

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 SUPPLY MINISTER PASTOR JACK

STAFF

Supply Pastor:
Pastor Jack Damien
pulpitsupplyjack@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.

We've set some final plans for our annual meeting (as of the writing of this newsletter article in mid-January). The Council and Call Committee have taken some further steps in the final stages of congregational business, and of mapping out our future.

These are two bold moves – taking care of today, and of tomorrow. Both are exciting, and both need your full attention and commitment.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran has many, many hard-working members and friends who have brought us to these two stages. It has been spurred on by a deep desire for our congregation to flourish, and to serve our Merced community. It's calling all of us to commit to the future of the church, and what plans God has for us.

In these times, change is a given – gradual or sudden. What we had hoped would be certain and secure, can suddenly transform. We know that. Some of the matters before us are complex, and they need your discernment. We need to be talking with one another openly, sharing our questions and responses, and agreeing to a mutual commitment to the future.

In the end, we need one another, and we need our Lord. I urge you to approach the future with positive expectations. The road towards the future has been long, and at times demanding, but our Lord wants to open a new chapter in our church history. Let's join him in that future.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

Robert Kateley; Dave Bettis, Eric Smith, Lynette Figueroa's nephew & mother; 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; Jan & Joe Collins; Dottie Andersen; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; 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, **Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church-Scholarships**; for our Sierra Pacific Synod Interim Bishop, **Rev. Claire Burkat**, and for the people of **Ukraine and Russia**, and for people impacted by Hurricane Ian.

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 January 9 Council Meeting)

- Our November 2022 Actual Net Income was \$1,836.22 and our December 2022 Actual Net Income was (\$1,309.01).
- The inside and outside of the property is being maintained during the rainstorm. Some patching has been done on the roof while we are still fundraising for a replacement.
- There is >\$10,000 in the roof repair fund.
- The next monthly clean-up will be held on Friday, February 3rd at 9 AM.
- The council and Call Committee are continuing to discuss the pastoral candidate.

Call Committee Update

Dear Friends:

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that the Pastoral Candidate of Choice submitted by the Call Committee has voluntarily removed their name from the Call Process. There are a number of reasons for this decision including financial issues. Additional information will be forthcoming along with changes within the Call Committee. As we look forward to the future, please continue to pray with us for guidance and direction. With the Annual Meeting coming soon it will offer us a good time to discuss the next steps for our Church.

Blessings,
Your Call Committee

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kurt Faust	02/03
Armando Campos III	02/04
Hunter Boyenga	02/07
"Bud" Richard Roduner	02/08
Curtis Boyenga	02/13
Tim Dailey	02/18
Dimitri Hamrah	02/18
Marc Medefind	02/18
Pam Andersen	02/19
Carrie O'Bara	02/20
Pat Shaw	02/24
Syd Saldivar	02/25
Adam Campos	02/28

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Alan Arnold	03/06
Dorothy Woody	03/07
Monte Hamamoto	03/08
Bill Turner	03/08
Carol Girard	03/09
Carolyn Stephens	03/10
Dan Woods	03/10
Christine Boyenga	03/11
Richard Darby	03/18
Dylan Cherf	03/20
Dottie Andersen	03/23
Ken Sullivan	03/26
Carolyn Daberkow	03/26
Claudia Fournier	03/26
David Pressly	03/27
Patti LiWang	03/28
Brent Sales	03/29
Tiana LiWang	03/31

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany **February 5**

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
 Matthew 5:13-20 Green

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany **February 12**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20
 Psalm 119:1-8
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37 Green

Transfiguration of Our Lord **February 19**

Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9 White

First Sunday in Lent **February 26**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
 Psalm 32
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11 Purple

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

12:00 PM on the third Thursday every month.

Join us this month on Thursday, February 16th at Applebee's, 1734 W. Olive Avenue for food and fellowship!

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.

PROPERTY REPORT
January 9, 2023
December-January

HVACS: Continuing heating problems with the furnace providing heat for all the offices are being addressed.

MULCH PILES: Still working on these, and the piles have not gotten larger.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

LAWN UPKEEP: Lawn seems okay.

LIGHTS: Still have 8 bulbs that need to be put in.

SPRINKLERS: All the sprinklers seem fine. Ken has pointed out that we may have a leaky valve out by the 'fenced-in' area.

CLEAN-UP FRIDAYS: A small group of us have been vacuuming, sweeping, cleaning windows and window sills, and changing out toilet paper rolls and such.

FIRE ALARMS, EXTINGUISHERS, FIRE DOOR: Everything passed for this year.

WOODPECKER: I need a 28-foot extension ladder, preferably aluminum.

ROOF LEAKS: Benchmark has come out and kindly fixed some of our lesser ones, but a new roof is a must. We still have some leaks on the SE side of the building.

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

**January & February Benevolence
Scholarship Fund**

Our benevolence for January and February is our Scholarship fund. Until COVID, our funding was primarily through estate sales; however, for the past few years there have been few opportunities for ways to support this endeavor. In 2022, we awarded two scholarships to Merced College students, and one scholarship to Amy Sofranek. These students are always so appreciative of our help, and we are grateful to our church family for their support of this worthwhile project.

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.

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.

The CDC recommends that masks be worn in certain settings. Shepherd of the Valley encourages 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: **Monday, February 13 6:00 PM***

FEBRUARY 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 February 5	Sunday February 12	Sunday February 19	Saturday February 26
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>
Ushers		<i>Cherf Family</i>		<i>Cherf Family</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Tim & Pat Shaw</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					Church Clean-Up 9:00 AM SOV Weekly News Sent via email	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall			Centering Prayer 9:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Council Meeting 6:00 PM	Centering Prayer 9:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM	Birthday Luncheon at Applebee's 12:00 PM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom	Presidents' Day Office Closed		Ash Wednesday Centering Prayer 9:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
26	27	28				
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED