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

Shepherd of the Valley is running down the track in 2022, headed for her future. I'd call her a thoroughbred – since she has strengths and good hopes.

In these times we're going through, we need coordination and rhythm. We need endurance and determination. We need pace and rest. They all go together to make for a championship run.

The time has also come for me to serve you beyond "pulpit supply" on Sunday mornings.

Upon a request by the Church Council, Bishop Megan has authorized me to also serve you with very limited visitation, 3-5 members, to those who are vaccinated but cannot come to worship and desire communion. I will now be available to serve at any church funerals, as asked and in conjunction with the council, although what can be done is still in flux due to changing pandemic limitations.

I will facilitate a series of conversational Bible studies after Sunday worship services. I will also attend the monthly council meetings as a resource person, but without a vote on council business.

The news above has been worded carefully to reflect the changing nature of what can and cannot be done, considering the limitations our times place on us. There are no "iron-clad guarantees" of exactly how this will all unfold. But be assured – the council, call committee, and I are doing our best to care for the congregation.

What I, the council, and Bishop Megan ask is this – may you also love the church, serve her well, and help us all come through these times stronger and more loving than ever.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

Nan Dailey; Kimberly Castillo's daughter Jillian and mother-in-law Lupe; Pam Andersen; Tim Dailey; Lois Dailey; 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, **SCHOLARSHIP FUND** and for our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop **Dr. Rev. Megan Rohrer**.

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.

Please note, we will be following safety guidelines of the CDC and the state of CA and are asking all attendees, vaccinated and unvaccinated, to wear a mask and practice social distancing whenever possible.

FREE COVID-19 TESTS

If you would like to order free COVID-19 tests, go to the following website.

COVIDTests.gov

or call 1-800-232-0233

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

SHIP State Health Insurance Assistance Program Navigating Medicare

Merced County Area Agency on Aging

HICAP Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program

New to Medicare or Need Help Understanding:

- Medicare Health Care options?
- Prescriptions Drug Plans?
- Medicare Advantage Plans?
- Medicare Supplements?
- Medic-Cal Share of Cost?

The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) is here to help. Appointments are conducted over the phone or in person all while providing you the quality service you need from your Merced County HICAP.

Our Services Include:

- Explanation of Benefits;
- Part D plan comparisons and assistance with application;
- Medicare Advantage plan comparison and assistance with application;
- Medicare Supplement explanation;
- Assistance with Medi-Cal Share of Cost issues for dual eligible beneficiaries;
- Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help application assistance;
- And more……

Call us at (209) 385-7550 or 1-800- 434-0222 to schedule your appointment with one of our trained and registered HICAP Counselors.

851 W. 23rd Street
Merced, CA 95340
www.co.merced.ca.us/aaa

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Handouts are available on the table in the narthex.

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
Patty Putman	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

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	**February 6**
Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)	
Psalm 138	
1 Corinthians 15:1-11	
Luke 5:1-11	Green
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	**February 13**
Jeremiah 17:5-10	
Psalm 1	
1 Corinthians 15:12-20	
Luke 6:17-26	Green
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	**February 20**
Genesis 45:3-11, 15	
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	
Luke 6:27-38	Green
Transfiguration of Our Lord	**February 27**
Exodus 34:29-35	
Psalm 99	
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)	White

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON IS BACK!

We will be meeting at 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, February 17th 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
DECEMBER 2021-JANUARY 2022

NIGHTTIME LIGHTS: These lights continue to be adjusted as needed.

TREES/SPRINKLERS: Trees are still being looked at for good candidates. Ken continues working on the sprinklers/valves for watering the future trees.

SOUND/POWER POINT: My boys and Amy have been handling. Sound guy continues to get mic checks prior to service.

HVAC SYSTEMS: We checked to make sure that all the furnaces were working.

OFFICE VACUUM: Ordered belts and replaced for a vacuum cleaner.

DESK CALENDAR: There will be a desk calendar hung in the office by the copier to keep track of important dates for the year.

Most everything else was put on hold for the month due to operations both to me and my extended family.

Please notify me ASAP of any issues that arise that I can get on top of promptly.

David Cherf, Property Manager
cell text message (209)489-7757
home voice message (209)725-0921

Pastor Manda, our representative from the Sierra Pacific Synod office, will be visiting us on Sunday, February 20.

After the service, a town hall meeting will be held in Lineberger Hall and it will also be available on Zoom.

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

January & February Benevolence
Scholarship Fund

We have a worthwhile benevolence for January and February—our Scholarship fund. The scholarship fund has been funded by estate sales; however, it needs additional support. With COVID 19, there has not been many opportunities for sales and ways to support this endeavor. We are so excited that now our church family has an opportunity to help with 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 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.

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 2021: Carolyn Stephens, Bryan Hoffman & Mary Jo Knudsen

2021-2022 Council Officers

President: David Cherf as of November 1, 2021
Vice-President: To be determined
Secretary: Amy Sofranek

Next Meeting Date: ***February 8, 2022 6:00 PM***

FEBRUARY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Sunday February 6	Sunday February 13	Sunday February 20	Sunday February 27
Screeners	*Mary Jo Knudsen*	*Chris Boyenga*	*Nan Dailey*	*Chris Boyenga*
Ushers	*Cherf Family*	*Dave Bettis*	*Cherf Family*	*Dave Bettis*
Reader/Assisting Ministers	*Pat & Tim Shaw*	*Barb Ward*	*Mary Jo Knudsen*	*Marc Medefind*

FEBRUARY, 2022

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
			Bible Study **10:00 AM**		**SOV Weekly News** sent via email	
6	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
Worship: **10:00 AM** Sanctuary & Zoom		Council Meeting **6:00 PM**	Bible Study **10:00 AM**		**SOV Weekly News** sent via email	
13	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**
Worship: **10:00 AM** Sanctuary & Zoom	**Valentine's Day**		Bible Study **10:00 AM**	Birthday Luncheon **1:00 PM** Jantz	**SOV Weekly News** sent via email	
20	**21**	**21**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
Worship: **10:00 AM** Sanctuary & Zoom Pastor Manda from Synod will be here. Town Hall: **11:00 AM** Lineberger Hall & Zoom	**Presidents' Day** **Office Closed**		Bible Study **10:00 AM**		**SOV Weekly News** sent via email	
27	**28**					
Worship: **10:00 AM** Sanctuary & Zoom						

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Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED