat Update



We have \$90 in our Taco Truck fund so far which will buy 36 tacos. We are hoping for more, so please see me with cash or put a check in the offering plate that says "Taco" in the memo! You can also Venmo money to me.

Next - I need you to be sure to let me know if you are decorating a trunk!! We need some more of those, too, please. Thank you!!

Shalom. Peace. Paz.

Julie Werfelmann

Tear Along Line

The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) Board is asking for suggestions to identify worthy organizations for the distribution of interest funds. Please place any suggestions you may have in the offering plate. Thank you in advance for your input!

It's Fall ! A Time for Thanksgiving

Our Good Shepherd family will once again be providing Thanksgiving meals to families at Roeding School. Last year we provided meals for 24 families.

Please bring canned or dried food stuffs to church - a pink bin will be in the Narthex for donations or you may drop them off with Kathy in the office M-F, 9am-1pm.

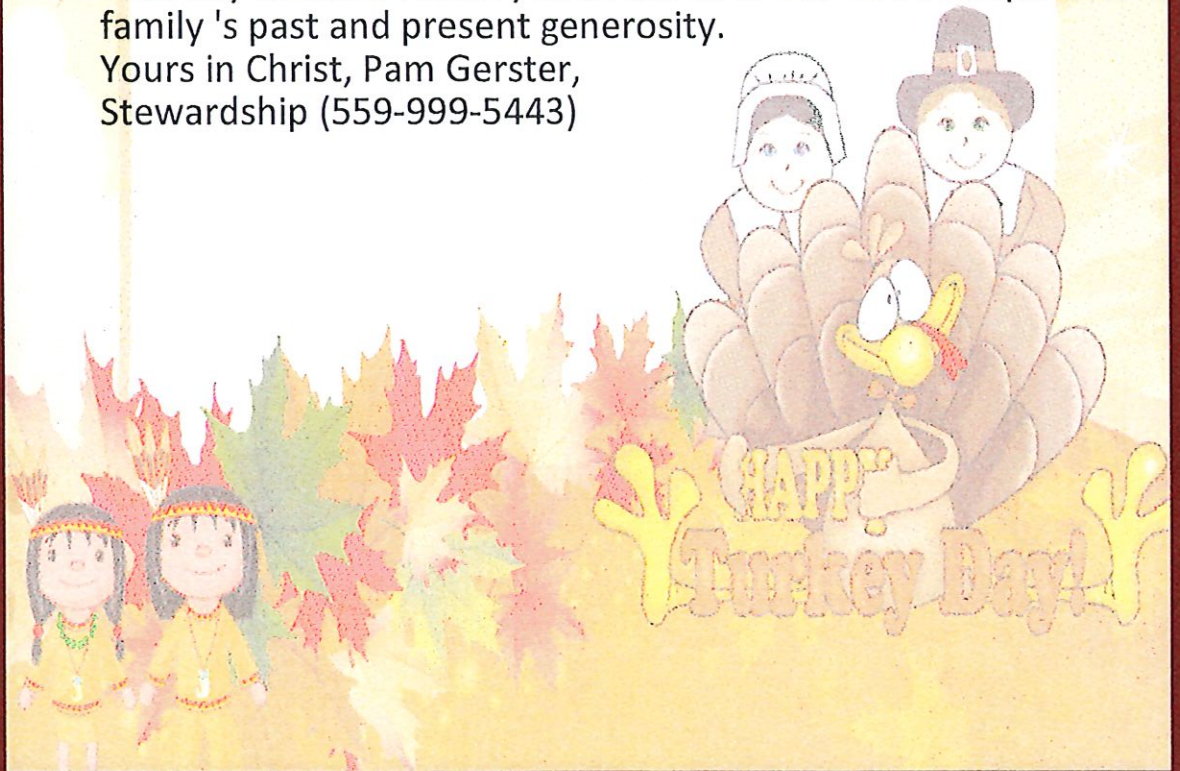
Food Suggestions:

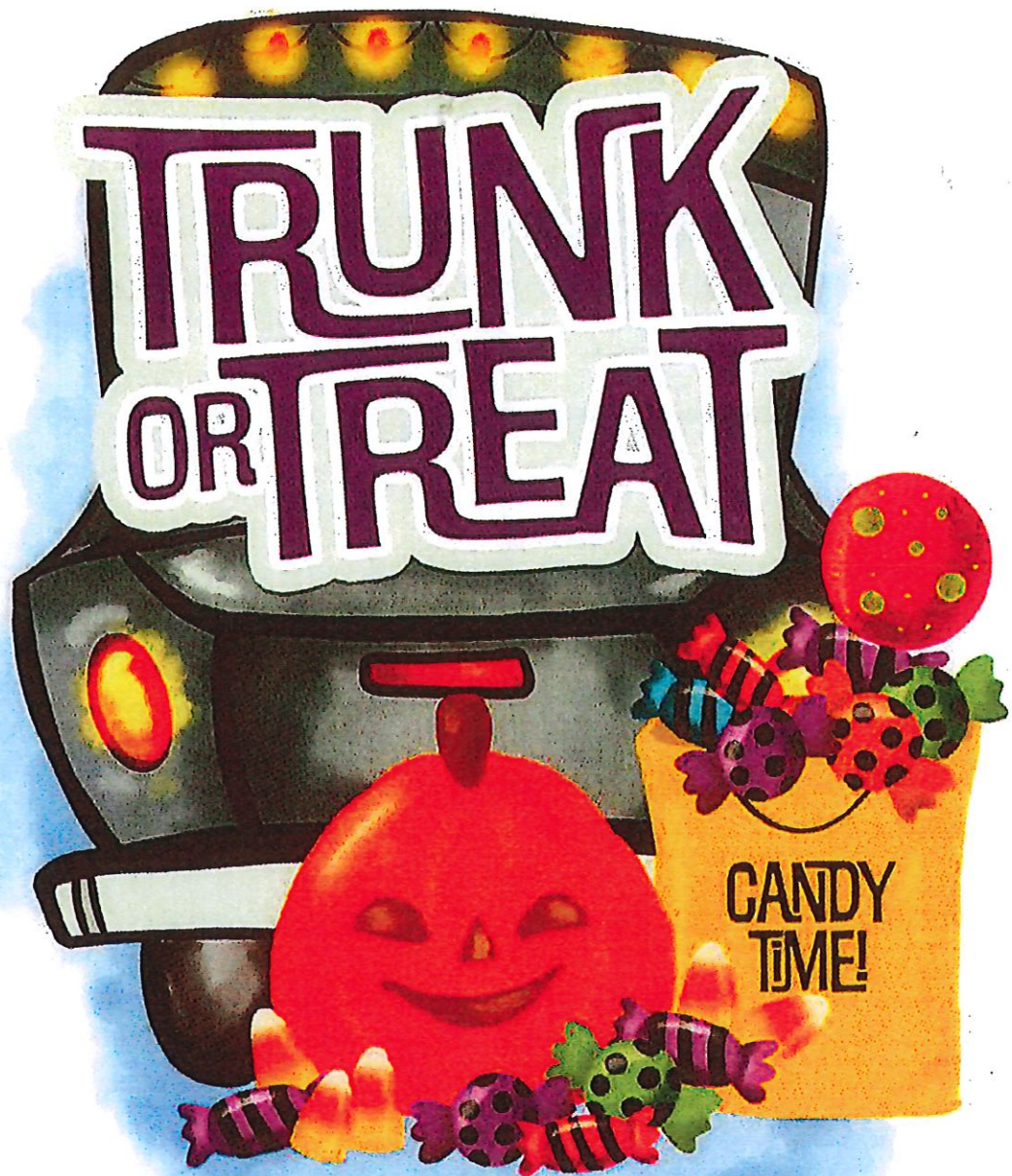
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|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Canned Fruit | 5. Canned Yams | 10. Jell-O |
| 2. Green Beans* | 6. Peanut Butter | |
| 3. French Onion*
Rings | 7. Grape Jelly | |
| 4. Cream of Mush-
room Soup* | 8. Mashed Potatoes | |
| | 9. Cornbread Mix | |

*(these 3 make an easy casserole)

Checks can be made out to Good Shepherd with a memo " thanksgiving basket fund". Pam will happily shop with any monies. Thank you so much to our Good Shepherd family 's past and present generosity.

Yours in Christ, Pam Gerster,
Stewardship (559-999-5443)





JOIN US FOR OUR TRUNK OR TREAT!

October 26, 2023, 6PM—7:30PM

We are hosting a Trunk or Treat in partnership with ERA Valley Homes in our parking lot on 10/26, and we are hoping for a lot of GSLC participation! Our adopted school, Roeding Elementary, has been invited, and we are looking into a banner inviting the neighborhood.

There are several ways you can help.

1. Decorate your TRUNK or partner with another.
2. Donate \$\$\$ for Taco Truck food coupons to be given as prizes.
3. Donate WRAPPED candy.

Please be sure to let Julie or Lisa know if you plan to decorate your trunk or would like some ideas or help of any sort. People providing trunks are **NOT** required to provide their own candy/treats!! So don't let that stop you from volunteering for this fun event!