

# The Shepherd's Voice

## December 2025

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



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CA. 93711

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**Pastor Ted's Office  
Email:**

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  Gslcfresno  
gslc\_fresno

**You are welcome  
to join us at  
Good Shepherd**

Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays! Right now is the season of Advent, a time to prepare for Christmas. We just passed Thanksgiving. How did your family gatherings go? Or are you getting together with family or friends for Christmas?

I remember growing up that there were certain relatives with whom we knew not to bring up politics at holiday gatherings. We knew there was no way that we would see eye to eye. It would not lead to family harmony, but rather irritation and drawing lines. It's not easy to talk to people whose values are very different than yours, even family. You are not going to change them and they are not going to change you.

Christmas is one of the greatest stories of all time. At the heart of it is a family. Jesus was God's gift to the world. As a family Mary and Joseph were blessed as parents and Jesus was blessed by having dedicated, loving parents.

There are things that are more important than our politics. One of them is family. I know many of us are very passionate about our world and the state of politics in our country. But maybe we can let that go just for the holiday so that the Prince of Peace can be given his due. I hope and pray that your family gatherings are loving and peaceful. You have some control over that. Bite your lip if you have to. There will be another day.

I look forward to worshipping the Prince of Peace with you and your family this Christmas!

God's Peace,  
Pastor Ted

## Prayer Concerns

### Members Needing

#### Prayer:

Arlene Robbins

Robert Harris

Mona White

Julie Werfelmann

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 Friend:

Dan Taylor (Wilk)

Barbara (Wright)

Nancy (Neer)

Kevin (Hays)

The family of Dale Fair

(Werfelmann)

Randy Williams (Deuker)

Nels (Harris)

Karen Tabler (Vonny)

George Pisching (Woody W.)

Julie Schneider (Vonny)

Bill Phillips (Breanna D.)

Kaitlyn (Lisa K.)

Coach (Sandy T.)

Linda Healy (White)

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)



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](mailto:gslcfresno@att.net)**

| STEWARDSHIP OF<br>WORSHIP & OFFERINGS                                | Nov. 2, 2025                      | Nov. 9, 2025                                                                       | Nov. 16, 2025                     | Nov. 23, 2025                                                      | Nov. 30, 2025                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Attendance                                                           | 48                                | 58                                                                                 |                                   | 48                                                                 | 54                               |
| General Fund                                                         | \$4,480.00                        | \$4,925.00                                                                         | \$915.00                          | \$6,060.00                                                         | \$150.00                         |
| Special Memorial<br>(designated funds)                               |                                   |                                                                                    |                                   |                                                                    |                                  |
| ELCA Disaster Response<br>World Hunger/Malaria<br>(designated funds) |                                   |                                                                                    |                                   |                                                                    |                                  |
| Community Center<br>Capital Fund                                     | Comm. Ctr:<br>Loose Plate: \$4.00 | Community Ctr:\$480.00<br>Loose Plate: \$                                          | Community Ctr: \$<br>Loose Plate: | Community Ctr:<br>Loose Plate:\$13.00                              | Community Ctr:<br>Loose Plate:\$ |
| Loose Plate                                                          |                                   |                                                                                    |                                   |                                                                    |                                  |
| Special Mission<br>Project Gifts<br>(designated funds)               |                                   | Food Pantry: \$1,500.00<br>Thanksgiving Baskets:<br>\$435.00<br>Thrivent: \$152.00 | Thanksgiving Baskets:<br>\$50.00  | Special Gift HVAC:<br>\$150.00<br>Thanksgiving Baskets:<br>\$40.00 |                                  |
| House Rent/ Property<br>Use/<br>Misc.                                |                                   | House Rent: \$3,880.00                                                             |                                   | House Rent: \$3,880.00<br>Property Use: \$260.00                   |                                  |
|                                                                      | \$4,484.00                        | \$11,372.00                                                                        | \$965.00                          | \$10,403.00                                                        | \$150.00                         |

## November Financials

OUR GIVING MATTERS!

Greetings members and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

November was a solid month of income and expenses, allowing the Church to keep up with its monthly obligations.

The balance in our HVAC account is continuing to increase. We are now at a total at the end of November of **\$63,785.58**.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generosity and support of the Church.

Yours in Christ,

Dana Biggs  
Treasurer

| Month | Income              | Expenses            | Difference         |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Jan.  | \$25,373.56         | \$36,900.42         | (\$11,526.86)      |
| Feb   | \$19,059.07         | \$20,490.82         | (\$1,431.75)       |
| Mar   | \$38,406.00         | \$17,168.22         | \$21,237.78        |
| Apr   | \$59,735.10         | \$38,157.74         | \$21,577.36        |
| May   | \$31,266.09         | \$27,520.55         | \$3,745.54         |
| Jun   | \$32,525.20         | \$31,279.00         | \$1,246.20         |
| Jul   | \$48,359.18         | \$28,990.17         | \$19,369.01        |
| Aug   | \$19,429.40         | \$34,628.39         | (\$15,198.99)      |
| Sep   | \$22,809.66         | \$29,042.21         | (\$6,232.55)       |
| Oct   | \$22,198.13         | \$27,935.55         | (\$5,737.42)       |
| Nov   | \$27,455.33         | \$24,086.91         | \$3,368.42         |
| Dec   |                     |                     | \$0.00             |
| Total | <b>\$346,616.72</b> | <b>\$316,199.98</b> | <b>\$30,416.74</b> |

four  
WAYS to  
GIVE



Mail-In

| 5140 N. Fruit Ave., 93711 |

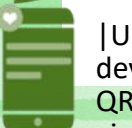


Online Giving

| www.fresnogslc.org |



Drop Off  
In-Person



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



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.

## DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 3** - Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:30PM, Pr. Ted's Office

**Dec. 3, 10, 17, & 24** - Women's Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30PM, Comm Ctr

**Dec. 6** - LHN Free Neighborhood Market, Bulldog Pantry

**Dec. 8** - Esther Circle @ 6PM, Comm Ctr

**Dec. 9** - OFFICE CLOSED

**Dec. 13** - Roeding Saturday Sports @ 10-12PM, Roeding Elementary

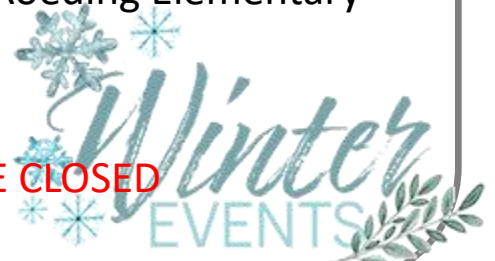
**Dec. 18** - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Jacobson Jall

**Dec. 22** - OWLS @ 12pm, Sandy's Home

**Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Service @ 7PM

**Dec. 25** - Christmas Day Service @ 10AM OFFICE CLOSED

**Dec. 31** - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr. Ted's Office



## GSLC BOOK CLUB

There is NO book for December. We take this month off. We will begin meeting again in January - Sunday, January 18, 4:00. That book will be *Night Watch* by Jayne Anne Phillips.

Our other books for the rest of our book club year will be:

February 15 - *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate

March 15 - *The Martian* by Andy Weir

April 19 - *Eleanore of Avignon* by Elizabeth DeLozier

May 17 - *The Missing Half* by Ashley Flowers

## 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.



## OWLS Dec. 15th @ 12PM

OWLS' Annual Christmas Party. Dec. 15th, NOON at Sandy's.  
Meatloaf, drinks & table service PROVIDED.

Please bring a LABELLED dish to share & a WRAPPED \$15 gift for the Greedy Gift Grab.

Lingering love & laughter in store



## LHN Free Neighborhood Market 12/6 @ Bulldog Pantry 9—12PM

There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market on Saturday, 12/6, from 9-11 a.m. at Bulldog Pantry. 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. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.

Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann  
[13jdixon13@gmail.com](mailto:13jdixon13@gmail.com); 559-287-3457



## HVAC GoFundMe Fundraiser

The Good Shepherd HVAC GoFundMe fundraiser is now live on it's website. <https://gofund.me/05d79cff>

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.

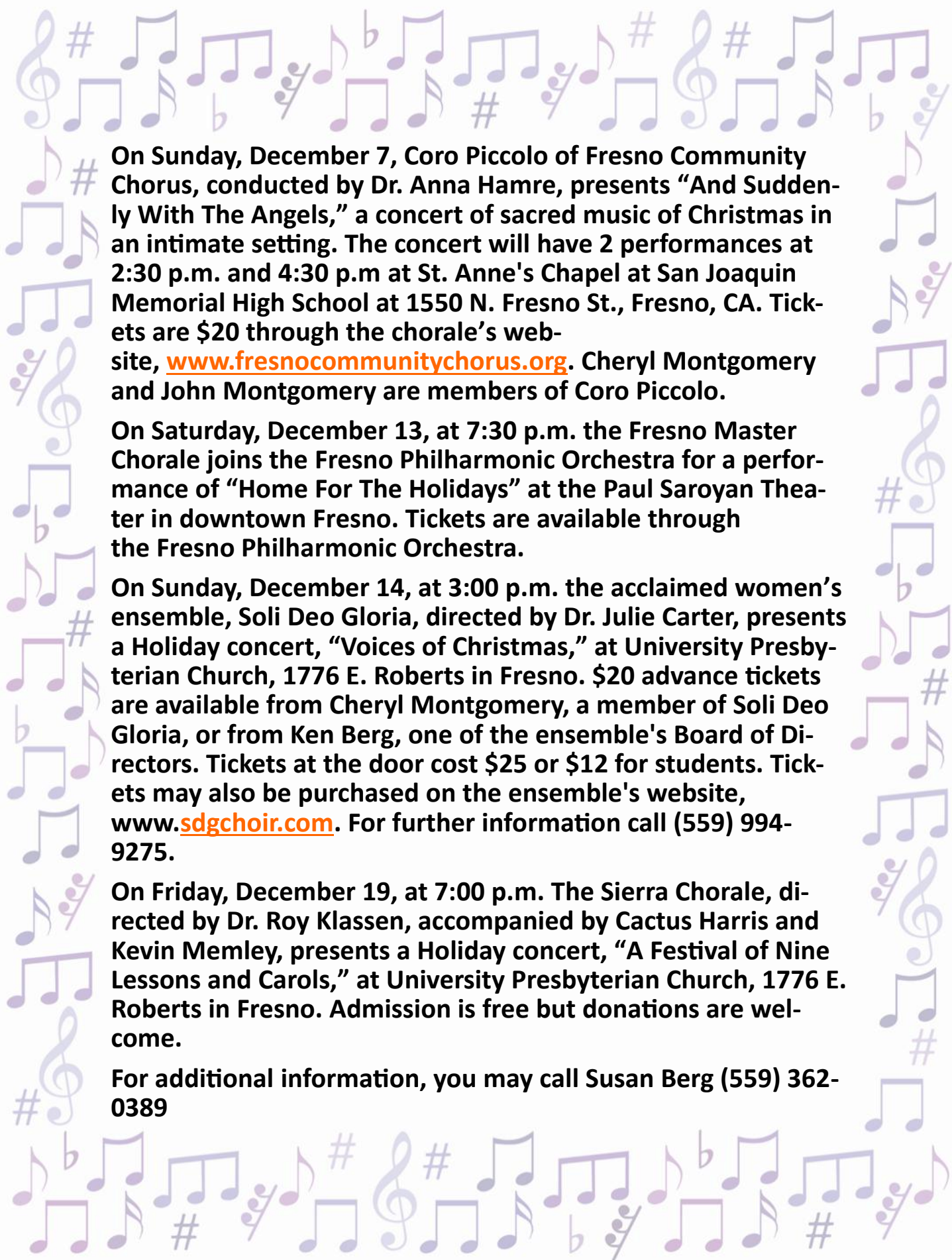
Every donation, big or small, will make a tremendous difference. Together, we can bring warmth back to our church and restore the place where our community worships and grows faith. Thank you for your support. We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Blessings, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno

Thank you, Reynaldo Villalobos

Support New HVAC at Good Shepherd  
Fresno





On Sunday, December 7, Coro Piccolo of Fresno Community Chorus, conducted by Dr. Anna Hamre, presents “And Suddenly With The Angels,” a concert of sacred music of Christmas in an intimate setting. The concert will have 2 performances at 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Chapel at San Joaquin Memorial High School at 1550 N. Fresno St., Fresno, CA. Tickets are \$20 through the chorale’s website, [www.fresnocommunitychorus.org](http://www.fresnocommunitychorus.org). Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of Coro Piccolo.

On Saturday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m. the Fresno Master Chorale joins the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra for a performance of “Home For The Holidays” at the Paul Saroyan Theater in downtown Fresno. Tickets are available through the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra.

On Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 p.m. the acclaimed women’s ensemble, Soli Deo Gloria, directed by Dr. Julie Carter, presents a Holiday concert, “Voices of Christmas,” at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts in Fresno. \$20 advance tickets are available from Cheryl Montgomery, a member of Soli Deo Gloria, or from Ken Berg, one of the ensemble's Board of Directors. Tickets at the door cost \$25 or \$12 for students. Tickets may also be purchased on the ensemble's website, [www.sdgchoir.com](http://www.sdgchoir.com). For further information call (559) 994-9275.

On Friday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. The Sierra Chorale, directed by Dr. Roy Klassen, accompanied by Cactus Harris and Kevin Memley, presents a Holiday concert, “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols,” at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts in Fresno. Admission is free but donations are welcome.

For additional information, you may call Susan Berg (559) 362-0389



# trunk or treat





We had popcorn, pizza, snow cones and LOTS of people!









Obstacle Course  
Bounce house and  
Carnival Games



On All Saints Sunday, in addition to the Roll Call of the Saints—Mary Schmidt, Jim Provost, and the Rev. Dr. Arlynn Turnquist—with a bell tolled for each name, members were invited to come forward to light a candle in memory of their loved ones, some of whom were also honored in a display of photographs.



## Operation Christmas Child

This year the community of Good Shepherd Lutheran contributed 31 boxes to Operation Christmas Child! Many thanks to all who completed boxes on their own and also to everyone who contributed items for our congregational boxes. Thank you to our faithful box builders who remained after worship to pack up so many boxes, and especially to Janet Mc for being the point person, deliverer, and postage payer! There were baby dolls and bouncy balls, yo-yo's and crayons, combs, toothbrushes, socks, puzzles, Squishmallows, and so much more. These items have been sent with much love to brighten the lives of children around the world as part of the celebration of the birth of our Savior.





I just wanted to send a quick note of thanks to all the walkers and to everyone who has contributed to this year's CROP Hunger so far. The Walk occurred as planned earlier this month, and not one raindrop fell during it. We were very thankful!



# OWLS

## (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

### "Woody and the Air Force in Greenland During the Vietnam War"

Woody was stationed at Sonderstrom Air Base during 1968. His units was tasked to Inform, Educate and Entertain the personnel stationed there. Sonderstrom Base, closed in 1992, was located on the DEW Line (Distant Early Warning) system created to observe the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It was located two degrees North of the Arctic Circle--isolated, cold, and bleak! Twice a year they received supplies by freighter after the ice breakers would come up the 90 mile fjord!

The base was a refueling stop on the way to Scandinavia, Europe and Africa. Often the C-130 Cargo planes would land on skis (yes, Skis) and slide to a stop on the ice coated landing strip.

Meanwhile "Willie the Musk Ox" and his partner "Willimena" would visit and be somewhat friendly with those stationed on the base. If Willie was in the mood he would stroll out to the landing strip and delay the landings for as long as he felt like it!

While Woody was stationed there an airplane that ran out of fuel and had crashed in 1928 was discovered on an iceberg. The pilots had hiked out to the Univ of Michigan Science Station (the precursor to Sondertstrom) and lived many years more. The cold, dry air had preserved the plane so well that parts were still working. The plane was rebuilt and is now on display in a Rockford, Illinois museum.

Woody has many more stories about Greenland and will be happy to share them with you. His belief is that "opportunities provide adventure, but love brings you home."

Thank you Woody for sharing this slice of your life with us!

DSW





# Notes of Gratitude

## Many Thanks!!

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

December 7th Woody Wilk

December 14th Pam Gerster

December 21st Jim and Ruth Thompson

December 28th Art Mehl



# DECEMBER 2025

| Sun                                                                                              | Mon                                                                        | Tue                                   | Wed                                           | Thu                                                                    | Fri                           | Sat                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                  | 1                                                                          | 2                                     | 3                                             | 4                                                                      | 5                             | 6                                                     |
|                                                                                                  |                                                                            | • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) | • 4:30PM Worship Committee (Pr. Ted's Office) |                                                                        | • 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr) | • 8-1PM LHN Free Neighborhood Market                  |
| 7                                                                                                | 8                                                                          | 9                                     | 10                                            | 11                                                                     | 12                            | 13                                                    |
| • 10AM Worship Service<br>• 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)<br>• 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light | • 6:00PM Esther Circle (Comm Ctr)<br>• 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) | • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) |                                               |                                                                        |                               | • 10-12PM Roeding Saturday Sports, Roeding Elementary |
| 14                                                                                               | 15                                                                         | 16                                    | 17                                            | 18                                                                     | 19                            | 20                                                    |
| • 10AM Worship Service<br>• 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)<br>• 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light | • 12:00PM OWLS (Jacobson Hall)<br>• 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)    | • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) |                                               | • 6PM Council Meeting (Jacobson Hall)<br>• 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr) |                               |                                                       |
| 21                                                                                               | 22                                                                         | 23                                    | 24                                            | 25                                                                     | 26                            | 27                                                    |
| • 10AM Worship Service<br>• 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)<br>• 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light |                                                                            | • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) | • 7PM Christmas Eve Service, Jacobson Hall    | • 10-AM Christmas Day Service, Jacobson Hall                           |                               |                                                       |
| 28                                                                                               | 29                                                                         | 30                                    | 31                                            |                                                                        |                               |                                                       |
| • 10AM Worship Service<br>• 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)<br>• 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light |                                                                            | • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) | • 10AM Staff Meeting (Pr. Ted's Office)       |                                                                        |                               |                                                       |

# 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**

**Congregation President : Mary Norris**

**Music Minister/Organist: Susan Berg**

**Youth & Family Pastor: Julie Werfelmann**

**Church Office Secretary: Kathy Edison**

**Worship Service 10:00 am**

**Office Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm**

**Phone: (559) 225-2092**

**Church office e-mail: [gslcfresno@att.net](mailto:gslcfresno@att.net)**

**Pastor Ted's office e-mail:**

**[PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com](mailto:PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com)**

**Church Web Site: [www.fresnogslc.org](http://www.fresnogslc.org)**

**[www.fresnogslc.org](http://www.fresnogslc.org)**

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**Instagram: [gslc\\_fresno](https://www.instagram.com/gslc_fresno)**

