

# Good Shepherd News

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SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME: 9:30 AM

## Traveling through Lent

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9*

Lent is a period of spiritual renewal that encourages individuals to reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus through study, prayer, service, and participation in worship, both individually and within families and communities. The term "Lent" originates from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, signifying "spring," which denotes the season when days become progressively longer. Historically, Lent functioned primarily as preparation for new converts who were to be baptized on Easter Eve; during this time, they received instruction in the gospel and the Lord's Prayer while engaging in prayer, fasting, and penance. Over time, Lent evolved into a season of introspection and self-examination observed by all Christians.

During this period, we are encouraged to reflect on our actions and seek to restore our identity as children of God. It is time to cleanse ourselves of the remnants of our past and prepare for the everlasting celebration that God has prepared.

Our Sunday worship will concentrate on the valleys we encounter during Lent. Below is a short summary of what you can anticipate each Sunday. Week 1: Sin begins to show its ugly results in The Hebron Valley when the sons of Jacob plot to murder their brother Joseph, a reminder of Cain and Abel.

## Church Events

### Sunday's 9:30 Worship

- Feb. 17 – Finance Committee 10:00 am
- Feb. 18 – Ash Wed. Service 7:00 pm
- Feb. 21 – WELCA 9:30 am
- Feb. 24 – Council 6:00 pm

### Wednesday's 5:00

Starting Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>

Lent Bible Study in Foster Hall –bring your dinner.

Week 2: At **The Jordan Valley**, about to cross the river into the promised land, we have the opportunity, like Moses, to look back at all the Lord has provided us and to look forward to what God has in store.

Week 3: Gideon was hiding from the marauding Midianites in **The “Valley” of the Winepress**, a poor place to be threshing wheat. From there, God called this unlikely hero to valiant victory.

Week 4: **“Every Valley Shall Be Lifted Up,”** says the prophet Isaiah about the coming of the Lord to rescue his people from captivity. Valleys still need to be raised up (and mountains and hills made low) for the Lord’s arrival.

Week 5: “Choose this day whom you will serve,” Joshua said to the Children of Israel before he died. Lent continues to call us to what the prophet Joel calls **The Valley of Decision**.

This year, our gatherings are scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm. Participants are encouraged to bring a meal. The Mid-week Gathering will start at 5:00 pm and feature a study of Jill Duffield's *Lent in Plain Sight*.

In Christ, Pastor Jennifer

## ***Graceful Thoughts***

Time is a gift from God to be used wisely, not frittered away. God allows us to choose how to use this gift. Do you use God’s time for loving and caring deeds?

## **Faith Sharing in Your Daily Life**

- Send a card or note of encouragement: offer words of blessing that convey your faith and trust in God.
- Be courteous and helpful in all public transactions: look for ways to give a verbal and positive witness.
- As you walk through your day, scatter blessings. Some will root and grow, others won’t.
- Share a smile and a personal greeting with a stranger.

## **Prayer Concerns**

Please keep the following people in your prayers...

Anthony, Tony, Floanne, Diana, Kim, Carroll, Jonah, Kylee, Kathy, Margaret, Ann, Blanca, Diva, Donna, Eddy, Gary, Leslie, Leo, Mary, Olivia, Jim, Kaye, Brandi, Ethan, Jose, Margie, Vic, Jena, Marcia, Roy

Please pray for the ELCA Presiding Bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry, our Synodical Bishop, Rev. David Nagler, and our Synod VP, Jeff Cours

## ***Good Shepherd Leaders***

*Pastor Jennifer Zahnow*

***Church Council***

*Pres. Jessie DeVito.*

*Sect. Sharon Castellaw.*

*Treas. Richard Lutz*

*Outreach: Cathy Choma Christian*

*Education: Carroll Kolodzik*

*Worship: Terry Moyer*

*Property: Sharon Castellaw*

*Parish Life: Barbara Weber*

# President's Message

LET ALL YOU DO BE DONE IN  
LOVE

*Corinthians 16:14*

Once again as always, this month brings thoughts of love as we celebrate "Valentines Day". Adults will buy Cards, Candy, flowers and gifts for loved ones, children will make cards and gifts in school, and some will give valentine cards to fellow classmates. Do you ever wonder why we wait for February 14th to do this? God does not wait for a special day; he shows us everyday how much he loves and cares for us. His love is always all around us in everything we see and do. The love that lives inside each of us comes from God and is a gift we need and should share with each other throughout the year. We all have this ability, all we have to do is see the world through the eyes of love, speak gently, act humanely and empathetically to all people. If we just take the time to be kind and have compassion for all that are struggling, what a much better world this would be.

Do not be discouraged by all the unrest going on around us. We just need to believe that God has a plan and will help all those in need and deal with what is causing the problems in his own way and time.

Each day we wake up is another opportunity given to us by God, to make a difference in this world. Let's make the most of this gift. "The greatest force on earth is not the compulsion of Law but the compassion of Love." \*Our Daily Bread

Many Blessings to all

Jessie Council President

# Property Report

The flooring in the choir area had been replaced in November, covering for the Sprinklers were purchased to protect the sprinklers during the Minni Market craft show and the flood light on Foster Hall's roof and motion outdoor lighting were fixed so they would illuminate during the show.

Killian and Marv set up tables for Pastor's Installation luncheon, Edgar, the plumber, fixed the toilet in the Sacristy and Marv fixed the tabletop inside the Church.

In December the Nativity scene was placed in the Narthex and taken down in January, the Christmas Eve banner was put up, the motion security alarms inside Foster Hall and Pastor Tim's Office had batteries replaced, Killian removed pine needles from the Preschool, Pastor's Office and the Sacristy roofs before the December rains came and in January Killian and Marv replaced and painted the slats on the outside trash door.

Jessie and Sharon replaced the messaging on the Church sign in November, December and January, Marv planted 10 Christmas flowers around the campus and thank you, Joanne, for cleaning the campus on Sunday mornings and Irene for coffee and cookies.

Sharon is still waiting for Herb Yaegar to call to say he has a clean coil to replace the damaged coil in the Church's A/C unit. He is supposed to call around January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sharon Castellaw, Property Chair

## Women's Ministry

I recently read an article on longevity, and the key takeaway was to keep active. They listed at least 6 actions to keep you youthful: Volunteer, Exercise; Hobbies; Reading; Playing Games; Social

Our church community has many of these actions.

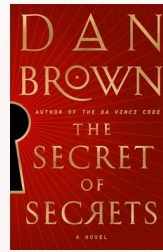
1. Volunteer your time to help us make up health kits for the homeless and treat bags every third Saturday at 9:30 in Foster Hall. In January we will be delivering 33 health kits and 85 treat bags.
2. Good Shepherd's Book Club takes you to other places, people, and stories for reading. Which reading a book or listening to a book are both good for your brain. We meet on the third Thursday at 4:00 to discuss the book of the month and then go together for dinner somewhere locally.

3. Playing games, join Pastor's Puzzles on Tuesday Morning. I hear they have a new puzzle and great way to fellowship.

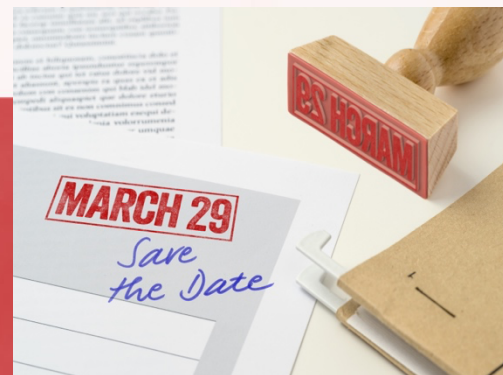
So, keep active and youthful and join us for one of these activities.



## Book Club



February's Book selection is "The Secret of Secrets" by Dan Brown author of "The Da Vinci Code." The main character Robert Langdon, esteemed professor of symbology, travels to Prague to attend a groundbreaking lecture by Katherine Solomon—a prominent noetic scientist with whom he has recently begun a relationship. Katherine is on the verge of publishing an explosive book that contains startling discoveries about the nature of human consciousness and threatens to disrupt centuries of established belief. But a brutal murder catapults the trip into chaos, and Katherine suddenly disappears along with her manuscript. Langdon finds himself targeted by a powerful organization and hunted by a chilling assailant sprung from Prague's most ancient mythology. Read this fast action book and come join us in February.



**Sunday,  
March 29, 2026  
for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration.  
Bishop David Nagler will be  
preaching.**



# Food Donation for Centralia School District Neighborhood Resource Center

Food is being collected for the Neighborhood Resource Center to provide meals for students and families in need during school holidays, when school meals are unavailable. Donated food will help these families get through the holidays. The following items are needed:

1. Spaghetti
2. Spaghetti sauce
3. Oatmeal instant quaker boxes
4. Cereal boxes
5. Granola bars
6. Mac & Cheese Instant boxes
7. Pancake mix
8. Rice
9. Beans

If you cannot shop for these items but would like to donate money instead please indicate amount on your envelope offering with a statement FOR FOOD Donations and we will be glad to shop for you. If you have questions please see Barbara, Carol, or Cathy.

## Treasurer's Report Year-End Review

Envelope Giving for the year 2025 had a late year surge and ended up at \$83,000 -- \$3,000 over budget. THANK YOU, ALL FAITHFUL GIVERS! For the year 2025 the Net Income was (\$2,970) – we spent \$2,970 more than we received.

The Endowment Fund only transferred \$35,000 to the General Fund instead of the \$68,000 that was budgeted for 2025. Capital improvements consumed a little over \$18,000 of the transfer and just under \$7,900 was used to refurbish Pastor's office. The books for the Good Sheperd Preschool were closed and a little more than \$3,500 was transferred to the church general fund.

While the financial reports show the last full month of activity, they help the Finance Committee guide the church's finances. Between monthly reports, Kim, the bookkeeper, provides a weekly update of the checking account balance to ensure we are covering our checks. - Richard Lutz, Treasurer

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
7082 Crescent Avenue  
Buena Park, CA 90620**



**Ash Wednesday  
Service**

**February 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday's 5:00 - Starting Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**

Mid-Week Lenten Bible Study in Foster Hall –bring your dinner. This year, our Lenten study will center around Jill Duffield's book *Lent in Plain Sight*.