

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

When I returned to Merced after my four-year seminary program, I was offered a special education program position for the severely orthopedically impaired throughout Merced County.

At that time, the program only had 6 students.

By the time I retired, the program had grown to over 80 students from school districts countywide. Many of the students had to travel long distances on specialized buses to access their educational placement.

All of the students were provided with special door-to-door transportation to and from school. Transportation scheduling was confusing. Students had to be placed on bus routes already provided, or new bus routes were required.

I chatted with the bus supervisor about the challenge of arranging efficient bus routes to prevent excessively long bus rides. It was expected that no student would ride a bus longer than an hour each way. Very often, this challenge was not met.

"Isn't it hard to arrange transportation for a student who might live 'out of the way' – perhaps in a rural setting?", I asked.

The supervisor presented no particular challenge. "It's all right. We'll work it all out." He added, "Bus drivers all lament that there is always one student that interferes with the 'perfect route'. I don't pay any attention to this complaint. I explain that there is no such thing as a 'perfect route'. As soon as one student leaves the area, the next student is the one who interferes with the 'perfect route'."

There is always one person, one situation that seems to interfere with perfection.

When that person or situation is removed, another one appears.

Such it is throughout life. Such it is for any committee make-up. Such it is for any "to do" or grocery list. There's always something that seemingly causes imperfection.

Our challenge is to "face" and accept imperfection.

Throughout scripture, and throughout the presentation by God's Holy Spirit, we are presented with what is considered to be "different" or challenging. The blessing we have received is the mission of acceptance, love, wholeness, and inclusion.

Pastor John

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
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.

ELCA Statements and information are available on the web sites: Sierra Pacific Synod, spselca.org, and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, elca.org.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:
 Joel Knox; 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, **Mt. Cross Ministries**,
 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.*

**Congregational Program Year Meeting
 Sunday, May 19**

The meeting will be held in Lineberger Hall following the
 10 AM worship service. Lunch will be provided by
 Council Members.

*Plan to attend and assist in the program planning of our
 congregation.*

One of the items on the agenda will be the election of
 four Congregation Council members. Following is the
 slate of candidates as presented by the nominating
 committee.

Barbara Ward, Karen Arnold, Marc Medefind and
 David John Cherf

We look forward to seeing voting members and friends at
 this important meeting.



**COUNCIL NEWS
 April 8, 2024**

The congregational meeting will be
 held May 19th. Lunch was being
 discussed.

Pastor John wants to put together
 binders for council members for tasks
 council members should be able to do.

Nominating committee will be going
 over who does and does not want to
 be on the ballot and presenting the
 slate of four candidates.

Changes to the constitution of certain
 wordings were made, and a mailing
 will be sent out mentioning it. Copies
 will be available in the Narthex. The
 congregation will vote on the changes
 during May's meeting.

Poles are being bought for a new
 banner that will be placed out in front
 of the church; letting passersby know
 when the church services are held.

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
Liliane Bettis	05/29
Gleneda Muralt	05/30

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

"Chris" Christine Love	06/03
Elizabeth Richards	06/05
Elizabeth Pressly	06/13
Elizabeth Wetherell	06/14
Mikel Soria	06/14
Steve Hand	06/16/
Kaydence Gallaway	06/17
Adrian Saldivar	06/18
Jim Christofferson	06/21



MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Join us on
Thursday, May 16 at 11:30 AM
 for food and fellowship!
 This month we will meet at the
 Elks Club, 1910 M Street.

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

Sixth Sunday of Easter	May 5
Acts 10:44-48	
Psalms 98	
1 John 5:1-6	
John 15:9-7	White
Seventh Sunday of Easter	May 12
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	
Psalms 1	
1 John 5:9-13	
John 17:6-19:	White
Day of Pentecost	May 19
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	
Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Red
The Holy Trinity	May 26
Isaiah 6:1-8	
Psalms 29	
Romans 8:12-17	
John 3:1-17	White

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.

SOV Scholarships

Reminder that Monday, June 3, is the deadline to apply. Informational flyers are in the narthex. If you have any questions, contact Karen Arnold at bookgirl66@comcast.net.

PROPERTY REPORT

April 8, 2024

HVACS: Haven't had any more problems from the 10 HVAC units. Will be ordering filters this month.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

OUTDOOR LIGHTS: Bulbs were ordered and some replaced. Still have 8 bulbs that need to be put in. Replaced front 'cross spotlight'.

INDOOR LIGHTS: We are still replacing the old fluorescent bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs. This takes time to remove the ballasts and rewire the fixtures.

SPRINKLERS: Will need to replace some in the front courtyard. Need to find leak in center 'round' planter. Leak in main box in front was discussed with a sprinkler worker for the city.

POWER POINT, ZOOM, PA SYSTEM: We have a constant 60-70 views of our weekly services on ZOOM and later on Facebook. Ordering a multimeter.

GROUNDS: 2 trees will be removed. Will have to mow down weeds again toward the east side. Have a person's name to call from Carolyn D.

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

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.

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH
May and June Benevolence

The Healthy House Garden Project has been approved by the council to be the Benevolence for May/June to primarily address water use overages.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Water for Gardens on the Memo line.

Church Women United in the Merced Area
2024 Theme: What Does the Lord Require of CW-You:?

YOU Are Invited To Participate
MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY CELEBRATION
Friday, May 3, 2024
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
POTLUCK

BRING A FRIEND & a dish of food to share.
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
1455 E Yosemite Ave. Merced CA 95340
Program: May Friendship Day

Speaker: Bob Quall: Maasai Medical Mission
Free will donations will go to Friendship of the Least Coin & the Local CWU Unit

Speaker, "Bob" Robert Quall helped establish the Maasai Medical Mission nonprofit organization which takes annual trips to impoverished regions of Kenya to provide health care services, supplies and other support. Bob will share info about the January, 2024 trip.

CWU Contact for Info: 209-769-8544

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Term ends May 2024

Pam Andersen
 David John Cherf II
 Marc Medefind
 Carolyn Stephens

Term ends May 2025

David Cherf
 Jan Collins
 Steven Hand
 Mary Jo Knudsen

Tim Shaw – Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary
 Audit Committee: Karen Arnold, Chris Tomford, and Barb Ward

2023-2024 Council Officers

President: David Cherf Vice-President: Carolyn Stephens
 Secretary: David John Cherf II

*Next Meeting Date: **Monday, May 20 6:00 PM***

MAY 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 May 5	Sunday May 12	Sunday May 19	Sunday May 26
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>
Ushers	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Marc Medefind</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>

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

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED