



The Shepherd's Voice

December 2022

**GOOD
SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
MISSION
STATEMENT**

**Sharing The
Love of
Jesus**



PASTOR TED NIEMI
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Web Site:
www.fresnogslc.org
Facebook

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

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful time of the year! This season is filled with anticipation, excitement and tradition. This is especially true of our life together in the Church. As we focus on Jesus' birth we also think of how Jesus has already opened the gates of heaven to all who believe in Him. So even though we celebrate the birth that happened 2,000 years ago we also have the realized hope that just as we welcome Jesus into our hearts we will one day be welcomed into paradise.

Christmas Day is a worship service we offer each year. When we started it years ago there were only a few people who would show up for Christmas Day. It has steadily grown over the years. Well, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year which means we may break the record for the most people we've ever had at our Christmas Day worship! I hope you are among them! Of course, we will also be offering a Christmas Eve service for you the night before at 7:00.

I hope this is a great Christmas for you! The best way to have a fantastic Christmas is not to wait until December 24 to welcome Jesus into your heart. Use the weeks leading up to Christmas to prepare your hearts for Christmas.

I look forward to celebrating all God has done for us with you as we gather for worship!

*God's Peace,
Pastor Ted*



Prayer Concerns

Members in Need of Prayer:

Jackie Miller
 Gordon Fake family on the loss of Gordon's sister Peggy.
 Mabel Vogler Family
 Marge Kinler
 Mary Schmidt
 Liz Smith
 Bill Biggs
 Mona White
 Vonny Sturgeon
 Chris Walker
 Arlene Robbins
 Mary Norris & Family
 Connie Alvarado
 Doris Moscatelli
 Susan Berg
 Irene Pierini
 Jocelyn Miller
 Kirsten Linder



Family and Friends:

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)
 Darlee (Norris)



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

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



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

"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	November 6, 2022	November 13, 2022	November 20, 2022	November 27, 2022
Attendance	48	45	48	38
General Fund	\$7,130.00	\$2,030.00	\$5,590.00	\$6,135.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)	Memorial: \$100.00		MEF: \$500.00	
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)				
Community Center Capital Fund	Loose Plate: \$50.00	Loose Plate: \$790.00	Loose Plate: \$401.00	Loose Plate: \$100.00
Loose Plate				
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	Thanksgiving Fund: \$200.00 Sewing Saints: 100.00	Thanksgiving Fund: \$550.00 Sewing Saints: \$375.00	Special Gift (Chimes): \$1,588.58 Thanksgiving: \$50.00	Altar Flowers: \$80.00 OWLs: \$25.00
BIA Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.		BIA Rent: \$5,481.86	Property Use: \$920.00	
	\$7,580.00	\$9,226.86	\$9,049.58	\$6,340.00

November Financials

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. As we approach the end of the year our finances are not looking great. We had yet another negative month. We did have a \$685.00 expense to replace 3 windows in the BIA area. Vandals broke two and one was from a homeless individual who broke in. We also had to service our Ansel system I in the kitchen and service some of the fire extinguishers – but those expenses occur regularly.

There is a budget meeting at the Congregational Meeting on the 18th. It will be a difficult discussion. With our giving not keeping up with our expenditures, we are, once again, in the negative. We really need to take some proactive steps to reduce our spending. We simply cannot keep spending more than we take in. There is very little cushion left in our financial situation. I am just not sure how to bring our expenditures more into line with our income. I need your help. Please prayerfully consider what options you might suggest.

Yours in Christ,

Caroline Sullivan, Treasurer

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	\$29,447.86	\$30,038.40	(\$590.54)
Dec			\$0.00
Total	\$271,505.37	\$302,395.79	(\$30,890.42)

Three
WAYS to
GIVE

Mail-In
| 5140 N. Fruit

Online Giving
| www.fresnogslc.org |

Drop Off
or
In-Person



Christmas in Heaven...

What do They do?

They all come to Earth
To Spend it with You.

So Save them a Seat,
Just one empty Chair.

You might not See them,

But They will be There.



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



GOODIES

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.



DECEMBER EVENTS

Dec. 4 - Welcome New Members

Dec. 11 - Gingerbread House Throwdown, Jacobson Hall,
Following Service

Dec. 18 - Congregational Meeting, Following Service

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 7PM

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Service 10AM



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).



Roeding Christmas Project

It's that time of year, friends! We will be collecting about 700 pairs of gloves to cover the hands of all the children at our adopted school again this year. We will also need candy canes as well. Bring them in and place them in the appropriate bin in the hallway. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus in this way!



SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



The beauty of Christmas music may be heard in our community through Christmas Concerts by wonderful choral groups. Additional information for these concerts may be found on Good Shepherd's bulletin board.

1. Friday, December 2

The Women's esteemed ensemble, Soli Deo Gloria, directed by Dr. Julie Carter, presents their 14th season's Christmas concert, "Essence of Joy," on Friday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts in Fresno. The concert features joyous and beautiful Christmas carols from Europe, fresh arrangements of ancient texts, and a special premier piece, "Ubi Caritas" by Fresno composer, Dr. Walter Saul. **Tickets for the concert as well as Season Tickets for the 2022-2023 season are available from Good Shepherd's Cheryl Montgomery, who is a member of Soli Deo Gloria,** or on the ensemble's website, sdgchoir.com, or you may call (559) 285-3993 for further ticket information.

2. Sunday, December 4

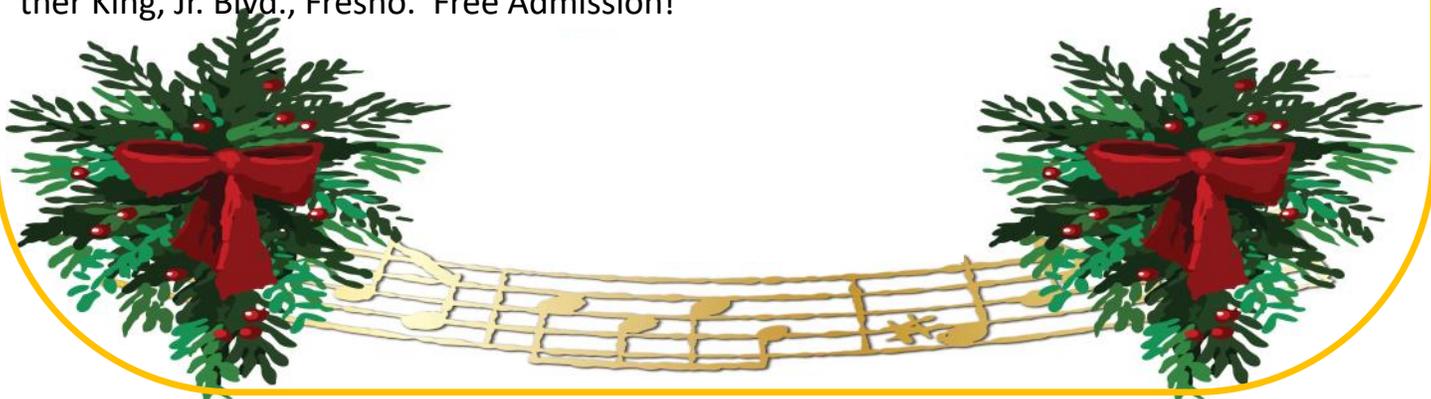
The Fresno Pacific University Music Department presents "A Festival of Lessons and Carols," featuring the University's musical ensembles. This worshipful concert will be performed twice at 3:00 p.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1540 M Street in Fresno. Ticket prices are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for senior citizens. Tickets are available online at eventbrite.com or at the door (if still available). 3.

Friday, December 9

A Chordsmen Christmas with special guest The Collingsworth Family (a True Family Christmas) at the Hanford Fox Theatre. Visit our website for more details: www.thechordsmen.net.

4. Saturday, December 10

Renowned bass soloist Earl Meyers is presenting his annual Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 10, at 4 p.m. at Fresno Westside Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2750 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Fresno. Free Admission!



POINSETTIA ORDERS



It's that time of year - time to help us decorate the altar for Christmas. You may now order poinsettias in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$20.00 for each poinsettia. You will be able to take yours home the Sunday after Christmas. The order forms are on the usher table in the narthex.

GSLC Book Club ~ Jan. 15 @ 4PM

2023 Book List



December: *skip*

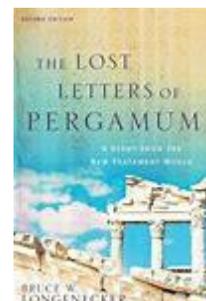
January: "The Lost Letters of Pergamom" by Bruce Longenecker

February: "Sea of Tranquility" by Emily St John Mandele

March: "In an Instant" by Suzanne Redfern

April: "The Beantown Girls" by Jane Healey

May: "One Italian Summer" by Rebecca Serle



January Book:

"The Lost Letters of Pergamom" by Bruce Longenecker

Bruce Longenecker's book generally describes how the Roman religions interacted with Christianity in the first century. In this book, the 'lost letters' represent the conversations (fictional) between Antipas, a wealthy individual (fictional character) from Pergamum and Luke, an ardent follower of Christ who authored the books of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. The book highlights the culture of the Roman Empire and the context of Christ's church in the first century. The letters present the finer details of Christ's radical life and how Christ's actions conflicted with the dominant Roman culture. In particular, Christ's life, as described in the letters, affected the honor-shame culture that was dominant in ancient Rome. This paper explores the effect of Christ's life on the social norms in ancient Roman society. This theme is apparent in the book's 'lost letters' exchanged between Luke and Antipas.

Sound interesting??? As in any month, whenever a book sparks your interest, join us in the Community Center the third Sunday of most months. **We will be meeting January 15 at 4:00**

to discuss our book of the month. Our discussion is quite casual. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Rowley, 313-0757 (text okay) or email andrsh@msn.com (please put "GSLC Book Club" in subject line).

Gingerbread House Throwdown 2022

Please plan to join your Good Shepherd family at our annual Advent party and preparations. The Gingerbread House decorating challenge is on! We will gather in Jacobson directly after our worship on 12/11/22 for lunch and to finish our Roeding glove project as well. All gloves and candy canes will need to be brought in by then!

The congregation is invited to bring chili and the fixings (fritos, cornbread, saltines, cheese, onions, sour cream, etc.) to share, along with your competitive edge and sense of humor! The McQuillans will bring the graham cracker houses and various decorations, but you are free to bring your own as well. This is fun for all ages, so we hope to see many of you there.

Questions? See Janet or Julie. Start making your plans now and get those creative juices flowing. We are ready to be wow-ed!!



LHN Free Neighborhood Market @ Bulldog Pantry, 12/3, 9 -11a.m.

There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market at the Bulldog Pantry located at 2311 E. Shaw on Saturday, 12/3, from 9-11 a.m. 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. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry!

Shalom. Peace. Paz.

Julie Werfelmann



Children's Church Leaders Needed

It is very important that we staff Children's Church EVERY Sunday, even when I am out of town or filling in for Pastor Ted, and even if we don't currently have a lot of children in worship. If we are going to make disciples of all nations, we simply must be prepared to do everything we can to make worship meaningful for children as well as their families. You can help do that!

The children's church leader will take the children out of the sanctuary after the Gospel and Kids' Talk to either the playground or the back of Jacobson. The art cart is right there and fully stocked with art supplies, paper, playdoh, etc. Since we are recording worship, CC leaders don't even miss out on the sermon and prayers because we can watch that part at home.

What happens at children's church? One of the lessons for the day will have been chosen by the leader as the focus for a short discussion and an art or play activity that will show the children how Scripture is still speaking and relevant in their own lives. We also always talk about how much God loves us and everyone else, too. We play and enjoy some time to move around and be noisy! The kids say the Lord's Prayer (with a little help) before they return to worship in time for communion with their families.

The timeframe is around 15 minutes, including walking time. Leaders are provided the lessons in advance, and I am available for questions, ideas, and even prep if needed. Please prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to this important ministry. Thank you.

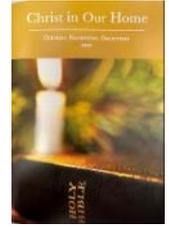
Shalom. Peace. Paz.

Julie Werfelmann



Christ in Our Home

The 'Christ in Our Home' Devotional for Jan.— Feb. is available in the office. You may pick one up M-F, 9am-1pm or you can email Kathy and she will send one out, just let her know if you prefer regular or large print.



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 December 18th after the service. We'll be presenting the budget for 2023 at that time. We look forward to seeing everyone then!



BULA—Honduras!



BULA
Nov 12 · 🌐

Thanks for being a blessing



Many thanks for the donations and prayers for John's 12th house in Honduras! He leaves this week.

Bishop and Vice-President of Synod Visit



The people are: Julie, Simon Wong (Vice-president of the synod), Bishop Claire Burkat, Carolyn and I. They were visiting good Shepherd. Taken at the columbarium.

Project Christmas Child



A big thanks to everyone who brought in filled boxes and/or items for our Operation Christmas Child project. Thanks also to those of you who helped pack boxes to send all over the world to help spread Christmas joy to children who might not otherwise receive any presents.

Special thanks to Janet McQuillan for spear-heading our efforts and also for delivering the boxes to the collection point. We couldn't do these works of service without many hands working together!



Thanksgiving Service 2022



YOU WILL BE ENRICHED
IN EVERY WAY TO BE GENEROUS
IN EVERY WAY, WHICH THROUGH
US WILL PRODUCE
THANKSGIVING TO GOD.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:11, ESV

LET US GIVE THANKS



Congregants
brought food
items for our
church
pantry to the
November
20
Thanksgiving
service.



Thanksgiving Basket Deliveries

Due to the generosity of Good Shepherds family, Pam Gerster delivered 3 car loads of food to serve 26 family's this Thanksgiving. Pam is truly blessed to be apart of God's service to Roeding school.



Stewardship Campaign 2022

Dee Wright, chairperson



On November 20th, members placed their commitment cards in a serving basket consecrating their pledges to our Lord's work.

Give
from
the
Heart



OWLS

MARY, EXHAUSTED,

HAVING JUST

GOTTEN JESUS

TOO SLEEP,

IS APPROACHED BY

A YOUNG MAN

WHO THINKS

TO HIMSELF;

WHAT THIS GIRL

NEEDS

IS A DRUM SOLO!

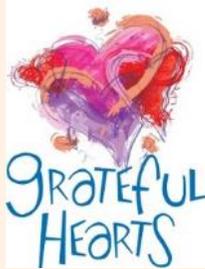
**I PLAYED MY DRUM FOR HIM!
PA RUM PUM PUM PUM**



Notes of Gratitude

Thank You Bereavement Committee

Thank you so much to the ladies on the Bereavement Committee who brought cookies for the Celebration of Life Reception we had for Gordon's sister, Peggy Mitchem. Gordon and I appreciate the committee's faithfulness in providing cookies during the difficult times of our church families. Diane



Thank You for your condolences

Gordon and I want to thank you for the cards, texts and emails expressing your sympathy on the loss of Gordon's sister. We both appreciate your kind words, condolences and prayers for our family. Thank you also to those who attended the reception. Gordon & Diane Fake

A Special Thank You!

A special thank you for another year of Kathy putting up with all of my additions, deletions and corrections as I attempt to add photos and various announcements to the bulletins and newsletters. I'm pretty sure this thank you goes for all of us as we work with Kathy in various capacities. THANK YOU, KATHY! We appreciate you! Diane



Heartfelt Thanks

Thanks to the generosity of our Good Shepherd family, Pam Gerster delivered 3 car loads of food to serve 26 family's this Thanksgiving. Pam is truly blessed to be apart of God's service to Roeding school.





December

2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>10AM Worship Service • 11AM - 1PM Kid's Salt & Light, Comm Ctr</p>	 <p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 5PM - 10PM Boy Scouts (Comm Ctr) 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Jacobson Hall) 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 12PM Girls Scouts (Comm Ctr)
<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10AM Worship Service 11AM - 1PM Gingerbread House Throwdown, Jacobson Hall 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 5PM - 10PM Boy Scouts (Comm Ctr) 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 5:30PM Council Meeting (Conf Rm) 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 5PM - 12Noon(Sat) Boys Scouts (Comm Ctr) 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5PM (Fri) - 12PM Boys Scouts (Comm Ctr)
<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10AM Worship Service Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary 11AM - 1PM Kid's Salt & Light, Comm Ctr 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 5PM - 10PM Boy Scouts (Comm Ctr) 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7PM Christmas Eve Service 
<p>25 Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10AM Christmas Worship Service  	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 5PM - 10PM Boy Scouts (Comm Ctr) 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>30 New Years Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm) 	<p>31</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 : 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

