

**I AM DOING A
NEW THING!**

ISAIAH 43:19

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Service
April 6, 2025 - 10AM
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Congregation Singalong - Happy Birthday to all those with April birthdays!

Opening Hymn "Above All" by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche
(c 1999 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, LenSong
Publishing, CCLI Song # 2672885, CCLI License
2032355)
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Above all powers, above all kings,
above all nature and all created things; Above all wisdom and all the ways
of man, You were here before the world began.
2. Above all kingdoms, above all thrones, above all wonders the world has
ever known; Above all wealth and treasures of the earth, there's no way to
measure what You're worth.

Chorus

Crucified, laid behind the stone;
You lived to die, rejected and alone;
Like a rose, trampled on the ground,
You took the fall, and thought of me, above all.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy en-
dures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives don't al-
ways reflect you and your love for the world.**

We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In +Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together...

C: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Special Music

"In His Cross I Glory" by Tricia Walker (public domain)

Choral Ensemble

Lesson 1

Isaiah 43:16-21

Page 659 in the cranberry Bible
Page 746 in the red Bible

Lesson 2

Philippians 3:4b-14

Page 1073 in the cranberry Bible
Page 211 in the red Bible

Gospel

John 12:1-8

Page 980 in the cranberry Bible
Page 109 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 Jacobson Hall during the sermon. They will return in time for communion with their families.

Sermon

"The One Thing that Matters"

Pr. Ted Niemi

Sermon Hymn

"The Old Rugged Cross" by George Bennard
(public domain)

Song Leaders and Congregation

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Chorus:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above To bear it to dark Calvary.

Chorus

3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died To pardon and sanctify me.

Chorus

4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share.

Chorus

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to
come.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

Sharing the Peace

Special Music

“Who Is That Man?” words by Don Besig and Nancy Price, music by Don Besig (c 1992, 2012, The Sacred Music Press and Lorenze Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation, CCLI License # 2032355)
Choral Ensemble

Words of Institution

The Lord’s Prayer

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 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #803 (vv.1-4)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood,

3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled
down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all;

Blessing

Closing Song

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" by Rick Founds
(c 1989 Maranatha Praise Inc., admin. Music
Services, CCLI Song # 117947, CCLI License
2032355)
Song Leaders and Congregation

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the
cross my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the
sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Sending

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

4-6-2025 Contemporary/Traditional Worship

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

Holy Father, at this point in Lent, today's lessons amplify the major change God is giving to His creation. Isaiah declares God's intention: *"I am about to do a new thing;*

now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?" No, the spiritual eyes of God's people were focused on a different goal. They had achieved their status with God through the law for a long time, but that was about to change. ***Lord in your mercy...***

In the dry desert which surrounded the people, God was providing a new drink: the water of eternal life through God's son, Jesus. Isaiah declares God's plan, *"I give water in the wilderness... drink to my chosen people."* Why? *"...so that they might declare my praise."* The people were being given something of immeasurable wealth and lasting value. The Messiah was coming! ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that their eyes would be open to see this gift from God as wealth beyond measure. Even Paul considered himself unworthy of God's goodness because he had persecuted those who were following Jesus. In the Gospel lesson, Mary, too, demonstrated the immeasurable worth of Jesus by anointing his body for burial with costly ointment. ***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 new life. 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...***

With the Apostle Paul, we proclaim, *"Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God... because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."* To Him be glory now and forever. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray.

Amen. CAROLYN T. LINN

Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 6, 2025

Scripture Reading: Psalm 126

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.
—Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Are you familiar with your state flag? A number of state flags lack words. Arizona, Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Tennessee, Maryland, New Mexico, South Carolina and Texas have no text whatsoever (The C and the O on the state flags of Colorado and Ohio, respectively, count as text.)

Some states have words, but the words simply identify the state: Kansas, Idaho, Wisconsin, Oregon, North Dakota and others.

But most do indeed have words. Take Connecticut, for example. Its flag features the Latin phrase, *Qui transtulit sustinet*, which means, “He who transplanted still sustains” — referring to the early settlers who believed that God guided them to the new land and would continue to sustain them.

Georgia’s flag cites the motto not only of the state but of our federal union, “In God We Trust.” Vermont’s flag bears the words, “Freedom and Unity.”

My favorite, however, is the state flag of Rhode Island, which proclaims the word “Hope,” which is also the state motto. The motto has been a part of Rhode Island’s identity since its early colonial days, symbolizing the hope of religious freedom and new opportunities that led to the state’s founding.

Can you imagine what it’s like to live without hope?

Hope is often described as the anchor of the soul, providing stability and direction even in the midst of life’s storms. It is the belief in the possibility of a better future, a brighter tomorrow, and the potential for change. But what happens when this essential human quality is absent?

It is possible that some of you dear readers feel there is no hope. You are burdened by despair, trapped in a cycle of pain, with no possibility of escape. Every challenge, no matter how small, can seem insurmountable. Perhaps you also live in fear, think your life has no purpose, that you are living in a world without color.

Fortunately, we serve a God of hope, and this God wants you to experience hope — abundantly! “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, like the psalmist David, I sometimes wonder, “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?” Then I remember his response: “Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.” Thank you for being my salvation! Amen!

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 1-3

Monday: Deuteronomy 23-25

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 26-28

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 29-31

Thursday: Deuteronomy 32-34

Friday: Joshua 1-3

Saturday: Psalm 33

Verse to Remember

This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night. —Joshua 1:8

April 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			

A Taste of Your Own Medicine

You take a pill every half hour. You have three pills to take. How long will the pills last?



Scramble Fun!

Unscramble the following words and then use the letters in the circles to reveal the hidden word.

ROSSC

MTOB

GANLE

TNEOS



Answers to A Taste ...: One hour. Take the first at 4 p.m., and the second at 4:30 p.m., and the third at 5 p.m. Answers to Scramble Fun: cross, tomb, angel, stone. Hidden word: Easter. Answers to Double Up: SPARK, ALIKE, SPOIL, OFFER. Answers to Your Guess ...: 1. b; 2. c; 3. a.

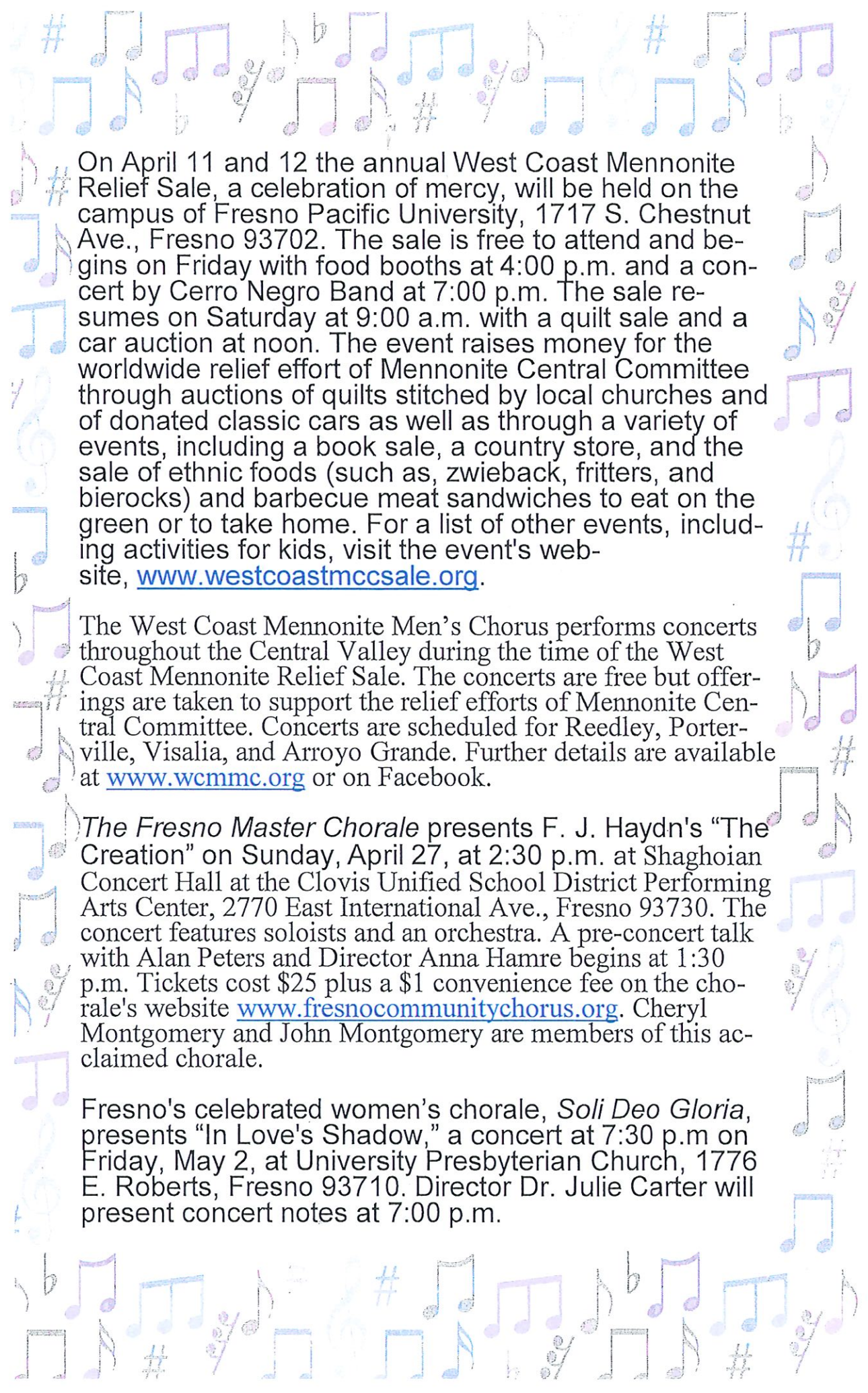
Your Guess Is as Good as Mine!

- America's first automobile parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City in
a) 1835, b) 1935, c) 1899, d) 1765.
- The world's first postage stamp was issued in the U.K. in
a) 1653, b) 1753, c) 1840, d) 1904.
- The first American policewoman began work in
a) 1908, b) 1760, c) 1955, d) 1980.

DOUBLE UP

This puzzle consists of four five-letter words that use 10 different letters exactly twice. Since there are already two S's, you cannot use another S. But there is only one F. Try to think of a word that has an F in it.

- S A K
- L K
- S O L
- F E

The page is framed by a decorative border of colorful musical notes, including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as treble and bass clefs, and sharp and flat symbols. The notes are in shades of blue, purple, and pink, scattered along the top, bottom, and sides of the text.

On April 11 and 12 the annual West Coast Mennonite Relief Sale, a celebration of mercy, will be held on the campus of Fresno Pacific University, 1717 S. Chestnut Ave., Fresno 93702. The sale is free to attend and begins on Friday with food booths at 4:00 p.m. and a concert by Cerro Negro Band at 7:00 p.m. The sale resumes on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. with a quilt sale and a car auction at noon. The event raises money for the worldwide relief effort of Mennonite Central Committee through auctions of quilts stitched by local churches and of donated classic cars as well as through a variety of events, including a book sale, a country store, and the sale of ethnic foods (such as, zwieback, fritters, and bierocks) and barbecue meat sandwiches to eat on the green or to take home. For a list of other events, including activities for kids, visit the event's website, www.westcoastmccsale.org.

The West Coast Mennonite Men's Chorus performs concerts throughout the Central Valley during the time of the West Coast Mennonite Relief Sale. The concerts are free but offerings are taken to support the relief efforts of Mennonite Central Committee. Concerts are scheduled for Reedley, Porterville, Visalia, and Arroyo Grande. Further details are available at www.wcmmc.org or on Facebook.

The Fresno Master Chorale presents F. J. Haydn's "The Creation" on Sunday, April 27, at 2:30 p.m. at Shaghoian Concert Hall at the Clovis Unified School District Performing Arts Center, 2770 East International Ave., Fresno 93730. The concert features soloists and an orchestra. A pre-concert talk with Alan Peters and Director Anna Hamre begins at 1:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 plus a \$1 convenience fee on the chorale's website www.fresnocommunitychorus.org. Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of this acclaimed chorale.

Fresno's celebrated women's chorale, *Soli Deo Gloria*, presents "In Love's Shadow," a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2, at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts, Fresno 93710. Director Dr. Julie Carter will present concert notes at 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Us Wednesdays For Lent

For all the Wednesdays of Lent we will be offering food for the body and soul.

6:15 Soup Supper in Jacobson Hall

7-8 Adult Class with Pastor Ted & Kids' Time with Julie.

Please plan to make Wednesday nights @ Good Shepherd part of your Lenten journey this year. Come and be fed!



Volunteer Needed—Instagram Posts



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

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

Financial Secretary & Counters Needed

Counter Job Description (2 counters each week):

- Collect tithes and offerings from collection plate
- Check the Financial Secretary mailbox for checks received from previous week
- Total all checks and cash, provide adding machine tape for Treasurer
- Make copies of all checks for data entry purposes (include on the copy the cash received; I just handwrite this)
- Prepare Bank of America deposit slip and place in B of A deposit bag.

Take to the bank (This May be done by Financial Secretary or Treasurer)

Financial Secretary Job Description

Weekly:

- From copy of checks enter in "ICON" our church financial software
- Email to Treasurer the weekly report of donations

Monthly:

Every month provide to Kathy the fund totals of donations for the newsletter, this report is run from ICON

Quarterly:

Every quarter run statements for our donors and end of year the full year for our donors

We are also in need of a Property person.

Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann

NEW VOLUNTEER
POSSIBILITIES

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers today are in memory of Tom Harlan, former Good Shepherd member and long time neighbor of Gordon and Diane.



GSLC Hosts LHN Free Neighborhood Market April 5th

There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market on Saturday, 4/5, from 7:30-11 a.m. at GSLC. You can come for any or all and don't need to have signed up. Central CA Food Bank will provide gloves, but volunteers need to bring their own masks if desired and wear close toed shoes. As in the past, **anyone planning to volunteer on Saturday who is or has been feeling ill - especially if they have or have had a fever, cough or flu-like symptoms - is asked to PLEASE stay home.** Volunteers will be encouraged to drive through and get food for their own household, too, just like usual. Please share this information with anyone you know who could benefit and with those who might want to volunteer. Questions can be directed to Julie @ 13jdixon13@gmail.com or 559-287-3457.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.



OWLS Gathering April 21st



Gordon and Diane Fake have announced their next tour will be to the mainland of Greece and the Greek Islands. Embarkment is set for April 21, NOON. HOOTIES are to bring their ENTIRE table service and a dish to share. Find that passport and pack your Chiton (tunic) and Himation (draped cloak) for an enjoyable visit of the Hellenic Paradise.

Egg-Stuffing and Decorating Jacobson on Sat., 4/19 @ 10 a.m.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join together to get ready for the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast on Sat., April 19th. We will meet at 10 a.m. in Jacobson and decorate the tables as well as stuff all the Easter Eggs for the hunt on Easter morning. All help is much appreciated! Please contact Julie with questions and to confirm your attendance. Thank you.



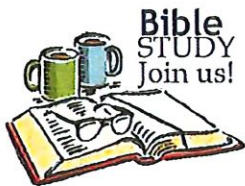
Looking for Easter Breakfast Help 4/20

We need some kitchen help Easter morning flipping pancakes and serving plated breakfasts. Volunteers will be needed from 7:45-10, which includes both prep and cleanup. People are welcome to stay the entire time period or just an hour, and all ages are welcome. Please sign up on the clipboard so we can make sure we are fully staffed.

Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, 4/20 @ 11:00! Collecting Wrapped Candy, etc.

We will once again host an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Easter Sunday this year in the courtyard after the 10AM service. We are collecting **wrapped** candy, stickers, coins, etc. to use to stuff the eggs on Sat., 4/19. If you can donate toward this fun tradition, please bring in your items and place them in the appropriate bin. We have PLENTY of plastic eggs to stuff, so please don't bring any more of those. Way to go with the reusing, friends!

Wednesday Bible Study



Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study is not meeting during Lent. We have very much enjoyed the study of ***Luke in the Land*** by Kristi McLelland. BEGINNING **April 23**, the Wednesday after Easter, we will begin *The Gospel on the Ground* which picks up as the gospel begins spreading with the new church. The book is available from your usual book seller. *The Gospel on the Ground* is also written by Kristi McLelland. Mark your calendars, get a copy of the study book, and plan to join us in the Community Center at **6:30 on April 23**.

Collecting Books for Summer Reading!

We will once again be providing books to the entire student population over at Roeding. We have a good start thanks to Thrivent's generosity, but we can always use more. Please bring in new or gently used books for preschool through 8th grade. Thanks for your support of our adopted school!



Directory Correction



Birthdays for Neil & Verna Walden are incorrect. Please make the following Changes:
Neil Jan. 26th; Verna Nov. 25th

KingsMen/KingsKids' Wednesday April 30th

The next KingsMen and KingsKids meeting will be on Wednesday April 30th at 6:30 pm. We will be kicking off Spring with a KingsMen classic: pizza!! I shall provide the pizza. If you can provide a salad or dessert, that would be appreciated of course. Thank you.

Will



Thanks to All!!



Thanks goes out to all of you for supporting our HVAC fund-raising event Thursday! My employer bought lunch for the office (shout out to Tommy & Carey Leon of Leon Environmental Services!) and when I picked up our order it was so nice to see so many of you at the restaurant!

We will know the amount raised in about 72 hours and the check will be sent to our bank account in 4-6 weeks! I will let everyone know the amount raised hopefully by Monday April 7th.

Thanks again and with God's help we CAN do this!

In Christ's Love,

Dana Klein