



Grace
to you and
peace
from **God our Father** and
the **Lord Jesus Christ.**

P H I L E M O N 1 : 3

UPCOMING *Events*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS September

- Sept. 8** - Esther Circle @ 7:30PM, Comm Ctr
- Sept. 10** - Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 7:30PM, Comm Ctr
- Sept. 11** - Tom & Linda Rogers Potluck @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall
- Sept. 14** - Healing Sunday
- Sept. 15** - OWLS @ 12pm, The Sandy's Home
- Sept. 18** - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall
- Sept. 21** - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM, Comm Ctr
- Sept. 24** - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr. Ted's Office
- Sept. 24** - KingsMen/Young Kids @ 6:30PM, Jacobson Hall
- Sept. 27** - Westside Respite Breakfast for Dinner @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall

WEEKLY *Sneak Peek*

SUNDAY, September 7
Rally Sunday

10am: Worship Service
11:15: Potluck, Craftfair, book fair, back sale, Jacobson Hall & Comm Ctr

MONDAY, September 8
6:30pm: Esther Circle, Comm Ctr

TUESDAY, September 9
6pm - 10pm: Voices United, Comm Ctr

WEDNESDAY, September 10

6:30pm: Wednesday Evening Bible Study, Comm Ctr

THURSDAY, September 11
6pm: Tom & Linda Rogers Potluck, Jacobson Hall

FRIDAY, September 12

SATURDAY, September 13

SUNDAY, September 14
10am: Worship Service
11:15: Coffee Social
11:15am: Salt & Light, Class Rm 2

We rejoice in the Lord's answers to prayers
and thank God for His goodness.

**Members Needing
Prayer:**

Robert Harris
Mona White
Julie Werfelmann
Rev. Dr. Arlynnne
Turnquist
Kay Schumacher
Betty Montgomery
Neil and Verna Wal-
den
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Coach (Sandy T.)
Linda Healy (White)
Cousin Gary (Sandy T.)
Karilee (Neer)
Pauline Ritterbush
Julie Schnieder (Bender)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Kathy (Secretary) and Family
Elaine (Werfelmann)
Linda Healy (White)
Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)
Phoebe (Neer)
Phil (Anderson)
Gary Assmussen (Deuker)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Tonya (White)
Shanese (White)
Zyg Zee (Norris)
Claire (Vonny)
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan & Sandy Robbins
(Robbins)

Prayers For

All Good Shepherd Families Who Have Lost Loved Ones, Members of
Our Military Service, First Responders, and Those Affected by Illness,
Natural Disasters and War.

For Prayer Requests: Complete the prayer request card on the back of
the pew or call/email the church office 225-2092/gslcfresno@att.net

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Service
September 7, 2025 - 10AM
Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Prelude

Susan Berg, Piano

Congregation Singalong Happy Birthday to all those with September birth days!

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!” #413 (vv. 1-4)
text by Reginal Heber, music by John B. Dykes;
descant by Gary Rhodes (Descant c 1986 WORD
MUSIC, a div. of WORD, INC.)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. 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! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,
We are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of +Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together...

C: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Special Music "Enter Now the Gates" by Douglas E. Wagner (c
2004 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of the
The Lorenz Corporation)
Choral Ensemble with The Good Shepherd Chimes

Lesson 1	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Page 185 in the cranberry Bible Page 206 in the red Bible
Lesson 2	Philemon 1-21	Page 1088 in the cranberry Bible Page 233 in the red Bible
Gospel	Luke 14:25-33	Page 952 in the cranberry Bible Page 79 in the red Bible

Kids' Talk

Pr. Ted Niemi

Children are now invited - but not required - to go with the adult leader to kids' church in classroom 2 during the sermon. They will return in time for communion with their families.

Sermon "Good Deals and Discipleship" Pr. Ted Niemi

Sermon Hymn "Wonderful, Merciful Savior" by Dawn Rodgers
and Eric Wyse (c 1989 Dayspring Music LLC, Word
Music LLC; CCLI Song #106879, CCLI License
#2032355)
Song Leaders and Congregation

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:

You are the One 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.

Chorus

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.

Chorus

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Sharing the Peace

Offering

Offering Response "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" #207
Song Leaders and Congregation

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Special Music

"Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel"

African-American Spiritual Arr. by Mark Patterson
(c 2011 Choristers Guild)
Choral Ensemble

Words of Institution**The Lord's Prayer**

"The Lord's Prayer"

Paul Bolm, Solo

Holy Communion

Communion shall be served using the method known as "intinction": the wafer will be handed to you, and you will dip the wafer into either the gold chalice of wine, or the ceramic chalice of grape juice. For those who are not able to come up for communion, please just remain seated and our ushers will be happy to direct the communion servers to bring communion right to you. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to come up for communion to receive an animal cracker (unless otherwise advised by the parent or guardian). Please come, for all are welcome.

Communion Hymn

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My
Heart" #800 (vv. 1, 3-4)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.
3. Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
4. Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heaven descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Closing Hymn

"This Little Light of Mine" #677 (vv. 1-3)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3. Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Musical Blessing

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You" by Peter C.
Lutkin (c. 1999 by the Choral Public Domain
Library)
Choral Ensemble

Sending

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano



At this service/event,
photos/videos
may be recorded.

By attending, you may be included in these photos and videos.
Your attendance at this service/event grants your permission to
be in these photos or videos, which may be used for publication
in print and online, including social media.

**Please alert the photographer at the event should
you not wish to have your photograph taken.**

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

5140 North Fruit Avenue, Fresno, California 93711

Phone (559) 225-2092

Church office e-mail: gslcfresno@att.net

Pastor's office e-mail: PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com

Web site: www.fresnogslc.org

Pastor Ted Niemi



Sunday, September 7, 2025

Scripture Reading: Psalm 1

You can easily judge the character of a person by how he treats those who can do nothing for him. —Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Have you ever had the opportunity to visit Florida or California? Perhaps you live in one of these states. As a tourist, you no doubt noticed that these states are very fruitful! California, for example, accounts for about 40 percent of the nation's fruit and nut production. Some of its key crops include: oranges, lemons, mandarins, peaches, plums, apricots, cherries, grapes, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, avocados, figs and kiwis. Amazing. The state's Mediterranean climate, rich soil, and advanced irrigation systems make it an ideal home for all manner of fruit.

Florida, on the other hand, is known as the citrus capital of the United States, producing nearly 70 percent of the country's oranges. It's also the leading producer of grapefruit and tangerines. Florida's warm, subtropical climate is perfect for growing these fruits.

Can you think of other states famous for their fruit? Washington is known for its apples, Oregon for its cherries and Georgia for its peaches. Perhaps you can think of others.

The psalmist David believes that our spiritual health can be compared to a tree planted by water. He begins by highlighting the choices that lead to a blessed life. It's not just about avoiding the wrong influences — walking with the wicked, standing with sinners, or sitting among mockers — but actively delighting in God's law. Like a tree drawing life from a steady stream, those who stay rooted in God's word find a source of strength and nourishment that doesn't dry up. The challenges of life may come, but their "leaves" don't wither. They bear the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience and more — in season.

Contrast this with a tree planted in arid soil or far from water. Without a source of life, it withers. The psalmist warns that the wicked, who reject God's ways, are like chaff blown away by the wind — rootless, weightless and ultimately unproductive.

Let's be trees that bear fruit, delighting in God's word, getting constant nourishment, and drawing strength and life from the flowing stream of Scripture.

The result? You will be "like trees planted by streams of water." Your leaves will not wither, and you will prosper in all that you do.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your word, the living water that nourishes our souls. Help us to stay rooted in you, drawing life from your truth and bearing fruit that honors you. When we stray or feel parched, lead us back to your stream of grace. Make us like trees planted by streams of water, flourishing in all seasons. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 15:1–18:11

Monday: 1 Chronicles 20-23

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 24-26

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 27-29

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 1-3

Friday: 2 Chronicles 4-6

Saturday: Psalms 97-99

TRIVIA:

Test your general knowledge of rather unimportant facts from history and culture.

FUN WITH ROMAN NUMERALS

I After teaching his class all about Roman numerals (X = 10, IX=9 and so on), the teacher asked his class how the following equation could be true. Can you solve it?

$$I + XI = X$$

II The teacher now asked her students to write 1, 1000, 51, 6 and 500 in Roman numerals. They were surprised when they read the answer!

III Finally, the teacher asked the class to draw a single, continuous line and turn IX into 6. The only stipulation the teacher made was that the pen could not be lifted from the paper until the line was complete.

1. Which chess piece may only move along diagonals on the board?
2. What term for a non-rigid floating airship can be seen above sporting events, often sponsored by Goodyear?
3. What common condiment, often used on burgers, is made from seasoned puréed tomatoes?
4. What late 1950s fad supposedly got its name from the hip motions used in a Hawaiian dance?
5. What actress has more Oscar acting nominations than any other, but only won three times, most recently for "The Iron Lady"?
6. What is the common name of the human bone called the patella?
7. What five-letter acronymed American civil rights group was founded in 1909 by people including W.E.B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells?
8. What bourbon-based cocktail is considered to be the official drink of the Kentucky Derby?
9. By what name was the Duke of Edinburgh, aka Queen Elizabeth's husband, better known as?

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA:

1. Bishop,
2. Blimp,
3. Ketchup,
4. Hula hoop,
5. Meryl Streep,
6. Kneecap,
7. NAACP,
8. Mint Julep,
9. Prince Philip.

Solution to Fun with Roman Numerals:

- I. Turn the equation upside down.
- II. I M LIVD.
- III. The letter S (one squiggly line) turns IX into SIX.

GOSPEL
Luke 14:25-33

The Cost of Discipleship

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Volunteer Needed—Instagram Posts

The church is needing someone to step up and begin doing the Instagram post for the upcoming events and activities.

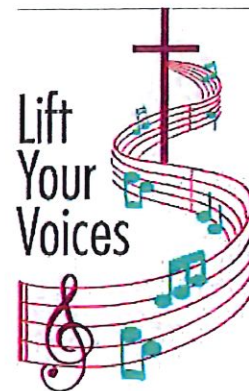
Food Pantry Needs Restocking



We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables, canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9 - 1PM.

Come, Make a Joyful Noise!

Lift your voice in praise as we begin the new church year. Vocal and instrumental solo gifts and ensembles are providing music for our worship services. Many thanks to our Good Shepherd Ensemble, which leads our congregation every Sunday in our worship services. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful music ministry, contact Susan Berg, (559) 362-0389.



Community Concert



The 17th Annual Keyboard Chamber Concert will be held on September 7, 2025, 3:00, at First Congregational Church, Fresno. Come and enjoy an afternoon of wonderful presentations of talented, local musicians and the majestic sounds of the church's Casavant pipe organ, played masterfully by organist-in-residence, Scott Horton.

OWLS Sept. 15th @ 12 PM

Hooties! Run from the heat to Sandy's on Monday, September 15 at NOON. Find out how we all endured the summer. Bring your LABELLED table service and a dish to share. I'll even kick the AC down for ya :)



Rally Sunday, TODAY @ 10am

We will be serving barbeque after our 10a.m. Worship service. We will have our traditional ice cream sundaes for dessert. **Help raise funds to replace our HVAC unit with purchases from the bake sale, book sale, and craft sale!**

- *Lunch and Refreshments, Ice Cream Sundaes
- *Bounce House/Waterslide (for the kids)
- *Craft/Book/Bake Sale



Save the date - 10/11 & 10/29

Save the date - 10/11 & 10/29 - Oktoberfest & Trunk or Treat!! Plan now to come out and support these safe and fun community events!

Look for tickets to our outstanding event, Oktoberfest, to go on sale the last Sunday of August, the 31st.



Crafting Fair TODAY: HVAC Fund!



BRING
YOUR
CRAFTS

Shout out to all crafters. There will be a craft fair at Good Shepherd on Rally Day Sept 7. Mary Norris will be running a craft goods table. If inspired, there will be crafting items available. Show off your crafts by donating them to the craft fair. All proceeds will go to the HVAC fund. Contact Pam Gerster for details and donations. 559-999-5443 . Remember bakers are crafters too!

Many Thanks!!

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteer Counters who have committed for the month of Aug./Sept. to sort the Sunday Offering and prepare the weekly deposit.

August 31st Art Mehl

September 7th Sharon Hart

September 14th Pam Gerster

September 21st Jim and Ruth Thompson

September 28th Alan & Brenda Hofmann

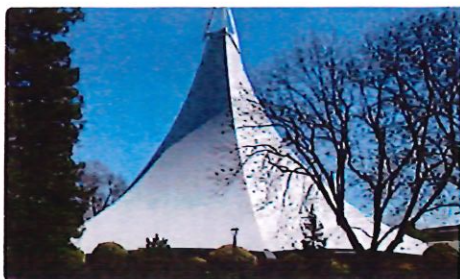


HVAC GoFundMe Fundraiser Goes Live

The Good Shepherd HVAC GoFundMe fundraiser is now live on it's website.

<https://gofund.me/05d79cff>

Support New HVAC at Good Shepherd
Fresno



Please send this link: to family, friends, businesses etc., via Facebook, email and any other social media platforms to get the word out to raise funds for a new HVAC system. We have a fundraising goal of \$150,000 to support the purchase of a new HVAC system.

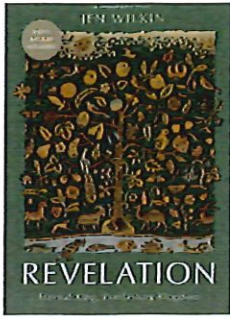
Dear Family, Friends and Supporters,
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno, with it's iconic tent style roof, is in desperate need to replace the antiquated HVAC system.

Every donation, big or small, will make a tremendous difference. Together, we can bring warmth back to our church and restore the place where our community worships and grows faith. Thank you for your support. We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Blessings, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno

Thank you, Reynaldo Villalobos

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Begins Sept. 10



Join us **September 10 at 6:30**, as we begin a new study year.

We will begin with "**Revelation - Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom**" by Jen Wilkin.

"No other book of the Bible feels as inaccessible and as intimidating to us as *Revelation*. It overflows with images and ideas that confound our modern ears. But if all Scripture is God breathed and profitable, we should assume Revelation

is as accessible and helpful as any other book of the Bible. Two thousand years ago, John's Revelation was circulated and read aloud among seven churches in Asia Minor. Those who heard the letter understood it and drew encouragement from its message. The same can be true for us today. In this 10-session Bible study, Jen Wilkin helps you discover how the last book of the Bible speaks both a steadying word of assurance and a strong call to endure to the church in every age."

REVELATION? - AGAIN??? DIDN'T YOU JUST DO THAT??? YES, IT IS THAT GOOD.

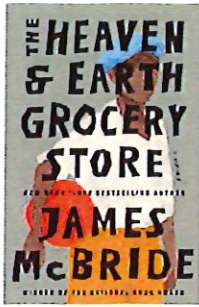
I cannot tell you enough about how good this study is. This is a repeat of the study we did a year ago. It is presented in a way that "it all makes sense." It is not an easy study, but DO NOT let that discourage you. Revelation is not preached on much, and is rarely studied as a whole book. You will go through the whole book of Revelation, in 2-3 chapters a week. We are repeating this study because it is truly "mind-blowing" in its concepts. Come sit with your brother and sisters in Christ, as we dive in again.

Come join us **September 10** in the **Community Center** as we study again, **with new eyes**, all that God has for us in the final book of our Bibles. You really don't want to miss this!! Questions? Contact Sharon Andreasen Rowley or ask one of the Good Shepherd regular attendees of the Wednesday evening studies.

The book is available from all the usual places: Amazon, Christianbook.com, Lifeway. Or order it with your local Christian book seller. Those who have already done this study, you can buy a new book or use your old one.

GSLC Book Club

Our book for SEPTEMBER: "**The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store**" by James McBride



In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us. Join us for very casual but meaningful discussion **Sunday, September 21, 4:00 in the Community Center.**

RALLY DAY! EVERYONE BE SURE TO PICK UP A 2025-2026 BOOK CLUB BOOK MARK.