

# January Events



**Sunday, January 4th**

Many hands make light work! Join us the first Sunday of January, after service, to un-decorate the church. All help is greatly appreciated!!



**Sunday, January 11th**

Program on the Camino de Santiago and Catered Hot Lunch

Cost is \$13 per person and includes gratuity

Sign up and payment deadline is Sunday, January 4th!



**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

**Sunday, January 25th**

**Congregational Meeting after Service**

This will be our annual budget meeting so please plan to attend. We need 30 to make a quorum!

## THE VOICE

**January 2026**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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# Notes From Pastor Eli!

## This is The Moment

Psalm 90, believed to have been written by Moses, states in verse 12, "So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart."

As you and I turn the calendar to a New Year, we are once again reminded of the reality that our days on this earth are numbered. Yesterday is past. Tomorrow is not guaranteed.

The Bible, in James 4:14, speaks of time and living in these terms, ..."what is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

My friend, no thoughtful person can approach a New Year without some introspection, without looking into one's own mind, reactions and actions. Most of us will look over the failures, the mistakes, the missed opportunities of the past year and be ready to start over. That probably is one of the good things about New Years, it is the chance to start over. Now the problem is some of us will attempt it by sheer resolve, by flexing our moral muscles, by determination to be better people in the future.

How many of us live up to our New Year's resolutions? I thought so. Most of us, including me, don't.

Moses, in great humility and insight encourages each of us to ask God to "teach us to count our days." I believe a part of what is being revealed in this verse is that you and I are not made to cope with temptations and inner conflicts all by ourselves. The "do-it-yourself" or the "I did it my way" mindset cannot co-exist in the spiritual realm, no matter how hard we try.

Because of the shortness of our time on earth, Moses' prayer in Psalm 90 needs to be ours as well. Not one of us can say, "I know I will be alive and living tomorrow." The thread of life is so uncertain that none of us should boast that we own one second of the future. This moment right now, is God's gift to us. It is the only piece of time we can really call our own because it the only one we are living.

Scripture is very explicit about the importance of the present: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts," Psalm 95:7,8; "See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation," II Corinthians 6:2.

Friends, though we may all be looking and planning for the year 2026, this moment right now is the only time that you have. Take advantage of it. This is the moment to commit yourself fully to the Lord if you've not already done so. This is the moment to ask for forgiveness, to forgive someone if there have been cruel words and actions. This is the moment to commit yourself to the Kingdom of God, Good Shepherd Lutheran needs you. This is the moment to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," II Peter 3:18. This is the moment to surrender to God's Holy Spirit and allow Him to produce the Fruit of the Spirit in and through you, (See Galatians 6:22,23). This is the moment to give and receive love. Amen??

Your Activities Committee is planning a catered lunch and program for January 11th after the worship service. We will learn about the Camino de Santiago or the "Way of St. James." Please join us. Cost of the lunch is \$13 and includes the tip.

Blessings,

*Eli*



Thank you to Diane Deem for sending me such lovely cards. Thank you for remembering me. I think of all of you often. Have a Merry Christmas! Thank you.

Joanne Wile

Dear GSLC Family

Thank you for thinking of me with your extremely generous Christmas gift. Once again your generosity has humbled me beyond words. Thank you is what needs to be said, but seems to fall way short of my true appreciation. Thank you for being an amazing extended family! May you all have a very safe, happy and healthy new year!

Lei



- The elevator and the sign have both been fixed
- The light bulbs will be replaced in the sanctuary with new LED bulbs and a surge protector breaker will be installed on the main breaker panel.
- The budget was discussed and approved to send to the congregation for approval.
- The Congregational Meeting will take place after service on January 25th
- November receipts \$18,365; expenses \$12,375



**The 2026 Altar Flower Sign Up Sheet is in the Gathering Space**

The sign up sheet is now available for 2026 altar flowers. The cost is still \$50 for two vases. Members and non members are welcome to sign up! Please fill out a blue dedication sheet when you sign up and put it in the offering plate or in the church office.



**Reminder to ALL council members!!! Please submit your year end reports to Lei Fahrner no later than Sunday, January 4th. Thank you!**

# Thank You! Thank You!

There will be no Concern of the Month for January. Please enjoy these amazing benevolence statistics from the past year. This is what GSLC was able to accomplish! WOW!!!

**January and February-** LWR for the California fires. \$1183

**March-** Easter gift cards \$1000

**April-** hunger walk for food bank

**May-**Stark County Hunger Task Force- backpacks for kids \$358 and food

**June-**Veterans and first responders \$790

**July-**School supplies for Taft and Frazier

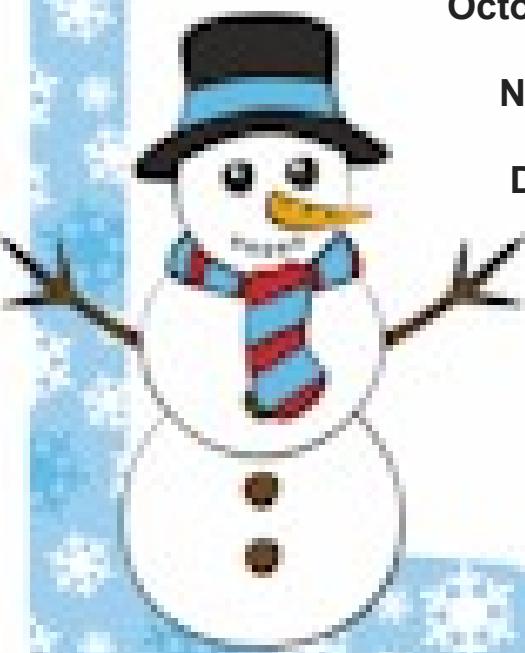
**August-** LWR Texas flooding \$1045

**September-** God's work our hands- assembled over 300 soap kits for Refuge of Hope and provided hygiene products.

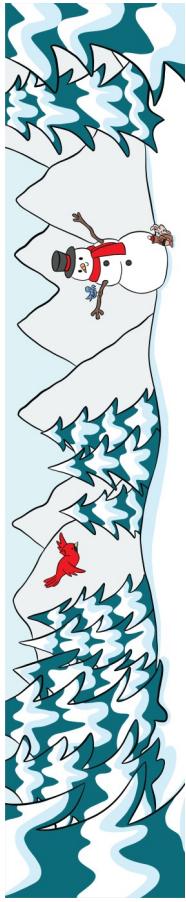
**October-**Zion Lutheran food pantry-\$420 in non perishables

**November-** Thanksgiving food gift cards -\$1200

**December-** Christmas food gift cards-\$1200



# January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Lei Worship 9:15a	5	6	7	AA 7p	8 Yoga 10a	9 Crafts & Con- versation 10a
11 Pastor Eli Worship 9:15a Program & Lunch	12	13	14 AA 7p Council 7p	15 Yoga 10a	16 Quilting 10a	17
18 Pastor Eli Worship 9:15a	19	20	21 AA 7p	22 Yoga 10a	23 Crafts & Con- versation 10a	24
25 Lei Worship 9:15a Cong. Mtg 10:30a	26	27	28 AA 7p	29 Yoga 10a	30	31