

The Shepherd's Voice

December 2024

**GOOD
SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
MISSION
STATEMENT**
Sharing The
Love of
Jesus



PASTOR TED NIEMI

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You are welcome
to join us at
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

Good Friends

What a wonderful time of the year this is! We are just past Thanksgiving and are now gearing up for the carols, gift-giving and celebrations of Christmas. It is a truly great time. Unless, of course, your house catches on fire and you are left homeless. This is unfortunately a reality for Kathy Edison, our office administrator, and her family.

Kathy is currently living in a hotel with her family as their insurance company prepares to fix everything so they can move back in. You can imagine the problems that would present themselves if you had to live in a hotel for the next year or so.

We currently have property that is not being rented by anyone. That includes most of the Parish House. Last week the Church Council approved that we would make the space outside of the wing with our current office available to Kathy. This means the insurance company will be paying her rent while the repairs are made to her house. It seems like a great solution to not only Kathy's need for a safe place to live but also to help with our need to have that space rented.

We are anticipating that this will be a blessing for everyone involved. I am proud that as a community of faith we are supporting Kathy during such a difficult time. And Christmas will have an added meaning at Good Shepherd this year because we are not shutting our doors saying, "No room in this inn!" This year we will literally welcome in the homeless.

If you had meetings in the space we are making available to Kathy we will find another space for you to use. Thanks for whatever adjustments you may have to make so we can continue to be a place that *Shares the Love of Jesus!*

God's Peace,
Pastor Ted

Mary C. Norris
Congregation President and Council

Prayer Concerns

Members Needing

Prayer:

Mary Schmidt Has entered the church triumphant please pray for family and friends on their loss.

Jack and Ruth Niemi

Roger Bachar has entered the church triumphant. Please keep Cecile and the Klein family in your prayers for comfort during this difficult time.

Judy Smith and family upon the loss of all three of her daughters:

Kathie Smith, Vickie Farr and Melanie Kelton

Mona White

Mary Schmidt

Kay Schumacher

Betty Montgomery

Neil and Verna Walden

Liz Smith

Bill Biggs

Mary Norris & Family

Connie Alvarado

Jocelyn Miller

Kirsten Linder

Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Kathy (Secretary) and Family

Elaine (Werfelmann)

Linda Healy (White)

Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)

Please pray for the Husband, Ken, family and friends of Paige Dose on her passing. (Fake)

Barbara Shakespeare

Kristin & Penelope Almeda (McQuillan)

Please pray for the family and friends of Jeanne Grant on her passing. (Anderson)

Brian (Hays)

Phoebe (Neer)

Phil (Anderson)

Gary Assmussen (Deuker)

Irene Goldman (Dueker)

Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)

Betty (Anderson)

Tonya (White)

Shanese (White)

Dirk Rathwick (Norris)

Zyg Zee (Norris)

Claire (Vonny)

Janet Sharp (Fake)

Anthony Collichio (Norris)

Mickey Cecil (Norris)

Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)

Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)

Jacob, Abbe & Family

(Werfelmann)

Melissa (Sandy T.)

Joy Kensinger (Miller)

Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)

Jim D. (Norris)

Jade Dixon (Julie)

Pam (Smith)

Grace Johnson (Fake)

Hudson Otten (Anderson)

Karen Ohanesian (Hays)

Rosemary (Vonny)

Nathan & Sandy Robbins (Robbins)



Don Dueker– 12/04

Diane Fake – 12/11

Susan Linder – 12/19

William Smith – 12/22

Chris Dueker– 12/26

Lori DeGiovanni –

12/27

William Hayes – 12/27

***Any one that has seen a missing or incorrect birthday, baptismal, or anniversary date please contact Kathy in the office. 559-225-2092**



Verna Walden – 12/01

John Montgomery – 12/09

Ava Villalobos – 12/11

Nathan Montgomery – 12/12

McKenna Hotetz – 12/23

Malina Hotetz – 12/23

Brenden Novell – 12/25

Don Dueker – 12/31



Woody & Deb Wilk - 12/16

William & Dana Biggs -12/18

Gordon & Diane Fake -12/19

PRAYERS FOR

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

For Prayer Requests Call or email the Church Office 225-2092/gslcfresno@att.net

STEWARDSHIP OF WORSHIP & OFFERINGS	Nov. 3, 2024	Nov. 10, 2024	Nov. 17, 2024	Nov. 24/30, 2024
Attendance	52	50	42	
General Fund	\$7,520.00	\$1,710.00	\$1,936.00	\$2,622.00.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)				
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)				
Community Center Capital Fund	Loose Plate: \$	Loose Plate:	Loose Plate: \$20.00	Loose Plate: \$
Loose Plate				
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	Special Gifts: \$325.00	Special: \$320.00	Oktoberfest: \$50.00 Special Gifts: \$20.00	Special Gifts: \$250.00
BIA Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.				Property Use: \$50.00
	\$7,845.00	\$2,030.00	\$2,026.00	\$2,922.00

November Financials

YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!

December greetings!

November Deposits: \$40,287.67

November Expenses: \$23,007.81

We had a higher than usual amount of deposits in November due to the receipt of 2020 Covid money totaling \$24,390.94. We paid a fee of \$1,108.86 to the company that worked to get us the money. We were able to pay the balance the amount we owed to Woodside HOA for our portion of the new fence. We were also able to make a payment to the Columbarium for their funds they forwarded to us to pay our portion of the fence.

Wishing everyone a blessed, beautiful and peaceful December.

Dana Biggs

Treasurer

four
WAYS to
GIVE



Mail-In

| 5140 N. Fruit Ave. |



Online Giving

| www.fresnogslc.org |



Drop Off
In-Person



| Use your mobile
device to scan this
QR code and give
via Venmo. |



Don't
Forget
Your
Pledge
This Summer

Check out these Announcements and
Mark your calendar
for these Upcoming events !



Coffee Hour



We need people to sign up to be host/hostess for the months of Dec./Jan. If you are able to host/hostess for a Sunday, please sign up in Jacobson Hall.



Coffee Hostess Leftovers Sunday

We'll be doing a Leftover Sunday every last Sunday of the month. Steve will freeze those cookies or cakes, so they they'll still be fresh. Also, if you have any leftover snacks you'd like to contribute, bring them in any other Sunday - Steve will freeze those too!

DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 16 - OWLS @ 12PM

Dec. 22 - Christmas Caroling @ TBA (Late Afternoon)

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service @ 7PM, Jacobson Hall

Dec. 25 - Christmas Service @ 10AM, Jacobson Hall

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

Happy New Year's!



Next LHN Free Neighborhood Market 1/4 @ Our Saviour's Church, 9 -11a.m.



There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market on Saturday, 1/4, from 9-11 a.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church located at 2101 N. Fruit Ave. 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.



Urgently Needed: Volunteer—Instagram Posts

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

Hooties December Gathering @ 12PM

Don your holiday habiliments HOOTIES and transport yourselves to the Terstegen's for the OWLS Annual Christmas Party. Dec. 16, NOON. Merry Meatloaf is on the menu with the ending of a Gleeeful Greedy Gift Grab. All table service provided. Guests are to bring festive fare and a \$15 gift.



GSLC BOOK CLUB

There is no meeting in December.

We will resume in January with *The Other Einstein*, by Marie Benedict

Join us for a lively discussion on Sunday, January 19th, at 4:00 in the Community Center.

February: "Let the Great World Spin" by Colum McCann

March: "The Girls of Atomic City" by Denise Kiernan

April: "The Hours" by Michael Cunningham

May: "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett

You are welcome to be with us any month a book strikes your fancy!!

No long term commitment.



Welcome! New Members.

In November, Good Shepherd welcomed three new members.



Congratulations to Jo Anderson
(above) and Larry and Sue Oliver (left).



GSLE Wednesday Evening Bible Study 2025

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY in 2025

COMING IN JANUARY: Luke will be walking us alongside Jesus in his First-Century world. This will be especially good, as for the 2025 Lectionary year, we will be in Cycle C - Luke's gospel. This study, "**Luke in the Land**," is written by Kristi McLelland. It will take us right up to Ash Wednesday, when we will take a hiatus during Lent.

AFTER EASTER: Following Easter, we will be using another of Kristi McLelland's books, "**The Gospel on the Ground** - the Grit and Glory of the Early Church in Acts." I am so excited to continue with Dr. Luke, as we look at the early church.

Further information will follow in December!

What's Happening at Saturday Sports & Crafts?



We have something fun and new that we're doing this school year. Since we are currently going out to Roeding Elementary just one Saturday each month, we are able to provide a "door prize" drawing each Saturday we meet. In October the prize was a beautiful backpack donated by our friends at Westside Rescue. In November the prize was a number of hardcover books donated by Thrivent Financial.



We are so happy to get to provide these cool prizes to our kids and so thankful for the other organizations we work alongside! If you have any ideas for items we can use as prizes for our drawings or something you'd like to donate, please contact me. If you haven't yet come out for a little fun with some of the kids in our community, our next days onsite will be December 14 and January 11. Hope to see you there!

Shalom. Peace. Paz.
Julie Werfelmann

**GSLC Food Pantry Helps
Roeding Families**

Many thanks to all of our food pantry contributors! It was a joy to be able to deliver 8 bags full of nonperishable groceries to Roeding Elementary to have on hand for students in need.

Each bag contained: 3 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 2 cans of green beans, 2 cans of corn, 2 cans of soup, a can of tomato sauce, a can of tuna, a can of fruit, a can of beans, a bag of rice, a bag of beans, a jar of peanut butter, and a jar of jelly. Many thanks to Diane, Nels, and Suzie for helping to pack up the bags.

If you would like to help stock our food pantry, we are currently low on cans of tuna, chicken, fruit, and soup. We are also low on bags of beans and rice and jars/cans of pasta sauce. Thank you very much for sharing the love of Jesus in this way ♥

Shalom. Peace. Paz.

Julie Werfelmann



**HUNGER RELIEF
GSLC Food Pantry
Monday—Friday
9:00am - 1:00pm**

Non-perishables items such as: rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables, canned meats, chili beans, soups, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter n' jelly are available in the food pantry.

If you or someone you know is in need, please call to make arrangements with our Office Assistant, Kathy, to pick up some food.

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
5140 N. Fruit Ave, Fresno, CA 93711
(559)225-2092**

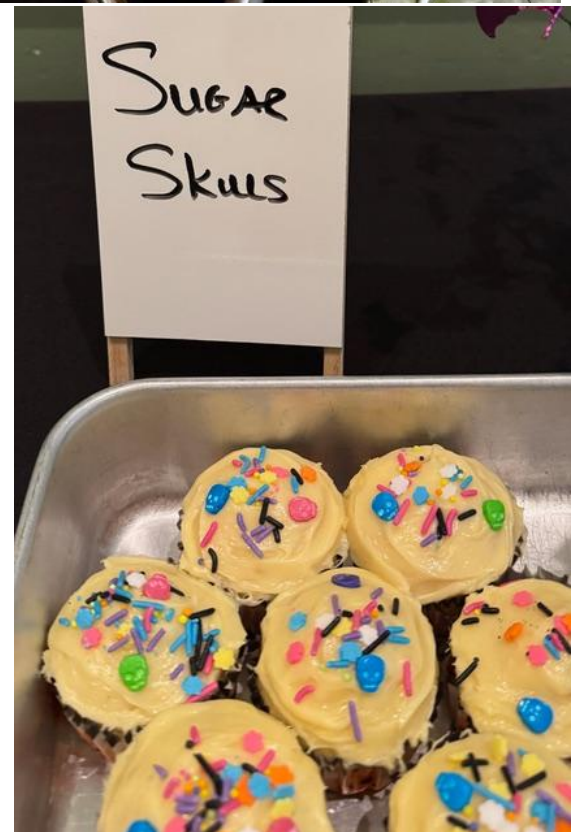
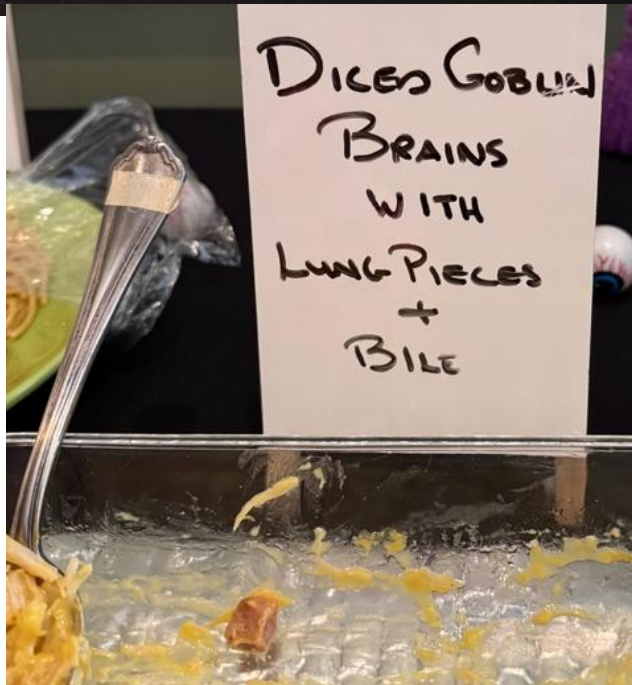
Each month, the Lutheran Hunger Network holds a free Neighborhood Market (where some perishables items are available) the first Saturday of each month, 9am – 1pm. The current location can be found on our website located at: www.fresnogslc.org.

*Good Shepherd Lutheran hosts this food distribution in February and September.

**A BIG
Thanks!**

SPOOKY POTLUCK AND PUMPKIN CARVING

Here are some of the spine-chilling dishes shared at the Spooooooky Potluck.





WITCHES' EYEBALLS & BELLY BUTTONS







DWLS



Fifteenth of November Hooties beat their leader to the Olive Garden. A waiter asked if they had a lot of little ones? Julie passed a card for well wishes to Mark, a church visitor. Jo Randal-Pino was welcomed as an official member of GSLC. (Julie reminded us that it was a tradition for new members to pick up the tab.) God found out why only one man stood in Heaven's entry line designated for those husband's not dominated by their wives. We discovered that one Hootie was a collector of straws. So quick that we had to ask for one back so a member could use one. Carolyn recognized Allie, our delightful waitress, was a sister in Christ for her effervescent personality just beamed. Allie mentioned that she did have a church and that was looking for a facility to hold services. Hands quickly dug through purses for GSLC's business card and we suggested she contact our church office to see if we could accommodate her flock. We may have some renters in the future if it all works out.

"It was a God thing" :)



Notes of Gratitude

Thank You!

Thanks to Robert for fixing the hallway doors!



Thank You Very Much!

Thanks to Roeding volunteers: Jo, Pr. Ted, Woody, Celia, Arely, & Krystal. Julie W.

Thanks from the President

Thank you so very much to all for making it a wonderful year here at Good Shepherd Lutheran. We were met with many obstacles/trials and still are but the Lord is providing. Thank you all for 'Sharing the Love of Jesus' here at GS and around the community because that is what our GS family is all about. I'm very proud to be serving as the Church Council President.

Blessings to All,
Mary C. Norris
Council President



Heartfelt Thanks



Thank you to my GS family for all the prayers, support and gifts to help my family and I get through this horrible situation. You have truly gone above and beyond to help us recover from this terrible loss. Kathy & Family

Thank You, Contributors!!!



Thank you to all the members that contribute every month to the newsletter in some form or another. Your contribution makes creating the Newsletter a blessing and a success. Whether it's pictures, articles, expressions of gratitude, or upcoming events the effort is greatly appreciated.

God Bless!! Kathy

DECEMBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light 	2	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:30PM Worship Committee (Pr. Ted's Office) 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM - 10PM Men's Choir (Comm Ctr) 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Day—Hanging of the Greens Prep (Jacobson) 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-1PM LHN Free Neighborhood Market (Bulldog Pantry) • 9AM—2PM Ladies Tea (Jacobson Hall) • 1PM - 4PM Girl's Scouts (Comm Ctr)
8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00PM Esther Circle (Fireside Rm) 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) 	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM - 10PM Men's Choir (Comm Ctr) 	13	14
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light • 4PM GSLC Book Club (Comm Ctr) 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00PM OWLS (Jacobson Hall) 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) 	18	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM - 10PM Men's Choir (Comm Ctr) • 6:00PM Council (Conf. Rm) 	20	21
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light 	23	24 Christmas Eve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) • 7PM Christmas Eve Service 	25 Christmas Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10AM Christmas Day Service 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM - 10PM Men's Choir (Comm Ctr) 	27	28
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light 	30	31 New Year's Eve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) 				

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

The Monthly Newsletter of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ELCA
5140 North Fruit Ave., Fresno, CA 93711

MISSION STATEMENT SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS



Pastor Ted Niemi

Carolyn Linn: Assistant Lay Minister

Congregation President : Mary Norris

Organist: Susan Berg

Youth Ministries: Julie Werfelmann

Church Office Secretary: Kathy Edison

Worship Service 10:00 am

Office Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm

Phone: (559) 225-2092

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