Good Shepherd News

October 2026 Newsletter

Stewardship: Living in Gratitude

When we hear the word *stewardship*, it is easy to think immediately about money. Giving is certainly an important part of stewardship, but Christian stewardship is about much more. It is about how we live in response to everything God has first given us.

As Lutherans, we begin with **grace**. We do not give to earn God's love or favor. God's love is already ours, freely given through Jesus Christ. We give because we have already received. Stewardship, then, becomes our joyful response to God's abundant grace.

Everything we have—our time, abilities, relationships, possessions, financial resources, creation itself, and even the ordinary moments of our lives—is entrusted to our care. The question of stewardship is not simply, *"How much should I give?"* but also, *"How is God calling me to use what has been entrusted to me?"*.

It happens when someone gives an offering to support the church's ministry. It happens when someone helps prepare the sanctuary for worship, works around our campus, serves on a committee, visits someone who is lonely, teaches, sings, prays, prepares food, welcomes a visitor, or notices something that needs to be done and quietly takes care of it.

Stewardship also happens beyond the walls of the church. It is present in the way we care for our families and neighbors, serve our community, care for God's creation, use our resources responsibly, and share Christ's love with people we encounter throughout the week.

Martin Luther taught that our lives of faith are lived out in service to our neighbors. Because we are freed by God's grace, we are freed to turn toward others in love. That makes stewardship not simply a church program or an annual campaign. **Stewardship is a way of life.**

Church Events

Sundays @ 9:30 am Worship Service

- **Oct. 4th Blessing of the Animals @ 11:00 am**
- **Oct. 15th Book Club @ 4:00 pm**
- **Oct. 17th Women of Good Shepherd @ 9:30 am**
- **Oct. 20th Finance Committee @10:00 am**
- **Oct. 24th Precious Life Baby Shower @ 11:30 am**
- **Oct. 27th Church Council @ 6:00 pm**
- **Oct. 31st Trunk or Treat 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

7082 Crescent Avenue
Buena Park, CA 90620
Phone: 714-827-6021
Email: gslcbp@att.net
Website:
www.goodshepherdbuenapark.org
YouTube: bit.ly/GSLCBPCA

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Thursday
9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

As we think about stewardship in the weeks ahead, I invite each of us to begin with gratitude. Take a moment to consider what God has placed into your hands. What gifts have you been given? What opportunities are before you? Where might God be inviting you to serve, give, grow, or care?

Perhaps the most important stewardship prayer we can offer is a simple one:

Gracious God, everything I have comes from you. Show me how I can use what you have entrusted to me to love my neighbor, care for your creation, strengthen your church, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Stewardship begins not with what God wants **from us**, but with recognizing everything God has already done **for us**. From that place of gratitude, we discover the joy of offering ourselves—our time, our gifts, our resources, and our lives—for the sake of God's work in the world.

God has blessed us so that we may be a blessing to others.

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer Zahnow

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers…

Casey, Anthony, Tony, Kim, Wanda, Matt, Carroll, Margaret, Ann, Baby Jasmine, Blanca, Diva, Eddy, Leslie, Mary C, Olivia, Tony, Kaye, Brandi, Ethan, George, Mary, Michael, Jena, Marcia, and Roy.

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10th Sue Halidman

11th David Ettel

13th Zach Urbany

29th Tony DeVito

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

"GRATEFUL"

As we look forward to Fall and enjoy the cooler days, we look back on what our Summer Days held. Yes! The summer ended with very hot days that brought some trials and discomfort to many. was very lucky to have AC in my home as well as at Good Shepherd. My compassion and empathy went to the homeless or less fortunate who had no escape from the heat. As always, the ladies of Good Shepherd continue to make health kits to aid them, backpacks to get less fortunate children off to a good start in the new school year, and let us not forget the treat bags delivered to Meals on Wheels. Thank you to these wonderful ladies always doing God's work in our Community.

The most exciting news to report is that we have finally started a facelift for Foster Hall. This is long overdue and is certainly a work in progress. We are most grateful to Marvin and Killian, who worked extremely hard sanding and preparing the cabinets. This was during the heat wave with no AC. Pastor Jennifer also showed us she is not afraid to get her hands dirty (literally) as she worked on the cabinets as well. We will be seeing new countertops and appliances in the future. The majority of the funds came from capital improvements, which were in the budget, but we also received the blessing of donations from some of our congregation. We greatly appreciate this money, time, and talent. I invite you all to come and see what we are doing.

October brings us Halloween, and this will be our second "Trunk or Treat" Community event. So, bring your car, decorations, and of course some treats, and meet our neighbors. We will be Blessing the Animals on Oct. 4, and all of God's animals are welcome.

As we move into another season,

let us bring with us:

Patience - for challenges to come

Encouragement - to meet them

Happiness - to celebrate them

and most of all

Forgiveness - when we do it wrong

God bless you all,

Jessie DeVito/ Council President

Property Update

Marv, Killian and Pastor sanded and stained the cabinet doors and drawers in the kitchen. Then they sanded them again and Pastor called in a friend to finish the project. Chris, the Handyman, installed two new fans inside Foster Hall

Jessie DeVito's son, Anthony, fixed the electrical plugs so they are now recessed in the wall over the kitchen counter.

Sharon and Marv planted two pink Palmeira trees that Mark Urbany gave them in front of the Church off of Crescent. Fausto continues to replace old sprinklers that won't pop up anymore.

Pastor had the glass picture of Jesus and the doors from Knotts Berry Farm removed from the Narthex and stored in Room 4 until they can be refurbished and eventually displayed outside.

Jessie and Sharon replaced the Church sign message and thank you Irene for your cookies and treats on Sunday morning.

Sharon Castellaw, Property Chair

Stewardship Corner

"I have so much to offer God," my pride tells me. I can see a vision of what God can do with me, and I am excited.

Day after day, I have waited in expectation. Surely the time has come for me to be of great service. I have heard the Lord will be passing this way today. So, patiently, I wait a little longer. Then I see two men approaching. I stand a little taller because I know these men are sent from God. But as I stand there, they pass me by and go to my donkey... a mere colt.

"Why are you doing this?" I ask.

"The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly," the men answer. Then they walk away.

"My donkey?" I mutter. God wants to use my donkey? What about my talents? My abilities? My availability? What about that, Lord? Then, I see a crowd forming. Many wave palm branches and cry out, "Hosanna in the highest!"

I squeeze my way through the jumble of arms and branches, and I see him! There is my Lord! My eyes tear. There is my donkey. The Lord is riding on my donkey.

I drop to my knees. "Dear Jesus," my soul cries. "Forgive my pride. You have used what I have considered least, yet you have elevated it. May this always be so."

"Continue to use me, Lord," I pray. "What I consider my best may not be what you need from me at all. But now I understand, Jesus. What you need most is my open arms, and my willingness to serve in any way you ask."

I look up from my place on the busy road, and I look into his eyes as he passes by. Then I know my small gift is monumental, historical.

Treasurer's Report for October 2026
August 2026 Review

Envelope Giving for August 31, 2026 was $7,047 which is $380 over the monthly 2026 Budget and year-to-date the total giving is $740 over the 2026 Budget. **Thank You for your faithful giving**. There was $7,250 transferred from the Endowment Fund in July. The church's pledge to the Synod is current. In summary, the income is over budget and the expenses are under budget.

While the August 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

Food Donations 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:

Spaghetti; Spaghetti sauce; Oatmeal Instant Quaker boxes; Cereal boxes, Granola bars; Mac & Cheese Instant boxes; Pancake Mix; Rice; and Beans.

If you cannot shop for these items but would like to donate money instead, please indicate the 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.

Blessing of the ANIMALS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 11:00 AM

All creatures great and small are part of *God's wonderful creation!*

Bring your beloved pets and join us for a special Blessing of the Animals as we give thanks to God for the animals who bring companionship, joy, and love into our lives.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 11:00 AM | GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dogs, cats, birds, and other beloved pets are welcome. *Please make sure all animals are safely leashed, crated, or otherwise secured.*

Come celebrate God's creation and receive a special blessing for your animal companion!

ALL CREATURES—AND THEIR PEOPLE—*are welcome!*

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31ST | 4-6 PM

GOOD SHEPHERD

GOODSHEPHERDBUENAPARK.ORG

FOOD, CANDY, & GAMES!

BRING A FRIEND!

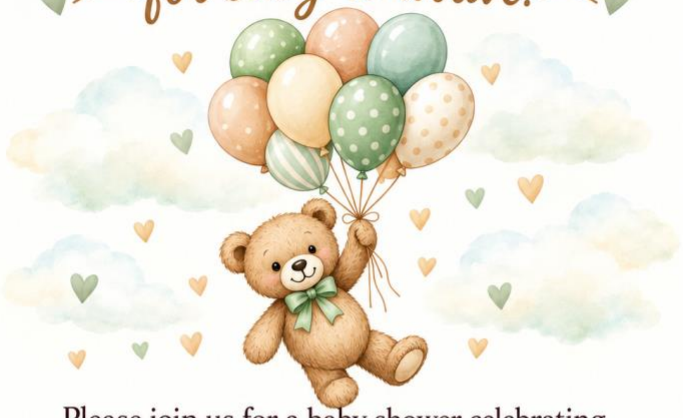
We Need Your Help!

Help us make this event fun and welcoming for our community! You can participate by **decorating your car, donating candy, or doing both**.

Your support will help us create a joyful, memorable experience for everyone who attends. Thank you for helping Good Shepherd reach out and share Christ's love with our community! You can give candy donations to Pastor Jennifer.

We Can Bearly Wait

for baby to arrive!



Please join us for a baby shower celebrating the women of Precious Life.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
11:30 A.M.

Enjoy a lovely luncheon with games, food, fellowship, and gifts for newborn babies — an afternoon of celebration and support.

PLEASE BRING
A salad and a new baby's first book.

LUNCH
Sandwiches & beverages will be provided.

DONATIONS WELCOME

Kay Fielder — Mt. Calvary • Cathy Choma — Good Shepherd

RSVP TO CATHY CHOMA

Christmas Toys for Families

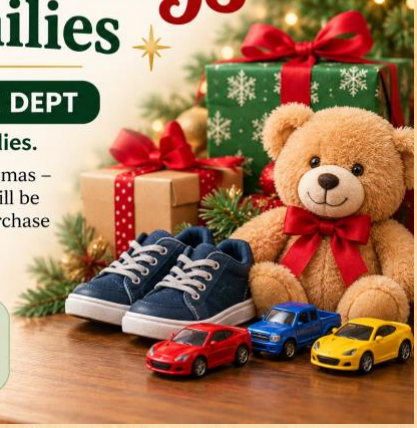
BUENA PARK POLICE DEPT

Christmas toys for families.

We have less than 100 days to Christmas – once we are provided a family, we will be requesting financial donations to purchase gifts for the children.

Barbara will be purchasing the items.

Last year's recipients requested tennis shoes and small cars.



FALL IS HERE!!!! YEAH!!

Fun time of the year!

Get those pumpkin recipes out.

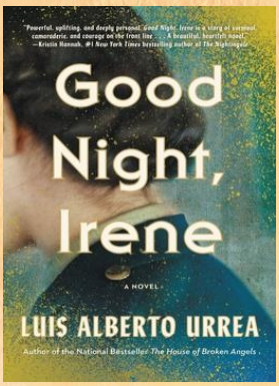
Please submit your favorite fall recipes to Barbara or the church office.

We will put them together in a booklet for all to share and make !!

Thanks, Barbara.

Women of Good Shepherd

Come Join Us
Saturday, October 17
at 9:30 am
Join us for Fellowship, Refreshments,
and help putting together treat bags for our
community groups.



Good Shepherd Book Club

September Discussion

The Book Club met in September to discuss Lisa See's book "Daughters of the Sun and Moon." We thank Luana for leading an engaging conversation about a chapter of history that was unfamiliar to many of us.

October Book and Meeting Details

Our October selection is "Good Night, Irene" by Luis Alberto Urrea. In the tradition of The Nightingale and Transcription, this exhilarating World War II epic chronicles an extraordinary young woman's heroic frontline service with the Red Cross. Please join us for the October book discussion on Thursday, October 15, at 4:00 p.m. at Phyllis's home.

Women's CO-OP Retreat on Sept. 26, 2026
"TO EVERYTHING, THERE IS A SEASON"

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the Women's CO-OP Retreat such a meaningful and joy-filled day! Good Shepherd was blessed to host this wonderful gathering and to welcome so many women for a time of worship, learning, fellowship, and growing together in faith.

Here are a few pictures from our time together as we worshiped, learned, planted, and shared in fellowship. We are grateful for each person who attended, participated, shared their gifts, and helped make this special day possible.

Opportunities to Connect and Grow in Faith

December 6 - After worship, we'll have a special event with food.
Please mark your calendars. More information to come….

December 12 - Women of Good Shepherd Christmas Tea.
Please see Cathy if you would like to help with this event.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00 pm

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