

## 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](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.

### MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPPLY MINISTER – PASTOR JACK

“Something new” is a theme woven into the story of the Church. How we gather. How we sing. How we pray. How we give. We do what we’ve always done. We resume what we had to put aside. But we also venture out.

In the first days of the Book of Acts, we see a transforming group of faith folk, coming with roots in Judaism, and embracing Jesus as Messiah. They were venturing into something never before seen on earth. The masses of Israel and beyond labeled them as “People of the Way” and “Nazarenes” and “Followers of Christ” and “Heretics” and “Anarchists.”

It was quite a mixed societal reaction to Christianity, depending on where you stood or who you were in the Empire.

Today, we hopefully venture into a more settled pace of life, better health scenarios, and headlines that are at the very least enduring, and even more, quite desirable. Whatever we meet on the road, let’s journey together. That makes the path so much more enjoyable.



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayers for healing:

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; 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, **Habitat/The Fuller Center for Housing Merced County**, for our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop **Dr. Rev. Megan Rohrer** and for the people of **Ukraine and Russia**.

*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 May 17 Council Meeting)*

- The Actual Net Income for April 2022 was \$10,023.29, and our YTD Actual Net Income is \$39,180.92. Our total assets are \$288,724.45.
- A roof leak was recently discovered and continues to be monitored. Carolyn Stephens is working with the Property Committee to obtain an accurate cost estimate for repairs. This may cost as much as \$20,000-\$30,000.
- If the roof repairs will cost a substantial amount, a fundraiser will likely be planned to help cover costs.
- The new council members (Pam Andersen, Carolyn Stephens, David Cherf Jr., and Marc Medefind) plan to be inducted during the church service on May 22, 2022. David Cherf is returning as Council President, Steve Hand will serve as Vice President, and Amy Sofranek will continue as Secretary.
- Pastor Jack has proposed a plan for communion during the months of June and July. We will serve communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, and use the 2nd and 4th Sundays to learn more about communion. The council approved of this idea.





**PROPERTY REPORT  
FOR APRIL 2022  
MAY 17, 2022**

**SPRINKLERS:** Gardeners have been working to hook up lines to the new trees.

**HVACS:** So far so good. We did a test run and all seem to be working good.

**MULCH PILES:** We moved 2 more loads toward the beginning of the month.

**FENCE:** We are watching a section of fence. This will probably have to be addressed this year.

**ROOF REPAIRS:** A leak was noticed and the leak was repaired. We were warned by the roofers that we will be needing to replace the roof. This cost may be \$20,000 to \$30,000. Thank Carolyn S. for noticing and keeping on top of the situation.

**LAWN UPKEEP:** My boys and Steve were mowing toward the beginning of the month. As the rains stopped, so did the growth of the grass. Did some crash courses in lawn mower repair with the team.

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

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

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).

**BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH  
May and June Benevolence**



**From Habitat for Humanity of Merced County  
To The Fuller Center for Housing Merced County, CA  
209-726-0850  
P.O. Box 423, Atwater, CA 95301**

We are now partners with The Fuller Center for Housing which was founded by Millard and Linda Fuller who started Habitat. They wanted to keep the original principles of Christianity such as the no interest loans for families who worked hard to have a home of their own, etc.

We strive to follow the example of Millard Fuller who founded Habitat with the vision of every family in an affordable, decent home which has been our vision as well. With the new Habitat requirements that every ReStore must have two paid employees on staff every day it was open, the Board voted to go with Fuller which is following the original grass roots and continue with all volunteers.

We operate a ReUse Store in Atwater on Third and Broadway. This store is operated by volunteers and is currently open 3 days a week (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) As of June 1, we are hoping to be open on Thursdays as well. 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 Habitat/The Fuller Center 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.

**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.

**CALL COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Call Committee continues to actively meet on Zoom and in person to review where we are in the process. Thanks to Pastor Jack and his Letters (part 1&2) that he sent last week which provided insight into the challenges facing the larger ELCA church and more locally our Pacific Sierra Synod and Shepherd of the Valley in calling a Rostered Pastor. We are blessed during this time to have his leadership and wisdom along with the leadership of our President and Church Council. As mentioned in the past, feel free to reach out to any of us on the Committee if you have questions and we will be happy to respond with where we are at in the process.

Blessings,  
Your Call Committee

**Communion in June and July**

Pastor Jack, in coordination with the Church Council and Altar Guild planners, will offer a special two-month Summer emphasis on the sacrament of Communion.

We will have the eucharist as usual on the first and third Sundays of June and July. But on the other Sundays in June and July, we will have a special series of **"Sacramental Moments"** during the usual place for communion.

During those Sundays, we will not serve communion, but Pastor Jack will lead us in biblical and historical teachings on such themes as the meaning of communion, Christ as Host, what Luther emphasized about why we eat and drink, confession, the elements, and ways of partaking of communion.

Years ago, our church had communion on the first and third Sundays. This year, we will have that same order, but only in two of the Summer months – June and July. Communion every Sunday will resume in August.

This will give our members and guests a chance to both learn about and partake of the holy sacrament. It will be an enriching opportunity for us all.

**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.

**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: **June 14, 2022 6:00 PM***

**JUNE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	Sunday June 5	Sunday June 12	Sunday June 19	Sunday June 26
Greeters	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Sally Sales</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>
Ushers	<i>Karen &amp; Al Arnold</i>	<i>David Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>David Bettis</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Pat &amp; Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>



### **SPIRITUAL REFLECTION by Nan Mengebier Dailey**

I have always had a particular fondness for the disciple Simon Peter. He blunders around a lot (think “let’s build three huts” (Matthew 17:4), he’s an open mouth insert foot kind of guy (think, “And he began to rebuke him” (Matthew 16:22) but one thing he has going for him is he seems to have been an experienced fisherman. Matthew’s gospel (4:18) reads:

“As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.” (emphasis mine)

Now, these were not folks out for a fun afternoon dropping their line in the water and popping a cold brewski. Peter and Andrew, as well as James and John were serious about their business. It was their livelihood and how, both directly and indirectly, they fed their families. They knew what they were doing.

So, in Luke 5:5 when, in response to Jesus’ instruction to throw the nets in off the right side of the boat, Peter says “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” he knows what he is talking about. He’d almost certainly had the same experience many times and that experience had taught him that if he hadn’t caught anything all night long, throwing the nets in

off the other side of the boat was not going to make one dog gone particle of difference.

But guess what? The outcome was **hugely** different. When they pulled it in, the net was almost bursting from the weight of all the fish.

Was it because all the fish in the Sea of Galilee had been swimming throughout the night on the right side of the boat teeheeing to each other because “that big guy who thinks he’s such a pro fisherman” had been totally bamboozled?

Of course not. It happened for two reasons. First of all, Jesus said, “Do it differently. Do it my way.” And secondly, Peter, bless his heart, skeptical as he might have been from past experience, trusted our Lord and Savior and “because you say so” let go of his infallible fishing knowledge and did it differently.

So, I ask myself: How often do I keep doing the same thing over and over again even if there is no payoff, even if nothing happens, even if nothing and nobody ever gets better? And even more important, why? Why do I fall down 7 times, get up 8 and do the exact thing again instead of saying, “My rump is really sore, there has **got** to be a different way to do this”? Why do I shut myself down in anger when I feel hurt rather than reaching past my ego with compassion? Why don’t I listen for the voice of God reminding me of how differently Jesus did things from the norms of his time?

So, I’ve come up with a challenge for all of us. The next time we find ourselves once more with a sore rump and nothing to show for it, let’s **Stop**. Let’s stop and listen and wait for the voice. And perhaps, just perhaps we’ll hear something like “Hey, try it off the other side of the boat.”

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom  Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom  Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Council Meeting 6:00 PM		Birthday Luncheon 1:00 PM Jantz	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
26	27	28	29	30		
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED