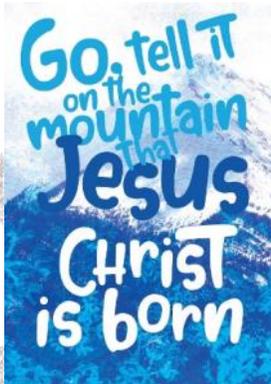


The Shepherd's Voice

January 2024

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



Telephone:
(559) 225-2092

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

Email:

PastorT-
edGSLC@gmail.com

Web Site:

www.fresnogslc.org

Facebook 

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first month of 2024! 2023 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?" 2021 was a strong year of serving our community. You can see some of that reflected in this newsletter. You can read more about it in our Annual Report which will soon be coming.

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: Mary Norris

Secretary: Dana Klein

Treasurer: Carol Sullivan

Property: Marty Klein

Christian Education: Julie Werfelmann

Worship: Gloria Miller

Council Member At Large: Dana Biggs

Council Member At Large: Reynaldo Villalobos

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.

I look forward to worshipping with you!

God's Peace,

Pastor Ted

Prayer Concerns

Members in Need of Prayer:

Sheila Boehringer
 JoAnn Huebner
 Dee Wright
 Jim, Jimmy Sanborn & Stacy Lairson on the loss of Stacy's father, Ken.
 Yvonne Smith
 Mona White
 Neil and Verna Walden
 Robert Harris
 Jackie Miller
 Mary Schmidt
 Liz Smith
 Bill Biggs
 Arlene Robbins
 Mary Norris & Family
 Connie Alvarado
 Susan Berg
 Irene Pierini
 Jocelyn Miller
 Kirsten Linder
 Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

David Torres (Hays)
 Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
 Kyle (Werfelmann)
 Kristy (Werfelmann)
 Mariah (Werfelmann)
 Paul Gross Family and Friends on his Passing. (Hays)
 Josue Zamora (His Cat Balboa)
 Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
 Jennifer Sano (Sandy T.)
 Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
 Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
 Ken & Becky (Lairson)
 Russel DiGirolamo
 Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
 Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
 Janet Sharp (Fake)
 Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
 Art & Children (Anderson)
 Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
 Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
 Belinda Zavala (Norris)
 Dan Fey & Family (Norris—No Relation)
 Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
 Bob Knous (Anderson)
 Melissa (Sandy T.)
 Joy Kensinger (Miller)
 Jenna Vance (Kossow)
 Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
 Jim D. (Norris)
 Jade Dixon (Julie)
 Pam (Smith)
 Grace Johnson (Fake)
 Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
 JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
 Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
 Roger Robbins (Robbins)
 Hudson Otten (Anderson)
 Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
 Rosemary (Vonny)
 Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



JANUARY Birthdays

Vonny Rae Sturgeon – 1/02
 Ken Berg – 1/08
 Jennifer 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

Baptism BIRTHDAYS

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

January ANNIVERSARIES

Jim Sanborn & Stacy Lairson
 1/18

"If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."
 John 14:14, NRSV

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 3, 2023	December 10, 2023	December 17, 2023	December 24, 2023	December 31, 2023
Attendance	54	39	41	AM - 42 PM -53 Christmas Day—23	38
General Fund	\$3,780.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,028.00	\$2,610.00	\$13,984.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)					
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)					
Community Center Capital Fund	Loose Plate: \$	Loose Plate: \$1,000.00	Loose Plate: \$	Loose Plate: \$340.00	Loose Plate: \$1,005.00
Loose Plate					
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	Prop. Impr: \$1000.00 Altar Flowers: \$80.00	Misc: \$550.74 Prop. Impr: \$500.00 Altar Flowers: \$150.00	Prop. Impr: \$2,914.00 Christmas Tea: 335.00 Altar Flowers: \$20.00 Init. Offering: \$8.00 Postage: \$6.30	OWLS: \$90.00	Prop. Imprv: \$500.00 Altar Flowers: \$280.00 Init. Offering: \$8.00
BIA Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.	BIA Rent: \$5,584.70	Prop. Use: \$600.00			
	\$10,4444.70	\$7,800.74	\$9,311.30	\$3,040.00	\$15,777.00

December Financials

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

Happy New Year everyone. First, on behalf of Good Shepherd, I want to thank each one of you who gave extra these last couple of months. It touched my heart to see the care for our church exhibited by so many of you. I would also like to thank some folks who do not attend our in-person service on Sunday but gave either in honor of someone or what appears to be “just because” - it was a wonderful surprise and very much appreciated! We ended the month less negative than I expected. The donations that came in on December 31st, while they count in 2023 for those donating, they will show up in next month’s reporting and will mean we will start the year off on a positive foot. A very nice surprise.

We had some playground and fence related expenses, but those came out of designated funds. We had a large HVAC expense that also came out of the designated funds. Unfortunately, the HVAC is still not fixed, and we are seeking to get a refund on part of the HVAC expenses paid out. It was determined the part (thermostat) ordered was not the correct part and had to be returned. We ordered one and it turned out to be only part of the thermostat. There are still additional parts, and this thermostat has been out of production for 30 years. We have not been able to locate the additional parts needed. We have someone checking to see if we can find a work around somehow. We will follow up with them next week.

I’ll give a full accounting of our over and under for the year in the annual report. Again, thank you everyone for your continued support and prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Caroline Sullivan, Treasurer

Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$29,767.46	\$28,676.00	\$1,091.46
Feb	\$16,632.38	\$26,498.19	(\$9,865.81)
Mar	\$26,340.90	\$27,231.47	(\$890.57)
Apr	\$31,706.88	\$29,665.56	\$2,041.32
May	\$27,528.38	\$25,258.92	\$2,269.46
Jun	\$19,452.40	\$25,631.57	(\$6,179.17)
Jul	\$33,016.90	\$29,448.31	\$3,568.59
Aug	\$18,622.90	\$28,992.48	(\$10,369.58)
Sep	\$26,767.10	\$27,903.94	(\$1,136.84)
Oct	\$31,473.81	\$28,029.11	\$3,444.70
Nov	\$18,638.00	\$26,449.58	(\$7,811.58)
Dec	\$40,538.44	\$28,642.74	\$11,895.70
Total	\$320,485.55	\$332,427.87	(\$11,942.32)

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. |



Check Out These Announcements & Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events!



Coffee Hour

We need people to sign up to be host/hostess for the months of Jan./Feb. 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. There always seems to be leftover cookies, chips or crackers - what better way to use up those leftovers than by having one Sunday where we have some of the treats we've previously enjoyed? 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!



JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 1 - **Happy New Years!!!**

Jan. 6 - LHN Free Neighborhood Market @ 9AM—1PM,

Jan. 8 - Esther Circle @ 6PM, Fireside Rm

Jan. 15 - OWLS @ 12PM, Jacobson Hall

Jan 17 - Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30PM, Comm Ctr

Jan. 18 - Council Meeting @ 6:30PM, Conf Rm

Jan. 19 - Annual Reports Due

Jan. 21 - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM, Comm Ctr

Jan. 24 - Kingsmen/Kingskids @ 6:30PM, Jacobson Hall

Jan. 28 - Annual Congregational Meeting, After Service



Annual Reports



It's that time again! If you are in charge of a ministry, please prepare an annual report and turn it in, preferable electronically, to Kathy no later than January 19, 2024. The annual reports will be ready for the Congregational meeting January 28, 2024.

Annual Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on January 28th after the service. We'll be presenting the Annual Report at that time. We look forward to seeing everyone then!



ROATAN HONDURAS BUILD

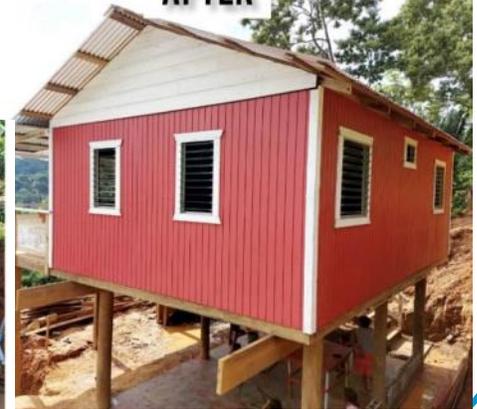
Thank you for your prayers and donations.
John's 13th build in Roatan Honduras



AFTER



BEFORE



SEWING SAINTS SELL OUT!

ALL PROCEEDS DESIGNATED TO
GOOD SHEPHERD GENERAL FUND!

*"Never underestimate the power of a woman
with a sewing machine."*

Sewing Machines, Lap Robes and Baby Quilts,

Sewing Notions and Fabrics (as is, **no** cutting sizes*) and quilt filler **MUST GO!**



SALE WILL BEGIN **SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2024**

***NOTE:** if a piece of fabric is 5 1/2 yards long the price is \$5.50. We will not cut yardage.



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. 3rd, 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@gmail.com

559-287-3457



LHN Free Neighborhood Market



@ Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1/6, 9 -11a.m.

There will be a drive through 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, 1/6, from 9-11 a.m. 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.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.

N&W Wednesday Evening Bible Study!!

"GRATEFUL: Giving Thanks to God in All Things"

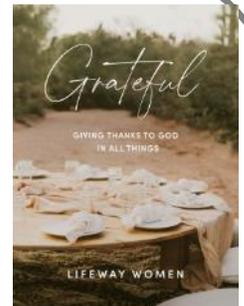
Foster a Heart of Gratitude - A 4-Session Bible Study by Lifeway Women

The Bible shows us that becoming a grateful person begins with acknowledging how the One who owes us nothing has given us everything. This 4-session study will help you develop a thankful heart that can be cultivated into a continual harvest of gratitude, regardless of the circumstances.

Each week you'll look at a profile of someone in the Bible with a grateful heart, find teaching from Scripture on gratefulness, focus on a psalm of thanksgiving, and be encouraged to practice gratitude. When you're able to see the biblical basis of living with a grateful heart, you will be more motivated to thank God in all things.

We will begin this 4 week Bible Study on **January 17**, ending February 7, before Ash Wednesday. There are 5 days of "homework" each week.

Books are available through lifeway.com, amazon.com, christianbook.com, and barnesandnoble.com



★ ★ IMPORTANT NOTES: ★ ★

- 1. You will need to complete Week One BEFORE our first meeting on January 17.**
- 2. All 4 of the meetings will be via Zoom, link provided in January.**

Questions: contact Sharon Rowley, shandrow@outlook.com (Please put 'Grateful study' in subject line).



Good Shepherds Memorial Garden



Compost Container

We have added a compost container for pick up by Republic Services. It's located in with the recycling container.

• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

GSLC Book Club January 21 @ 4PM, Community Center

There has been a revision in the order we will be reading books this year:

January 21: "The Dictionary of Lost Words" by Pip Williams

February 18: "The Book Woman's Daughter" by Kim Michele Richardson

March 17: "A Spanish Sunrise" by Boo Walker

April 21: "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak

May 19: "To End All Wars" by Ernest Gordon

January Book

"The Dictionary of Lost Words" by Pip Williams

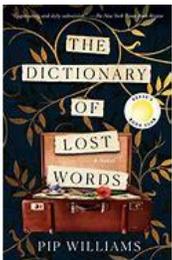
Esme is born into a world of words. Motherless and irrepressibly curious, she spends her childhood in the Scriptorium, an Oxford garden shed in which her father and a team of dedicated lexicographers are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. Young Esme's place is beneath the sorting table, unseen and unheard. One day a slip of paper containing the word bondmaid flutters beneath the table. She rescues the slip and, learning that the word means "slave girl," begins to collect other words that have been discarded or neglected by the dictionary men. As she grows up, Esme realizes that words and meanings relating to women's and common folks' experiences often go unrecorded. And so, she begins in earnest to search out words for her own dictionary: the Dictionary of Lost Words.

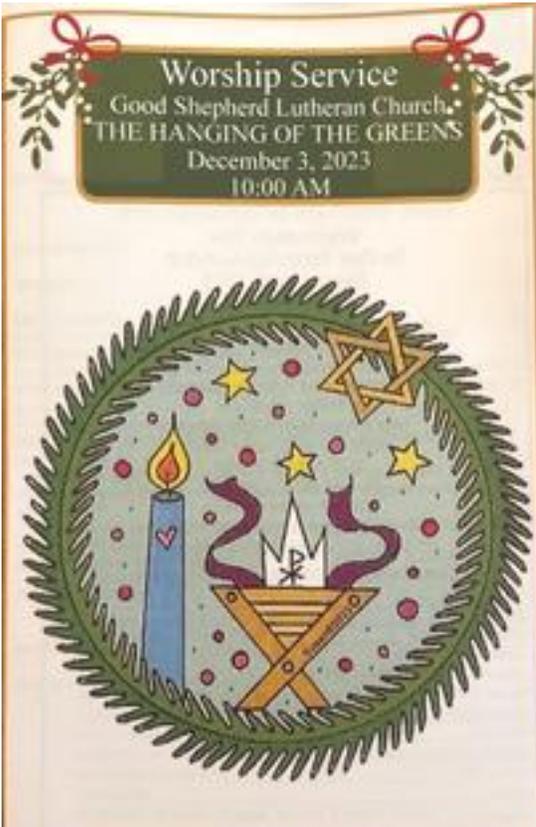
Inspired by actual events, author Pip Williams has delved into the archives of the Oxford English Dictionary to tell this highly original story. The Dictionary of Lost Words is a delightful, lyrical, and deeply thought-provoking celebration of words and the power of language to shape the world. -- from randomhousebooks.com

[The novel reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men, and celebrates the power of language to shape the world and our experience of it .](#)

You are invited to join us *any month* the book interests you. Casual discussion. No long term commitments.

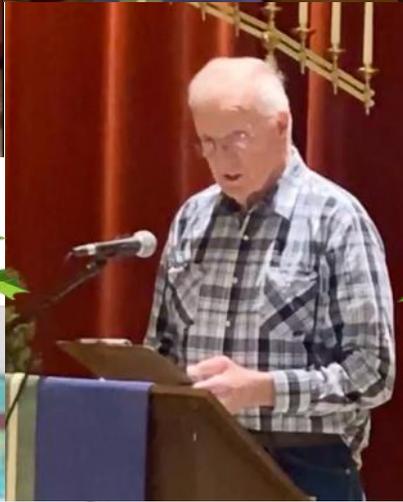
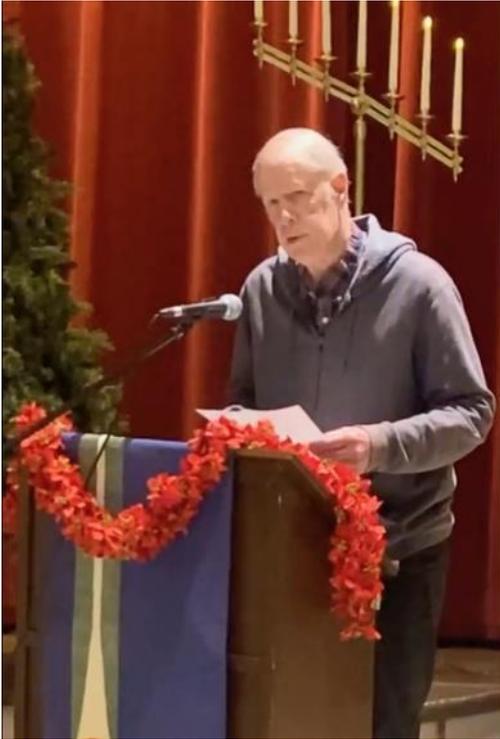
February's book: "The Book Woman's Daughter" February 18













2024 Ladies Christmas Tea

GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LADIES' CHRISTMAS TEA

COMING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

DECEMBER 9, 2023
11:30AM—1:30PM
JACOBSON HALL





Table Viewing

WelcomeMary Fey Norris
& Julie Werfelmann

Table Blessing.....Pastor Ted Niemi

Tea & Refreshments

Remarks.....Carolyn Linn
Janet McQuillan
Mikey (Michelle)
Wilson

Love Offering – Lutheran Disaster Response
(Please Make Checks to “Lutheran Disaster Response.”)

GOOD SHEPHERD MAINTENANCE FUND
(Please make checks to GSLC with maintenance in the memo).

Raffle..... Mary Fey Norris

Entertainment.....John Montgomery

Recognition.....Julie Werfelmann

Christmas Carols.....Susan Berg

Benediction & Dismissal



THE TABLES





SCRIPTURE

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2









Merry Christmas





To Julie and Mary:
 My heart just overflows with gratitude for you two ladies! Thank you so much for reviving the Ladies Christmas Tea in 2023. It was wonderful! Your program "Coming Home for the Holidays" was so meaningful and heartfelt. Julie, Janet, Carolyn, Mary and her children, Alex and Mikey, all gave beautiful testimonies. Janet wasn't the only one with teary eyes! With the special talents of John Montgomery rounding out the program, who could ask for more? The whole thing was simply wonderful and I truly wish that more ladies could have attended a most delightful afternoon of fellowship and love!
 Diane

Kingsmen Servers



THANKS AND DEDICATIONS

We would like to express thanks to all participants and volunteers—especially our Kingsmen servers! Thank you all for sharing this special event with us.



Roeding Glove Project



These are just some of the many people who helped get the gloves and candy cane gifts ready for Roeding School.

Caroling







DWLS

It started out looking like it would be packed but 13 Hooties bounced in for our annual Christmas celebration minus those on travel trips and sickness. "Hunkered down Woody" sent his Christmas Groans which were received with smiles, sighs, eye rolls, giggles and of course groans. Diane's well wishes reminded someone to be the photographer and Julie saved the day.

The humorous story of "Susie, The Optimist" confirmed her bright side after her dad accidentally wrapped horse manure instead of clay which she took as a clue to a pony as her Christmas gift. "Shine on Christmas Light" (poem) served as grace before the meal. "Lessons From a Christmas Tree" reminded us that it is OK to be a little tilted.

Bill won the hand-crafted Frosty head door prize. Our Greedy Gift Grab was lively but little exchanging except for the musical nativity scene stolen from ME by Julie who kindly gave it to Mary. Mary had left her gift at home which explained why the number of gifts was off.

We didn't have time for games or carols as the tired or overly socially scheduled peeled off. Sponge Bob Square Pants was left under the seat, not the sea, but swam his way back to his new owner on Sunday.



Notes of Gratitude

A Big Thank You!

Thank you from the Smiths for the prayers and food drop offs they have all been very tasty.

Yvonne Smith



Thanks Everyone!!



Our team would like to thank everyone who donated and or prayed for this build. I am one of the lucky ones who gets to go and build, but this is truly a team effort and without the donations and prayers we could not do this.

Thank You John Hays

Thanks for the Laugh!!!

Thank you Marty Klein for always making us laugh!



Thanks for the Gifts/Cards

Thank you for the gifts and cards for Christmas.

Everybody always knows how to make me feel like part of the GS family.

Love and prayers, Kathy



Thank You for All the Roeding Love

Thank you, everyone, for caring so much about our adopted school, Roeding Elementary. All of the needed coats were purchased for the children without them, and 720 pairs of Christmas



Many Thanks to our Christmas Carolers Last Sunday



Thanks to everyone who came out caroling last week. It was such a fun time!! We gave out lots of candy and spread such holiday cheer and love. Special thanks to Pastor Ted for playing his guitar, to Paul for leading the singing, and to Dee for providing refreshments and hospitality to finish our evening.

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. The Newsletter is vital to keeping connected.

God Bless!! Kathy



January

2024



Sun	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10AM Worship Service</p> <p>11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)</p> <p>11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light</p>	<p>1 Happy New Years!</p> <p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)</p> <p>6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p> <p>6:30PM Esther Circle, Fireside Rm</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p> <p>6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p> <p>6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)</p>	<p>6 Epiphany of Our Lord</p> <p>9AM—1PM LHN Free Neighborhood Market</p>
<p>14</p> <p>10AM Worship Service</p> <p>11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)</p> <p>11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light</p>	<p>15 Martin Luther King's Birthday</p> <p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)</p> <p>12PM OWLS, Jacobson Hall</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p> <p>6:30PM Council Meeting (Conf Rm)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)</p> <p>6:30PM Council Meeting (Conf Rm)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p>
<p>21</p> <p>10AM Worship Service</p> <p>11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)</p> <p>11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light (Jacobson Hall)</p> <p>4PM GSLC Book Club, Comm Ctr</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10AM Worship Service</p> <p>11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)</p> <p>11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf & Fireside Rm)</p> <p>6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)</p>



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

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

