

# The Shepherd's Voice January 2023

GOOD
SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
MISSION
STATEMENT

Sharing The Love of Jesus

Faith-Hope-Love

PASTOR TED NIEMI Telephone:

(559) 225-2092

Church Office Email: gslcfresno@att.net Pastor Ted's Office Email:

PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com

Web Site: www.fresnogslc.org Facebook

You are welcome to join us at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2023! 2022 was another year of faithful ministry here at Good Shepherd. One of the questions that speaks to a church's vitality is, "If your church would close, would the neighborhood miss it/even notice?" 2022 was a strong year of serving our community. You can read about it in this newsletter and in the later to be published Annual Report.

Our ministry takes coordination, support and leadership. We have been exceptionally blessed this year to have the leadership we have had on our Church Council. Please take a moment to thank them when you see them for all they have done to help us live up to our mission of "Sharing the Love of Jesus." Their names are listed here so you can acknowledge them:

President/Education: Yvonne Smith

Secretary: Lori DeGiovanni

Treasurer: Carol Gullivan

Financial Secretary: Mary Norris

Stewardship: Dee Wright

Property: Woody Wilk

Christian Education: Julie Werfelmann

Worship: Gloria Miller

We still are looking for people to help lead on the Council. If you can serve please see me or any Council member if you can help.

Your faithfulness in worship and your support of GSLC is more appreciated than ever!

I look forward to worshipping with you!

God's Peace,

Pastor Ted

## Prayer Concerns

# Members in Need of **Prayer:**

George Weber has entered the Church triumphant. Pray for his family and friends on their loss.

Doris Moscatelli has entered the Church triumphant. Pray for Tom and family on their loss.

Jackie Miller Marge Kinler Mary Schmidt Liz Smith Bill Biggs Mona White Chris Walker Arlene Robbins Mary Norris & Family Connie Alvarado Susan Berg Irene Pierini Jocelyn Miller Kirsten Linder



#### Family and Friends:

Ellen Beedle (Vonny) Jennifer (Wilk) Wenzel Pam (Smith) Rodd, Karen & Claire Tabler (Vonny) Grace Johnson (Fake) Sierra Ramirez (Norris) Krystina Ramos (Norris) Dora Barraza (Norris) Shauna Espinosa The Wenzel Family (Wilk/ Wenzel) Carlos & Anne Cortez (Norris) Sandy Robbins (Robbins) Pauline Ritterbush Autumn Dunlop (Anderson) JJ Werfelmann (Julie) Gloria Valdez (Norris) **Emily & Sawyer Bogart** (Anderson) Roger Robbins (Robbins) Michelle B. (Norris) Bonnie Wolfe (Norris) Janet Sharp Hudson Otten (Anderson) Mary (Wilk) Karen Ohanesian (Hays) Rosemary (Vonny) Eric & Cathy Bose (Bachar) Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



JANUARY BIRTHDA

Vonny Rae Sturgeon – 1/02 Ken Berg - 1/08Jennifer Neer – 1/11 Neil Walden – 1/26 Rhiannon Novell – 1/30

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



Woody Wilk – 1/01 Neil Walden – 1/01 Lori DeGiovanni – 1/05 Autumn Hays – 1/10 Pam Gerster – 1/16



# "It in my name you ask me for anything, ly

Darlee (Norris)

#### PRAYERS FOR

All Good Shepherd Families Who Have Lost Loved Ones, Members of Our Military Service, First Responders, & Those Affected by Natural Disasters and COVID-19. For Prayer Requests Call or email the Church Office 225-2092/gslcfresno@att.net

STEWARDSHIP OF WORSHIP & OFFERINGS	December 4, 2022	December 11, 2022	December 18, 2022	December 25, 2022	December 31, 2022
Attendance	36	43	48	37	
General Fund	\$5,215.00	\$1,625.00	\$7,930.00	\$3,735.00	\$20.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)			MEF: \$	1100	nes
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)		100			
Community Center Capital Fund Loose Plate	Loose Plate: \$40.00	Loose Plate: \$50.00	Loose Plate: \$200.00	Loose Plate: \$498.00	Loose Plate: \$2,000.00
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	Altar Flowers: \$80.00 Living Lutheran: \$30.00 Init. Offering: \$8.00	Prop. Imprv: \$1,000.00 Roeding: \$100.00 Altar Flowers: 60.00 Living Lutheran: \$20.00 Init. Offering: \$8.00	Special Gift: \$5,000.00 Altar Flowers: \$500.00 Prop. Imprv: \$350.00 Living Lutheran: \$20.00 Init. Offering: \$8.00	Insur. Settle: 13,428.00 Prop. Impr: \$6,000.00 Christmas: \$80.00 Altar Flowers: \$20.00 Living Lutheran: \$20.00	Insur. Settle: 7,359.11 Prop. Impr: \$6,000.00 Christmas: \$80.00 Altar Flowers: \$20.00 Living Lutheran: \$20.00
BIA Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.		BIA Rent: \$5,480.48 Property Use: \$120.00			
5	\$5,373.00	\$8,463.48	\$14,008.00	\$23,781.00	\$9,379.11

# **December Financials**

# SGIVING SIMATTERS!

#### **Dear Good Shepherd Family,**

We are ending 2022 only slightly negative for the month. Overall, we were negative \$30,773.09. Your generosity during the holidays was such a blessing to the church. It doesn't show in this report but shows in our designated funds. You more than stepped up to cover the cost of the AC cage for the three units in the Community Center. We received two donations to cover each of the two deductibles. We also received a donation for a Christmas bonus for Pastor Ted that went out to him on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. You are truly an amazing congregation. Thank you. Sending my prayers to all of you for a blessed new year!

Yours in Christ,

**Caroline Sullivan, Treasurer** 

	11/28 - 12/4	12	/5 - 12/11	12/12 - 12/18	12/19 - 12/25	12/26 - 12/31	Monthly Total
Altar Flowers	\$80.00	1	\$60.00	\$500.00	\$20.00		\$660.00
BIA		\$	5,480.48				\$5,480.48
Christmas					\$80.00		\$80.00
General Funds	\$5,215.00		\$1,625.00	\$7,930.00	\$3,735.00	\$20.00	\$18,525.00
Initial Offering	\$8.00		\$8.00	\$8.00			\$24.00
Living Lutheran	\$30.00		\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00		\$90.00
Insurance Settle-							
ment					\$13,428.00	\$7 <i>,</i> 359.11	\$20,787.11
Plate Visitor	\$40.00		\$50.00	\$200.00	\$498.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,788.00
Property Improv.			\$1,000.00	\$350.00	\$6,000.00		\$7,350.00
Property Use			\$120.00				\$120.00
Roeding			\$100.00				\$100.00
Special Gifts				\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00
Total	\$5,373.00		\$8,463.48	\$14,008.00	\$23,781.00	\$9,379.11	\$60,344.59



Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$26,059.68	\$25,671.37	\$388.31
Feb	\$39,072.90	\$26,260.04	\$12,812.86
Mar	\$19,168.42	\$27,104.30	(\$7,935.88)
Apr	\$26,422.41	\$27,329.12	(\$906.71)
May	\$30,210.94	\$17,278.61	\$12,932.33
Jun	\$13,475.40	\$36,120.31	(\$22,644.91)
Jul	\$28,604.94	\$21,973.25	\$6,631.69
Aug	\$19,653.21	\$35,701.73	(\$16,048.52)
Sep	\$16,261.40	\$28,644.13	(\$12,382.73)
Oct	\$23,128.21	\$26,274.53	(\$3,146.32)
Nov	\$29,448.26	\$29,688.43	(\$240.17)
Dec	\$27,097.48	\$27,330.52	(\$233.04)
Total	\$298,603.25	\$329,376.34	(\$30,773.09)

# Happy New Year



# O SING UNTO THE LORD CO NEW SCANS; FOR HE HATH DONE MOUVELOUS Things.

PSALM 98:1, KJV





## **Coffee Hour**

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



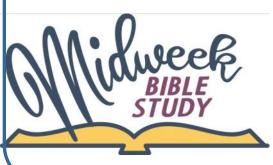
#### ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE

It's that time again! If you are in charge of a ministry, please pre
Annual pare an annual report and turn it in, preferable electronically, to Reports Kathy no later than January 15, 2023. The annual reports will be ready for the Congregational meeting January 29, 2023.

# 2023 Envelopes

In an effort to cut costs, I have reduced the number of boxed envelope sets to 25 boxes. Those of you that prefer the boxed sets will be receiving a set. I do still have some available to any that did not get a boxed set but would prefer one. The cost of the boxed sets is \$8.00, should you wish to help defer the cost, please either place your donation in the Initial Offering envelope or just add it to your regular donation. I have made up envelopes of return envelopes for those that do not use the boxed sets. If you need additional envelopes, just let me know. If you have any comments or questions, just let me know. Thanks! Caroline Sullivan (559-360-6678).

# **Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

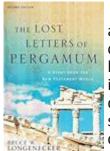


We will not be meeting until after Easter. Those who participated in the recent Isaiah study are encouraged to remain in contact with each other during the time we are not meeting regularly. Questions? Contact Sharon Rowley: <a href="mailto:shandrow@outlook.com">shandrow@outlook.com</a> (please put Bible Study in the subject line).

# GSLC Book Club ~Jan. 15 @ 4PM 2023 Book List

### **GSLC BOOK CLUB** - January

"Lost Letters of Pergamum" by Bruce Longeneker



Transported two thousand years into the past, readers are introduced to Antipas, a Roman civic leader who has encountered the writings of the biblical author Luke. Luke's history sparks Antipas's interest, and they begin correspond-

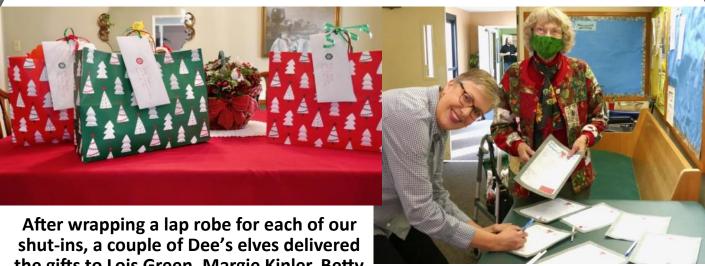
ing. As Antipas tells Luke of his reactions to the writing and of his meetings with local Christians, it becomes evident that he is changing his mind about them and Jesus. Finally, a gladiatorial contest in Pergamum forces difficult decisions on the local Christians and on Antipas.

While the account is fictional, the author is a respected biblical scholar who weaves into this fascinating scenario reliable historical information. Bruce Longenecker is able to mix fact and fiction and paint an interesting and valuable study of the New Testament world and early Christianity. Readers are invited to view Jesus and the early church from a fresh perspective, as his first followers are brought to life.

More reliable than typical historical fiction and far more interesting than standard textbooks and reference books, "The Lost Letters of Pergamum" provides readers with a delightful opportunity to step into the world of the New Testament.

Join us **Sunday, January 15, 4:00 pm, in the Community Center**. Unfortunately, this book is not available from our public library; but there is usually a copy floating among the regular readers. Contact Sharon Rowley for information: <a href="mailto:shandrow@outlook.com">shandrow@outlook.com</a> (please put GSLC Book Club in the subject line).

#### **Christmas Love for Our Shut-ins 2022**



After wrapping a lap robe for each of our shut-ins, a couple of Dee's elves delivered the gifts to Lois Green, Margie Kinler, Betty Montgomery, Irene Pierini, Arlene Robbins, Kay Schumacher, Vonny Sturgeon and Mona White.

Dee Wright holds a Christmas "letter-card" for those at church to write a greeting and sign.

# LHN Free Neighborhood Market @ Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1/7, 9-11a.m.

There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church located at 2101 N. Fruit Ave. on Saturday, 1/7, from 9-11 a.m. LHN @ Good Shepherd on Saturday, 2/4/23

# Calling All Volunteers! Good Shepherd is Up in February

Calling all volunteers! Please mark your calendars now and plan to come help feed people at the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market next month. We are hosting the distribution on Feb. 4th, and need at least 25-30 people to help sort and bag produce, to sign in vehicles and load cars, and to direct traffic. All volunteers are invited and encouraged to go through the line, too.

Hours of distribution will be 9-11, but we need volunteers from 7:30-12:30. Any portion of time you're available to support this ministry will be appreciated! Feel free to invite friends and relatives to help out, too. Come share the love of Jesus in this special way. You'll have a fun time, too, I promise! Feel free to call, text, or email me with any questions.

Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann

13jdixon13@qmail.com 559-287-3457





Good Shepherd to be given to each student at Roeding Elementary. Gracie participated by giving her official greeting and providing security as the gloves made their way to the volunteers car and then to the School.





# SERVICES MOVED

With the heat not working in the Sanctuary, the services have been moved to Jacobson Hall for the foreseeable future.

# ving Lutheran

# **Living Lutheran Magazine**

It's that time of year- we have just renewed the Living Lutheran subscriptions. The cost is \$10.00. If you enjoy reading your copy and would like to help defray the cost, please add it to your regular donation with a note "Lutheran". If you would like to be added or dropped, please let Caroline Sullivan know.

# **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a congregational meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> after the service. We'll be presenting the Annual Report at that time. We look forward to seeing everyone then!



# Congregational Meeting



At the Congregational meeting held on December 18, the Memorial Garden Committee presented Pr. Ted a check for \$350.00. The donation is to cover the cost of replacing a broken window which was the result of vandalism that occurred several weeks earlier.

# Meet Our New Members

# Lisa Kossow

I was born and raised in San Jose and moved to Fresno in 1989 upon the arrival of my second child. We relocated here so I could be a stay at home mom. Three more children and 10 years later, I went back to work.

Today I manage a Real Estate and Mortgage Company and I am a full time Realtor. All of my kids are grown with their own children! So today I get to spoil those amazing grandkids of mine and send them back home!

I had not gone to church for some years and during COVID I prayed that God would help me find a church home. How blessed am I to have found that and all of you wonderful people. After a period of time watching the services on Facebook, about a year of in person church attendance, and so many kind interactions with all of you, joining The Good Shepherd family was the next natural step. Thank you for embracing me as you all have.

# Mona Where

I was born and raised in Kankakee, Illinois (just South of Chicago.) I graduated and did post graduate work at Valparaiso University in Indiana. It was connected to the Missouri Synod and the ELCA. I graduated as an art education major with a Music minor and returned to Valpo and became certified as a Deaconess. At the time, my daughter, Miyoshi, went with me. I received a calling from Good Shepherd Homes of the West. I ministered there as Chaplin for 10 group homes for differently abled adults. That is how I became familiar with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Good Shepherd welcomed residents of Filbert group home. I connected 10 churches to welcome my residents. I feel it is important to know that I picked Good Shepherd Lutheran church for my membership. The congregation and Pastor saw each resident as an individual person not like they saw them as a charity. Each person sat in church with different families. I told myself "I want to worship here because each person has gifts from God."

After chaplaincy service stopped, I was blessed to know that I could serve here working with young people and children. I loved this ministry where we were able to do many things for church like artwork, plays and using music to praise God. I'm thankful for those who were a great help to me and others. We started "Trunk or Treat" and used like bells chime bars with the younger people and children. The youth named their group the "Jesus Jammers". The time here with the younger people was the greatest time of my life.

United Christian Church was looking for a music person for their Saturday worship. So I became that person and after much prayer, I accepted a call to United Christian church as their full time Music Minister. I have stayed there until I was dealing with a lot of medical problems and also Covid started. The church lost many members and was unable to continue. I participated with Good Shepherd's Facebook services. My goal was to worship in person with you. And the date I picked, Advent and Christmas! So here I am. It feels like coming "home." I am so grateful and filled with joy.

# Meet Our New Members

# Bill & Dana Biggs

William L "Bill" Biggs was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1940 and moved to the small town of Neillsville, WI to the family farm at the age of 10. It was there that he went to a small rural country school in Hewittville west of Neillsville to complete his schooling through 8th grade. Following grade school he attended Neillsville High School and graduated in 1958.

He enrolled in Central State College now known as the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

After two years there he married Bette Grace Stevenson who was also a student.

The family moved to Duluth, MN where he worked for the Duluth Herald and News Tribune while Bette attended college. After Bette graduated from college, he, Bette and their young son, moved Grand Forks, ND where he became advertising manager for the Grand Forks Herald.

During his time in Grand Forks he completed his undergraduate degree. After a period of time, they transferred to Lincoln, NE where he attended graduate school and received his law degree.

He began a 50+ year career with the Gross Welch Law Firm in 1971 until he retired. During that time his first wife Dr Bette G Biggs passed away in 1996.

He is now retired and living in Fresno, CA with his wife of 20 years, Dana Biggs.

Bill was very active with Rejoice Lutheran Church in Omaha, NE. He served as president of the church council, choir director, and Sunday school superintendent.

He was the attorney for the Nebraska Synod of the Lutheran Church for 30 years.

Both have been very involved in Lions Clubs International, Bill having been world president and Dana having served on the International Board of Directors.

The couple has five children, nine grand children and five great grand children.

I was born and raised in Fresno, CA. Attended St Therese grammar school and San Joaquin Memorial High School. I graduated from Fresno State with degrees in Biology and Chemistry. I worked in the family vineyard business for many years. I became very involved in Lions Clubs International at the local, state and international level and was elected as the fourth woman to serve on the International Board in the organization's 100 year history as a representative of the California Lions. Meeting my husband Bill through Lions, we married twenty years ago. It was then that I moved to Omaha, NE.I became a step mother of five, grandmother of eight and great grandmother of five. This year we moved back in the summer to be near my family. Unfortunately, Bill's family is living all over the United States.

We are so happy we found Good Shepard Lutheran Church.

From our first experience of meeting Kathy in the office to the first service we attended, we knew we found our new Church home. Thank you all for your warm welcome.











Things did not go according to our plans for our gingerbread houses. We had hoped to have lots of people decorating houses and having fun together Sunday, but it didn't work out quite that way! Only one house was decorated Sunday after worship. Many people were out sick or gone for various other reasons, and everyone present was busy trying to get our Roeding Christmas gifts ready, so there didn't end up being time left to decorate houses.

But we still had all those houses put together by the McQuillans, along with lots of cute decorations. It was a little bit sad. Well, pretty soon people started asking if they could take houses to neighbors or friends or family to decorate at home, and the next thing you knew, all but 2 were gone. And then the pictures started coming in. It seems that there was nothing to be sad about at all, and fun was had by so many people!

Though things didn't happen the way we had planned, we did not despair or give up on our desire to sow love and joy this Advent season. It turns out that God will not be denied, and God doesn't waste things either! Those gingerbread houses spread Advent and Christmas love and joy throughout the community and well beyond our walls, and it didn't look at all the way we expected. Thanks be to God!

Sh<u>alom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann</u>

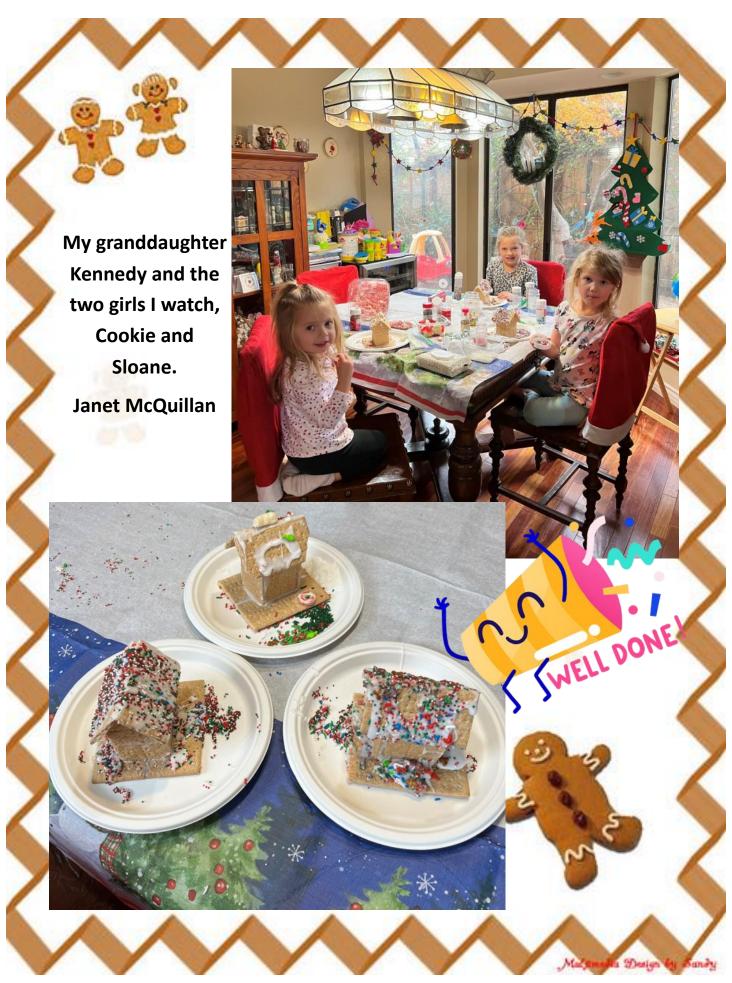


The little dark haired boy (Victor's brother) is Jonathan.

The little boy with the green shirt is Holden. His brother with the black shirt is Sawyer. Both have light hair.

Diane Fake











Poinsettias in memory or honor of family or friend





Doris Moscatelli July 15, 1937 — December 14, 2022

A Service In Celebration of the Life of Doris will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, January 7, 2023 @ 11AM

Doris Moscatelli passed on December 14, 2022 in Clovis CA. She leaves behind her husband Tom Moscatelli of forty five good years. She also leaves behind her four children from her first husband; Kim, Lauren, Scott, John and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.





# George Weber

October 21, 1925 - December 27, 2022

George Weber died peacefully Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> about 5:30. He has entered the church triumphant. Please pray for Debbie Keller and family on their loss.



# OWLs

# **FUNNIES THANKS TO WOODY**

# From VETERANS Reporter News **Eddie Kranson**

When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.

To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

Age 60 mighty be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.

It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday

and 15 years ago.

I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of vour containers.

If you are sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"





# Roeding Elementary School

Fresno Unified School District 1225 W. Dakota Avenue Fresno, CA 93705 (559) 248-7250 FAX (559) 225-3234

Mrs. Debbie Duran, Principal \* Ms. Lisa McDannel, Vice-Principal

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 5140 N. Fruit Ave.

Fresno, CA 93711

Dear Pam and the Generous Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Thank you all so much for your contributions to our Roeding Community. You made twenty of our Roeding Families so happy with your generous donation of groceries for Thanksgiving.

We had our students help with separating the groceries into boxes. Two of the students pictured below received food for their families.

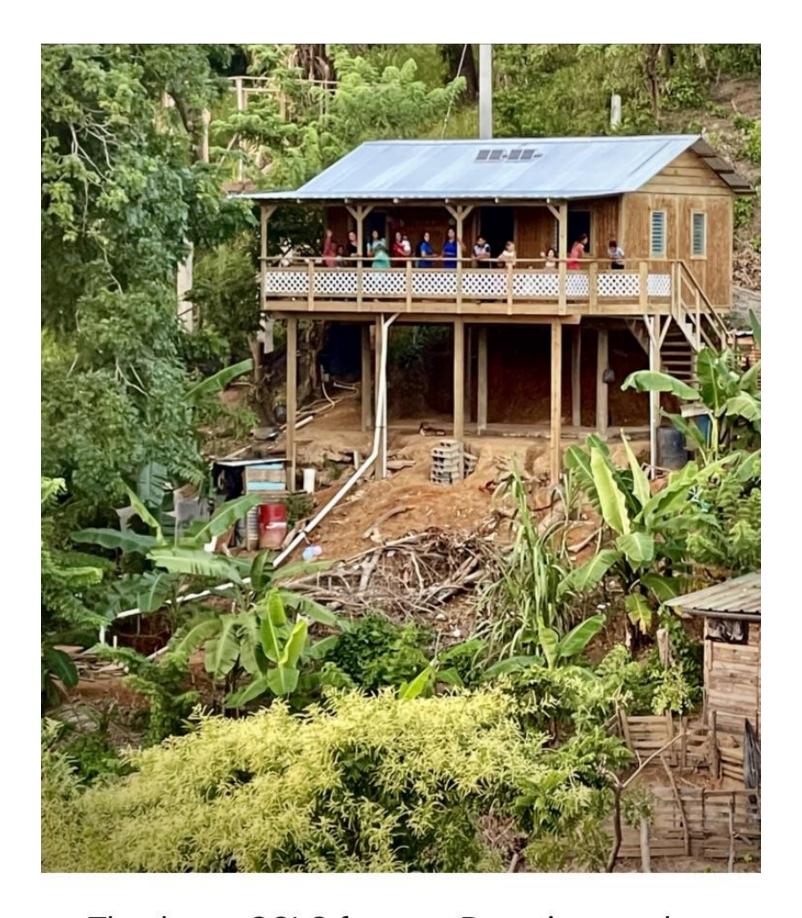
We are so blessed you have adopted Roeding and thank you for your continued support.

We hope you all have a blessed holiday season.

Sincerely,

Debbie Duran Proud Principal

Roeding Elementary



Thank you GSLC for your Donations and Prayers 💚 💚 🧡

# Notes of Gratitude

#### A BIG THANK YOU!

A Big THANK YOU to the Christmas Elves for decorating our GSLC Sanctuary!! ♥ ♥ ♥





#### Thank you and God Bless You!

Marge Kinler would like to thank everyone for the get well wishes in cards and all the beautiful Christmas

#### **MANY THANKS for Roeding Christmas Project Efforts**

A small but dedicated and faithful group stayed until ALL the gloves and candy canes were tied together and ready for delivery to our adopted school - 725! Thanks to the Wilks for ordering in bulk, the McQuillans for bringing chili and fixins, to everyone who bought gloves &



candy canes, and to the dozen or so special "elves" who wouldn't give up until every hand at Roeding would be gloved for Christmas!

## Many THANKS for Our Christmas M&M's!



Thanks so much to Sharon Rowley and the Esther Circle for our special Christmas M&M's. The red and green treats with the story of Jesus' birth has become a Christmas tradition at Good Shepherd. It is the brainchild of Sharon and a labor of love. We appreciate it!

#### Thank You GS Family

Thank you to all the GS family that blessed me with a Christmas greeting or gift. It is wonderful to be considered part of the GS family. It reminds me how fortunate I am to have this job. Love and prayers, Kathy



# Notes of Gratitude

#### **Thank You Musicians!**

Good Shepherd is so blessed to have our Praise Band, our wonderful music director, Susan Berg, and our Choral Ensemble, Song Leaders and Chimers. Thank you Susan, Ken, Cheryl, John, Paul, Jennifer, Pr. Ted, Alan and Sean for another year of your dedication in bringing us beautiful music each week.





Thank You to my Good Shepherd Family for-

The many prayers, messages and best wishes throughout 2022.

They have lifted my spirit and reminded me that you truly spread the Love of Jesus.



Thank you to Dee and the Sewing Saints for the cozy lap robe, which warms not only my spirit but my body on these cold days.

Thank you to the two emissaries (Diane and Jennifer) for the delivery, bringing cheer and a wonderful visit.

Wishing all a blessed New Year, bringing you good health, happiness, peace and continued hope through the Love of Jesus. From the heart of Arlene Robbins







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: Yvonne Smith

**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

Church office e-mail: gslcfresno@att.net

Pastor Ted's office e-mail: PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com

Church Web Site: www.fresnogslc.org

Please join us on Facebook