

## 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

#### 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](http://www.thesovlutheran.net)  
Also on Facebook

Council President:  
Marc Medefind  
Cell: 209-777-9302  
mrmedefind@aol.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.

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).

#### YOU CAN TAKE THE TEACHER OUT OF THE SCHOOL...

The new school year has begun locally. This will be the first beginning where I was not a teacher since 1975. Despite not being in the profession any longer, I can't ignore the impact that education has on society, including our churches.

For instance, church congregations structure their program planning based upon the school year. Sunday school programs and Bible studies tend to coincide with the school calendar. Despite consideration to liturgical years, a "year" is most often thought of as being associated with a school year.

Changes in schools affect us. Some schools have closed due to a lack of enrollment. Other districts scramble to finance new school construction. Support facilities such as the cafeteria, gym, library, meeting rooms... are not adequate for the modern number of students. New staff members are not locally available.

We might not still be actively attending school, but we all continue to learn from them. New technology is found in church facilities. Curriculum updates reflect that used in school.

There is a new conundrum for educators. 76.9% of all schools nationwide have new regulations restricting cell phone use. Albeit, new technology like AI and nanotechnology are powerful devices for the expansion of knowledge. Whereas increased depression and suicidal ideation (and disregard for the value of instruction) are forcing schools to adjust to the proliferation of cell phone use.

As a result, we are all seeing notices in our neighborhoods asking for appropriate phone usage.

For this new school year, Council might need to consider whether posting restrictions for phone usage during worship might be appropriate. The sanctity of worship is to be valued as seriously as classroom instruction.

Your input/thoughts/questions/comments are welcome. Please share.

*Pastor John*

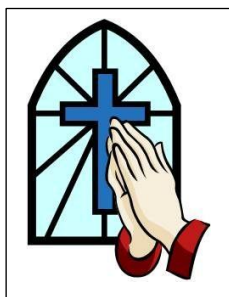


**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayers for healing:  
Joel Knox; 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;  
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, **Boys and Girls Club  
of Merced County** 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.*



**PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE**

We would like to thank Pam Andersen for  
volunteering to take over leading the  
Prayer Chain.

If you have any prayer requests, please  
contact Pam at 209-631-4594 to start the  
Prayer Chain.



**COUNCIL NEWS  
August 12, 2024**

Two sections of fence are being  
looked into. Planning to replace them.

There will be a movie night happening,  
with a showing of the movie "*The  
Chosen*". The date is still being  
decided.

October 6th there will be Outside  
Worship and an Ice Cream Social  
after worship.

Bible Study will possibly be returning.

The signatories for the bank account  
are going to be updated to include the  
current council president and vice  
president.



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Armando Campos	09/02
Jesse Saldivar	09/03
Amy Sofranek	09/05
Kimberly Castillo	09/11
Neal Kateley	09/12
Jan Carpenter	09/14
"Katie" Katherine Faust	09/23
Emily Saldivar	09/27

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Desiree Hamamoto	10/05
Parker Oates	10/06
Nan Dailey	10/06
Marit Medefind Bond	10/10
Brandon LiWang	10/12
Kaylei Rigers	10/13
Annie Sofranek	10/13
"Ana" Anastasia Crosley	10/16
Sarah Sofranek	10/17
Ron Basso	10/18
Rylee Bernal	10/20
David J Cherf II	10/20
Bryan Hofmann	10/20
Yolanda Campos	10/22
Stacy Christofferson	10/29

**BIBLE TEXT READINGS**

<b>Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>September 1</b>
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	
Psalms 15	
James 1:17-27	
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Green
<b>Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>September 8</b>
Isaiah 35:4-7a	
Psalms 146	
James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17	
Mark 7:24-37	Green
<b>Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>September 15</b>
Isaiah 50:4-9a	
Psalms 116:1-9	
James 3:1-12	
Mark 8:27-38	Green
<b>Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>September 22</b>
Jeremiah 11:18-20 or Wisdom 1:16-2:1, 12-22	
Psalms 54	
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	
Mark 9:30-37	Green
<b>Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>September 29</b>
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	
Psalms 19:7-14	
James 5:13-20	
Mark 9:38-50	Green



**MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON**

Join us on  
Thursday, September 19 at  
 11:30 AM  
 for food and fellowship!  
 This month we will meet at  
 Yosemite Station  
 125 E. Yosemite Avenue,  
 Suite A.

**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**

August 12, 2024

HVACS: Haven't had any problems. Ordered filters that never came, reordered.

FENCE: Alan is in communication with abutting property owners on replacing fences.

OUTDOOR LIGHTS: Bulbs were ordered and are getting replaced.

INDOOR LIGHTS: We are still replacing the old fluorescent bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs.

SPRINKLERS: Leak in a main valve box in front is being looked at by a gardener. Sprinklers and PVC pipes are being fixed. Trees in the center are being watered every 2-3 days during hottest of days.

POWER POINT, ZOOM, PA SYSTEM: We have a constant 40-50 views of our weekly services on ZOOM and later on Facebook. Steve picked up a multimeter that the boys are using to check batteries.

GROUNDS: The 2 dead trees are on hold until cooler weather. A chunk of brick by the garbage is being fixed by Alan Arnold.

DOORS LEFT UNLOCKED: Had 1 more door left unlocked a couple of weeks ago, but no other incidents.

SPIDER WEBS: During our 6am watering, we are starting to brush down cobwebs. The garages were our first cleanup of those.

All seems to be going well, 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**

September and October Benevolence

**Boys and Girls Club of Merced County**  
**615 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA 95340**

**209-722-9922**

**www.bgcmerced.org**

**OUR MISSION**

*To enable all young people, especially those who need us the most, to be productive, caring, and responsible individuals.*

The Boys & Girls Club of Merced County is part of one the largest and most impactful community organizations across America. We set out to serve youth, their families, and communities through evidence-based youth development programs.

We are a non-profit organization that is working hard to fill in the gaps for our youth and it is our goal that every child graduates high school ready for opportunities in the workforce, vocational trade, post-secondary education, and/or the military.

We know that we are not the *single* answer, but with strategic partnerships, dedicated sponsors, caring staff, passionate mentors, dedicated volunteers and leaders, we will serve the needs of our youth, help children explore their interests, facilitate the pursuit of their dreams and be on track for a Great Future!

**How do we serve youth?**

The Boys & Girls Club of Merced County provides programs and mentors to foster a sense of competence, usefulness and belonging in youth, so they can reach their full potential.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Boys & Girls Club on the memo line to be forwarded.

**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

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Term ends May 2025**

Jan Collins  
 Steven Hand  
 Mary Jo Knudsen

**Term ends May 2026**

Karen Arnold  
 David John Cherf II  
 Marc Medefind  
 Barbara Ward

Tim Shaw – Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper  
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary  
 Audit Committee: Pam Andersen, Alan Arnold, Mona Kowalczyk, and Carolyn Stephens

**2024-2025 Council Officers**

President: Marc Medefind                      Vice-President: Barb Ward  
 Secretary: David John Cherf II

*Next Meeting Date: **Monday, September 9, 6:00 PM***

**SEPTEMBER 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 September 1	Sunday September 8	Sunday September 15	Sunday September 22	Sunday September 29
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>
Ushers	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>

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

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED