

# Good Shepherd News

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SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME: 9:30 AM  
OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

MAY NEWSLETTER

## Ignited by the Spirit!

*<sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers. Acts 2:4,42*

Pentecost marks the birth of the church—a moment when the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to go out and share the good news of Christ with the world. This calling was not easy. It required courage, creativity, and deep trust in God.

The disciples stepped into the unknown. They found new ways to connect with people, often at great personal risk. They did not cling to what was familiar; instead, they followed where the Spirit led.

That same Spirit is at work today. If we are to grow as a church, we too must remain open—open to change, open to new possibilities, and open to the Spirit moving in our lives and in our community. What worked in the past may not meet the needs of today.

Taking risks for the sake of the gospel is not about recklessness—it is about faith. It is about trusting that God is still leading us forward, calling us to think differently, act boldly, and share Christ's love in new ways.

We are called to actively live out and proclaim Christ's message in all we do. In Matthew 28:16-20, we are given the Great Commission in which Jesus says: <sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them." <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him: be some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> God therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Guided by the Holy Spirit, we **boldly** reach out and transform lives.

In Christ, Pastor Jennnifer Zahnow

## Church Events

Sundays @ 9:30 am Worship Service

**Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>  
Bible Study @ 5:00**

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – Mini-Market  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**May 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee  
10:00 am**

**May 16<sup>th</sup> WELCA 9:30 am**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Church Council  
6:00 pm**

**May 21 Book Club 4:00 pm**

## Faith Sharing in Your Daily Life

- Host a neighbor BBQ when someone new moves into the neighborhood. Offer a prayer before eating. Be public in a subtle way about your faith.
- Coordinate Block Party. Plan activities for the kids that foster friendship. Plan games that encourage sharing about life and values.
- Gather children in the neighborhood for an afternoon Kid's Club. Share Bible stories and tapes, craft activities, refreshments and positive play.

## Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers...

Betty, Kori, Anthony, Tony, Jennifer, Floanne, Diana, Lynn, Kim, Wanda, Carroll, Kathy, Margaret, Ann, Baby Jasmine, Blanca, Chet, Diva, Donna, Eddy, Gary, Geuermo, Leslie, Leo, Mary C. Olivia, Sonia, Jim, Kaye, Brandi, Ethan, Jose, Pam, Prine, Jena, Marcia, Roy,

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

## A Blooming Thank You

As the flowers around our church burst into full bloom, we are reminded of the beauty and care that surround us each time we gather. This doesn't happen by accident. It is the result of faithful, behind-the-scenes dedication. We give heartfelt thanks to Sharon and Marv for the time, energy, and love they pour into keeping our campus looking so welcoming and alive. Their work is a quiet ministry that lifts our spirits and reflects God's beauty in creation. Please take a moment to share your gratitude with them—they truly help our church feel like home.



## 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*



## MAY BIRTHDAY'S

4<sup>TH</sup> Cathy Choma

16<sup>th</sup> Roger Tranberg

26<sup>th</sup> Diego Mederos

## President's Message

As we start the last month of Spring, we wonder where the first quarter of this year went. Now, we look forward to a nice, warm, sunny summer and all the blessings that will come with it. Time goes by so quickly; sometimes, we just cannot seem to keep up. So, when we stop to take a breath and find ourselves in the midst of changes the seasons bring, we realize that we must change with them. So, we will take a few minutes to look back, appreciate, and give thanks for the blessings we have received.

Last month, we celebrated the Easter Holiday and the 70th anniversary of Good Shepard. The Easter Service was enhanced by a video depicting the Easter story. The 70th Anniversary was celebrated with a luncheon at Knotts Berry Farm, where it all began. We looked at old photographs, enjoyed a video of pictures created by Pastor Jennifer, and heard some very interesting stories from longtime members of Good Shepherd. Many thanks to Joan, Richard and the committee that organized this event. Most of all we must be thankful for the gift of Pastor Jennifer, her many talents, hours of time and thought she puts into the caring guidance of our congregation. Pastor just has the knack and for thought to add special touches to special occasions as well as Sunday Services. We just never know what we will find when we arrive on Sunday. A little cross or heart, maybe a note of encouragement to take with us and carry in our car or purse. This is very unique and must always be appreciated and never taken for granted.

So, as we move forward and go with the flow of changes and challenges, we will face during these times of conflict and rising costs. We will accept that change does not come easy or without hard work and struggle, but with faith, prayer, love, and kindness, we will survive this rollercoaster ride of life.

We just have to remember God will always be our constant source of strength. We must trust the process and have the courage to live it; this is "Faith" alive and well in the world.

(Jesus said) "Whatever you ask for in Prayer with faith, you will receive" Matthew 21:22.

Have patience and believe.

Jessie DeVito

## Treasurer's Update for March 2026 January 2026 Review

Envelope Giving for March 2026 was \$8,086 and \$1,420 over the 2026 Budget. **Thank You for your faithful giving.** For March 2026 the Net Income was \$10,325 and Year-to-Date \$12,480. There was \$7,250 transferred from the Endowment Fund in March. The church's pledge to the Synod is current.

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

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## 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.

# Property Update

Killian and Marv finished painting the east Foster Hall door, and Marv painted the shed door next to the kitchen. Chris welded the shed door and put new hinges and a new lock to make it more secure.

The Mini Market went well on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Jessie, Lynette, Marv, and Sharon, for opening and closing the gates, cleaning the bathrooms, and setting the alarm after the event.

Marv and Killian planted Easter flowers around the campus, took down the Easter banner, and put up a new welcome flag. Jessie and Sharon replaced the messaging on the Church sign, and Sharon picked up trash and pulled weeds around the campus. Thank you, Joanne, for cleaning the campus on Sunday mornings, and thank you, Irene, for supplying coffee and cookies every Sunday.

Sharon Castellaw  
Property Chair

# Women's Ministry

What a blessing for Luana, Cathy, and Pastor Jennifer to attend "Our Beloved Community Women's Retreat on Saturday, April 18.

This is the third retreat that Our Beloved Community of Women has organized. The committee includes five of our local Lutheran Churches – Christ Lutheran, Bethel Lutheran, Mt. Calvary, Good Shepherd, and our Redeemer.

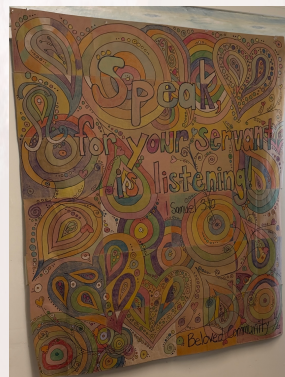
The theme of this retreat was "Speak, Your Servant is Listening!" from 1 Samuel 3:10. The Saturday included songs, stretching, workshops, lunch, and fellowship. The workshops were the following: The Art of Listening, Lectio Divina (divine reading), an ancient Christian practice of meditative prayer, Walking the Labyrinth, and Prayer Stations. Also, during our session, each table had four drawing pieces shaped like jigsaw puzzles for us to color and complete. When they were finished near the end of the retreat, the pieces were put together into a lovely picture symbolizing our theme. This picture will be sent to our churches to display in the coming weeks and share with Good Shepherd.

Here are some pictures from that day.



## Good Shepherd Book Club

Our May read is "Before the Swallows Come Back" by Fiona Curnow. Perfect for fans of *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah, and *Sal* by Mik Kitson, with its celebration of the natural world, its misunderstood central characters living on the outside of society's norms, their survival in the wilderness, and the ultimate fight for justice. Join us on Thursday, May 21 at 4:00 at Phyllis home.



# Newsletter from Joseph Bender our Young Adult in Global Mission

My last newsletter hit your inboxes in the middle of summer. (For me, at least. I'm told early February was chilly for some of you.) A few hours later, I got on a bus to go to a four-day retreat with the other three members of the Argentina/Uruguay YAGM cohort and our coordinator, Paola.

This was our second retreat. Like our first one, it helped me get back in touch with the YAGM program and remember what I'm really doing here in Argentina. We spent a lot of time talking about the goals of the program along with our personal goals for the year and reflecting on how the things we do each day make those goals happen.

On the one hand, my work as a volunteer here in Argentina is spoon-feeding soup to people debilitated by Parkinson's, having the same conversation on five times in one hour with a woman with dementia (I'm not complaining—she always starts by telling me how handsome I am), dicing up watermelon for the cook who can't stand the smell of it, or struggling to connect the computer in the occupational therapy room to wifi so I can put on music. On the other hand, my work is also about representing the ELCA and continuing the strong relationships between the Lutheran communities in Argentina and the US. On a personal level, I'm trying to learn more about the world, figure out my place in it, and develop the strengths I need to succeed in that place (while having as much fun as I can). It's hard to keep these different aspects in mind all the time, which is why the retreats are important. They're also a lot of fun. I get to spend time with some amazing people and discover new parts of the country—in this case, the dry, rocky hills of Córdoba province.

That was just over two months ago. Since then, I've settled back into my normal routine here at the Hogar Armbruster. I have to remind myself that being here in Argentina won't be normal for me much longer. In three months, I'll be back in the US. I'm looking forward to going home, but I also don't want to leave here. Since you're reading this, I want to say thank you, because you played some part in making this possible.

## A Tragic Anniversary

I'm going to talk about some happy stuff in a moment, but first I need to mention that Argentina passed a solemn date recently: the 50th anniversary of the military coup of March 24, 1976. That coup began a military dictatorship (technically, a junta) that lasted until 1983. It called itself the "National Reorganization Process," which was a euphemism for the process of kidnapping, torturing, and killing its opponents—a process that the US covertly encouraged and financed. Leftist union leaders, priests who expressed solidarity with the poor, human rights activists, artists, student leaders, and other "subversives" were dragged off the streets or from their homes and "disappeared." It's estimated that the regime did this to 30,000 people. Forensic teams have worked for decades to identify bodies found in mass graves and washed up from the ocean, while victims' relatives have fought to track down the hundreds of infants whom the military gave away after it killed their mothers.

March 24 is now commemorated as the Day of Remembrance for Truth and Justice, a public holiday. At the Hogar Armbruster, I helped lead an activity on the dictatorship for some of the residents, nearly all of whom have (or once had) memories from that time.



## A Postscript to a Tragic Anniversary

The dictatorship's goal was to permanently crush democracy, freedom, creativity, and social progress in Argentina. It failed. Despite the challenges and setbacks it continues to face, Argentina is a free and vibrant country. Public universities and hospitals are free. Argentina began recognizing gay marriage in 2010 and provides some of the world's strongest legal protections for trans people. Until recently, Argentina also had world-leading laws to support women and combat gender-based violence. (Javier Milei, the current president, has dismantled most of these. His government has also guided workers' rights, environmental protections, scientific research, and other areas where Argentina has led the world.)

## Lollapalooza

In mid-March, I joined tens of thousands of people from across Buenos Aires and all Argentina for Lollapalooza Argentina, a three-day annual music festival featuring stars from around the world. Many young Argentines look forward to it all year. I found out about it from friends who were planning to go or wished they could. The headliners included Lorde, Chappell Roan, Sabrina Carpenter, and other huge stars that I never imagined I would see perform live.

In Argentina, the days leading up to Ash Wednesday are Carnival time. It's nowhere near as wild as in Brazil or New Orleans, but there's plenty to do and see. On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, I went to the neighboring municipality of San Miguel for Carnival Criollo, the only Carnival festival dedicated to Argentine folk/ore music. The next day, I headed to the Villa Devoto neighborhood of Buenos Aires city for a more typical Carnival festival, with performances by troupes (called *murgas*) of singers, dancers, and drummers who spend all year preparing for Carnival time.



Carnaval time



This dachshund probably didn't do much for Carnaval, but you never know!

### **Would You Like to Get Involved?**

*Please pray for the residents and workers at the Hogar Armbruster, the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida, and the city of José C. Paz.*

*If you would like to donate to support the work of Young Adults in Global Mission:*

**Online, with a credit card:** go to [www.elca.org/yagm/give](http://www.elca.org/yagm/give). Make sure to select "Joe Bender" from the "My gift will support" drop-down menu.

**By phone, with credit card:** call 800-638-3522 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Central time (6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pacific).

**By check:** Make checks payable to ELCA with YAGM GCS3593 in the memo line. GCS3593 is my individual giving code, indicating that you were inspired to donate by my year of service.

## Stewardship Corner: Showers of Blessings

I pulled into the parking lot and began to search for the closest parking place. My heart was as overcast as the day. A friend had treated me unfairly earlier that morning. Sheets of rain were pounding down. I didn't have an umbrella with me. Since it didn't look like the storm would cease any time soon, I would make a run for it. I was very close to the store, so I didn't think I would get very wet. I glanced about two lanes over just before I opened my door. I spotted an elderly lady walking slowly through the rain. She was pushing a buggy with one hand, while trying to maneuver a worn-out umbrella with the other. The spokes of the umbrella were turned upward, accumulating water by the bucketfuls.

My heart went out to her. Without thinking, I ran through the rain toward her. "Get in your car," I shouted. "Give me your buggy. I will put your groceries inside for you. You don't need to get wet. She did exactly as I asked and then got into her car. I am certain I looked like a drenched rat standing there in the rain holding onto her buggy filled with groceries. Once she got the door opened, I placed the bags of groceries on the passenger seat. "Have a great day!" I exclaimed to her, just before I shut the door. She stared at me with amazement in her eyes.

"Hold on for a minute. I have never had anyone to do anything like this for me before. May God bless you abundantly," she uttered. I smiled and slowly walked off. Since I was already soaking wet, I didn't see much need to run to the store.

When I made my purchase and returned to my car, I thought about how much better I felt after helping the lady with her groceries. The act of serving brought a ray of light to my once downcast and dreary day!



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY SPRING TEA

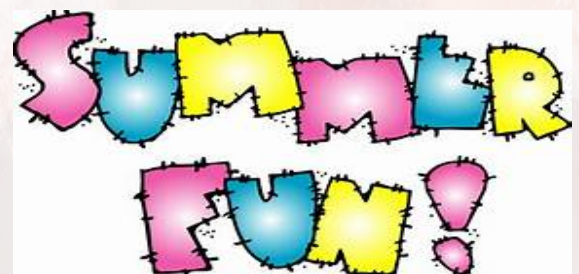
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO ATTEND OUR SPRING TEA  
AND LUNCHEON



12:00 P.M.  
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026  
MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
5895 BALL ROAD  
CYPRESS, CA 90630

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON  
OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!  
AN ASSORTMENT OF DELICIOUS  
TEAS, SANDWICHES,  
PASTRIES, FRUIT,  
AND DESSERTS WILL BE SERVED.

### OUR THEME



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



HAPPY  
*Mother's Day*

On this Mother's Day,  
we give thanks for all  
women who have been  
vessels of God's love—  
offering care, wisdom,  
and compassion to those  
entrusted to them.



*Pentecost*

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME

SUNDAY  
**MAY 24, 2026**

We celebrate the gift  
of the Holy Spirit—  
God's power, presence,  
and promise for all.

*Wear Red*  
ON THIS DAY!