

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter

Prelude Susan Berg, Organist

Announcements

Call to Worship “Sing, Rejoice, the Lord is Risen”
Words by Charlotte Lee, Music by Douglas E. Wagner
Choral Ensemble with The Good Shepherd Chimes

Opening Hymn “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” Hymn 858
Song Leaders and Congregation (vv. 1,3-4)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is the water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:32-35

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Believers Share Their Possessions

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 1:1-2:2

The Word of Life

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we

have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— ³ what we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our^[a] joy may be complete.

God Is Light

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Christ Our Advocate

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, ² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the

Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue^[b] to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"
Song Leaders and Congregation

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, the resurrection of Jesus Christ transformed the apostles. Acts says that “*the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul...and they shared “everything in common.”*” Their priorities in life had changed; and “*with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.*” What they had witnessed was the most important event in their lives. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Those who believed in Jesus had their eyes opened to a new reality. He had illumined their lives with the truth that, “*God is light and in him is no darkness at all.*” They had concluded that, “*If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*” 1 John continues the new revelation, “*Life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.*” ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. Jesus’ first words to the disciples when he walked through the walls with locked doors were, “*Peace be with you.*” Lord, that is the reassuring message we all need to hear from You. We live in perilous times; things are happening all around us that are disturbing and beyond our understanding. But not beyond Your control; you know the end from the beginning. We rest in your peace. ***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 resurrection victory. 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...***

Jesus gave his disciples the power to live new lives when He said, *As the Father has sent me, even so I send you...Receive the Holy Spirit.*” With Thomas, we declare, “*My Lord and my God!*” to which Jesus said, “*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.*” Thank you, Lord. In Jesus’ name, we pray.
Amen.

CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music “With a Voice of Singing” by Martin Shaw
Choral Ensemble

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

People may doubt what you say, but they will believe what you do.

—Lewis Cass

The story of Thomas' understandable skepticism concerning the reports of Jesus' resurrection is well known. We call him "Doubting Thomas" when, truth be told, all of the disciples had similar doubts. Thomas had what we call "honest doubts" about the resurrection, as opposed to "blind faith."

It's weird, isn't it, that doubt can be honest and that faith can be blind? Can't faith and doubt both be honest or blind? Theologian J.E. Lesslie Newbigin points out, "One does not learn anything except by believing something, and — conversely — if one doubts everything one learns nothing." At some point, belief has to overcome doubt. Yet, on the other hand, those who believe anything, will believe everything and consequently don't believe anything. They are easily duped and deceived.

Thomas was nobody's fool. But, in the face of overwhelming evidence, faith triumphed over doubt. Thomas' experience reminds us that a little honest doubt goes a long way in removing the scales of blind faith. When we are assailed by persistent doubt, what can we do?

1. **Pray:** Bring your doubts and concerns to God in prayer. Pour out your heart honestly, and then choose to believe that God hears you and is working for your good.

2. **Trust God's Promises:** Spend time in the Scriptures, meditating on God's promises. When doubt arises, counter it with the truth of God's Word.

3. **Lean on your Christian community:** Share your doubts and struggles with fellow believers who can offer support, encouragement and prayer.

4. **Remember God's Faithfulness:** Reflect on past experiences where God has been faithful. Use these as reminders of God's unwavering love and care.

Don't forget that our faith is not in our circumstances or our own strength but in the unchanging character of God. As we choose faith over doubt, we open ourselves to the abundant blessings and the deep, abiding peace that only God can provide.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we confess our doubts and uncertainties to you. Help us to choose faith over doubt, to trust in your perfect plan and to believe in your unwavering love for us. Strengthen our faith, Lord, and lead us into deeper relationship with you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



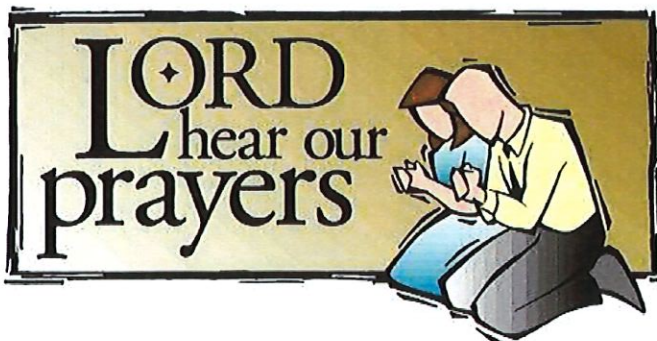
Prayer Concerns

Members in Need of Prayer:

Bill Slusser
Betty Montgomery
Kathy Kuester
Jennifer Neer
Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Dee Wright
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
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Baby Owen (Fake)
Claire and family upon the death
of Claire's husband, Dale Baumbach
Claire (Vonny)
Janet Sharp (Fake)
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
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)



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Luke 1-3
Monday: Deuteronomy 23-25
Tuesday: Deuteronomy 26-28
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 29-31
Thursday: Deuteronomy 32-34
Friday: Joshua 1-3
Saturday: Psalm 33

Verse to Remember

“This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night.”

—Joshua 1:8

April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

GLIDOGRAM

Theme: Countries of the world. **Letter:** I

Directions: Write a country in row 1 whose name begins with I. On line 2, the “I” should “glide” to the second position, then the third, fourth, fifth and sixth position. Then reverse the order to fifth, fourth, third, second and, finally, first position. Do not use any country twice.

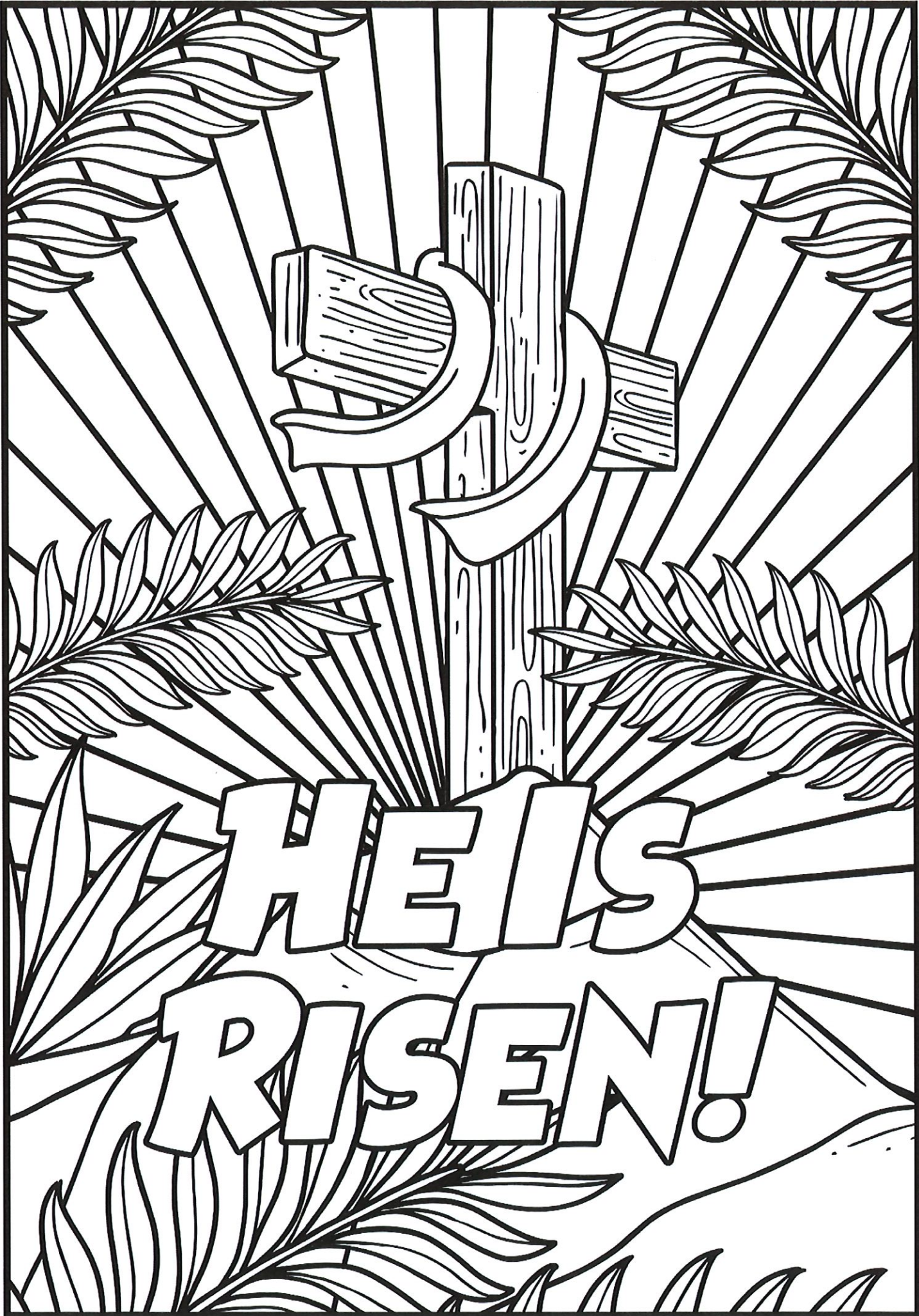
1.	I								
2.		I							
3.			I						
4.				I					
5.					I				
6.						I			
7.					I				
8.				I					
9.			I						
10.		I							
11.	I								

Having trouble thinking of countries for the GLIDOGRAM?

Unscramble the countries in the list below, and then write them on the appropriate lines in the table to the left.

- ITIHA _____
- DELAINC _____
- IWKTUA _____
- EHIPAITO _____
- IMACAJA _____
- MLIA _____
- IIJF _____
- INCAH _____
- ERLDAIN _____
- ALIWMA _____
- EMAVNIT _____

SOLUTION: — Scrambled countries: Haiti, Iceland, Kuwait, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Mali, Fiji, China, Ireland, Malawi, Vietnam. Glidogram: 1. Iceland, Vietnam, Haiti, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Malawi, Kuwait, Mali, China, Fiji, Ireland.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Services Moving Back to Sanctuary!

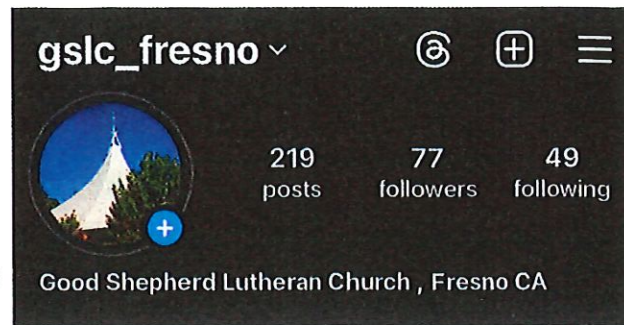


We have moved services back to the Sanctuary. If you are wondering - **NO the HVAC is NOT fixed** but the weather is much nicer now and the sanctuary should be warm enough. Just remember the order of the day is to dress in

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.

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 follow us on Instagram and like the posts to create an algorithm for our church. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow .



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.

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' April 15 @ 1PM, Blast & Brew Restaurant



The OWLS' next destination will be Blast & Brew Restaurant on April 15, Monday at ONE PM to prey upon a no-host luncheon. The Hooties may silently glide in but you can bet there will be songs of laughter once we are perched. BBR is on the east side of Palm. 1 block south of Herndon. Turn IN on PALMDON. Parking in back.

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



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



Emailing Statements

We will be emailing your quarterly statements this quarter. If you would like yours by traditional mail, please let the office know and we will mail it out. If you get one in the mail and would prefer email, please let the office know your email address and we will be glad to email future ones.



Upcoming Community Concerts



Fresno's celebrated women's chorale, *Soli Deo Gloria*, directed by Dr. Julie Carter, presents "Celebrating Our Stories," a concert at 7:30 p.m. (pre-concert notes at 7:00 p.m.) on Friday, April 19, at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts, Fresno 93710. The concert will present music chosen to reflect the languages, hardships, and joys from the varied family heritages of chorale members, some of whom will also share their stories during the concert. The Luminosa women's choir from Clovis High School, directed by Tami Spurgeon, will also perform. Tickets are \$25 at the door (\$12 for students). Advance tickets may be purchased for \$20 from Cheryl Montgomery, who is a member of this outstanding ensemble, or online at sdg.choir.com.

Fresno Community Chorus' *Master Chorale* on Sunday, April 28, at 2:30 p.m. presents Jocelyn Hagen's "The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci and Elaine Hagenberg's "Illuminare" featuring a unique and immersive audio-visual performance. The concert will be held at Shaghoian Concert Hall at the Clovis Unified School District Performing Arts Center, 2770 East International Ave., Fresno 93730. Tickets will be available at the door for \$25. Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of this acclaimed Chorale.

