



Good Shepherd News

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME: 9:30 AM

Discover the Wonder of Christ

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

This season often brings increased activity as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Despite the continual demands on our time, we approach this period with anticipation and joy. We await the occasion with anticipation and hope for its significance in our lives.

We each prepare for the arrival of Christ in our own ways. On Sunday mornings, we come together as a community to worship and experience the Advent story through the lighting of the Advent wreath. By doing so, we build a welcoming space for the infant child to enter our lives. Hearing God's Word is essential for all of us, especially now when the world often emphasizes Individualism and the secular aspects of Christmas. During this season, it can be difficult to find time to pause, reflect, and notice how God is at work in your life.

We encourage you to consider reading our Advent devotional, *A Grand Miracle*, which draws inspiration from the works of C.S. Lewis. Recognizing the significance of the Incarnation, C.S. Lewis described it as "a Grand Miracle." This daily devotional provides an opportunity for thoughtful reflection throughout the Advent season.

As we enter the weeks of anticipation and preparation for celebrating Christ's birth, I wish you and your family abundant blessings during the Christmas season.

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

Church Events

- **Sunday Worship 9:30 am**
- **Mini-Market Dec 6th**
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- **WELCA Dec 13th**
11:30 am
- **Finance Committee Dec 16th** 10:00 am
- **Christmas Eve Worship**
Dec 24th 5:00 pm

Congregational Semi-Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 11th, following
worship in Foster Hall

Faith Sharing in Your Daily Life

- Decorate your office, car, or home with symbols or pictures that say something about your faith or could invite conversations about God.
- Offer affirmations to colleagues or a job well done; share who thatful you are to God for their gifts.
- Carry your faith over into your work by insisitng on fair prices, good products an just treatment of customers and employees. Share what motivates you to stand up for these values in such a way,
- Take a colleague to lunch and share something about how God is working in your life or something that you have recently been involved in at church.

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers...

Doreen, Betty, Tony, Floanne, Diana, Kim, Carroll, Joan K., Kathy, Virginia, Margaret, Brad, Ann, Wally, Blanca, Diva, Donna, Eddy, Leslie, Leo, Olivia, Jim, Kaye, Brandi, Ethan, Vic, 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

Pastor Jennifer is on vacation from Wednesday, Nov. 26, to Tuesday, December 9th. Contact the church office: 714 827-6021 with any pastoral emergencies.

Treasurer's Update

We have paid all the bills presented in October 2025 and the checking account ended the month at \$35,966. The increase was because \$15,000 from the Endowment Fund was deposited.

Envelope Giving from January to October was \$62,485. The monthly giving in October was \$5,953. Keep up the good work faithful givers. Facility Use provided an additional \$3,730 in October.

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 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

As One Door Closes! Another Opens!

As we arrive on the doorstep of 2026, we will begin a new adventure in the life of Good Shepherd. In my December letter of 2024, I asked God for direction and help to guide our newly elected call committee's search for a new door that would give us hope for a brighter 2025. That door opened on November 22, 2025, as we installed Pastor Jennifer to be our guide in ministry. She is young, smart, and eager to help Good Shepherd grow, her energy and enthusiasm is welcome, needed and I hope contagious.

We have endured our first year without Good Shepherd Pre-School and closing that door was not easy. We are looking into future possibilities to fill the empty classrooms. I know God has a plan for them, but he has not told us, yet what that will be. So we just have to have faith. We look forward to the possibility of being the home base for a craft and Food Fair beginning in December. This gift will not only bring needed and welcome revenue, but it will also bring people to Good Shepherd giving us the opportunity to invite them to visit and worship. I do believe God is opening another door, but it will take some volunteers to help it be successful.

As predicted our political situation has been rocky and has resulted in much unrest and conflict. Inflation has put a strain on most of us and the future looks kind of scary. Doors have opened and closed in our personal lives as well, this brings both happy and sad times for many of us. In these times we just have to hope for the best, let go and let God take over.

A Blue Christmas Service

A Co-op Event Hosted by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

A service of lament and hope for our community

Wednesday, December 17th, 7pm



*Come and be with others who are experiencing
sadness and grief during the holiday season.*

*We will light candles, hear beautiful Christmas music
and receive a message of hope and healing.*

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

12301 Magnolia Street, Garden Grove, CA 92841

As we say good-bye to 2025 and move forward to 2026, I pray for all new doors and possibilities that will open for Good Shepherd. With the help of the church council and the gifts Pastor Jennifer brings, will give us the faith and courage to walk through them. My prayers go to all who are sick, homeless and in need of God's blessings. Give us the strength to get through the difficult times ahead and provide help where and when it is needed and we are able. Yes! keep looking for new doors to open, they will always be there but, not always easy to find or open. So have faith, be kind and love one another as he has loved us.

"Great faith is often built during great trials" *Our Daily Bread

Happy Holidays to all, Jessie DeVito

Outreach/Evangelism Meeting

Sunday, January 11th, following worship in Pastor Jennifer's office. If you are interested in being a part of this work at Good Shepherd, please attend this meeting.



Mark Your Calendar for December

You Are Invited

Heaven Comes Down for Christmas

Women of Good Shepherds

Annual Tea and Luncheon

Saturday, December 13 at 11:30 am

Christmas Message by

Pastor Jennifer Zahnow

Music by Destiny Coleman

**Fellowship, Games, and Singing, along
with a lovely Luncheon and tea.**

**What to bring – Unwrapped Toy for
the Buena Park Fire Department**

"Spark of Love".

Invite a friend!

RSVP Cathy or Luana



**BLUE
CHRISTMAS**

A Service of Hope and Healing

You are invited to our Blue Christmas Worship Service—an evening created especially for those who find the holiday season difficult. Whether you are carrying grief, stress, loneliness, or simply need a quiet space in the midst of December's busyness, this gentle service offers comfort, reflection, and the promise of God's light in the darkest moments. Join us for scripture, prayer, soft music, and a message of hope as we make room for God's peace together.
All are welcome.

**DECEMBER 18, 2025
AT 7:00 PM**

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
111 W. LAS PALMAS DR.
FULLERTON**

Property Update

Killian and Marv took the Preschool sign down that was on the parking strip facing Crescent, painted the poles and a new sign will be replaced by Quantum free of charge. Killian replaced 3 toilet seats in the Women's bathrooms inside the Sanctuary and Foster Hall and Marv replaced another electrical outlet near the kitchen. Killian also replaced the carpet savers on the bottom of one of the green chairs in the Narthex and helped take down the vertical blinds and bookcase in Pastor's Office.

Sharon moved the trash barrels that are being used by Minni's Market and put them inside the shed that is located between the breezeway by Room 1 of the Preschool building and Conference Room B. Linda has been helping us by turning the sprinklers on for 10 minutes in the back of the Church building and the plants and lawn are starting to look green again. Thank you, Linda.

Trunk or Treat was well received by the surrounding neighborhood. The kids enjoyed the jump house and thank you to everyone who decorated their cars for Halloween and to Joselyn and Killian for helping at the event. Pastor has been busy contacting a flooring company to replace the floor in the Choir area of the Church and fixing up her office.

Charlie and Fausto continue to replace sprinkler heads and Pastor bought covers for the sprinkler outlets so they will be protected when Minni's Market has their next craft fair. Sharon and Jessie changed the messaging on the Church sign and Sharon continues to prune roses and clean the campus. Thank you, Joanne, for cleaning the campus on Sunday mornings.

Sharon Castellaw, Property Chair

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 good gift to farm animals needed in our world community. **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

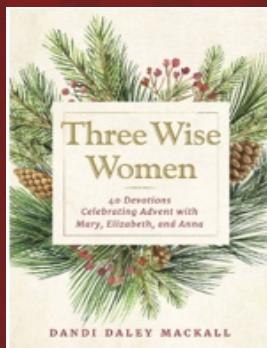


Thank You

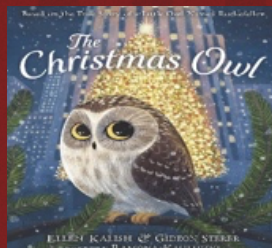
I am profoundly grateful to Good Shepherd for entrusting me with the role of pastor following my service as interim over the past two and a half years. I look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit works among us. Additionally, I extend my thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of my installation on Nov. 22nd. Your efforts are truly commendable.

Good Shepherd Book Club

Book Club will be off for the Month of December. We will announce the January book in the bulletin later this month. If you are looking for some good Christmas Books, here are a few ideas.

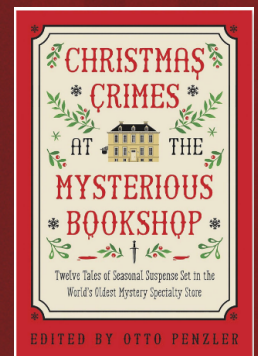


Three Wise Women
Lovely book for that devotional time at Christmas as we wait for the birth of Jesus.



The Christmas Owl: A Children's Story, based on the true story of a little owl whose home was chosen to be the national Christmas tree in Rockefeller Square.

How about some Christmas Mysteries: *Christmas Crimes at the Mysterious Bookshop*



A Woven Image Christmas

Sunday, December 7th at 4pm

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
and

Saturday, December 13th at 7pm

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church



Free will offering to benefit

December 7th: The Ministry Center of ORLC
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

12301 Magnolia St, Garden Grove, CA 92841

December 13th: Global Refuge

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

5895 Ball Road, Cypress California, 90630

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

