

The Shepherd's Voice

January 2025

**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



Gslcfresno



gslc_fresno

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first month of 2025! 2024 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?" 2024 was a strong year of serving our community. You can see some of that reflected in our newsletter and our Annual Report.

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: Janet McQuillan

Treasurer: Dana Biggs

Financial Secretary: Dana Klein

Christian Education: Julie Werfelmann

Worship: Cheryl Montgomery

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 Needing Prayer:

Jack Niemi Has entered the church triumphant. Please pray for Ruth, Pr. Ted and Family on their loss.

Jim Provost Has entered the church triumphant please pray for Kay and family on their loss. Mary Schmidt Has entered the church triumphant please pray for family and friends on their loss.

Roger Bachar has entered the church triumphant. Please keep Cecile and the Klein family in your prayers for comfort during this difficult time.

Judy Smith and family upon the loss of all three of her daughters:

Kathie Smith, Vickie Farr and

Melanie Kelton

Mona White

Kay Schumacher

Betty Montgomery

Neil and Verna Walden

Liz Smith

Bill Biggs

Mary Norris & Family

Connie Alvarado

Jocelyn Miller

Kirsten Linder

Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Carter and Family (McQuillan)

Kathy (Secretary) and Family

Elaine (Werfelmann)

Linda Healy (White)

Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)

Barbara Shakespeare

Kristin & Penelope Almeda

(McQuillan)

Please pray for the family and friends of Jeanne Grant on her passing. (Anderson)

Phoebe (Neer)

Phil (Anderson)

Gary Assmussen (Deuker)

Irene Goldman (Dueker)

Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)

Betty (Anderson)

Tonya (White)

Shanese (White)

Dirk Rathwick (Norris)

Zyg Zee (Norris)

Claire (Vonny)

Janet Sharp (Fake)

Anthony Collichio (Norris)

Mickey Cecil (Norris)

Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)

Monica & Kyle Sedra

(Werfelmann)

Jacob, Abbe & Family

(Werfelmann)

Melissa (Sandy T.)

Joy Kensinger (Miller)

Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)

Jim D. (Norris)

Jade Dixon (Julie)

Pam (Smith)

Grace Johnson (Fake)

Hudson Otten (Anderson)

Karen Ohanesian (Hays)

Rosemary (Vonny)

Nathan & Sandy Robbins

(Robbins)



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



Woody Wilk – 1/01

Lori DeGiovanni – 1/05

Autumn Hays – 1/10

Pam Gerster – 1/16



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jim Sanborn &

Stacy Lairson - 1/18

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	Dec. 8, 2025	Dec. 15, 2025	Dec. 22, 2025	Dec. 29, 2025
Attendance				
General Fund	\$7,720.00	\$10,643.00	\$4,185.00	\$11,555.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)				
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)	ELCA Disaster Relief: \$80.00			
Community Center Capital Fund	Loose Plate: \$	Loose Plate:	Loose Plate: \$3.00	Loose Plate: \$20.00
Loose Plate				
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	Special Gifts: \$384.00 Property Improv: \$120.00 Altar Flowers: \$120.00 Food Pantry: \$40.00 Int. Offering: 8.00	Altar Flowers: \$140.00 Int. Offering: \$8.00	Altar Flowers: \$180.00	Int. Offering: \$150.00 OWLS: \$128.00 Roeding: \$93.98
BIA Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.	Property Use: \$150.00		Property Use: \$650.00	
	\$8,622.00	\$10,791.00	\$5,018.00	\$11,946.98

December Financials

YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!

Warmest greetings to Good Shepherd members:

December Deposits: \$38,130.08

December Expenses: \$35,367.10

In December we had two Church House rent checks come in as well as generous donations from our members. Many, many thanks to all.

The checks we wrote to Woodside HOA and the Memorial Gardens to pay off the HOA and reimburse the Memorial Gardens for fence funds, were cashed at the very beginning of December. As funds become available we will make more payments to the Memorial Gardens throughout the coming months and complete our repayment.

Our expenses included our standard December bills and payroll. There were several expenses to get the Church house in shape for Kathy and her family. The piping for the washer and dryer were not working at all and were not up to code. They had to be completely replaced along with the lines to a toilet. In addition to overseeing the repairs, Mary has worked tirelessly to make privacy curtains, and install rods. She has deep cleaned the Church House to make it habitable for Kathy after BIA left.

Mary, your singular efforts have not gone unnoticed. We know you do it all for Kathy and the Church, but please know we absolutely appreciate you and all your hard work and dedication.

I am always available to the congregation for questions. Do not hesitate to ask if anything comes to mind.

Have a fabulous January and start to the new year.

My very best to each of you.

Dana Biggs
Treasurer

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. |



Be a Faithful
Steward

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 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. 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. 8—Feb. 26 - Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30PM, Comm Ctr

Jan. 19 - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM, Comm Ctr

Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day **OFFICE CLOSED**

Jan. 20 - OWLS @ 12PM, Jacobson Hall

Jan. 23 - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall

Jan. 29 - KingsMen and KingsKids' @ 6:30PM, Jacobson Hall



LHN Free Neighborhood Market 2/1/25 @ GSLC, 9—11a.m.



We are hosting the next FREE Neighborhood Market on February 1st 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.



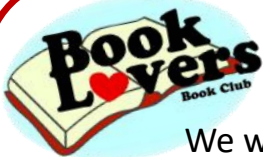
Urgently Needed: Volunteer—Instagram Posts

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

Hooties January Gathering @ 12PM

Mary Norris will be hosting OWLS in Jacobson Hall on January 20 at NOON.

Please bring a dish to share and your ENTIRE table setting.



GSLC BOOK CLUB

There is no meeting in December.

We will resume in January with *The Other Einstein*, by Marie Benedict

Join us for a lively discussion on Sunday, January 19th, at 4:00 in the Community Center.

February: "Let the Great World Spin" by Colum McCann

March: "The Girls of Atomic City" by Denise Kiernan

April: "The Hours" by Michael Cunningham

May: "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett

You are welcome to be with us any month a book strikes your fancy!!

No long term commitment.



KingsMen and KingsKids' Returns 1/29 @ 6:30pm



The first KingsMen and KingsKids will be held on Wednesday January 29th at 6:30 pm inside Jacobson Hall. If you can, please bring a dish to share as the meal will be a pot luck.

Thank you, happy new year! William Hayes



Memorial Garden Donates \$500 to LA



Your Memorial Garden Committee has donated \$500 to help those who have been affected by the fires in LA County and surrounding areas. You can donate to the LA area fire victims through many different organizations. The Memorial Garden Committee chose to donate through the Lutheran Disaster Response focusing on immediate relief efforts.





GSLE Wednesday Evening Bible Study 2025

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY in 2025

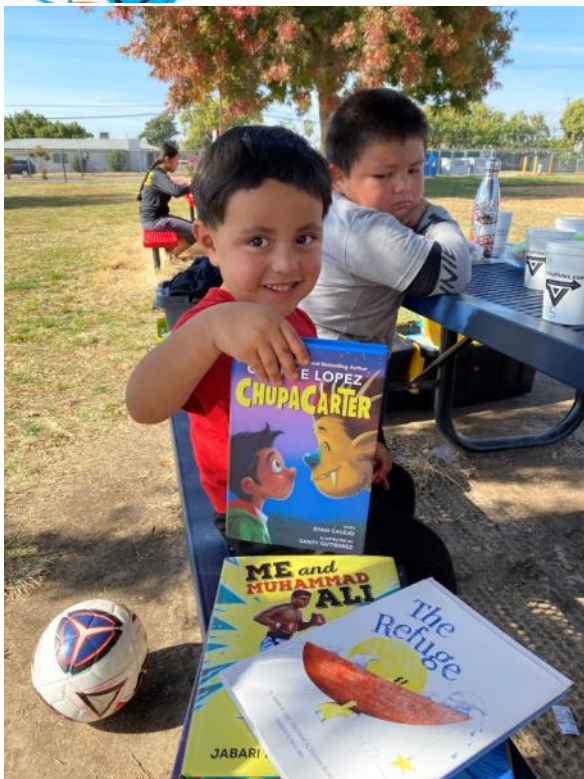
JANUARY: Luke will be walking us alongside Jesus in his First-Century world. This will be especially good, as for the 2025 Lectionary year, we will be in Cycle C - Luke's gospel. This study, "**Luke in the Land**," is written by Kristi McLelland. It will take us right up to Ash Wednesday, when we will take a hiatus during Lent.

AFTER EASTER: Following Easter, we will be using another of Kristi McLelland's books, "**The Gospel on the Ground** - the Grit and Glory of the Early Church in Acts." I am so excited to continue with Dr. Luke, as we look at the early church.

What's Happening at Saturday Sports & Crafts?



We have something fun and new that we're doing this school year. Since we are currently going out to Roeding Elementary just one Saturday each month, we are able to provide a "door prize" drawing each Saturday we meet. In October the prize was a beautiful backpack donated by our friends at Westside Rescue. In November the prize was a number of hardcover books donated by Thrivent Financial.



We are so happy to get to provide these cool prizes to our kids and so thankful for the other organizations we work alongside! If you have any ideas for items we can use as prizes for our drawings or something you'd like to donate, please contact me. If you haven't yet come out for a little fun with some of the kids in our community, our next days onsite will be December 14 and January 11. Hope to see you there!

Shalom. Peace. Paz.
Julie Werfelmann

25th Roatan Honduras home built this year with BULA!



BEFORE



AFTER



We had a wonderful dedication yesterday afternoon! Nolvía was so surprised when the new mattresses, stove, and kitchen supplies arrived at her new home, prior to the dedication. What a delight to not only build her a secure home, but also be able to make it more "homey". We were also able to provide the water tank and a table for the deck. She told Lilian it was going to be her best Christmas ever =)

John counted 52 people (at least 30 of them were children who "helped" on the build this week) at the dedication, and it was quite a celebration. It never ceases to amaze me the joy they have at someone else being able to receive a home. They are gracious and kind, and many of them worked hard on the build or on providing food for the crew.

The family was thrilled to receive Spanish Bibles - one for Nolvía and her mom with their family name imprinted on the front, and one for the children with pictures included (thank you Veiss family). We also gave Sirey (6) a new baby doll and Axel (4) a toy car. They don't traditionally give gifts at Christmas as they don't have money for extras, so this was an extra treat.

Little Axel told his mom after the dedication that he was so happy for her, that she could be happy now and not worry about being safe or having a home for them. Incredible what small children can pick up on, and he was relieved for her. I included some before and after photos below, so you can understand why this will make such a difference in their lives. Thank you to those of you who prayed for our team, and those of you gave generously so this family could have a secure home. What a difference you have made! We are so grateful for your partnership in this ministry.

In His Grip,
Rudy



Happy happy birthdayyyyy Mr. John!!!
May God bless you and give you many more years of life. We thank God for your life and your servant heart!
🙏❤️
You're a blessing to so many!



2024 Ladies Tea











Operation Christmas Child





Christmas Elves Prepare Gloves for Roeding Elementary

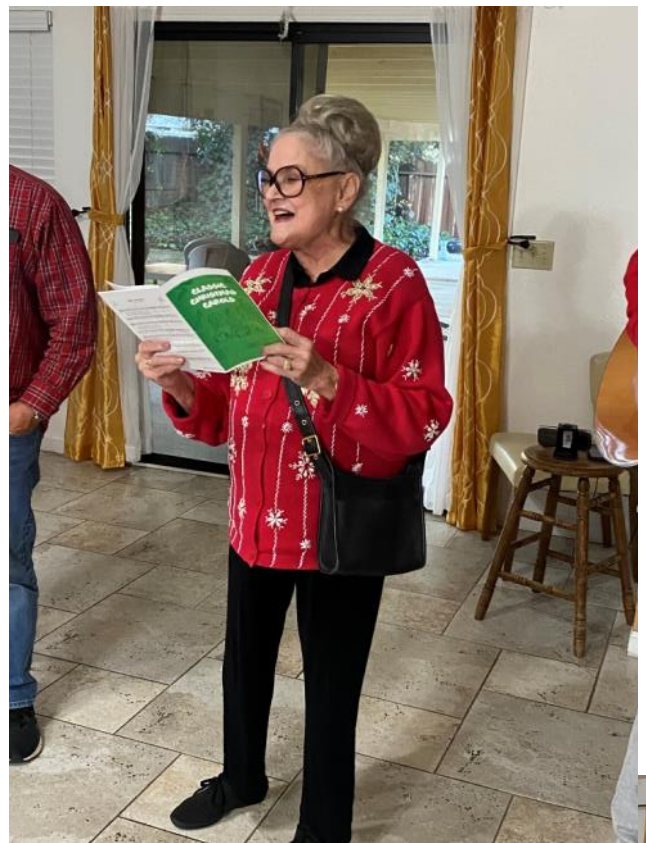


2024 Crop Walk

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Christmas Caroling





OWLS' Annual Christmas Party

The Annual OWLS' Christmas Party enticed fourteen Hooties with gifts, dishes and huge smiles. An oral/unison test was given after they roamed throughout the house to note the themes of 11 Christmas trees. It is a well-known fact that their leader has OCD (Obsessive Christmas Disorder). Someone must have sent out an email for five different cheese/noodle dishes were shared. Attendees did not watch their calorie counts because conversations were quiet, and plates did not need scraping.

We were educated to the following:

- 1) "Let There Be Peace on Earth" for grace should have been done A cappella.
- 2) Baby Jesus needed more gifts, specifically toys, according to a little girl.
- 3) A young boy advised that Joseph and Mary should have "booked" their rooms.
- 4) The bad seeded boy's letter to Jesus threatened he had better get that bike for Christmas or he would never see his mother (a Virgin Mary statue) again.

SWLS



STWS



SWLS



Notes of Gratitude

Thank You!

Thank you, Reynaldo, for fixing the out-of-order toilet in the women's restroom!!!



Thank you to the ladies of Esther Circle

For preparing the M&M's for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship! Special thanks to Sharon & Janet for gathering the supplies ♥

From the day of the Roeding Christmas Project delivery -

Thank you so much for the gloves!

The kids are wearing them out at recess, keeping their hands warm!!

- Peggy, our Roeding teacher liaison



Thank You

To all of our Christmas carolers for spreading the love and joy of the season through song! Special thanks to Pastor Ted for playing his guitar, too.

Many Thanks

To all of our skit participants on the last Sunday of Advent - Marty, Steven, Mary, Steve, and Julie.



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.

God Bless!! Kathy

JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ● 4:30PM Worship Committee (Pr. Ted's Office)	2 ● 6PM - 10PM Men's Choir (Comm Ctr)	3	4
5 ● 10AM Worship Service ● 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) ● 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	6	7 ● 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	8 ● 6:30PM - 7:30PM Wednesday Evening Bible Study (Comm Ctr)	9 ● 6PM - 10PM Men's Choir (Comm Ctr)	10	11
12 ● 10AM Worship Service ● 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) ● 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	13 ● 6:00PM Esther Circle (Comm Ctr)	14 ● 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	15 ● 6:30PM - 7:30PM Wednesday Evening Bible Study (Comm Ctr)	16 ● 6PM - 10PM Men's Choir (Comm Ctr)	17	18
19 ● 10AM Worship Service ● 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) ● 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light ● 4PM GSLC Book Club	20 ● 12:00PM OWLS (Jacobson Hall)	21 ● 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	22 ● 6:30PM - 7:30PM Wednesday Evening Bible Study (Comm Ctr)	23 ● 6PM - 10PM Men's Choir (Comm Ctr)	24 ● 8-1PM LHN Free Neighborhood Market (Bulldog Pantry)	25
26 ● 10AM Worship Service ● 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) ● 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	27	28 ● 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	29 ● 10AM Staff Meeting (Pr. Ted's Office) ● 6:30PM - 7:30PM Wednesday Evening Bible Study (Comm Ctr)	30 ● 6PM - 10PM Men's Choir (Comm Ctr)	31	

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

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