



To God Be The Glory

# The Shepherd's Voice

## February 2024

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



**PASTOR TED NIEMI**

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(559) 225-2092

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gslcfresno@att.net

Pastor Ted's Office

Email:

PastorT-

edGSLC@gmail.com

Web Site:

www.fresnogslc.org

Facebook: gslcfresno

Instagram: gslc\_fresno

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

**Dear Friends,**

The month of February brings both secular and sacred holidays. That happens every year. But this year is special! This year we get to celebrate Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday on the same day. At first that sounded weird to me. Having ashes put on one's forehead isn't the most romantic gesture.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. Lent is to be a penitential period spent renewing our faith. Some people do that through additional time spent in prayer, some do additional scripture reading, others fast. At Good Shepherd we have our Lenten Soup Suppers followed by a Bible study on Wednesdays.

Lent is the 40 day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter excluding Sundays, which are always resurrection centered. We begin on Ash Wednesday by recognizing one day we will die. Then on Easter Sunday we celebrate that through Jesus we will live again. Jesus is God's way of showing us how much we are loved. So in a sense the season of Lent is preparing us for the greatest love we will ever know!

So maybe Valentine's Day is the perfect way to begin Lent. You are loved! It could provide for the most unusual Valentine's date ever!

Did you know you can't spell VALENTINE without LENT? Now you do!

**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)  
 Nathan Robbins (Robbins)  
 Rosemary (Vonny)



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

# FEBRUARY



Kurt Niemi – 2/04  
 Suzanne Walker – 2/07  
 Sean Walker – 2/08  
 Irene Pierini – 2/09  
 Chris Walker – 2/12  
 Kristin Niemi – 2/18  
 Connie Alvarado – 2/19  
 Steve Smith – 2/23  
 Mary Norris – 2/24  
 Michael Kubar – 2/29

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



Neil Walden - 2-1  
 Vonny Rae Sturgeon – 2/01  
 Ivan Villalobos – 2/10  
 Stacy Lairson – 2/17  
 Jim Sanborn – 2/17



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

**Robert Harris &  
 Jill Anderson - 2/7**

## 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



# January Financials

**YOUR GIVING MATTERS!**

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

We are starting off the year in the positive. This is due to some very generous end-of-year donations as well as a surprise donation of \$10,000.00 from one family. These donations went a long way to helping us stay in the black. January is when our QuickBooks subscriptions renew as well as the GoDaddy subscription. Our total office supplies for the month came in at \$1,558.00. We repaired 3 toilets (2 in Jacobson and one in the office area of BIA) and the sink in the small kitchen in the BIA office area was leaking and needed repair. Our inside maintenance was \$1,250.00. All other expenses were normal for this time of year. We were positive \$2,747.36 for the month.

We received a refund of \$935.65 from Commercial Trane on the bill for work done on the HVAC in the sanctuary. I am trying to get an itemized billing for the \$1,932.35 from them. The billing stated to replace the thermostat, which they could not as it was the incorrect part. That was what the refund represented. I still need a bill for what the \$1932 represents.

Please continue to pray for our church. We are still facing challenges this year.

Yours in Christ,  
Caroline Sullivan, Treasurer

Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$30,898.00	\$28,151.34	\$2,746.66
Feb			\$0.00
Mar			\$0.00
Apr			\$0.00
May			\$0.00
Jun			\$0.00
Jul			\$0.00
Aug			\$0.00
Sep			\$0.00
Oct			\$0.00
Nov			\$0.00
Dec			\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,898.00</b>	<b>\$28,151.34</b>	<b>\$2,746.66</b>

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WAYS to  
GIVE

Mail-In  
| 5140 N. Fruit Ave. |  
Online Giving  
| www.fresnogslc.org |

Drop Off  
or  
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 Feb./March. 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!



## FEBRUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 3 - LHN Free Neighborhood Market @ 9AM—1PM, GSLC
- Feb. 5 - Pastor Ted's Liver Transplant Anniversary
- Feb. 7 - Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30PM, Zoom
- Feb. 12 - Esther Circle @ 6PM, Fireside Rm
- Feb. 13 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party @ 6:15PM, Jacobson Hall
- Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday Service @ 7PM/ Soup Supper's Begin @ 6:15PM, Jacobson Hall
- Feb. 15 - Council Meeting @ 6:30PM, Conf Rm
- Feb. 18 - First Day of Lent
- Feb. 18 - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM, Comm Ctr
- Feb. 19 - President's Day **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Feb. 19 - OWLS @ 1PM, Honey Baked Ham
- Feb. 21, 28—Mar. 20 - Lent Soup Suppers @ 6:15PM/Lenten Bible Study @ 7PM, Jacobson Hall



## Pastor Ted's 9th Anniversary Congratulations! Liver Transplant

Monday, February 5, will mark nine years since our dear Pastor received his liver transplant. We rejoice with him as we remember the miracle that resulted in him receiving the donated liver. Praise God for His mighty works!



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE PARTY 2/13 @ 6:15 IN JACOBSON

YOU are invited to come celebrate Shrove Tuesday, aka Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, with our annual Pancake Party! Janet Mc is bringing the ham and her hash brown casserole, and some of the rest of us will be flipping pancakes to be topped by fruit and whipped cream, syrup, and other yummy things. We will have some fun using up all the "fat" before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. There will be hidden ALLELUIA letters to search out, pancake races, beads, and a King Cake with baby Jesus hidden inside. Wear your purple, gold, and green, and come have some food and fun!

Sign up for items on the signup sheet as you enter

## Lent Soup Suppers Begin 2/14 @ 6:16PM



Please consider making soup for your church family on one of the 6 Wednesdays of Lent. You can partner with another and bring 2 kinds of soup or use the kitchen on a Sunday morning to make it for the following Wednesday. Typically we need enough soup for 20-30 people (may be adjusted as we see attendance trends), along with a bread of your choice. Your expenses will be reimbursed from the supper offering. There is a sign up sheet in the entry area. Questions? See Deb Wilk, Carol Sullivan, or Julie W.

## It's Girl Scout Cookie Season Begins! Purchase Cookies Feb. 18 After Service



It's time to pre-order your Girl Scout Cookies. You can do so either through the link below or by calling Sheri Eggebraaten at 559-903-1851 or email her at [messagebysheri@aol.com](mailto:messagebysheri@aol.com). **Girl Scouts will be here Feb. 18, after service, if you would like to make your purchases in person.**

Here is a direct link: <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/how-to-buy-cookies.html>

You can see what's available at [Meet the Cookies | Girl Scouts](#)

Here's the [full lineup](#) for 2024:

**Adventurefuls**

**Caramel Chocolate Chip** (gluten-free)

**Samoas** (aka Caramel deLites)

**Do-si-dos** (aka Peanut Butter Sandwich)

**Girl Scout S'mores**

**Lemonades**

**LemonUps**

**Tagalongs** (aka Peanut Butter Patties)

**Thin Mints**

**Toast-Yay!**

**Toffee-tastic** (gluten-free)

**Trefoils**

## Calling All Volunteers! Good Shepherd is Up in February



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

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*

## **LHN Free Neighborhood Market @ GSLC, 2/3, 9 -11a.m.**



**There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church located at 5140 N. Fruit Ave. on Saturday, 2/3, from 9-11 a.m.**

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](mailto:13jdixon13@gmail.com)  
559-287-3457

## **NEW 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](http://lifeway.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com), and [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com)



# **GSLC Book Club**

## **February 18 @ 4PM**

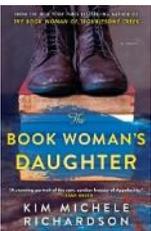
**There has been a revision in the order we will be reading books this year:**

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

### **February Book**

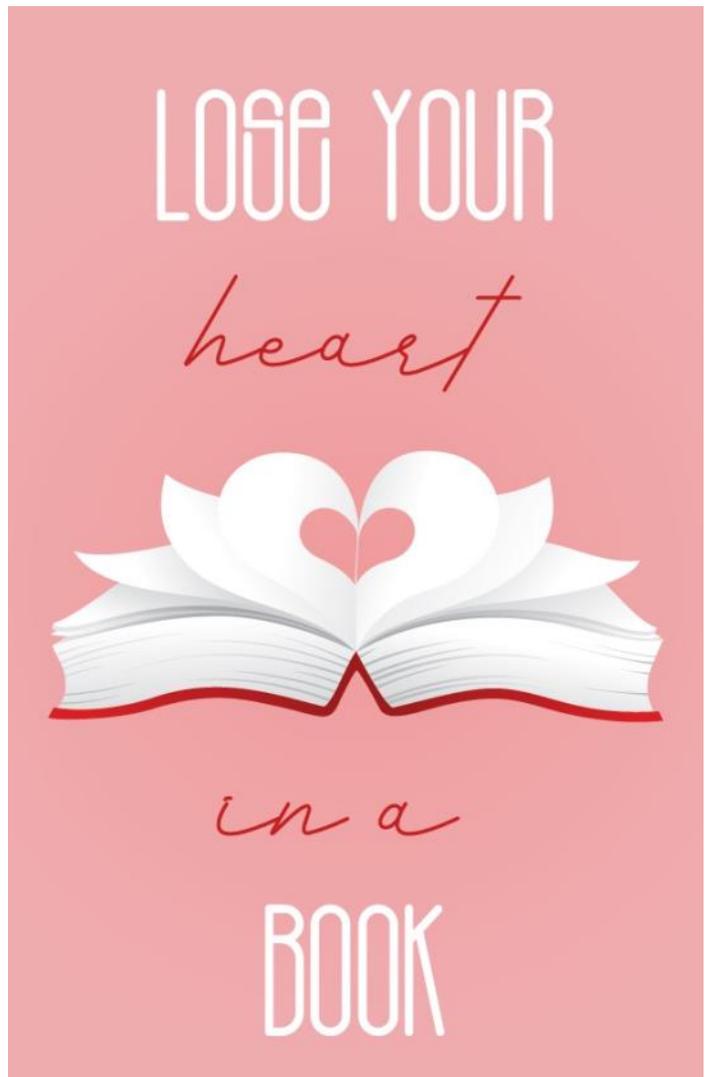


"The Book Woman's Daughter" by Kim Michele Richardson

Bestselling historical fiction author Kim Michele Richardson is back with the perfect book club read following Honey Mary Angeline Lovett, the daughter of the beloved Troublesome book woman, who must fight for her own independence with the help of the women who guide her and the books that set her free.

In the ruggedness of the beautiful Kentucky mountains, Honey Lovett has always known that the old ways can make a hard life harder. As the daughter of the famed blue-skinned, Troublesome Creek packhorse librarian, Honey and her family have been hiding from the law all her life. But when her mother and father are imprisoned, Honey realizes she must fight to stay free, or risk being sent away for good.

Picking up her mother's old packhorse library route, Honey begins to deliver books to the remote hollers of Appalachia. Honey is looking to prove that she doesn't need anyone telling her how to survive, but the route can be treacherous, and some folks aren't as keen to let a woman pave her own way. If Honey wants to bring the freedom that books provide to the families who need it most, she's going to have to fight for her place, and along the way, learn that the extraordinary women who run the hills and hollers can make all the difference in the world.



You are invited to join us *any month* the book interests you. Casual discussion.

No long term commitments.

**March's book: "A Spanish Sunrise" by Boo Walker**

# OWLS



Suzie Guiterrez offered approximately a year ago to cook at meal for the OWLS. Of course and THANK YOU! Sandy and Suzie arrived early to begin the preparations. It was literally like the "KEYstone Cops" trying to get into cupboards. The knife key was not around. Two church members who had one were out of town. Julie was to arrive around noon with hers. Luckily, Dee came to the rescue with hers from home so we could start chopping.

No soup spoons were within the matching set. Substituting serving spoons graced the table settings. It was either that or spend the afternoon trying to eat soup with a tea-spoon. After being told that we did so have them and searching the cupboard some were unearthed in a box on high shelf marked Misc. Silverware which was mismatched. Spoons obligingly switched.

A hopeful 19 signed up for January's meeting but they quickly dwindled to 13. Pam's neighbor, Betty, and Kathy, our Office Assistant, were our guests. We welcomed Jim Thompson as our newest member.

Our forum's funny was "Twas the Month After Christmas". Julie read her "30 something" son's well-loved Stone Soup. A couple joked that they were thinking about bringing three stones to slip into the soup pot. Suzie demonstrated how to carefully use the mandoline (slicer). Newer models push out cubes. She pointed out the soup's ingredients and the variety of veggies and spreads to make open-faced sandwiches.

A mouthwatering meal and fun fellowship resulted in no games again. Fingers and toes are crossed for Suzie to make us PIZZA in June. Yuumm!

# Notes of Gratitude

## Thank You, My Good Shepherd Family!



Thank You for your prayers, remembrances, well wishes, and most of all Love. A spirit-lifting event. Wishing you joy and peace in 2024! Arlene Robbins

## Thanks to All that Pitched In

Thank you to the cooks of the chili and cornbread cookers: Dee, Wilk's, Julie, Steve, Janet, Lisa and anyone else @ GSLC that I might have missed! Oh yes, to the EATERS OF THE CHILI. Special thanks to everyone that stayed to help clean up. Sue H.



## A Note from your GSLC President

Can't believe we are already into the second month of 2024. I'd like to say a personal; thank you to all of those that have served our Council in 2023. Those that aren't returning will be missed but not far. A personal welcome to:

Vice President, Cheryl Montgomery.

Secretary Treasurer, Dana Biggs

MEF President, Steven McQuillan

MEF Director at Large, Lisa Kossow

Thank you to all our members as well. We wouldn't be here sharing our love for Jesus if it weren't for you.



Yours in Christ,

Mary C Norris

Congregation president

## Thank You Contributors!!

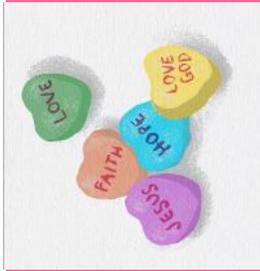


Thank you to all the members that contribute every month to the newsletter in some form or another. Your contribution makes creating the Newsletter a blessing and a success. Whether it's pictures, articles, expressions of gratitude, or upcoming events the effort is greatly appreciated. The Newsletter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

God Bless!! Kathy

# February 2024

**Sun**



- 4
- 10AM Worship Service
  - 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)
  - 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light

**Mon**

- 5
- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
  - 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)

**Tue**



- 6
- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
  - 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)

**Wed**

- 7
- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
  - 6:30PM Wednesday Evening Bible Study, Via Zoom

**Thu**

- 1
- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
  - 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
  - 6PM - 10PM Gold Note Choir (Comm Ctr)

**Fri**

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
  - 6PM - 9PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)
  - 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
  - 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)

**Sat**

- 3
- 9AM—1PM LHN Free Neighborhood Market, GSLC Host
  - 9AM—4PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)

11

- 10AM Worship Service
- 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)
- 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light

12

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 6:30PM Esther Circle (Fireside Rm)

13 Shrove Tuesday

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)
- 6:15PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party

14 Valentine's Day

- Ash Wednesday
- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 7PM Ash Wednesday Service



15

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 6PM - 10PM Gold Note Choir (Comm Ctr)

16

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)

17

18 First Day of Lent

- 10AM Worship Service
- 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)
- 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light (Jacobson Hall)
- 4PM GSLC Book Club, Comm Ctr

19 President's Day

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 12PM OWLS (Jacobson Hall)

21

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 6:15PM Lent soup supper (Jacobson Hall)
- 7PM Lent Kids & Adults Bible Study (Jacobson Hall)

22

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 6PM - 10PM Gold Note Choir (Comm Ctr)

23

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)

24



25

- 10AM Worship Service
- 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall)
- 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light

26

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)

27

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)

28

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 6:15PM Lent soup supper (Jacobson Hall)
- 7PM Lent Kids & Adults Bible Study (Jacobson Hall)

29

- 9AM - 4PM BIA (Conf Rm & Fireside Rm)
- 6PM - 10PM Gold Note Choir (Comm Ctr)

## **THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE**

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

## **MISSION STATEMENT SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS**

### **Pastor Ted Niemi**

**Carolyn Linn: Assistant Lay Minister  
Congregation President : Mary Norris  
Organist: Susan Berg**

**Youth Ministries: Julie Werfelmann  
Church Office Secretary: Kathy Edison**

**Worship Service 10:00 am**

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

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

**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)

Facebook: [gslcfresno](https://www.facebook.com/gslcfresno)

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

