



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA
July 2, 2023
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Patriotic Sunday

Opening Songs "The One Thing"
 "Breathe"
 "Take My Life"

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Amen.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
You are freed and forgiven in the name of +Jesus Christ.
Amen

Prayer of the Day

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 28:5-9

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

⁵ Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."



SECOND LESSON

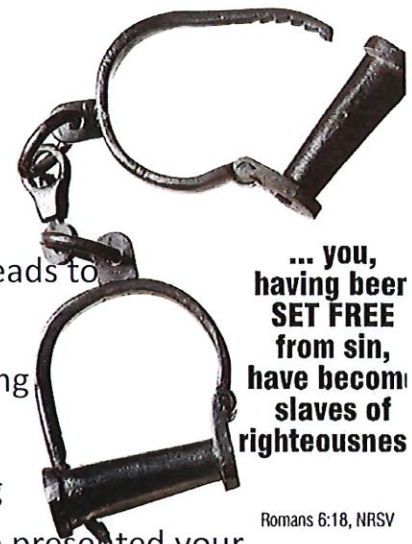
Romans 6:12-23

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments^[a] of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments^[b] of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Slaves of Righteousness

¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By

no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations.^[c] For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.



²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:40-42

Rewards

⁴⁰ "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."



Sermon **"Hospitality"**

*(Pastor's sermon notes will no longer be provided as part of this devotional. If you would like to hear his sermon you will need to have a Facebook account and access the recordings on the churches Facebook page.)

Sermon Hymn "Before You, Lord, We Bow"

Special Music "Battle Hymn of the Republic ("Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory")"

Sunday, July 2, 2023

Scripture Reading: Genesis 22:1-14

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.

—Abraham Lincoln

In two days, we celebrate Independence Day — the day we recognize as the official birth of a new country, the United States of America. Although there were 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, including two future presidents, three vice presidents, and 10 members of the United States Congress, not everyone those days agreed with the move to sever ties with Great Britain.

They had their reasons, of course. Britain had the better defense and more money than the colonies. The rebels lacked a professional army or navy, and what fighting forces they had were armed only with muskets. Moreover, they had had little training.

Then, too, some people feared the British. If you had been a member of the Second Continental Congress in 1776, you were a rebel and considered a traitor by the king. A reward had been posted for the capture of certain prominent rebel leaders, and the largest British armada ever assembled was just outside New York harbor. If you signed the Declaration of Independence, in effect, you were crossing a point of no return. You had just pledged your life, your fortune and your sacred honor to the cause of freedom.

No wonder that John Dickinson and Robert R. Livingston, among others, did not sign this fabled document of freedom.

But 56 representatives from all 13 colonies did. And the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

And for this, we can give thanks.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Thank you, O God, for the blessing of living in this country where, despite its flaws and its struggles, we can live in freedom and enjoy the fruit of liberty. We pray for those who still feel the sting of prejudice and bigotry and those who knowingly or without malice inflict that pain. Bring us all together as we seek to truly be the “united” States of America. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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, this is the weekend that we love God and honor our nation. Our forebears founded a country that relied on the Word of God. They put in place principles that were based on Scripture and the love of God. We are grateful for the strength of faith and courage that has come from good men and women ever since. *Lord in your mercy...*

Our lesson from Romans gives wise advice for those of us who follow the example of our patriots who have led the United States of America to be a world leader in peace and justice. Saint Paul to the Romans says, *"Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires... offer every part of yourself to [God] as an instrument of righteousness."* *Lord in your mercy...*

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that we may live in peace. Quiet the rattlings of war, bring justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, health to the sick, relief to the dying. May your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. May God's love prevail over the reign of sin, evil and destruction so that people everywhere may know that God loves them, and in Jesus Christ the best is yet to come. *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 the power of God. 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...*

May we walk in the footsteps of Jesus who says, *"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."* May God the Father of us all be worshiped and glorified from sea to shining sea that American would know that their victory and strength come from the God who created the heavens and the earth. And may we show kindness and compassion to those in need, especially the family of faith. Again, in the words of Jesus, *"If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."* In Jesus' mighty name, we pray.

Amen.

CAROLYN T. LINN

PRAYER CONCERNS



Members in Need of Prayer:

Verna Walden
Mona White
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:

Lori (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Emily Burton
Marilyn Molen
LeAnn, daughter of Tonya. Mona White's Care Giver.
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Fred Wilson (Sullivan)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sierra Ramirez (Norris)
Krystina Ramos (Norris)
Dora Barraza (Norris)
Shauna Espinosa
Carlos & Anne Cortez (Norris)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
Pauline Ritterbush
Autumn Dunlop (Anderson)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Gloria Valdez (Norris)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Michelle B. (Norris)
Bonnie Wolfe (Norris)
Janet Sharp
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 Hymn

"Lord, Be Glorified"

Closing Song

"God Bless America"

Sending

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God!

Week of July 2, 2023



Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 3-5

Monday: Isaiah 40-42

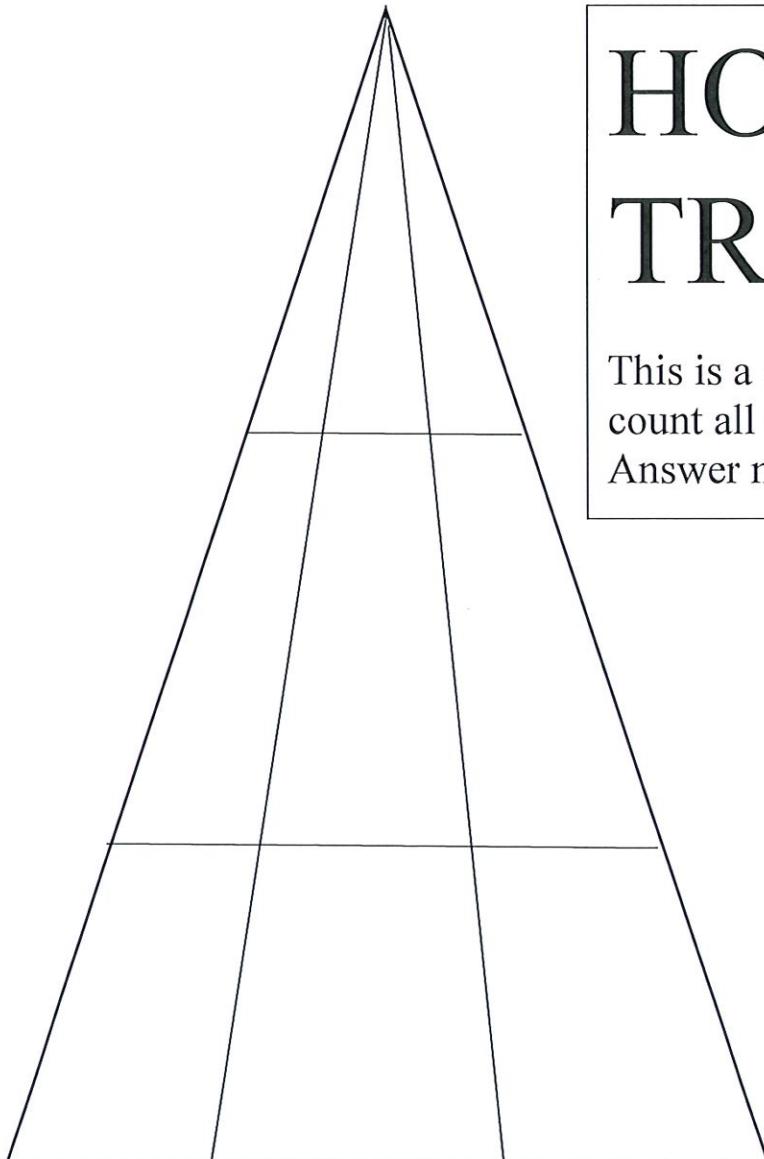
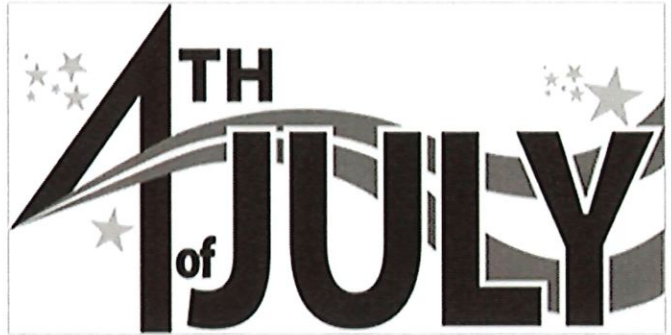
Tuesday: Isaiah 43-45

Wednesday: Isaiah 46-48

Thursday: Isaiah 49-51

Friday: Isaiah 52-54

Saturday: Psalms 73-75



HOW MANY TRIANGLES?

This is a simple test. All you need to do is count all the triangles in the image to the left. Answer next week.

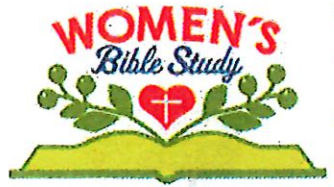
It's found that coloring stimulates the brain and relieves stress. Use color pencils for the following images to celebrate 4th of July.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!





ANNOUNCEMENTS



Women's Bible Study @ Hope Lutheran Church

We would like to invite the women of your congregation to join us for a Women's Bible Study at Hope Lutheran Church. Candy Paulsen and Donna Lippmann will lead the discussion of the book "The Heart of Jesus : Women in the Gospel of Luke". We will meet nearly weekly from June 7 until July 19 (skipping July 5) from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Hope Lutheran church adult education room. The study will also be available via Zoom.

Candy Paulsen cap27@sbcglobal.net

Donna Lippmann donna_chandler@sbcglobal.net

Help Wanted!!!



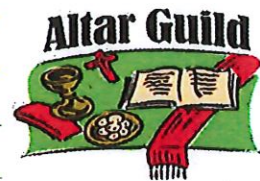
Alex found a full time job that requires him to work Sundays. We have someone who is willing to cover the cost of two hours to set up and clean up after hostess hour. If you know someone who would like a fairly easy 2 hour a week job, please let either Pastor Ted or me know.
Thanks!



SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Are you interested in a LITTLE LIGHT SUMMER READING? Stories that might involve a road trip and a 5-star resort? With a little twist on what you might be expecting, plan to join us for our "Two Books of Summer" on July 12th @ 6:30PM and Aug. 12th @ 9:30AM in the Community Center. Full details in the June Newsletter!!!

Altar Guild Call to Serve



We are looking for someone to serve God by setting the communion table on Sunday mornings. It will be 4 Sunday mornings on (one month) and 8 Sundays off (two months) on a rotating basis. If you feel called to serve in this important function of worship, please contact Pastor Ted or Gloria Miller (Worship Chair). Thank you.

FYI—Check Before You Leave

Kathy has gone in the kitchen, in Jacobson Hall, to find the frig., pantry, and ice machine Doors standing open. Please check all doors after using the facilities.

Also, don't forget to set the alarm.

Thanks, GSLC Staff



Honoring All Our Graduations/Promotions



We would like to recognize all our graduates along with any honors and achievements in our upcoming bulletins and our next newsletter. We want to hear about preschool through advanced college degrees, child or grandchild, if you'd like to share. We are excited to hear about all of our congregation's members and their loved ones! Please email

anything you'd like to include to Kathy in the office at: gslcfresno@att.net.

VBS Dates 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 8/6, and 8/27, Adults to Preschool

Sunday evenings from 5:30-8PM. We hope everyone

will find the time to join together on these upcoming summer Sundays to be nourished and encouraged through God's Word to us. Pastor Ted will lead an adult class in the community center and activities will be offered for children of all ages in Jacobson

Hall. Closing music and snacks will be from 7:30-8 in

Jacobson, and the adults are invited to join the children once again

for this time of fun and praise. **Mark your calendars for 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 8/6, and 8/27.** Please contact Julie @ 559-287-3457 or 13jdixon13@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to help. Come

be transformed and see how we are agents of God's C.H.A.N.G.E.

Bring your friends and family, too!



WELCA September 9—Save The Date



Bethel Lutheran will be holding an event 9/9 from 9:00 - 1:00ish, and would love to invite the women from Good Shepherd. Registration

information will go out in a few weeks. Thanks! Sheila Lynch

Food Pantry Needs:

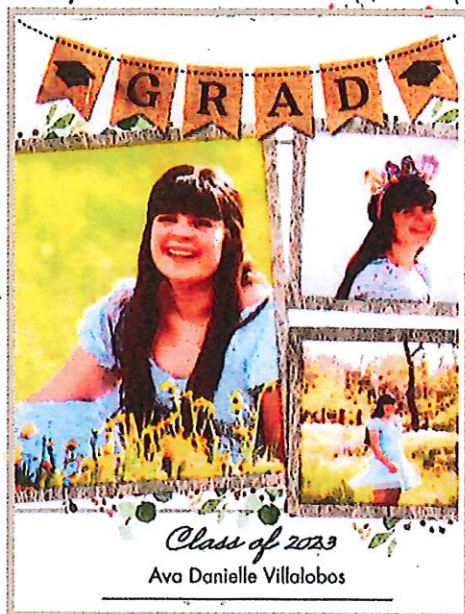
Our pantry is in need! Who can help? Who needs help?

Canned Spaghetti sauce/Alfredo sauce, Mac n Cheese, boxed pasta meals, PB (Smooth) & J, ramen noodles (chicken or beef), pasta & egg noodles. Breakfast cereal & Pancake mix, canned meats, rice, canned refried, black or pinto beans. **We are NOT in need of canned vegetables or fruit.**



OUR GRADUATES!

Honoring Our Kids



Ava Danielle Villalobos graduates from Bullard High School. Ava is the daughter of Reynaldo & Kim Villalobos and sister to Ivan. Ava is a Bullard Valedictorian and a President's Scholar at Cal State Fullerton—Fall.

2023 Valedictorians

Summa Cum Laude 4.32 GPA

(With Highest Distinction)

Ava Villalobos is graduating with a 4.32 GPA, 5 AP classes, and a Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish. She is a four-year member of choir and choir president. Ava is a two-year participant of FMCMEA Honor Choir, and recently participated in Fresno Unified's honor choir as a section lead. She has also been the co-manager of Bullard's softball team for three years. Ava enjoys volunteering for Circle of Friends at Hinds Hospice. She will take part in the President's Scholars Program at CSU Fullerton where she will major in Communications with a concentration in Entertainment & Tourism. Because Ava is a massive Disney fan, she plans to work at Disneyland and hopes to someday be in upper management for the park.





WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Fresno
Margie Back, President

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY - TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tues., July 18th - For women and men.
9:30 a.m. to noon - Leader will be Julie Werfelman

We hope you will attend!

Every summer - on the third Tuesday of July - we enjoy a morning of what we call our **Summer Bible Study**. We have been doing this for many years, and anyone interested is invited to attend. That means men, women, and youth - members and friends - are welcome.



Our teacher will be **Julie Werfelman**, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She holds a Master of Divinity Degree, and runs engaging, educational, and fun programs for youth of all ages.

Our tentative schedule:

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., concluding with a "plant-based" sack lunch.

Cost for the lunch will be \$3,

and we'll need reservations to know that you will be staying.

Email margieback@icloud.com

No reservation needed for the study only.

The study will cover three topics, divided by a brief "coffee break."

Author is Dr. Anna Madsen.

- #1: Promised Salvation Now - Jesus Brings Wellness
- #2: Tangible Salvation Now - Christians Bringing Wellness
- #3: Needed Salvation Now - A World Wanting Wellness