Good Shepherd News

November 2026 Newsletter

Living Generously in Response to God's Grace

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:21

When we hear the word *stewardship*, we often think about pledge cards, financial contributions, or the annual stewardship campaign. But Christian stewardship is about something much greater. It is about our relationship with God and how we respond to the many blessings we have received.

Over the past year, I have shared reflections in our newsletters about different aspects of stewardship, including caring for God's creation. You may have noticed that we have not had a traditional annual "stewardship emphasis" as you may have experienced in the past. Instead, I have intentionally included stewardship throughout the year because stewardship is not simply a once-a-year event. It is a way of life**.** It is recognizing that everything we have comes from God and discovering how we are called to use those gifts faithfully and generously.

In his book *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life*, Lutheran theologian Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell reminds us that giving is more than supporting financial needs. He writes, "The essence of faith is worship and the essence of worship is sacrifice—giving of ourselves in devotion to God."

Giving is an act of worship, an expression of gratitude, and a reflection of our trust in God. As Lutherans, we understand that we do not give to earn God's love. We give because we have already received God's incredible grace through Jesus Christ. Our generosity is a response to God's grace.

Church Events

Sundays @ 9:30 am Worship Service

- **Nov. 17th Finance Committee @10:00 am**
- **Nov. 19th Mayor's Prayer Breakfest @7:00 am Knott Hotel**
- **Nov. 19th Book Club @ 4:00 pm**
- **Nov. 21st Women of Good Shepherd @ 9:30 am**
- **Nov. 24th Church Council @ 6:00 pm**

Nov. 26th Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed

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.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the hope and love of Jesus Christ. Through your generous financial contributions, we can continue our current ministries while exploring new ways to welcome, serve, and connect with our surrounding community.

As we look toward the future, I invite each of us to prayerfully consider how God might be calling us to grow in generosity. Perhaps it means increasing our financial contributions, even by a small amount, or sharing more of our time and talents. Together, our gifts can open doors to new possibilities for ministry.

The question is not simply, "What does Good Shepherd need from me?" but rather, "What is God calling us to do together with the gifts we have been given?"

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful support of Good Shepherd. Your gifts make a difference in the lives of others and help us share Christ's love beyond our church walls.

May we continue to grow as a congregation that gives joyfully, serves faithfully, and trusts boldly in God's abundant grace.

Blessing, Pastor Jennifer Zahnow

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers…

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

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11th Frank Roberts

17th Joanne Petteys

25th George Petteys

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

"THANKFUL"

As we move into November, we finally get cool weather and the much-needed blessing of rain. My mind immediately goes to "Thanksgiving Day"; unfortunately, I call it the forgotten holiday. From September to December, we will see Halloween and Christmas in every store we go into, but where are the Turkeys in November? As a child, we certainly looked forward to Halloween, eager to go door to door for lots of candy and treats. Then November brought Thanksgiving Day. We gathered with family to feast on a wonderful meal of Turkey, pie, and all trimmings. On this day, we were also reminded to be thankful for all we have, and I think the excitement of other holidays has made us forget how important this holiday is and what it represents.

From year to year, we see changes in all our lives. Some good and some not so good. Among the many Government struggles that seem to affect everyone, it is difficult to find anything positive. We find ourselves in an unexpected war, along with other political controversies that seem to affect all of us. Thankfully, we live in a country that gives us the freedom to think, act, and VOTE for the people and religion of our choice. Not everyone is afforded this gift. Not everything was negative; in April, we saw the birth of Sandy and Luna, two baby eaglets born to Jackie and Shadow. This event was followed by many, and we were thankful for the gift of watching them hatch and grow. Proof once again of God's creation and miracle of life.

Each of us will have and continue to have both trials and triumphs in our lives. Please take time every day to thank God for the daily gifts we are given, and do not be afraid to ask for help to get through the difficult times we will all experience.

Lord, thank you for your grace in the midst of trials and for the peace that walking through them together brings. **Strength and Grace

Psalm 133:1 How good and pleasant it is when Gods people live together in unity.

"Happy Thanksgiving Day to all"

Jessie DeVito, Council President

Property Update

Herb Yaeger, Yaeger Services, was called to see why the air conditioner wasn't reading the thermostat and he found out one of the fuses was damaged so he replaced the fuse and cleaned the other four, inspected the fan and the outside unit to make sure there wasn't any other damage caused by the fuse malfunction.

Killian and Marv finished staining and putting up the door handles on the kitchen cabinets and Pastor is working on replacing the counter tops. Marv replaced the battery on the motion sensor in the storage room off the stage in Foster Hall and Killian also checked the gutters around the Preschool rooms, Pastor's and Linda's Office and the Sacristy roofs for pine needles before the last rain and wind. I am still waiting to receive a bill from Chris, our Handyman, for the work he did replacing two fans in Foster Hall which David and Tina Ettel bought for the Church.

Fausto picked up pine needles and filled the green waste bin with needle droppings and we just found out he has been sick but he is doing better now. Sharon has been keeping the campus clean, pulling weeds and pruning roses.

Marv and Sharon set up tables in Foster Hall on Friday Octobrt 23rd for the Precious Life Baby Shower and Barbara, Judy and Cathy will decorate for the event.

Thank you, Irene, for your cookies and coffee after Church.

Sharon Castellaw, Property Chair

Stewardship Corner

One of Jesus' favorite conversational subjects was material possessions.

In thirteen of his nineteen parables, the topic is the right and wrong use of our possessions. Remember his conversations with the young ruler and Zacchaeus? Yes, they also were about money!

In our culture, conversation about money was considered improper. At the same time, money is a sub-surface topic in many conversations.

I prefer to talk about money rather than deal with it at a sub-surface level since I have discovered that it is one of the main competitors for our allegiance to Jesus. It's always helpful to know something about the opposing team!

Jesus was aware that our allegiance was swayed in many different directions and that many of these directions were away from and not toward him. He preferred to meet the leading issues of life (money being one) in a direct, forthright manner. To do otherwise, would have been to leave us in a non-growth condition.

Are we willing to face the money issue? What is the connection between Jesus and money in your life? How do you determine your outlook about money and Jesus?

Faith Sharing in Your Daily Life

- Remember that some people are more inclined to come to church for the first time at Christmas or Easter. Look for creative ways to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to worship or to a special holiday event.
- At Christmas time, provide faith-related gifts and storybooks to neighbor children, teachers, and friends.
- Share verbally why Christmas and Easter are times of celebration for you and your family.
- Host a Thanksgiving Party for your neighbors. Find ways to help others reflect on their blessings.
- Remembers Mother's Day and Father's Day as a special time to care for others whose families may not be close by.

Treasurer's Report for November 2026 September 2026 Review

Envelope Giving for September 30, 2026 was $5,608 which is $1,059 under the monthly 2026 Budget and year-to-date the total giving is $319 under the 2026 Budget. **Thank You for your faithful giving**. There was $7,250 transferred from the Endowment Fund in September. The church's pledge to the Synod is current. In summary, the income is under budget and the expenses are under budget.

While the September 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.

"Sock of Love" Campaign of Love and Warmth

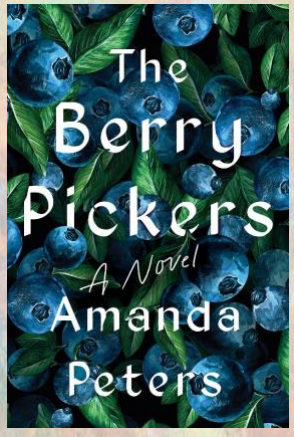
Colder weather is coming to California in the next couple of months. As you clean for the holidays and sort through your closets, please donate gently used coats, jackets, or shoes to our "Sock of Love" campaign. When you shop at Costco, please pick up a package of adult socks for men or women. All donations will go to Buena Park Outreach for the Homeless.
Please donate new socks only.

Women of Good Shepherd

Come, Join us
Saturday, November 21st
at 9:30 am

Join us and share your favorite Thanksgiving event with family or friends while we fill treat bags. We will also discuss the upcoming "Christmas luncheon". Did I tell you we also have delicious refreshments? Hope to see you.

Good Shepherd Book Club



One family's deepest pain. Another's darkest secret. Who will they be when the truth comes out?

On a hot day in 1960s Maine, six-year-old Joe watches his little sister Ruthie sit on her favorite rock at the edge of the blueberry fields while their Mi'kmaq family from Nova Scotia picks fruit. That afternoon, Ruthie vanishes without a trace. As the last person to see her, Joe will be forever haunted by grief, guilt, and the agony of imagining how his life could have been.
Come join us for November book discussion on Thursday, November 19 at 4:00 at Phyllis home.

Precsious Life Baby Shower was held on October 24

With joyful hearts, we gather in God's love to celebrate the precious gift of new life. We are grateful to share this sweet day of laughter, music, fellowship, and love.

Good Shepherd and Mt. Calvary hosted a special baby shower for the mothers of Precious Life, with decorations, gifts, food, and games. We were grateful to share the day with them.
Thank you to our sisters in Christ from Mt. Calvary and Good Shepherd and everyone who contributed funds, Thrivent gift cards, or time to prepare and attend. Each mother received new baby clothes, blankets, towels, bottles, wipes, socks, and mittens, plus a basket with lotion, body soaps, brushes, and a manicure set. Your generosity made the day a blessing.

Opportunities to Connect and Grow in Faith

A WOVEN IMAGE CHRISTMAS

A CONCERT OF CAROLS SET IN THE STYLE OF
CELTIC, FOLK AND JAZZ!

TO BENEFIT THE MINISTRY CENTER AT OUR REDEEMER

FREE WILL OFFERING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH AT 4PM

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
12301 MAGNOLIA STREET, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92841

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