

Sermon Notes



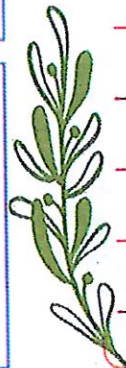
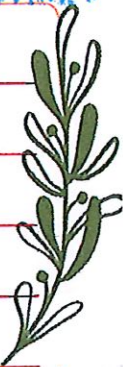
Date:

Sermon title:



key verses	
key words	
key people	

Notes 



Prayers



to study at home:

Sharing the Love of Jesus!



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA

September 10, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rally Day

Opening Hymn

"Before The Throne of God Above" by Vicki Cook and Charitie Bancroft (c 1997 Sovereign Grace Music; CCLI Song # 2306412)
Accompanied by John Montgomery, Cello

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands,
no tongue can bid me thence depart;
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2. When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me;
to look on Him and pardon me

3. Behold Him there, the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless Righteousness;
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die;
my soul is purchased with His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Savior and my God;
with Christ my Savior and my God!

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, +Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who make our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Amen.

Steadfast and faithful God,

Your have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, know and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In +Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

Without your help, we mortals will fail: remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Worship Music

"The Lord Is in This Holy Temple" by Douglas E. Wagner
(c 2004 Lorenze Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation)

Gloria Miller, Solo and The Good Shepherd Chimes

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 33:7-11

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

God's Justice and Mercy

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:8-14

Love for One Another

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

An Urgent Appeal

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became

believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off^[a] the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.



GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

Reproving Another Who Sins

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you,^[a] go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Sermon

"Do We Know What We've Got?"

*(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

"Holy, Holy, Holy,"

Words by Reginald Heber, Music. by John B. Dykes, Descant by Gary Rhodes (descant c 1986 WORD MUSIC, a div. of WORD, INC.)



1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which
wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea; Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty, God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Special Music "This Little Light Of Mine"
Spiritual, Arranged by Stephen DeCesare
(c 2022 Exultet Music)
John Montgomery, Cello Solo

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

The only antidote to materialism is giving, because materialism is all about getting. —Rick Warren

In Stephen King's novel, *Needful Things*, later made into a movie, the people of a small town in Maine called Castle Rock will do just about anything to obtain valuable objects in a store called, of course, "Needful Things."

When they enter the store, they see things they cannot live without — a Sandy Koufax baseball card, a piece of petrified wood alleged to be from Noah's Ark and magical objects that cure disease, predict the future or show the past as it really happened.

The people who want these things don't even have to use money to buy them; they only have to perform strange little favors for the mysterious Mr. Gaunt, the shopkeeper.

Soon, these favors have thrust the town into turmoil, and people began to realize that the things they thought were necessary to ensure their happiness were nothing more than shabby, useless nothings that bring heartache and distress.

Sometimes, we, too, believe that we absolutely must have this thing or that thing. Or, perhaps what we want is not an *object* but an *outcome*. We fervently desire that some awkward or unwanted situation turns out in a way that pleases us. We would love to have control of the situation, but since that is not always possible, we pray, hope, manipulate and cajole, twist and turn — do everything we can to get what we want. We firmly believe it's what we need.

Here's what the Bible says about what we need: "God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

There's more! "Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today" (Matthew 6:32b-34).

Is it wrong to wish for or to desire material possessions? Of course not! The danger only lies when our longing turns to coveting lust. It was the sin of the Israelites, and it is too often a problem that takes up far too much of our energy. This reflects a lack of trust in God.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to shape my needs and wants so that they are aligned with your will. In your 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, today's lessons speak of dealing with sin. We all sin. We all wish we didn't. The prophet Ezekial was told by God to warn the people of their wicked ways. In fact, Ezekial was responsible to warn them. If he didn't, he would die. God says, *"But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way; he shall die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life."* We have a responsibility to one another. ***Lord in your mercy...***

But God is not a vengeful God, looking for ways to condemn humankind. Yet God sees the damage done by sin, as do the people who say: *"Our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?"* The Lord says, *"As I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live."* ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that all would live in peace on earth. Lord, there is strife and warfare boiling up on many continents. The heart of man is foolish and filled with discontent. Saint Paul in Romans says, *"Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy."* God wants us to live in love. ***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 peace. 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...***

How do we do this? Paul continues, *"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."* We put on Christ, when we abide in His Presence. In Matthew, Jesus says, *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* In Christ, we have the power to live with forgiveness from sin to the glory of God, as Jesus said, *"If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."* Thank you, Lord, 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:

Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl 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)
Karen (Vonny)
Lori (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)
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)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)
Darlee (Norris)



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

The Lord's Prayer "The Lord's Prayer" by Albert Hay Malotte
(1935 Renewed, G. Schirmer, Inc.)
Paul Bolm, Solo

Closing Hymn "Everlasting God" by Brenton Brown and Ken Riley
(c 2005 Thankyou Music, CCLI Song # 2032355)

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord, we will
wait upon the Lord.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord, we will
wait upon the Lord.

Our God, you reign forever.
Our hope, our strong deliverer.

You are the everlasting God.
The everlasting God.
You do not faint,
You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak,
You comfort those in need,
You lift us up on wings
Like eagles.

Sending

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God!

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 2 Thessalonians 1-3

Monday: 2 Chronicles 23-25

Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 26-29

Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 30-32

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 33-36

Friday: Ezekiel 1-3

Saturday: Psalms 103-105

Verse to Remember

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not
forget all his benefits.*

—Psalm 103:2

PROVERBIAL MIX-UP

The proverbs below have been split in half and rearranged. Match the phrase in the column on the right to the proper beginning in the column on the left.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ 1. All that glitters ... | A. ... is not gold. |
| _____ 2. Live and ... | B. ... make light work. |
| _____ 3. Practice makes ... | C. ... perfect. |
| _____ 4. Where there's a will ... | D. ... has a silver lining. |
| _____ 5. From little acorns ... | E. ... saves nine. |
| _____ 6. A stitch in time ... | F. ... nothing gained. |
| _____ 7. Don't count your chickens | G. ... don't make a right |
| _____ 8. Nothing ventured ... | H. ... before they hatch. |
| _____ 9. Two wrongs ... | I. ... there's a way. |
| _____ 10. Every cloud ... | J. ... than never. |
| _____ 11. Out of sight ... | K. ... let live. |
| _____ 12. Honesty ... | L. ... big oaks grow. |
| _____ 13. Many hands ... | M. ... is the best policy. |
| _____ 14. You can't have your cake | N. ... out of mind. |
| _____ 15. Better late ... | O. ... and eat it, too. |



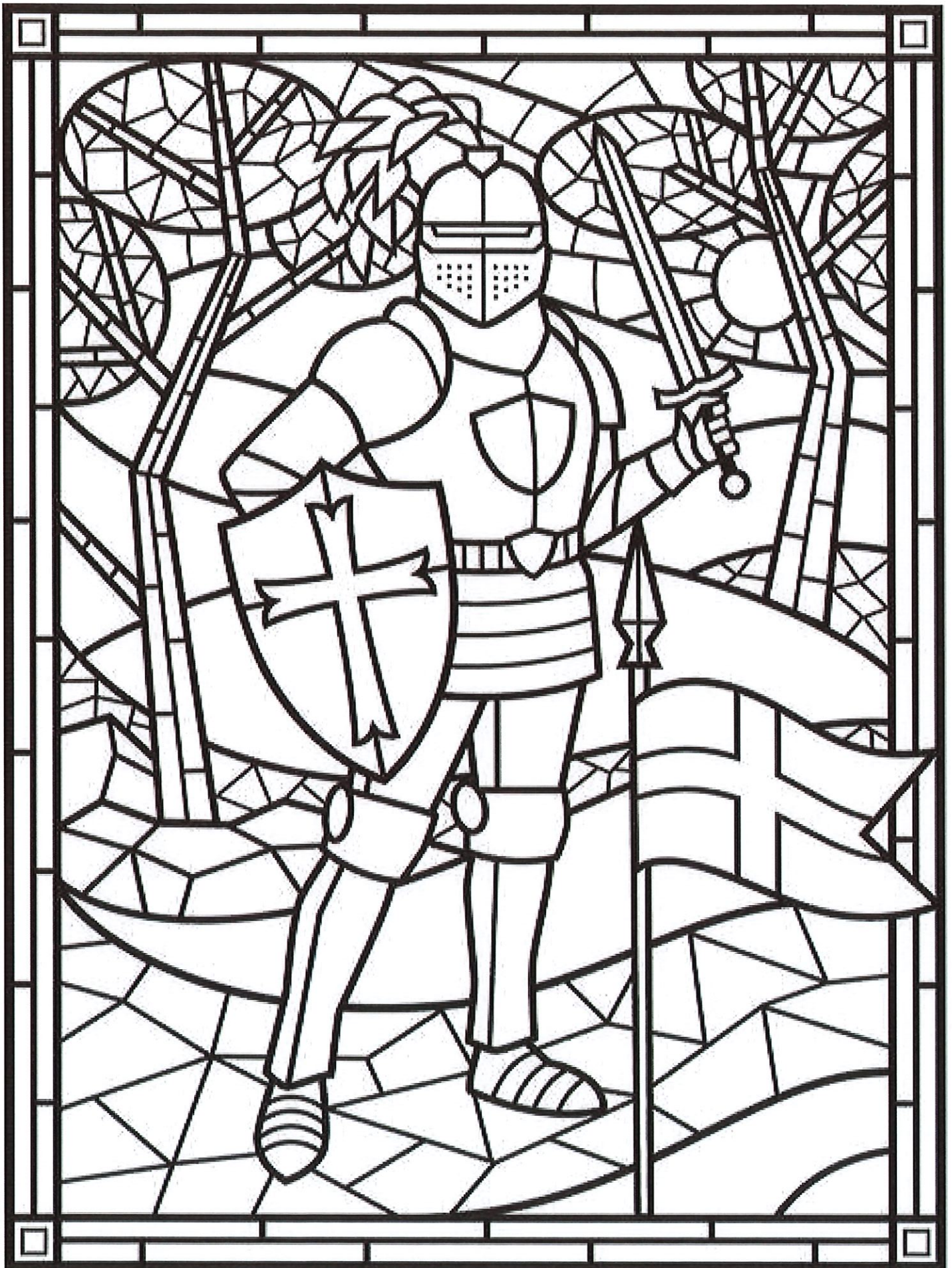
*"To watch over
mouth and
tongue is to
keep out of
trouble."*

—Proverbs 21:23

**WHAT PROVERB DO YOU
SEE HERE?**
pudproofing

Answers: 1A, 2K, 3C, 4I, 5L, 6E, 7H, 8F, 9G, 10D, 11N, 12M, 13B, 14O, 15J.
Hidden proverb: The proof is in the pudding.

It's found that coloring stimulates the brain and relieves stress.
Use color pencils to be creative and express your love you God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hostess Leftovers Sunday

Starting September 24th, we'll be doing a Leftover Sunday every last Sunday of the month. There always seems to be leftover cookies, chips or crackers - what better way to use up those leftovers than by having one Sunday where we have some of the treats we've previously enjoyed? Steve will freeze those cookies or cakes, so they 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!

Many, MANY Thanks to ALL Who Helped with VBS!



Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's VBS enjoyable and meaningful again this year. BIG THANK YOU's to Janet, Mary, and Pastor Ted for heading up food, crafts, and music this year! Kudos also to Carol, Francis, Yvonne, Steve, Russell, and Steve for faithfully cooking, crafting, and otherwise assisting in our fun Sunday nights. Thank you, Pastor Ted, for leading the adult class. Special thanks to our own Ken & Susan and Ann from Bethel for coming out to bring us distinctive musical events, and to Jenna for leading us in making our beautiful tie-dyed tees and socks! Most of all, thank you to everyone who attended in any capacity. We can't become God's chosen agent of change on our own - we NEED our community to be effective.

Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann

GSLC Rally Day **TODAY** Stay after the service to celebrate. Rally Day Taco Truck!

We are so excited to have the El Encanto Taco Truck coming to our church to help us celebrate Rally Sunday! They will be offering beef, pork, fish, and shrimp tacos as well as sopes at a minimal cost of \$2.50-\$3 each after worship. The congregation is invited (but not required!) to bring sides/salads to share to complement the tacos as well as your own place settings. We will have a regular fiesta! We will provide drinks and ice cream sundaes for dessert, and we will have paper place settings for anyone who forgot to bring their own.

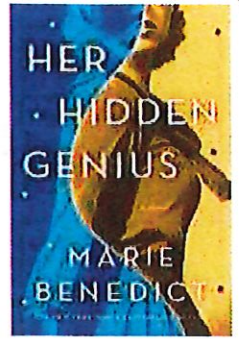


Bounce Water Slide

There will be a bounce water slide for the children and any adults that would like to participate. Remember to bring something to change into and bring a towel.

GSLC Book Club—Sept. 17 @ 4PM

Join us for casual discussion of "Her Hidden Genius" by Marie Benedict, Sunday afternoon, September 17, at 4:00 in the Community Center. All are invited and welcome to join us!!! No membership. Come any time a book of the month captures your interest. Questions: Contact Sharon Rowley 313-0757, shandrow@outlook.com (put GSLC book club in subject line)



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???

Kingsmen/Kingskids will restart on Wed., Sept. 20th

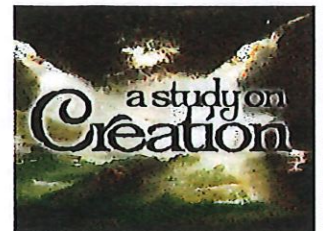


We will meet at **6:30PM** in Jacobson Hall. There will be a potluck dinner. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share and plan on having a short bible time.

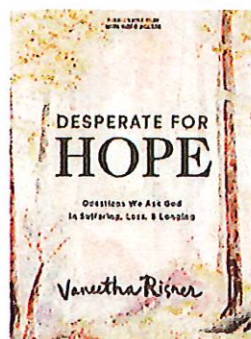


Count Down to "Season of Creation"

In just two more weeks (September 24), we will begin offering our special worship series on God's Creation." On the first Sunday, we will highlight the "Planet Earth." On the following Sunday (October 1), we will celebrate our "Forests." Come and join us! You will be glad that you did!



Wednesday Evening Bible Study Starts Sept. 27th @ 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)

Westside Rescue's
6th Annual

BREAKFAST FOR DINNER

SEPT
30TH

Adults : \$20 | 5-12 : \$5

Pay at door or Pay Pal



westsiderescue@gmail.com

Door prizes & Raffles

DOORS OPEN

5:30PM

DINNER 6-7:30

SILENT

AUCTION

ENDS 8PM

5140 N. Fruit Ave Fresno, CA 93711