

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.

We've made it to April, when we traverse the two main roads that intersect – Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Both are always in our lives, so it's natural that we are awash in sorrow and joy, in deep loss and in eternal gain, in the cross of the crucifixion and the empty tomb of the resurrection.

This is a crossing of two of the most profound moments in human history - the cross and the empty tomb.

Wouldn't it be glorious if we could have just the resurrection in April, and forget about the cross. Let's skip the cross this year. Haven't times been tough enough with all we're going through? Let's have some more sunshine this season.

Or maybe we could dive into difficulties, pain and all the losses we've endured, and just get depressed for the rest of the year?

The soulful truth is that we have both woven into our lives in 2023 – pain and joy. But we do have this ability through God's grace – to bask in one above the other. For me, I choose joy and light and promise above all else.



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, **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.

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 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 and deadlines is available in the narthex. Thank you to our church family for your generous donations!

Program Year Meeting

The annual Program Year Meeting will be held in Lineberger Hall on Sunday, May 21, after the church service. Reports for the meeting should be turned into the office no later than May 1.

EASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2

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

There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt.

Maundy Thursday,

Thursday, April 6 6 PM

Good Friday

Friday, April 7 6 PM

Easter Vigil

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
Saturday, April 8 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday,

April 9 10 AM

Bring flowers for the Easter Cross.

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

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
Kali Linn	05/27
Liliane Bettis	05/29
Gleneda Muralt	05/30

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.

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday April 2
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54 Scarlet or Purple

Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day April 9
 Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18 White or Gold

Second Sunday of Easter April 16
 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 Psalm 16
 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31 White

Third Sunday of Easter April 23
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35 White

Fourth Sunday of Easter April 30
 Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm 23
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10 White

**COUNCIL NEWS
 March 8, 2023**

Palm Sunday is on April 2nd and members are planning on having a potluck and Easter egg hunt.

Monthly clean-ups will be moved to the first Saturday of each month. The next clean-up is set for April 1st at 9:00 AM.

The Congregational Meeting will be held on May 21st after church service.

The council voted to dissolve Memorial Funds. All approved accounts will go towards funding the roof repair and others will be used as requested by the family.

The council is encouraging the congregation to share what they believe SOV's mission and vision statements should include.

PROPERTY REPORT
March 8, 2023
February-March

HVACS: No problems at this time. When it was very wet outside, it smelled a little musty inside. The heat was set to kick on at 60 degrees. We may have to do this again for this upcoming weekend.

MULCH PILES: The city was asked if they could move the dumpster closer to the mulch piles, but too many rules to get that done. Miguel has still been removing as much as he can.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

LAWN UPKEEP: Lawn seems okay, but may need another pass of the riding mower in a week or two.

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

SPRINKLERS: All the sprinklers seem fine.

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 this year.

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

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON
12:00 PM on the third Thursday every month.
Join us this month on Thursday, April 20th at La Nita's Café, 2684 Schaffer Road, Atwater, CA for food and fellowship!

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, April 12 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 2	Sunday April 9	Sunday April 16	Sunday April 23	Sunday April 30
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>
Ushers	<i>Karen & Al Arnold</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Cherf Family</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>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Church Clean-Up 9:00 AM
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Palm Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Potluck following service.			Centering Prayer** 9:00 AM	Maundy Thursday Worship: 6:00 PM	Good Friday Worship 6:00 PM SOV Weekly News sent via email	Easter Vigil 7:30 PM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Centering Prayer** 9:00 AM Council Meeting 6:00 PM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall			Centering Prayer** 9:00 AM	Birthday Luncheon at La Nita's Café, Atwater 12:00 PM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall			Centering Prayer** 9:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email Wedding Rehearsal	Wedding
30						
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						

**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