

APRIL 2022

## 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

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](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 are moving into the Easter season – a time of  
brighter hope and expectation.

First, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran embraces the  
return to a more traditional worship atmosphere, as we  
have our hymnals back in the pews, and an eventual  
expansion of the practical steps in how we receive  
communion, and add elements to the liturgy. This is in  
chorus with many congregations of various  
denominations across the nation. It's what we applaud.

Along with these, we also want to welcome more  
members and friends back into the pews, work with and  
learn from our youth, and expand our presence in the  
Merced community. Those are lofty goals. To attain  
them, we need hard work and commitment by our family.  
And that includes you.

Yes, we all have a role in this future, and we need some  
of you to find a new place for yourself in the tapestry of  
the church.

You may be the one who finds yourself sitting once again  
in a favorite pew. You may be one who helps ready the  
sanctuary and altar for worship. You may add your voice  
to our singers. You may join in our emphasis in 2022 on  
young believers. You may pledge yourself to give more  
financially this year as we seek a full-time called pastor.

As we approach the warmth of Spring, let's also open our  
commitment to ways we can each help Shepherd of the  
Valley grow stronger in the Easter season.



### PRAYER REQUESTS

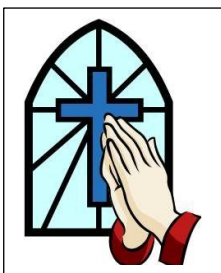
Prayers for healing:

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, **Mount Cross Ministries**, for our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop **Dr. Rev. Megan Rohrer** and for the people of **Ukraine and Russia**.

Prayers are requested for Carol Forbus and her family, who lost her husband. Carol is the niece of Lynette and the late Manny Figueroa.

*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.*



### 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.

### NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

*(From March 8 Council Meeting)*

- Rosie Sullivan presented the Tree Committee's plan for future landscaping to the council. Sprinkler lines are being prepared for the new trees/ shrubs
- The church is in search of volunteers to help the Altar Guild and Worship/ Music Committees
- Our Net Actual Income for February was \$1,448.65 while our YTD Net Actual Income was \$6,501.76
- The Call Committee expressed that they are willing to answer any questions that the congregation may have
- The council is considering having youth members come together at the church on every first Saturday of the month
- Hymnals are to be returned to the pews and masks will become optional in church
- Church goers may view the Lutheran Disaster Response blog at <https://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/situation-report-eastern-europe-crisis/>
- Council President David Cherf will begin to dispose of any recyclables that have accumulated at the church

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

David Cherf	04/03
Connie Lineberger	04/03
Scott Chastain	04/06
Rita McDonald	04/19
Karen Arnold	04/20
Lilliana Gallaway	04/25
Charlotte Sofranek	04/25
Dakotah Timpson	04/28

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

John Carpenter	05/02
Joy Woods	05/03
Ella Boyenga	05/04
Byron Gallaway	05/05
Nicole Hamrah	05/05
Judy Richards	05/06
Frank Bettis	05/07
Warren Westerberg	05/07
Josh Richards	05/15
Kaci Gallaway	05/19
Kali Linn	05/27
Liliane Bettis	05/29
Gleneda Muralt	05/30



**BIBLE TEXT READINGS**

<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>April 3</b>
Isaiah 43:16-21	
Psalms 126	
Philippians 3:4b-14	
John 12:1-8	Purple
<b>Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</b>	<b>April 10</b>
Isaiah 50:4-9a	
Psalms 31:9-16	
Philippians 2:5-11	
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49	Scarlet or Purple
<b>Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day</b>	<b>April 17</b>
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	
Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	
Luke 24:1-2 or John 20:1-18	White or Gold
<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>April 24</b>
Acts 5:27-32	
Psalms 118:14-29 or Psalm 150	
Revelation 1:4-8	
John 20:19-31	White

**MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON**

Jantz Cafe & Bakery in the  
El Portal Plaza at 3361 G Street  
 at 1:00 PM on the third Thursday every month.

Join us this month on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
 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.

**Good News from the Scholarship Committee**

Thanks to the generosity of our Shepherd of the Valley family, we have money in our Scholarship Fund. If you are a confirmed member of the church, a sophomore in college, and have completed a minimum of 24 units with a GPA of 3.0, you are eligible to apply. A flyer with the full criteria and deadlines is available in the church office and in the narthex. Thank you to our church family for your generous donations!

**PROPERTY REPORT  
FEBRUARY 2022**

March 8th, 2022

SPRINKLERS: Ken has been getting lines labelled and ready for trees.

HVACS: Everything seems to be running smoothly. No problems were reported.

GREENHOUSE: Fixed windowpanes and is back in use.

MULCH PILES: 2 more loads were taken to trash.

LED LIGHTS: Dylan and I rewired fixtures and swapped out another box of bulbs.

LAWN MOWERS: Steve and David John continue to mow once every 2 weeks. Mowers seem to be working fine.

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

David Cherf, Property Manager (209)725-0921

**UPCOMING SPECIAL  
WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Lenten Service  
Wednesday, April 6 6 PM**

**Maundy Thursday  
Thursday, April 14 6 PM**

**Good Friday  
Friday, April 15 6 PM**

*All services will be in person and via  
Zoom.*

**BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH**

**March and April Benevolence**

**Mt. Cross Ministries**

***Providing Profound Experiences in God's Creation***

831-336-5179

– P.O. Box 387, Felton, CA 95018

[mtcross@mtcross.org](mailto:mtcross@mtcross.org)

[www.mtcross.org](http://www.mtcross.org)

Mt. Cross is excited to offer "regular" summer camp in 2022! Check out the information on our website at [mtcross@mtcross.org](http://mtcross@mtcross.org) for all the details regarding the programs, schedule, and then head over to the registration portal and make sure you reserve your spot at Mt. Cross this summer!

**Volunteers Needed**

Mt. Cross, a not-for-profit, depends on many volunteers. We would love to hear from you about how you would like to offer your gifts, talents, and time to make Mt. Cross shine! Check out our website for more information.

**Employment Opportunities**

Serving year-round in outdoor ministry is multifaceted to say the least. A small ministry staff makes for positions that have primary responsibilities and secondary roles. It means working in an active and alive setting and then serving behind the scenes when no campers are present. It can mean service onsite and service offsite. There are also Summer Staff employment opportunities. To inquire about any positions listed on the website, please email Adam Erickson at [adam@mtcross.org](mailto:adam@mtcross.org).

**Your Support Means Everything**

Your support is vital to helping us provide profound experiences in God's creation. We have promised not to turn campers away due to an inability to pay, and your gifts help us to keep that promise. Every gift is valued and appreciated.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Mount Cross on the Memo line to be forwarded.

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.

### CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee met with Pastor Manda, assistant to the Bishop, at our church a couple of weeks ago on the same day as she held the Town Meeting after church. She is an enthusiastic person with a lot of passion for this work and we had a great discussion about the mission of the church and specifically Shepherd of the Valley. She had hoped to be able to bring two viable candidate names for the Committee to interview, but unfortunately was not able to bring us any names at that time. She remains hopeful and continues to work on getting us a slate of candidates to interview.

In the meanwhile we continue to wait and are ready to do our part when that takes place. Please let anyone that asks know that we are happy to answer questions when asked and will continue to give updates in the newsletter and at church when appropriate and we have some news to deliver. We ask for continued prayers as this process moves forward.

In His Service,  
Your Call Committee



### Eastern European Crisis Response

#### What you can do:

##### Pray:

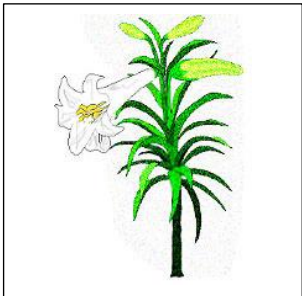
Please pray for those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries that have been affected by the crisis in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

##### 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.

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



**Easter Cross**  
You are invited to bring flowers to decorate the Easter cross on Easter Sunday.

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Term ends May 2022**

Pat Shaw  
 Marit Medefind  
 Sally Sales  
 Steve Hand (one year term)

**Term ends May 2023**

David Cherf  
 Betty Madsen  
 Amy Sofranek

Tim Shaw - Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper  
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary  
 Audit Committee: To be elected in May

**2021-2022 Council Officers**

President: David Cherf as of November 1, 2021  
 Secretary: Amy Sofranek

Vice-President: To be determined

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

**APRIL SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	Sunday April 3	Palm Sunday April 10	Easter Sunday April 17	Sunday April 24
Screeners	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>
Ushers	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis Marc Medefind</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Pat &amp; Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
APRIL 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  Bible Study: 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall			Bible Study 10:00 AM  Worship: 6:00 PM Sanctuary & Zoom		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom  Bible Study: 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Council Meeting 6:00 PM	Bible Study 10:00 AM	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>  Worship : 6:00 PM Sanctuary & Zoom	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Worship: 6:00 PM Sanctuary & Zoom  SOV Weekly News sent via email	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>  Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Bible Study 10:00 AM	Birthday Luncheon 1:00 PM Jantz	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Bible Study 10:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED