

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn **"Wonderful Merciful Savior"**
CCLI 106879 Words and Music by Dawn Rodgers and
Eric Wyse ©1989 Dayspring Music CCLI Lic. 2032355
Song Leaders and Congregation

1.

Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Refrain

You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
oh, our hearts always hunger for.

2.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way.
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

Refrain

3.

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne.
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.

Refrain (sing twice)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who
draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one
another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Holy God,
we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.
Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world.
God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and
restores the promise of life through +Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

A New Covenant

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all

know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by^[a] the one who said to him,

“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”;

⁶ as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus^[b] offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world

will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Jesus Speaks about His Death

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Sermon

"CLINGING ONTO JESUS"

Sermon Hymn

"Lamb of God"

Hymn 336

Song Leaders and Congregation

1.

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2.

Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the lamb of God.

Refrain

3.

I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God.

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, in today's lessons, Jesus is approaching death. He is preparing his disciples for the trauma of witnessing his crucifixion. Lord, thank you for your mercy in preparing us for the days ahead. Even in Jeremiah, the prophet declares our salvation when he says, *"They shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."* Thank you, Lord, for salvation. ***Lord in your mercy...***

In the lesson from Hebrews, we are taught that Jesus was a role model for all of us. We often struggle with God's ways in our lives. We think all should be well with the God of the Universe always with us. But Hebrews describes Jesus, *"Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him."* There is something about suffering that refines and strengthens our faith if we cling to God. ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. God's ways are different from the ways of the world. The norm of people around us is to find happiness in material success, pleasure, fame and glory. But God allows His people to suffer in order that they may attain a higher goal of godliness and joy. It is the beginning of kingdom life forever, only lived out here on earth. We are to rejoice in hearing God's words for us and following them, even if it means to the cross. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and growth in God's grace. 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...***

Jeremiah declares to God's people, *"Behold the days are coming...when I will make a new covenant... I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."* Yes, Lord, we choose to be your people because we know that a covenant with God will never be broken and will bring eternal life and deepest joy. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. ***Amen.*** ***CAROLYN T. LINN***

Special Music

"He Carries My Cross Alone" Words by John Parker & Jay Parker, Music by Heather Sorenson (c 2014 Hope Publishing Company)
Choral Ensemble

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2024

Scripture Reading: John 12:20-33

What you are is God's gift to you; what you become is your gift to God.

—Anon.

A minister, priest and a rabbi — all from Ireland — find themselves in conversation one day. Their encounter quickly turns into a bitter argument. Just as they are about to do something really rash, there's a great thunderclap and a puff of smoke. An angel has appeared in their midst!

"God sends you blessings," announces the angel. "I invite you to make one wish for God Almighty to consider granting to each of you."

The minister jumps right in. "My wish," he says, "is for every Catholic to disappear from our lovely, green island."

The priest is infuriated by this; he responds in kind. "O great Angel, let there be not a single Protestant left on our sacred Irish sod."

"And what about you, rabbi?" the angel asks. "Do you have no wish of your own?"

"No," says the rabbi. "Just attend to the wishes of these two gentlemen and I shall be well pleased."

In today's reading, there were some Greeks in town for the holidays. They came to the disciples and said, "We wish to see Jesus." They don't say why; they don't divulge the nature of the visit. They want to see Jesus.

Whereupon Jesus makes three statements — none of which have anything to do with announcing a pox on any people, ethnicity or religion.

First, Jesus says that only when people deny themselves will anything good happen.

Second, if you want to find your life, you need to first lose your life. In other words, you must become part of something that is bigger than yourself.

Third, if you want to serve Jesus, you must follow Jesus. You cannot serve two masters. If you are going to be a servant of Jesus, you have to be all in.

It is not about being Catholic or Protestant, Southern Baptist or American Baptist, Missouri Synod Lutheran or Evangelical Lutheran, Wesleyan Methodist or United Methodist, and so on. Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (v. 23). Indeed. It is about time, don't you think? Time for it to be about Jesus, and not about us.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, like the Greeks of old, I would like to see you, have a chat, a little face-to-face. I am weary of all the confusion generated in your name. Help me to remember the simplicity of being a follower of yours. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

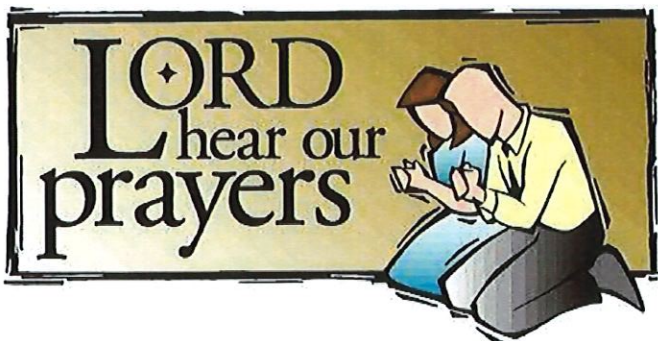


Members in Need of Prayer:

Jennifer Neer
Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy Sanborn & Stacy
Lairson on the loss of Stacy's
father, Ken.
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:

David Torres has passed away prayers
for his family and friends.
Julie Gonzales has passed away prayer
for her family and friends.
Debbie (Sullivan Family Friend)
Owen (Fake)
Josue & Maria Zamora (Visitor)
Jim & Judi (Werfelmann)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
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

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises"
CCLI Song No. 4037057 © 2003 Integrity's Hosanna!
Music Paul Baloché CCLI License No. 2032355
Song Leaders and Congregation

You lived You died You said in three days You would rise You did You're alive
You rule You reign You said you're coming back again I know that you will
And all the earth will sing Your praises All the earth will sing Your praises

You took You take our sins away O God You give You gave Your life away for us
You came down You saved us through the cross Our hearts are changed because
of your great love

You lived You died You said in three days You would rise You did You're alive
You rule You reign You said you're coming back again I know that you will
And all the earth will sing Your praises All the earth will sing Your praises (sing
Twice)

All the earth will sing Your praises

Sending

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano



Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Mark 14-16
Monday: Numbers 1-3
Tuesday: Numbers 4-6
Wednesday: Numbers 7-10
Thursday: Numbers 11-14
Friday: Numbers 15-17
Saturday: Psalms 29-30



QUIKUIZ!

Our readings this quarter have taken us through the Pentateuch, or first five books of the Old Testament. Test your comprehension by arranging these biblical characters **chronologically**.

- ___ Joseph
- ___ Noah
- ___ Abraham
- 1 Adam
- ___ Joshua
- ___ Moses
- ___ Pharaoh
- ___ Cain
- ___ Rachel
- ___ Ishmael

THE COMPLETE ALPHABET

Use **all** 26 letters of the alphabet to complete the following 11 words, but use each letter only once. Keep track of the letters you use by crossing off the letters in the alphabet below:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1. ___ a ___ z
2. ___ u i ___
3. ___ u ___ c a
4. e ___ m p l e
5. ___ i o ___ n
6. ___ a ___ f u l
7. ___ r o ___
8. ___ e ___ a t
9. ___ a l a
10. ___ o l a ___
11. ___ o r c ___ p i n e

Try to Figure This OUT!

All answers end with OUT. Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces. Solution below.

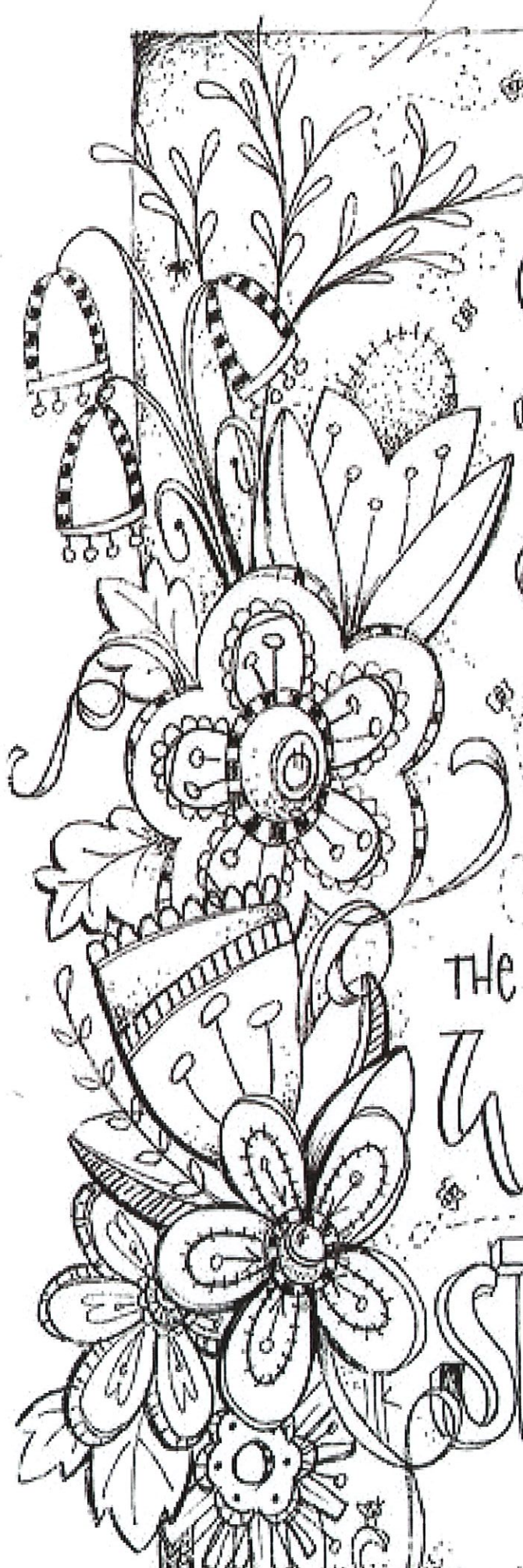
		O	U	T					
			O	U	T				
				O	U	T			
					O	U	T		
						O	U	T	

CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▶ Water can opening
- ▶ Arrangement
- ▶ Rescue from financial ruin
- ▶ Brief fainting spell
- ▶ Reversal

ANSWERS: QuikuiZ — 7,3,4,1,10,9,8,2,6,5; **The Complete Alphabet** — 1. jazz, 2. quit, 3. yucca, 4. example, 5. violin, 6. bashful, 7. grown, 8. defeat, 9. koala, 10. molar, 11. porcupine. **Try to Figure This OUT!** — spout, layout, bailout, blackout, turnabout.

“Weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.”
—Psalm 30:5, NIV



the GRASS
withers
& the
FLOWERS
FADE BUT
the ^{OF} world ^{THE} Lord
STANDS

FOREVER.

Isaiah 40:8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Services Moving Back to Sanctuary!

Starting on March 24th, Palm Sunday, we will move services back to the Sanctuary. If you are wondering - **NO the HVAC is NOT fixed**. However, the weather is much nicer now and the sanctuary should be warm enough. Just remember the order of the day is to dress in layers! It might still be chilly at the start of service but warm up during. The plan is to stay in the sanctuary until the weather gets too warm and drives us back to air conditioning.



Easter Lily Order



The cost will be \$20.00 each. We would like to offer you the opportunity to order one or two either in memory or in honor of someone. Please pick up an order form from ushers table. You can include the \$20.00 per lily in your envelope, just indicate how many lilies you'd like to order. **March 24th will be the last day to order.** Thanks, Carol S.

LAST Lenten Wednesday

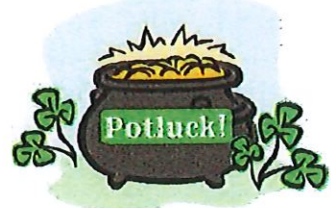
This Wednesday is the last Soup Supper. 6:15 Soup Supper in Jacobson & 7-8 Adult Class with Pastor Ted or Kids Time with Julie. Please plan to make Wednesday @ Good Shepherd part of your Lenten journey. Come and be fed!



2024 Lenten Project & St Patty's Day Potluck TODAY, March 17!



Most years our Christian Education team likes to come up with some sort of creative activity or craft during Lent that we can make and then use to enhance our Easter worship. This year we will be making butterfly and Easter egg magnets. Please join your church family for this activity along with an Irish themed potluck TODAY after worship.



OWLS March 18 @ 12PM



OWLS will soar to Sandy's on March 18, Monday. A NOON potluck of hoots and hollers will have every piece of tableware provided. Hopefully we can finally play Crazy 8's and UNO this time.

Lenten Soup Suppers, Wednesdays @ 6:15

Please consider making soup for your church family on the remaining Wednesday of Lent: **3/20**. You can partner with another and bring 2 kinds of soup. Typically we need enough soup for 15-20 people, along with a bread of your choice. Your expenses will be reimbursed from the supper offering. There is a sign up sheet on the usher's table. Questions? See Deb Wilk, Carol Sullivan, or Julie W.



Egg-Stuffing and Decorating Jacobson on Saturday, 3/30 @ 10 a.m.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join together to get ready for the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast on Saturday, March 30th. We will meet at 10 a.m. in Jacobson and decorate the tables as well as stuff all the Easter Eggs for the hunt on Easter morning. All help is much appreciated! Please contact Julie with questions and to confirm your attendance. Thank you.



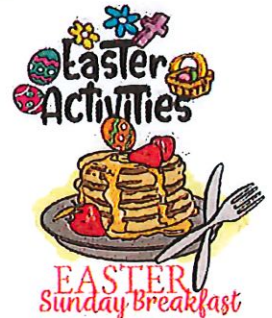
Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, 3/31 @ 11:00! Collecting Wrapped Candy, etc.



We will once again host an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Easter Sunday this year in the courtyard after the 10AM service. We are collecting **wrapped** candy, stickers, coins, etc. to use to stuff the eggs on Saturday, 3/30. If you can donate toward this fun tradition, please bring in your items and place them in the appropriate bin. We have PLENTY of plastic eggs to stuff, so please don't bring any more of those. Way to go with the reusing, friends!

3/31/24 GSLC Easter Schedule:

Sunrise Worship Service @8AM, Outside at the Cross
Breakfast Served, 8:30—10AM, Jacobson Hall
Easter Worship Service @ 10AM, Sanctuary
Easter Egg Hunt @ 11AM, Court Yard



Looking for Easter Breakfast Help 3/31

We need some kitchen help Easter morning flipping pancakes and serving plated breakfasts. Volunteers will be needed from 7:45-9:45, which includes both prep and cleanup. People are welcome to stay the entire time period or just an hour, and all ages are welcome. Please sign up on the clipboard so we can make sure we are fully staffed. **Also, we are hoping to include egg casseroles this year as part of our breakfast.** Please contact Julie @ 559-287-3457 or 13jdixon13@gmail.com if you would like to make one to share with your Good Shepherd family. You can bring it by Saturday between 10-12 to bake here or Easter morning by 8:30 if already baked at home.

Hallelujah Chorus Sing



The Worship Service for Easter Sunday, March 31, will close by singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from *The Messiah*. Anyone from the congregation is invited to sing this beloved choral number as we lift our praises to Our Risen Lord!. Music will be provided.

Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook  so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please get on Instagram and hit LIKE or the heart on our GSLC postings. This is how our postings come at the start of the feed for those following us as individuals. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow.



It's Girl Scout Cookie Season!



Girl Scout Cookies are available. **The last day to order is April 5!** You may go to <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/how-to-buy-cookies.html> or email Sheri Eggebraaten at massagesbysheri@aol.com or if you prefer, you may call Sheri at 559-903-1851 to place your order. They even deliver your cookies! The cost is \$6.00 a box. Here are the cookies for 2024: Adventurefuls, Caramel Chocolate Chip, Samoas, Do-si-dos, Girl Scout S'mores, Lemonade, LemonUps, Tagalongs, Thin Mints, Toast-Yay!, Trefoils.

FYI—Looking for a Car

We have a close friend that is looking for an affordable 4 door sedan. If anyone knows of anyone selling a vehicle or has any suggestions speak to Mary N.



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.

A Big Thank You

Thank you Austin Hays! Austin fixed the outside entrance walk light this week! It took several trips - nothing is ever easy it seems- but he got it done!! We appreciate it!



Pantry Needs Restocking



We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), 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 9AM - 1PM.

Kingsmen/Kings Kids Begins April 24 @ 6:30PM



The first KingsMen and Kings Kids after Easter will take place on April 24th at 6:30 pm in Jacobson Hall. Pizza will be provided. Thank you. William Hayes

