Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

At first glance we might simply say, “The Bible is a Holy Book.” Since we can hold the entire Bible in our hands without expending too much physical exertion, and probably in one hand at that, many would consider our statement accurate. However, closer inspection and study of the Bible reveals it is so much more than “a Holy Book,” but perhaps more accurately “a Holy Library.”

Basic Biblical study reveals the Bible is actually a collection of 66 books of many different genre. Some are books of law, others books of prophecy, still others are letters written to different churches dealing with hot-button issues of their times, as well as books dealing with wisdom, history and the Good News of Jesus. What is often forgotten or overlooked is that the Bible also includes a worship book among its sixty-six books. This book is called Psalms.

The Hebrew name for the book of Psalms is Tehillim, which literally means “praises.” The book is a collection of worship material used by individuals, communities and kings, and includes a wide variety of psalms: prayers for help, hymns of praise, liturgies, instructional psalms, songs of thanksgiving, trust psalms, royal psalms, acrostic poems, festival psalms, and historical psalms. These psalms have also often been sung through the millennia leading some people to call Psalms the Bible’s Song Book.

We will be spending time this Lenten season with the Psalms. We will be including the psalm of the day each Sunday and will also focus on particular psalms during our midweek worship. We have also acquired copies of a devotional, lasting hope, which focuses on the Psalms and will have copies available beginning on Sunday, March 3rd.

May we together learn and appreciate the richness of Psalms this Lenten season.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Gary
Our Mission
EXTENDING HOPE IN JESUS!

Our Vision
HOPE IS A FAMILY OF FAITH EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ORDER TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE WORD AND SACRAMENTS AND SHARE GOD’S GIFTS AND LOVE WITH HOPE AND JOY IN THE WORLD.

Our Core Values
† HEARING, STUDYING, AND LIVING OUT GOD’S WORD WITHIN THE SACRAMENTS OF HOLY BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION.
† COMMITTING TO BRING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALL WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.
† RELATING OUR LUTHERAN HERITAGE TO THE PRESENT DAY.
† GIVING OUR YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.
† PROVIDING OUR PEOPLE, FACILITIES, AND MONIES TO WORK FOR GOD’S JUSTICE IN OUR WORLD.

New Wednesday Adult Bible Class
A new Wednesday evening adult class began Wednesday, February 20. Based on the book by Amy-Jill Levin, Professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, we will be looking at the various aspects of Holy Week:
- February 27 – The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
- March 13 – Teachings: Risking Challenge
- March 20 – The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
- April 3 – The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
- April 10 – Gethsemane: Risking Temptation
This class will incorporate video presentation, discussion and looking at Jesus’ final week prior to the crucifixion in the Gospels.

Lenten conneXions Schedule
Begins Wednesday, March 13, 2019
5:15 pm Soup Supper (Community Center)
6:15 pm Worship Service with Holden Evening Prayer (Worship Center)
6:30 pm Adult Education “Teachings: Risking Challenge” Led by Pastor Gary (Worship Center)
6:30 pm Children and Youth Education (Various Classrooms)

New Member Classes
Sundays — March 10 & 17
12:30 pm in the Conference Room
Please sign up in office or email us at hope@hopelutheranfresno.org

First Communion
Class offered on Saturday, March 30 from 9 am - 12 noon and led by Pastor Gary. For children age 5 to 6th grade. Please RSVP to Janet at the following address: janet@hopelutheranfresno.org so that we make sure to have enough materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Palm Sunday - April 14
Do you have palm trees on your property that will be trimmed yet this spring? We are looking for palms to help decorate the worship center on Palm Sunday. If you will have palm branches available to use to decorate please contact the church office at 439-4320.

Fresno Community Chorus - Concert
Sun. March 24 at 2:30 pm at Hope
Coro Piccolo, conducted by Dr. Anna Hamre, presents Ron Kean’s *The Journey of Harriet Tubman*. Teresa Gipson is the featured soloist. Coro Piccolo is the chamber ensemble of Fresno Community Chorus, Inc. Special appearances by the Fresno Pacific University Women’s Chorale, conducted by Dr. Bethany Lynn Alvey and by Quintus of Fresno Community Chorus, Inc. Tickets are $15 and may be purchased HERE.

Women of Hope
Fri March 8 - Paint Nite is back by popular demand! We are offering an evening of fun, fellowship, and creativity. Your ticket price of $45 includes wine, beer, and light appetizers. Come at 6 pm to enjoy a sip and a bite, then let your Picasso loose at 7 pm. We will have our very own artist instructing us on technique every step of the way. Bring a little spring into your life! Bring your friend, your sweetheart, or your son or daughter 12 and older. Click Here to sign up or go to www.yaymaker.com and click on Hope’s Paint Nite. If you are looking for a way to get involved at Hope and enjoy serving others, the Women of Hope would love to have you come to our meetings. The next one is March 4th at 5 pm at church. We’d love to see you there.
March Birthdays

1) Elizabeth Goodman, Ron Peterson, Christopher Trafton
2) Sara Martin, Garrett Scheid
3) Rhodlee Braa, Mallory Lewis
4) Andrew Davis, Nancy Kilgore
5) Cheryl Coddington, Michael Vandergrift
6) Finton Keegan, Ava Mattos, Madason Riojas
7) Amelia Orum, Christiana Slater, Victoria VonBerg
8) Pam Campbell
9) Don Smith
10) Rosanne Jensen, Donna Lippmann
11) Sharon Nelson, Stephen Richardson
12) Teddy Henley, Linda Lucido, Rod Scarry
13) Julie Johnson, Frances Knipper, Virgil Lugo, Jr.
14) Addison Rotan, Sharon Winn, Andrea Yocum
15) Cindy Schueler, Tyler Woods
16) Paul Gregory, Carly Raven, Robin Reitz, Danielle Walker
17) Donna Beavers, Delaney Wright
18) Mary Hernandez, Linda Lindstrom, Ken Maul
19) Steve Fortner, Lisa Hildebrandt, Mary Mills, Kelsey Schueler
20) Roy Saldedo
21) Chiara Cardella, Hannah Little, Ariana Stevenson
22) Thomas Larson
23) Janet Patten
24) Pat Geringer
25) Urban Jensen, Matthew Ramsey, Joyce Stenberg
26) Martin Fabbian, Darcy Schueler

Happy Birthday Friends…
You are a gift from God!

Friendship Club Luncheon
On Thursday, February 28 at 12 noon enjoy a delicious lunch for $5. Kathy Bowsher will speak about how she uses music as therapy for the patients of the Coalinga State Hospital.

2019 Women’s Retreat at ECCO
April 26, 27, 28
“Living Our Faith”
Speaker: Sarah Peterson Cordray
For questions contact:
Candy Paulsen at 313-9567

Lutheran Hunger Network
Neighborhood Market
Saturday, March 2 at 9 am at Bethany Lutheran Church located in Kerman at 5022 N Madera Ave. Volunteers please be there by 8 am.

Camp Hope - 2019
It’s time to learn about this summer’s VBS. Calling all Jr High and High Schoolers as well as all adults who may be interested in helping make Camp Hope 2019 happen. There will be a gathering on Saturday, March 16 from 10-11:30 am in the Conference Room. RSVP to Janet at janet@hopelutheranfresno.org.

Youth - Extending Hope in Jesus
How have Hope’s children and youth extended hope in Jesus recently? H.A.R.K. rang bells at The Groves at San Joaquin Gardens. They gave each resident a stuffed beagle purchased with a Thrivent Action Grant and a handmade Valentine’s Day card made by Hope’s High School youth. It was a fun way to spend their day off from school.

Our condolences to Sandy VonBerg, Eric and Katty VonBerg and family in the loss of Don VonBerg. Don’s memorial service will be on Saturday, March 2 at 11 am with a reception following. We are requesting cookie donations.

On the prayer board:
Maggie Irwin-Bestenheider, Kathy Christiansen, Don Coleman, Denise Dedmon, Carolyn Ehn, Dan Evert, Laurie Hammond, Maria Luz Hernandez, Karen Hertzke, Henry Holt, Dorene Itis, Julie Johnson, Paul Kilbert, David Ladner, Rene Lastreto, Greg Long, Germaine Maizahn, Bill Mazzeo, Roger & Sue McFall, Ray Ramirez, Justin Scholberg, Linda Shepherd, Danaka Smithberg, Allison Vargas and Emily Villa
Worship Schedule
8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Education
11:00 am Worship

Return Service Requested

At a Glance!

February
28 Friendship Club Luncheon

March
1 The Way (4th-6th graders) Semi Lock-In
2 Memorial Service for Don VonBerg
2 Neighborhood Market - Bethany Lutheran
3 Jazz Mass
6 Ash Wednesday - 12 & 7 pm
10 New Member Class (part 1)
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
13 Book Group - 2pm (see below)
17 New Member Class (part 2)
19 Council Meeting
23 Church Work/Cleanup Day
24 Coro Piccolo Concert (see inside)
27 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
28 Friendship Club Luncheon
30 First Communion Class (9-12)

April
6 & 13 Youth Window Washing
7 Jazz Mass
14 Palm Sunday
14 BreakAway at Peoples Church

Book Group
March 13 is “The Master Butchers Singing Club” by Louise Erdrich. Meeting at Mary Ann Ziegler’s home. For questions call Audry Hanson at 431-4257.

Sunday Morning Bible Class
9:45 am Conference Room
Led by Ed Nelson and Tina Wyneken
“Bishop Eaton’s Four Emphases”

Tuesday Adult Bible Class
11:00 am in Conference Room
Led by JP Paxton
“Book of Acts”
(No class on March 5)

Wednesday Adult Bible Class
6:15 pm in Adult Classroom
Led by Pastor Gary
“Entering the Passion of Jesus”

Men’s Friday Morning Bible Class
6:45 am at the Denny’s @ 1st and Shaw

Monthly Women Bible Studies
2nd Tuesday — Rebecca Bible Study
7pm, location varies, Mary Ann 412-7579

3rd Thursday — Mary Bible Study
1pm, location varies, Shirley 299-2843

Grapevine Deadline
March 22, 2019
Email to: hope@hopelutheranfresno.org