

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA
August 20, 2023
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Opening Hymn “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wise
(c 1989 Dayspring Music, LLC/Word Music LLC; CCLI Song #
106879)

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.

Chorus (after each verse)

You are the One that 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.

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.

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

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.
Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and
constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 56:1

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Covenant Extended to All Who Obey

56 Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.^[a]

SECOND LESSON

Romans 11:1-2a

Israel's Rejection Is Not Final

11 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

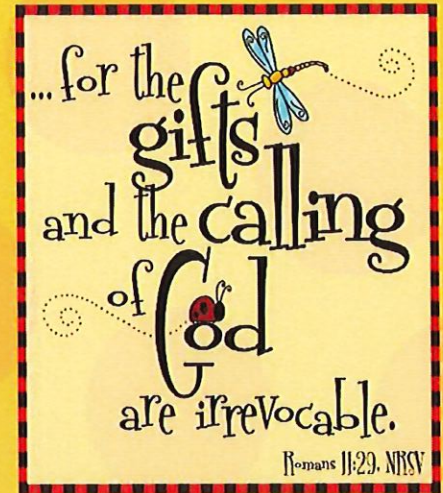
²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now^[a] receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

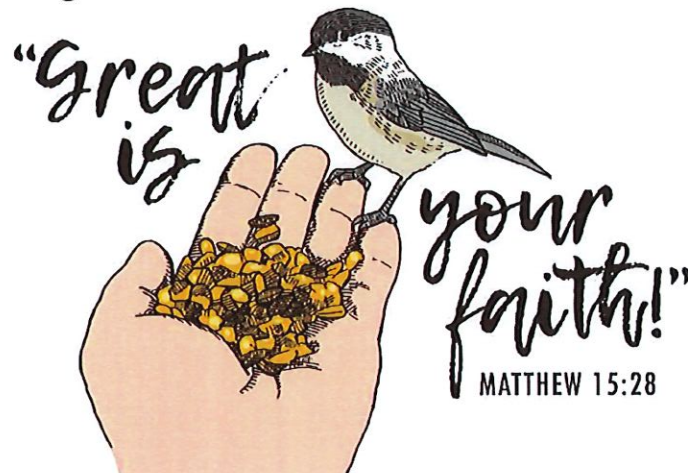
The Canaanite Woman's Faith

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then



a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' ^[a] table."

²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.



Sermon

"Love Knows No Bounds"

*(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 church's Facebook page.)

Sermon Hymn

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm, music. by William M. Runyan, (c 1923, ten.1951 Hope Publishing Company)

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Chorus (after each verse)

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness. Lord unto me.

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Special Music

"Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"

Music by Don Wyrzten,

Words by Jack Wyrzte © 1986 by Singspiration,

Arr. © 1970 by Singspiration

Ken Berg, Cheryl Montgomery, John Montgomery, Trio

Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

There is no better cardiovascular exercise than reaching out, bending over and kneeling down, to lift someone up. —Anon.

According to a Chinese fable, an elderly Han woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be utter failure, the porous pot spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? Why do you suppose that is?"

The poor pot said nothing.

"It's because I've always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table.

Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

The moral of the story? Perhaps it is a reminder to accept oneself as a person made in the image of God, and second, there is no one whom God cannot bless and cannot make a blessing to others!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I am not perfect. There are plenty of persons around to remind me of this; no need for me to be among them. You love me. You have seen fit to use me for your glory. And I am pleased to be in your service, however you may need me. 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, according to today's lessons, your "*gifts and call are irrevocable.*" From the beginning of time, your plan was not just for the nation of the Jews to be your Chosen People. Certainly, they were the first and they became a light to the nations around them; but the call was to all people everywhere. Today's lessons make that clear. From Isaiah we hear, "*I will gather yet others... besides those already gathered...that my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.*" **Lord in your mercy...**

God knew before He created the Garden of Eden that humankind could not be obedient to God's laws. But God gave Adam and Eve a choice; He gave them free will even with their frailty. Saint Paul in Romans says, "*For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.*" **Lord your mercy...**

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that all might "*Keep justice, and do righteousness.*" Lord, we want to live in a world where love reigns, where it is possible that your "*will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" Jesus spoke to the people of His day about the heart. He said "*For out of the heart come evil thoughts,*" but when He encountered a foreign woman who was willing to accept even the smallest blessing from the Master, Jesus understood the humble cry of her heart. **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 reassurance of God's love for all people. 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 proclaimed, "*O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.*" And her daughter was healed instantly. Our Heavenly Father looks into the hearts of all people, and with compassion He provides mercy. He hears our prayers and makes us whole. Thank you, Lord God, for your lovingkindness. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. **Amen.**

CAROLYN T. LINN

PRAYER CONCERNS



Members in Need of Prayer:

Yvonne Smith
Jill Anderson
Neil and 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:

Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
Dan Fey & Family (Norris-No Relation)
Renee Family on her passing (Norris)
Belinda Zavala (Norris)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Karen (Vonny)
Lori (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Emily Burton
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
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

Closing Hymn

*"Shine, Jesus, Shine" by Graham Kendrick
(c 1987 Make Way Music)*

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness thing; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.

Shine on me, shine on me: (refrain)

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.

Shine on me, shine on me: (refrain)

Sending

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God!

Activity Page

Week of August 20, 2023

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Galatians 4-6

Monday: 1 Chronicles 4-6

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 7-9

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 10-13

Thursday: 1 Chronicles 14-16

Friday: 1 Chronicles 17-19

Saturday: Psalms 94-96

Verse to Remember

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Galatians 5:22-23

NAME THIS PONY!



RIDDLE: How much earth is there in a hole 2 yards wide by 2 yards long by 2 yards deep?

Pastor Ted bought a little pony for his son, but didn't know what to name it. As he stood in the pasture thinking, he noticed all kinds of birds flying around, each giving its own special call. Then, he got an idea.

Match the bird with its call and write the letters in order in the spaces provided to find out the two-word name of Pastor Ted's horse.

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| ___ 1. Dove | A. hiss |
| ___ 2. Crow | A. crow |
| ___ 3. Rooster | E. caw |
| ___ 4. Duck | G. chirp |
| ___ 5. Eagle | I. cluck |
| ___ 6. Owl | L. scream |
| ___ 7. Sparrow | P. coo |
| ___ 8. Goose | R. quack |
| ___ 9. Hen | T. chatter |
| ___ 10. Magpie | Y. hoot |

Pony's name:

BRAIN BAFFLERS!

The following two questions come from an actual *fourth* grade class. They are not questions of fact, but questions that ask you to look for patterns.

These are not easy. But you will be interested and amused when you read the answers. Have fun.

1. What do these words have in common?

banana
dresser
grammar
potato
revive
uneven
assess

2. What pattern do you see when you multiply 111,111,111 x 111,111,111?

ANSWERS: Riddle — None. Holes are always empty. **Brain Bafflers — Question 1:** If you take the first letter of each word listed and place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word. **Question 2:** 12,345,678,987,654,321. **Name this pony:** Pearly Gait.

It's found that coloring stimulates the brain and relieves stress.

Use color pencils for the following images.



Blessed
is she who has
believed that
the Lord
would fulfill his
promises to her.

Luke 1:45



TRUST
in the LORD

with ALL your heart

& LEAN NOT ON {YOUR OWN}
UNDERSTANDING;

in ALL your WAYS
acknowledge HIM

& HE shall DIRECT
YOUR PATHS.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

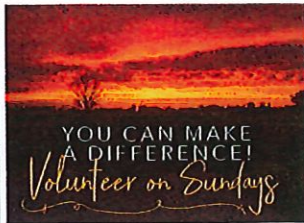
ANNOUNCEMENTS



8/27 VBS Feast & Frolic from 5:30-7PM

Plan to join your GSLC family as we celebrate the start of school, the end of this year's VBS, and the coming of autumn with a pizza party and water play for the kids. We'll get the pizza and ice cream and ask the congregation to bring salads and sides to go with it. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6 or so, and then everyone who wants to go outside to play in the water or watch the antics is invited to join in the fun. We'll wrap up with ice cream sundaes, a song, and a prayer. Bring your friends and family, too!

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. Thank you!!

Roeding Classroom Help Request

We received the following request from a Roeding teacher for regular classroom help this fall:



Your church has partnered with Roeding for many years. I teach 1st grade. I would love to have a volunteer come twice a week for about an hour and work with 3-4 students helping them with their reading skills. It can be the same person or two different people. I would need a commitment. The time would probably be before lunch, about 10:30.

Please contact me if you're interested in one or both days, or if you'd like to get more information. Thank you!

Julie W. 13jdixon13@gmail.com or 559-287-3457

Sanctuary Air Conditioner



As many of you noticed, our AC in the sanctuary was on the fritz. They are replacing the motor for the condenser. The cost is over \$2,000. Any financial help you can provide is greatly appreciated!!!

Prayer List Update

We like to keep the prayer list current and up to date so if you've made a request to add someone to the prayer list, please take a minute to see if they are still listed. If they no longer need to be on the list, you can call or email Kathy and let her know the name(s) to be removed. Thanks!!



SAVE THE DATE 9/9/23—God's Work, Our Hands



Our congregation will be participating again this year in the ELCA's countrywide service project. Lutheran congregations throughout the U.S. will be serving our communities on this particular weekend in all kinds of different ways, and Good Shepherd is no exception. The Lutheran Hunger Network will take place here. We will put together "Blessing Bags" for our Westside Rescue friends to distribute to their human clients. If you have any ideas, please

see Janet Mc or me. Start making your plans now as to how you'd like to participate. We hope to see everyone involved in some way. Thank you!
Shalom, Julie

GSLC Rally Day—Mark your calendars ☒ 9/10.



The Count Down has begun ...

Stay after the service to celebrate and plan to bring a friend to share in the food and fun. More info. to follow ...



Available Online



The website has the weekly homebound devotional and recent newsletters available to view or download and print. Also, there is information about upcoming events, ways to fellowship and get involved. Visit us at:

www.fresnogslc.org

'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 SEPTEMBER STARTUP



Hooties will swarm to Sandy's at noon on Monday, September 18. Ice Cream Sundaes are on the menu. Sandy will contact EACH person on what to tote. Table service furnished. Guest Liz Smith will lead us through a surprise craft project. Materials have been graciously donated. A funny or two plus a challenging mind game are always in store. Hmmm . . . will we beat Diane's attendance record???



Make a Difference. Volunteer!

Patient Care

Take time to sit with patients to provide companionship or provide much needed respite breaks for caregivers. 18+yo

Hospice Home

Support families and staff by greeting visitors, creating a warm environment, answering phones, and more. 18+yo

Dog Visitors

Take your furry best friend to visit with patients in facilities and homes. 18+yo

Veteran to Veteran

Support a fellow veteran with companionship and being someone who can relate to their experiences. 18+yo

Thrift Stores

Support our mission in a retail environment by serving at one of our three thrift store locations. 14+yo

Flower Power

Bring the joy of flowers to patients by arranging bouquets or delivering them to patients. 18+

Administrative

Use or build your skills by helping with clerical tasks and other projects in various departments. 18+yo

Events

Groups or individuals can help at one of our many special events and fundraisers throughout the year. 14+yo

Grief Support

Assist our Center for Grief & Healing with mailings, office tasks, bereavement calls, and support groups. 18+yo

Survivors of Suicide Loss

Assist with support groups, community outreach, and peer support 18+yo

LOSS Team

Our response team provides immediate support and resources to survivors of suicide loss. 21+yo

Circle of Friends

Our grief program where "special friends" support children who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one. 14-24yo

www.hindshospice.org/volunteer

559-317-6016

volunteer@hindshospice.org

2490 W. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711



Hinds Hospice

Honoring the Journey





Hinds Hospice
Since 1981



Volunteer Steps & Requirements

Steps to Becoming a Volunteer:

- 1) Complete an Application
- 2) Schedule an Interview
- 3) Complete all the Requirements listed below
- 4) Attend Orientation & Training
- 5) Start Volunteering!

Requirements for Volunteering:

- Pass a Background & Reference Check
- Follow Hinds Hospice Policies & Procedures
- Complete periodic Trainings



Patient Care & Hospice Home Volunteers must also:

- Be willing to make a minimum 6-month commitment
- Complete 8 hours at-home training & 8 hours in-person training
- Provide clearance from your Physician
- Have a TB Skin Test**
- Provide Record of Immunizations (or a Titters Test): Hepatitis B*, Influenza*, MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis), & Varicella (Chicken Pox), COVID-19***
- Have current Car Insurance & Drivers License (Patient Care Only)

***May request a medical or belief exemption.

**If positive, x-ray clearance & annual questionnaire required.

*May decline with signed declination form.

volunteer@hindshospice.org

559-317-6016

2490 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93711

2023 WELCA Conference 9 Fall Event

Saturday morning, September 9, 9:00 am – Lunch

(That's 9 on 9/9 at 9!)

Bethel Lutheran Church, 187 N. Broadway, Fresno
(1 mile south of the Tower District)



Faith, fellowship, food, and fun! That's what you can expect when we join together at our yearly WELCA Conference 9 event on September 9, 2023:

- ✚ Always-inspiring Pastor Sharon Amundson of Mariposa Lutheran Church will speak on the topic of *Rebuilding...*
- ✚ We'll highlight some special ministries in the Fresno area and the terrific work they do
- ✚ We'll have our annual (*short*) business meeting
- ✚ We'll worship together, led by Pastor Dorothy Lindstrom, guest pastor at Bethel
- ✚ We'll finish up with a delicious lunch and time to visit with other Lutheran women from Fresno to Porterville

Registration: \$15, due August 28; please send your check (made out to WELCA) to Tamara Thompson, 1677 W. Alluvial, Fresno, CA 93711

Questions? Please contact Conf. President Shella Lynch, sdlynchwalk@gmail.com (preferred) or 559-392-3948

See you there!

Sermon Notes

Be Nourished



Date:

Sermon title:

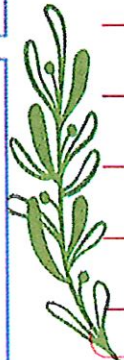


key verses

key words

key people

Notes



Prayers

to study at home:



Sharing the Love of Jesus!

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

WEEKLY

Sneak Peek

SUNDAY, August 20

10am: Worship Service

**11am: Coffee Hour,
Jacobson Hall**

**11—12pm: Kid's Salt &
Light, Jacobson Hall**



MONDAY, August 21

**9am - 4pm: BIA, Fireside/Conf
Rm**

**5pm - 10pm: Boys Scouts,
Comm Ctr**

TUESDAY, August 22

**6pm - 10pm: Voices United,
Comm Ctr**

WEDNESDAY, August 23

**9am - 4pm: BIA, Fireside/Conf
Rm**

THURSDAY, August 24

**9am - 4pm: BIA, Fireside/
Conf Rm**

FRIDAY, August 25

**9am - 4pm: BIA, Fireside &
Conf**

SATURDAY, August 26

SUNDAY, August 27

10am: Worship Service

**11am: Coffee Hour,
Jacobson Hall**

**11—12pm: Kid's Salt &
Light, Jacobson Hall**

**5:30—7pm: VBS,
Jacobson Hall**





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Aug. 27 - GSLC VBS Feast
& Frolic @ 5:30—7PM,
Jacobson Hall**

Sept. 4 Labor Day

OFFICE CLOSED

**Sept. 9 - God's Work,
Our Hands—LHN Free
Neighborhood Market,
8AM - 1PM, GSLC**

**Sept. 10 - Rally Day
Food & Fun @ 11 AM,
Jacobson Hall**

**Sept. 17 - GSLC Book Club
@ 4PM, Comm Ctr**

**Sept. 18 - OWLS @
12PM, Sandy's Home**

**Sept. 20 - King'smen/
King'skids @ 6:30PM,
Jacobson Hall**

**Sept. 21 - Council
Meeting @ 6PM, Conf
Rm**

**Sept. 30 - Westside Res-
cue Breakfast for Dinner
@ 6PM?, Jacobson Hall**