The Shepherd's Voice September 2025

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,

For many of us September is a time to return to a closer sense of normalcy. To be sure, not much is normal these days, but schedules tend to return to their normal schedule after a summer schedule and mentality. That is true here at church too.

I will be leading a group of **people who are interested in membership here at Good Shepherd**. If you are someone, or know of someone, who would like to join our church please let me know. I will be meeting with people in a group and as individual families. I have learned to have different days available since not everyone's schedules align. I will be meeting with people during September and October, if needed.

It is a wonderful time to get to know our newer people for me personally. I hope you take time after church to welcome everyone who is new to you. It is so important that we are a congregation that is ready to welcome whoever it is that comes through our doors.

So this month we return to "normal schedules." We have our "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service followed by Rally Day Sunday. I look forward to celebrate our growing community with you! See you at worship.

God's Peace,

Pastor Ted

Prayer Concerns

Members Needing Prayer:

Jo Anderson
Robert Harris
Mona White
Julie Werfelmann
Rev. Dr. Arlynne
Turnquist
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 Friend:

Linda Healy (White) Cousin Gary (Sandy T.) Karilee (Neer)

Pauline Ritterbush

Julie Schnieder (Bender)

Jade Dixon (Julie)

Kathy (Secretary) and

Family

Elaine (Werfelmann)

Linda Healy (White)

Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)

Phoebe (Neer)

Phil (Anderson)

Gary Assmussen (Deuker)

Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)

Tonya (White)

Shanese (White)

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)

Nathan & Sandy Robbins

(Robbins)



Lois Green – 9/01
Susan Gutierrez – 9/02
Brian Sturgeon – 9/05
Kay Schumacher – 9/12
Brenda Hofmann – 9/14
Ava Villalobos – 9/15
Ivan Villalobos – 9/18
Jill Anderson – 9/19
Linda Roberts – 9/19
John Montgomery – 9/20
Mark Sanchez – 9/21
Jimmy Sanborn – 9/26
Craig Montgomery – 9/27

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



Judith Smith – 9/01
Austin Hays – 9/03
Cheryl Montgomery – 9/15
Janet McQuillan – 9/22



If anyone has an anniversary this month, we do not have the info. Please email it to Kathy.



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	Aug. 3, 2025	Aug, 10, 2025	Aug. 17, 2025	Aug. 24, 2025	Aug. 31, 2025
Attendance					
General Fund	\$1,648.71	\$7,552.71	\$3,030.00	\$910.00	\$1,331.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)	0		4		
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)			116		
Community Center Capital Fund Loose Plate	Comm. Ctr: Loose Plate: \$	Community Ctr:	Community Ctr: \$	Community Ctr: Loose Plate:\$	Community Ctr: Loose Plate:\$
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	Special Gifts: 343.90	Special Gifts: 5135.00	Special Gifts: 25.00	Special Gifts:100.00	Special Gifts:292.50
House Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.					House Rent:3,880.00
	\$1,992.61	\$7,687.71	\$3,055.00	\$1,010.00	\$5,503.50

August Financials



Difference

(\$11,526.86)

(\$1,431.75) \$21,237.78 \$21,577.36 \$3,745.54 \$1,246.20 \$19,369.01 (\$15,198.99)

> \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00

\$39,018.29

Greetings Members and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

As you can see from the chart, our operating funds are less from August going into September. Although donations were less, we appreciate everyone's contributions.

Our HVAC savings account balance as of the end of August is \$55,357.21.

Month

Jan.

My very best to each of you,

Dana Biggs

Treasurer

Feb	\$19,059.07	\$20,490.82
Mar	\$38,406.00	\$17,168.22
Apr	\$59,735.10	\$38,157.74
May	\$31,266.09	\$27,520.55
Jun	\$32,525.20	\$31,279.00
Jul	\$48,359.18	\$28,990.17
Aug	\$19,429.40	\$34,628.39
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		
Total	\$274,153.60	\$235,135.31

Income

\$25,373.56

Expenses

\$36,900.42



|5140 N. Fruit Ave., 93711|

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Use your mobile device to scan this QR code and give via Venmo. l







Coffee Hour

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

SEPTEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 3 Worship Committee @ 4:30PM, Pt. Ted's Office

Sept. 6 - God's Work, Our Hands Work Day @ 8AM—1PM, Jacobson Hall

Sept. 6 - LHN Free Neighborhood Market 9AM-12PM, GSLC Host

Sept. 7 - Rally Day Service @ 10AM, Jacobson Hall

Sept. 7 - Rally Day Celebration @ 11:15AM, Jacobson Hall

Sept. 8 - Esther Circle @ 6:30PM, Conf Rm

Sept. 10 - Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30PM, Comm Ctr

Sept. 15 - OWLS @ 1pm, The Fake's Home

Sept. 16 - Tom & Linda Rogers Potluck @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall

Sept. 18 - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Conf Rm

Sept. 21 - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM, Comm Ctr

Sept. 24 - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr. Ted's Office

Sept. 24 - KingsMen/KingKids @ 6:30PM, Jacobson Hall

Rally Sunday, Sept. 7 @ 10am

Please join us for worship, food, and fun as we celebrate the end of summer with Rally Day. This year we will be serving barbeque after our 10a.m. Rally Day Worship, and the congregation is invited to bring salads and sides to share. We will have our traditional ice cream sundaes for dessert. Help raise funds to replace our HVAC unit with purchases from the bake sale, book sale, and craft sale!

*Lunch and Refreshments

*Ice Cream Sundaes

*Bounce House/Waterslide (for the kids)

*Craft/Book/Bake Sale

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.



God's Work. Our Hands.—Saturday 9/6



Our congregation will be participating again this year in the ELCA's nationwide service project on Saturday, September 6th. Lutheran congregations throughout the U.S. will be serving our communities on this particular weekend in all kinds of different ways, and Good Shepherd is no exception.

The Lutheran Hunger Network will take place here that morning, and we will also be putting together "Blessing Bags" that afternoon for our Westside Rescue friends to distribute to their human clients. We are also baking, cooking, and/or shopping for our Roeding Elementary staff so we can provide them with a welcome back spread on the 8th. Please bring your items to the kitchen on Rally Sunday labeled "Roeding."

If you have any ideas for other group projects, please see Janet Mc or me. You are also more than welcome to come up with an individual project or a neighborhood project on your own. Start making your plans now as to how you'd like to participate, be sure to wear your yellow GWOH t-shirt, and take some pictures!

We hope to see everyone involved in some way. Thank You! Shalom, Julie, 559-287-3457 or 13jdixon13@gmail.com

Food Pantry Needs Restocking

We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables, canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9 - 1PM.



Crafting Fair on Rally Day: HVAC Fund!



Shout out to all crafters. There will be a craft fair at Good Shepherd on Rally Day Sept 7. Show off your crafts by donating them to the craft fair. All proceeds will go to the HVAC fund. Contact Pam Gerster for details and donations. 559-999-5443. Remember bakers are crafters too!

KingsMen/KingsKids' Wednesday 9/24



The next KingsMen and KingsKids meeting will be on Sept. 24, 6:30 pm. Thanks.



GSLC BOOK GROUP

Our book for SEPTEMBER: "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride

EHEAVEN S EARTH GROCERY STORE JAMES

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked togeth-McBRIDE er to keep the boy safe.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.

Join us for very casual but meaningful discussion Sunday, September 21, 4:00 in the **Community Center.**

RALLY DAY! EVERYONE (BE SURE TO PICK UP A 2025-2026 BOOK CLUB BOOK MARK

LHN Free Neighborhood Market 9/6 @ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 9—12PM

unger There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Network Neighborhood Market on Saturday, 9/6, from 9-11 a.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran, 5140 N. Fruit Ave. 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. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.

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 Sept. 6th, 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 min-

CENTRAL

istry 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 CALIFORNIA call, text, or email me with any questions.

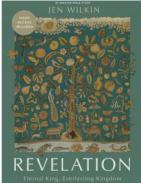
OOD BANK Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann 13jdixon13@gmail.com; 559-287-3457

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Wednesday Bible Study—Fall 2025

Join us **September 10 at 6:30**, as we begin a new study year.

We will begin with "Revelation - Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom" by Jen Wilkin.



"No other book of the Bible feels as inaccessible and as intimidating to us as *Revelation*. It overflows with images and ideas that confound our modern ears. But if all Scripture is God breathed and profitable, we should assume Revelation is as accessible and helpful as any other book of the Bible. Two thousand years ago, John's Revelation was circulated and read aloud among seven churches in Asia Minor. Those who heard the letter understood it and drew encouragement from its message. The same can be true for us today. In this 10-session Bible study, Jen Wilkin helps you discover how the last book of the Bible speaks both a steadying word of assurance and a strong call to endure to the church in every age."

REVELATION? - AGAIN??? DIDN'T YOU JUST DO THAT??? YES, IT IS THAT GOOD.

I cannot tell you enough about how good this study is. This is a repeat of the study we did a year ago. It is presented in a way that "it all makes sense." It is not an easy study, but DO NOT let that discourage you. Revelation is not preached on much, and is rarely studied as a whole book. You will go through the whole book of Revelation, in 2-3 chapters a week. We are repeating this study because it is truly "mind-blowing" in its concepts. Come sit with your brother and sisters in Christ, as we dive in again.

Come join us **September 10** in the Community Center as we study again, with new eyes, all that God has for us in the final book of our Bibles. You really don't want to miss this!! Questions? Contact Sharon Andreasen Rowley or ask one of the Good Shepherd regular attendees of the Wednesday evening studies.

The book is available from all the usual places: Amazon, Christianbook.com, Lifeway. Or order it with your local Christian book seller. Those who have already done this study, you can buy a new book or use your old one.



OWLS Sept. 15th @ 12PM



Hooties! Run from the heat to Sandy's on Monday, September 15 at NOON. Find out how we all endured the summer. Bring your LABELLED table service and a dish to share. I'll even kick the AC down for ya:)

Property Person Needed

We are still in need of a property person. Please see Pastor Ted, Mary, or anyone on council to get more information or to volunteer.





Come, Make a Joyful Noise!

Lift your voice in praise as we begin the new church year. Vocal and instrumental solo gifts and ensembles are providing music for our worship services. Many thanks to our Good Shepherd Ensemble, which leads our congregation every Sunday in our worship services. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful music ministry, contact Susan Berg, (559) 362-0389.

Community Concert

The 17th Annual Keyboard Chamber Concert will be held on September 7, 2025, 3:00, at

First Congregational Church, Fresno. Come and enjoy an afternoon of wonderful presentations of talented, local musicians and the majestic sounds of the church's Casavant pipe organ, played masterfully by organist-in-residence, Scott Horton.



Save the date - 10/11 & 10/29



Save the date - 10/11 & 10/29 - Oktoberfest & Trunk or Treat!! Plan now to come out and support these safe and fun community events! Look for tickets to our outstanding event, Oktoberfest, to go on sale Save the last Sunday of August, the 31st.

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. To- Fresno gether, 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



Hello GSLC!

Our shoe drive is done, and the truck arrived on Friday 8/22 to pick up all the donations! (see photo)

Hugs to John Hays, Janet McQuillan and Jonathan, the truck driver, for helping with the loading!

We officially donated 27 bags of pairs of shoes!

Once the truck arrives back in Florida and the shoes are weighed, a check will be sent to Good Shepherd.

Thank you to everyone who donated, and a big thank you to Sandy Terstegen who donated over 61 pairs of shoes!

Amazing!! She will be receiving 2 complimentary tickets to Oktoberfest! Thank you, Sandy T. Have a fun week praising God, He is so good!

Your Stewardship Committee

27 bags of shoes headed overseas to support families in developing nations!

Thank you GSLC!



Oktoberfest Silent Auction

We are looking forward to having another successful All Church Oktoberfest this year. The Silent Auction was a big part of our event last year and we want to make it even bigger this year, but we can't do it without YOUR help! Please start thinking about what you would like to donate for our auction. We are looking for a variety of new or like-new items. We will start collecting your donations right after Rally Day! This year we have a simple form for you to include with each item you donate. It will help us tremendously in our preparation and set up before the event. You must have the form with your item when you turn it in to Sandy or Diane. The forms will be in a basket on the table in the entry hall. Thank you!

Donor's Name	

Name and Description

of Donated Item_____

Estimated Value \$



Vacation Bible School













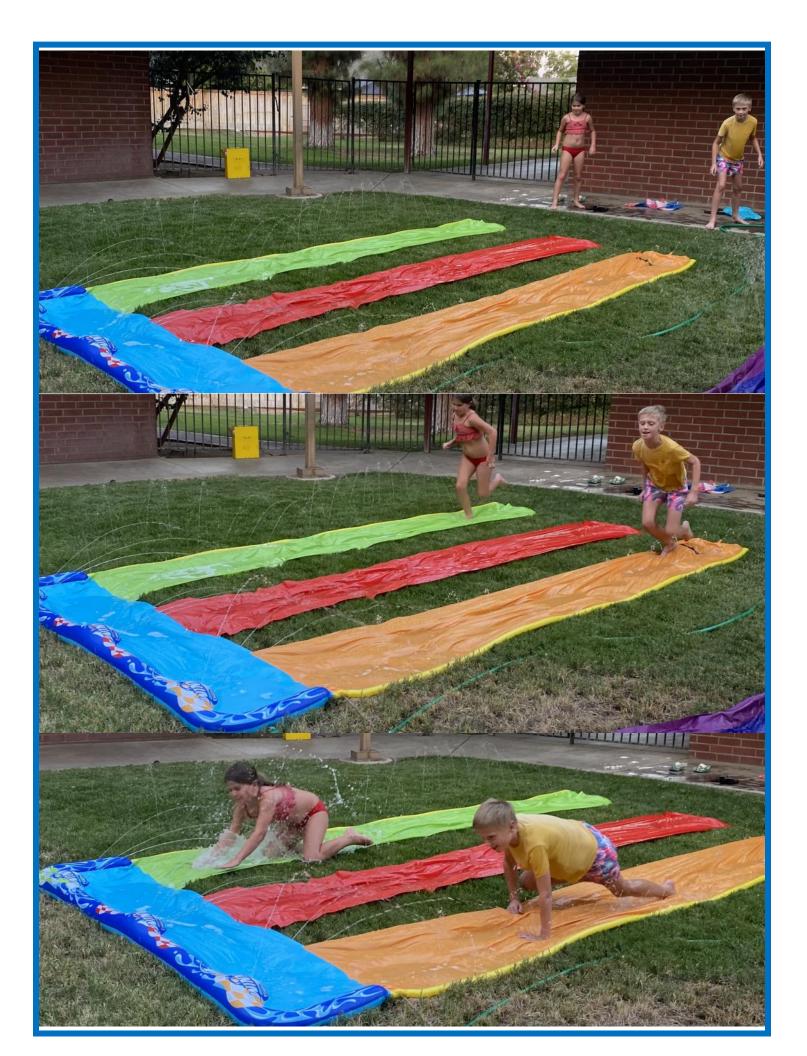


This year's At the Table VBS was a lot of fun and led us to many deep and meaningful conversations around our own tables in Jacobson Hall! As the introduction to this ELCA World Hunger program said, "Being a faithful disciple means we can learn from everyone's story." So we talked a lot about stories and shared many of our own. We were joined by "Sandy the Seagull," who brought her own unique perspective to the breaking of bread and sharing of stories. Naturally, we looked at lots of stories in the Bible and learned more about how Jesus used stories to teach us how to love one another more.

Many thanks to everyone who attended, to all who volunteered or helped in any way, and especially to the McQuillan and Smith families who showed up every night to feed us and make us feel welcome and cared for! I can hardly wait for next year!!

Shalom. Peace. Paz.







Many Thanks!!

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

August 31st Art Mehl September 7th Sharon Hart September 14th Pam Gerster September 21st Jim and Ruth Thompson September 28th Alan & Brenda Hofmann





SEPTEMBER 2025

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	ī.	Sat
	I	2	3	4	5	6 GW,ОН
					• 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr)	• 8-1PM LHN Free Neighborhood Mar- ket, GSLC Host • 1—3PM Westside Rescue Blessing Bags, Jacobson Hall
7 Rally Day	8	6	01	II	12	13
• 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Rally Day potluck (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	• 6:00PM Esther Circle (Comm Ctr)	• 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)				• 10-12PM Roeding Saturday Sports, Roeding Elemen- tary
14	15	91	17	18	19	20
• 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	• 12:00PM OWLS (Jacobson Hall)	• 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr) • 6PM Tom & Linda Rogers potluck, Ja- cobson Hall		• 6PM Council Meeting (Jacobson Hall)	• 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr)	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 10AM Worship Service 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light 4PM GSLC Book Club (Comm Ctr) 		• 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	 10AM Staff Meeting (Pr. Ted's Office) 6:30PM KingsMen/ KingsKids', Jacobson Hall 			• 4-10PM Westside Rescue Breakfast for Dinner, Jacob- son Hall
28	29	30				
• 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light		• 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)				

