

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.

We just hosted a service where a significant increase in church membership occurred! Despite noting many if not most church congregations are losing church membership, we gained 17 more at one time – in one humble service.

These 17 new members are exceptional candidates due to the impressive qualifications each bring “to the fold”. These 17 individuals have displayed all the qualities associated with being a “follower of Jesus the Christ”. They have engaged in loyal allegiance, untiring service without regard to status of “neighbor”, empathy, love, humility, absence of any regard to jealousy/envy/vengeance... not to mention, they are all good-looking specimens.

We will all benefit from their “fruitfulness”, now and for always.

Their names must be recorded in the church's record book for accurate reporting. Each one has had their names presented, felt the warm/calm touch of the physical blessing – the presence of the divine, and received their individual as well as corporate blessing in the presence of the congregation and of God.

Thus, 12 dogs, 4 cats, and 1 lizard are to be recorded:

“Blue” the Lizard, Shasta, Bella (#1), Bella (#2), Coco, Pearl, Ari, Prim, Dez, Lexie, Ralphie, Koshka, Penny, Clara, Winnie, Jasper, and Bentley will always be the prime examples of the “eternal life” offered by the divinity.

They serve as excellent candidates for sainthood despite any expectation on their part of receiving such an acknowledgement.

“... for any whoever does not receive the reign of God as a humble one (pastor's editing) will never enter it.” (Mark 10: 15)

Pastor John



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:
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; Judy and Warren
Westerberg; Sylvia Poupard;
Jeane & David Hetland; Penny
Waha; Annie Sofranek; David
Cherf; and people who are ill
around the world.

We lift prayers for our Benevolence
of the Month, **Senior Brown Bag
Program** 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.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Stewardship Pledge Drive is in November.
You will soon be receiving a pledge letter in the
mail. We would appreciate it if you would
prayerfully consider your pledge for 2025. Every
pledge is important as it helps the Finance
Committee plan next year's budget.

**COUNCIL NEWS
October 14, 2024**

A celebration for Shepherd of the Valley's 65th
anniversary will be held on October 27 with
cake after service.

We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday,
November 3.

Jan is putting together a community children's
Christmas Chorus that will sing during our
church service the first Sunday in December.
She has a potential 5-6 children interested so
far and they will practice on Sunday afternoons
from 1-2 beginning later this month.

Jan would like to bring back the knitting group
to make hats for the preemie babies at Mercy.
See Jan if you are interested.

Pastor John will have an Advent Bible study
after church during Advent.

We began discussions on the Christmas Eve
service.

Thanks to Tim for serving our congregation as
treasurer so well for so many years, along with
a big welcome to Mona who agreed to fill his
big shoes.

IT'S THANKFEST TIME AGAIN!

As we culminate our Stewardship drive in
November, we traditionally celebrate with a
potluck lunch together after worship. We will be
doing the same again this year so get out your
best recipes and bring something to share.
There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex
leading up to our Thankfest on
Sunday, November 24th.

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karen Darby	12/05
Sylvia Poupard	12/07
Dave Sofranek	12/09
Jim Sofranek	12/09
Wendy Oates	12/11
Eileen Fite	12/12
Kathie Mackie	12/12
Lynette Figueroa	12/13
Erin Ward	12/15
Candice Medefind	12/16
David Bettis	12/17
Amanda Campos 1	12/18
Janel Wilkerson	12/26
Nancy Heagy	12/27
Cary Yanagi	12/27
Terry Roduner	12/31
Lynn Tatum	12/31

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

All Saints Day	November 3
Isaiah 25:6-9 or Wisdom 3:1-9	
Psalm 24	
Revelation 21:1-6a	
John 11:32-44	White
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost	November 10
1 Kings 17:8-16	
Psalm 119:1-8	
Hebrews 9:11-14	
Mark 12:38-44	Green
Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost	November 17
Daniel 12:1-3	
Psalm 16	
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18) 19-25	
Mark 13:1-8	Green
Christ the King	November 24
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	
Psalm 93	
Revelation 1:4b-8	
John 18:33-37	White

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

We will not be meeting in November and December. Watch for more information as to where the group will meet in January.

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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ANNOUNCEMENT

Shoebboxes for Operation Christmas Child are available for pick-up in the narthex. Information on how to pack a shoebox is available inside each box. The final collection day will be Sunday, November 17th.

**PROPERTY REPORT
October 17, 2024**

HVACS: Haven't had any problems. Will be replacing filters for winter.

FENCE: Still working on and in communication with abutting property owners on replacing fences.

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 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. Our Power Point operator says that we do not have enough RAM for the Power Point program, which in turn, causes the screen outages.

GROUNDS: The 2 dead trees are on hold until cooler weather. A chunk of brick by the garbage came off and are looking to mend.

SPIDER WEBS: During our early morning waterings, we are starting to brush down cobwebs. The garages were our first cleanup of those.

HOMELESS: During the upcoming colder months, we will most likely have more homeless people showing up at night to keep warm. We will continue to monitor.

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

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

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

**November and December Benevolence
SENIOR BROWN BAG PROGRAM
2000 W. Olive Avenue, Merced, CA 95348
Earla Anderson, Senior Brown Bag Program Manager
(209) 726-3663
email: earlaa@mmcfb.org.**

The Senior Brown Bag Program provides supplemental nutritious groceries twice a month to over 3,850 seniors at 16 distribution sites in Merced and Mariposa Counties. Without the Senior Brown Bag Program, many seniors in Merced and Mariposa counties would be extremely isolated and at increased risk for malnourishment and illness.

There is no cost to the individuals served and eligibility is determined by using the federal income guidelines for poverty. The Senior Brown Bag program is designed to help those whose main source of income is Social Security, and who normally have to choose between nutritious foods and crucial medications.

Senior Brown Bag Program participants are also provided with opportunities to volunteer at their food pickup site, which offers them social connections and a sense of belonging and purpose as they contribute to the Food Bank.

Every month, more than 200 volunteers gather at the various Senior Brown Bag sites to sort, bag, and distribute food to their peers. Many participants have built new friendships and a sense of community by volunteering.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Senior Brown Bag Program on the memo line to be forwarded.



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3 at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to "fall back." Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

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

Mona Kowalczyk–Treasurer & Bookkeeper
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary

2024-2025 Council Officers

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

*Next Meeting Date: **Monday, November 11, 6:00 PM***

NOVEMBER 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 November 3	Sunday November 10	Sunday November 17	Sunday November 24
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>
Ushers	<i>Alan Arnold</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Alan Arnold</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					SOV Weekly News sent via email	Church Clean-up 9 AM
3	4	5	6 <small>elect</small>	7	8	9
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom		Election Day			SOV Weekly News sent via email	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship: 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom	Veterans Day Office Closed Council Meeting 6 PM				SOV Weekly News sent via email	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Thankfest & Potluck Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom				Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	Office Closed	



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1455 E Yosemite Ave
Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED