

## 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](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're getting a new roof! There was a round of applause in the sanctuary when the announcement was made. It marks a step forward for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran. It shows what cooperation, strategizing, and giving will do when we tackle a project in earnest.

The same goes for our other future projects – filling Council seats, completing the team of the Call Committee, inviting more of our family and friends to join us for in-person worship, making new friends in the community, and reaching out to those in need in Merced and beyond.

Our future efforts can bring us other “roofs” that keep us warm and dry this coming season.

We need your generosity in giving the congregation your time and efforts, to join us in bible studies, centering prayer, altar guild work, serving communion, bringing treats, singing in worship, and letting our members know how much we appreciate them.

We need your generosity in financial giving, so we can pay the light bill, but also so we can support a called pastor, maintain a sanctuary in which we worship God, and be a flourishing community of care that financially supports our many ministries of outreach.

This means the Lord is asking us to “give-give-give” when so many are obsessed with “get-get-get” in today's culture. Let's be those who shine with generosity, and who share with others, much like Jesus did.



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayers for healing:

Rosie Sullivan; Karen Darby; 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; 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, **The Fuller Center for Housing Merced County**, for our Sierra Pacific Synod Interim Bishop, **Rev. Claire Burkat**, and for the people of **Ukraine and Russia**, for the people impacted by the flooding in **California**, and for the people in **Turkey and Syria**.

*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](http://spselca.org), and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, [elca.org](http://elca.org).

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

We are continuing to worship in person. The service will also be available on Zoom and uploaded to our Facebook page.

The CDC recommends that masks be worn in certain settings. Shepherd of the Valley encourages you to practice caution.

**Good News from the Scholarship Committee**

Thanks to the generosity of our Shepherd of the Valley family, we have money in our Scholarship Fund again this year. 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 is available in the narthex. **The deadline is May 12.** Thank you to our church family for your generous donations!



**ADAPTIVE BIKE PROJECT – UPDATE**

The congregation of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church originated a special program to support families with children with special needs some years back (well before the COVID era). The program was designed and administered by Dewey Lindstrom.

Bikes no longer being used were donated and refurbished by Dewey's clever/ingenious designs to become specialized adaptive bicycles for the severely physically impaired.

At one point, the program "moved" to Valley State Prison where the prison already had a program for refurbishing donated bicycles for "at risk" children. With Dewey's designs and his volunteering to train prisoners, the prison began to duplicate bikes for those with disabilities, and made them available to families at no cost whatsoever.

COVID interfered with the program for several years.

Today, four adaptive bikes were picked up at the prison and delivered to Merced. We are in the process of finding suitable homes for each.

Submitted by John Russell-Curry

**BIBLE TEXT READINGS**

**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

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

"Chris" Christine Love	06/03
Elizabeth Richards	06/05
Elizabeth Pressly	06/13
Elizabeth Wetherell	06/14
Mikel Soria	06/14
Steve Hand	06/16
Kaydence Gallaway	06/17
Adrian Saldivar	06/18
Jim Christofferson	06/21



**MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON**

12:00 PM on the third Thursday every month. Join us this month on Thursday, May 18th at Paul's Place for food and fellowship!

**Fifth Sunday of Easter** **May 7**

Acts 7:55-60  
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
 1 Peter 2:2-10  
 John 14:1-14 White

**Sixth Sunday of Easter** **May 14**

Acts 17:22-31  
 Psalm 66:8-20  
 1 Peter 3:13-22  
 John 14:15-21 White

**Seventh Sunday of Easter** **May 21**

Acts 1:6-14  
 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
 1 Peter 4:12-44; 5 6-11  
 John 17:1-11 White

**Day of Pentecost** **May 28**

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21  
 John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39 Red

**COUNCIL NEWS**

**April 13, 2023**

Our February 2023 Actual Net Income was \$6,983.14 and our March 2023 Actual Net Income was \$8,369.24.

The woodpecker issue is being addressed.

The tall lawn weeds near the pavilion will be mowed this coming Saturday.

Plans for the May 21st Congregational meeting are being finalized.

The next monthly clean-up will be held on Saturday, May 6th at 9 AM.

A Safety Seminar is being scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Growing in Faith through Prayer**

The Centering Prayer group resumed its schedule last fall – every Wednesday at 9:00 am -- but the venue has changed and the group now gathers at Dave and Jeane's home.

Centering Prayer is an ancient practice of silence and is designed to deepen our faith by letting go and consenting to the action and presence of God in our lives. We begin each session by "checking in" and briefly discussing issues/concerns/resources related to our prayer practice. This is followed by a period of silent prayer and then a time of "remembering" people and events we care about. The session concludes with a benediction/affirmation.

Participants include SOV members and members of several other faith traditions. Newcomers are always welcome to come and check it out. Call 209-489-8969 for more information/details.

### **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.

### **Program Year Meeting**

The annual Program Year Meeting will be held in Lineberger Hall on Sunday, May 21, after the church service, at 11:15 AM.

Elections will be held for these positions at the meeting:

Four Council Members,  
Four Call Committee Members, and  
Three Audit Committee Members.

Members will receive a reminder regarding the meeting.

### **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

May Friendship Day 2023  
Friday, May 5, 11:30 AM - 1 PM  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church--  
Lineberger Hall

**SPEAKER:** Monica Grasley-Lifeline  
Community Development Corporation

You are invited to bring a dish of food to share at the potluck.



**PROPERTY REPORT**  
**April 13, 2023**  
**March-April**

HVACS: No problems at this time.

MULCH PILES: Miguel has removed all the mulch piles.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

LAWN UPKEEP: Due to PLENTIFUL RAINS, the lawn has overgrown, will be getting my lawn crew out there to start knocking it back down.

LIGHTS: Still have 8 bulbs that need to be put in. Bought more LED replacements for the fluorescent bulbs for the rooms and hallway on the east side.

SPRINKLERS: The power outage erased all the times, will be reprogramming.

CLEAN-UP SATURDAYS: A small group of us have been vacuuming, sweeping, cleaning windows and window sills, and changing out toilet paper rolls and such. We are switching back to the first Saturday of the month at 9 AM.

ROOF LEAKS: The roof will be replaced in May. Will also see what Benchmark can do about the woodpeckers and any future suggestions on how to keep them away.

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

**Shepherd of the Valley Website**

[www.thesovlutheran.net](http://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**  
**May and June Benevolence**

**The Fuller Center for Housing Merced County, CA**  
**209-726-0850**  
**P.O. Box 423, Atwater, CA 95301**  
**www.thefullercenterforhousing.com**

**Our Vision**

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

**Our Mission Statement**

Seeking to put God's love into action, The Fuller Center for Housing brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

**About The Fuller Center for Housing of Merced County**

The Fuller Center for Housing of Merced County is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope. The Fuller Center for Housing of Merced County is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. The Fuller Center for Housing was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.

**ReUse Store**

We operate a ReUse Store in Atwater on Third and Broadway. This store is operated by volunteers and is currently open 4 days a week, Wednesday - Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We sell new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and more to the public at a fraction of the retail price. All funds generated are used to support and build homes for deserving families.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with The Fuller Center on the memo line to be forwarded.

**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: **Wednesday, May 24 6:00 PM***

**MAY 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 May 7	Sunday May 14	Sunday May 21	Sunday May 28
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>
Ushers	<i>Marc Medefind</i>	<i>Karen &amp; Al Arnold</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>	<i>Tim &amp; Pat Shaw</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Centering Prayer** 9:00 AM		Church Women United 11:30 AM  SOV Weekly News sent via email	Church Clean- Up 9:00 AM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom  Bible Study: 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall			Centering Prayer** 9:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>  Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Centering Prayer** 9:00 AM	Birthday Luncheon at Paul's Place 12:00 PM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom  Congregational Meeting 11:15 AM Lineberger Hall			Centering Prayer** 9:00 AM  Council Meeting 6:00 PM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
28	29	30	31			
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom  Bible Study: 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall	<b>Memorial Day</b>  Office Closed		Centering Prayer** 9:00 AM			

\*\*Call Church Office for more information on Centering Prayer location.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED