

The Shepherd's Voice

April 2026

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



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

Dear Friends,

This month we celebrate the holiest of holy days, Easter. If you have struggled lately with, well, just about anything Easter has a great message for you.

The message of Easter is a message of hope. There is new life beyond Good Friday. Crucifixions are not the last word. On the first Easter God did something so significant. **God took the worst that the world could do to Him ... and God turned it into the best that He could do for the world.** The world killed Jesus, but through his death, Jesus gave life eternal.

You see, the one thing that filled those first witnesses of the resurrection with such joy on that 1st Easter was the realization that they could now face anything life could bring to them and not be defeated.

Those 1st disciples had a new hope for the future which meant they had new power for the present. Oh, sure, there was still going to be all kinds of hardships and disappointments and tragedies ahead of them but now they had a new way of facing them; a new way of looking at them. Jesus' resurrection from the dead let them know they would never be defeated!

This Easter I challenge you to take this step: to be more hopeful. To start noticing the new life all around you. Think of how God can have the Easter miracle of hope touch some area of your life. Be a sign of hope to others in the world. Most of all, be brave enough to live life in the joy of Easter!

I look forward to celebrating Easter with you!

God's Peace,

Pastor Ted

Prayer Concerns

Members Needing

Prayer:

Jo Anderson
 Pat Haynor
 Cate Casa
 Yvonne Smith
 Chris Dueker
 Arlene Robbins
 Robert Harris
 Mona White
 Julie Werfelmann
 Betty Montgomery
 Neil and Verna Walden
 Liz Smith
 Bill Biggs
 Mary Norris & Family
 Connie Alvarado
 Jocelyn Miller
 Kirsten Linder
 Jim Thompson

Family and Friend:

Randy Williams (Dueker)
 Christopher Robbins
 (Robbins)
 Dan Taylor (Wilk)
 Kevin (Hays)
 Nels (Harris)
 Karen Tabler (Vonny)
 George Pisching (Woody
 W.)
 Julie Schneider (Vonny)
 Kaitlyn (Lisa K.)
 Coach (Sandy T.)
 Pauline Ritterbush
 Julie Schnieder (Bender)
 Jade Dixon (Julie)
 Elaine (Werfelmann)
 Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)
 Phil (Anderson)
 Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
 Zyg Zee (Norris)
 Claire (Vonny)
 Janet Sharp (Fake)
 Anthony Collichio
 (Norris)
 Mickey Cecil (Norris)
 Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
 Melissa (Sandy T.)
 Frank and Anita Porco
 (Vonny)
 Pam (Smith)
 Grace Johnson (Fake)
 Hudson Otten (Anderson)
 Karen Ohanesian (Hays)



Pam Gerster – 4/07
 Woody Wilk – 4/08
 Dee Wright – 4/09
 Sue Hays – 4/10
 Dana Biggs – 4/12

*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

Neil Walden - 2-1

Mary Norris – 4/02
Madelynn Pattillo – 4/08
Whitney Linder – 4/16
Chris Dueker – 4/28



Don & Chris Dueker - 4/4
William & Elizabeth Smith - 4/20
Alan & Brenda Hofmann - 4/23

PRAYERS FOR

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

STEWARDSHIP OF WORSHIP & OFFERINGS	Mar. 1, 2025	Mar. 8, 2025	Mar. 15, 2025	Mar. 22, 2025	Mar. 29, 2025
Attendance	55	44	55	54	
General Fund	\$10,001.00	\$11,414.00	\$8,320.00	\$1,711.00	\$3,126.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)					
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)					
Community Center Capital Fund	Comm. Ctr: Loose Plate:	Community Ctr:\$ Loose Plate: \$	Community Ctr: \$ Loose Plate: \$30.00	Community Ctr: Loose Plate:\$20.00	Community Ctr: Loose Plate:\$35.00
Loose Plate					
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	HVAC: \$2,150.00	HVAC: \$100.00 Thrivent: 48.00	HVAC: \$1,550.00 Thanksgiving Baskets: \$400.00 Roeding: \$100.00	OWLS: \$80.00 Altar Flowers: \$20.00	HVAC: \$1,550.00 Altar Flowers: 280.00
House Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.		Property Use: \$450.00	Property Use: \$800.00		Rent: \$3,880.00
	\$12,151.00	\$12,012.00	\$11,200.00	\$1,831.00	\$8,831.00

March Financials



Dear Members and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

We continue to be blessed with the funds to be able to take care of our beautiful, aging campus. Thank you all for your love, commitment and generosity.

The HVAC account now has a balance of \$67,192.71. \$2,000 of the fund was specifically donated for the bathroom remodel project. The congregation recently voted to use \$8,000 of the HVAC funds for the remodel. The balance we need, \$2,000, will be taken out of our general fund and operating account.

Thank you to our Council who has worked very hard to get the right bid and one that is ADA compliant. The project will begin soon.

Many thanks to our head of property, Mary Norris, and assisted by Nels Harris, for their hard work and the huge amount of time it took to do a thorough cleaning of our Sanctuary.

My very best to each of you, and enjoy this beautiful and special time of year.

Dana Biggs
Treasurer
Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church

Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$19,979.00	\$33,559.75	(\$13,580.75)
Feb	\$53,515.00	\$29,731.36	\$23,783.64
Mar	\$46,025.00	\$32,916.89	\$13,108.11
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
Total	\$119,519.00	\$96,208.00	\$23,311.00

four
WAYS to
GIVE



Mail-In

|5140 N. Fruit Ave., 93711|



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 and
Mark your calendar for these
Upcoming events!**



Coffee Hour

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

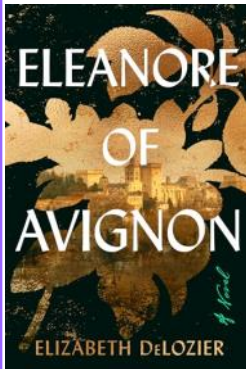
MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. 1** - Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:30PM, Pr. Ted's Office
- Apr. 2** - Maundy Thursday @ 7PM, Sanctuary
- Apr. 3** - Good Friday @ 7PM, Sanctuary
- Apr. 4** - LHN Free Neighborhood Market
- Apr. 11** - Roeding Saturday Sports @ 10-12PM, Roeding Elementary
- Apr. 13** - Esther Circle @ 6PM, Comm Ctr
- Apr. 16** - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall
- Apr. 19** - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM, Comm Ctr
- Apr. 20** - OWLS @ 12pm, Fake's Home



GSLC BOOK CLUB

April 19 - *Eleanore of Avignon* by Elizabeth DeLozier



Rich with unforgettable characters, gorgeously drawn, and full of captivating historical drama, *Eleanore of Avignon* is the story of a healer who risks her life, her freedom, and everything she holds dear to protect her beloved city from the encroaching Black Death

Avignon, 1347. Eleanore is a young midwife and herbalist with remarkable skills. But as she learned the day her mother died, the most dangerous thing a woman can do is draw attention to herself.

In a chance encounter, Eleanore meets the enigmatic personal physician to the powerful Pope Clement, and strikes a deal with him to take her on as his apprentice.

Then, two pieces of earth-shattering news: the Black Death has made landfall in Europe, and the disgraced Queen Joanna is coming to Avignon. She is pregnant and in need of a midwife, a role only Eleanore can fill.

The plague spreads like wildfire, leaving half the city dead in its wake. Desperate for a scapegoat, the people of Avignon follow a group of religious fanatics on a witch-hunt, one that could cost Eleanore—an intelligent, unwed woman; a talented healer—everything.

Our other book for our book club year will be:

May 17 - *The Missing Half* by Ashley Flowers

Welcome Whitney!

A pink rose altar flower was shared at worship on February 22nd in honor of the birth of Whitney Sierra White. She was born on Ash Wednesday, 2/18/26. Parents are Courtney and Brandon White. Grandparents are Paul and Sheri Bolm. Welcome Whitney!



OWLS Apr. 20th @ 12PM

ATTENTION Hooties!

Our next stop is at the home of Gordon and Diane Fake on April 20th at NOON.

Gordon will showcase pictures from trips around the USA from CA to Key West to New York City and more. Buckle up!

Please bring:

- * Your ENTIRE table service
- * A LABELLED dish to share
- * & maybe some Dramamine



LHN Free Neighborhood Market 4/11 @

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 9—11AM

There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market on Saturday, 4/11, from 9-11 a.m. at the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. You can come for any or all and don't need to have signed up. Central CA Food Bank will provide gloves, but volunteers need to bring their own masks if desired and wear close toed shoes. As in the past, **anyone planning to volunteer on Saturday who is or has been feeling ill - especially if they have or have had a fever, cough or flu-like symptoms - is asked to PLEASE stay home.** Volunteers will be encouraged to drive through and get food for their own household, too, just like usual. Please share this information with anyone you know who could benefit and with those who might want to volunteer. Questions can be directed to Julie @ 13jdixon13@gmail.com or 559-287-3457.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.



HVAC GoFundMe Fundraiser

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

Please send this link: to family, friends, businesses etc., via Facebook, email and any other social media platforms to get the word out to raise funds for a new HVAC system. We have a fundraising goal of \$150,000 to support the purchase of a new HVAC system.

Dear Family, Friends and Supporters,

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno, with it's iconic tent style roof, is in desperate need to replace the antiquated HVAC system.

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

Blessings, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno

Thank you, Reynaldo Villalobos

Support New HVAC at Good Shepherd
Fresno





Roeding Saturday Sports



ROEDDING



Memorial Garden Raffle

Our Memorial Garden Fundraiser was a wonderful success! Thank you to everyone who supported the event by purchasing raffle tickets or making a donation. We hope you enjoyed the luncheon and the entertainment by Jemmy (not Jimmy!) Bluestein of the legendary Bluestein Family—well known folk musicians, performers, recording artists and educators. If you'd like to learn more about this highly respected family, please look up the Bluestein Family of Fresno, CA.

Congratulations to our raffle prize winners!

Jill Anderson, Cecile Bachar, Marlene Beasley, Bill and Dana Biggs, Paul and Sheri Bolm, Alan and Brenda Hofmann, Susan Linder, Jackie Miller, Cheryl Montgomery, Kay Provost, Mike and Foy Roberto, John and Joyce Velasquez, Joan Williamson, Dee Wright and our Grand Prize winner, Jo Anderson.

I would also like to thank my committee members for donating prizes and for providing the delicious food for the luncheon. We are grateful to those who helped expand our list of prizes and to those who assisted with setting up and taking down the St. Patrick's Day decorations.

Our committee truly appreciates the generosity and support from so many. We can't thank you enough! God Bless you all.

Diane

Memorial Committee Chair



Memorial Garden Raffle
Event









Lenten Soup & Study Was a Fine Success

Thank you to all who attended any of the Lenten gatherings this year. The conversations were very insightful and interesting, and everyone learned something new about something!

Many thanks to Suzie for shopping for and preparing all the soups. They were so good and appreciated by all! Thanks also to everyone who contributed bread, chips, or crackers to accompany the soup: Lori, Jo, Jill, Dee, Art & Janet, and Kay. A lot of people really went the extra mile to make it all happen.



Hooties Christmas in March

Twenty-two were to come to Christmas in March but thirteen actually made it. Dee, Diane and Mary helped set up our decorations after church Sunday. It may have been March, but it felt like Christmas with the deco, carols in the background and Hooties in festive attire.

Thanks to Foy and Mile, plus others, our card supply is well stocked. Foy gave us a "heads up" that on July 13 first class stamps will go up to 78 cents. Stock up now. search Amazon for past season models at cheaper prices.

Sandy was a little sad that the opening funnies (from actual pastors) were not well received. But our ailing Woodster sent in a pun that drew instant laughter.

Sooo much food. The Columbarium Committee treated us to their luncheon leftovers also.

Colors chosen some time ago were revealed but not until descriptive questions had Sheri guess that it was a kazoo. Absentees were given theirs when seen again. A lesson on sound technique had blowers learning that humming is the key. Christmas carols were pulled from a bag. Each Hootie serenaded us while we threw out guesses which were mostly correct. The torch has been passed to another who is learning to follow directions. Teachers!

The Greedy Gift Grab was the quietest one we've ever had. Only seven gifts were traded and remained with the new owners.

The Fake's are hosting April's meeting in their home. Watch the newsletter, bulletins and five posters in the community Service Center for details. Buckle up for a long ride!



OWLS
Christmas
In
March



Members of the Kazoo Korale



Jacobson Hall

Have you ever heard the idiom "You're an angel?" Well, Good Shepherd's Hooties are.

The Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) decided that those

O ld W indow L ong S hades had to go.

(reference to window coverings on the sliding glass door in Jacobson Hall).

The Hootie's love offering purchased drapes, sheers and rods.

Gloria Miller, unbeknownst to our parliament, took the boxes of curtains home and pressed them.

Their uber driver, Diane Fake, transported them to the hall.

Patrick and Mary Norris cleaned the window and hung them. Pluuuuus took down the Christmas garland and replaced it with their cheery wedding vine.

Check it out! Those blackout drapes are very much appreciated on cold days for you about freeze your rear off sitting in that corner.

Sooo, if you see one of the Hooties thank them for renewing our Jacobson Hall.

T H A N K Y O U G O O D S H E P H E R D H O O T I E S ! ! ! !

THANK YOU GOOD SHEPHERD HOOTIES !!!!



Notes of Gratitude

Many Thanks!!

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

April 5th Art Mehl
April 12th Woody Wilk
April 18th Mary Norris
April 25th Jim & Ruth Thompson



Thank You



Thanks to All!

Thanks to all who provided midterm treats for our Roeding teachers and staff. Special thanks to Brenda H. for helping set up and for doing the shopping!

Thank You!

Thank you to Cate and Shauna for getting the palms ready for Palm Sunday.

THANKS
from the
HEART

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

Thanks!

Thanks, Mary and Nels, for making the sanctuary sparkle for Easter!



APRIL 2026

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30PM Worship Committee (Pr. Ted's Office) 	2	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr) 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8-1PM LHN Free Neighborhood Market
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10AM Worship Service 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6AM—12PM Lois Ceja Celebration of Life Service 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) 	8	9	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-12PM Roeding Saturday Sports, Roeding Elementary
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10AM Worship Service 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00PM Esther Circle (Comm Ctr) 	15	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6PM Council Meeting, Jacobson Hall 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr) 	18
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10AM Worship Service 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light 4PM GSLC Book Club, Comm Ctr 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM OWLS (Jacobson Hall) 	22	23	24	25
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10AM Worship Service 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light 	27	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10AM Staff Meeting (Pr. Ted's Office) 	30		
	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6PM - 10PM Voices United (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

Congregation President : Jill Anderson

Music Minister/Organist: Susan Berg

Youth & Family Pastor: Julie Werfelmann

Church Office Secretary: Kathy Edison

Worship Service 10:00 am

Office Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm

Phone: (559) 225-2092

Church office e-mail: gslcfresno@att.net

Pastor Ted's office e-mail:

PastorTedGSLC@gmail.com

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