

## 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).

This past week, I had another “follow-up” appointment at Stanford.

It's inconvenient and can be a “pain in the neck”.

I drove through frustrating stop-and-go traffic. I didn't have any time to pause to eat something, nor to even get a cup of coffee.

After the appointment, I turned around for the return trip in the afternoon.

When I get home, and for a couple of days after, I'm tired and cranky.

I love it! I love going all the way to Stanford medical facilities – “Why?”.

The staff greets me and are available for assistance. There is no waiting in a crowded “waiting room”. I'm ushered into the treatment rooms immediately. Staff members are polite and friendly. The facility is not crowded.

Here's the big reason for my delight:

When any staff member comes to see me, and, especially, the medical staff, they greet me warmly, pull up a stool to sit in front of me, establish warm eye contact, and listen. They answer all my questions in a respectable manner. I am made to feel valued and appreciated. There are smiles, and chuckles along the way.

Summaries are on-line when I get home. Any question posed to doctor gets answered within 24 hours by the same doctor at the visit.

Stanford requests feedback about the visit – and, most of the questions concern being treated respectfully and professionally.

This seems to mean a lot to them.

I wonder if this attention and intent can be translated to our approach with each other and with any in our community. Do we appropriately honor and respect those with whom we interact?

*Pastor John*

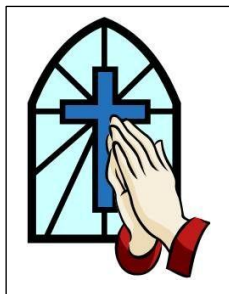


**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayers for healing:  
Joel Knox; Family of Betty Madsen; 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; Jan & Joe Collins; 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, **Restore Merced** 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  
July 8, 2024**

1) Made plans for the Council retreat on July 13 that will focus on SOV's Mission and Vision statement;

2) Pastor John discussed the recent changes he is putting in effect during worship, including bringing back the Passing of the Peace, using bread during communion, wearing a "Children's stole" during the children's message, and moving the announcements to the post-service coffee time in Lineberger Hall. Pastor John (and council) also thanked Karen Arnold for putting together the smile-inducing "Sunday Sundaes" on July 7;

3) Discussed plans to install new Council members Karen Arnold and Barbara Ward, having an outdoor church service in October, and sponsoring a growth plan via showings of the mini-series "The Chosen."

4) The Fix-It list is being whittled down. Many thanks to Curtis Boyenga for cutting down the dead tree by the parking lot exit and the Cherf family for trimming the sycamore trees.

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jim Goldsmith 08/02  
Andrea Sofranek 08/19

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



Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost August 4

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15  
Psalm 78:23-29  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35 Green

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost August 11

1 Kings 19:4-8  
Psalm 34:1-8  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51 Green

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost August 18

Proverbs 9:1-6  
Psalm 34:9-14  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
Mark John 6:51-58 Green

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost August 25

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18  
Psalm 34:15-22  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-59 Green

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.

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Join us on  
Thursday, August 15 at 11:30  
AM

for food and fellowship!  
This month we will meet at the  
Merced Country Club  
6333 Golf Road.

**PROPERTY REPORT**

July 16, 2024

HVACS: Haven't had any problems. Ordered filters that never came, will have to reorder.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

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. Have about 20-30 we're working on.

POWER POINT, ZOOM, PA SYSTEM: We have a constant 40-50 views of our weekly services on ZOOM and later on Facebook. Ordering a multimeter to check batteries being used in the mics.

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

DOORS LEFT UNLOCKED: We've been finding doors left unlocked overnight, maybe even for a couple of days. Marc was notified.

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**

July and August Benevolence

**RESTORE MERCED**

419 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA 95348

restoremeced.org

**WHO WE ARE**

Restore Merced is a community development effort focused on creating opportunities for low-moderate income residents in Merced, CA to experience spiritual, social, and economic flourishing. Employing an Assets Based Community Development approach in the downtown neighborhood, we began by looking at existing community efforts and areas of need in order to determine where to invest our time and energy. Through conversations with residents, faith leaders, and other community organizations, we identified three primary areas of focus for community transformation — neighborhood engagement, economic opportunities, and volunteer mobilization.

In order to accomplish our goal of seeing all Merced residents experience spiritual, social, and economic flourishing through the demonstration of Christ's love, we seek to mobilize the local Church and community volunteers to enter into genuine, reciprocal relationships with neighbors in need. Through the development of these relationships, we believe that all Merced residents are given the opportunity to experience transformation in ways that bring to fruition the marks of a thriving community.

**DIGNITY & WORTH OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS**

Restore Merced cultivates renewal by strengthening relationships. We labor to see this bear fruit in restored relationships with God, meaningful work opportunities, vibrant families, and sturdy community networks. Our work is shaped by the community -- guided by the collective strengths and needs of residents -- even as we seek to harness proven resources so that all residents can grow into the fullness of our God-given humanity.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Restore Merced 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.

Thank you to Carolyn Daberkow for her "It's Time"

**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 I

*Next Meeting Date: **Monday, August 12, 6:00 PM***

**AUGUST 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 August 4	Sunday August 11	Sunday August 18	Sunday August 25
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>
Ushers	<i>Alan Arnold</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Marc Medefind</i>	<i>Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					SOV Weekly News sent via email	Church Clean-up 9 AM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship: 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom	Council Meeting 6 PM			Birthday Luncheon 11:30 AM Merced Country Club	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED