

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.

Can we expand our vision in this New Year?
Can we turn a page on the church's history?
Can we greet new life in the church's heart?

Absolutely - "Yes."

Shepherd of the Valley has plenty of grassroots energy and commitment. You've seen yourselves through stages of searching for a called pastor. You're kept the ship sailing on a good course. You've welcomed the bright and beautiful season of Advent into the sanctuary. And now you approach the Sundays after Christmas, and the coming season of Epiphany – the festival of light.

Keep sailing a good course. Hold onto the faithful and sacrificial way you serve the church's everyday needs. Look with visionary eyes at what could soon come.

Greet 2023 with passion and joy!





PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

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; 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, **Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church-Scholarships**; 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, and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, elca.org.

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

(From December 18 Council Meeting)

- There was no budget report submitted due to the Treasurer’s illness.
- The Call Committee presented the candidate to the Council members present.
- Roof leaks were patched, however Benchmark recommends SOV replace the roof.
- The Woodpecker problem is being resolved humanely.
- Pastor completed the Mandated Reporter CA Child Abuse online course and agrees to comply.
- The council will meet with Pastor Manda to prepare the compensation package. If accepted, preparation for our January Congregational Meeting will include a Zoom call with the candidate to meet with congregation.

Call Committee Update

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We have a lot of exciting News to share with you this new year. Your Call Committee has interviewed a Candidate several times on Zoom and then brought the candidate to Merced for a 3-day visit recently with the committee members. During that time we showed the candidate the area, had a number of meals together, had many hours of conversation both in groups and one-to-one. We had a Bible Study led by the candidate and shared both our stories and listened to the Candidate’s background and journey. After discussing within our group we are excited to bring this Candidate forward as our Candidate of Choice. The next steps are for the Church Council to work on a Financial package and if that is mutually agreed upon, then it will be brought to a vote before a special congregational meeting. We will continue to give updates on Sunday mornings as things progress. Thank you all for your prayers and patience and hopefully soon we will have a Candidate to introduce to you and have you consider to be our next Pastor of Shepherd of the Valley.

Blessings,
Your Call Committee

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Karen Chastain	01/03
Elizabeth Sofranek	01/14
Connie McBride	01/15
Analise Gallaway	01/20
Eleanor Roduner	01/23
Jeanne 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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kurt Faust	02/03
Armando Campos III	02/04
Hunter Boyenga	02/07
“Bud” Richard Roduner	02/08
Curtis Boyenga	02/13
Tim Dailey	02/18
Dimitri Hamrah	02/18
Marc Medefind	02/18
Pam Andersen	02/19
Carrie O’Bara	02/20
Pat Shaw	02/24
Syd Saldivar	02/25
Adam Campos	02/28

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

First Sunday of Christmas	January 1
Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23	White
Baptism of Our Lord	January 8
Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	White
Second Sunday After Epiphany	January 15
Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Green
Third Sunday After Epiphany	January 22
Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Green
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany	January 29
Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Green

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

12:00 PM on the third Thursday every month at Country Waffles, 1794 W. Olive Avenue.
Join us this month on Thursday, January 19th for food and fellowship!

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
December 17, 2022
November - December

HVACS: KHYN came out and resolved our problem. It seems that dampers were installed a while back and were malfunctioning

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.

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.

FIRE ALARMS, EXTINGUISHERS, FIRE DOOR: Again Carolyn D. has been keeping up on these. The fire door was recertified

WOODPECKER: It seems we have a woodpecker that has adopted our church. We'll be trying to dissuade it from damaging any more of our building.

ROOF LEAKS: With the rains our leaks are becoming more noticeable. Benchmark has come out and kindly fixed some of our lesser ones, but a new roof is a must.

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

**January & February Benevolence
Scholarship Fund**

Our benevolence for January and February is our Scholarship fund. Until COVID, our funding was primarily through estate sales; however, for the past few years there have been few opportunities for ways to support this endeavor. In 2022, we awarded two scholarships to Merced College students, and one scholarship to Amy Sofranek. These students are always so appreciative of our help, and we are grateful to our church family for their support of this worthwhile project.

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.

Bible Study will return Wednesday,
January 25 at 10 AM.

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.



WOMEN'S PRISON GIFT BAG PROJECT

The Inmate Family Council at the Central California Women's Prison in Chowchilla has expressed their gratefulness for our church's participation in the holiday gift bag project. Donated items were collected, sorted, packed and distributed for delivery to inmates just before Christmas.

Collection of items is year-round, and a storage container, with a list of acceptable items, is available for that purpose in the narthex. Contact Dave at 209 489-8969 if you have questions.

ANNUAL FISCAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The meeting will be held January 29 at 11:15 AM in Lineberger Hall. A nominating committee will be formed 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.

Recycling Reminder

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



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: **Tuesday, January 10 6:00 PM***

JANUARY 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 January 1	Sunday January 8	Sunday January 15	Saturday January 22	Sunday January 29
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>
Ushers	<i>Cherf Family</i>		<i>Cherf Family</i>		<i>Cherf Family</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Tim & Pat Shaw</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall					Church Clean-Up 9:00 AM SOV Weekly News Sent via email	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Council Meeting 6:00 PM	Centering Prayer 9:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Centering Prayer 9:00 AM	Birthday Luncheon at Country Waffles 12:00 PM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Centering Prayer 9:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
29	30	31				
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Annual Congregational Meeting 11:15 AM Lineberger Hall						



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED