

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Bulletin
October 8, 2023 – 10AM
“Season of Creation: Ocean Sunday”

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Welcome

Opening Hymn “Song of the Waters” words c Norman Habel 2001,
melody “Praise my Soul the King of Heaven”
Song Leaders (congregation please join)

1. Watch once more the windswept storm clouds; Suddenly the sky has wings!
God has come to rain among us,
Giving hope to all dry things.
Sing a song of splashing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

2. Taste the moisture of the morning,
Smoother than the best red wine;
Toast the lifeblood of the planet:
Here’s to God’s wild wet design!
Sing a song of flowing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

3. View anew the dark blue ocean,
Whales cavorting, spraying foam;
God at play with deep sea monsters,
Feeling very much at home.
Sing a song of laughing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

4. Feel the breath of God move softly,
Gentle mists that brush the skin;
Earth is breathing God’s own spirit,
Life renewed from deep within.
Sing a song of living waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

Gathering

In the name of the Spirit of God who hovered over the primal waters. In the name

of the Word of God who parted the waters for Earth to appear. In the name of the Wisdom of God, who filled the deeps with amazing designs. Amen

Holy! Holy! Holy! The oceans are filled with God's presence.

Christ, we come to into your presence, today, to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.

Call to Worship

We invite the oceans to worship with us.

The deep sea currents and coral reefs, the mountain peaks on the ocean floor.

We call the surging seas to celebrate with us.

The icebergs that break off from the South Pole, the calm waters that caress the equator.

We join all ocean life in songs of praise,

Whales and dolphins dancing on the surface, and choirs of angel fish assembled below.

We summon the seashore to magnify the Lord,

The pelican, the stingray, the silver gull, the white caps and waves that splash in praise.

Oceans, seas and watery deeps,

Celebrate with all that lives within you, and roar in praise with us today.

Roar, ocean, roar!

Roar, roar in praise.

Roar, ocean, roar!

Remembering

We remember the sea with amazement.

We remember the splash of waves on our feet, the sand between our toes and the mystery of an endless horizon stretching out across the ocean.

We remember and rejoice.

Thank you, God, for the oceans, living waters that are part of who we are.

Confession and Absolution

As I hold this fragrant symbol aloft, we remember and confess that we have become alienated from Earth and viewed this planet as disposable, a source of endless resources, a mere stopping place en route to heaven.

We are sorry.

We have polluted Earth's waters with toxins, and killed millions of species in the ocean.

We have turned our greed into global warming.

We have helped cause arctic regions to melt.

We have loved progress more than the planet.

We are sorry. We are sorry.

We are sorry.

We are sorry. We are sorry.

Christ hears your confession and forgives your sins against the ocean.

Christ, teach us to love the seas as a precious part of our planet home.

I speak for Christ:

I invite you to celebrate Earth as your home and to preserve the waters of life in God's sanctuary.

Shalom! Shalom! Earth is our home!

Prayer for the Day

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the ocean depths, we celebrate the wondrous design of the seas that surround us. Help us to discern how we have polluted our oceans and to empathize with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to sense the presence of God in the tides and currents of the surging seas. Teach us to care for the oceans and all our waterways. In the name of the Wisdom of God, the creative force that designs and governs all creation. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Job 38:1-18

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The LORD Answers Job

38 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

² "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Gird up your loins like a man;

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

⁷ when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings^[a] shouted for joy?

⁸ “Or who shut in the sea with doors

when it burst out from the womb,

⁹ when I made the clouds its garment

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it,

and set bars and doors,

¹¹ and said, ‘Thus far shall you come and no farther,

and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?

¹² “Have you commanded the morning since your days began

and caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³ so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,

and the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴ It is changed like clay under the seal,

and it is dyed^[b] like a garment.

¹⁵ Light is withheld from the wicked,

and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶ “Have you entered into the springs of the sea

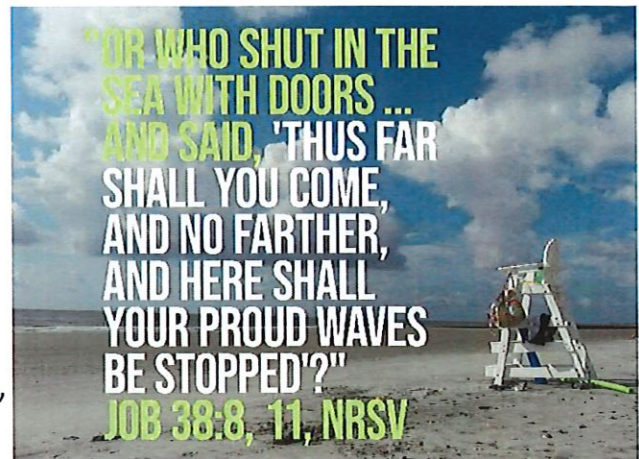
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you,

or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸ Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?

Declare, if you know all this.



SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-10

WITH ALL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, HE MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL

EPHESIANS 1:8-9, NIV



Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ 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,^[a] ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ^[b] before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us^[c] for adoption as his children^[d] through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

GOSPEL

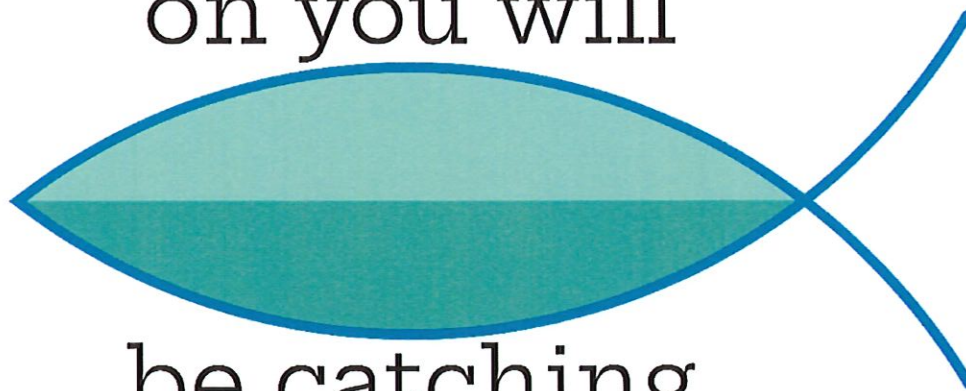
Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

⁵ Once while Jesus^[a] was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to

Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

"From now
on you will



be catching
people."

LUKE 5:10, NRSV

Sermon

"What To Do When the Nets Come Up Empty"

Sermon Hymn

"Shout to the Lord" by Darlene Zschech
(c 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing,
admin. Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
Song Leaders (congregation please join)

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days, I want to praise
the wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let every breath, all that I am
never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands; forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.



Sunday, October 8, 2023

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Obedience is the fruit of faith. —Christina Rossetti

Today's Bible reading is about the Ten Commandments. How many of the commandments do you know without looking? Most people can recite less than half of them before beginning to stumble.

These commandments are the most concise, yet comprehensive, moral and ethical code ever recorded in the annals of human history. They say so much in so few words, causing President Ronald Reagan to remark on one occasion, "I have wondered at times, what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had had to run them through the United States Congress."

The Ten Commandments have about 180 words, depending upon the version you are reading.

In contrast, the Nicene Creed: 224 words.

The Gettysburg Address: 286 words.

The Declaration of Independence: 1,300 words.

The Heidelberg Catechism: 8,683 words.

U.S. government regulations on cabbage sales: 26,911 words.

Jesus' summary of the Ten Commandments: 40 words.

We can admire the Ten Commandments for their brevity, but we should also adhere to them. Consider this story: A businessman known for his ruthlessness was talking with Mark Twain and announced, "Before I die, I mean to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There I will climb Mount Sinai and read the Ten Commandments aloud from the top of the mountain."

"I have a better idea," replied Mark Twain. "You could stay in Boston and keep them."

So, what is the Decalogue all about — in a nutshell? As Jesus noted in his chat with a lawyer recorded in Matthew 22:37-40, the Ten Commandments explain *how we mortals relate to both God and neighbor*. This is God's amazing code of conduct, the adherence to which will save humans a ton of grief, a fact that the psalmist repeatedly notes: "Happy are those whose ways are blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD" (Psalm 119:1).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for the Ten Commandments and all of the spiritual and ethical guidance you provide in your word. My heart's desire is to be faithful to it every day. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things. We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin. We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation. We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos. We believe the Spirit renews life in creation groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation. We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

Special Music "Indescribable" Arr. by Vicki Tucker Courtney
(c 1983, 2011 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
Cheryl and John Montgomery, Duet

Prayers of the People

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:

Ken & Becky (Lairson)
Loren Gaither (Vonny)
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)
Sierra Ramirez (Norris)
Krystina Ramos (Norris)
Dora Barraza (Norris)
Carlos & Anne Cortez (Norris)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Gloria Valdez (Norris)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Michelle B. (Norris)
Bonnie Wolfe (Norris)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)
Darlee (Norris)



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

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 Interlude Susan Berg, Piano

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 and through you to bring healing to Earth. In Jesus' name. Amen

Benediction

Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth by caring for creation. Hold again the fragrant symbol in your hands and go forth to serve. Will you care for creation?

Closing Hymn "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
Traditional Spiritual
Song Leaders (congregation please join)

1. He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole wide world in his hands.
2. He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

3. He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

4. He's got everybody here in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

5. He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole wide 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 presence in Earth and the impulse of Christ within you. Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

We go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth!

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 9-12

Monday: Daniel 7-9

Tuesday: Daniel 10-12

Wednesday: Esther 1-3

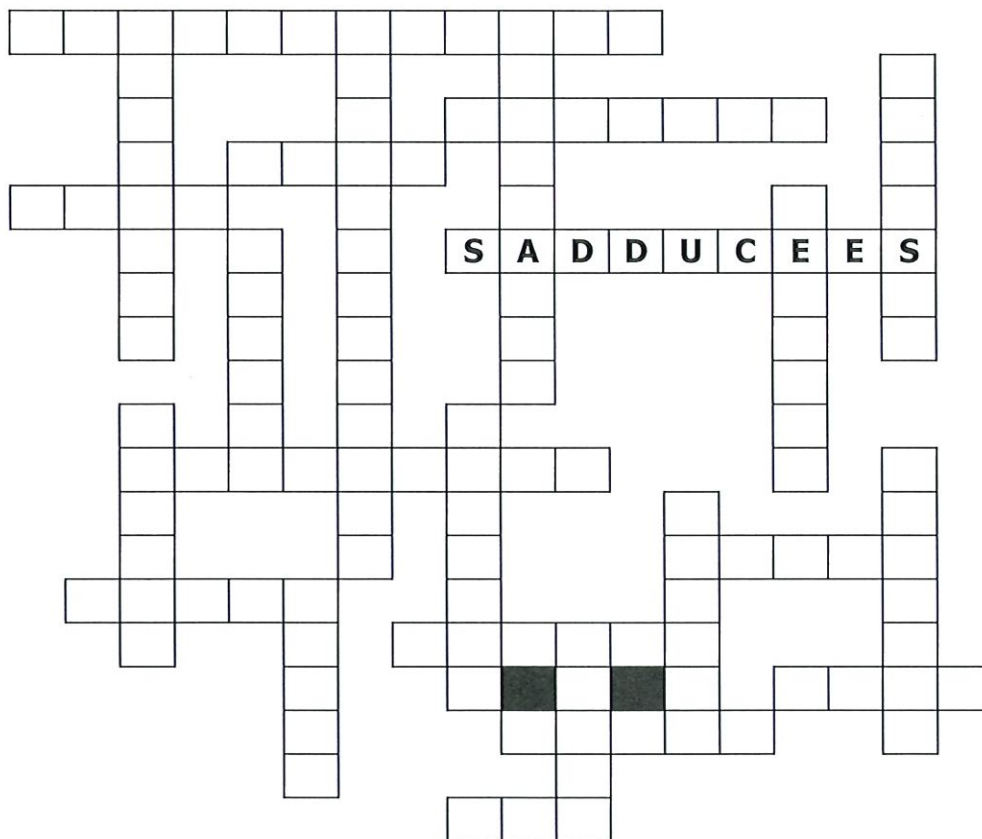
Thursday: Esther 4-7

Friday: Esther 8-10

Saturday: Psalm 119

CLUELESS CROSSWORD

This crossword has no clues! Fill in the squares according to the length of the words. We've filled in one word to get you started.



3-letter words

God

4-letter words

holy

John

plot

5-letter words

faith

guard

Jesus

Peter

Satan

6-letter words

beggar

Israel

nation

Spirit

7-letter words

Ananias

miracle

priests

prophet

servant

8-letter words

Sapphira

9-letter words

ignorance

Sanhedrin

12-letter words

resurrection

13-letter words

encouragement

**"Autumn is a second spring
when every leaf is a flower."**

—Albert Camus





“COME,
Follow
ME,

AND I WILL SHOW YOU

HOW TO

fish FOR
PEOPLE!”

MATTHEW 4:19



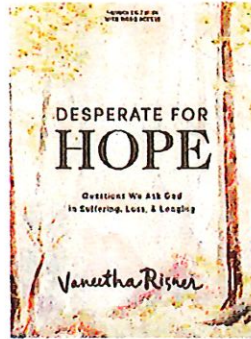
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hostess Leftovers Sunday

We'll be doing a Leftover Sunday every last Sunday of the month. Steve will freeze those cookies or cakes, so 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!

Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30PM

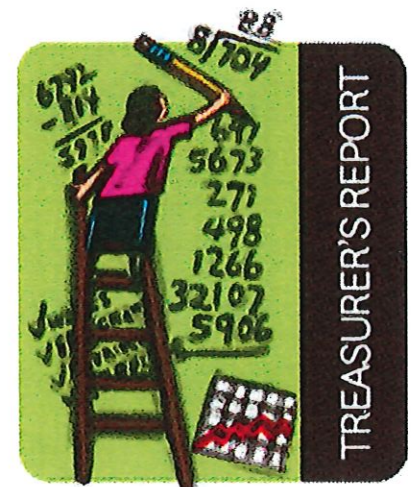


We will be studying from the Bible Study written by Vaneetha Risner. **"Desperate for HOPE - Questions we ask God in suffering, loss, and longing."** The study book is available at all the usual places including, Amazon, and Christian Book Distributors. This study book includes video access. This will be a 7-week study, beginning September 27 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).

Treasurer's Report

I had several people ask what the response to our congregational meeting on Sep. 24th was like. As I told you at the meeting, we roughly had \$15,000.00 in bills and salaries and \$13,000. in funds to cover it. With the donations that came in, we finished the month with \$1289. in the general funds checking account. Our last week of the month lately has been running under \$2000.00 - sometimes barely \$1000. The response was wonderful. We were able to pay the outstanding bills and salaries and have some left over. Last week many of you increased your giving and that is an answer to prayers and is greatly appreciated. Please continue to pray for the health of our church finances. Please also pray for guidance for our council as we continue to face the difficult challenges of our funds. Yours in Christ, Caroline Sullivan, Treasurer.



Memorial Garden Committee 2023 Raffle:



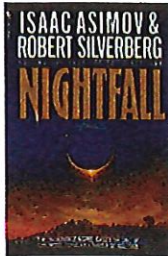
This month in the US mail, you will be receiving news about the Memorial Garden Committee's 2023 Fundraiser Raffle. The drawing will be held on November 19 after church. We have some great prizes this year and are looking forward to a fun and exciting raffle!

OWLS

The Hootie's future flight plan is to disembark at Sandy's on October 16, Monday at twelve hundred hours. A pot-luck is on the menu with table service and drinks provided. OWLS will BEE informed as to how to help their flying friends by guest speaker "Buddy The BEE Keeper" at 1:30 pm. Home Grown (1/2 pt.) honey will be available for those wishing to purchase. As Brian S. says, "BEE there or BEE square!"



GSLC BOOK GROUP—Oct. 15th @ 4PM



"Nightfall: the Novel" by Isaac Asimov & Robert Silverberg
Plan to read this month's selection and join us for a casual discussion, **Sunday, October 15, 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:

November 19: "The Last thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave
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



Pet Blessing 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!

Thank you for Forest Sunday!

**We're
thankful
for you!**



For all of you who attended church last Sunday, we thank you for being there! In addition to the congregants, we acknowledge those who played a part in the worship service: Susan and the Singers; the Praise Band; Ken as Lecturer; Carolyn and deacons; Cheryl, Reynaldo and Lisa as Readers; Carol and Kathy; Pastor Ted (of course); and our fabulous speaker, Steve McQuillan. On the side lines were Julie and Gloria and all of the Altar Guild people and Greeters. Many thanks to all!

Please come next Sunday, October 15 for Climate Sunday! You will be glad that you did!

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.

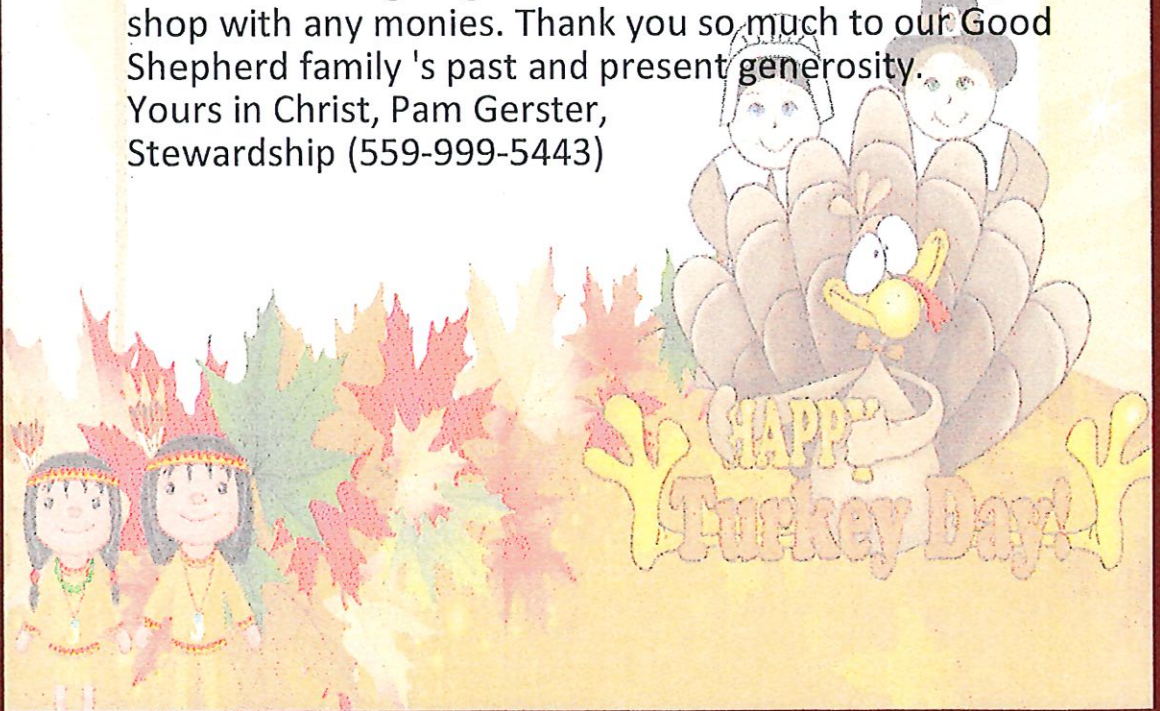
Food Suggestions:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 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 Mushroom 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 26th, 6PM–7:30PM!

**Located at Good Shepherd Lutheran
5140 N. Fruit Ave., Fresno, CA!**

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!

**Join us for a Free, Safe and Unique way to
"Trick or Treat". Costumes are encourage.**