

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
January 21, 2024
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn "Praise to The Lord, The Almighty"
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with His love He befriend you.

3. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the "Amen!" sound from His people again,
Gladly forever adore Him!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

God our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.

**Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Conversion of Nineveh

3 The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹ I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news^[a] of^[b] God ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;^[c] repent, and believe in the good news."^[d]

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Sermon "A Higher Calling"

Sermon Hymn "Build Us Up, Lord" (Text and Music: Mark Glaeser and Donna Hanna)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in us a strong foundation.
Lead us to do your holy will; form and shape your new creation.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we guide and teach each other,
help us to share your love with the world; ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother.

Refrain:

Growing in Christ, we plant seeds for the kingdom;
we follow in faith what's begun!
Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your word
to spread the news of your Son!

2. Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our lives reflect your glory.
Cast away all our doubts and fears; help us tell the world your story.
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us bear good fruit for you,
Lord, give us vision and keep us sure. Grant us faith that's steadfast and true.
Refrain

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, God of the Universe, who does all things well, Your timing is perfect. Jesus was baptized my John, and John was placed in prison where he would be martyred. The purpose of John's life as messenger of Jesus was fulfilled. Now it was time for Jesus to begin his ministry. *Lord in your mercy...*

Jesus went into the region of Galilee where he called two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John. With the simple command, "*Follow Me*," they left their jobs and followed Jesus. The Spirit of God was leading them into a new vocation. Their job was to learn from the Messiah. *Lord in your mercy...*

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. Jonah, too, was called, but he wasn't as eager to obey; and he paid a price for his reluctance. Our lesson from 1 Corinthians provides the urgency of God's call, "*For the form of this world is passing away.*" How do we react when Jesus calls us to follow Him? *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 delight in God's plan. 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...*

The message from Jesus to the disciples two thousand years ago is the same today. "*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.*" But today, that call is much closer to the Second Coming of Jesus. The signs of the times fill our news reports every day. Will we react like Nineveh? Will our sinful world recognize evil and turn from its wicked ways? Or will the call need to be repeated and repeated until the hearts of humankind are softened to receive the Good News of God's love for all people?

Is God speaking to us through the phenomena of nature around the world? Is God speaking to us through the pain and suffering of the Middle East? Is God calling us to come out from the godless ways of the world and be set apart for God's purposes. Open our eyes to see you more clearly, Lord, to hear your voice and follow you. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. *Amen.* CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music

"My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)" Words by Rory Cooney, Irish
Melody Arr. by Mark Hayes (c 1990 & this Arr. 2017 GIA Publications, Inc.)
John Montgomery, Solo



Sunday, January 21, 2024

Scripture Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Grace will follow us even when we are going the wrong way. —Ricky Maye

According to a Barna survey of self-identifying Christians, only 61 percent realized that Jonah is an actual book of the Bible. Even more shocking is that 27 percent said positively that it is not! And 12 percent had no idea.

But if you look hard, it's right there, only three to four pages long, tucked in between Obadiah and Micah.

The plot of this fish story is simple. God asks a prophet (Jonah) to preach to Israel's enemy, Assyria. The prophet refuses, running away to a port city and catching a berth in the belly of a ship. When there's a violent storm, the prophet accepts responsibility for the wrath of God, and is unceremoniously thrown overboard. In the great sea, a great fish happens along and gulps him down whole. But the fish finds him unpalatable and vomits him up on a shore. The prophet now goes to Assyria and preaches judgment in the capital city, Nineveh. Surprisingly, the people of the city repent, and God repents of his judgment against the city, and spares it. The prophet is upset and angry with God, and the book ends.

Many lessons can be drawn from this simple story. One is that it is *pointless to disobey God or attempt to flee from God's presence*. It didn't work for Jonah, and it won't work for us.

A second lesson is *that God is merciful and forgiving*. Jonah's defiance is breathtaking, but the providence of God provides a huge storm and an even bigger shark or some other sea creature to get the prophet out of the storm and back on to land. There, in the belly of the beast, he had a "come-to-God" moment. When Jonah comes to his senses, he finds himself on a beach. It is a moment of amazing gastrointestinal grace. Jonah, like us, gets another chance from the God of second chances.

Third, it's really bad form to *accept the grace of God and then get peeved and perturbed* when God extends that same grace and mercy to others. If we are recipients of mercy, let's rejoice when others accept God's freely-offered love and mercy, too — especially if we have been blessed to be a transformational agent or conduit of that blessing!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Grant me the patience to let you be God, and me to be me. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

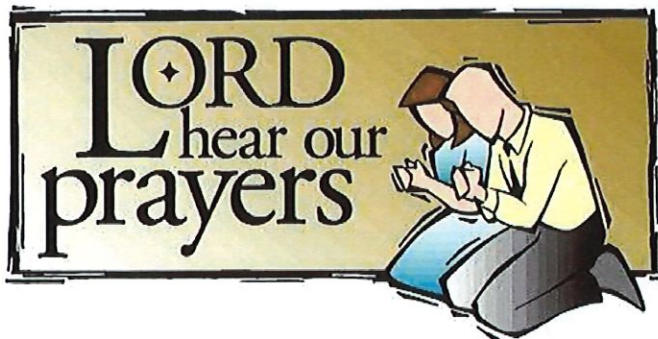


Members in Need of Prayer:

Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Carolyn Linn
Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy Sanborn & Stacy
Lairson on the loss of Stacy's
Father, Ken.
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
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:

Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
David Torres (Hays)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Kyle (Werfelmann)
Kristy (Werfelmann)
Mariah (Werfelmann)
Paul Gross Family and Friends on his
Passing. (Hays)
Josue Zamora (His Cat Balboa)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Jennifer Sano (Sandy T.)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Ken & Becky (Lairson)
Russel DiGirolamo
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



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

Blessing

Closing Hymn "Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)" by Brenton Brown
(1998 Vineyard Songs, CCLI Song #409181)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You; We turn to you;
Hope is stirring hearts are yearning for You; We long for You;

Chorus:

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day;
In your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.
Hosanna, hosanna, You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises;
Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way among us;
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.

2. Hear the sound of hearts returning to You; We turn to You;
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new;
Chorus

Sending

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Matthew 8-11

Monday: Matthew 12-15

Tuesday: Matthew 16-19

Wednesday: Matthew 20-22

Thursday: Matthew 23-25

Friday: Matthew 26-28

Saturday: Psalms 4-6

Verse to Remember

*The LORD has heard my supplication;
the LORD accepts my prayer. —Psalm 6:9*

SECRET IDENTITY!

Directions: The purpose of this exercise is to discover the identity of a well-known biblical person. To do so, you must assign a number value to each letter of the alphabet, assuming that M equals 1, N equals 2, O equals 3, etc. A letter and number chart for you to fill in has been provided for your convenience. Use the numbers in the clues to spell out each word in the sentence.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
												1	2	3											

First Clue: 15-7 15 13-3-9-2-21 1-15-2 22-19 25-23-26-26-19-18 7-3-1-19-3-2-19.

Second Clue: 22-19 11-15-7 8-19-2-18-23-2-21 7-22-19-19-4 23-2 8-22-19 18-19-7-19-6-8 11-22-19-2 21-3-18 17-15-26-26-19-18 22-23-1.

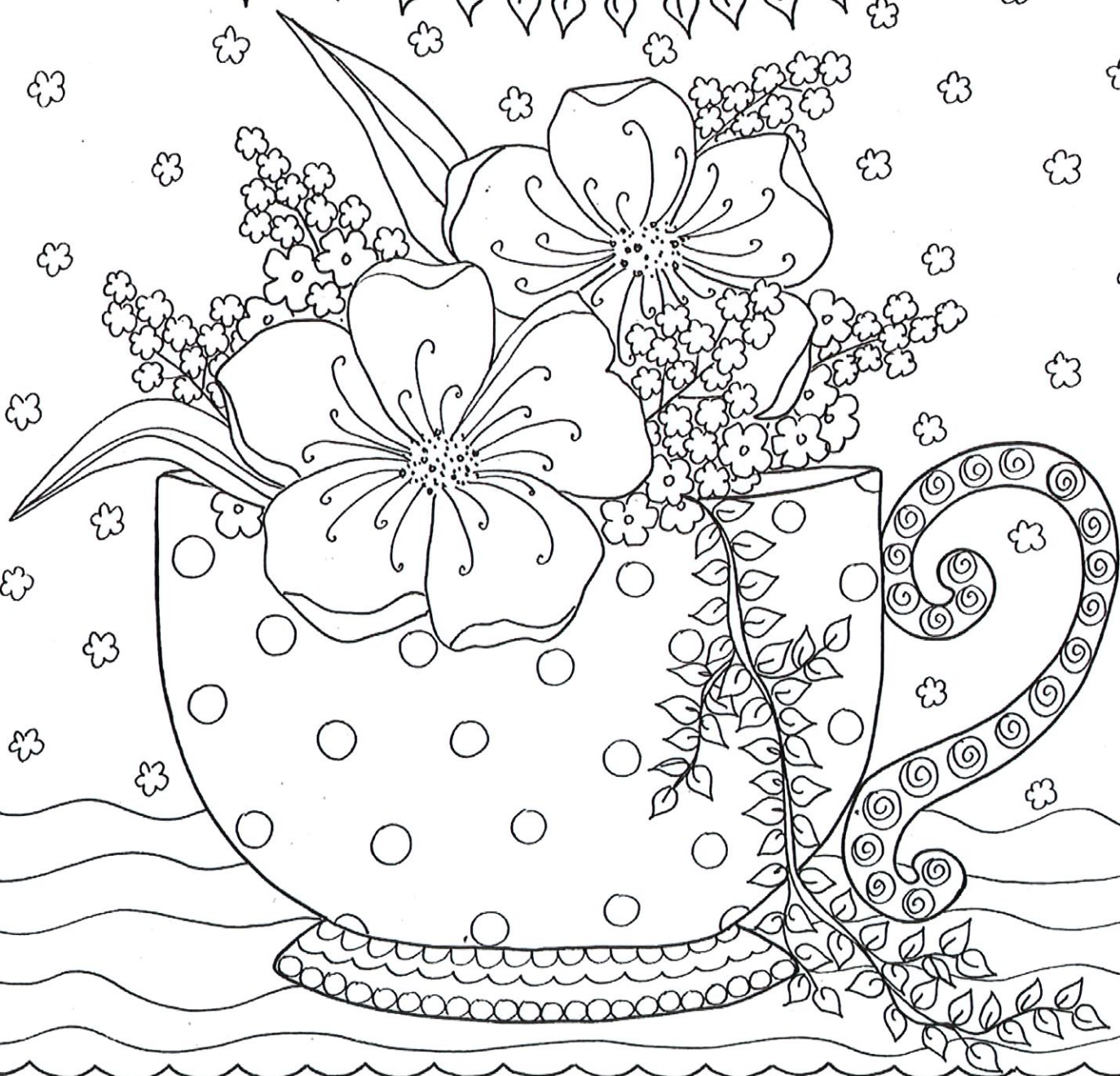
Third Clue: 15-7 15 16-15-16-13 22-19 11-15-7 20-3-9-2-18 20-26-3-15-8-23-2-21 23-2 15 16-15-7-25-19-8 23-2 8-22-19 2-23-26-19 6-23-10-19-6.

WHO IS THIS PERSON?



Answer
(spelled
backwards):
SESOM.

Rejoicing in hope,
patient in tribulation,
continuing steadfastly
in prayer. Romans
12:12



ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Game Day & Chili Lunch TODSY - 1/21 Right After Worship



Come one, come all! We are making up pots of chili. (There will naturally be a meatless version available!) Come join your church family for a little bit of fun and good-natured competition AND a delicious lunch together. All are welcome!

Pantry Needs Restocking

We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup (Can be used with egg noodles to make a meal), Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, boxed mashed potatoes, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly and gift cards in values of \$15 & \$25. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.




CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!



Calling all volunteers! Please mark your calendars now and plan to come help feed people at the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market next month. We are hosting the distribution on Feb. 3rd, and need at least 25-30 people to help sort and bag produce, to sign in vehicles and load cars, and to direct traffic. All volunteers are invited and encouraged to go through the line, too.

Hours of distribution will be 9-11, but we need volunteers from 7:30-12:30. Any portion of time you're available to support this ministry will be appreciated! Feel free to invite friends and relatives to help out, too. Come share the love of Jesus in this special way. You'll have a fun time, too, I promise! Feel free to call, text, or email me with any questions. 13jdixon13@gmail.com ; 559-287-3457
Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann

Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook  so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please get on Instagram and hit LIKE or the heart on our GSLC postings. This is how our postings come at the start of the feed for those following us as individuals. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow .

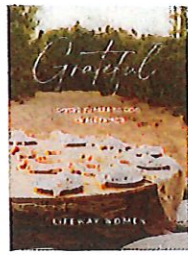


FYI—Looking for a Car

We have a close friend that is looking for an affordable 4 door sedan. If anyone knows of anyone selling a vehicle or has any suggestions. Mary N.



Wednesday Evening Bible Study Has Begun



"GRATEFUL: Giving Thanks to God in All Things"

We will begin this 4 week Bible Study on **January 17**, ending February 7, before Ash Wednesday. There are 5 days of "homework" each week.

Books are available through lifeway.com, amazon.com, christianbook.com, and barnesandnoble.com

****IMPORTANT NOTES: ****

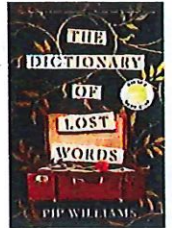
All 4 of the meetings will be via Zoom, link provided in January.

Questions: contact Sharon Rowley, shandrow@outlook.com (Please put 'Grateful study' in subject line).

GSLC Book Club TODAY, Jan. 21 @ 4PM, Comm Ctr

January Book: "The Dictionary of Lost Words"

The Dictionary of Lost Words is a delightful, lyrical, and deeply thought-provoking celebration of words and the power of language to shape the world.



The novel reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men, and celebrates the power of language to shape the world and our experience of it. You are invited to join us *any month* the book interests you. Casual discussion. No long term commitments.

February's book: "The Book Woman's Daughter" February 18

KingsMen and Kids Restart - JANUARY 24 @ 6:30PM



KingsMen and Kids will be held on January 24th in Jacobson Hall at 6:30 pm. We're going to provide pizza for dinner. If anyone wants to, they can bring a side to share. Thanks. Happy new year! William Hayes



Thank you to Kathy!! Dana and Sue

For knowing what to do! Working together to advertise The First Game Day Chili Fest after Worship January 21st 2024!



Annual Congregational Meeting 1/28



There will be a congregational meeting on January 28th after the service. We'll be presenting the Annual Report at that time. We look forward to seeing everyone then!

OWLS February 19th @ 1PM

OWLS will gather at ONE PM at Honey baked Ham for a No Host Luncheon for their February 19th meeting. 1056 W. Shaw Ave., Fresno. SandyT will need your RSVP by February 16th, Friday.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY MUSIC EVENTS



Community Concerts

1. Sunday, January 21 3:00 p.m.



The American Guild of Organists, San Joaquin Valley Chapter, presents

"Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder," its annual Sing-Along Hymn Festival at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts Ave. in Fresno (on Cedar Ave. between Barstow Ave. and Bullard Ave.). Dr. Jeffrey Wilson will be the director. The Hymn

Festival features a mass Festival Choir, Fresno Pacific University Choirs and Pacific Brass, plus singing beloved hymns of faith by the congregation. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the AGO Scholarship Fund for young organists. Admission is free. For additional information see the poster in the hallway.

2. Saturday, January 27

The Central California Baroque Festival, sponsored by the Music Teachers Association of California, Fresno County Branch, the Bob Bennett Baroque Educational Fund, Fresno Musical Club, and the American Guild of Organists, San Joaquin Chapter, present a celebration of Baroque music with guest artists Dr. Corey Jameson on harpsichord and the Emerald Duo on violin and cello. Events and recitals will be at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts Ave. in Fresno. Admission is free but donations will be accepted. For more complete information for the event go to mtacfresno.com. A poster is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

3. Sunday, January 28 3:00 p.m.

The American Guild of Organists, San Joaquin Valley Chapter with the Philip Lorenz International Keyboard Concerts present organist Dr. Alcee Chriss in concert at the Fresno State Concert Hall. Touted as one of the finest young American organists on the scene today, Dr. Chriss presents a program of noted works by Robert Schumann, Jean-Philippe Rameau, and Johann Sebastian Bach, to name a few. Tickets are available at keyboardconcerts.org. See additional program notes on a poster in the hallway.

For the above concerts you may contact Susan Berg, bergkenneth@comcast.net, for additional information.