

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

Mayflowers Bring Pilgrims

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:
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.

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

The Scottish comedian, Billy Connolly, has indicated hating weather people in the media who talk about “bad weather”. He explains, “There is no such thing as bad weather. There’s only bad clothing.”

Weather is simply weather.

It’s how we respond to weather (in anticipation to it or in reaction to it).

I am a third generation Californian. There’s a reason why there are so many people here – the weather.

I have often reflected upon the unforeseen future date when I’m selected to be the “King of All Lutheranland”. At which point, I would have to pack up and move to Chicago or Appleton, Wisconsin, or some ice-and-snow encrusted place in Minnesota or South Dakota.

I realize that I need to start the preparation of such a move since dressing appropriately for the weather would cost me a BUNDLE! It’s cold there. I suspect I can adjust and live comfortably assuming I have all the right clothing (particularly all the garb not needed in the central part of California).

I suspect that this commonsensical approach to appropriate clothing can be associated as a metaphor for our anticipation and reaction to “bad weather” events in our lives.

Perhaps, considering the raising up of Jesus with a “new body of Christ” – shedding the “old” might involve buttoning up a parka or getting rain gear and boots...

Weather will continue to act like weather.

Jesus’ new body of Christ considers the appropriate way to dress for the occasion.

Our April showers will bring May flowers (looking on the bright side of the season – or our stormy weather events/moments).

It might be a different situation/consideration for the occurrence of Mayflower pilgrims if one asks an indigenous population.

Pastor John



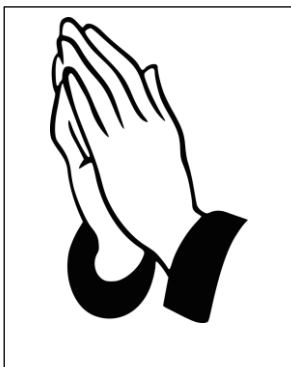
PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

Joel Knox; Betty Madsen; 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; Warren Westerberg; Jan & Joe Collins; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; 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, **Mt. Cross Ministries**, 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.



Program Year Meeting

The annual Program Year Meeting will be held in May. Watch for more details. Reports for the meeting should be turned into the office no later than May 1.



COUNCIL NEWS March 11, 2024

Alan Arnold gave the council prices for possible water meters for the garden and church.

The computer for the secretary is almost finished!

Poles to hang the new church banner will be procured.

Steve Hand is looking into having a seminar for informing the congregation about wills, trusts, and what comes after.

Looking for a Smart TV to exchange for the old box TV in the Narthex.

Jan Collins wants to open up the church grounds for people to play sports and other activities, in an effort to outreach to the community.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

David Cherf	04/03
Connie Lineberger	04/03
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
Liliane Bettis	05/29
Gleneda Muralt	05/30

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

Second Sunday of Easter	April 7
Acts 4:32-35	
Psalm 133	
1 John 1:1-2:2	
John 20:19-31	White
Third Sunday of Easter	April 14
Acts 3:12-19	
Psalm 4	
1 John 3:1-7	
Luke 24:36b-48:	White
Fourth Sunday of Easter	April 21
Acts 4:5-12	
Psalm 23	
1 John 3:16-24	
John 10:11-18	White
Fifth Sunday of Easter	April 28
Acts 8:26-40	
Psalm 22:25-31	
1 John 4:7-21	
John 15:1-8	White



MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Join us on
Thursday, April 18 at 11:30 AM
 for food and fellowship!
 This month we will meet at the
 Elks Club, 1910 M Street.

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

March 11, 2024

HVACS: Haven't had any more problems from the 10 HVAC units. We'll be ordering and replacing all HVAC filters as summer approaches and we switch to A/C.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

OUTDOOR LIGHTS: Still have 8 bulbs that need to be put in. We're also ordering bulbs for the ground lights and 3 lights at the ends of the halls.

INDOOR LIGHTS: We are still replacing the old fluorescent bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs. This takes time to remove the ballasts and rewire the fixtures.

SPRINKLERS: Will need to replace some in the front courtyard. Need to find leak in center 'round' planter. Leak in main box in front. Called again but no callbacks yet.

POWER POINT, ZOOM, PA SYSTEM: We have a constant 60-70 views of our weekly services on ZOOM and later on Facebook. Ordering new mics and a multimeter.

HOMELESS: Since last meeting no problems.

GROUNDS: Two trees will need to be removed. Will have to mow down weeds again toward the east side once our mower is fixed. At this time the mower is nonfunctional (may need new spark plug)

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

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

March & April Benevolence

Mt. Cross Ministries

Providing Profound Experiences in God's Creation

831-336-5179

7795 Hwy 9 • Ben Lomond CA 95005

P.O. Box 387, Felton, CA 95018

mtcross@mtcross.org

www.mtcross.org

Your Support Means Everything

Mt. Cross is a religious non-profit organization that is supported by the generosity of donors, churches, and organizations.

For over 75 years, your financial gifts have helped Mt. Cross provide profound experiences in God's creation for hundreds of children, youth, and families in Northern California and beyond.

We promise not to turn campers away due to an inability to pay, and your gifts help us to keep our promise to make camp a possibility for everyone. 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.

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.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Term ends May 2024

Pam Andersen
 David John Cherf II
 Marc Medefind
 Carolyn Stephens

Term ends May 2025

David Cherf
 Jan Collins
 Steven Hand
 Mary Jo Knudsen

Tim Shaw – Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary
 Audit Committee: Karen Arnold, Chris Tomford, and Barb Ward

2023-2024 Council Officers

President: David Cherf Vice-President: Carolyn Stephens
 Secretary: David John Cherf II

*Next Meeting Date: **Monday, April 8 6:00 PM***

APRIL 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 April 7	Sunday April 14	Sunday April 21	Sunday April 28
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>
Ushers	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom	Council Meeting 6 PM				SOV Weekly News sent via email	Church Clean-up 9 AM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship: 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom				Birthday Luncheon 11:30 AM Elks Club	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
28	29	30				
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						



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Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED