

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE



Shepherd of the Valley Evangelical Lutheran Church

1455 East Yosemite Avenue, Merced CA 95340 209-383-0632

Our Mission Statement: To be loving Christians, centered in God's Word and serving one's neighbor.

Our Vision Statement: Accepting people where they are and loving them as God does.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

STAFF

Pastor John Russell-Curry
jrussellcurry@comcast.net

Administrative Assistant:
Carolyn Daberkow
shepherdofthevalleyelca@gmail.com

Office Hours
8:00 – 11:00 AM Monday-Friday

web page: www.thesovlutheran.net
Also on Facebook

Council President:
Marc Medefind
Cell: 209-777-9302
mrmedefind@aol.com

Sunday worship is live on Zoom at 10:00 AM and in-person in sanctuary. (See updates on calendar & SOV Weekly News emails.)

Please have your articles for the newsletter sent each month by the 15th to:
shepherdofthevalleyelca@gmail.com
Thank you.

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE newsletter is available as a paper copy for pickup, mailed, or sent as an email attachment, or viewed on the website.

ELCA Statements and information are available on the web sites: Sierra Pacific Synod, spselca.org, and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, elca.org.

Answering the Pharisee about the greatest commandment, Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...". Surprisingly, Jesus adds a second commandment to be considered "great" ("You shall love your neighbor...").

Why is a second commandment always associated?

Creation is a social entity. It is considered extreme to isolate others with solitary confinement. We all seek to avoid being excluded/ignored.

Despite common sentiments about the engagement with neighbors ("The more I learn about people, the more I love my dog"), we want and need to love and to be loved.

Countless people greet the new day walking with a pet. Unhoused people carry or lead animals. Service and "companion" animals are commonplace and receive special consideration.

I have just finished a short book about the healing journey taken by a woman with a serious medical condition that left her bedbound. She was too weak to care for her beloved dog and had to give it up to the care by others.

Strangely, she encountered a common snail in her garden. She put the snail next to her bed in a terrarium with water, soil, and decaying plant matter. She grew attached to the snail and observed the snail's every movement. The snail climbed out of the terrarium to escape captivity at night, but every day returned. The woman and the snail "loved each other as themselves".

In a few days, we will honor Jesus' second commandment by offering a blessing for beloved animals in our midst. Should you be available, come and join this acknowledgement at 11:00 AM, Saturday, October 5.

You won't be there alone. (No animal love is too small.)

Pastor John



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing: Family of Richard "Bud" Roduner; Joel Knox; Gleneda Muralt; Dorothy Woody; Rosie Sullivan; Karen Darby; Eric Smith; Gleneda Muralt's niece, Shereida; Lynette Figueroa; Nan Dailey; Kimberly Castillo's daughter Jillian and mother-in-law Lupe; Pam Andersen; Pastor John Russell-Curry and his family; Warren Westerberg; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; Penny Waha; Annie Sofranek; Susanne Smith; David Cherf; and people who are ill around the world.

We lift prayers for our Benevolence of the Month, **Boys and Girls Club of Merced County** and for our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop, **Jeff Johnson**.

The names on the Prayer List may be removed at the end of each month unless the office is notified that you would like them left on for another month. Please leave a message at the office, 209-383-0632. Thank you.



PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

We would like to thank Pam Andersen for volunteering to take over leading the Prayer Chain.

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Pam at 209-631-4594 to start the Prayer Chain.

**COUNCIL NEWS
September 9, 2024**

A new Treasurer has been found. The new Treasurer is Mona Kowalczyk. (Tim Shaw will still be fulfilling Treasurer tasks until October).

Blessing of the Animals is happening October 5th at 11am outside of Lineberger Hall.

An Outdoor Worship will be held October 6th at 10am with a potluck following the service.

Bishop Eaton's Conversation: Tuesday, September 10th, at 12pm Pacific Time, Bishop Eaton will be having a conversation "God's Love Made Real".

**Blessing of the Animals
Saturday, October 5, 2024
11:00 AM – noon**

There will be a short, appropriate introductory service outdoors.

Each of our animal friends /loved ones may be presented for a personal blessing, love, and a treat!

Please join us to bless your loved ones for all they do for you!

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Desiree Hamamoto	10/05
Parker Oates	10/06
Nan Dailey	10/06
Marit Medefind Bond	10/10
Brandon LiWang	10/12
Kaylei Rigers	10/13
Annie Sofranek	10/13
"Ana" Anastasia Crosley	10/16
Sarah Sofranek	10/17
Ron Basso	10/18
Rylee Bernal	10/20
David J Cherf II	10/20
Bryan Hofmann	10/20
Yolanda Campos	10/22
Stacy Christofferson	10/29

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Brown	11/01
Tim Shaw	11/02
Ana Boyenga	11/04
Gwen Cherf	11/06
Karen Goldsmith	11/06
Larry Waha	11/06
John Pruett	11/07
Danica Christofferson	11/13
Kylie Christofferson	11/13
Oliver Lee Oates	11/20
Dominic Basso	11/23



MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Join us on
Thursday, October 17 at
 11:30 AM
 for food and fellowship!
 This month we will meet at
 Agaves Mexican Grill
 779 E. Yosemite Avenue,
 Suite A.

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost	October 6
Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16	Green
Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost	October 13
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31	Green
Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost	October 20
Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45	Green
Reformation Sunday	October 27
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36	Red
<i>You are encouraged to wear red this Sunday.</i>	

SOV WORSHIP SERVICES ARE ON FACEBOOK

Our worship services can be seen any day, at any time, on Facebook. Just type in the search box "Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Merced" and you will see the church listed. Click on our church and our Facebook page appears, with all the services.

We encourage you to send the service to your family and friends by clicking on the "SHARE" icon below the picture, and then use "Share to your friends" or "Send in Messenger" service.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, October 6
 10:00 AM

All are invited to join us for this special service that will be held at the Pavilion. The service will be followed by a potluck.

We look forward to seeing you for a time of worship, fellowship and food!

PROPERTY REPORT

September 9, 2024

HVACS: Haven't had any problems. Ordered filters that never came, reordered.

FENCE: Fence is being looked into and decided by the council.

OUTDOOR LIGHTS: Bulbs were ordered and are getting replaced.

INDOOR LIGHTS: We are still replacing the old fluorescent bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs.

SPRINKLERS: Leak in a main valve box in front is being looked at by a gardener. Sprinklers and PVC pipes being fixed. Trees in the center are being watered every 2-3 days during the hottest of days.

POWER POINT, ZOOM, PA SYSTEM: We have a constant 40-50 views of our weekly services on ZOOM and later on Facebook. Steve picked up a multimeter that the boys are using to check batteries.

GROUNDS: The 2 dead trees are on hold until cooler weather. A chunk of brick by the garbage is being fixed by Alan Arnold.

DOORS LEFT UNLOCKED: No doors have been discovered to be unlocked! A good trend to continue.

SPIDER WEBS: During our 6am watering, we are starting to brush down cobwebs. The garages were our first cleanup of those.

All seems to be going well, we have been fixing problems as they arise and as always are looking forward to starting new and finishing old projects.

David Cherf, Property Manager
cell/text: (209)489-7757

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

September and October Benevolence

Boys and Girls Club of Merced County
615 West 15th Street, Merced, CA 95340

209-722-9922

www.bgcmerced.org

OUR MISSION

To enable all young people, especially those who need us the most, to be productive, caring, and responsible individuals.

The Boys & Girls Club of Merced County is part of one of the largest and most impactful community organizations across America. We set out to serve youth, their families, and communities through evidence-based youth development programs.

We are a non-profit organization that is working hard to fill in the gaps for our youth and it is our goal that every child graduates high school ready for opportunities in the workforce, vocational trade, post-secondary education, and/or the military.

We know that we are not the *single* answer, but with strategic partnerships, dedicated sponsors, caring staff, passionate mentors, dedicated volunteers and leaders, we will serve the needs of our youth, help children explore their interests, facilitate the pursuit of their dreams and be on track for a Great Future!

How do we serve youth?

The Boys & Girls Club of Merced County provides programs and mentors to foster a sense of competence, usefulness and belonging in youth, so they can reach their full potential.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Boys & Girls Club on the memo line to be forwarded.

Shepherd of the Valley Website

www.thesovlutheran.net

The website is active and being monitored by Carolyn Daberkow, Administrative Assistant. Take a little time to review the website. Any suggestions/articles and/or photos may be shared with Jeane Hetland to be reviewed for placement.

You will find the links to the Zoom gatherings by clicking on ABOUT US, click on WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES and click on the long link. You will need the Zoom app downloaded to your phone, tablet, or computer first.

Thanks go to Carolyn Daberkow, along with Jeane Hetland for the continuing updates

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Term ends May 2025

Jan Collins
 Steven Hand
 Mary Jo Knudsen

Term ends May 2026

Karen Arnold
 David John Cherf II
 Marc Medefind
 Barbara Ward

Tim Shaw—Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper *through October 14*
 Mona Kowalczyk—Treasurer & Bookkeeper
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary
 Audit Committee: Pam Andersen, Alan Arnold, Mona Kowalczyk, and Carolyn Stephens

2024-2025 Council Officers

President: Marc Medefind Vice-President: Barb Ward
 Secretary: David John Cherf II

*Next Meeting Date: **Monday, October 14, 6:00 PM***

OCTOBER SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

To help serve the glory of God in worship - please contact Chris Boyenga, 209-759-8544 to participate as Greeter, Usher, or Reader/Assisting Minister for our 10 A.M. Sunday Worship Service.

	Sunday October 6	Sunday October 13	Sunday October 20	Sunday October 27
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>
Ushers	<i>Alan Arnold</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>

**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					SOV Weekly News sent via email	Church Clean-up 9 AM Blessing of the Animals 11 AM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Outdoor Worship 10 AM Potluck to follow service.					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship: 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom	Council Meeting 6 PM			Birthday Luncheon Agaves Mexican Grill 11:30 AM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
27	28	29	30	31		
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
1455 E Yosemite Ave
Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED