

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

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.

This season of Lent is a slippery one to get ahold of.

Christmas is obviously a time of joy and expectation. Pentecost has the clear image of fire, power, and world-wide evangelism in the Early Church. Easter is a jubilant celebration of the resurrection. Then there's Lent.

Lent. What do we do with this season? Too often, it seems like 40 very arduous days of judgment and increasing darkness. We ponder our sins more than usual, and feel ever more guilty over our trespasses. Lutherans have historically been especially well versed at penance and contrition. We're champs.

But after many decades in ministry, and being deeply involved in the inner workings of the theology and ecclesiology of the season, I have finally come to the conclusion that Lent is not about death. It is about life. It has the rising shadows of suffering, but only to announce that the light of hope is still shining. Its hand sweeps from the majestic – to the mundane.

We will have a new roof. Yes, that carries a Lenten theme of recognizing our drippy needs, but not drowning in them. In Lent, we are turning more attention to the practical concerns of the future: how to have an honestly compelling church profile (MSP), defining who we are and what God wants us to become to our neighbors, assessing our financial possibilities and limitations, and paving the way for a productive pastor search process.

All of this speaks of life – from the earthy, to the eternal. And that's a profile of Lent.


PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

Karen Darby; Family of Robert Kateley; 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, **Mount Cross**; 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.



EASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday 10:00 PM
Potluck to follow service.
Bring something to share.

Maundy Thursday,

Thursday, April 6 6PM

Good Friday

Friday, April 7 6 PM

Easter Sunday,

April 9 10 AM

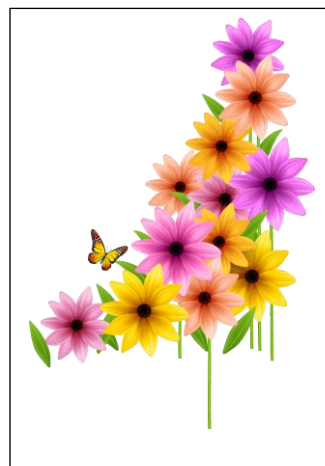
Bring flowers for the Easter Cross.

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

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.

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



BIBLE TEXT READINGS

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
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

April	
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

Second Sunday in Lent	March 5
Psalm 121	
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	
John 3:1-17	Purple
Third Sunday in Lent	March 12
Exodus 17:1-7	
Psalm 95	
Romans 5:1-11	
John 4:5-42	Purple
Fourth Sunday in Lent	March 19
1 Samuel 16:1-13	
Psalm 23	
Ephesians 5:8-14	
John 9:1-41	Purple
Fifth Sunday in Lent	March 26
Ezekiel 37:1-14	
Psalm 130	
Romans 8:6-11	
John 11:1-45	Purple

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.

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

12:00 PM on the third Thursday every month.
Join us this month on Thursday, March 16th for food and fellowship!



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 12 at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to "spring forward." Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

Nominating Process for Council Members Continues

C13.02.03. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for selection of nominees for election to the Congregation Council to be voted on at the Program Year meeting. A slate of candidates of one candidate for each Council person to be elected shall be presented to the membership of this congregation three (3) weeks prior to the Program Year meeting.

Nomination forms are available. Please be sure to pick them up and return them by March 19th or before.

PROPERTY REPORT
February 17, 2023
January-February

HVACS: The No-heating problem became worse and we called KYHN to come out and fix the problem. It seems that the inducer fan had gone bad and was R&R'd. The gas line might have been over pressurized and PG&E came out to check but said there was nothing wrong with the pressure. However, PG&E did replace the squeaking gas meter with a brand new one.

MULCH PILES: Still working on these, and the piles have not gotten larger. Miguel has been kind and has removed a lot to the dumpster.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

LAWN UPKEEP: Lawn seems okay.

LIGHTS: Still have 8 bulbs that need to be put in.

SPRINKLERS: All the sprinklers seem fine. Ken has pointed out that we may have a leaky valve out by the 'fenced-in' area..

CLEAN-UP FRIDAYS: 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 this year. We are currently getting quotes.

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

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH
March and April Benevolence
Mt. Cross Ministries
Providing Profound Experiences in God's Creation

831-336-5179
7795 Hwy 9 • Ben Lomond CA 95005
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 70 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.

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.

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, March 8 6:00 PM***

MARCH 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 March 5	Sunday March 12	Sunday March 19	Sunday March 26
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>
Ushers	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Karen & Al Arnold</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Tim & Pat Shaw</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					SOV Weekly News Sent via email	Church Clean-Up 9:00 AM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall			Council Meeting 6:00 PM		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				Birthday Luncheon at 12:00 PM	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	31	
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						



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Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED