

The Shepherd's Voice

March 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**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16

Dear Friends,

I have been working on my sermon today which is on the above Bible passage. The verse above is about God loving us. We are called to love others because God first loved us.

This week I heard a statement that stuck with me, "When cruelty becomes policy, decency (and I would add love) becomes resistance." Our world can be a cruel place. Nations at war with other nations, our nation is currently as divided as ever, maybe some of you are having relational issues at work or at home.

Daily we are faced with how we will react. The verse above shows us God's example. The world was cruel to Jesus. God still showed love. We are called to show love. Not because it's easy. Because we know that as Jesus' followers today we can live the example of love and decency.

Our mission statement is *Sharing the Love of Jesus*. Let's not just talk the talk. Let's walk the walk.

Happy Lent!

God's Peace,

Pastor Ted

Prayer Concerns

Members Needing Prayer:

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:

Rosemary Shankle has entered the gates triumphant, please pray for the family on their loss. d (Vonny)
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)



Courtney Bolm – 3/13
Austin Hays – 3/13
Norma Miller – 3/21
Sandy Terstegen – 3/21
*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
Michael Kubar – 3/01
Irene Pierini – 3/09
Sean Walker – 3/09
Dee Wright – 3/14
Lois Green – 3/15
Craig Montgomery – 3/19



Neil & Verna Walden - 3/18
John & Sue Hays - 3/18
Craig & Cheryl Montgomery - 3/22

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	Feb.1, 2025	Feb. 8, 2025	Feb. 15, 2025	Feb. 22, 2025
Attendance	55	51	52	51
General Fund	\$2,539.00	\$7,248.00	\$31,462.00	\$7,695.00
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: \$	Community Ctr: \$ Loose Plate:	Community Ctr: Loose Plate:\$22.00
Special Mission Project Gifts (designated funds)	HVAC: \$200.00	HVAC: \$200.00 Prop. Improv. \$50.00	HVAC: \$75.00 Thrivent: \$14.00	OWLS: \$70.00 Incl. Offering: \$10.00
House Rent/ Property Use/ Misc.		Property Use: \$50.00		Rent: \$3,880.00
	\$2,739.00	\$7,548.00	\$31,551.00	\$21,677.00

February Financials

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

Greetings Good Shepherd Members and Friends,

Many, many thanks for your generous donations. We received some anonymous donations that are helping us meet our day-to-day needs and special needs such as roof repairs.

Our expenses at the beginning of the year always include renewal fees for annual items. Extra expenses, while there was an anonymous donation to cover the cost, the expenses include \$3000 for repair of our hallway roof between the Sanctuary and Jacobsen Hall.

A wonderful March to all.

Dana Biggs

Treasurer

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			\$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	\$73,494.00	\$63,291.11	\$10,202.89

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. |



The balance in our HVAC account is now at \$62,030.81.

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

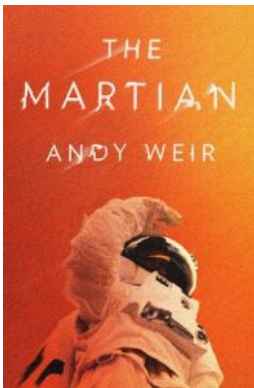
MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 4** - Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:30PM, Pr. Ted's Office
- Mar. 4, 11, 18 &** - Soup @ 12 & 6:30pm, Worship @ 12:30 & 7pm, Comm Ctr
- Mar. 7** - LHN Free Neighborhood Market
- Mar. 9** - Esther Circle @ 6PM, Comm Ctr
- Mar. 14** - Roeding Saturday Sports @ 10-12PM, Roeding Elementary
- Mar. 15** - GSLC Book Club @ 4PM, Comm Ctr
- Mar. 16** - OWLS @ 12pm, Comm Ctr
- Mar. 17** - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 19** - Council Meeting @ 6PM, Comm Ctr
- Mar. 29** - Palm Sunday



GSLC BOOK CLUB

March's book is *The Martian* by Andy Weir



In the year 2035, ^[1] the crew of [NASA's](#) Ares 3 mission have arrived at [Acidalia Planitia](#) for a planned month-long stay on Mars. After only six [sols](#), an intense dust and wind storm threatens to topple their Mars Ascent Vehicle (MAV), which would trap them on the planet. During the hurried evacuation, an antenna tears loose and impales astronaut Mark Watney, a [botanist](#) and [engineer](#), also disabling his spacesuit radio. He is flung out of sight by the wind and presumed dead. As the MAV teeters dangerously, mission commander Melissa Lewis has no choice but to take off without completing the search for Watney.

However, Watney is not dead. His injury proves relatively minor, but with no long-range radio, he cannot communicate with anyone. He must rely on his own resourcefulness to survive. He begins a log of his experiences. His philosophy is to "work the problem", solving each challenge in turn as it confronts him. With food a critical, though not immediate, problem, he begins growing [potatoes](#) in the crew's Martian habitat, the Hab. He uses an [iridium](#) catalyst to separate [hydrogen](#) gas from surplus [hydrazine](#) fuel, which he then burns to generate water for the plants.

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

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 Mar. 16th @ 12PM

Christmas in March? Aren't we supposed to celebrate HIM all year?

Hooties! Meet in the Community Service Center on March 16th at NOON. The Greedy Gift Grab & a fun-colorful game are on the agenda. Attendees please bring: a \$15 or less gift, your ENTIRE table service, and a LABELLED dish to share.



LHN Free Neighborhood Market 3/7 @

Bulldog Pantry, 9—11AM

There will be a food distribution of the Lutheran Hunger Network's FREE Neighborhood Market on Saturday, 3/7, from 9-11 a.m. at the Bulldog Pantry. 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



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



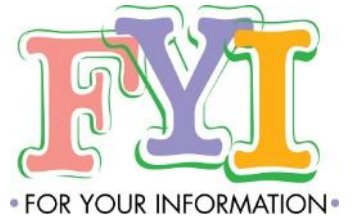
Collecting Wrapped Candy, etc.



We will once again host an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Easter Sunday this year in the courtyard after the 10AM service. We are collecting **wrapped** candy, stickers, coins, etc. to use to stuff the eggs. If you can donate toward this fun tradition, please bring in your items and place them in the appropriate bin. We have PLENTY of plastic eggs to stuff, so please don't bring any more of those. Way to go with the reusing, friends!

Memorial Garden Committee Raffle

Be sure to get your raffle tickets either mailed to Good Shepherd or you may hand your envelope to Diane on March 1 or March 8 at church. Don't forget! The deadline for returning your ticket stubs with your check is March 13 and the big drawing is on March 15 right after church. You may still get extra tickets from Diane on those dates.



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 you 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.

Making Soup with Suzie!

Suzie will be making soup over in the kitchen in Jacobson all the Sundays in Lent. YOU are invited to help and also receive the recipe.

No experience required! This soup will be enjoyed each of the following Wednesdays to go with the Lenten Bible Study. Please see Suzie or Julie if you have any questions or if you have a favorite recipe you'd like to take a turn to make. Thank you!



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!



Family Lenten Activity

Lent is a holy season of reflection, devotion, and sacrifice. We invite you to look around your home, outside, and anywhere you go for items that have meaning or significance for you. Fashion them into a cross that can be held together by twine, glue, nails, etc.

Whether your family is large or just one person, all are invited to create a cross and bring it to church during Holy Week - by Good Friday. If 2 people in a family want to make their own crosses, that also is fine! Please submit a few words about your cross as well, and they will be unveiled on Easter Sunday.

Some ideas to get your creative juices flowing - wood, toothpicks, beads, candy, shells, yarn, flowers, food items, or anything at all that expresses you and your faith journey. Spend time in seeing and feeling the holiness of Jesus's sacred journey to the cross as you create your own.

~ Your Christian Education Team



Photos are to give you some ideas of crosses you can create. They are the ones made by the McQuillan family and Jade Dixon from the last time we did this in 2015.

Hooties February Outing

A drenching downpour did not stop fourteen dripping Hooties from gathering. They came in shaking like dogs to repel the rain. Mikey was our first tagalong.

Mary hosted with hearts and hugs along with her split pea soup with and without meat.

It was passed that the Hooties would contribute \$200 towards Julie's locksmith bill in which she "wheeled and dealt" the price.

The funnies consisted of Valentine's questions which were met with laughs and groans. Lots of joyful visiting went on for quite a while until stories were shared of how we met our spouse. Belly laughs ensued during their renditions. We found out that several gentlemen were "cradle robbers". Some excerpts are as follows:

- * A ride home ended in two kisses with a strong feeling that he was the one. 33 years but still counting.
- * A literal door hanger labelled her a flirt and not for him but a few months separation and flowers told a different story that evolved for 60 years and counting.
- * A blind date that started with another girl led to a Mexico elopement with a very YOUNG girl. The two have been together for 71 years.
- * A cute, smart reporter much TOO young to date became his wife of 52 years.
- * Greeters at a new church became one's in-laws. The short stop became his wife of 52 years.
- * A Lake Tahoe ski trip for a non-skier led to lessons with her future husband. He could not teach her how to turn right even after 52 years.
- * The wardrobe lady fell for the leading man who could not remember his last name but remembered during 57 years of marriage & counting.
- * Missing a Boy Scout Leadership training session led to a private makeup with her husband of four years.
- * Wednesday night Bible Study supper line conversation revealed on Sunday that he was the pastor. Almost 10 years and counting.
- * The Plenty of Fish Dating site led to an all-night fishing trip, then three more. He took her home to his mom in the early morning. 7 years. You could say that she fell for him, hook, line, and sinker.

Members had such a good time with this activity that it was suggested at our March makeup Christmas party we share our favorite Christmas Eve or Christmas Day memory.

And then they flew out to their cars like Mary Poppins in the wind







Lutheran Hunger
Network—Free
Neighborhood
Market



Holy Baptism of Patrick Norris, February 1, 2026

Welcome Patrick and Congratulations!



Scout Sunday

Good Shepherd has traditionally celebrated Scout Sunday on the first or second Sunday of February to recognize the Boy Scouts of America, the local Scout troop that met in our Community Center, and our members who have participated in the Scouting program as troop members or as leaders and mentors. This year no Scout troop currently meets on our campus. However, today we celebrate Our Lord and Savior, and acknowledge the roles that The Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America have played in guiding and nurturing Christ-like values in young people to become productive members of their community. We pray God's blessing on these programs to enrich the lives of young people and bring light to our world.



“This is My Song” performed by the Eagle and Honor Scout Ensemble

Chili Cook Off & Bingo



The first Sunday in February was lots of fun! After church we had a chili cook-off with Steve McQuillan's chili with meat and Jill Anderson's vegetarian version. They were both winners! Quite a few members of our congregation stayed to play Bingo. It's a good thing that Zoe joined us that Sunday to help Julie read the numbers right side up!



Shrove Tuesday







May the Strength of God guide us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Angels of God guard us.
Against the snares of the evil one.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!
This day, O Lord, and forevermore.
Amen

by St. Patrick



Notes of Gratitude

Many Thanks!!

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

March 1st Art Mehl

March 8th Alan & Brenda Hofmann

March 15th Jim & Ruth Thompson

March 22nd John & Joyce Velasquez

March 29th Mary Fey Norris



MARCH 2026

		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	• 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	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)	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 (Comm Ctr)	16 • 12:00PM OWLS (Jacobson Hall)	18 • 6PM - 10PM Voices United (Comm Ctr)	19 • 6PM Council Meeting, Jacobson Hall	20 • 7PM Accion de Fe (Comm Ctr)	21
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)	27	28
29	• 10AM Worship Service • 11AM Coffee Social (Jacobson Hall) • 11AM—12PM Kid's Salt & Light	30	31 • 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

Church Web Site: www.fresnogslc.org

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

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