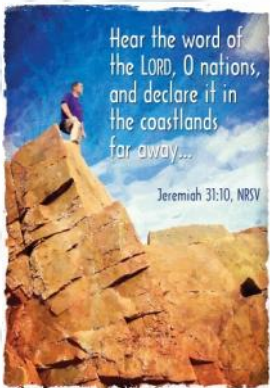


The Shepherd's Voice

January 2026

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



Address: 5140 N.
Fruit Ave, Fresno, CA.
93711

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**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first month of 2026! 2025 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?" 2025 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

Vice President: Jill Anderson

Secretary: Janet McQuillan

Treasurer: Dana Biggs

Christian Education: Julie Werfelmann

Stewardship: Dana Klein

Council Member At Large: Reynaldo Villalobos

Thanks for whatever you have done over the past year to support our shared ministry. It takes all of us coming together to make the Body of Christ.

I look forward to worshipping with you!

God's Peace,

Pastor Ted

Prayer Concerns

Members Needing Prayer:

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:
Christopher Robbins (Robbins)
Dan Taylor (Wilk)
Barbara (Wright)
Nancy (Neer)
Kevin (Hays)
The family of Dale Fair (Werfelmann)
Randy Williams (Dueker)
Nels (Harris)
Karen Tabler (Vonny)
George Pisching (Woody W.)
Julie Schneider (Vonny)
Kaitlyn (Lisa K.)
Coach (Sandy T.)
Karilee (Neer)
Pauline Ritterbush
Julie Schnieder (Bender)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Elaine (Werfelmann)
Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)
Phoebe (Neer)
Phil (Anderson)
Gary Assmussen (Dueker)
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)



Vonny Rae Sturgeon – 1/02
Ken Berg – 1/08
Jennifer Neer – 1/11
Neil Walden – 1/26
Rhannon 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

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Lori DeGiovanni – 1/05
Autumn Hays – 1/10
Pam Gerster – 1/16
Woody Wilk – 1/23

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 WORSHIP & OFFERINGS	Dec. 7, 2025	Dec. 14, 2025	Dec. 21, 2025	Dec. 28, 2025	Dec. 31, 2025
Attendance	40		54 Christmas Eve 37 Christmas Day 32	42	
General Fund	\$4,661.00	\$3,305.00	\$5,445.00	\$5,736.37	\$7,368.00
Special Memorial (designated funds)					
ELCA Disaster Response World Hunger/Malaria (designated funds)					
Community Center Capital Fund Loose Plate	Comm. Ctr: Loose Plate: \$14.00	Community Ctr:\$480.00 Loose Plate: \$	Community Ctr: \$ Loose Plate:	Community Ctr: Loose Plate:\$	
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	HVAC: \$570.00	HVAC: \$390.00 Altar Flowers: \$160.00 OWLS: \$25.00	HVAC: \$300.00 Altar Flowers: \$100.00	Special Gift HVAC: \$10,200.00 Thrivent: \$2,000.00 Altar Flowers: \$20.00	Property Imprv: \$3,520.00 Oktoberfest: \$1000.00 HVAC: \$688.00 Altar Flowers: \$20.00
House Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.		Property Use: \$50.00	Property Use: \$500.00	House Rent: \$3,880.00	
	\$5,245.00	\$3,930.00	\$6,345.00	\$21,836.37	\$12,596.00

December Financials

OUR GIVING
MATTERS!

Christmas and New Year greetings to Good Shepherd members and friends,

We have been able to repair our Jacobsen roof. The funds needed totaled \$14,000. The congregation voted to take the money out of our HVAC savings account. We have been blessed to have received an anonymous donation to replenish our HVAC account by \$10,000. Another anonymous donation of \$3,500 was received to pay for the bathroom remediation mold removal. Our current balance in our HVAC account is \$64,751.68. This includes the anonymous donations of \$10,000 and the unspent remediation amount for the bathroom of \$3,500.00.

Many, many thanks to all of you who continue to support our general fund by your generous donations. It is so important we maintain that, while continuing the effort to fund our HVAC needs.

Happy New Year blessings to all,

Dana Biggs

Treasurer

Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$25,373.56	\$36,900.42	(\$11,526.86)
Feb	\$19,059.07	\$20,490.82	(\$1,431.75)
Mar	\$38,406.00	\$17,168.22	\$21,237.78
Apr	\$59,735.10	\$38,157.74	\$21,577.36
May	\$31,266.09	\$27,520.55	\$3,745.54
Jun	\$32,525.20	\$31,279.00	\$1,246.20
Jul	\$48,359.18	\$28,990.17	\$19,369.01
Aug	\$19,429.40	\$34,628.39	(\$15,198.99)
Sep	\$22,809.66	\$29,042.21	(\$6,232.55)
Oct	\$22,198.13	\$27,935.55	(\$5,737.42)
Nov	\$27,455.33	\$24,086.91	\$3,368.42
Dec	\$49,627.37	\$56,106.63	(\$6,479.26)
Total	\$396,244.09	\$372,306.61	\$23,937.48

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 Jan./Feb. If you are able to host/hostess for a Sunday, please sign up in Jacobson Hall.



JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 1** - Happy New Years!
 - Jan. 3** - LHN Free Neighborhood Market,
 - Jan. 7** - Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:30PM, Pr. Ted's Office
 - Jan. 10** - Roeding Saturday Sports @ 10-12PM, Roeding Elementary
 - Jan. 12** - Esther Circle @ 6PM, Comm Ctr
 - Jan. 15** - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Jacobson Hall
 - Jan. 18** - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM, Comm Ctr
 - Jan 19** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day **OFFICE CLOSED**
 - Jan. 19** - OWLS @ 12pm, Pam Gerster's Home
 - Jan. 28** - Staff Meeting @ 10AM, Pr. Ted's Office
 - Jan. 28** - KingsMen/KingsKids @ 6:30PM, Jacobson Hall
- 

GSLC BOOK CLUB

We will begin meeting again in January - Sunday, January 18, 4:00. That book will be *Night Watch* by Jayne Anne Phillips.

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

February 15 - *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate

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 Jan. 19th @ 12PM

Come to a Quilting Bee. No quilting required! Learn some quilt history. Bring your family quilt and tell us its story.

Jan. 19th, NOON at Pam Gerster's homestead.

Gerster chili is to be on the menu. Bring a LABELLED side dish, your complete table setting and your family quilt.

See Pam or Sandy for directions.



LHN Free Neighborhood Market 1/3 @

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 9—12PM

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















Roeding Christmas Project 2025



Many thanks to everyone who bought gloves and candy canes, to Kathy for printing the tags, and to everyone who helped get the gifts ready for delivery. Special thanks to super shopper Debbie and to Janet, Alan, & Brenda for writing Thrivent Action Plans for grant money to buy gloves. This was an amazing group effort to once again put gloves on the hands of every student at our adopted school, Roeding Elementary. The pictures were sent by the happy and grateful Roeding staff!



Lighting of the Advent Wreath



Christmas Skit—12 Symbols of Christmas







2025 Christmas Skit

We presented this year's getting ready for Christmas skit on the 4th Sunday of Advent during worship. The skit was called "The 12 Symbols of Christmas" and adapted from the original skit written by Felicia Mollohan. We thank her for the skit and Ministry-to Children for making it available at no cost.

Many thanks to Dana for reading all the Scripture passages, to Woody for presenting all the information to explain the meanings of the symbols, and to Cheryl, Dennis, Mary, & Mikey for joining me on stage as the skit's characters. It was lots of fun to do and we heard from many people that it was very meaningful, too. Thank you for the opportunity to add to your Advent preparations!

Shalom. Peace. Paz.

Julie Werfelmann



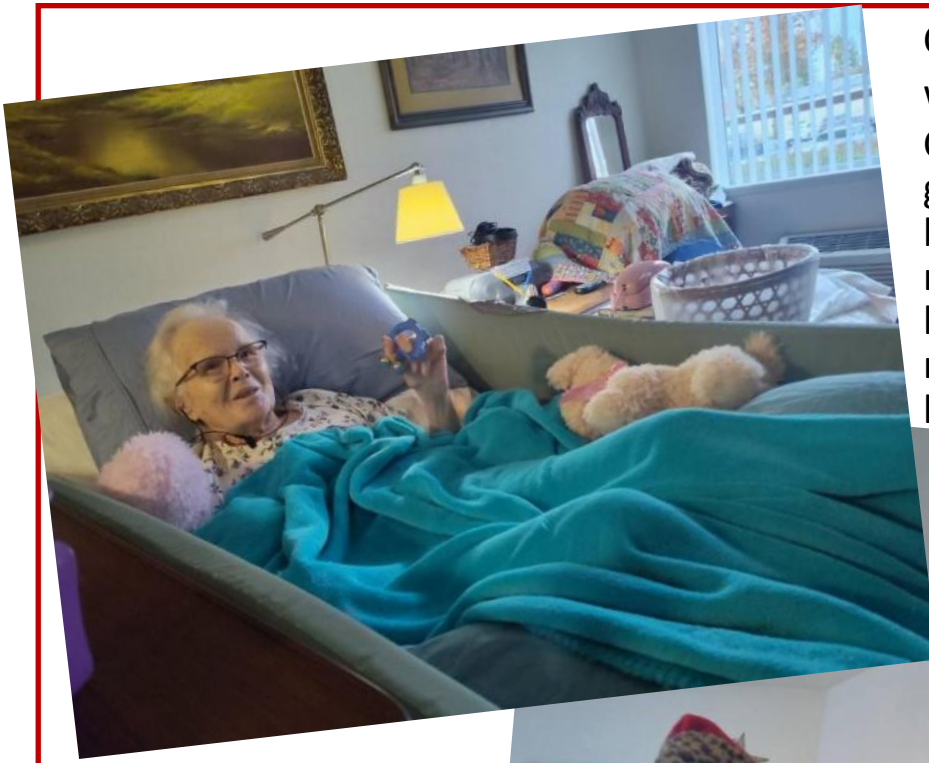
Our Choral Ensemble under the direction of Susan Berg



Paul Bolm, Soloist

Christmas Caroling 2025

We had a fantastic time singing Christmas carols with Betty Montgomery - where we were joined by Craig and his brother, with Mona at her dear friend's Tonya's house, and with Carolyn at her new home and with a number of her neighbors, too.



Many thanks to Pastor Ted for playing guitar for us and to everyone who sang and jingled so joyfully along as we celebrated the birth of the baby Jesus. Thanks be to God!



Susan Berg, our organist/accompanist, for many years, has another life! She shares her musical talents with at least a dozen elementary age students each year. The students attend lessons after school at her home near Butler Mennonite Church.

Twice during the school year they prepare for a recital at the church. On the beautiful Steinway Grand piano they share their selections with family and friends. From eight year olds to high school students their skills and performance etiquette is on display. Watching the boys bowing is a treasure!

Of Hmong-Lau, Hispanic and European descent, they form another "family" in Susan's life (oops, I haven't forgotten Ken).

Thank you Susan, for sharing your musical talents and for your service in God's Kingdom! Dee W.



Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship

We had beautiful and meaningful worship gatherings to celebrate Christmas and the birth of our Savior. Our Christmas Eve worship at 7 featured beautiful music and Scripture passages while Christmas Day was filled with carols accompanied by Pastor Ted on his guitar. Both featured a different message delivered by Pastor. A number of people also “attended” via Facebook, so many were reached with the good news that is “for all the people.” Thank you to all who contributed to the beauty and joy.



Notes of Gratitude

Many Thanks!!

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

January 4th Art Mehl

January 11th Alan & Brenda Hofmann

January 18th Jim and Ruth Thompson

January 25th John & Joyce Velasquez



Thank you, Debbie West, for the outdoor flags! They really make the campus look welcoming ♥



Thanks to Shauna, Cate, & Woody for running Saturday Sports & Crafts at Roeding in December!

A BIG thank you to Woody, Mikey, Mary, Dennis, Dana, and Cheryl for putting in the extra time to practice and prepare for the skit!



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Roeding Elementary Christmas Glove project.

Thank you, Voices United, for the microwave and coffee maker in the community center!



Thank you to so, so many of you who helped cover all the work I left behind when I went to visit my parents and then the Christmas markets of Austria and Germany with my mom. It was a wonderful, very special trip, and I am ever so thankful to all of you for your Advent help 🧡

Shalom. Peace. Paz.

Julie Werfelmann

JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 ● 8-1PM LHN Free Neighborhood Market
4 ● 10AM Worship Service ● 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) ● 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	5	6 ● 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	7 ● 4:30PM Worship Committee (Pr. Ted's Office)	8	9	10 ● 10-12PM Roeding Saturday Sports, Roeding Elementary ● All Day Voices United, Comm Ctr
11 ● 10AM Worship Service ● 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) ● 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	12 ● 6:00PM Esther Circle (Comm Ctr)	13 ● 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	14	15 ● 6PM Council Meeting, Jacobson Hall	16 ● 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr)	17
18 ● 10AM Worship Service ● 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) ● 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light ● 4PM GSLC Book Club (Comm Ctr)	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED ● 12:00PM OWLS Pam Gerster's Home	20 ● 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	21	22	23	24
25 ● 10AM Worship Service ● 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) ● 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	26	27 ● 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	28 ● 10AM Staff Meeting (Pr. Ted's Office) ● 6:30PM KingsMen/KingsKids, Jaconson Hall	29	30 ● 5—10PM Voices United, Comm Ctr	31 ● All Day 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 : 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

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