

The Shepherd's Voice

February 2026

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



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PastorT-
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Gslcfresno
gslc_fresno
**You are welcome
to join us at
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church**

Dear Friends,

February 18 is Ash Wednesday. It is the beginning of the church season of Lent. We will be having worship at 7:00 that evening. You will be able to receive your ashes as a sign of your mortality. We begin Lent being reminded we will all die one day. Lent ends with Holy Week into Easter which reminds us that even though our bodies will one day die; through Jesus our souls go on into eternity.

One of the disciplines that some people have found meaningful during Lent is to meet with us for a Bible study on Wednesdays. I will be leading this at 7:00 pm each Wednesday of Lent after Ash Wednesday. We are also going to try to meet at noon if there are people who would find that time preferable.

We have had several requests for an Adult Confirmation. So this Lent I will be taking us through the Small Catechism with the Bible. Each week we will be talking about one of the five sections of the Small Catechism: Holy Communion, Holy Baptism, The Apostles' Creed, The Ten Commandments and The Lord's Prayer. It will be a good introduction for those unfamiliar with what Luther had to teach us about some of the foundations of our faith. It will also be a good opportunity to grow in your faith if it's not new to you.

I urge you to consider doing something to make this Lent a time of spiritual growth for you. Easter will be much more meaningful if you do. It only takes 40 days so it's not a forever commitment. But it may lead you into a greater appreciation for how much God promises to love you forever! I look forward to worshipping and growing with you.

God's Peace,

Pastor Ted

Prayer Concerns

Members Needing Prayer:

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)
Dee's friend, Barbara's family as they grieve over her death this past Wednesday
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)
Rosemary (Vonny)



Kurt Niemi – 2/04
Shauna Espinoza 2/5
Suzanne Walker – 2/07
Sean Walker – 2/08
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



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 Illness, Natural Disasters and War.
For Prayer Requests Call or email the Church Office 225-2092/gslcfresno@att.net

STEWARDSHIP OF	Jan. 4, 2025	Jan. 11, 2025	Jan. 18, 2025	Jan. 25, 2025	Jan. 31, 2025
Attendance		51	49	60	
General Fund	\$3,680.00	\$5,275.00	\$2,205.00	\$2,836.00	\$200.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)					
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)					
Community Center Capital Fund Loose Plate	Comm. Ctr: Loose Plate:	Community Ctr:\$ Loose Plate: \$ 5.00	Community Ctr: \$ Loose Plate:	Community Ctr: Loose Plate:\$155.00	
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	HVAC: \$150.00 Inl. Offering: \$10.00	HVAC: \$200.00	HVAC: \$1,000.00	OWLS: \$83.00	
House Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.		Property Use: \$300.00			House Rent: \$3,880.00
	\$3,840.00	\$5,780.00	\$3,205.00	\$21,836.37	\$4,080.00

January Financials

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

Greetings Good Shepherd Church family and Friends,

We had many expenses in January associated with the first of the year such as re-newing our Domain Listing and QuickBooks. We also had the expense of the bath-room remediation even though we received a generous donation to cover that cost.

Our funds are slim right now and we need to be very careful about expending money. It can truly be a balancing act. With that being said, we are meeting expenses and making payroll.

The balance in our HVAC account is now at \$61,605.81.

Thank you all for your generosity and commitment to our Church and ministries. We continue to be blessed.

My best to each of you,

Dana Biggs
Treasurer

Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$19,979.00	\$33,559.75	(\$13,580.75)
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
Total	\$19,979.00	\$33,559.75	(\$13,580.75)

four
WAYS to
GIVE

Mail-In

| 5140 N. Fruit Ave., 93711 |

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 and Mark your calendar for these Upcoming events!



Coffee Hour

We need people to sign up to be host/hostess for the months of Feb./Mar. If you are able to host/hostess for a Sunday, please sign up in Ja-

FEBRUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 4** - Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:30PM, Pr. Ted's Office
- Feb. 7** - LHN Free Neighborhood Market, GSLC Host
- Feb. 9** - Esther Circle @ 6PM, Comm Ctr
- Feb. 14** - Roeding Saturday Sports @ 10-12PM, Roeding Elementary
- Feb. 15** - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM, Comm Ctr
- Feb. 16** - Presidents' Day **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Feb. 16** - OWLS @ 12pm, Comm Ctr
- Feb. 17** - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party @ 6pm, Comm Ctr
- Feb. 18** - Ash Wednesday @ 6:15 (Soup), Worship @ 7pm, Comm Ctr
- Feb. 19** - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Comm Ctr
- Feb. 25** - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr. Ted's Office

GSLC BOOK CLUB

February's book is *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate



When Lola Anne Poole, an old-timer on Hatteras Island, passes away in her bed at ninety-one, the struggling young mother in her rental cottage, Tandi Jo Reese, finds herself charged with the task of cleaning out Lola's rambling Victorian house.

Running from a messy, dangerous past, Tandi never expects to find more than a temporary hiding place within Lola's walls, but everything changes with the discovery of eighty-one carefully decorated prayer boxes, one for each year, spanning from Lola's youth to her last days. Hidden in the boxes is the story of a lifetime, written on random bits of paper—the hopes and wishes, fears and thoughts of an unassuming but complex woman passing through the seasons of an extraordinary, unsung life filled with journeys of faith, observations on love, and one final lesson that could change everything for Tandi.

Our other books for the rest of our book club year will be:

- March 15 - *The Martian* by Andy Weir
- April 19 - *Eleanore of Avignon* by Elizabeth DeLozier
- May 17 - *The Missing Half* by Ashley Flowers

Urgently Needed: Volunteer—Instagram Posts

The church is needing someone to step up and begin doing the Instagram post for the upcoming events and activities.



OWLS Feb. 16th @ 12PM

February 16, NOON in the Community Service Center.

Feel the love & warmth with Mary Norris' Homemade Split Pea (vegetarian/meat) Soup for Valentines Day.

Hooties are invited to bring:

- * A LABELLED salad or dessert dish to share
- * An ENTIRE table setting
- * A soup bowl
- * A short version of how you met your spouse



LHN Free Neighborhood Market 2/7 @

GSLC, 9—11AM

We are hosting the next FREE Neighborhood Market on February 7th from 9-11. We will need lots of volunteers to help get people signed in, food sorted and packed, and cars loaded. Please be sure to wear closed toed shoes! Volunteers will be needed from 7:30 am—12 pm because there is also prep/set up and clean up. You do not have to commit to the whole time period, but we do need lots of help to get this good food into the hands & tummies that need it most! Please sign up on the clipboard with hours available so I have an idea of volunteer numbers. Also please share this information with all. Volunteers are invited to go through the line to get food while recipients are invited to volunteer!

Thank you for your support of this important 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



Shrove Tuesday, February 17, 6—7:30 pm in Jacobson Hall



Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday, will soon be here, and we are planning our usual celebration of silliness to end the Epiphany season and use up all the “fat” prior to the start of Lent. Janet's bringing a ham and her famous cheesy potatoes, and there will be lots of pancakes and amazing toppings. This is a fun event for ALL AGES! A few pictures are attached from past years for your enjoyment!

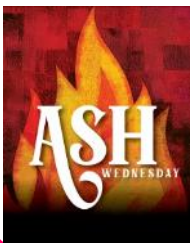


Be sure to wear your Fat Tuesday colors - green, gold, and purple - as well as a mask if you have one, and you are also invited to dress as silly as you like. It's always so good to eat together and enjoy the traditional pancake races & a pancake flipping contest, whether as a participant or a spectator. There will be beads and a King Cake, and much more. (Tom found the baby Jesus last year so will be bringing this year's cake. Thanks Tom!) Come find out more about this meaningful and interesting tradition.

If you'd like to volunteer help me flip pancakes, please let me know. Thank you!

Shalom, Julie

Ash Wednesday is 2/18 @ 6:15 pm, Worship @ 7 pm



Please see Julie if you would like to make the soup for the congregation. It can be made at home & brought in, or you can use the kitchen. Thank you! Lenten Wednesdays Begin 2/25

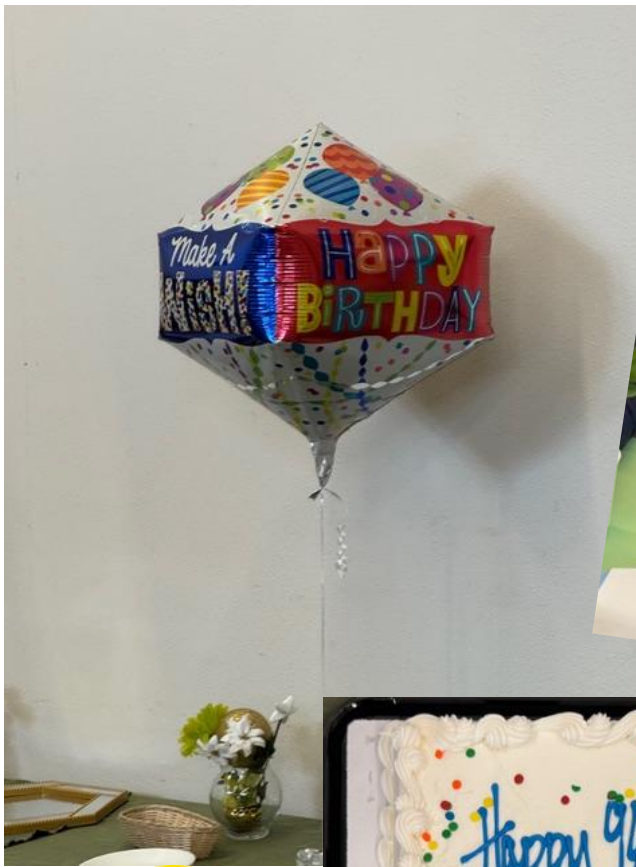
Lenten Devotional 2026

The Lenten Devotional for 2026, “Love Outpoured” is now available and can be found on the Usher's table. Grab one on your way in or out but just don't forget to pick up your copy for your household. Bring yourself closer to Jesus during this Lenten season with these quick but insightful daily devotions.



Stay tuned for news about the Raffle being held soon by the Memorial Garden Committee! Our grand Prize is this beautiful quilt exquisitely handcrafted by Pam Gerster. Other prizes include Dinner for two and a show at Roger Rocka's, 2 tickets to the 2nd Space Theatre, Dinner at the Manhattan, décor for your home and garden and MORE!







195 Years of AWESOME!







Family Night @ the Zoo

One evening in January, a number of our Good Shepherd family made a trip to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo to see the Illuminature lights exhibit. It was a magical time of wonder, friendship, and fun. I'm not sure who enjoyed it the most - the kids or the adults!! It was chilly, but we bundled up and spent a couple of hours strolling through, taking lots of photos and experiencing the joy of friendship and family. Many thanks to Cate, Mary, and Sheri for all the fabulous pictures 🤍





Notes of Gratitude

Many Thanks!!

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

February 1st Jim and Ruth Thompson

February 8th Art Mehl

February 15th Dee Wright & Diane Fake

February 22nd Art Mehl



 Valentine's Day
PRAYER

THINKING of you
on **Valentine's Day**

With **LOVE** and **A**
SPECIAL PRAYER

That the **LORD** will
BLESS you **ALWAYS**
And **KEEP** you in
HIS CARE.

♥ **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY** ♥

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 • 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	2	3 • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	4 • 4:30PM Worship Committee (Pr. Ted's Office)	5	6 • 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr)	7 • 8-1PM LHN Free Neighborhood Market
8 • 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	9 • 6:00PM Esther Circle (Comm Ctr)	10 • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	11	12	13	14 • 10-12PM Roeding Saturday Sports, Roeding Elementary
15 • 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light • 4PM GSLC Book Club	16 • 12:00PM OWLS (Jacobson Hall)	17 • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) • 6—7:30PM Shrove Tuesday, Jacobson Hall	18 • 6:15PM Soup Supper • 7PM Ash Wednesday Service, Comm Ctr	19 • 6PM Council Meeting, Jacobson Hall	20 • 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr)	21 • 4PM Spaghetti Fest, Jacobson Hall
22 • 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	23	24 • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	25 • 10AM Staff Meeting (Pr. Ted's Office) • 6:15PM Soup Supper • 7PM Lenten Worship	26	27	28

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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 : Mary Norris

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

Church Web Site: www.fresnogslc.org

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

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

