

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA
July 9, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Opening Songs "Here I Am To Worship"
 "Hopy Spirit"
 "Amazing Grace"

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

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Zechariah 9:9-12

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Coming Ruler of God's People

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He^[a] will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

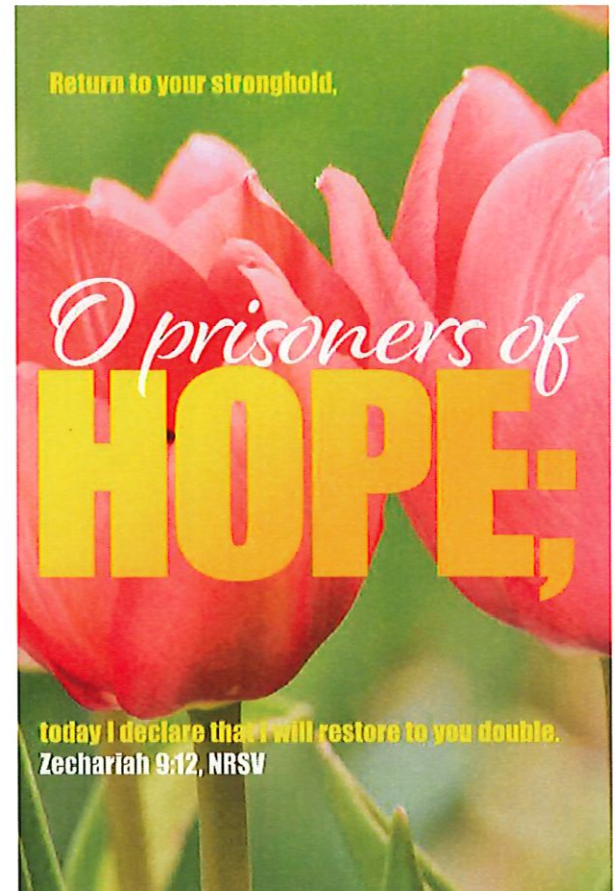
¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is



good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God^[a] through Jesus Christ our Lord!

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶ "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."^[a]

Jesus Thanks His Father

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank^[a] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.^[b] ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son



except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

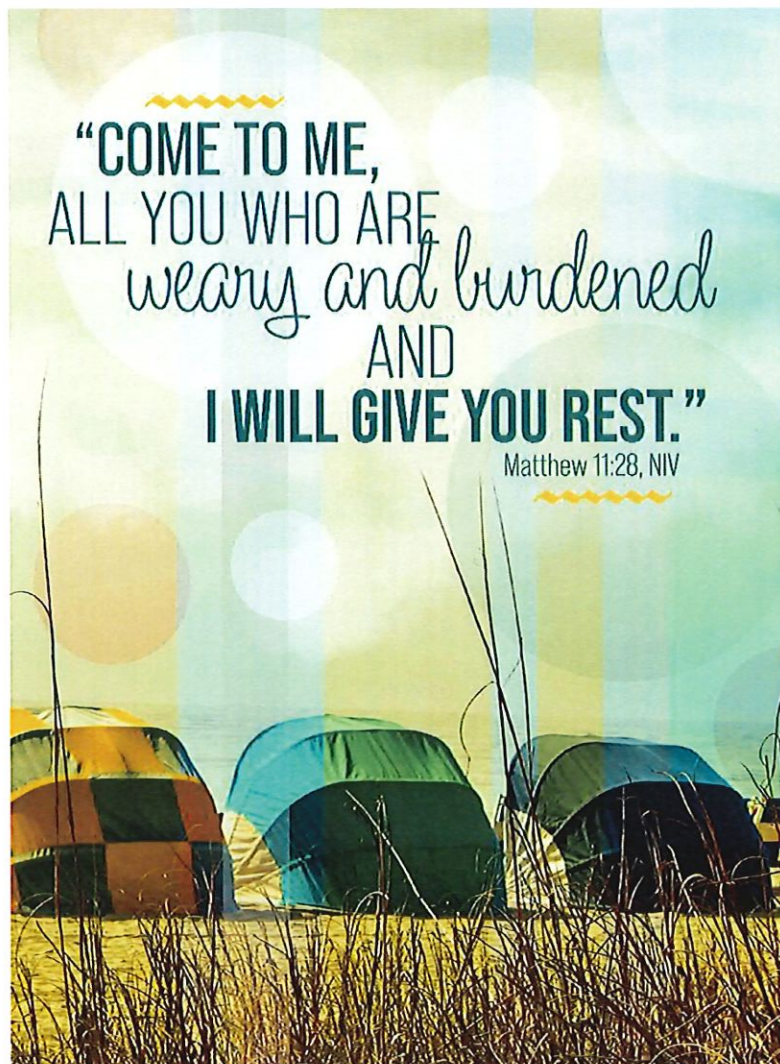
²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Sermon **“Dancing With Jesus”**

*(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 **“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”**

Special Music **“On Eagle’s Wings”**



Sunday, July 9, 2023

Scripture Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Low self-esteem is like driving through life with your hand brake on.

—Maxwell Maltz

In 1936, Dr. Maxwell Maltz, only 36 years old, published a groundbreaking book that would introduce so-called “plastic” surgery to the masses. Called *New Faces, New Futures: Rebuilding Character with Plastic Surgery*, the book discusses the correction of facial defects by surgical methods and recreating the structure and shape of the human face so that it more closely resembles the appearance the person desires.

In subsequent years, Dr. Maltz began to notice something odd. Patients whose physical appearance had definitely improved following surgery did not seem happy. They were more beautiful externally, for sure. But internally, they were becoming ugly. Their old personalities remained unchanged, or got worse — meaner, pettier and nastier.

Have you ever thought about the relationship between inward and outward beauty? Even the prophet Samuel was confused for a while. After choosing several of Jesse’s sons to be the next king of Israel, God pointed him to the youngest, a shepherd who liked to write poetry. God said, “The LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

How beautiful do you suppose we look in the eyes of God? Through the eyes of others? Through the eyes of friends and family?

Dr. Maltz was concerned with his discovery that altering one’s physical appearance often does not improve one’s personality. About 25 years later, at the age of 60, he wrote another book: *Psycho-Cybernetics: A New Way to Get More Living out of Life*. It became a bestseller and still remains on a list of the top 50 most influential self-help books in history. He was still trying to change people, not by correcting jawbones or smoothing scar tissue, but by helping people change the pictures they had of themselves.

It’s not a bad book. But there is an even better book that helps us to see ourselves as God sees us, and that gives us timeless advice about how to improve self-esteem, and that book is, as you’ve probably guessed, the Bible. —Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, my prayer is the prayer of the psalmist David: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Father, our lessons today speak of internal warfare. We want to do what is right, but at times the evil that dwells within us rules. In Romans, Saint Paul declares *"So then, I of myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin."* There is a struggle. We try to do the right thing, but our flesh and the devil war against us. ***Lord in your mercy...***

But Jesus came with victory. He has fought the battle for us, and He rules with might. Our faith and hope are in Jesus Christ. Zechariah, the prophet gives us encouragement, *"Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double."* What the enemy has taken from us, God will restore. ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that all might work for peace. Zechariah, the prophet again tells us who gives us true peace. He says, *"[Jesus Christ] shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and... to the ends of the earth."* Yes, Lord, make it so. ***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...

Lord, in these perilous times, our hope and comfort are in Jesus Christ. Give us the grace to stay close to Him, to reach out in prayer for his instruction and be guided by the Holy Spirit. It is only through the Son that we have access to and knowledge of the Father. Jesus says, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Lord, thank you that we can lean upon you, our source of comfort and hope. 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
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)



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

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Closing Song

"Today is the Day"

Sending

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOME TOUCH® Activity Page

Week of July 9, 2023

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 6-9

Monday: Isaiah 55-57

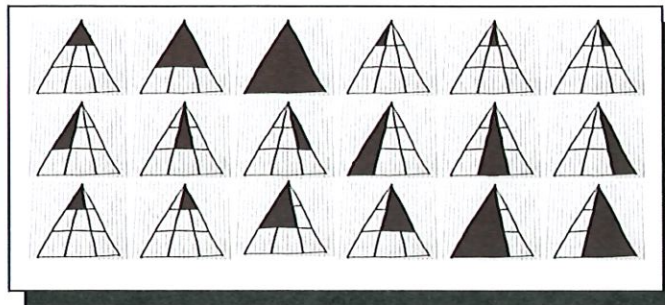
Tuesday: Isaiah 58-60

Wednesday: Isaiah 61-63

Thursday: Isaiah 64-66

Friday: Micah 1-4

Saturday: Psalms 76-78



Solution to last week's triangle puzzle: 18

WHAT BOOKS IN THE BIBLE DO NOT HAVE THE LETTERS B-I-B-L-E IN THEM? (Hint: There are 12. Answer below)

PAIRS IN THE BIBLE

Using a pen or pencil, draw lines to connect well-known pairs in the Bible. (Answers below)

SAMSON

WATER

LOAVES

ADAM

PAUL

DAVID

MARY

CAIN

LEAH

MOSES

JACOB

FISHES

GOLIATH

ESAU

WINE

RACHEL

SILAS

MARTHA

AARON

DELILAH

ABEL

EVE

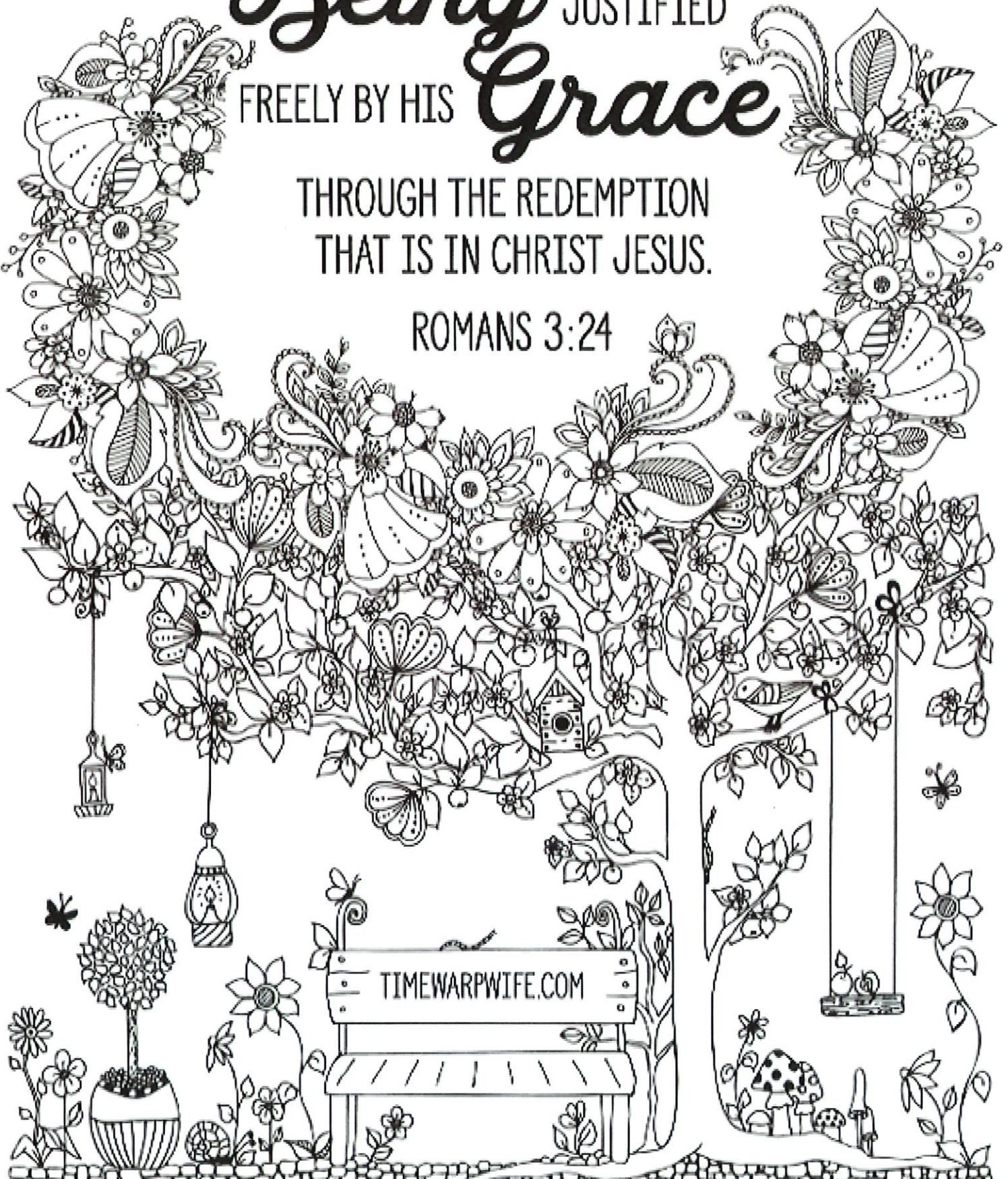
BOOKS IN THE BIBLE: Joshua, Ruth, Amos, Jonah, Nahum, Mark, John, Acts, Romans, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John. **PAIRS:** Samson/Delilah, water/wine, loaves/fishes, Adam/Eve, Paul/Silas, David/Goliath, Mary/Martha, Cain/Abel, Leah/Rachel, Moses/Aaron, Jacob/Esau

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

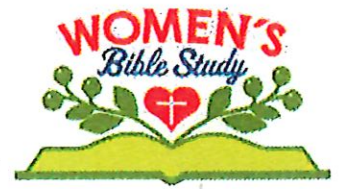
Being JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS *Grace*

THROUGH THE REDEMPTION
THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS.

ROMANS 3:24



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!!!



know.

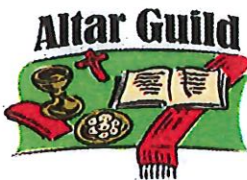
Alex found a full time job that requires him to work Sundays. We have someone who is willing to cover the cost of two hours to set up and clean up after hostess hour. If you know someone who would like a fairly easy 2 hour a week job, please let either Pastor Ted or me know. Thanks!



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



Help Celebrate MEF's 26th Anniversary—July 23rd

Sunday, July 23rd join the board of the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) in celebrating 26 years of promoting Christian stewardship and the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd. There will be a short temple talk and refreshments provided after service to highlight the difference your donations have made here at Good Shepherd, in our community and around the world. Thank you for all of your support over the years!"



VBS TONIGHT 7/9, Adults to Preschool

Sunday evenings from 5:30-8PM. We hope everyone will find the time to join together on these 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!



*Bring a
Friend
to VBS*

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

Women ^{of the} ELCA

From Carolyn Linn:



This month, July 27th, my sister, Pastor Arlynne Turnquist, will be celebrating her 88th birthday. She is not mobile and not up for a lot of excitement, but she enjoys being remembered by friends who love her. She would deeply appreciate cards and messages from the Good Shepherd family of faith.

If you feel so inclined, please send her a card to my address. I will bring them to her and make her special day one of joy and good cheer. Send cards to:

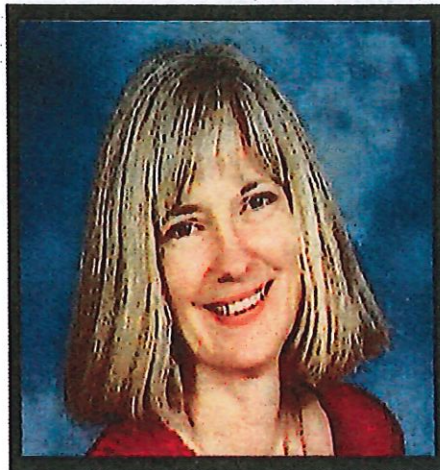
Arlynne Turnquist
6336 N. Bergeron Ave.
Fresno, CA 93704

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.

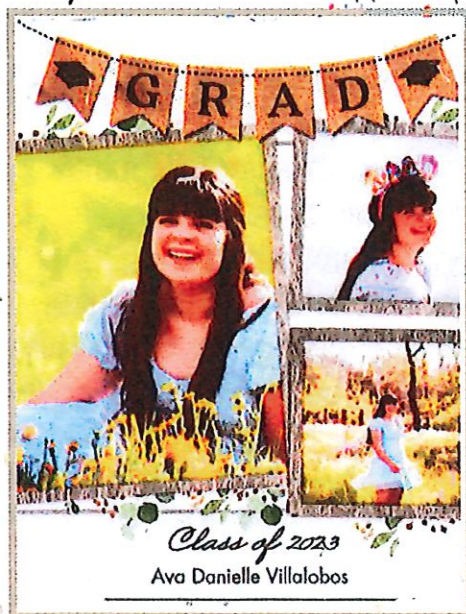
The study will cover three topics, divided by a brief "coffee break."

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

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.

