

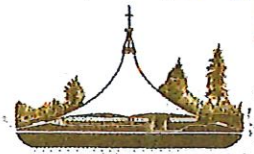
# Sermon Notes

*We*  
**Nourished**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Sermon title:



Key Verses

## Spoken word

## Key people

## Notes



# Prayers

to study at home

## Sharing the Love of Jesus!

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA**

**September 17, 2023**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Opening Hymn** "Jesus Messiah"  
by Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash and Jesse Reeves,  
Arr. by Mary Tim  
(c 2008 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing),  
Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing),  
worship together.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG  
Publishing), Wondrously Made Songs/Admin. by Music  
Services, Inc.), CCLI # 5183443)

1. He became sin, who knew no sin;  
that we might become His righteousness;  
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.  
Love so amazing. Love so amazing.

Chorus: Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.  
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

2. His body the bread, His blood the wine broken and poured out, all for love.  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn Love so amazing. Love so  
amazing.

Chorus

Bridge:

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You, All the glory to You, God, the Light of  
the world.

Chorus

**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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON**

Genesis 50:15-21

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

### **Joseph Forgives His Brothers**

<sup>15</sup> Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they approached<sup>[a]</sup> Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the

servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept,<sup>[b]</sup> fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

## SECOND LESSON

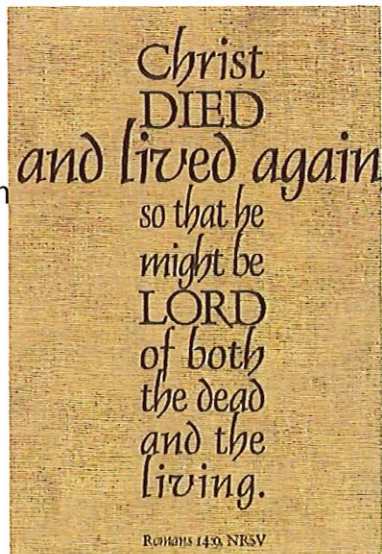
Romans 14:1-12

### Do Not Judge Another

**14** Welcome those who are weak in faith<sup>[a]</sup> but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord<sup>[b]</sup> is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup> Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup> For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.





<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>11</sup> For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to<sup>[d]</sup> God.”

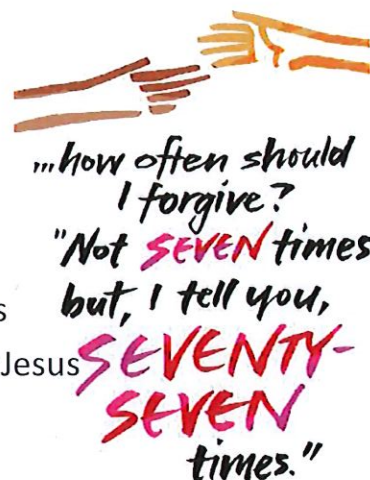
<sup>12</sup> So then, each one of us will be held accountable.<sup>[e]</sup>

## GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

### Forgiveness

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven<sup>[a]</sup> times.



“...how often should I forgive?  
“Not ~~SEVEN~~ times  
but, I tell you,  
~~SEVENTY-SEVEN~~  
times.”

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

### The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have

had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

### **Sermon**

Julie Werfelmann

\*(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**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Words by Robert Robinson, Music. by J. Wyeth

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love, teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come;"

and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be; let that grace now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

### **Special Music**

"My God Is a Rock" Traditional Spiritual,

Arranged by Ruth Morris Gray (c 2015 by Alfred Music)

Ken Berg, Cheryl Montgomery, John Montgomery



Sunday, September 17, 2023

## Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

*When you forgive, you in no way change the past —  
but you sure do change the future. —Bernard Meltzer*

A group of Americans was on a short-term mission trip to the city of La Entrada in Honduras. They joined several Hondurans visiting the families of schoolchildren. These families were very poor and lacked the money to buy their children school supplies. The Americans sat in the homes of those families, heard about their struggles and made decisions about what kind of financial support they could give them.

A key member of this team was a Honduran man named Kelvin. He taught at a bilingual school and acted as translator for the Americans. On the second day of the trip, he announced that he would have to leave the team because one of his fellow Hondurans had insulted him. This created a huge problem, since the Americans really needed Kelvin's translating abilities.

His colleagues tried to mediate this conflict in English, while one of the Hondurans tried to intercede in Spanish.

Finally, Kelvin said that he would continue his work with the group. "I am a Christian," he said. "I must forgive."

What a simple but profound thought: *I am a Christian ... I must forgive.*

But, as we know, this is easier said than done. What we learn from today's reading in Matthew is that forgiveness *begins as a choice and then becomes a process*. First, we choose to forgive and then the work begins. It is a longer process for some than it is for others, and the process is also affected by the nature of the grievance.

But, when we are able to trust God's role in the process, we will come to the point when we can let go of the power of the grievance to control us, and turn that all over to God. When that happens, forgiveness is complete, and we are free.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Thank you, heavenly father, for forgiving me, for you know, of course, how undeserving I was — and am. No need to tell you this. But still, you forgive me. Help me to keep this detail in mind when someone wrongs me. Help me to forgive as I am forgiven.*

*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, forgiveness is hard! When we have been wronged, we want to take vengeance on the one who wronged us. Our prisons are full of people who have taken action against people who have done them wrong. But all three of our lessons today tell stories of people who have been wronged. And Jesus' message is clear. We are to forgive. *Lord in your mercy...*

The story of Joseph always touches my heart. He was wronged because he was loved. His brothers thought their father's love was greater for this son of Rachel, Jacob's beloved wife. Perhaps Jacob did show unusual favoritism, but God had a plan out of which God would do a great miracle and make a great nation. *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 unity and peace. The forgiveness that Joseph showed to his brothers united a nation and prepared it to become God's beacon of hope to a lost world. We can do the same. By our forgiveness we can break the bonds of hatred that can destroy ourselves and other people. Or, as Romans declares, "*Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls.*" Yes, it is before God, that we are judged and either punished or redeemed. Romans continues, "*So each of us shall give account of himself to God.*" *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 forgiveness. 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...*

Peter asked Jesus about forgiveness, wondering how many times we have to forgive someone who wrongs us. Jesus' reply was an infinite number. It is always our job to forgive. In Jesus Christ, God forgave humankind all its transgressions past, present and future. Can we do any less? In the precious blood of Jesus our sins are wiped away; He took our punishment. We must show mercy. Thank you, Lord God, in Jesus' mighty name, we pray. *Amen.*

CAROLYN T. LINN



## PRAYER CONCERNS



### Members in Need of Prayer:

Carolyn Linn  
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 Essman & Family (Hays)  
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)



## **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**      "All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises" by Paul Baloche  
(c 2003 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI Song # 409281)

1. 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 sin 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.

### **Sending**

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

**C:** Thanks be to God!





Week of September 17, 2023

### Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday:** Acts 18:12–19:10

**Monday:** Ezekiel 4-7

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 8-11

**Wednesday:** Ezekiel 12-14

**Thursday:** Ezekiel 15-18

**Friday:** Ezekiel 19-21

**Saturday:** Psalms 106-108

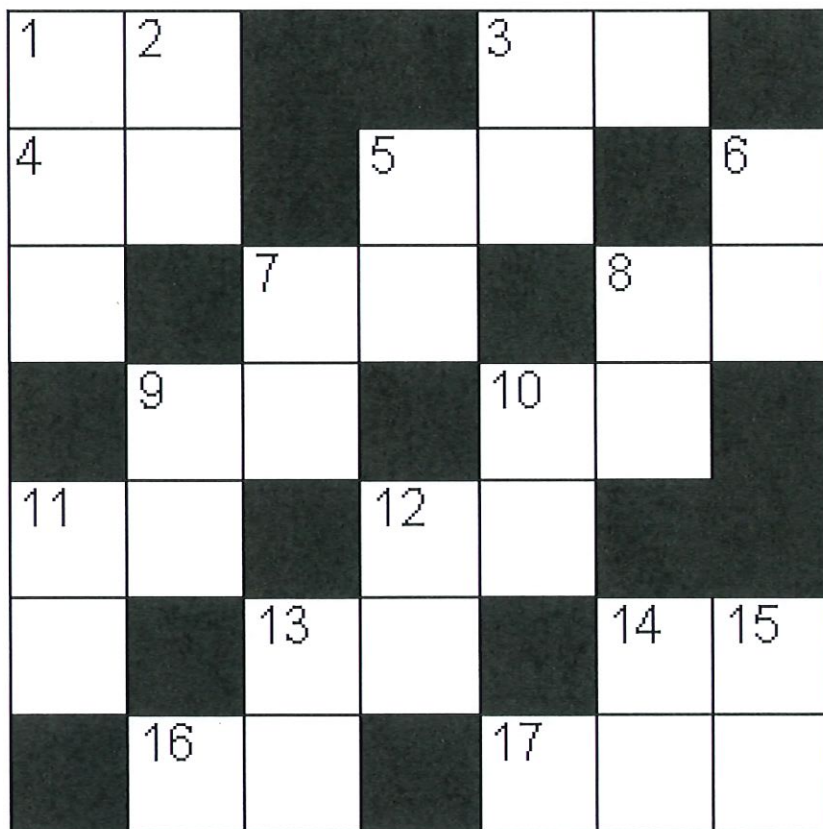
### VERSE TO REMEMBER

*He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ... As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.*

—Psalm 103:10-12

## TIMES TABLES

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete this math puzzle just as you would complete any crossword. All the clues involve basic multiplication problems. If you're a whiz at your times tables, you should be able to complete this puzzle in five minutes or less! Try it!



### Across

- 1.  $1 \times 11$
- 3.  $7 \times 3$
- 4.  $4 \times 5$
- 5.  $7 \times 2$
- 7.  $8 \times 9$
- 8.  $11 \times 5$
- 9.  $6 \times 10$
- 10.  $5 \times 6$
- 11.  $11 \times 3$
- 12.  $7 \times 6$
- 13.  $9 \times 6$
- 14.  $7 \times 12$
- 16.  $6 \times 11$
- 17.  $11 \times 10$

### Down

- 1.  $11 \times 11$
- 2.  $2 \times 5$
- 3.  $2 \times 12$
- 5.  $2 \times 6$
- 6.  $3 \times 5$
- 7.  $10 \times 7$
- 8.  $10 \times 5$
- 9.  $9 \times 7$
- 10.  $8 \times 4$
- 11.  $7 \times 5$
- 12.  $4 \times 11$
- 13.  $8 \times 7$
- 14.  $9 \times 9$
- 15.  $5 \times 8$

## AMAZING (and random) FACTS!

- ❖ Boring, Oregon, is a sister city of Dull, Scotland, and Bland, Australia.
- ❖ German chocolate cake was invented in Texas.

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

# FORGIVENESS



expands your  
Heart



forgive

The word 'forgive' is written in a cursive script. It is decorated with two roses on the left and right sides, and several small hearts scattered around the letters.

grace

The word 'grace' is written in a cursive script. The letters are filled with various patterns like stripes and dots. It is surrounded by small flowers and leaf-like shapes.

blessed

The word 'blessed' is written in a cursive script. The letters are filled with various patterns like stripes and dots. It is surrounded by small flowers and a butterfly is perched on the letter 'e'.

gratitude

The word 'gratitude' is written in a cursive script. It is decorated with leafy branches on the left and right sides, and small heart shapes at the bottom.

joy

The word 'joy' is written in a cursive script. The letters are filled with various patterns like stripes and dots. It is surrounded by small flowers and two birds are perched on the left and right sides.



## 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!

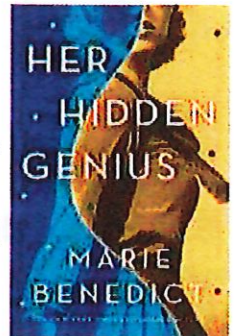


Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's VBS enjoyable and meaningful again this year. BIG THANK YOU's to Janet, Mary, and Pastor Ted for heading up food, crafts, and music this year! Kudos also to Carol, Francis, Yvonne, Steve, Russell, and Steve for faithfully cooking, crafting, and otherwise 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 Book Club TODAY—Sept. 17 @ 4PM

Join us for casual discussion of "Her Hidden Genius" by Marie Benedict, TODAY, 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](mailto: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 instore. Hmmm . . . will we beat Diane's attendance record???



## Kingsmen/Kingskids will restart on Wed., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

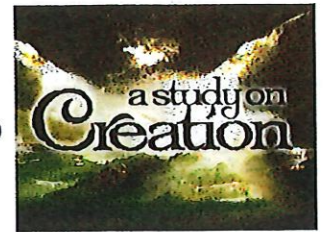


We will meet at **6:30PM** in Jacobson Hall. There will be a potluck dinner. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share and plan on having a short bible time.

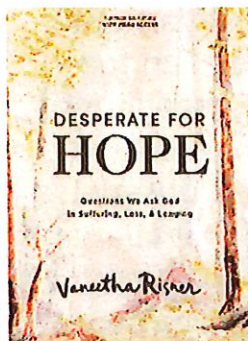


### It's almost here!!

Next Sunday, September 24, is our first "Season of Creation" worship service! We will be highlighting the "Planet Earth" and you will be inspired. Come to church again next week and we will be talking about "Forests." Be there and 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](mailto:shandrow@outlook.com) (Put Bible Study in subject line).



## Welcome!! Wilder Deacon Dixon



This morning's single rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of Wilder Deacon Dixon, grandson of Paul & Julie Werfelmann and son of Jordan Dixon and Lacey Mickleburgh. Praise and thanksgiving to our gracious God!

Announcements

## GWOH & Rally Day Celebration

**Thanks**  
FOR PITCHING IN!



Many thanks to everyone who participated in our dedicated day of service! We had the joys of helping feed hundreds and hundreds of people, welcoming the staff back to our adopted school Roeding Elementary, and helping our friends at Westside Rescue get ready for their fundraiser. Many hands made light work!

## El Encanto Taco Truck Thank You!

Rally Day thanks to El Encanto taco truck for bringing their delicious food, to Janet for bringing the ice cream and drinks, and to everyone who brought salads and sides to share. Special thanks to Sue who had the food truck idea last year already and to Lisa for making it happen. It was a delicious celebration!





Westside Rescue's  
6th Annual

# BREAKFAST FOR DINNER

SEPT  
30TH

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

Pay at door or Pay Pal



[westsiderescue@gmail.com](mailto: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