



THE ADVENTURE



AUGUST 2025

GHOST RANCH PREACHING WORKSHOP

by Rev. Dr. Gabriele Schroeder

On July 11, I will be flying to Albuquerque, renting a car, and driving to the little town of Abiquiu, located about 65 miles Northwest of Santa Fe. From there, I will drive another 14 miles to Ghost Ranch, a 21,000-acre (!) property, located at an elevation of 6,500 feet and which often serves as a location for movie production.

Don't ask me how this is possible, but 200 million years ago Ghost Ranch and the American Southwest were located close to the equator, and had a warm, monsoon-like climate with heavy seasonal precipitation. For that reason, Ghost Ranch is also known for a remarkable concentration of Triassic dinosaur fossils, 1,000s of which have been preserved in a local quarry.

In the later 20th century, Ghost Ranch was the summer home and studio of artist Georgia O'Keeffe, as well as the subject of many of her paintings. Since 1955, Ghost Ranch has been owned by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

I will be attending a 5-day preaching workshop,

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COUNCIL CONNECTION

BY JEFFREY BELCHEM

CARING FOR THE CAREGIVERS

I am often the first one to gripe when yet another task or responsibility lands on my plate. Linda can attest to the number of times where I have questioned God's purpose for me.

This last weekend I was playing Mexican Train Dominoes with 23 others, then listening to Martha's story on Sunday. Looking around I saw so many of our older members who are patiently taking care of a loved one while at the same time juggling so many activities at home and at church.

My point is: I am not alone! We all witness those who still find the time to serve on committees, be Assisting Ministers or Lectors, give someone a ride to and from church services, also volunteer at different programs, plus too many other roles to mention.

It is the gratitude of others, that warm fuzzy feeling of being appreciated that keeps us going.

My biggest hope and prayer is that others, who may be feeling content that they are already doing enough, can be inspired to reach out and maybe offer to give those caregivers just a little break in their busy lives.

In my ideal world I would love to see someone step up and offer to go out on visits with our handful of communion servers to those who are homebound or hospitalized. Or maybe make a phone call to those who are on our prayer chain and offer some support.

In summary, there are so many opportunities available to live out our slogan of "God's Work, Our Hands".

Jeffrey



WAYS TO WELLNESS

BY DEBBIE & ERNIE LEPORINI

Summertime is Fun Time! We celebrated our first ever Advent Karaoke Cafe last month and had a blast belting out the "oldies". Hope you agree that singing out loud boosts our mood and lung capacity and doing it with our church family provides even more wellness benefits. Besides, it never gets old to stand in front of a group with a handheld mike and channel your inner rock star :) Thanks to all those who got up front and shared.

Isn't it wonderful that we live in an age that makes events like this easy. All we needed to do to host this event was to download an app onto an iPhone and then mirror it to the big TV in the Fellowship Hall. And that gave us access to over 10,000 karaoke songs. Amazing!!!

But sometimes that same technology can present challenges. We have to always be on the lookout for scams - whether it's with our texts, our phone calls or our emails. We are talking about people that reach out to us in hopes of getting us to fork over money and account numbers to pay for phony investments, bogus packages, fraudulent bills and the like. And unfortunately, they can seem very nice and sincere.

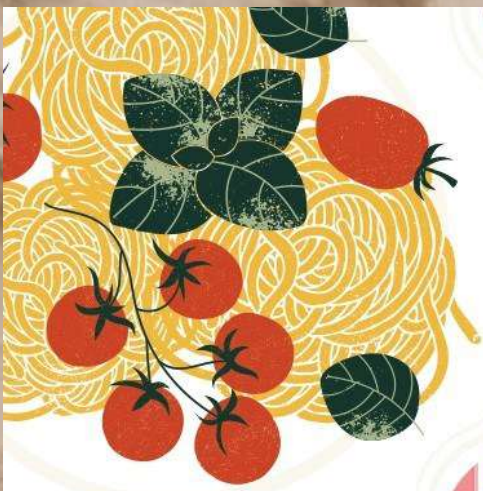
Just the other day one of our older neighbors almost fell for a scam about a late credit card payment. Luckily, she checked with another neighbor and they determined it was a scam before she gave the caller her account number. We read in the news about a man who over time was scammed out of a large amount of his retirement money. He was so ashamed of the fake investments he bought, that he didn't tell anybody, yet kept trying to fix it - continuing to lose more money!



So, what can we do?

1. Ernie and I don't answer the phone if we don't recognize the number. Everything goes to our voicemail. If it's an important call, they will leave a message. Scammers are encouraged to keep calling when you answer the phone, even if you tell them no!
2. Ernie and I never click on a link in a text or email no matter how genuine it seems. Instead, we log onto the company site to see if there is a problem with our account. It is getting very hard to distinguish fake emails.

We certainly don't want to live in a world that fears technology. To help us learn how to be wise, but not afraid, we are looking forward to learning more in an upcoming class about scams and scammers. It is taught by seniors for seniors in coordination with the Sheriff's department. We have heard great reviews! Please stay tuned for more information. See you all there and invite a friend!



Spaghetti Fest Fundraiser 2025

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

OCTOBER 24, 2025
DOORS OPEN 5:00
DINNER AT 6:30

**CITRUS HEIGHTS
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CITRUS HEIGHTS,
CA 95621

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Contact Mikhaila at
916.342.5806 or
citrusheightshart@gmail.com

Your Sponsorship helps support
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Assistance, At-Risk Student Support

FAMIGLIA \$2,500

- Inclusion in all advertising
- Premier Logo Placement on Banner
- Premier Logo Placement on Website
- Premier Logo on Tabletop Centerpieces
- Premier Logo inclusion in Event Program
- Premier Logo inclusion in HART Newsletter
- Social Media Recognition
- 2 tables

AMORE \$1,500

- Premier Logo Placement on Banner
- Premier Logo Placement on Website
- Premier Logo on Tabletop Centerpieces
- Premier Logo inclusion in Event Program
- Premier Logo inclusion in HART Newsletter
- Social Media Recognition
- 1 table

BEVANDE (BAR) \$1,000

- ONE AVAILABLE*
- Bar Sponsor Banner on (2) bars provided by HART
- Premier Logo Placement on Website
- Premier Logo on Tabletop Centerpiece
- Premier Logo inclusion in Event Program
- Premier Logo inclusion in HART Newsletter
- Social Media Recognition
- 8 Tickets

FOTOGRAFIA (PHOTO) \$750

- ONE AVAILABLE*
- Banner Signage at Photo Experience
- Premier Logo Placement on Banner
- Premier Logo Placement on Website
- Logo inclusion in Event Program
- Logo inclusion in HART Newsletter
- Social Media Recognition
- 6 Tickets

BELLISSIMO \$500

- Logo Placement on Banner
- Logo Placement on Website
- Logo inclusion in Event Program
- Logo inclusion in HART Newsletter
- Social Media Recognition
- 4 Tickets

HART \$350

- Logo Placement on Banner
- Logo Placement on Website
- Logo inclusion in Event Program
- Logo inclusion in HART Newsletter
- Social Media Recognition
- 2 Tickets

**MUST COMMIT TO SPONSORSHIP PRIOR TO OCTOBER 10TH
TO BE INCLUDED IN PRINTED MATERIALS.**

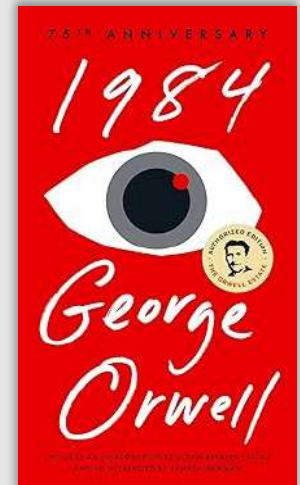


QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT: citrusheightshart@gmail.com or Mikhaila @ (916) 342-5806

ZOOM BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm via Zoom. The next meeting is on August 18. The book club has selected "1984" for August's discussion:

Written 75 years ago, 1984 was George Orwell's chilling prophecy about the future. And while 1984 has come and gone, his dystopian vision of a government that will do anything to control the narrative is still chilling.



"The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command."

Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...

A startling and haunting novel, 1984 creates an imaginary world that is completely convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the novel's hold on the imaginations of whole generations, or the power of its admonitions—a power that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time.

- Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read* •



All are welcome to join the discussion. Contact Beth Mora at emorab@comcast.net for the Zoom link. We'll look forward to seeing you!

RWANDA—ADVENT COMPANION RELATIONSHIP

Over the years, Advent has built a relationship with both Matimba Parish and its pastor, Rev. Twesige George. This dual relationship changed a bit in 2024, when the leadership of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda (LCR) moved Pr. George to a different parish (Nyagashanga Parish). The official reason given was that while Pr. George excelled at faith, worship, and pastoral care, he was lacking as far as formal theological training and management skills (in terms of both property and parish school).

Due to new government requirements, all faith-based organizations have to prove that they meet certain minimum government standards in terms of the leaders' professional education and their facilities, if they want to keep their official government registration. The LCR determined that they had neither sufficient leaders that met those standards, nor did all of their church facilities meet the government-mandated minimum standards. As a solution, they combined parishes into larger units and invested funds into building floors, roofs, and toilet facilities.

In September 2024, a new pastor who had received his theological education at seminary in Tanzania was sent to Matimba Parish – Pastor Musafiri Jackson (ordained in 2017). Pastor Twesige George, in turn, was sent to a much smaller congregation – Nyagashanga. That congregation has only few members and a much smaller, yet unfinished building.

For Pastor George, this meant that he would have to continue living with his wife Sylvia and daughter Patience in Matimba, but travel a few days each week to Nyagashanga. This came with additional expenses, but not necessarily with

income, for Nyagashanga had no companion parish relationship with any Sierra Pacific Synod (SPS) congregation.

Many Rwandan congregation cannot afford paying their pastors a living wage (around \$100 per month in rural settings). Those pastors whose parishes receive support from a SPS congregation, typically use those funds to pay their pastor.

Until this Spring Advent has budgeted \$2,000 annually (or \$125 per month) to send to Matimba via ELCA Global Missions. ELCA then would bundle everyone's funds into one payment that was sent to the leaders of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. The LCR then was to distribute those funds to the congregations for which the funds were intended. Both ELCA and LCR deducted a portion of those funds to cover their administrative expenses. It is not clear whether Matimba received all funds that we sent (minus the overhead deductions). The one thing we know is that the LCR released funds and bought a motorbike to be used by Pastor George.

Advent's Church Council recently voted to bypass both ELCA Global Missions and the national Rwandan church body and send funds directly to the parish via Western Union, which has a representative in Matimba). The Council also voted to increase our monthly payment to \$200 and divide that Amount between Matimba and Nyagashanga Parishes.

The exact details are yet to be worked out between our treasurer, bookkeeper, and SAFE Credit Union. Once that happens, we will celebrate our increased relationship with Lutherans in Rwanda.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP



Our first Outdoor Worship of the summer was held on June 29th (since then we've added a shade sail!). A huge Thank You to everyone who helped make this worship service happen! Please join us for our other Outdoor Services, which will be held the last Sunday of the month through October (weather permitting)!



AUGUST WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24	8/31
GREETER	Leslie Scheurer	Lanny Johaneck	Richard Robinson	Kris & Terry Heath	Carol Crespo
PASTOR	Rev. Dr. Gabi Schroeder (Pastor Mark Vance Aug. 17 & 24)				
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Karen Franz	Pat Johnson	Debbie Leporini	Melanie Chancellor	Jeffrey Belchem
LECTORS	Carol Crespo	Phil Davidson	Karyl Cimini	Carol Crespo	Bruce Hansen
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
ALTAR FLOWERS	Available	Available	Ken & Kathy Johnson	Available	Frank Vouri
AV TECH	Joyce Montag	Noah Qalliu	Bruce Hansen	Nolana Mymka	Joyce Montag
LIVESTREAM TECHIE	Adam Pollock (Nolana Mymka Aug. 3 & 10)				
USHERS	** Phil Davidson, Rick Hermanson				
ALTAR GUILD	TEAM D: **Lorna Mymka, Cornelia Chancellor, Carol Kent				

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Olson.....Aug. 7
Carol WhyteAug. 8
Rick Hermanson.....Aug. 9
Carol KentAug. 9
Ken BancroftAug. 9
Erika Shepherd.....Aug. 9
Tammy Payseno Aug. 12
Winona Adams Aug. 16
Sally Smith Aug. 19

Emily PrestoAug. 20
Winnie Parish.....Aug. 24
Anna DasariAug. 26
Pastor GabiAug. 27
Karen FranzAug. 28
Naomi PrestoAug. 28
Glen SimonAug. 29
Arlys ClintonAug. 31

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Rebecca & Charles Williams Aug. 4
Jen & Adam Pollock..... Aug. 6
Melinda & Troy Malaspino..... Aug. 9
Sharon & Ken Bancroft Aug. 15
Kathy & Ken Johnson Aug. 18
Suzane & Bob Henderson Aug. 21
Carol & Tom Kent..... Aug. 23
Amy & Tony Gariano..... Aug. 31



Quotables:

“Live from miracle to miracle.”

Artur Rubinstein

OGDEN ALPACA FARM

On Friday, July 25, 28 of us visited the Ogden Alpaca Farm in Orangevale - it was a fun, informative outing! Thank you Christian Ed/Youth Committee for coordinating this event!



Cheeeese!



Did you know alpacas have no front upper teeth, only four lower, and molars in the way back?



Interested in taking a tour? Visit the website at Ogdenalpacas.net to make reservations!





This baby was enthralled with Josh's beard!



Brunch Time for baby!





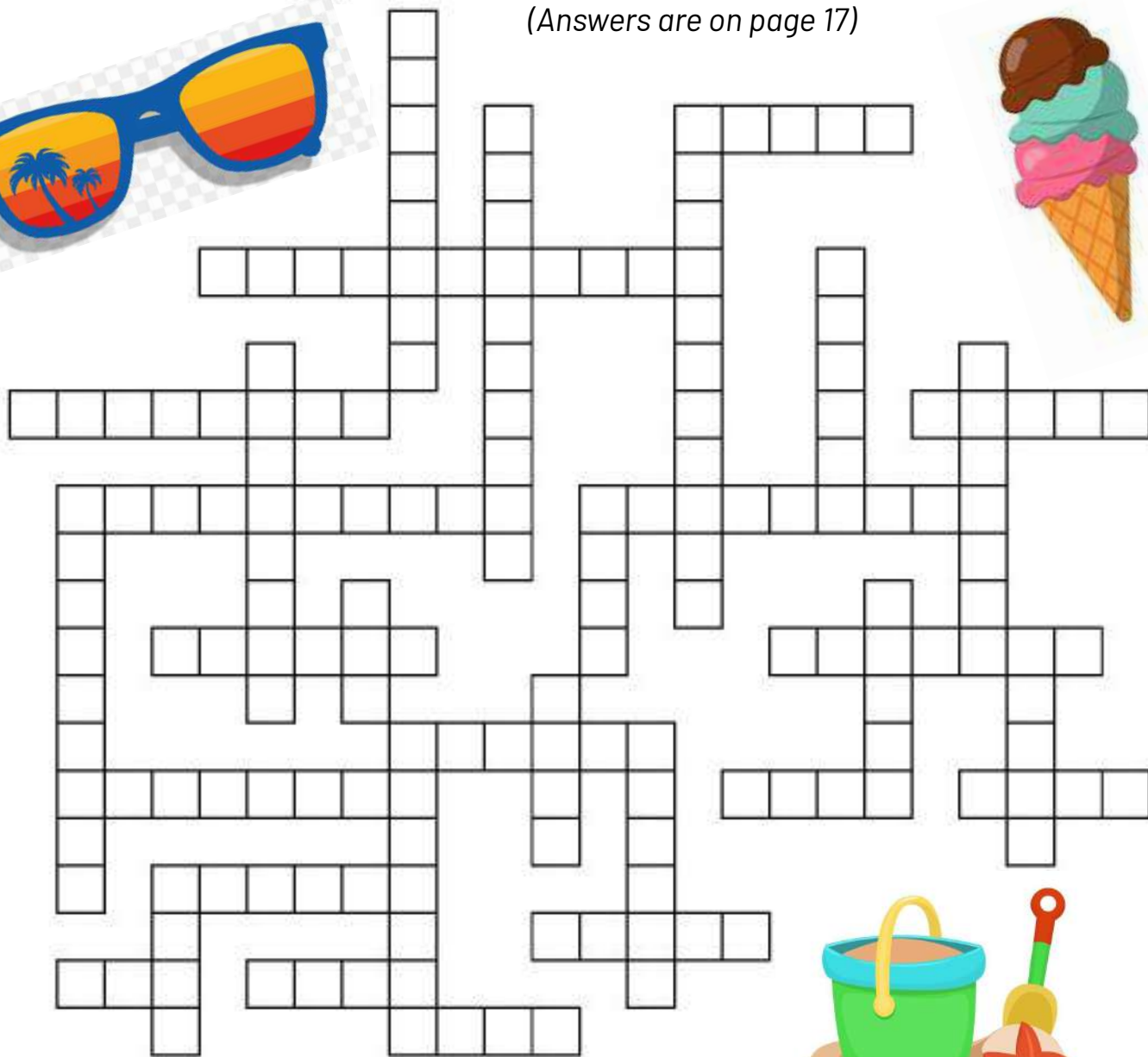
ADVENT CALENDAR

AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1:00pm Ways to Wellness	2
3 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion www.youtube.com/@Advent_Citrus_Highlights/streams 10:45am How Lutherans Read the Bible 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	4 9:30am Offering Counters 6:00pm AA Meeting	5 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 7:00pm Christian Education Committee (ZOOM)	6 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group	7 5:30pm - 8:30pm Knitters Guild	8	9 8:30am Stern-Johnson Bike Club
10 8:30am Summer Choir 9:30am Backpack Blessing 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:45am How Lutherans Read the Bible 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	11 9:30am Offering Counters 11:00am Bunco Babes 6:00pm AA Meeting	12 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 3:00pm Finance Committee ZOOM Meeting 6:00pm HART Meeting	13 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group	14 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	15	16 5:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 
Pastor Gabi on Vacation						
17 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion - Pastor Mark Vance, presiding 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	18 9:30am Offering Counters 6:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Zoom Book Club	19 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters	20 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group	21 6:30pm Park Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting (Area 5, PONA)	22	23 8:00am - 3:00pm St. Luke's Church Council Retreat (at Advent) 8:30am Stern-Johnson Bike Club
Pastor Gabi on Vacation						
24 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion - Pastor Mark Vance, presiding 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	25 9:30am Offering Counters 10:00am Serve Lunch @ St John's Program for Real Change 8:00pm AA Meeting	26 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters	27 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group	28	29	30
Pastor Gabi on Vacation						
31 9:30am OUTDOOR Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:45am Guided Food Closet Tour 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group						

SUMMER FILL-IN PUZZLE

(Answers are on page 17)



3 letter words

fan
hot

4 letter words

camp
fire
hike
kite
pail
sand
swim

5 letter words

beach
ocean
relax
sunny
towel

6 letter words

biking
garden
meadow
shovel
summer

7 letter words

berries
flowers
outside

9 letter word

flip flops
sprinkler

8 letter words

barbecue
ice cream
lemonade
vacation

10 letter words

sandcastle
sunglasses

11 letter words

bathing suit
butterflies

PRAYER CHAIN INTERCESSIONS & THANKSGIVING

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Patty Barnes, sister of Russell Beeck and Carol Whyte, who was diagnosed with kidney cancer in mid-2024. Prayers for the success of her cancer treatment in stopping the progress of the disease.

Marcia Becwar, a close friend of Jenny Stern, who is undergoing treatment for recurring cancer. Please pray for Marcia's comfort and successful treatment.

Russell Beeck, who continues to struggle with health issues. Please pray that his spirits can be lifted and his frustrations eased.

Dan Chancellor, Tom's brother, who severely injured his foot during a work accident. Thankfully, after several surgeries, he is now able to walk on the injured foot and has returned to running his construction business onsite.

Dave Curtright, Jr., Melinda Malaspino's brother-in-law, with ongoing health concerns.

The family and friends of Maddox Greco, who recently died in a motorcycle accident. May all those who mourn his passing take comfort in God's loving embrace.

Jeff Henry, Kathy and Ken Johnson's son-in-law, following pancreatic cancer surgery. Please pray that Jeff's medical team is able to come up with an effective treatment plan once Jeff has had time to recover from the surgery.

Tom Kent, prayers for increased physical strength and mobility, and the optimal functioning of his main medical devices.

Jann Knutson, who has returned home from the rehab facility she was at. Her

PRAYERS CONTINUED...

Parkinson's Disease has worsened to the degree that she is now eligible for hospice care at home. Let us pray that Jann will feel the love of God and those around her.

Winnie Parish, prayers for continued recovery from her neck injury.

Betty Rockwell, as she lives with the long-term effects of a stroke. Please pray for comfort and patience for Betty.

Joy Rowland, who has finished chemotherapy treatments and will begin radiation treatments soon for uterine cancer. Let us pray that Joy's treatments will be successful in removing the cancer entirely.

Mary Toutonghi, who has moved to assisted living in Spokane, WA to be closer to her son. Let us pray that Mary adjusts well to her new home.

Tom Werth, who is doing well following back surgery. Let us pray that Tom's recovery continues to go smoothly and that his body will produce new bone growth swiftly.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for the healthy birth of Emma Nicole Wissler on Monday, July 28th. Emma is Winnie Parish's first great, great grandchild! God's blessings to Emma's entire family!



TREASURER'S REPORT

PROFIT & LOSSES JUNE 2025



TOTAL

Revenue

Total 4000 Budgeted Offering	17,852.12
Total 4030 Facility Use	440.00
4035 Interest Earned	243.41
4050 SCFM Rent	1,000.00
4056 Other Income - Misc	-589.71
Total Revenue	\$18,945.82
GROSS INCOME	\$18,945.82

Expenditures

Total 6000 Personnel	13,171.88
Total 6220 Payroll Taxes and Benefits	1,930.60
Total 7030 Finance	134.70
Total 8190 Office Expense	276.29
Total 8260 Property & Casualty Insurance	939.34
Total 6146 Pastor's Discretionary	40.00
Total 8280 Service Contracts	3,186.38
Total 8330 Utilities	777.79
8345 Bank Charges	7.30
Total 8350 Benevolences	1,703.84
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	-237.00
Total Expenditures	\$21,931.12
NET REVENUE	\$12,814.90



REPORT PROVIDED BY
POWERS BOOKKEEPING SERVICE, INC.
 MANY THANKS!



I would like to thank all my church family at Advent for their concern, calls, prayers, cards and visits as I am recovering from surgery. It is wonderful to feel the support of so many to remind you who is in control when it feels like your life is so out of your control.

- Barbara Olson

OUT N' ABOUT

On July 11 this "Getting to Know You" group visited The Flower Farm, located on Horseshoe Bar Road. Judging by the smiles, it looks like it was a fun trip!



PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED...

(continued from page 1)

hosted by three current and former co-hosts of a long-running podcast, "Sermon Brainwave" – Karoline Lewis, Matt Skinner, and Joy J. Moore. Until Joy J. Moore's appointment as president of another seminary in 2024, all three were faculty at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

Through a mixed program of presentations, panel discussions, lectionary-based Bible study, small-group gatherings, and preaching workshop exercises, workshop attendees will explore and refine their own preaching practices. After the workshop, I plan to visit friends in Gallup, before "staycationing" at home for another 10

days.

Instead of writing more, I am sharing some of the photos of Ghost Ranch that I have found online. If you want to learn more about that area, our resident experts are Carol and Tom Kent, who lived for 15 years in New Mexico and are fond of the natural and cultural treasures of the area.

Pastor Gabi

Interested?? Please reach out to Pastor Gabi!





GHOST RANCH





ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

5901 SAN JUAN AVENUE
CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA 95628

WWW.ADVENTCITRUSHEIGHTS.ORG WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ADVENTCITRUSHEIGHTS 916.966.7242

ADVENT'S MISSION:
THROUGH GOD'S GRACE,
WE GATHER, WORSHIP,
GROW, AND CARE

GIVEPLUS⁺

Please do not forget to send in your offerings or sign up for GIVE PLUS+, a service of VANCO, Advent's online giving service provider. A new GIVE PLUS MOBILE app for both iPhone and other smart phones allow you to donate from your mobile device. The app is available on the Apple App Store or From Google Play.

NOW, for your convenience,
'Online Giving' link is LIVE on Advent's website, in the upper right corner