

## 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.

The baby is coming.

Advent gears us up for delightful tidings, sensing that something good is about to happen, and we will all be a part of it.

God knows our every step, and every breath in this season. That can steady us with the assurance that we never walk alone. We have good news to celebrate. There are God's folks everywhere to gaze with us into the cradle and see the promise of an adventure in life. There is the Word now come in swaddling cloths who knows the best paths in life.

We gaze into the baby's eyes, and know this child loves all on earth, and indeed desires that all be "calm and bright" in this world. He wants goodwill to flourish. He is destined to become the Prince of Peace.

May we open our hearts and minds to that prince in a cradle in Bethlehem, the one who has come to give us life, and life eternal.





### PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

The family of Chuck Winter; 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; 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, **Senior Brown Bag Program** for our Sierra Pacific Synod Interim Bishop, **Rev. Claire Burkat**, and for the people of **Ukraine and Russia**, and for people impacted by Hurricane Ian.

*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).

### NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

*(From November 10 Council Meeting)*

- Our October 2022 Actual Net Income was \$3,721.26 and the YTD Actual Net Income is \$22,067.39.
- The Call Committee is in the process of interviewing two new candidates.
- Outreach letters have been mailed out to over 109 members!
- Our monthly clean-up days will be moved to every first Friday of the month, instead of the first Saturday. This means that our next clean-up will be held on Friday, December 2nd.
- The council will soon begin preparation for our January Congregational Meeting.



### Call Committee Update

The Call Committee was submitted two candidates by Pastor Manda in November and have been busy interviewing them over Zoom. We are excited that the process is moving forward, and our committee is hard at work discerning viable candidates for our Congregation. We will keep you posted and give progress reports both in Church and here in the Newsletter. As always, thank you for all of your support, prayers and words of encouragement.

Blessings,  
Your Call Committee

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Karen Darby	12/05
Sylvia Poupard	12/07
Dave Sofranek	12/09
Jim Sofranek	12/09
Wendy Oates	12/11
Eileen Fite	12/12
Kathie Mackie	12/12
Lynette Figueroa	12/13
Erin Ward	12/15
Candice Medefind	12/16
David Bettis	12/17
Amanda Campos	12/18
Janel Wilkerson	12/26
Nancy Heagy	12/27
Cary Yanagi	12/27
Sally Sales	12/29
Terry Roduner	12/31
Lynn Tatum	12/31

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Karen Chastain	01/03
Elizabeth Sofranek	01/14
Connie McBride	01/15
Analise Gallaway	01/20
Eleanor Roduner	01/23
Jeane Hetland	01/25
Rosie Sullivan	01/25
Elizabeth Patterson	01/25
Melissa Stephens	01/26
Briana Hamamoto-Hardman	01/30
Keira Hamrah	01/30
Vivian Knepel	01/31



**Monthly Birthday Luncheon** will not be meeting until January.

**BIBLE TEXT READINGS**

<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	<b>December 4</b>   Blue
<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b> Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	<b>December 11</b>   Blue
<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	<b>December 18</b>   Blue
<b>Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day</b> Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-12 Luke 2:1-20	<b>December 25</b>   White

**DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Sunday, December 4 10:00 AM  
 Wednesday, December 7 10 AM  
 Sunday, December 11 10 AM  
Tuesday, December 13 10 AM  
 Sunday, December 18 10 AM  
 Wednesday, December 21 10 AM

**Christmas Eve**

Saturday, December 24 4 PM

**Christmas Day**

Sunday, December 25 10 AM

Please join us for these special services as we journey though the season of Advent and Christmas.

**PROPERTY REPORT**  
**November 10, 2022**  
**October - November**

HVACS: Having an issue with the furnace for the front office. Appears that the dampers aren't working correctly

MULCH PILES: Miguel of the Healthy House gardeners has been moving loads to the trash. The gardeners are now taking their clippings to the trash.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

LAWN UPKEEP: Lawn seems okay. Carolyn continues to do cleanups as needed.

LIGHTS: Still have 8 bulbs that need to be put in. Some lights appear to not be working?!?! Will check these in the upcoming month.

SPRINKLERS: All the sprinklers seem fine. No issues have been raised.

CLEAN-UP FRIDAYS: A small group of us have been vacuuming, sweeping, cleaning and changing out toilet paper rolls and such. If there are any issues, please bring them to my attention.

FIRE ALARMS, EXTINGUISHERS, FIRE DOOR: Carolyn D. has been keeping up on these. Today the Merced Fire Dept dropped by for their annual inspection. We passed with flying colors. It was suggested that we get 2 stickers for the fire alarm box, so it's easier to find.

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**  
**The November - December Benevolence**  
**SENIOR BROWN BAG PROGRAM**  
**2000 W. Olive Avenue, Merced, CA 95348**  
**Earla Anderson, Senior Brown Bag Program Manager**  
**(209) 726-3663**  
**email: earlaa@mmcfb.org.**

Next to children, seniors are the most vulnerable group at risk of hunger. Senior food insecurity has risen as a result of the recession. The number of seniors at risk of hunger in 2015 was 70% higher than in 2007. Pre-seniors between the ages of 55 and 64, are particularly vulnerable as they are not yet of retirement age and thus ineligible for safety net programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Merced County Food Bank's Senior Brown Bag Program provides supplemental nutritious groceries twice a month to over 2,400 older adults (ages 55+) at 16 distribution sites in Merced and Mariposa Counties. Without the Senior Brown Bag Program, many seniors in Merced and Mariposa counties would be extremely isolated and at increased risk for malnourishment and illness. Many seniors are forced to make difficult but unavoidable choices such as whether to purchase their medications, pay for their housing, and/or pay their utilities. Buying food, especially nutritious food, is often last on their list.

**Sample Senior Brown Bag food items:**  
Chicken, Eggs, Fresh Produce, Cereal, Rice,  
Other staple items

Senior Brown Bag Program participants are provided with opportunities to volunteer at their food pickup site, which offers them social connections and a sense of belonging and purpose as they contribute to the Food Bank. Every month, more than 200 volunteers gather at the various Senior Brown Bag sites to sort, bag, and distribute food to their peers. Many participants have built new friendships and a sense of community by volunteering.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Senior Brown Bag Program 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.

**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.

**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.

**Recycling Reminder**

Please do not drop off recycling items by the garage. This is friendly reminder that the program has been discontinued.

**Wednesday Bible Study** will not meet in December but will return in January.

**The Centering Prayer group** will not meet between Thanksgiving and New Years. Sessions will resume on Wednesday, January 4th.

**ANNUAL FISCAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Will be held in January. A nominating committee of five voting members of the congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing council members, to compile a slate for election of members to serve on the Congregational Council.

There will also be an election of voting members and alternates to assemblies of the Sierra Pacific Synod and Conference.

Please prayerfully consider serving on the nominating committee, the Council, or be willing to attend the assemblies.

Watch for more information.



**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: **Sunday December 18, 2022 11:00 AM after church service***

**DECEMBER 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 December 4	Sunday December 11	Sunday December 18	Saturday December 24 (Christmas Eve)	Sunday December 25 (Christmas Day)	Sunday January 1, '23
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>
Ushers	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Karen &amp; Al Arnold</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Karen &amp; Al Arnold</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Tim &amp; Pat Shaw</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Church Clean-Up 9:00 AM SOV Weekly News Sent via email	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom  Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall			Advent Service 10:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom  Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Advent Service 10:00 AM	Chuck Winter Memorial Service 10:30 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom  Council Meeting 11:00 AM			Advent Service 10:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 PM
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>  Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom					SOV Weekly News sent via email	



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1455 E Yosemite Ave  
Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED