

Good Shepherd News

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME: 9:30 AM

Radiant Illumination

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn - Isaiah 60:1-3

Happy New Year!

Epiphany celebrates the visit of the magi, who came to pay tribute to the Christ child. In Christian tradition, Epiphany is viewed as an ongoing revelation, not limited to a single event. Also known as Three Kings' Day, Epiphany begins on January 6 and concludes on Ash Wednesday, forming an essential period in the liturgical calendar. This season offers an opportunity for reflection, a deeper understanding of one's faith, and personal growth.

During this season of the church year, we engage with scripture to reflect on the significance of Christ's birth and its implications for our lives. While it may seem as though we are simply returning to routine following Christmas, this period encourages us to actively seek and discern what direction Christ provides for both our personal and congregational journeys. In this context, the enduring influence of Christ's birth is evident across various aspects of our lives. Throughout this season, individuals are invited to consider how Christ illuminates their experiences and to contemplate how they, in turn, can serve as a source of light to their families, friends, communities, and those they interact with daily.

Continues on next page.

Church Events

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

- Jan 11 @ 10:45 am
Congregational Meeting
- Jan 14th & 21st Bible
Study@ 5:00 pm
- Jan 17th WELCA @ 9:30 am
- Jan 17th Mini-Market
- Jan 20th Finance Meeting@
10:00 am
- Jan 27th Council Meeting@
6:00 pm
- Feb. 18th Ash Wednesday

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. It is a privilege to work together with you in service. Good Shepherd remains an active and engaged community.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.goodshepherdbuenapark.org> and view our worship services on our YouTube channel at [BIT.LY/GSLCBPCA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBIT.LY/GSLCBPCA). We encourage you to share these resources with your friends and family, as increased traffic enhances our public visibility. While the new year brings uncertainty, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this ministry.

As 2026 gets underway, let your light shine brightly!

In Christ,
Pastor Jennifer

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others. Your gifts support the ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries worldwide.

Check out the board in the Narthex and donate a gift for farm animals in need worldwide.

Donations will be made through January.

Buy a:

1. Ten Chicks \$10.00
2. Rooster \$15.00
3. Piglets \$30.00
4. Honeybees \$20.00
5. Goat \$ 30.00
6. Seedling Tree \$10.00



Faith Sharing in Your Daily Life

- Remember birthdays, job transitions with notes of blessing and encouragement.
- Invite a colleague to come with you to worship or to participate in a church-related activity.
- Host a lunchtime Bible study once a week for those who might be interested. Check with your employer first.

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

Property Update

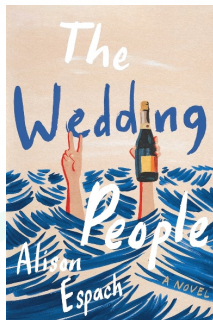
Killian, Marv and I continue to keep the campus clean, sprinklers replaced and roses pruned. Fausto keeps the lawn mowed and the bushes trimmed. Thank you all for keeping the Church functioning and beautiful.

Chris, the Handyman, got the outside lights on Foster Hall working again and fixed the sidewalk lights heading towards the Preschool gate. Marv will fix the trash door after the holidays and thank you, Joanne, for cleaning the campus on Sunday mornings.

Killian and Marv set up the tables for the Women's Tea Luncheon and brought the Nativity scene into the Narthex, the Angel into the sanctuary and hung the Christmas Eve Banner and street banner inviting everyone to Christmas Eve Service. Jessie and Sharon replaced the messaging on the Church sign.

Sharon heard from Herb Yaeger, the air conditioning company who will replace the bad coil on our unit. He has Carrier, our A/C unit supplier, saying on January 26th a new coil will be delivered. If the coil is undamaged, Herb will replace the bad coil; otherwise, we will have to re-order a new coil that is not damaged.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Sharon Castellaw
Property Chair



Book Club

Our first read for the year 2026 is
“The Wedding People” by Alison Espach.

A propulsive and uncommonly wise novel about one unexpected wedding guest and the surprising people who help her start anew.

It's a beautiful day in Newport, Rhode Island, when Phoebe Stone arrives at the grand Cornwall Inn wearing a green dress and gold heels, not a bag in sight, alone. Everyone in the lobby immediately mistakes her for one of the wedding people, but she's actually the only guest at the Cornwall who isn't here for the big event. Phoebe is here because she's dreamed of coming for years—she hoped to shuck oysters and take sunset sails with her husband, only now she's here without him, at rock bottom, and determined to have one last decadent splurge on herself. Meanwhile, the bride has accounted for every detail and every possible disaster the weekend might yield except for, well, Phoebe and Phoebe's plan, which makes it that much more surprising when the two women can't stop confiding in each other.

In turns absurdly funny and devastatingly tender, Alison Espach's *The Wedding People* is ultimately an incredibly nuanced and resonant look at the winding paths we can take to places we never imagined—and the chance encounters it sometimes takes to reroute us. Jennifer will lead January's Book Club discussion on Thursday, January 15, at 4:00 pm at Phyllis' home.

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers...

Betty, Anthony, Tony, Floanne, Diana, Kim, Carroll, Joan K., Kathy, Margaret, Brad, Ann, Blanca, Diva, Donna, Eddy, Gary, Leslie, Leo, Olivia, Jim, Kaye, Brandi, Ethan, Jose, Margie, Vic, Jena, Marcia, and Roy. Prayers of comfort and peace for Irene Blowes and family in the passing of Doreen.

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

President's Message

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

This past December, we lit the Advent Wreath as we have done for as many years as I can remember. Each time we light a candle, we need to reflect on its meaning. Hope! We need hope to get up in the morning and face each day, not knowing what it will bring. Hope will get us through the bad days and bring us through to experience The Peace, The Joy and most of all The Love of God.

In this New Year let us all pray for answers and solutions for our economy, the homeless, the war and struggles in the Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine as well as the discord in our own government. Be with Pastor Jennifer as she leads us with the grace and knowledge, she has to help Good Shepherd grow and prosper. Let us remember it takes a village, and she will need our help.

I am very optimistic in thinking that 2026 will bring the leadership needed for Good Shepherd as well as our country. I have Hope for Peace, I find Joy in family, friends and each morning God allows me to wake up and start a new day. As one-year flows into the next, God's Love is ever present, helping us to let go of the past and Joyfully look ahead to the future.

As we are again reminded, he is "the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." *Revelations 22:13*

So, get ready 2026 good things are going to happen at Good Shepherd

Many Blessings

Jessie Council President

Women of Good Shepherd

The Women of Good Shepherd hosted a successful Annual Christmas Tea and Luncheon, featuring festive decorations, games, food, and fellowship. Pastor Jennifer shared an inspiring message of Christ's love and hope. Destiny Coleman uplifted us with music, including "Mary Did You Know," "Holy Forever," and "Silent Night." We thank our honored guests: Rosemary Neilsen (Buena Park Outreach for the Homeless), Cecilia Hinojosa (Central School District Neighbor Resource Center), and Colette Chencinski (Buena Park Meals on Wheels) for sharing how their organizations support our community. Appreciation also goes to Mt Calvary, Our Redeemer Church Women, and everyone who attended. Special thanks to Barbara Weber, Luana Pearson, and Lynnete Young for organizing the event, we could not do this without them.

We also thank you all for the wonderful contribution of toys for the Buena Park Fire Department's "Spark of Love" we were able to deliver after the luncheon.

So now: When the song angel is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and princes are home.
When the shepherds are back with their flock.

So now: When the song angel is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and princes are home.
When the shepherds are back with their flock

The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost.
To heal the broken. To feed the Hungry.
To release the prisoner. To rebuild the nations.
To bring peace among brothers.
To make music in the heart.



Blessing for a Home at Epiphany

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother” (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

Twelfth Night (January 5), Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing for the home. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 21. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

Greeting

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (*Proverbs 24:3-4*)

Reading

As we prepare to ask God’s blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (*John 1:1-4, 14, 16*)

Inscription

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 ✚ C M B ✚ 21

Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar,

followed the star of God’s Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

21 and twenty years ago.

✚ Christ, bless this house,

✚ and remain with us throughout the new year.

Prayer of Blessing

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then everyone may walk from room to room, blessing the house with incense or by sprinkling with water, perhaps using a branch from the Christmas tree.

An acclamation may be sung during the procession, such as Music Sourcebook for All Saints through Transfiguration #S560. Adapted from *Come, Lord Jesus: Devotions for the Home* (Augsburg Fortress, 1996). See also “Blessing for a Home” in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care*, pp. 337–353. From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Thank You Note From the Buena Park Police Department's "Project Give A Christmas 2025 (Santa's Breakfast)"

Thank you so much for being a part of Project Give A Christmas 2025. Without incredible sponsors like yourself, this event would not be possible.

I wanted to summarize this event for you. This year, we sponsored 54 families, which included 135 children. It is our 34th year hosting an event, with more to come! Thanks to you, families who have experienced difficult times will be able to experience endless memories during the holidays. The families expressed deep gratitude to the Police Department and their sponsors.

I have included a thank-you card! The Buena Park Police Department is extremely grateful for the relationship we hold with you and your organization.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year,
Isabella Hernandez, Police Service Officer, Crime Prevention/ Community Relations



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Stewardship is both an old and a new concept.

In the Old Testament, the idea of stewardship is based on the willingness to recognize God as the provider of all essential elements of life. Then, as people received their harvest or an increase in their herd, they gave God the first fruits of what they brought

in from the fields or vineyards and the increase of the herds. By bringing these tithes and offerings to the storehouse, the religious system was supported. The Levitical group was able to lead in worship and administer the affairs of the law. This kept the nation on an even keel.

The New Testament concept is based on grace rather than law. The motivation for giving is the love that people have for their Lord and his Kingdom's work. People are to give from their hearts because of the change that has occurred in their lives.

There is a great similarity between these concepts. The Bible says:

Who is to give? The Book of Malachi says "Ye." The New Testament proclaims "Everyone of you" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

What is to be given? Malachi 3:8,10 states, "Tithes and offerings." Paul says in I Corinthians 16:2, "As God has prospered you."

When are we to give? "When the storehouse is open to receive the tithes and offerings," says the writer in Malachi 3:8-10. Paul makes it even more plain. He says, "Upon the first day of the week..."

Where are we to give? The instruction of the Old Testament is "into the storehouse." I Corinthians 16:2 tells us, "In store."

Why are we to give? Malachi explains the reason as being to supply the needs, so that there would always be a sufficient amount in the storehouse. 1 Corinthians 16:2 states it plainly: "...that there be no gatherings when I come."

God's financial plan has been in force for more than 3,500 years. It has worked in every generation whenever people have practiced it. It has never been too demanding or restrictive. When practiced by God's people, it has provided for the work that needed to be done and God has blessed those who followed his plan.



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

Congregational Semi-Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 11th, following worship in
Foster Hall**

**Meeting Topic: Approve the 2026 Annual
Budget**

**and need two volunteers for the Pacifica
Synod Assembly**

**2026 Regional Gathering, "A-Zoom-bly"
Regional Gatherings (from 10 am to 2 pm)
May 9, 2026 – Orange County
(Bethlehem, Los Alamitos)**

**And the A-Zoom-bly (starting at 12pm PDT):
June 20, 2026**

Women's Event

**We hope to see you in 2026 helping us
with health kits, filling backpacks,
collecting food for those in need, and
bringing cheer with our treat bags.**

Our next meeting will be

**Women of Good Shepherd
January 17, 2026
9:30 am
Fellowship Hall**