

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.

STAFF

Supply Pastor:

Pastor Jack Damien

pulpitsupplyjack@gmail.com

Worship Music Director:

Marit Medefind

209-658-0633

mmedefind@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.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPPLY MINISTER PASTOR JACK

We have a candidate pursuing the interview process with the Call Committee.

As of this writing (July 14 – considering the newsletter deadline), the candidate has had an initial Zoom session, and a follow-up Zoom session with the Call Committee. Both sessions went well.

This is good news, whether the candidate is God's chosen for the congregation, or we eventually look for another. It shows the seriousness with which we take the future of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran. It shows the commitment of the Call Committee, and eventually the Church Council and the entire congregation, is seeking "Thy will be done."

Let us pray for that, and see where God leads us.





PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

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, **Restore Merced**, for our Sierra Pacific Synod Interim Bishop, **Rev. Claire Burkat**, and for the people of **Ukraine and Russia**.

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 July 12 Council Meeting)

- The YTD Actual Net Income is \$11,479. Our total assets are \$287,390.54.
- The Call Committee is in the process of interviewing a pastoral candidate and is effectively communicating with the council. Updates will be given when necessary.
- The church roof is in need of repairs, and the money will need to be fundraised. For now, the council is in the process of obtaining a quote for temporary patching.
- In order to save money, the council has agreed to dismiss the current cleaning crew. We are hoping to have enough volunteers from the congregation in order to clean the church ourselves. Please let a councilmember know if you would like to volunteer, or if there are any reasonably priced cleaning services that you recommend.

CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

Greetings from your Call Committee:

It has been a busy few weeks as we have actively interviewed a viable candidate supplied to us by our Synod and recommended to us by Pastor Manda. We have had two very interactive and productive Zoom sessions with the candidate. After a unanimous vote of all six members of the Call Committee we decided to offer to bring the candidate to Merced for an in-person interview. If this candidate accepts then we will have several days to show the area and have a good chance to get to know the candidate and the candidate to get to know our Church and the area. At this time, we continue to keep any details of the candidate confidential and will keep you updated as things progress. Thank you for your continued prayers as we move forward in this process. Future updates to come.

Blessings,
Your Call Committee

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Sally Howard	08/01
Jim Goldsmith	08/02
“Chuck” Charles Winter	08/13
Andrea Sofranek	08/19
Craig Faust	08/29

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Armando Campos	09/02
Jesse Saldivar	09/03
Amy Sofranek	09/05
Kimberly Castillo	09/11
Jan Carpenter	09/14
“Katie” Katherine Faust	09/23
Emily Saldivar	09/27



MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

1:00 PM on the third Thursday every month at Table 59, 3360 N. State Highway 59 in Merced.

Join us this month on Thursday, August 18th for food and fellowship!

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost **August 7**
 Genesis 15:1-6
 Psalm 33:12-22
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
 Luke 12:32-40
 Green

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost **August 14**
 Jeremiah 23:23-29
 Psalm 82
 Hebrews 11:29-12:2
 Luke 12:49-56
 Green

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost **August 21**
 Isaiah 58:9b-14
 Psalm 103:1-8
 Hebrews 12:18-29
 Luke 13:10-17
 Green

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost **August 28**
 Proverbs 25:6-7
 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 Luke 14:1, 7-14
 Green

Eastern European Crisis Response



What you can do:

Pray:

Please pray for those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries that have been affected by the crisis in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

Give:

If you would like to give, make a check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” or “Where needed most” on your check’s memo line.

For more information there are inserts on the table in the narthex.

PROPERTY REPORT
July 12, 2022
For June-July 2022

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH
July and August Benevolence
RESTORE MERCED
419 W. 19th Street, Merced, CA 95348
restoremerced.org

HVACS: All seems to be going good. Haven't had any issues since KYHN came out last month.

MULCH PILES: We again moved 1 load.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

LAWN UPKEEP: Lawn seems okay. Some dry areas were noticed and will be checked out.

RESTROOMS: Toilet leak was fixed and all are working fine.

GARAGES: The key for the center garage was lost, but we did find spares in with a box of keys, thanks to Alan's forethought.

WASP NESTS: Carolyn noticed that there were some wasps building nests up under the front entrance gable. We'll get spray and get rid of them at night.

SPRINKLERS: Ken had mentioned replacing the sprinkler control box. At this time it seems okay to use, just have to hold closed while pushing buttons.

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

Recycling Reminder

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

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 began in July of 2016 by employing an asset-based community development approach in the downtown Merced neighborhood. Through conversations with residents, faith leaders, and other community organizations, we identified three areas of focus - neighborhood engagement, economic development, and community training. We believe that all people are inherently relational beings, dependent on others to reach our full potential. If a city, a neighborhood, or an individual is going to thrive, it will only happen in the context of healthy relationships.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with local leaders and community members, Restore Merced develops neighborhood programs that reflect the defining markers of a thriving neighborhood: spiritual formation, empowered families, economic development, and caring neighbor networks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We strive to increase opportunities for individuals with barriers to employment by providing work experience, training, and helping to start small businesses to benefit the local economy and increase resources in areas of need.

COMMUNITY TRAINING

Restore Merced works to equip volunteers, churches, and organizations to have a long-term impact in their communities by learning sustainable faith-based best practices for community transformation.

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

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 Pat Shaw and 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 US Centers for Disease Control is advising that masks be worn in indoor public settings in California due to rising COVID cases. We encourage you to practice caution.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

August marks the beginning of a new Bible study series in Lineberger Hall, following worship. The June and July Bible studies proved to be popular and animated.

As of this writing, we have several "video" options, if we can set up a display on a TV set or monitor. We can choose among brief presentations of "What's it Like in Heaven," "The Reformation Years," and "The Entire Life of Jesus."

We can also choose a more traditional format of an overall study of how the Bible itself was composed and transmitted.

EXPANDING OUR LITURGY

We want to increase our joy and celebration during services with more singing, liturgical readings, and responsive worship, beginning Sunday, August 7.

The aim of our council, musicians, altar guild, singers, and supply minister is to create a more festive and welcoming atmosphere at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran.

During the harshest stages of the pandemic, most ELCA churches trimmed their liturgies. We must still be vigilant and monitor the severity of the still-present viruses today, but we can also worship our Lord as best we can. Come and see what changes we have in store for the fall.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

In August, we will be returning to our schedule of having communion every Sunday.



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: **AUGUST 9, 2022 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, Reader/Assisting Minister for our 10 A.M. Sunday Worship Service.

	Sunday August 7	Sunday August 14	Sunday August 21	Sunday August 28
Greeters	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>
Ushers	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>David Bettis</i>	<i>Karen & Al Arnold</i>	<i>Karen & Al Arnold</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Bible Study 10:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Council Meeting 6:00 PM	Bible Study 10:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall			Bible Study 10:00 AM	Birthday Luncheon at Table 59 1:00 PM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Bible Study 10:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
28	29	30	31			
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Bible Study 10:00 AM			



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1455 E Yosemite Ave
Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED