

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.

STAFF

Supply Pastor:

Pastor Jack Damien

pulpitsupplyjack@gmail.com

Worship Music Director:

Marit Medefind

209-658-0633

mmedefind@gmail.com

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:

David Cherf

Home: 209-725-0921

Cell: 209-489-7757

djcherf@yahoo.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.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPPLY MINISTER – PASTOR JACK

As we head into the full bloom of summer, we can hopefully take some time for more leisurely fun, gathering with friends, and maybe a special meal we've been anticipating.

I'm doing some yard work where I live, and I've noticed that our beautiful Central Valley natural wonders keep on giving me more and more weeds to pull. I actually wish nature wasn't so "generous" with the weeding, but it is a good feeling to sit back after the work is done, remember how the yard used to look, and then enjoy the newly trimmed grass and bushes.

Hopefully, we can all find something we enjoy this summer, pay attention to that, and have a good day.

Guess what, the exact moment I wrote the paragraph above, a huge truck that sweeps up the street just roared by. Now even the street is looking good. Alright!





PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

Baby Everly; Gleneda Muralt’s brother-in-law, Walter; 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; LaVonne Wenrich; Jan & Joe Collins; Dottie Andersen; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; Jan Carpenter; Karen Darby; 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, **Restore Merced**, for our **Sierra Pacific Synod** and for the people of **Ukraine and Russia**.

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.



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

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

(From June 14 Council Meeting)

- The Actual Net Income for May 2022 was \$10,061.88, while our YTD Actual Net Income is \$49,242.30.
- Tim Shaw reported that a zoom call with Pastor Manda is scheduled for June 27th, with the call committee.
- David Cherf reported the HVAC needs freon, at \$200 lb. Before committing to that a ‘leak stop’ is being put in as a work-around. If still leaks adding freon will be necessary.
- The lady’s restroom needs the stoppers replaced. Dave is going to replace them in all the bathrooms.
- The a/c filters that are currently in place are the wrong size, so they are being replaced with the correct size.
- El Capitan Football Booster on July 2nd is set to go and will be a drive-through event.
- Council Retreat is set for 10 am on June 25th, at the church.
- Father’s Day and Juneteenth are this Sunday the 19th. No gifts or flowers handed out, but special mention of observance with be done.
- May not have garage sale for Scholarship Fund. Checking with Karen Arnold to see if she thinks we should have one or continue to use the Benevolence fund.
- Chris Boyenga to work Wed, Thurs, Fri. when Carolyn D. is on vacation.
- It was suggested to use a non-chemical carpet cleaner like Stanley Steamer rather than Chem Dry
- Marc Medefind wrote up a historical document on the Healthy House Garden established on the church property in 2017. He is going to put it in a binder and display it for reference.
- Pastor Jack submitted a sample of the ELW Fourth Setting Liturgy. We discussed using July to prepare the congregation, and implementing it in August.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jan Collins	07/01
LaVonne Wenrich	07/02
Beth Loredo	07/09
Carol Linneman	07/10
David Hetland	07/11
Barbara Ward	07/12
Anna Marie Sofranek	07/13
Clark LiWang	07/15
Erica Kateley	07/16
Betty Hale	07/18
Mary Jo Knudsen	07/18
Karen Faust	07/19
Judy Westerberg	07/19
Myrla Seibold	07/24
Robert Kateley	07/27
Devin Cherf	07/31

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Sally Howard	08/01
Jim Goldsmith	08/02
“Chuck” Charles Winter	08/13
Andrea Sofranek	08/19
Craig Faust	08/29



BIBLE TEXT READINGS

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9 Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	July 3 Green
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-10 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37	July 10 Green
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42	July 17 Green
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19) Luke 11:1-13	July 24 Green
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14: 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21	July 31 Green

Eastern European Crisis Response

What you can do: Pray:
Please pray for those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries that have been affected by the crisis in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.



MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

1:00 PM on the third Thursday every month.
Join us this month on Thursday, July 21st for food and fellowship!

Watch for new information on location.

Give:

If you would like to give, make a check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” or “Where needed most” on your check’s memo line.

For more information there are inserts on the table in the narthex.

PROPERTY REPORT
June 14, 2022
For May-June 2022

SPRINKLERS: One leak was mentioned and repaired immediately. Need to repair park strip.

HVACS: Well I ran the A/Cs (this time with the compressor units on) and 3 of the 4 for the Sanctuary had issues. KYHN came out and fixed 2 of them. The last might have a freon leak and to recharge could cost about \$1400, so I had the men put in leak-stop, and we'll keep an eye on it. Also, the 25X16s A/C filters that we had been using are too small. I have purchased 25X18s and will need to get more.

MULCH PILES: We moved 1 load during this period.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

ROOF REPAIRS: Alan Arnold, who knows more about what was replaced the last time, was asked to be the go-between for us and Benchmark. Alan will keep us informed on the progress.

LAWN UPKEEP: Lawn seems okay.

RESTROOMS: Well our building is old and so are our restrooms. Carolyn noticed a stopper that deteriorated and needs replacing. I will be buying this and extras for easy repairs.

All seems to be going good, 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
home: (209) 725-0921

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH
July and August Benevolence
RESTORE MERCED

419 W. 19th Street, Merced, CA 95348
restoremerced.org

Restore Merced cultivates renewal by strengthening relationships. We labor to see this bear fruit in restored relationships with God, meaningful work opportunities, vibrant families, and sturdy community networks. Our work began in July of 2016 by employing an asset-based community development approach in the downtown Merced neighborhood. Through conversations with residents, faith leaders, and other community organizations, we identified three areas of focus - neighborhood engagement, economic development, and community training. We believe that all people are inherently relational beings, dependent on others to reach our full potential. If a city, a neighborhood, or an individual is going to thrive, it will only happen in the context of healthy relationships.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with local leaders and community members, Restore Merced develops neighborhood programs that reflect the defining markers of a thriving neighborhood: spiritual formation, empowered families, economic development, and caring neighbor networks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We strive to increase opportunities for individuals with barriers to employment by providing work experience, training, and helping to start small businesses to benefit the local economy and increase resources in areas of need.

COMMUNITY TRAINING

Restore Merced works to equip volunteers, churches, and organizations to have a long-term impact in their communities by learning sustainable faith-based best practices for community transformation.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Restore Merced 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 Pat Shaw and 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.

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.

CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

The Call Committee continues to meet as needed and is waiting on a slate of Pastoral candidates from the Synod. We currently have a Zoom meeting scheduled with Pastor Manda later in the month of June to get an update from our Synod. We will pass along any news as soon as it happens. Please continue to keep this process in your Prayers.

Blessings,

Your Call Committee

Bible Studies with Pastor

In July we will be concluding our Bible studies from the Greek wording on "**The Four Pillars**" The discussion groups will meet on the first and second Sundays of the month in Lineberger Hall, following worship

On July 3, we study "Etaipe" – **Friendship**. The concluding class on July 10 centers on "Agape and Eros" – **Love**.

The class will use the bible and pastor's own study guides for these interesting classes.

Communion in June and July

Pastor Jack, in coordination with the Church Council and Altar Guild planners, will offer a special two-month Summer emphasis on the sacrament of Communion.

We will have the eucharist as usual on the first and third Sundays of June and July. But on the other Sundays in June and July, we will have a special series of "**Sacramental Moments**" during the usual place for communion.

During those Sundays, we will not serve communion, but Pastor Jack will lead us in biblical and historical teachings on such themes as the meaning of communion, Christ as Host, what Luther emphasized about why we eat and drink, confession, the elements, and ways of partaking of communion.

Years ago, our church had communion on the first and third Sundays. This year, we will have that same order, but only in two of the Summer months – June and July. Communion every Sunday will resume in August.

This will give our members and guests a chance to both learn about and partake of the holy sacrament. It will be an enriching opportunity for us all.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We are continuing to worship in person. The service will also be available on Zoom. The service will also be uploaded to our Facebook page.

Masks are optional and we encourage you to practice caution.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Term ends May 2023

David Cherf
 Steve Hand
 Betty Madsen
 Amy Sofranek

Term ends May 2024

Pam Andersen
 David John Cherf II
 Marc Medefind
 Carolyn Stephens

Tim Shaw - Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary
 Audit Committee: Bryan Hofmann, Mary Jo Knudsen, Carolyn Stephens

2022-2023 Council Officers

President: David Cherf Vice-President: Steve Hand
 Secretary: Amy Sofranek

*Next Meeting Date: **JULY 12, 2022 6:00 PM***

JULY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Sunday July 3 Communion	Sunday July 10	Sunday July 17 Communion	Sunday July 24	Sunday July 31
Greeters	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>
Ushers	<i>Karen & Al Arnold</i>	<i>David Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>David Bettis</i>	<i>David Bettis</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Pat & Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>



SPIRITUAL REFLECTION by Nan Mengebier Dailey

I have mostly found my encounters with the divine pretty staid. And all too often, I have worshipped a God who feels pretty remote. But I know people and I'm sure you do too, who seem to just radiate out a personal relationship with God. I'm envious and have decided I want some of whatever they have. Lucky for me, I have discovered that many of the Christian mystics, especially those from the time of the early church, write of personal, indeed passionate, interactions with Christ.

For example, Hildegard of Bingen (c.1098-1179), in a section of her music celebrating the life of St. Ursula, writes:

With a great desire
I have desired to come to you
and rest with you in the marriage of Heaven
running to you by a new path
as the clouds course in the purest air
like sapphire.

And Jacopone Da Todi, (1236-1306) in his work The God-Madness, has this to say:

O Love, divine Love, why do You lay siege to me?
In a frenzy of love for me, You find no rest.

This is heart pulsing, ardent language. Staid it is not! Now many scholars understand these writings to be extraordinarily complex symbology and not a description of the writer's "real" feelings or experiences. But I'm not sure it really matters if it's "real" or not. The point is

that these mystics speak of a love for Christ that I have never known; a love so incredible that to experience it is to know ecstasy.

And there are some similar experiences recounted in the Bible. For example, in II Samuel 6:12-15, we hear that, on the occasion that the holy ark was brought into the city, David was "dancing before the LORD with all his might". Most scholars agree that David's dance was not a slow, measured dance like say, a minuet rather it was an exuberant dance of pure joy. I've seen dances like that, haven't you? – where people simply get down and boogie. And have you ever longed to be one of those people who can just cut loose on the dance floor with great abandon and enthusiasm? I know I have, and I think that must have been how David danced his dance of celebration.

Are there or have there been times or instances when you have experienced David's celebration, pure joy, just pouring out of you, whether related to worship or not? Or times when you've been completely overwhelmed by something to the point where you almost forgot yourself? Or times when you've heard or seen something so incredibly beautiful you just wept?

I think maybe that's when we are moving just a bit beyond our egos and cracking our hearts open at least a little to the wonder of a passionate love of God. And if we take just one baby step further, perhaps we'll find ourselves "running to you on a new path" as Hildegard puts it. The path of God's great, amazing, and yes, overpowering love for us.

Will I see you on the dance floor?

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Communion Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall	4 th of July Office Closed				SOV Weekly News sent via email	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Council Meeting 6:00 PM			SOV Weekly News sent via email	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Communion				Birthday Luncheon 1:00 PM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
31						
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						



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1455 E Yosemite Ave
Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED